M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1374 Press Mis.

832-333

Dated 23 - 6 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd June 1862.

No. 332. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1862, No. 3,586:—

Read again letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated 11th April 1862, No. 73.

(Recorded in Board's Proceedings, 12th May 1862, No. 3,021.)

Read the following letters from same Officer:—

Dated 7th May 1862, No. 109.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Endorsement of the 1st instant, No. 2,781, on Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 29th ultimo, No. 918, calling for a tabular statement in the prescribed form on account of the temporary Superintendent sanctioned for storing spontaneous Salt, and beg to refer the Board in reply to my letter of the 11th ultimo, No. 73, paragraph 21, reporting on the Pulicat lake, wherein I recommended that the sanction for collecting should be cancelled, and instructions given for guarding the spontaneous Salt in the current year till washed away by June's rains.

Dated 22nd May 1862, No. 130.

With reference to paragraph 21 of Mr. Dykes' letter, No. 73 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department reports that he has maintained ten Peons from the 1st instant, to guard the temporary Salt at Striharikotta, and therefore I have to request that the Board will be pleased to obtain sanction accordingly for maintaining, as a temporary measure, ten Peons at Rupees 3½ each per mensem till such time as final orders are passed on Mr. Dykes' letter of the 11th ultimo above referred to.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letters be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 2 of their Order, dated 29th April last, No. 918, and with the Board's recommendation that, pending the report of the Deputy Chief Engineer on Mr. Dykes' proposals contained in the first letter recorded above, all further attempts to store the spontaneous Salt in the vicinity of Dugarazpatnam be discontinued.

2. In his letter of the 22nd May the Sub-Collector in charge reports the steps which have been taken for guarding the Salt, and the sanction of Government is requested for the expenditure which is estimated at Rupees 35 per mensem from 1st May.

3. This can be easily met from the item in the Budget for 1862-63 and referred to in Mr. Dykes' letter recorded in the order under reply. The Board do not think it necessary to submit a tabular statement, because the time for which the Peons in question are required will necessarily be very brief, if, as there is reason to believe, the Salt is destroyed by the next rains.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 333. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1862, No. 1,374.

1. The Government, in supersession of the sanction in their Order of 10th March 1862, No. 512, which is hereby cancelled, grant authority for the expenditure from 1st May last of Rupees (35) thirty-five a month for the guarding of spontaneous Salt at Striharikotta. This charge will cease as soon as the Salt shall have been destroyed by the rains.

2. The Government will await the Board's report on Mr. Dykes' proposals referred to in paragraph 1 of these Proceedings.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

No. 3,021.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 12th May 1862.

Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated Krishnapatnam, 11th April 1862, No. 73 :—

1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Board, a copy of a letter to my address, under date the 7th instant, from Cumile Narayanaswami Mudali, the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department.

