

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1161	Press
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	21-22	
Dated	2 - 7 -	~~10~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd July 1863.*

No. 21. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th June 1863,
No. 3,315 :—

Read the following letter from A. PURVIS, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 9th May 1863, No. 106.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government of the 1st April last, forwarded with the Board's Proceedings of the 8th idem, commenting on the small quantity of Salt sold in the Godavery District, and calling for a full report on the subject generally.

2. I would first observe that the Statement, an examination of which called forth the animadversions of Government, shows the sales for Home and Inland consumption only. I beg to append a Statement including the Salt disposed of for exportation by sea during the five Faslis ending with 1271.

Faslis.	Manufac- ture of Salt.	Home con- sumption.	Inland consump- tion.	Exportation by sea.			Sold to the French Go- vern- ment.	Total.
				On Govt. indent.	On private trade.	Total.		
	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.	I. Mds.
1267 ...	7,48,300	1,69,628	23,131	...	85,210	85,210	1,410	2,85,439
1268 ...	...	1,74,888	42,056	...	34,100	34,400	1,080	2,52,424
1269 ...	5,03,851	2,01,556	32,733	...	1,54,740	1,54,740	1,440	4,35,191
1270 ...	4,40,778	2,45,278	12,767	...	1,33,510	1,38,510	1,800	3,98,385
1271 ...	2,07,160	1,72,613	2,633	...	94,622	94,622	1,410	2,71,308
Total...	19,02,089	9,63,963	1,19,320	...	5,07,512	5,07,512	7,200	16,12,747
Average.	3,80,417	1,92,792½	23,864	...	1,01,508½	1,01,508½	1,440	3,28,519½

* Includes 44,722 Maunds supplied for other Districts.

3. The sales for Home consumption in Fasli 1271 were unquestionably very small, being 20,000 Maunds below the average of the five years to which the above Statement refers. In my letter of the 11th August last, No. 139, I detailed the causes of this temporary falling off.

First.—That the sales of the previous year had been unusually large, having been 50,000 Maunds above the average, and 44,000 Maunds above the sales of the previous year, or Fasli 1269.

Second.—That the increase in the price of the article added to the failure of the crops from the inundations in parts of the District had induced economy on the part of the consumers.

Third.—That the Salt in this District has, under the orders of the Board of the 11th March 1861, No. 1,410, since the commencement of the past Fasli been sold by weight, while the system of selling by measurement was not yet given up in the adjoining Districts of Vizagapatam and the Kistna. There is no doubt the dealers prefer the old to the new system.

Fourth.—That during the heavy Godavery freshes in July and August 1861, several of the canals were not navigable, and the necessity of repairing damages compelled the closing, for some time during the year, of the canals leading from the stores to the interior of the District.

Fifth.—That the Salt dealers who supply the Western Delta found it more convenient to draw their supplies from the Pondraka stores in the Kistna District, than from the stores of this District. From a Statement sent me by the Collector of the District named, it appears that as much as 54,831 Maunds were sold at the Pondraka stores for consumption in this District in Fasli 1272, against but 16,067 Maunds sold for the same purpose in the previous year.

4. The sales for Home consumption for the first ten months of the present Fasli amount to 1,96,000 Maunds. At this rate the sales for the Fasli may be estimated to reach 2,36,000 Maunds. The Home sales of this District, notwithstanding the large quantity of Salt from the

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Kistna consumed within it greatly exceed the sales of the adjoining District of Vizagapatam with a somewhat larger population.

5. I believe the large falling off in the Home sales in Fasli 1271 was owing to the cause above detailed, and most of them being of a temporary nature, and now removed, the sales will I doubt not continue to increase.

