M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2097 Press Mis.

498 499

Dated 26 - 9 - 1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th September 1862.

No. 498. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th September 1862, No. 6,131:—

Read again letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 18th January 1862, No. 14, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 6th February 1862, No. 847.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tanjore, dated Vellum, 18th August 1862, No. 316.

1. As requested in the Board's Proceedings No. 847, dated 6th February 1862, directing me to report at the end of six months on the result of allowing 6 Rupees per Garce on all wholesales of Salt by the heap of 10 Garce at Vedarnium in addition to the usual discount of 5 per cent., I have the honor to state that the merchant mentioned in Mr. Cadell's letter of the 18th January 1862, is the only person who has taken advantage of the reduction in price, and he has only done so to the small extent of buying one heap wholesale in April last.

2. The measure may therefore be said to have been a failure, but I am in no way astonished at it, and will proceed to show the Board why such a result, in my opinion, must have followed.

3. The spontaneous Salt of Vedaraniem is no doubt of a very superior description, but it is as equally certain that the Natives have a strong prejudice against it. Even last year when the Salt made at Negapatam was black and full of dirt, it was always preferred to Vedarnium Salt, and this year since it has been turned out white and pure, it has completely distanced its Vedarnium competitor. These facts I have learnt from many Salt traders; and the abovementioned merchant has also informed me that he was obliged to dispose of his wholesale heap at a loss.

4. Again, the actual cost of bringing by sea a Garce of the Vedarnium Salt to Negapatam, I find to be as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Carriage from the vady to the ship...	3	10	8
Measuring...	0	5	4
Freight from Vedarnium to Negapatam...	10	0	0
Loss by wastage...	2	0	0
Cost of unloading...	1	0	0
Total....	17	0	0

To meet this cost a discount of 6 Rupees has been allowed, so that actually the Vedarnium Salt when it starts off from Negapatam in the train has cost the trader 11 Rupees per Garce more than the Negapatam would have, and this in the face of a very heavy prejudice against it. It is not to be wondered at therefore that the discount of 6 Rupees has not produced any good result, the wonder would have been if it had.

5. It is of the utmost importance that the prejudice against the Vedarnium Salt should be removed, more especially so now when the canal is in contemplation. I am confident it can be removed; but in order to do so, a slight sacrifice must be made at first. The sacrifice will be but for a short time, and will be repaid a thousand times when the canal is opened and the salt really appreciated. I therefore propose that, in addition to the present wholesale discount of 9 Rupees a Garce, a further discount of 20 Rupees instead of 6 Rupees be allowed; this will allow the Vedarnium Salt to start at the slight advantage of 3 Rupees a Garce over the Negapatam Salt, an advantage, in my opinion, not more than sufficient to enable it to overcome the prejudice against it. I may add that the cost of bringing a Garce of Salt from Vedarnium to Negapatam by land is at the least 20 Rupees.

6. I sincerely trust the Board will accede to my proposal, and allow me to give it a trial for eight months. I say eight months instead of six, because but little can be done in October, November, and December, when the coast is almost closed by the north-east monsoon.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing papers be submitted for the consideration of Government.

2. In their Proceedings of 6th February last, No. 847, the Board sanctioned, as a temporary arrangement for six months, an allowance of Rupees 6 per Garce in addition to the usual

discount of 5 per cent. on all wholesales of Salt by the heap of 10 Garce at Vedarnium, in consideration of the saving effected by Government in the cost of carriage, by thus selling the article on the spot instead of at Negapatam.

3. In the letter recorded above the Acting Collector reports that this measure has failed of its intended effect, only one individual having taken advantage of the concession, and that to a very limited extent.

4. The reason of this, as Mr. Morris shows, is obvious enough. The cost of transporting a Garce of Salt from Vedarnium to Negapatam is shown (paragraph 4) to be Rupees 17. No one of course would think of engaging in this traffic when Salt can be procured at Negapatam itself 11 Rupees a Garce cheaper.

