Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th June 1863.

No. 233. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1863:—

Read again letters from Collector of Tanjore, dated 19th January and 3rd February 1863, in Board's Proceedings, Nos. 441 and 832, dated 22nd January and 4th February.

Read also the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Point Calimere, 28th May 1863, No. 213.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Board that the heavy rains during the past and present months have prevented the manufacture of more than 40 Garce of Salt at Vadarneum up to the present time, and that the special discount of Rupees 21 Annas 6 for manufactured Salt and Rupees 29 for spontaneous, is allowed only to the end of May; I beg therefore to request that it may be extended for a further period of four months, in order that the abstract as well as relative merits of the two kinds of Salt may be well known over this and the neighbouring Districts.

2. If the present fine weather continues we shall be able to turn out in a few days at Vadarneum between 10 and 20 Garce of manufactured Salt a day, and as we have there some 500 Garce of the spontaneous article also on hand, I trust the Board will accede to my request, for as yet my proposed measure for making the Vadarneum Salt every where well known, cannot be said to have had any trial.

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1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with reference to their Order of 26th September 1862, No. 2,097, sanctioning a special discount on purchases of Vadarneum Salt to cover the additional expense to the purchaser for carriage and in order to dispel the prejudice against the article.

2. In the first letter above recorded, Mr. Morris pointed out that the demand for Salt had been enormously increased by the Railway from Negapatam, but that the Negapatam stock of manufactured Salt and the Vadarneum stock of spontaneous Salt would prove insufficient to meet it, and the Board consented to his proposal to manufacture 1,000 Garce at Vadarneum on the understanding that Government should be put to no additional expense beyond what the same manufacture at existing Pans would involve, and also that the discount should be so adjusted that the net gain to Government on the spontaneous and manufactured article would be the same.

3. A very superior article has been manufactured and the demand has proved ready; but the recent rains interrupted the manufacture, and in order that the Salt may get thoroughly known in the general market—when its quality will doubtless insure it a continued sale, Mr. Morris recommends that the special discount may be continued for four months longer, viz., to the end of September.

4. To defeat the threatened combinations of the Negapatam manufacturers to strike for a higher rate of Kudivarum to bring the Vadarneum Salt thoroughly into the market, and to meet the additional cost of carriage to Negapatam which the purchaser now incurs in buying an article against which an unreasonable prejudice existed very recently, if it does not still exist, the Board recommend the Acting Collector's proposal for the favorable consideration of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 234. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1863, No. 1,044.

1. The special rate of discount on spontaneous Salt collected at Vadarneum may be continued for four months longer.

2. The Board will ascertain what quantity has been sold since this concession was made.

3. Before allowing the similar though somewhat lower discount proposed on manufactured Salt at Vadarneum the Government require further explanation. The rate of payment proposed for the manufacture being the same as at Negapatam, it is not clear what Government will gain by encouraging manufacture at the former place. The Salt produced there must always cost considerably more, owing to the expense of carriage, than that produced at Negapatam ; and leaving supposed prejudices against Vadarneum Salt out of the question, the disparity in cost must always tell against it, especially as its superior color and purity seem to be no great recommendation in the native market. It is of importance that this question should be carefully considered, for the special discount on spontaneous and manufactured Salt at Vadarneum amounts to a large sum, and might be better expended on permanently improving the means of water communication than in affording a temporary stimulus to the demand.

4. In paragraph 5 of his letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th January last, No. 17, Mr. Morris remarks that "it is of the greatest consequence that we should not allow the Firms who now trade in Salt at Negapatam to go out of the District for the article." This is a mistake. It certainly is not the interest of Government to induce the Tanjore traders to restrict themselves to the Tanjore Pans, unless Tanjore Salt costs the Government less than the Salt of other Pans. If good merchantable Salt can be manufactured in the adjoining Depôts of South Arcot at less cost than it can be made at Vadarneum or elsewhere in Tanjore, the traders ought rather to be encouraged to resort to the places where production is cheapest. If Vadarneum *spontaneous* Salt finds its way into the market the Government will ultimately gain 7 Rupees on every Garce of Negapatam Salt displaced by it, but the Government cannot consent to manufacture Salt at Vadarneum at the Negapatam cost, merely to keep the Tanjore traders from resorting to another District

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

No. 441.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd January 1863.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 19th January 1863, No. 17 :—

1. I have the honor to bring the following subject to the prominent notice of the Board of Revenue, and to request their early orders.