6. The Government remark on the large quantity of Salt made in Fasli 1267. The sales, including those for export by sea, in previous Faslis had been large, and the quantity of Salt ordered for manufacture in the Fasli in question was 6,00,000 Maunds. The season, however, being one particularly favorable for the manufacture of the article as much as 7,48,300 was produced. The excess must either have been destroyed to the great loss of the manufacturers or received into store. The latter course was that followed, and although this made it necessary to stop the manufacture in the following year, I have no hesitation in asserting that the manufacturers were better pleased with the arrangement adopted, than if the excess Salt had been destroyed. The fact is it takes the same labour and expense to prepare the pans whether a small or large quantity of Salt is produced, and the manufacturers certainly did not complain of the closing the manufacture in 1268. I am not, however, advocating such a system, and am free to admit that the manufacture had better be annual, but I do not think the stoppage in Fasli 1268 was looked upon at all as a hardship.

7. As regards the manufacture for the current season, it was estimated that 1,20,000 Maunds would remain in hand at the close of present Fasli, and as it was thought advisable to provide an additional supply of Salt to meet any demand which might arise from the upper Godavery, 4,00,000 Maunds were ordered for manufacture in the present season, but as yet only 82,800 Maunds have been made, and it is not at all likely that the whole quantity sanctioned will be manufactured.

8. It is due to Mr. Leggatt, the Deputy Collector in special charge of the Department, that I should point out that he only joined the District on the 25th March 1862, that is only a few months before the close of the Fasli during which the sales were so low. If blame attaches to any one, none can be imputed to him. I have had every reason to be satisfied with the care and attention exhibited by Mr. Leggatt in the performance of his duties during the time he has been employed in this District. During the three first months of the year, he has been 23 days resident in the Salt division, and has besides several times visited the pans from his head quarters, from which they are but a short distance, without drawing travelling allowance. The manufacture for the year did not commence till the 23rd March.

9. I do not know at what cost Kistna Salt could be supplied for sale at Depôts in this District, and, therefore, am unable to compare the present cost of the Salt to Government with the cost of supplying it to this District by Depôts for the sale of the article. The Salt made here is certainly but indifferent, but whether a sufficient quantity to supply both Districts can be manufactured at the Pondraka stores in the Kistna District I am not aware. It is only from this store that water carriage to this District is at present available. I have requested the Collector of the Kistna District to afford me information on these points, but do not like to defer my reply till I hear from him.

1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to the Order of Government, dated 1st April 1863, No. 606.

2. Mr. Purvis explains that the falling off in the Salt sales during the past year arose from various causes as reported by him on a former occasion; and that he anticipates from the purchases made in the current year, up to the date of his letter, that the sales will again reach the usual average.

3. It will be observed, however, that the quantity of Salt sold during the past year, at the Pondraka Cotaur of the Kistna District, for consumption in the Godavery District, was nearly Maunds 40,000 in excess of the quantity sold during the previous year. This quantity alone will bring the Home consumption of the Godavery District up to the average, which is under two lacs of Maunds.

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4. Mr. Purvis also points out that, while the population of the adjoining District of Vizagapatam is larger than that of the Godavery District, the sale of Salt for Home consumption in the former District are below those of the latter. As explained by Mr. Fane, the average consumption, estimated from local sales in Vizagapatam, is found to be only 8 lbs. a head. A similar calculation in the Godavery District would show the consumption to be nearly 12 lbs. a head. On a consideration of the wealth and prosperity of the District, the Board doubt whether this can be considered a fair average consumption.

See Board's Procs. 10th Dec. 1861, No. 6,856.

Ganjam	about 11½ lbs.	Tanjore	about 19 lbs.
Vizagapatam	" 8 "	Madura	" 13 "
Kistna	" 16 "	Tinnevely	" 20 "
Nellore	" 19 "	South Canara	" 13 "
South Arcot	" 9 "		

The average consumption per head in some Coast Districts is given in the margin, and it will be observed that in four out of the nine it is very much beyond this rate, while in three it is below it.

