M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 262 Press ~~Mis.~~

200-201

Dated 16 2 18 62

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No. 200. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1861, No. 6,435:—

Read the following letter from H. WOOD, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Cuddalore, 6th September 1861, No. 118.

SIR,

As requested in the Board's Memorandum of the 27th June last, I have the honor to submit the report of Mahomed Esuff Saib* upon the Salt operations of this District for Fasli 1269-70.

* Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department.

From MAHOMED ESUFF SAIB, Deputy Collector, South Arcot, to H. WOOD, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 4th September 1861.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit a further report upon Salt in continuation of the one I had the honor to forward on the 22nd December last, thus bringing the operations to a termination up to the end of Fasli 1270.

2. In paragraph 30 of the said report, I have stated the quantity† sold up to the end of November last. The quantity since disposed of up to the end of June last, is Indian maunds 1,88,764-37-13. Of this, Home consumption Indian maunds 68,614-27-13; Inland consumption Indian maunds 94,230; Export by sea Indian maunds 3,000, and French Government at Pondicherry Indian maunds 22,920.

†	MDS.	S.	CH.
	2,12,560	2	3

3. There has been only one instance of theft connected with Salt at Merkanum. Quantity stolen was Indian maunds 18-6-10. It was recovered and the offenders punished.

4. The amount of wastage is maunds 3,613-16-5. Deduct maunds 37-17-2 gained by measurement, there remains maunds 3,575-39-3. This added to the net amount‡ specified in paragraph 34 of my former report comes to maunds 4,040-15-1 which is the actual wastage resulting from the sales of the aggregate maunds 4,01,325 during Fasli 1269-70. This gives us a per centage of one maund which is one-fifth of what has been sanctioned by Government.

‡	MDS.	S.	CH.
	464	15	14

5. I have only to add in conclusion that the manufacture has been greatly retarded this year by rains, and there does not appear to be any prospect of realizing the dittum. The aggregate quantity stored up to the 15th August last is maunds 2,89,260-13-0. This added to the surplus of Fasli 1269-70 in hand on the same date amounts to maunds 6,54,231-8-0. It is probable a few more garces may be turned up, but it is very precarious as the season is drawing nigh to an end.

From MAHOMED ESUFF SAIB, Deputy Collector, to H. WOOD, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 22nd December 1860.

SIR,

1. In obedience to the Orders of Government, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291, Revenue Department, communicated to me with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1860, No. 4,444, under cover of your Official Memorandum, dated 9th October 1860, No. 484, I have the honor to submit for their information the subjoined report upon the Salt operations of this District for the season 1860.

2. In order to the proper understanding of the subject in all its ramifications, it would be necessary to give a sketch of the Salt divisions. I would, therefore, beg leave to advert to them in as few words as possible.

3. There are four Salt divisions in this District—1, Merkanum; 2, Gundalum; 3, Teagavelly; and 4, Kally.

The first is situated to the north and the last to the south, with Gundalum nearly in the centre, and Teagavelly within a short distance of the latter.

4. Merkanum, the largest of these consists of six Salt villages—1, Merkanum; 2, Kundadoo; 3, Voraney; 4, Hanoomunday; 5, Nadoocoopum, and 6, Tiroocanoor.

Merkanum contains ullums (pans) extending over an area of five miles in circumference, with a Salt inlet running to the west, which supplies after the usual preparation the requisite quantity of brines to the Salt beds. These beds are from the nature of the soil capable of yielding any given quantity of Salt barring the inclemency of the season. A range of platforms, eighteen in number, runs nearly half the extent of these pans somewhat in the shape of a crescent.

5. Kundadoo divided from the former by the Salt inlet, contains half the number or nearly so of ullums of the other extending over a mile with five platforms.

6. In Nadoocoopum, Ooraney, Hanoomunday and Tiroocanoor, the ullums vary in number, with two platforms to each of the two first villages, and one to each of the two latter.

7. The aggregate number of ullums in the Merkanum division is 853, and platforms 29.

8. Gundalum, Teagavelly and Killay contains ullums also varying in number. The first and last have each five platforms which are allotted to the three Salt villages in each, viz.:—1, Gundalum; 2, Puchayancoopum, and Koodekadoo in the former; and 1, Killay; 2, Nakrandancoody; and 3, Tillavadungum in the latter. Teagavelly consists of two Salt villages—1, Manavaree, and 2, Kumblimodoo with a platform to each.