2. During the last six months, the salt sales at Negapatam have averaged 25,000 Indian Maunds per month. The total amount now on hand at that station is 1,09,141 Indian Maunds, of which 64,191 Maunds are of the manufacture of 1861, and 44,952 Maunds were made last season : the former is blackish and carelessly made, and can only be sold round about Negapatam itself ; but the latter is white and pure and can be sold any where.

3. The Railway has increased the Negapatam salt trade in a surprising manner, and there are now four separate Firms who constantly purchase salt at Negapatam, and despatch it from thence by rail to Trichinopoly, Caroor, Namkul, &c. There is therefore no reason for supposing that the salt sales at Negapatam will, in future, fall below what they have averaged since July last, provided we can keep up the supply, but unfortunately, according to that average, we have only sufficient white salt there to last us two months, and black salt for three months.

4. The Board and the Government, in their Proceedings dated 30th and 26th September 1862, Nos.—and 2,097 respectively were pleased to accede to my request, that wholesale purchasers of Vedarniem salt might be allowed a discount of Rupees 29 per Garce, and I have no doubt that the very moment that the white salt at Negapatam is exhausted, we shall have the traders at once going in a body to Vedarniem, purchasing it wholesale there, bringing it up to Negapatam by ship, and sending it from thence to the westward by the Great Southern of India Railway. Unfortunately, however, the supply at Vedarniem does not exceed 88,251 maunds, so that by the end of June, we shall come to the end of this supply also.

5. The salt which will be manufactured during the coming season at Negapatam and *collected* at Vedarniem, will not in either case be ready for sale much before August, and will not, in the former case, exceed more than half the quantity required, and as it is of the greatest consequence that we should not allow the firms who now trade in salt at Negapatam to go out of the District for the article, I beg to propose that the Board should allow me to *manufacture* salt at Vedarniem during the next six months.

6. Mr. D'Monte, my Salt Deputy Collector, informs me that 1,20,000 Indian Maunds of salt of the finest description can be *manufactured* at Vedarniem with ease between February and August, and that a number of persons who understand the making of salt, have come to him and expressed their willingness to go to Vedarniem and make it there for six months, provided they are paid at the usual rate of Varam.

7. There is one fact connected with this subject which I must not omit to mention, and it is that the Salt Mirasidars at Negapatam, seeing how the salt trade has increased of late in importance in their Town, are combining together to have the rate of Varam raised, and to throw obstacles generally in the way of the Government making as large a quantity as they may hereafter wish, if they cannot succeed in their object.

8. I am of opinion therefore, that with a view both to defeat this combination amongst the Negapatam pan-owners, and to show them that the Government is not dependant on their pans for supplying the increasing demand, as well as to spread the fame of the Vedarniem Salt as widely as possible, and to prevent the possibility of our not being able to supply all that may be required, it is most advisable to manufacture 1,000 Garce of Salt at Vedarniem between this and June.

9. I know Vedarniem so well that I shall be much mistaken if the required quantity cannot be made there in six months with perfect facility, and as the Government will not be put to any more expense by manufacturing it there than by making it elsewhere, I earnestly beg the Board to accede to my proposal.

10. The favor of as early an answer as possible is solicited, as the present time is very well fitted for commencing the manufacture, and the sooner it is begun the better. I cannot refrain from adding, in conclusion, that really if the Government had sought for an opportunity of bringing the good qualities of the Vedarniem Salt into notice, they could not have found one more suited for the purpose.

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1. The Board are disposed to accede to the Acting Collector's proposal to manufacture 1,000 Garces of Salt at Vedarniem, but they are not satisfied that the same rate of Kudivaram can reasonably be expected by the manufacturers for the very simple and inexpensive method which suffices at Vedarniem as is given under the more laborious and costly system necessary elsewhere. As they understand the matter, nothing would be gained by adopting at Vedarniem the system elsewhere necessary, and if this be the case there can be no doubt that the cost of manufacture per garce should be much cheaper to Government there, than at other places of manufacture.