5. It has been laid down by the Board that 15 lbs. of Salt may be taken as a fair average consumption for each individual. This rate will make two Maunds supply eleven persons with Salt, and will place the Salt tax at Annas 4-4 per head, less the original cost of the Salt. Though hitherto it has been usual to estimate the ordinary consumption of Salt at a higher rate, the Board consider that the average stated above is not too low, when it is remembered that the calculation includes the consumption of children as well as adults. Mr. Plowden, after considerable inquiry into the matter, writes as follows:—"But 12 lbs., there is no doubt, is much

Report on Salt, paragraph 72.

"beyond the quantity of Salt absolutely necessary for the annual consumption of a full grown man. In the Bombay Jails the allowance is only 7 lbs. per head per annum, and that is found sufficient."

6. In the concluding paragraphs of his letter, Mr. Purvis defends the Salt Administration of his District during the past five years, and states that no complaints were made when the manufacture did not take place in Fasli 1263. He also acquits his Deputy Collector, Mr. Leggatt, of all blame, and adds that in the present year, though it has been proposed to manufacture four lacs of Maunds, less than one lac has been completed, and it is very unlikely that the whole quantity will be made during the year.

7. The Board cannot consider Mr. Purvis' explanations as by any means satisfactory. It is impossible that the system regulating the annual manufacture of Salt in the Godavery District can be satisfactory to the Salt Ryots, though perhaps complaints may not reach the Collector, nor can the Board acquit the Deputy Collector, Mr. Leggatt, of all blame. Mr. Leggatt, who has been upwards of a year in special charge of the Department, ought ere this to have made himself master of all details in connection with it, but this he is not likely to do, unless he resides in the Salt Divisions for more than 21 days during three of the busiest months of the year. The manufacture should certainly not have been fixed at four lacs of Maunds for the present year, when the average total sales were under three lacs, and four lacs were already in store. This, however, is of the less consequence, as it seems probable that not more than two lacs of Maunds can be made.

8. Mr. Purvis states in conclusion that he is not aware whether the Salt for his District could be more economically supplied from the adjoining Collectorate, or not; and on this point the Board await the Acting Collector's further report.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELI, Sub-Secretary.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1863, No. 1,161.

1. The Government concur in the Board's remarks.

2. The Salt administration of the District should be carefully scrutinized by Mr. Clarke when he visits the Northern Circars.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government, with reference to the Order of Government dated 1st April 1863, No. 686.

2. Mr. Purvis explains that the falling off in the Salt sales during the past year arose from various causes as reported by him on a former occasion; and that he anticipates from the purchases made in the current year, up to the date of his letter, that the sales will again reach the usual average.

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See Board's Proc. 10th Dec 1861, No. 6,586.

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Report on Salt, paragraph 79.

"12 lbs., there is no doubt, is much beyond the quantity of salt absolutely necessary for the annual consumption of a full grown man. In the Bombay Jails the allowance is only 7 lbs. per head per annum, and that is found sufficient."

6. In the concluding paragraphs of his letter, Mr. Purvis defends the Salt Administration of his District during the past five years, and states that no complaints were made when the manufacture did not take place in Fasli 1268. He also acquits his Deputy Collector, Mr. Leggatt, of all blame, and adds that in the present year, though it has been proposed to manufacture four lacs of maunds, less than one lac has been completed, and it is very unlikely that the whole quantity will be made during the year.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

W. D. Hall

Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to H. Morris Esq. Acting Collector of the Godavery District

1) *10-10-67* The Government's concern in the *10-10-67*
Baqro's remarks.

The *10-10-67* had administration
of the District should be *10-10-67*
carefully scrutinised by *10-10-67*

... *10-10-67* ...

... *10-10-67* ...

10-10-67
2nd July 1863

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1863-64

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

No 1347

Rev 1863

Department

Dated 6th June 1863.

Despatched *10-10-67*

Received *10-10-67*

10-10-67
13 July 1863

No. 3315

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collector of the Godavery District reporting on the Salt sales in his District.

10-10-67

10-10-67