M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 712. Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 31.-3-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 31st March 1862.

No. 520. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th March 1862, No. 1,468 :—

Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated 20th January 1862, No. 30.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, under date the 23rd August 1861, No. 4,614, observing that as regards salt beds they attach great importance to a uniformity of size, and trust that the Collector will use his best endeavours to have all the beds throughout the District brought to the same dimensions, I have the honor to state that the beds in all the Salt Kotars in the District have been equalized to the standard of 400 square feet, except those at Coilpatam, and the combined station of Viziapathy and Coottungaly, the southernmost in the District.

2. The beds at Coilpatam were permitted to be made of the uniform size of 600 square feet, by the Collector's order of 26th Decemeber 1857. Certain improvements are now contemplated to be made at this station, on the completion of which the Ryots will be called upon to make the beds of the size of 400 square feet. They are at present all uniformly 600 square feet.

3. As regards the remaining two combined pans, the late Salt Deputy Collector Mr. Wright brought to my notice, in a report of the 2nd April 1861, that his orders to the manufacturers to alter the beds at Viziapathy and Coottungaly to the standard of 400 square feet, had not been attended to, and that the Ryots positively refused to make the beds of that size. I directed the alteration to be made, under penalty of stopping the manufacture of salt in the beds of those Ryots who refused, and sent similar orders to the Chowkidar of both stations, irrespective of those sent by the Deputy Collector, but these had not the desired effect. I then published a notice that the beds of parties refusing, would be sold by public auction, and knocked down to the highest bidder; and as the Ryots were perfectly indifferent to this, the beds were accordingly put up to auction, but not a single individual attended to bid, though the notice of sale was communicated to all the salt Ryots in the District, and thus there was no manufacture at all at this station in 1861.

4. On the 5th December last, I sent a fresh order to the Chowkidar, to ascertain from the manufacturers whether they are now willing to manufacture salt in the current year, equalizing, the size of the beds to 400 square feet, but they have again refused, assigning as their reason that they will be put to much expense if they were to make the beds of the standard size, in consequence of the ground being rocky, and I believe this objection to be well founded, and that they are perfectly indifferent as to whether the pans are kept open, or permanently closed.

5. The present Salt Deputy Collector Mr. Underwood, who personally inspected these pans under my directions, reports in paragraph 5 of a letter to me, dated 4th November last, as follows: — "No manufacture has taken place either at Viziapathy or at the adjacent pan of Coottungaly; "I visited both these pans, Viziapathy especially I do not think a fit place for the manufacture of "salt. It is a very small pan, and expense in preparing these pans for manufacture, is, I think, "the real cause of the manufacturers refusing to prepare the pans 400 square feet as desired; "they have to carry the earth to lay on the rock, and the pans are so much on a level with the

"backwater, that a rise of the tide would flow over the pans, and greatly retard evaporation. The "pans at Coottungaly are the same in this respect; I "understand from the Chowkidar, that there was always "a difficulty in getting the Ryots to manufacture, and "although they were aware of my visit, and I saw and "spoke to one or two manufacturers, they showed no "desire to have the manufacture recommenced, and "spoke of the expense it would be to repair the wells, "platforms, &c. The salt is not very good, being "rather small grained, and a darkish color."

		Quantity manufactured. Garce.	Quantity sold. Garce.
Viziapathy	1265	88	89
	1266	89	37
	1267	46	93
	1268	49	58
	1269	83	74
	Total	355	331
	Average	71	66
Coottungaly	1265	110	54
	1266	112	75
	1267	90	148
	1268	79	156
	1269	126	80
	Total	517	513
	Average	103	103
	Total average	174	169

6. The average quantity manufactured in these pans during the last five years, amounts to no more than 174 grace, as shown in the margin, and the salt is not so speedily sold here as in other pans, as the demand is very limited. The people of the villages adjacent to these pans are not wholly dependant on them for their supply, as they sell their grain largely at Sattancolam, a large and populous town, and take salt from the pan at Coolasagarapatam.

7. Under all the foregoing circumstances, I am of opinion that the pans at Viziapathy and Coottungaly should at once be abolished, and the old pans at Trichendoor re-opened in lieu of them. By the abolition of the pans at Viziapathy and Coottungaly, the people adjacent to them will not be put to much inconvenience, as they can obtain salt at Coolasagarapatam, as well as at Trichendoor, which is a populous town, and resorted to by a large concourse of people and many hundreds of bandies, during the great festivals in the Pagoda, there being also a large cattle fair held annually, in the month of February.

8. The people will find it more convenient to load their empty carts with salt at this place, when returning, than to have to go to Coilpatam on the north, or Coolasagarapatam on the south, which are at a distance of six and eight miles repectively.

9. The very favorable position of Trichendoor for salt trade, and the peculiar adaptation of the soil, have been fully explained in my former letters on the subject, dated 8th September 1856, 17th December 1859, 27th February, 5th March and 30th October 1860. A number of Ryots are ready to form at once 1,500 beds of the standard size, on the site on which the former pans existed, and to turn out 1,000 garce of salt of the best quality, capable of yielding a revenue of Rupees 1,80,000 to Government per annum, at the new rate of Rupees 1-8-0 per Indian maund, or Rupees 1,48,680 in excess of the income now derived from Viziapathy and Coottungaly.