9. The aggregate number of ullums and platforms is as follows:—

Gundalum	112	pans, 5	platforms.
Teagavelly	66¾	do. 2	do.
Killay	158	do. 5	do.

10. Each of the four Salt divisions abovementioned is under the supervision of an establishment presided over by an Amín, the aggregate cost of which to the State is Rupees 502-6-0 per month:—

	Rs.	A.
Merkanum	256	4
Gundalum	100	6
Teagavelly	74	4
Killay	71	8
Total...	502	6

11. In addition to this an extra Establishment of Hungamy Sibundies is annually allowed during the season of manufacture, for the greater protection and security of Salt, and to expedite the storing, &c. Their services are dispensed with when the manufacture ceases.

12. I have further to add that prior to 1850 certain Roosoomdars, viz., Monigars, Curnums, &c., were attached to the Salt pans, on the receipt of Roosooms payable to them by Government. The Roosooms have been since superseded by fixed salaries. In the Merkanum division there are eleven Monigars and five Curnums, whose joint salary amounts to Rupees 24-3-4 per month. In Gundalum there are no Roosoomdars at all. In Teagavelly there is a blacksmith and two boatmen, whose joint pay is Rupees 2-2-8 per month. Besides an allowance of Rupees 2-13-1, is paid to the charity of a Muttum. In Killay there is a Curnum and a water-woman, who are likewise paid by month Rupee 1-2-1.

13. The Monigars have no duty of any kind whatever in connection with the Salt pans. Their ostensible duties were to look after the pans, to attend the sales, to keep an account of them, and in short to act as a check over the Officers of the Salt Department. This system, however, no longer obtains.

14. The others, Curnums, &c., are on active duties.

15. Having thus premised, I shall now proceed to the subject under report.

16. About the end of December last, the dittum or the maximum quantity of Salt to be manufactured in this District, having been fixed at Indian maunds 9,06,000, and this having been

	In. Mds.
Merkanum	7,62,000
Gundalum	48,000
Teagavelly	54,000
Killay	42,000
Total	9,06,000

allotted in the proportions noted in the margin to each of the four divisions, the usual preliminary arrangements were entered into with the Ryots, each man engaging to produce a certain quantity fixed with reference to the number and capacity of the pans in his possession under certain forfeitures and penalties.

17. The Ryots then entered upon the manufacture about the middle of February following.

18. The season having been dry and favorable, the manufacture was pushed on vigorously day after day, interrupted only by occasional showers, until the end of October last when it was put a stop to by the setting in of the monsoon.

19. The scrapings commenced about the end of March following and the storing in April. It was conducted under the superintendence of the Deputy Collector Theroovengada Charloo at Merkanum, and Mr. Underwood at the other divisions. Early in May following, I joined the Merkanum, and Mr. Underwood at the other divisions. Early in May following, I joined the District, and having been placed in charge of Merkanum I proceeded there at once; subsequently the other divisions having also been placed under my charge I have since visited them more than once.

20. The aggregate quantity realized is Indian maunds 8,43,127, seers 39, and chittacs 13.

	In. Mds.	S.	C.
Merkanum	7,15,624	9	13
Gundalum	48,960	0	0
Teagavelly	37,366	35	0
Killay	41,176	35	0
Total	8,43,127	39	13

21. From the above particulars you will be pleased to observe that the total out-turn of the pans in each of the divisions, has fallen short of the dittum allotted to them respectively by 46,375 Indian maunds at Merkanum; 16,633 Indian maunds at Teagavelly, and 823 Indian maunds at Killay, save Gundalum where it has exceeded by 960 Indian maunds. Had not the manufacture been interrupted by the showers the whole of the dittum would in all probability have been realized. As it is, it still exceeds what was realized during the Faslis 1266, 1267 and 1268.

Faslis.	In. Mds.
1266	6,56,520
1267	57,480
1268	31,920

22. In point of quality the Salt of Merkanum and Kundadoo is decidedly the best of the whole lot. It is solid, large grained and white, while that of the other pans is dirty, white and thin grained, almost to powder. Though every effort has been made for its improvement it failed of success.

23. The whole of the Salt realized as above stated has been measured, stored, and secured as usual upon the platforms, with jumboo grass at Merkanum, palmyrah leaves at Gundalum and Teagavelly, and with a thick coating of mud at Killay.