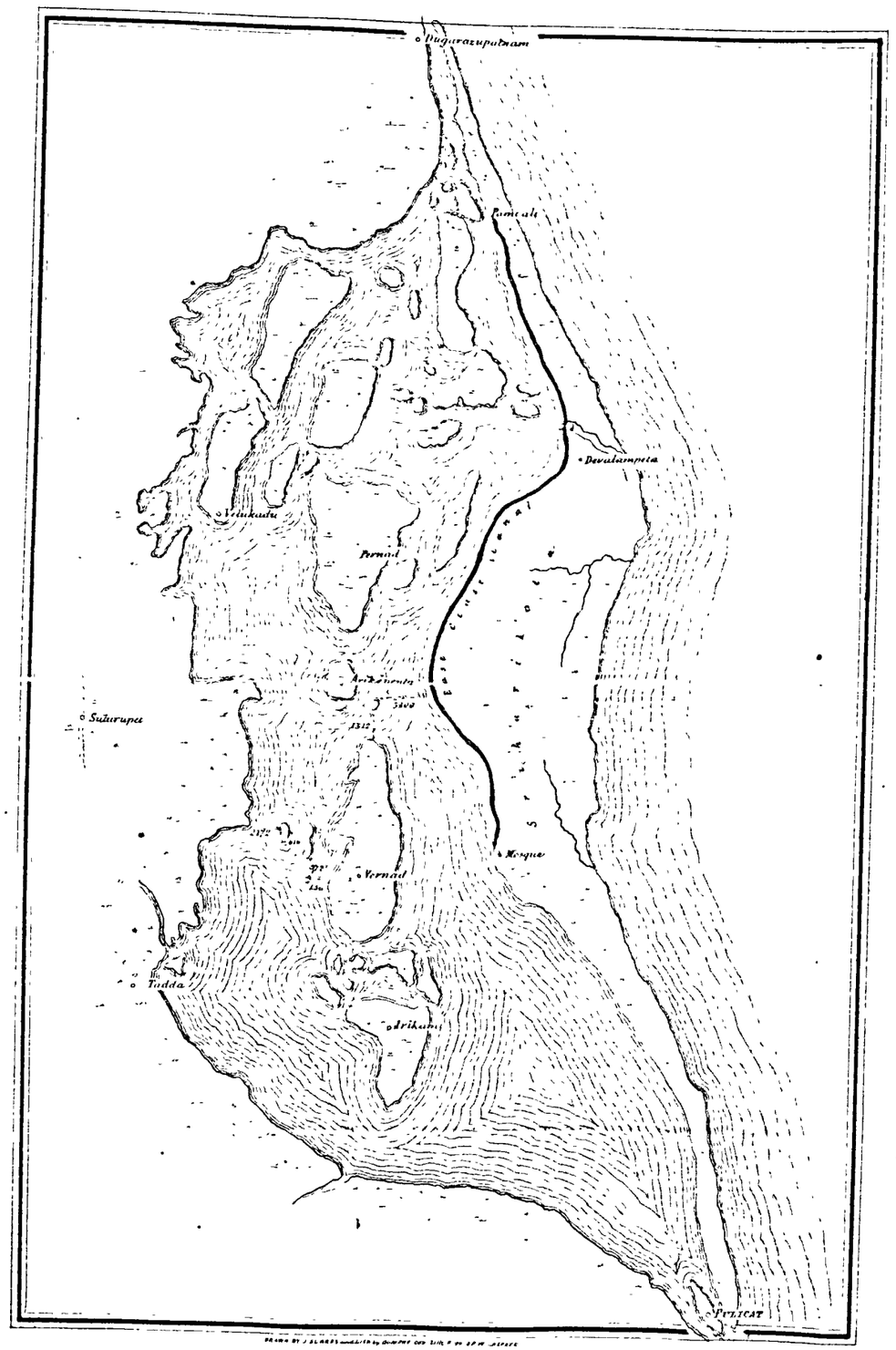
2. Having been directed to superintend the arrangements for collecting spontaneous salt in the Pulicat lake, in accordance to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 8th February last, No. 906, the Deputy Collector on arriving at the lake found the lake dry, where the hollows are situated, in which the spontaneous salt is usually found; and finding further that the filling of these hollows and subsequent formation of spontaneous salt, is almost wholly due to the water being driven in by the south winds now blowing, he conceived the idea of throwing a bank across the portions of the lake where this action takes place, and so stopping the formation of the salt altogether. In the letter now submitted he gives the details of his plan; and he is of opinion that this prevention would be preferable to attempting to collect the salt, when formed.

3. Before writing the Deputy Collector had already given me an outline of his plan; and as I have applied for three months' leave, and it would be desirable, that I should report on the question before leaving, should my leave be granted, I made arrangements for visiting the lake without waiting for the Deputy Collector's formal report, now submitted and received by me on my way there.

4. The Deputy Collector had viewed the question of banking out the water chiefly with reference to salt. But before submitting the proposed scheme for the consideration of the Board, it was necessary to view it also in its general bearings; and this has been kept in mind in such examination as I have been able to make of the localities, in company with the Deputy Collector, and Mr. Biggars, the Executive Engineer of the Southern range, who at Captain Mullins' request kindly accompanied us.

