M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1275 — Press ~~Mis.~~

136-137

Dated 10 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 136. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1862, No. 2,349:—

Read the following letter from W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of North Canara, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Honore, 20th March 1862, No. 21.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's* orders communicating Proceedings of Government, No. 1,951, dated 8th October 1861.

* No. 5,779, 19th October 1861.

2. In forwarding a further report from the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, with reference to paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of Proceedings of the Board, No. 4,677, dated 28th August 1861, I have the honor to observe that the reasons given for the falling off in the inland salt sales, seem to be correct, as there can be no doubt that general trade was injuriously affected during the period under review, to an extent which would tend to diminish the demand for salt. It also appears that the Deputy Collector's observation regarding the sales at Barkur in South Canara was correct.

3. The sales for Home consumption, as compared with those of the previous year could hardly have been affected during the period under report by the abuse of class privileges with respect to salt mud, as this abuse of privilege appears to have obtained for years, and could therefore have had no further influence on the sales of 1860-61 than it had exercised on those of 1859-60.

4. The temporary fluctuations in the salt trade were, I think, attributable to a combination of circumstances, and the causes pointed out by me, as contributing to the comparative decline of sales, were not, I believe, without their weight.

5. The Government express their belief that smuggling is rife, and conducted on an organized system. The Deputy Collector's statements are certainly calculated to lead to this conclusion.

6. I believe it to be impossible to prevent pilfering from pans so situated as those of this District, and do not doubt that proprietors of outlying pans have clandestinely sold a large share of the salt manufactured; but organized bands of smugglers prepared to meet, resist, and overpower preventive force have no existence.

7. The remedy for clandestine sales at the manufacturing stations is to swamp the pans that do not return a fair amount of produce. Under existing circumstances, I see no other effective check, and proprietors cannot complain, if they choose to bring this punishment on themselves.

8. Those outlying pans, from which large quantities of salt were supposed with very good reason to have been clandestinely removed last year, and which from their position it was impossible to protect, have not been worked this season, and I trust that the prohibition will be of advantage to the salt revenue.

9. No number of Policemen could watch pans so situated as are the great majority of those in this District, but clandestine sales can be reduced within narrow limits by active supervision, the introduction of protected drying grounds, and the resort when necessary, to the severe measures above indicated.

10. In some Districts it appears that the Police have been employed as a preventive force, but up to this time nothing of the kind could have been done here. In the Ankola, and perhaps in the Honore Túluq, the services of the Police would be very valuable; but in the southern portion of the District the pans are so scattered and surrounded by fields and gardens that little could be done.

11. The assistance of the Police has been obtained in order to watch the Tuddry and Honore rivers, and measures should be taken to patrol the others also; but the Department must, in that case, be supplied with boats and establishments.

12. If reliance can be placed on the data on which Mr. Gonsalves determines the relative quantities of salt used per diem by each individual in North and South Canara, the comparison

is favorable to this District, as showing that our more wealthy neighbours, who have no salt pans to pilfer, consume very little more Government salt than the inhabitants of North Canara.

From P. GONSALVES, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, North Canara, to W. FISHER, Esq., Collector of North Canara, dated Honore, 17th March 1862.

SIR,

1. With reference to the Government Proceedings, No. 1,951, dated 8th October last, calling for fuller information as to the decrease in the salt sales for 1860-61, I beg to submit the following report.

2. In paragraph 5 of their Proceedings, No. 4,677, dated 28th August last, the Board observed that neither of the reasons adduced by me as accounting for the decrease in the inland sales, viz., the prevalence of murrain among the cattle of the traders from above the Ghâts ; and 2ndly, the large demand from the Barkur Táluq in South Canara, which had swelled the sales of the previous year, appeared to account for the very considerable decrease in these sales. I am, however, of opinion that my calculations were correct, inasmuch as the falling off was not confined to the salt trade only, but was also perceived in other branches of traffic, as instance of which I may point out the great decrease in our usual imports of up-country rice, for which the only reliable returns are the export trade accounts of the several ports. These, as will be seen from the subjoined statement, show a falling off to the extent of 1,88,243 Moras during the season under report, as compared with the previous year :—

	Export of Inland produce, Fasli 1269.	Export of Inland produce, Fasli 1270.	Increase.	Decrease.
Rice.....	1,19,721	28,448	.....	91,273
Paddy.....	1,70,650	93,265	.....	77,385
Other grains.....	67,181	47,596	....	19,585
Total.....	3,57,552	1,69,309	.....	1,88,243

3. I would likewise beg to annex a Statement of Inland sales in the Táluq of Barkur of South Canara during the year under report. The increase observable therein is a sufficient evidence, that the wants of that Táluq were well supplied during that year, and consequently that there was no necessity for their resorting to our stores of Kundapur, as was the case in the previous year. These facts will, I trust, support the reasons to which I attributed the decrease of Inland sales during the year under report.