2. They request Mr. Morris to report further on this point, and also to explain how he proposes to arrange for the carriage of the salt, whether by continuing and extending to the manufactured article, the special rate of discount temporarily allowed for the spontaneous salt, or by modifying it so as to place the two articles, nearly on an equality as regards actual cost to Government, and profit by sale.

3. Pending the Board's further orders, Mr. Morris may proceed with his preliminary arrangements for establishing the manufacture. The Board presume that the provision of funds in the Budget for the current and next ensuing year is ample for the purpose.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To G. L. Morris, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Passing orders on the letter from the Acting Collector of Tanjore, requesting permission to manufacture salt at Vedarniem.

No. 441.

Dated 22nd January 1863.

Despatched

Received

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No.

1863. Department

No. 832.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th February 1863.

Read again letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 19th January 1863, No. 17.

(In Cons. 22nd January 1863, No. 372.)

Read also the following letter from the same Officer, dated Vellum, 3rd February 1863, No. 43 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings dated 22nd January 1863, No. 441, in which I am requested to report why the same rate of Kudivaran should be given for *manufacturing* salt at Vedarniem as elsewhere, and to explain how I propose to arrange for the carriage of the salt from that place to Negapatam.

2. The system hitherto followed at Vedarniem has consisted in merely collecting and storing the salt, which naturally forms there between the months of August and November. The natural formation of the salt is caused by the strong southerly wind which begins to blow in May, driving the sea to the depth of a foot or so over the large swamp situated to the south of Vedarniem, so that when the salt water becomes evaporated, which it does about August, a quantity of salt is left on the swamp, and all that has to be done is to collect and store it in the Vadis.

3. This method is, as the Board say, very simple and inexpensive, but it only refers to *spontaneous* salt, and not to the manufactured article. In order to manufacture salt at Vedarniem, beds will have to be prepared and the same process followed as elsewhere, the only actual difference being that, at Vedarniem, the land is so well situated, and the soil so well adapted for the manufacture, that it will not take one-fifth of the time, that it would take elsewhere, to turn out the quantity which will be so urgently required at Negapatam in April or May next.

4. Again, the persons who understand the method which must be pursued at Vedarniem if salt is to be procurable there within the next three or four months, will have to be brought from a distance, for the Vedarniem coolies do not know how to manufacture salt. I think therefore that, for this reason as well as on account of what I have stated previously, the same rate of Kudivaram should be given on this occasion at Vedarniem as elsewhere.

5. With reference to arranging for the carriage of the salt, I, at first, thought that the special rate of discount temporarily allowed for the spontaneous salt should be extended to the manufactured article also, but on talking over the matter the other day with Mr. D'Monte, I came to the conclusion that there will not be any necessity to allow more than will place the manufactured and spontaneous salts on an equality with regard to the actual cost to Government and profit by sale. The manufactured salt will be an article of the most superior description, pure white, and clear as crystal, and as there will moreover be no salt of any description at Negapatam to compete with it, I have no doubt that the merchants will be only too glad to give a little more for it, than they are *now* paying for that at Vedarniem.

6. I beg, in conclusion, to add that the provision of funds in the Budget for the current and ensuing year is ample for the purpose, and that I have already made preliminary arrangements for establishing the manufacture at Vedarniem. I cannot myself proceed there for another fortnight or three weeks in consequence of work at Tanjore connected with the late Raj, but I hope to be able to do so before Mr. D'Monte takes his two months' leave.

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1. The Board sanction the Acting Collector's proposal to manufacture 1,000 Garces of salt at Vedarniem at the usual *Kudivaram* of Rupees 10-10-0 per garce, on the understanding that the Government are not to be put to any greater expense by the manufacture at Vedarniem than would be incurred were it to take place at any existing pans, and also that the discount to be allowed on this manufactured salt to wholesale purchasers shall be so adjusted with reference to the special discount allowed by the Government Order of 25th September 1862, for the Vedarniem spontaneous salt that the profit to Government shall be the same in both cases.

2. From Mr. Ballard's letter of 21th April 1862, No. 113, the Board gather that the cost to Government of the spontaneous salt is not more than Rupees 3 per Garce, while the Kudivaram for the manufactured article is Rupees 10-10 per Garce, a difference of Rupees 7-10-0.