24. In Merkanum and Gundalum the platforms are composed of clayey earth, raised above the level of the pans to an height of 5 or 6 feet. They are strong and durable. In Killay they are enclosed with brickwork; and in Teagavelly they are mere loose mounds of earth: some of them are long and capacious holding from 20 to 30 or 40 heaps each, while others are less so, holding from 15 to 20 heaps. They are repaired occasionally whenever any gups or ruts are occasioned by heavy rains.

25. The heaps on the platforms contain 10 garces or 1,200 Indian maunds each, and are oblong mounds; some are nearly squares.

26. The thatching is effected at a cost of 10 Rupees per heap or one Rupee per garce in Merkanum. At Gundalum it costs Rupee 1-0-10, and at Teagavelly only 15 Annas. The mud coating at Killay costs Rupees 2-4-5 per heap.

27. The covering of the heaps has already withstood the brunt of the monsoon, save a slight damage to a small unmeasured heap covered with mud at Tillavadungum in Killay. The damage was merely mud deep, so the Salt remained unaffected. The heap has been since stored and secured.

28. With regard to Kudivarum, the rates vary much in Merkanum. There are two classes of manufacturers there and at Nadoocoopum, Oolcoody or residents; and Sookavasy or strangers. The former receives Rupees 12-6-0, and Rupees 12-14-0 in those villages respectively. The latter Rupees 15-7-0 and Rupees 17-12-0. This class distinction, however, does not exist in Ooraney, Hanoomunday, Kundadoo and Tiroocanoor. The rates still differ in each, viz., Rupees 14-3 in the first, Rupees 16-1 in the second, Rupees 14-5 in the third, and Rupees 16-3 in the fourth. In Gundalum, Teagavelly and Killay, this distinction has been re-placed since the commencement of this year by an uniform rate of 10 Rupees per garce.

29. The sales commenced early in Merkanum, and at the other Depôts later. The inland sales are by far the greater than the Home ones. They are not, however, very extensive This must be attributed to the want of efficient roads to the Depôts. A road runs from Tinde anum eastward to Merkanum, a distance of nearly 23 miles, and over a stoney soil. It is anything but passable. Between Pondicherry and Merkanum a road runs as far as Cottakoopum, and b yond that there is absolutely no such thing as a metalled road. The cart track is heavy with sand, intersected with water-courses, so that during the monsoon all approaches by this direction to the Salt Depôts is unsafe, and extremely difficult. Nor is there any road between Merkanum and Nadoocoopum, Ooraney, &c.; the sand is so heavy and deep here, that it is painf l o see the poor bullocks dragging with the greatest difficulty carts heavily loaded thr gh it. This is a great drawback, and the sooner it is removed the better.

30. The Salt disposed of up to the end of November last amounts to Indian r unds 2,12,560-2-3, value Rupees 2,62,152-12-2.

31. This is exclusive of Indian maunds 23,079-24-15, which has been supplied to the French Government at Pondicherry. Of this Indian maunds 22,479-24-15 were shipped from Merkanum, and the remainder, 600 Indian maunds, from Gundalum.

32. The Salt thus supplied is charged at its highest rate of Kudivarum according to the convention between the two Governments, viz., Rupees 15-7 per garce for the Merkanum Salt, and Rupees 10 for Gundalum, the cost of transit and other miscellaneous charges being shared between the two Governments.

33. There have been two or three offers during the past year, from merchants at Pondicherry and Cuddalore for the shipment of Salt on private trade to Paday, &c. These were refused under an apprehension that the stock in hand might run short of the demand in the District.

34. Of the Salt disposed of there has been a wastage of only Indian maunds 910-1-14, which is less than the preceding Faslis. In some instances an excess of maunds 445-26-0 resulted after the heaps had been sold off. This, deducted from the wastage, leaves a balance of only maunds 464-15-4.

Faslis.	In. Mds.
1266	26,138 12 5
1267	10,228 32 0
1268	16,004 4 0

35. Of thefts connected with this article the number of cases is 23. Of the quantity stolen, 18 maunds, 26 seers and 5 chittacs, value Rupees 20-15-7 has been recovered. There have been also two instances of smuggling Salt in excess of the Rowanahs. After full inquiry, the whole quantity amounting to Indian maunds 35 was confiscated, sold, and the proceeds, Rupees 42-7, carried to the credit of Government.