5. The Pulicat lake communicates with the sea at Pulicat its southern extremity, and at Dugarazapatnam its extreme point to the north; and probably owing to the action of these two tides, it is divided near the centre by a bank or beach line, running east and west. It is on this natural bank or beach line that the Deputy Collector proposes to throw up his artificial bank as shown by the red lines in the sketch; and to carry out the plan it would be necessary that the bank should be thrown up when the floods of the north-east monsoon have subsided, and before the southerly or "long shore winds have begun to blow," that is to say between the middle of January and the middle of March.

6. Narayanaswami Mudali has most skilfully availed himself of the numerous islands with which the lake is dotted; and thus the greatest length of artificial bank required in any one place, is the bank from Sriharikota to a small island north of Venad. This bank would be 3,100 yards in length. The next bank on to Venad is 1,312 yards. Then leaving Venad to the westward there are three shorter banks of 156, 572, and 616 yards respectively; and a 4th bank, 2,172 yards in length, completes the chain, and secures the upper or northern portion of the Pulicat lake from the action of the southerly winds.



7. The total length of bank to be constructed would be 7,928, or in round numbers, 8,000 yards The required height, Narayanaswami calculates at one yard; and, thus calculated, he estimates the total cost of original construction at Rupees 1,400, and annual repair at half as much again.

8. Whilst driving up the waters of the southern portion of the lake into the northern, the southern winds on the other hand head back the tide into the lake from Dugarazapatnam, and the precautionary measures to be adopted there are comparatively light. The red line south of the salt pans shows where a bank was built some years ago by the Public Works Department. The repair of this bank would be sufficient so far as a supply for our natural salt pans from the Dugarazapatnam inlet is concerned.

9. Continuations of this northern embankment would, however, be required down the line of the East Coast canal to where the southern chain of embankments start from it; and for this northern restoration, and its continuations, Narayanaswami estimates a further sum of Rupees 400 would be required at first, and half as much for repairs hereafter, thus making the total cost of his scheme at first going off Rupees 1,800 odd, and annual cost hereafter Rupees 900.

10. Against this outlay Narayanaswami places as a set off the heavy loss to Government from the illicit use of spontaneous salt. Calculating the annual average production of this article at 1,000 garce, Narayanaswami calculates that 200 garce, or a fifth of the quantity produced, is annually smuggled away and consumed. The value of 200 garce would be Rupees 36,000; and supposing any possible proportion of this smuggled article to be brought at our platforms on the smuggling being put a stop to, Narayanaswami argues the Government must be large gainers on an outlay under Rupees 2,000.

11. When Mr. Biggars and myself visited the localities with Narayanaswami on Wednesday last the 9th instant, the southerly winds were blowing, and on the line of beach or natural bank we found from 3 to 8 inches of water, the deepest portion of the whole line being the last embankment, but one of 616 yards, between Venad and the main land to the west. Whilst proceeding northward as far as the eye could reach there was a vast extent of shallow water deepening in the hollows, and forming a most perfect natural salt pan, that only required the southerly winds to stop and the westerly winds to set in, to commence manufacturing salt on a scale that I should think the Deputy Collector has under-estimated.

12. From such rough examination as he could make, the Executive Engineer, Mr. Biggars, considered the plans brought forward by the Deputy Collector admirably adapted to meet the end in view, and in that opinion I heartily concur.

13. Referring to the salt manufacturing at Velukadu,* which if his schemes were carried out, would have to be abandoned, being within the line of embankments, the Deputy Collector observes that the salt water being shut out, much of the land would probably be reclaimed; and this opinion is undoubtedly correct. The embankment would have the immediate effect of raising the surface of the upper portion of the lake. To be raised a few inches would bring a large portion of this vast tract above water level, save when the lake is swollen and sweetened by the rains; and whilst thus stopping the illicit manufacture of salt on a gigantic scale, Mr. Biggars and myself estimated the extent of land that sooner or later would be brought under cultivation, as at the least 100 square miles, deducting islands, which would be 50,000 acres at the rate of 500 arable acres in the square mile.

* 5th paragraph.

14. The western shore in the upper portion of the Pulicat lake is in the Venkatagiri Zemindari; and probably of the land reclaimed one-quarter would go to the Zemindar, but the remaining three-quarters would fall to village held direct of Government; and the revenue to be derived hereafter from 37,000 acres, distant though it may be, is a feature in the scheme, that requires to be set prominently before the Board.

