M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1017 — Press / ~~Mis.~~

175 - 176

Dated 8 - 5 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th May 1862.

No. 175. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th March 1862, No. 1,795 :—

Read the following letter from A. P. HODGSON, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Mangalore, 17th December 1861, No. 215.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit the Salt Deputy Collector's report called for in the Board's Official Memorandum, dated 23rd September last.

2. In the 4th paragraph of his report, the Deputy Collector recommends some change in the distribution of the Salt Depôts, and alludes to Mr. Fraser's proposal to the same effect, which was, I observe, contained in his reply to Mr. Pelly's Circular of 14th May 1860, No. 280.

3. Mr. Deputy Collector Anna Row appears to have endorsed Mr. Fraser's recommendation to abolish three Salt Depôts, and establish three others at more convenient localities, and this change would, from what I am told, produce very beneficial results.

4. I will take the opportunity, which the approaching Jamabundy tour will afford me, to make inquiries regarding the subject discussed in the latter part of paragraph 3 of the Deputy Collector's report, viz., the introduction of the manufacture of Salt into this District.

From G. ANNA ROW, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, to A. P. HODGSON, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 10th December 1861.

SIR,

1. In acknowledging the receipt of Mr. Fraser's letter of the 2nd ultimo and its enclosures,* I have the honor to submit my report on the Salt Department, as required in the Board Secretary's Official Memorandum, dated 23rd September.

* Government Proceedings, No. 1,291, and 14th May No. 771 of 1860.

Enclosures are herewith returned.

2. I will first take up the subject of the introduction of manufacture, the present desideratum.

3. The manufacture of Salt, I find, has been, for the last 30 years, confined to the pans established in the Northern Táluqs of Cundapur, Honore, and Ankola now included in the divided District of North Canara. They have ever since supplied the wants of the whole Canara District, but when seasons have proved unfavorable to the produce, the deficiency has been met by purchases from Goa, Bombay, and the Eastern Coasts. Since the opening of the trunk road *viâ* Mercara the trade in Salt greatly increased, and as the Mysorians, who are our chief inland customers, desired to have Bombay Salt, as well suited for conveyance by pack animals, and vehicles, that produce of that country has been annually purchased, and it finds ready sale. The manufacture of salt having been fully given up in the Táluqs now forming the South Canara Collectorate, so far back as 30 years, I find from inquiries, made during my visit to the several localities where Depôts are now established, and elsewhere, that the grounds formerly used for Salt pans have been converted into paddy fields and gardens, so much so that there is no space to be found where as much as 40 or 50 garces of salt can be raised in one locality. The profit derived by the Ryots, from the produce of land, as now converted into regular cultivation, is highly lucrative. It cannot be expected that they can be induced to entertain the idea of the introduction of Salt manufacture at this period, and the heavy expense attendant on such an undertaking is another obstacle against it. I am therefore of opinion that it cannot be expected that manufacture of Salt can be easily introduced in this District with any advantage to Government.

1. Mangalore.
2. Pane Mangalore.
3. Buntwall.
4. Mulki.
5. Cassergode.
6. Cumbla.
7. Manjeshwer
8. Nileshwar.
9. Buja.
10. Caup.
11. Udiawar.
12. Mabookal.

4. There are 12 selling Tannas in this District, and roads required have already been made. In nine Tannas the Salt stores are established in useful places to the purchasers, and the sales increase annually. The remaining three Tannas, viz., Caup, Mabookala, and Cumbla are useless, and the sales also very low ; I would therefore suggest that the Board will approve Mr. Fraser's proposal, and sanction the abolition of these Depôts, and the establishment of new ones at Kokurny, Gurpur, and Bhavykery, which will be very useful to the purchasers, and the sales of Salt may be expected to be raised annually.

5. According to the order of the Board, the selling rates increased on the Bombay and other Salt, Rupee 1-8-0 and 1-6-0 respectively from the 7th April, and from June they have been uniform at the former rate. This rise did not affect the sales until August, and from September they have increased above those last year. No complaint has been made by the Home or Inland merchants on account of this rate. Ultimately I beg to say that the Salt and rice are indispensable necessaries of life to the people, and as such, they must unavoidably find them at any cost. I therefore consider that the sales of salt will not be abated in any degree by the present higher rates.

6. The annexed Statement will show the sales in Fasli 1269 and 1270 :—

	For Fasli 1269.					1270.					Increase.					Decrease.				
	Indian maunds.	Value.				Indian maunds.	Value.				Indian maunds.	Value.				Indian mds.	Value.			
		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.	
Home consumption.	2,22,652	1,36,100	9	11		1,20,695	1,45,422	10	0		0	9,323	0	1		1,957	0	0	0	
Inland do.	1,10,676	1,28,871	3	8		1,29,436	1,62,417	6	2		18,760	33,546	2	6		0	0	0	0	
Total...	2,33,328	2,64,971	13	7		2,50,131	3,07,840	0	2		18,769	42,869	2	7		1,957	0	0	0	

7. Last year there was not once sufficient quantity in store, but in this year as an abundant store and of very good quality has been secured in each Depôt, the Inland merchants must be well satisfied with it, and this we have already commenced to feel as the sales are increasing for Inland consumption, as will be seen from the above Statement.