5. In addition to this drawback, there is a great prejudice among the Natives against the use of the Vedarnium Salt. The Board believe this objection to be altogether unreasonable, and to dispel it and bring a good, and (to Government) cheaper, article into demand, they deem a present sacrifice to be wise policy. They therefore resolve to recommend to Government the adoption of the Acting Collector's suggestion that for eight months an allowance of 20 Rupees per Garce be made to wholesale purchasers of this Salt, in addition to the usual discount of 9 Rupees.

6. The correspondence regarding the Canal referred to in the last paragraph of the Acting Collector's letter has been already submitted to Government, and formed the subject of their orders noted in the margin.

16th September 1861, No. 1,834.
12th July 1862, No. 1,520.

7. The Board observe that while Mr. Cadell in his letter of 20th June 1861, No. 172, estimated the cost of freight of a Garce of Salt by sea from Vedarnium to Negapatam at 5 Rupees, the present Acting Collector has put down the "actual cost" at Rupees 10.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 499.

ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1862, No. 2,097.

Under the circumstances stated the Governor in Council sanctions, as an experimental measure for eight months, the proposal of the Acting Collector of Tanjore to make an allowance of Rupees (20) twenty per Garce to all wholesale purchasers of Vedarnium Salt in addition to the usual discount.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 847.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th February 1862.

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Vellum, 18th January 1862, No. 14:—

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue that an application* has been made to me by a Merchant at Negapatam, and who is desirous of taking up the salt trade by means of the Great Southern of India Railway for some further discount or allowance in the price of the Vedarniem salt.

* Copy herewith sent.

2. The Board are aware that this salt is manufactured at the smallest possible cost, and that its quality is unexceptionable. Owing, however, to the difficulties in the way of transit, it has been found difficult, if not impossible, to obtain a market for it, and the subject of the removal of these difficulties and the extension of the manufacture have formed the subject of the correspondence marginally noted. I am still in communication with the District Engineer in the matter; and so soon as that Officer has leisure, I propose again inspecting the locality in company with him when I shall have the honor to submit the result of our joint deliberation.

From Board, 11th February 1861, No. 776.
To do. 20th June do. No. 172.
From do. 6th July do. No. 3,552.
Do. do. 18th September do. No. 5,074.

3. Meanwhile, I would beg earnestly to request the sanction of the Board, and as an experimental measure, for six months, for allowing an addition to the present wholesale discount of 9 Rupees per Garce, a further discount in the case of the Vedarniem salt only of 6 Rupees per Garce, thus making the wholesale price at those pans at Rupees 165 per Garce.

4. The cost to Government of the Vedarniem salt is, as the Board are aware, about 3 Rupees per Garce exclusive of the annual repairs to the embankments, and including which it may amount to about 6 Rupees, while the price of salt manufactured in the ordinary way is Rupees 10-10-0. As to quality there can be no question as to the superiority of the Vedarniem salt, and I may take this oppurtunity of stating that the party who has made the present application attempted to introduce the Negapatam salt at Tanjore by means of the Railway, but found it altogether unsaleable.

5. I therefore trust the Board will be good enough to sanction the measure I have now the honor to propose. I beg to add that the Dewan of Travancore has lately been on a visit to this District, and that he has taken with him samples of the Vedarniem salt with the quality of which he was much pleased. It is, by no means, improbable that we may have a demand for salt from that quarter, and when its excellence becomes better known, and as further facilities are afforded for its transit, I have every hope and confidence that the manufacture of salt at Vedarniem will prove one of the most valuable and flourishing sources of our revenue.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Copy of an application from A. M. Streenevasayengar, dated 2nd January 1862.

1. As a temporary arrangement subject to revision at the end of six months, the Board sanction an allowance of Rupees 6 per Garce on all wholesales of salt by the heap of 10 Garce at Vedarniem in addition to the usual discount of 5 per cent., and in consideration of the saving of cost of carriage to Government effected by the sale of the salt on the spot instead of at Negapatam.