15. So far as Mr. Biggars and myself could see, as regards the general bearings of the scheme in other respects, there are no legal interests, that could be injuriously affected by its being carried out.

16. One point for consideration was whether the embankments we should raise, could have any injurious effect, when the creation of spontaneous salt is stopped by the June rains, and the rivers come down. But Mr. Biggars was of opinion, that there was no fear on this account. The streams which fall into the upper portion of the lake, he considers, would spread themselves over its surface, and form themselves outlets. In fact as the bed of the lake rose under their fertilizing influence we may expect their channels would be continued to our embankments; and they would form the drainage of the reclaimed country.

17. Again a serious point for consideration is what would be the effect of the proposed scheme on the East Coast Canal; and here again I am glad to say the professional opinion of the officer consulted, was favorable. Mr. Biggars considered that it would be an advantage to the Canal to prevent the Dugarazapatnam tides spreading over the western flats. A healthy scour he considered would thus be given to the canal.

18. And under these circumstances, I do myself the honor to request the permission of the Board to call on the District Engineer for a rough plan and estimate, and at the same time stop all measures for collecting spontaneous salt.

19. If we collect the spontaneous salt, then we must make platforms for its storage. On the other hand, if it be determined to prevent the formation of spontaneous salt next year then in that case the platforms built this year would be no longer required, and would be so much money thrown away.

20. But this is not all. On inspecting the large extent of country, between one and two hundred square miles, over which the spontaneous salt is formed, both the Deputy Collector and myself came to the conclusion, that it would be safer not to touch it.

21. So long as the surface of the salt is unbroken by us, it is possible to detect smuggling, and check it. But once we begin collecting, it will I fear be impossible to prevent others collecting likewise; and in reporting that the Deputy Collector pending further orders, does not propose to collect;* I beg to recommend that the sanction for collecting be recalled, and that instructions be given for guarding the salt in the current year till washed away by the June rains.

*Para. 6.

22. I visited yesterday the spontaneous salt collected at Devalampeta last year, in the north of Sriharikota. The formation of salt there this year, Narayanaswami has cleverly stopped by throwing a small bank across the Yepangeri channel mouth as shown by the red line in the plan, on the east side of the east coast canal; and here again is a natural pan in the shape of a backwater in which I consider that prevention is our safest course.

23. Whatever the Board may determine in respect to the scheme now submitted for their consideration, I beg to recommend that the Sriharikota jungles, and the 14 islands in the Pulicat lake under the charge of the Sub-Magistrate of Sriharikota be transferred to this District. In the Sriharikota jungles there are other backwater, besides that at Devalam that require to be carefully guarded, and the guardianship of which should be entrusted to the officer charged with the collection of the salt revenue. Again round Pernad, one of the islands, the greater portion of the spontaneous salt collected last year by the Madras Deputy Collector was collected and stored. Here the production of spontaneous salt is most plentiful; and lying, as the Board will observe from the map half way between our Salt Divisions of Tadda and Dugarazapatnam, its remaining attached to another District, is I feel sure an anomaly that only requires to be brought to the notice of the Board to be rectified.

24. It is necessary to determine whether the transfer shall be made, as otherwise the whole of the embankment would be in the Madras District; and it would be necessary for me to put myself in communication with the District Engineer of that District under whose orders a considerable sum I was informed had been expended last year in raising a bank round Venad for the sake of the cultivation.

25. I do not exactly know how close the islands attached to the Madras Collectorate run up to Dugarazapatnam; and I have not therefore attempted to colour them; but I have coloured the islands of the Venkatagiri Zemindari, green, which will show roughly what portion of the lake would go to the Zemindar if reclaimed.

26. From what I heard, I believe the revenue from the islands and Sriharikota would be about Rupees 20,000, and should the Board determine on the transfer, I will lose no time in submitting for the consideration or Mr. Pelly, the arrangements that I would recommend should be made for taking charge of this revenue; the general supervision of the country being placed under the Deputy Magistrate at Nayadupett, who would be able to render the Deputy Collector in charge of the salt valuable assistance in checking a system of smuggling that has now been in operation for 60 years, and on a scale that the previous figures will give the Board some idea of.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. NARAYANASAMI MUDALI, Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, Nellore, to J. W. B. DYKES, Esq, Collector of Nellore, dated Dugarazapatnam, 7th April 1862, No. 21.