8. The stocks and sales of Salt are given below :—

	Fasli 1269. In. Mds.	Fasli 1270. In. Mds.	Increase. In. Mds.	Decrease. In. Mds.
Stock on hand at the beginning of the Fasli...	120,105	84,952		35,153
Received during the year.....	258,483	508,680	250,197	...
Total.....	378,588	593,632	250,197	35,153
Sales during the year.....	233,328	250,131	16,803	...
Remainder.....	145,260	343,501	198,241	...
Deduct wastage in sales...	60,308	38,011	...	22,297
Actual quantity on hand at the end of the Fasli.	84,952	305,490	220,538	...

9. The actual quantity which is on hand is sufficient for the Home and Inland consumption to the end of February, and for the next season a small quantity is required to be procured. The Board have already sanctioned the purchase of 1,000 garces as estimated by the Collector, which quantity will be imported and stored in March, there being no room in the Salt

godowns for receiving it before that period. Although an unusually large quantity of Salt was imported during the past year, the cargoes were discharged with great facility. I personally superintended the debarkation, and I find by these means vexations and delays, which otherwise were common, were avoided, and I am satisfied that the parties concerned in the delivery of Salt, were quite content, as their vessels were not unnecessarily detained, and they found ready payment for Salt delivered.

10. As regards the Establishment, I beg to inform you that Mr. Pelly's scheme, if it is brought into operation with the modifications proposed by Mr. Fraser in his letter to that gentleman, will well answer for all purposes.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. P. HODGSON, *Acting Collector.*

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1. The Acting Collector forwards with the above letter the report of his Deputy, on the Salt Department of the District of South Canara, which will be submitted to Government with reference to their Order, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291, Revenue Department.

2. The Board regret to observe from the above report that nothing whatever has been done in this District towards making the experiment of the re-introduction of the salt manufacture, though the distinct orders of Government were passed on the subject in their Proceedings, dated 20th April and 7th May 1860, Nos. 601 and 725, communicated to the Collector with Board's Proceedings, dated 24th April and 10th May, and the matter was again noticed in Board's Proceedings, dated 28th November 1860, No. 5,518.

3. There are no doubt difficulties connected with the manufacture, but they do not appear to be at all insurmountable, and the Board trust that the Acting Collector will at once turn his attention to commencing the experiment at first on a small scale, and he will observe from paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Government Order, dated 20th April 1860, No. 601, that Government are prepared to treat the manufacturers liberally, and to give every advantage to the purchasers of the Home made article.

4. It is satisfactory to observe from the Deputy Collector's report that the late increase in the price of Salt has not effected the sales. During Fasli 1270 they exceeded 2½ lacs of maunds, while in the previous year they were little more than two lacs and thirty-three thousand maunds.

5. The only proposal made in the report under notice is that the Depôts at Caup, Mabookala, and Cumbla should be closed, and that in lieu of them new Depôts should be opened at Kokurny, Gurpur, and Bhavykerry. This change was advocated by Mr. Fisher and supported by Mr. Fraser, as the three last named places are peculiarly well situated for Depôts, at the head of the Barcur river, or the Gopur river where crossed by the main road, and on the Cassergode river. The sales at the Depôts proposed to be abolished are very limited being for all three places less than 17,000 maunds per annum, and the demand of the neighbourhood of Mabookala can be met at Kokurny, of Caup at Moolki and Udiawer, and of Cumbla at Cassergode or Manjeshwar. The Board therefore would recommend that the change be sanctioned.

6. The Deputy Collector has failed to enter into any of the details of the Department under his charge, no account of the system of storage, or the manner in which the sales are carried on, being given, nor are any suggestions for improvement made by him. The Board trust, however, that these matters receive due attention at his hands, and request that the Acting Collector will call upon him at once to submit a more complete report of the working of his Department, and after due enquiry and personal visits to supply a statement of the places available at which the experiment of the re-introduction of the Salt manufacture might be commenced.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL, *Sub-Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th May 1862.

No. 176. ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1862, No. 1,017.

1. Under the circumstances stated in paragraph 5 of these Proceedings, the Government sanction the closing of the Salt Depôts at Caup, Mabookala and Cumbla in South Canara, and the opening in lieu of them new Depôts at Kokurny, Gurpur and Bhavykerry. The Board of Revenue will at the end of one year report the result of these changes.

2. The re-introduction of the manufacture of Salt should receive the Acting Collector's early attention as proposed in paragraph 3 of his letter. The Government would wish to see Mr. Hodgson's report when received.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

9. The actual quantity which is on hand is sufficient for the Home and Inland consumption to the end of February, and for the next season a small quantity is required to be procured. The Board have already sanctioned the purchase of 1,000 garces as estimated by the Collector, which quantity will be imported and stored in March, there being no room in the salt godowns for receiving it before that period. Although an unusually large quantity of salt was imported during the past year, the cargoes were discharged with great facility. I personally superintended the debarkation, and I find by these means vexations and delays, which otherwise were common, were avoided, and I am satisfied that the parties concerned in the delivery of salt, were quite content, as their vessels were not unnecessarily detained, and they found ready payment for salt delivered.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq, Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to A. P. Hodgson, Esq., Acting Collector of South Canara.

Exd. J. Wright.

Under the circumstances stated in para 5 of these proceedings the Govt sanction the closing of the Salt depots at Kaup, Kabookab and Cumpla in South Canara and the opening in lieu of them new depots at Kokuroy, Gurkur and Bhaogkery - The Board of Revenue will at the end of one year report the results of these changes -

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