36. Of spontaneous Salt 30 Indian maunds has been collected, sold, and the proceeds credited to Government. This is the only quantity collected during the past season, and as I have already submitted a report in full upon this article under date the 26th July 1860, No. 19, I would refrain from dwelling any further upon this subject here.

37. In conclusion I beg to annex herewith the Statement marked A, which will show at a glance the whole of the Salt operations of the District in full detail.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. WOOD, *Collector.*

A.

Statement showing the Salt operation of the District of South Arcot for the season 1860.

Fasli.	Division.	Dittum.	Manufacture. Quantity. IN. MDS. S. CH.	Manufacture. Value. RS. A. P.	Excess. Quantity. IN. MDS. S. CH.	Excess. Value. RS. A. P.	Recovered.* Quantity. IN. MDS. S. CH.	Recovered.* Value. RS. A. P.	Spontaneous Salt. Quantity. IN. MDS. S. CH.	Spontaneous Salt. Value. RS. A. P.
1269-70.	Merkanum	7,62,000	7,15,624 9 13	8,05,077 4 5	378 6 0	425 6 8	13 28 9	15 6 8	30 0 0	33 12 0
	Gundalum	48,000	48,960 0 0	55,080 0 0	43 5 0	48 8 3	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Teagavelly	54,000	37,366 35 0	42,037 11 9	24 15 0	27 6 9	0 5 0	0 2 3	.....	.....
	Killay	42,000	41,176 35 0	46,323 15 9	.....	.....	4 32 12	5 6 8	.....	.....
	Total	2,06,000	8,43,127 39 13	9,48,518 15 11	445 26 0	501 5 8	18 26 5	20 15 7	30 0 0	33 12 0

* This is *Salt recovered* from parties who have been apprehended and convicted for stealing it.

STATEMENT showing the Salt operation, &c.—*(Continued.)*

Fasli.	Division.	Dittum.	Total.		Home Sales.		Inland Sales.		Shipment.	
			Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		RS.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.
1269-70.	Merkanum...	7,62,000	7,16,046 4 6	8,05,551 13 9	52,274 24 7	58,808 15 0	1,32,466 35 0	1,49,025 3 9	.....	.....
	Gundalum.....	48,000	49,003 5 0	55,128 8 3	11,505 0 0	12,943 2 0	2,647 20 0	2,978 7 0	.....	.....
	Teagavelly...	54,000	37,391 15 0	42,065 4 9	2,643 30 0	2,974 3 6	2,722 20 0	3,062 13 0	.....	.....
	Killay.....	42,000	41,181 27 12	46,329 6 5	4,201 2 12	4,726 3 2	4,098 30 0	4,611 1 6	.....	.....
	Total...	9,06,000	8,43,622 12 2	9,49,075 1 2	70,624 17 3	79,452 7 8	1,41,935 25 0	1,59,677 9 3	.....	.....

Fasli.	Division.	Dittum.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
		RS.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.	IN. MDS. S. CH.	RS. A. P.
1269-7 .	Merkanum..	7,62,000	22,479 24 15	25,289 9 3	816 11 14	918 5 2	2,08,037 16 4	2,34,042 1 2	5,08,008 28 2	5,71,509 12 7
	Gundalum..	48,000	600 0 0	675 0 0	9 15 0	10 8 9	14,761 35 0	16,607 1 9	34,241 10 0	38,521 6 6
	Teagavelly.	54,000	.....	.....	1 35 0	2 1 9	5,368 5 0	6,039 2 3	32,023 10 0	36,026 2 6
	Killay....	42,000	.....	.....	82 20 0	92 13 0	8,382 12 12	9,430 1 8	32,799 15 0	36,899 4 9
	Total...	9,06,000	23,079 24 15	25,964 9 3	910 1 4	1,023 12 8	2,36,549 29 0	2,66,118 6 10	6,07,072 23 2	6,82,956 10 4

(True Copy.)

(Signed) MAHOMED ESUFF, *Deputy Collector.*

(Signed) H. WOOD, *Collector.*

In Cons. 4th August 1860, No. 3,803.

1. Resolved that the above reports be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, dated 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291, Revenue Department.

2. As the Collector has failed to make any remarks on his Deputy Collector's report himself, the Board will proceed to review it, leaving it to him to supply his opinions in his reply to these Proceedings.