3. The special discount allowed by the Government Order for the *spontaneous* salt as an experimental measure is Rupees 20 per Garce, or Rupees 20 in addition to the usual discount of 5 per cent on Rupees 180, the present price of a Garce of Salt.

Encl. in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in their Proc. No. 832. dated 5 June 1863.

1863. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 11*th February* 1863.

No. 832.

Issuing instructions to the Acting Collector of Tanjore, regarding the proposed manufacture of 1000 Garces of salt at Vedaniem.

4. Thus on any wholesales of Vedaniem *manufactured* salt that may take place during the currency of this experimental discount the allowances to be made will be Rupees 23, Rupees 7-10-0 =Rupees 21-6-0 per Garce, or Rupees 11-11-0 per cent on Rupees 180.

5. The Board however observe that the special discount is allowed for only eight months, viz., to the end of May next, and they doubt the possibility of superior salt being manufactured and brought into the market within that time.

6. They desire to impress upon the Acting Collector the great risk of injuring the reputation of the Vedurniam salt by too hurried a manufacture. The prominent defect in the salt manufacture generally is that sufficient time is not allowed for the solution of brine to become thoroughly saturated before it is allowed to flow into the pans, or for the formation of large firm crystals by long continued accretion or deposit, and it is the absence of this defect which causes the Vedurniem spontaneous salt to be of such excellent quality.

7. The Board rely on Mr. Morris' vigilance to secure the manufacture of a really superior article, even when compared with the spontaneous salt. Less than this, will be positive failure, and will probably have very injurious results. He will please to furnish the Board from time to time, with fair average samples of the manufacture as it progresses.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To G. L. Morris, Esq., Acting Collector of Tanjore.

Encl. J. Wright.

Pro: 20 Oct 1862 Nos 174-175
- 12 July 1862 " 180-187.
- 18 " " " 1730-1729
- 9 Sept 1862 " " 153-154
- 23 " " " 498-497.
- 24 Dec 1862 " " 355-356
- 23 April 1863 " 991 (1153)

Recd 30 Dec 1863
Pro: of Govt for June.
No 316.
"

Proceedings of Board of Commissioners

Dated 5th Dec 1863.
Dec 12 5
Dec 2 5
C. 2.

No 1044. 15 June

Recommending for favorable consideration the proposal of the Acting Collr of Tanjore for continuing for 4 months longer the special discount allowed in purchases of Vedaraniem salt.

No 233.

C 10 Dec 1863 R 11th

payment proposed for the manufacture being the same as at Negapatam, it is not clear that Govt will greatly encourage manufacture at the former place - the salt produced there must always cost considerably more owing to the expence of carriage than that produced at Negapatam - and leaving supposed prejudices against Vadarmenum out of the question the disparity in cost must always tell against it, especially as it is superior, color and purity seem to be no great recommendation in the native market - It is of importance that this question should be carefully considered for the special discount on spontaneous and manufactured salt at Vadarmenum amounts

to a large sum and might be better ren- dered on permanent improving the means of communication thus affording a temporary assistance to the peasantry

In para 6 of this letter to the Board of Revenue dated 19th Feb- ruary last No 17, Mr Morris remarks that it is of the greatest conse- quence that we should follow the firm, but now trade in salt at Negapatam to go out of the district for the article - This is a mistake - It certainly is not the interest of Govt to induce the Tanjore traders to carry their purchases to the Tanjore sea, unless Tanjore salt costs the Govt less than the salt of other sea- coast districts to the sea- shore, in fact the

If good merchantable manufactured
salt can be procured
from the adjoining parts
of South Africa at less cost than it can
be made at Vadarneum
or elsewhere in India
the Traders ought rather
to encourage & extend
the place where pro-
duction is cheapest.
If Vadarneum spontaneously
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Govt cannot consent
to manufacture salt at
Vadarneum at the Bega-
patam cost, merely to
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from resorting to another
district.

Vol.

Mr Spiers M.
Bazar Rw
Dist 16

Revenue 1863. Dept.
Pro. of Govt for June.

No. 1044.

Pro. of the Madras Govt
Dy 15th June 1863.

From Dy Secy Govt July 31st 1862

Sanctioning the continuance for four months longer the special rate of discount allowed for shortage on Salt at Cuddalore and requesting the Board to report what quantity has been sold under the concession -

No 233 & 234.