1. With reference to your Memorandum of the 22nd ultimo, No. 166, I have the honor to state that the proposition for the collection and storage of spontaneous salt having been approved of by the Board in their Proceedings of the 8th February last, No. 906, forwarded to me by you, I proceeded to the spot on the 14th ultimo, in anticipation of the sanction of Government for the required establishment to make the requisite arrangements for its collection in the approaching season. But the personal inquiries I have made on the spot as to the generation of this salt brought to my know ledge certain facts which altered my views as to how the spontaneous salt should be dealt with, so much so that I think it necessary before proceeding further in the matter to submit for re-consideration the question of utilizing this salt.

2. It appears that spontaneous salt does not spring up in these swamps till after the commencement of the southern winds, which blowing strong on the level shores of the Pulicat lake, drive its water to the swamps around, and thereby cause the production of the salt in question. That this is the case, there is no doubt whatever, having subsequently seen myself the once empty swamps covered with the lake water. The salt thus produced is generally of a good quality, and may be estimated at 1,000 garces. But being scattered as it, were over a plain of about 25 miles by 15, the difficulty of guarding the salt against smuggling and utilizing it, or of destroying it altogether, is so great that I do not think it possible that either of those attempts can be made with success. Under such circumstances the best course that I should suggest is to prevent altogether the formation of the salt in question, which, I think, can be done by throwing a bund along the northern shores of the Pulicat lake, and thereby preventing the water thereof from getting into the swamps when the winds blow.

3. The bund may be raised at the following localities, and on an average need not be higher than three feet. It will, I think, cost not more than Rupees 1,430-6-3 as shown below:—

Localities at which the proposed Bund is to be raised.	The proposed Bund.		
	How runs.	Distance.	Outlay.
		Yards.	
1. That part between the abandoned Karijata platform and Bodi Dibba.	Easterly.	2,172	
2. Do. do. the said Bodi Dibba and Pennala Dibba.....	South easterly.	616	
3. Do. do. the said Pennala Dibba and Muchala Dibba....	Southerly.	572	
4. Do. do. the said Muchala Dibba and Chikirani tree on the west of Venad...	Easterly.	156	
5. Do. do. Tummamuga Dibba and Pedda jemudu tree and Gangarani Dibba on the east of Atakan Dibba north of Venaud...	Northerly.	1,312	
6. Do. do. the said Gangarani Dibba and Deravaripolliem new field on the bank of the Cochrane's Canal..	North easterly.	3,100	
	Total.....	7,928	

yards or 4½ miles at the rate of Rupees 317-13-10 per mile.

4. With the same object, the embankment of the Coast Canal should also be repaired at some places, and will not cost more than 400 Rupees, so that in all, the proposed project will require about 1,830 Rupees. The maintenance of the new bund may be probably estimated to cost annually half the original outlay; and with this small outlay and annual expenditure, I think it possible to prevent the production of this salt, and the smuggling of nearly 200 garces, value 36,000 Rupees, now carried on with impunity, and thereby increase the salt revenue to that extent. At any rate, the project is, I think, worthy of a trial, and I beg to recommend that, if approved of, it may be tried for three years, at the end of which the bund may be kept up or not according as the revenue increases or not.

5. If this project be approved of, the Kotar of Velukadu will have to be abolished, as no salt can be produced in the pans there, the lake water being shut out of the swamps, and the demand now made on that Kotar will have to be met by the Kotars of Dugarazupatnam and Tada, while it is not improbable that these lands will be reclaimed from their present state, and brought under paddy or other cultivation.

6. Pending the disposal of the project now submitted, the arrangements already sanctioned* for the collection of spontaneous salt will be held in abeyance.

* Memorandum dated 22nd March 1862.

(True Copy.)
(Signed) J. W. B. DYKES, Collector.