3. There are four Salt divisions in the South Arcot District, Merkanum situate in the north, Killay in the south, and Gundalum and Teagavelly in close proximity to Cuddalore which is in a central position.

4. The Merkanum division, which is by far the most important, consists of six villages, and has 853 pans and 29 platforms. The Gundalum division has three villages with 112 pans and 5 platforms; the Teagavelly two villages with 66 pans and 2 platforms, while the Killay division consists of three villages, and has 158 pans and 5 platforms. No information is given as to the size of the pans though the Board attach considerable importance to the pans being of a uniform size, and they trust that if this is not the case in this District, care will be taken that they gradually become so.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Merkanum	256	4	0
Gundalum	100	6	0
Teagavelly	74	4	0
Killay	71	8	0
Total	502	6	0

From Government 27th, in Cons. 29th February 1861, No. 952.

5. The present Establishment, exclusive of that of the Deputy Collector, is at a cost of Rupees 502-0-6, per mensem, and is apportioned in the manner noted in the margin The salaries of the Amíns at Teagavelly, Gundalum and Killay were raised under recent orders of Government, provision being made for the additional charge by a reduction in the salary of the Amín at Merkanum, when a Deputy Collector was put in special charge of the Department, and the responsibilities of the Amíns were thus materially lessened.

6. The Deputy Collector does not give his opinion as to the sufficiency or otherwise of these Establishments, but the Board presume that the matter has been already disposed of by the Collector in communication with Mr. Pelly.

7. In addition to this regular Establishment, there are certain "Roosoomdars," as they are termed, who seem to do little or no duty, but as they are presumed to have a Mirási right in the pans, and to be now receiving a money payment in lieu of their former prescriptive privileges, they cannot well be dispensed with; the total cost of these servants or rather pensioners is a little over Rupees 30 per mensem.

8. The manufacture during the year 1860 appears to have exceeded that of former years, but the article manufactured is stated by the Deputy Collector to be inferior in quality. The latter officer was only appointed to the District in May, and is not, therefore, answerable for the whole of the Salt manufactured in that year. The dittum was a few maunds over 9 lacs, and nearly 8½ lacs were manufactured during the season, which is two lacs in excess of the year 1853 hitherto considered as a peculiarly favorable one.

9. From the Deputy Collector's report, in continuation, it appears that the manufacture during the present year has fallen very far short of the dittum, and the Board fear that the Salt may still be inferior in quality. The Collector's particular attention should be given to the matter, and all Salt not fully up to the standard should be invariably rejected.

The total manufacture up to the middle of August last was under three lacs of maunds, and though no doubt the season was not a favorable one, the Board must call upon the Collector for an explanation of this very great falling off. The Deputy Collector should have entered into further particulars in his report as to its causes.

10. Fortunately, however, the excess of the previous year still leaves a sufficient stock in store, which is stated to exceed 6½ lacs of maunds. The average consumption of the District, with Inland and Export trade is under three lacs of maunds, so that the orders that a two years' supply should be kept in hand have been carried out.

11. It is observed that the sales for Home consumption from the end of November up to the end of June last were 68,614 maunds, being an average of about one maund to 16 persons, or a little more than 5 lbs. per head of the population, which would be hardly any improvement on the average consumption of 8½ lbs. per head per annum, which was animadverted on in Board's Proceedings under date 11th January 1860, No. 150.

12. The Board cannot but fear that the only way in which such a small consumption can be accounted for is by the supposition that a considerable quantity of illicit Salt is manufactured by the inhabitants for their own use, and it is to be regretted that the Deputy Collector has not in any way noticed this question in his report.

13. The Board are glad to hear that efforts have been made to improve the quality of the Salt and trust that the Deputy Collector will persevere in the experiment until he can succeed in producing at all the pans a superior description of article, which they are assured require only due care and attention to the manufacture, when the peculiarities of localities have been discovered and remedied. It would have been more satisfactory had the particulars of the process of manufacture in this District been entered into, and this should not be omitted in future reports.

14. The platforms are of different construction at the various pans, and from the description given of those at Teagavelly, they appear to be by no means well fitted for the purpose to which they are put. The Collector will ascertain whether the pans and storing places at the latter place may not be considerably reduced in number and concentrated in position, and will be good enough to see that those platforms which are retained are put in proper order before the manufacturing season in the present Fasli.