Sales in Fasli 1269.	Sales in Fasli 1270.	Increase.	Decrease.
In. Mds.	In. Mds.	In. Mds.	In. Mds.
11,854	14,702	2,848	.....

4. With regard to salt mud, some idea of the extent to which its use had attained, may be formed from the fact, that during the current Fasli, 162 individuals have been handed over to justice, the salt mud discovered in these cases amounting in the aggregate to 604 Maunds.

But this malpractice has since abated, and I may here observe, that our sales for Home consumption up to the end of the last month show an increase of 7,857 Maunds over those of the previour year.

5. The detailed account furnished in the Administration Report of the manner in which smuggling is carried on during the manufacture, is not to be considered as having reference only to the year under review, but I mean to say that the malpractices alluded to have been long in existence, and that they are merely copied every year.

6. The quantity of salt required for Home consumption is 1,200 Garces, calculated at the minimum rate of an ounce per head per diem, on the whole population of this District, amounting to 4,92,574, whereas our actual sales are within 700 Garces only, the ratio being Tolas $1\frac{6}{16}$ per head. Our sales are not even parallel with those of South Canara, where the population is 6,77,892 and the sales are 1,066 Garces, the ratio being Tolas $1\frac{9}{16}$ per head. Unless, therefore, their exist malpractices such as those alluded to, there do not appear any other ostensible reasons why our sales should not have reached the required standard. In paragraph 13 of my report, I have suggested measures for protecting our pans during the manufacture, and the same recommendation I again repeat here for the consideration of the higher authority.

7. As a check against malpractices on the part of boatmen, the two principal rivers of Honore and Tuddry, through which the greater portion of our salt passes to the inland depots, are guarded this year. A boat furnished with a Police guard and two rowers is in constant movement in each of these rivers. The result of this measure cannot but be beneficial, as an instance of which I have for the present to report, that one of the guard boats during its evolutions fell in with two boats carrying smuggled salt and mud, which were seized, and the case is under investigation.

8. I regret that I was not able to submit this report earlier, as I had to wait for several returns for its preparation.

In Cons. 9th October 1861, No. 6,424.

1. Resolved that the above letters be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order dated 8th October 1861, No. 1,951, commenting on the unsatisfactory state of the Salt Administration in North Canara.

2. The Collector supports his Deputy's explanation of the decrease in the Inland Salt sales, which he still ascribes to the murrain among the cattle of the traders, and he adduces the the decrease in other branches of trade as proving his explanation to be correct.

3. It is also explained that the details in regard to smuggling applied to previous years, and that no such thing as smuggling by open violence is now known in the District, though the amount of salt mud made use of is very considerable.

4. The estimated consumption of an ounce per day per head of the population is probably larger than the consumption of any District, being nearly 23 lbs. per head per annum ; but as noticed by the Collector, a comparison of the consumption in North and South Canara is in favor of the former District, but such calculations are always very liable to be fallacious.

5. In the rivers of Honore and Tuddry guard boats have been established, and beneficial results are confidently anticipated. The Home consumption for the present year shows a considerable increase, and matters seem to be improving, but the Deputy Collector still presses for increased guards to prevent smuggling. The Collector would give up the manufacture at the outlying pans, which he considers do much towards this, and the Board are of opinion that this would be the most effectual plan, though, as the District is so shortly to be removed from their control, they refrain from bringing before Government any distinct proposition on this point.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 137.

ORDER THEREON, 10th June 1862, No. 1,275.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) P. P. HUTCHINS,
Acting Deputy Secretary to Government.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

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

Copy to W. A. Goldfinch, Esq., Acting Collector of North Canara.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro: 8 October 1862 Nos 118-119.

Rev = 1862. Department.
Pro: of Govt for June.

No. 1226.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 9th April 1862.
Despatched. 29th —
Received. 29th —

No. 2,349.

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collector of North Canara explaining the cause of decrease in the Salt Sales inhis district for 1860-61.

No 1275. 10th June

RECORDED.

W Ch Smith Esq Collr

Nos 136 & 137.

Pro 1275

RECORDED.

Fort St. George
10th June 1862

30/4/62

Pro Nos 85