The Board resolve to request the opinion of the Deputy Chief Engineer on Mr. Dykes' proposals, and the Collector of Madras will be good enough to report on the proposed transfer of the swamps and islands from his District to that of Nellore.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To Lieut.-Colonel S. O. E, Ludlow Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle.

Copy to F. F. Eliott, Esq., Sub-Collector in charge of Nellore.
" B. Cunliffe, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd, J. Wright.

No. 3,586.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th June 1862.

Read again letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated 11th April 1862, No. 73.

(Recorded in Board's Proceedings, 12th May 1862, No. 3,021.)

Read the following letters from same Officer:—

Dated 7th May 1862, No. 109.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Endorsement of the 1st instant, No. 2,781, on Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 29th ultimo, No. 918, calling for a tabular statement in the prescribed form on account of the temporary Superintendent sanctioned for storing spontaneous Salt, and beg to refer the Board in reply to my letter of the 11th ultimo, No. 73, paragraph 21, reporting on the Pulicat lake, wherein I recommended that the sanction for collecting should be cancelled, and instructions given for guarding the spontaneous Salt in the current year till washed away by June's rains.

Dated 22nd May 1862, No. 130.

With reference to paragraph 21 of Mr. Dykes' letter, No. 73 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department reports that he has maintained ten Peons from the 1st instant, to guard the temporary Salt at Striharikotta, and therefore I have to request that the Board will be pleased to obtain sanction accordingly for maintaining, as a temporary measure, ten Peons at Rupees 34 each per mensem till such time as final orders are passed on Mr. Dykes' letter of the 11th ultimo above referred to.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letters be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 2 of their Order, dated 29th April last, No. 918, and with the Board's recommendation that, pending the report of the Deputy Chief Engineer on Mr. Dykes' proposals contained in the first letter recorded above, all further attempts to store the spontaneous Salt in the vicinity of Dugarazpatnam be discontinued.

2. In his letter of the 22nd May the Sub-Collector in charge reports the steps which have been taken for guarding the Salt, and the sanction of Government is requested for the expenditure which is estimated at Rupees 35 per mensem from 1st May.

3. This can be easily met from the item in the Budget for 1862-63 and referred to in Mr. Dykes' letter recorded in the order under reply. The Board do not think it necessary to submit a tabular statement, because the time for which the Peons in question are required will necessarily be very brief, if, as there is reason to believe, the Salt is destroyed by the next rains.

(True Copies and Extract.)

C. Chastes

Acting Sub-Secretary.

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

Copy to E. F. Eliott, Esq., Sub-Collector in charge of Nellore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Received 5th June 1862 in R.D. Letter No. 3586.

1862. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 12th May 1862.

Rec'd 23rd May 1862 in R.D. No. 1632

No 3,021.

Requesting the opinion of the Deputy Chief Engineer N. C. on Mr Dykes' proposals for preventing the formation of spontaneous Salt, and desiring the Collector of Madras to report on the proposed transfer of the swamps and islands from his district to that of Nellore.

Pro 29th April 62 nos 3905-3963
" 10th March 1862 nos 121-122

Rev 1862. Department.
Proc. Govt. for June
No. 1632.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dtaed 5th June 1862.
Despatched. 7th —
Received. 9th —
Pro Govt 18 Dec 62
Col 3/4 85 with Hy
No. 3,586.

Submitting letters from the Collector of Nellore with the Board's remarks thereon recommendation that the storing of Salt in the vicinity of Dugarazapatnam be discontinued pending the report of the Deputy Chief Engineer on the subject, and requesting the sanction of Government for the expenditure for guarding the temporary Salt at Stribarikota.

Nos 332 to 333.

No 1374 — 23 June
Wh Thomas

Cuttack 0220

No 1374.

The Govt in suspension of the sanction in their order of 10th March 1862 No 512, which is hereby cancelled, are pleased to authorize the expenditure from 1st May last of Rs 35 thirty five a month for the guarding of spontaneous salt at Stribarikota. This charge will cease as soon as the salt shall have been removed by the owners.

The Govt will await the Board's report on Mr Ellis's proposals & scheme & the papers of these proceedings.

Govt 1st June
23 June 1862

To the Board of Revenue
Accountant General
Chief Engineer