15. The method of securing the Salt on the platform also varies at each set of pans. In Merkanum the thatching being composed of jumboo grass, while at Gundalum and Teagavelly palmyra leaves are used for this purpose, and at Killay the heaps are encased in a composition of clay. The description of thatching at the former places appears to be a very much more expensive mode of securing the Salt against the weather than the places followed at Killay, the one costing about 1 Rupee per garce, while the other amounts to but Rupees 2-4-5 for the heap of 10 garce.

16. In the absence of any details as to whether the advantages of the more expensive system as to securing durability, as it appears that the only damage which occurred during the last monsoon was at one of the mud covered heaps, the Board will pass no orders on the matter, but the Collector will be good enough to call upon his Deputy to submit a complete report on the subject, giving full details as to the wastage which occurred under each system of covering. The manufacture in a favorable year should amount to something over 5,000 garce, and there would be a considerable saving if the rate of covering could be reduced from 1 Rupee to less than 4 Annas per garce.

17. The rates of Kudivarum vary considerably in the different villages constituting the Merkanum division, the highest rate being Rupees 17-12 per garce, and the lowest Rupees 12-6, and they even vary slightly in the same village, a lower rate being paid to an Ulkudi (resident) Ryot than to a Parakudi (stranger). At the three other sets of pans in the District, the rates have been recently fixed under the orders of Government* at Rupees 10 per garce.

* G. O. 27th February 1860, No. 801.

It is certainly desirable that a similar course should be adopted in the Merkanum division but it is believed that difficulties exist in consequence of a species of Mirási right in the pans which is possessed by the cultivators. The Board presume, however, that this question will be disposed of by Mr. Pelly in communication with the Collector and with Government.

18. The Deputy Collector ascribes the comparatively small extent of the sales for Inland consumption to the want of proper communications from the pans to the interior of the country, and the want of a road from Merkanum to Pondicherry, as well as between the former place and Nadoocoopam and Ooraney, two villages in the same division. The Board observe, however, that Government have already decided* that any outlay on the road to Pondicherry was inexpedient, as it passed through a sandy tract of no commercial importance, and the Salt for the French Government could always be sent by sea.

* G. O. 27th February 1860, No. 301.

19. The importance of communication between the villages where the several pans are situated is, however, undoubted, and the Collector will be good enough, in consultation with the District Engineer, to set apart a portion of the Road Fund for the purpose of putting these roads in order.

20. The Board regret to learn that the road from Tindevanum to Merkanum, which is the real outlet for the Salt manufacture of the District, is in the bad state represented, as in Government Order, 28th March 1861, No. 641, orders were issued to put it in repair, as far as practicable, from the general repair funds of the District, and they trust that the local Officer will endeavour to do so before the next manufacturing season. The Board observe, at the same time, that the Road Fund in South Arcot as elsewhere was formed for the improvement of the roads of local importance to the residents of the District, and that this road can hardly be included in the category.

In Cons. 29th March 1860, No. 1,445.

21. The usual supply of Salt was sent to the French Government, and paid for at the highest rates of Kudivarum, the expenses of transit being shared by the two Governments, the greater portion was despatched from Merkanum, and the Board do not understand why the whole quantity could not have been sent from that place, as it is presumed that the expense of transit from Cuddalore would be fully equal to, if not in excess of, that from Merkanum.

There appears to have been no sales for shipment on private account, the few offers that were received having been declined under the belief that the stock in hand was not sufficient to meet such demands. If this took place early in the past year it is excusable, as the failure of manufacture during 1859 had left the stock in hand very low, but the Board trust that such a state of things may not occur again, and that the export trade in Salt will be freely encouraged.

22. The aggregate amount of wastage during Faslis 1269 and 1270 is stated to have been maunds 4,040-15-1, and as this occurred on the sale of 4,01,325 maunds, the wastage is only one per cent. on the sales, a very satisfactory result of the Deputy Collector's superintendence, and one for which he deserves great credit, if the Salt is correctly received into store without pressure and with the struck measure.

23. The Board are glad to observe that the cases of theft at the Salt pass seem to have very considerably decreased in number, for while in the past year there were no less than twenty-three instances of theft, and two of smuggling, only one case of theft has been brought to notice since November last. No information is given as to the prevalence of the manufacture of earth Salt, or whether any parties were apprehended for this breach of the Law.

The Deputy Collector should pay particular attention to the detection and punishment of all such frauds on the revenue which the Board fear must exist in South Arcot though they may not have been brought to notice.