10. The expense of erecting the platform for storing the salt, and for constructing hedges round the pans, and of forming the beds and digging wells, will as usual be borne by the Ryots. The Government will only have to put up a guard hut at a trifling cost of Rupees 25. The building now occupied by the Tahsíldár's Kacheri at Trichendoor can be made available for the salt pan Kacheri and Treasury, and by carrying out my proposal, the Government will not be put to any extra expense for establishment, as the establishment at Viziapathy could be transferred to Trichendoor.

11. According to Mr. Pelly's classification of divisions Trichendoor might, together with the present isolated station of Coolasgarapatam, form a division.

12. I trust I have shown to the satisfaction of the Board, the expediency of closing the pans at Viziapathy and Coottungaly, and of re-opening the old pans at Trichendoor, and I request early orders on the subject, in order that if approved of, the manufacture may be commenced in the new pans at Trichendoor in the current year.

---

1. It appears from the above letter that the Salt manufactured at the pans of Viziapathy and Coottungaly is of an inferior description; that the Salt Ryots are indifferent as to whether the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31*st March* 1862.

afacture takes place or not in consequence of the expense involved from the nature of the nd the position of the pans; that the inhabitants in the vicinity obtain much of their Salt ly from the pans at Coolsagarapatam, which place is adjacent to their market town Sattaico- and that the average annual manufacture of both pans for a period of five years is less than 0 garce.

2. Under the above circumstances, the Board concur with the Collector as to the advisabi- of finally closing these pans, and resolve to request the sanction of Government for this being without delay. At the same time they are not prepared at present to support the Collec- proposal to open pans at Trichendoor, as in his present letter he has not, in the opinion of Board, brought forward anything calculated to diminish the force of the cogent reasons and uments against the manufacture of Salt at Trichendoor, which were brought forward by Mr. Levinge in his letter, dated 13th October 1859, No. 425, and approved by Government in Proceedings, under date 21st February 1860, No. 272. The attendants at the feast richendoor come from all parts of the country north and south of that place, and would bably be able to procure Salt nearer their homes, and even were it otherwise, in returning must of necessity pass the pans of Coolasagarapatam or Coilpatam where Salt is procurable.

ons. 18th October 1859, No. 5,188.

ons. 23rd February 1860, No. 852.

3. The Board are of opinion that every endeavour should now be made to concentrate the es of Salt manufacture, and if necessary, it will be preferable to enlarge the pans at the two -named places rather than open new ones. They are glad to learn that the Collector is paying attention to uniformity in the size of the pans.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

. 521. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1862, No. 712.

1. Ordered accordingly that the Salt Pans at Viziapathy and Coottungaly in Tinnevelly finally closed and that the establishments maintained at those places be dispensed with.

2. The Collector should not have adopted the extreme measure of endeavouring to sell se pans without special permission.

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

1. It appears from the above letter that the Salt manufactured at the pans of Viziapathy and Cottungaly is of an inferior description ; that the Salt Ryots are indifferent as to whether the manufacture takes place or not in consequence of the expense involved from the nature of the soil and the position of the pans ; that the inhabitants in the vicinity obtain much of their Salt supply from the pans at Coolsagarapatam, which place is adjacent to their market town Sattaicolam, and that the average annual manufacture of both pans for a period of five years is less than 2,000 garce.

2. Under the above circumstances, the Board concur with the Collector as to the advisability of finally closing these pans, and resolve to request the sanction of Government for this being done without delay. At the same time they are not prepared at present to support the Collector's proposal to open pans at Trichendoor, as in his present letter he has not, in the opinion of the Board, brought forward anything calculated to diminish the force of the cogent reasons and arguments against the manufacture of Salt at Trichendoor, which were brought forward by Mr. Levinge in his letter, dated 13th October 1859, No. 425, and approved by Government in Proceedings, under date 21st February 1860, No. 272. The attendants at the feast Tatrichendoor come from all parts of the country north and south of that place, and would probably be able to procure Salt nearer their homes, and even were it otherwise, in returning they must of necessity pass the pans of Coolasagarapatam or Coilpatam where Salt is procurable.

In Cons. 18th October 1859, No. 5,188.

In Cons. 23rd February 1860, No. 852.

3. The Board are of opinion that every endeavour should now be made to concentrate the places of Salt manufacture, and if necessary, it will be preferable to enlarge the pans at the two last-named places rather than open new ones. They are glad to learn that the Collector is paying due attention to uniformity in the size of the pans.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to J. Silver, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro of 21 February / 60 no. 5-6-

Rev: 1862. Department.
Pro: of Govt for March.

No. 705.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4th March 1862.
Despatched. 12 Do
Received. 13 do

No. 1,468.

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly regarding the uniformity of size in the Salt beds throughout the District.

No. 520 & 521.

31-8-62

No. 712 - 31st March.
With an Order

No. 19 March Pd 25

Why must a pan contain only 400 square feet

Front Gt. Gorge 31st March 1628

No. 712.

No. 712

Ordered accordingly that the salt pans at Viziapathy and Coottungaly in Tinnevelly be finally closed and that the establishments maintaine at those places be dispensed with.

The Collector should not have adopted the Extreme measure of endeavoring to sell these pans without special permission.

14 Copies
Board of Revenue Dispo. 31st
Civil Paymaster
Accountant General

L D S

Very [illegible]