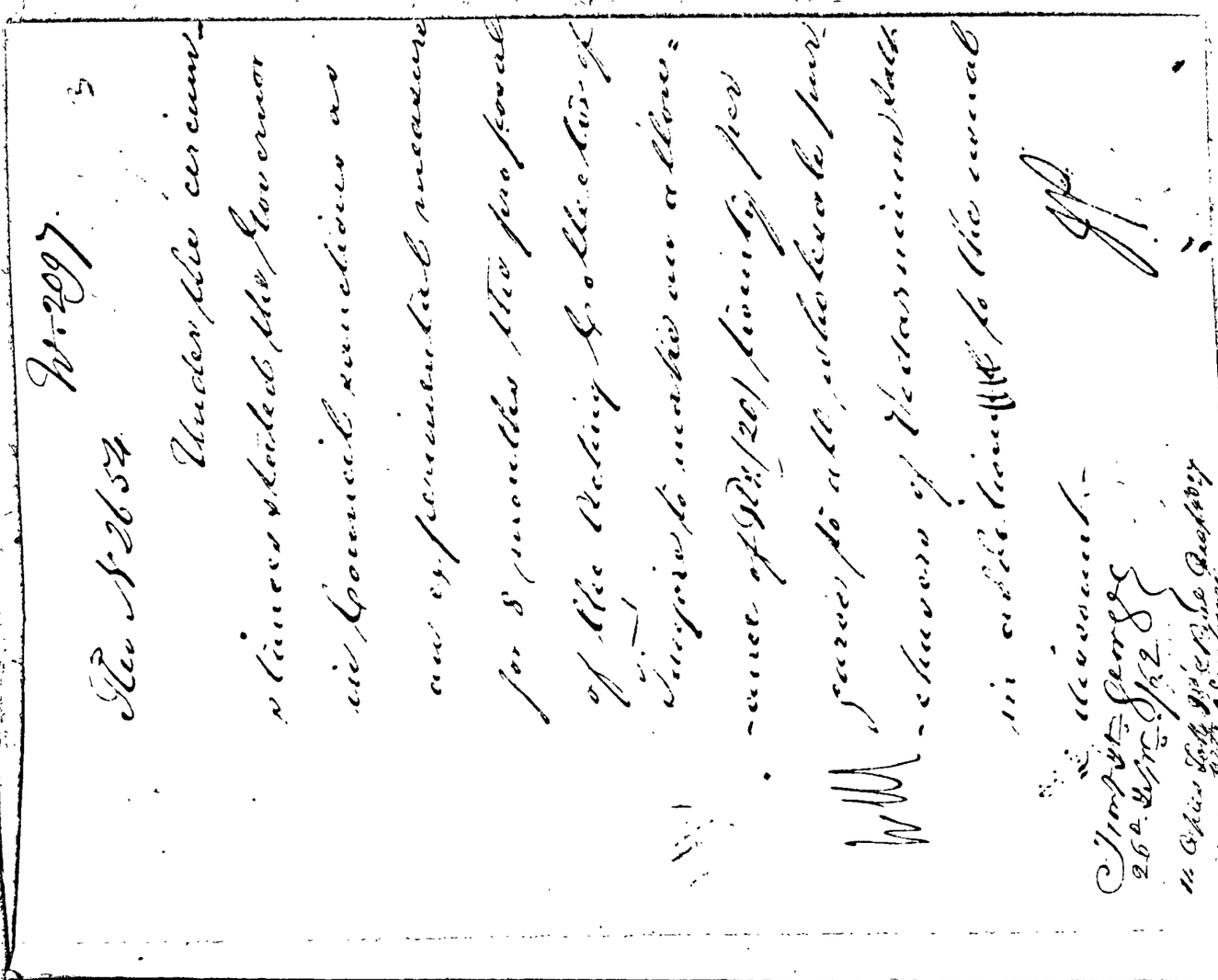
2. The Collector will report the result of this measure at the end of the six months, and will meanwhile require from his Deputy in charge of the Salt Department, and transmit to the Board a monthly Memorandum of the sales effected on these terms, which are to be advertised in the District Gazette, and to be all to allowed wholesale purchasers wishing to avail themselves of them.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To W. M. Cadell, Esq., Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. Wright.



1862 Department

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Rev-2652/62

Dated 6th February 1862.

Despatched

Received

No. 847.

Passing orders regarding wholesales of sal
at Vedarniem.