24. The Board observe that the report alluded to by the Deputy Collector on the subject of spontaneous Salt has not been received at their Office, and the Collector is requested to forward it with his remarks and suggestions and with any additional information which the furthur experience of the Deputy Collector may enable him to add. The Deputy Collector has not entered into the question of the retention or otherwise of any of the pans in the District, though this point was much discussed during the past year by the local Officers, the Board, and Government. The final proposal of Government then was that the pans at Cuddalore should be abandoned, and that place only retained as a Depôt for the sale of Salt, the pans at Teagavelly being at the same time considerably enlarged so as to turn out a supply equal to that obtained in former years from both sets of pans.

G. O., 27th February 1860, No. 301.

25. The Collector was strongly against this plan on the ground of the great additional expense which would be incurred for the transport of the Salt from Teagavelly to Cuddalore, and feared that the demand at Cuddalore, might not increase in such a ratio, as to equal that hitherto existing at that place and Teagavelly. The Board resolved that the decision of the matter should be left to Mr. Clarke, who was then on a tour of duty in the Salt Districts, but as that gentleman has resumed his seat at the Board, and as it is undesirable that such a question should be left in abeyance, the Board resolve to recommend to the favorable consideration of Government, the Collector's proposition, that all the existing pans should be for the present retained both for manufacture and sale.

26. The Board take this opportunity of again urging upon Government the necessity and advantage of appointing a permanent Salt Commissioner or Superintendent, who after personal inspection and consultation with the local Officers on the spot, would be able in all such cases to arrive at a really satisfactory decision. That this branch of the revenue is likely largely to increase under the superior efficiency of the present system there can be little doubt, and if to this was added the direct control of an Officer of experience, who would have the exclusive supervision and direction of the Department as in the Bengal and Bombay Presidencies, still more important advantages would assuredly be gained.

27. The charges of such an appointment would, the Board think, be fully warranted by the large increase which has already occurred in the income from this source of revenue which is now upwards of Rupees 70,00,000.

28. Upon the whole the Board consider that the Deputy Collector's report is satisfactory, though for the present year a further explanation of the falling off in manufacture is required. The very small per centage of wastage, and the decrease in the number of cases of theft and smuggling, show the good results of the Deputy Collector's efficient superintendence.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 201. ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1862, No. 262.

1. The Government approve generally of the Board's Proceedings.

2. They will at once institute careful inquiries into the cause of the low rate of consumption in South Arcot. The Collector ought not to have passed over so important a question in silence.

3. The attention of the Department Public Works will be drawn to the necessity of keeping the roads leading from the Salt Pans into the interior in proper order. This is particularly necessary now that the monopoly price of Salt has been raised.

4. The question of appointing an Officer specially to supervise the Salt Department will be separately considered.

5. The Government are surprised that the Collector should have forwarded his Deputy's report on so important a branch of the public Revenue without a single comment.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

existing at that place and Teagavelly. The Board resolved that the decision of the matter should be left to Mr. Clarke who was then on a tour of duty in the Salt Districts, but as that gentleman has resumed his seat at the Board, and as it is undesirable that such a question should be left in abeyance, the Board resolve to recommend to the favorable consideration of Government, the Collector's proposition, that all the existing pans should be for the present retained both for manufacture and sale.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

R Balfell

Sub-Secretary

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

Copy to H. Wood, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

No 2622

The Govt. approve generally of the Bd's proceedings.—

They will at once institute careful enquiries into the cause of the low rate of consumption in S. Arcot. The Coll. ought not to have passed over so important a question in silence.

The attention of the D.C.

P-29 & Revenue Nos 62-63

Mr. 28 March 1870

P-3 August 1870 - 27.

(2)

Dy 1870. Department

of Finance & Revenue 62

No. 2838

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 21*st November* 1870.
Despatched.
Received.

No. 6435.

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collector of South Arcot forwarding the report of his Salt Deputy for Fasli 1269-70.

will be drawn to the necessity of the roads leading from the Salt Farms into the interior being kept in good order. This is particularly necessary now that the monopoly of the Salt has been raised. The question of appointing an officer specially to supervise the Salt Dept. will be separately considered.

The Govt. are surprised that the Collr. should have forwarded this Deputy's report on so important a branch of the Public Revenue without a single comment. — J. D. L.

No 200 of 207.