

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1642	Press
	85-86	Mis.
Dated	7-9-19	1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th September 1863.*

No. 85. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th August 1863, No. 5,352:—

Read the following letter from C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 14th July 1863, No. 179.

SIR,

1. I am favored with the Board's Proceedings of date the 29th June last, No. 3,938, held in consultation on my letter of the 8th idem, No. 147.

2. I regret that the Board do not deem my explanations sufficient to account for the low rate of home consumption of salt in South Arcot for the period under notice. I have none other to offer, and they are satisfactory to my own mind, as I have taken some trouble to test their accuracy.

3. I certainly do not understand the consumption in the Districts of Tanjore and Nellore being at the rate of 19 lbs. per head of the population, unless in estimating the latter, children have been excluded, as is very probable when a similar result might be shown in this District at a like calculation.

4. We are perhaps unfortunately situated in South Arcot, being bounded on the one side by the French Settlement of Pondicherry with the pans of the Chingleput District contiguous to our own, while our inland trade is greatly affected by the large exportation of salt by rail to Salem and places on that line which heretofore had mainly depended on their supplies from our Depots. I also understand that our Ryots to the south obtain much salt from the Tanjore District.

5. My inquiries do not at all bear out the belief that the illicit manufacture of salt is carried on to any extent in this District; in fact it is my belief that the reverse is the fact; and this is the opinion generally entertained by those who may be supposed competent to judge. Where such illicit manufacture does take place, I believe it is by the very poorest classes to whom even the saving of an Anna is an object in life. The instances of the kind that have transpired, and which have been the subject of formal inquiry, are in proof of this.

6. The Board may rely that no efforts shall be wanting to detect such manufacture, and copy of the Deputy Collector's reply to my call on him on this subject is herewith enclosed for the Board's information, in which also that Officer affords the required explanation in the matter of his visits to Merkanum. The Deputy Collector is ever on the move backwards and forwards between the salt-manufacturing stations under his charge, and I think this is the most effective mode of supervision. When the occasion arises he often remains a week or ten days, and he is now about to proceed again to Merkanum to see what can be done further to increase the season's manufacture. Mahomed Esoff has only just returned from Merkanum after a week's stay there; but I fear from the continuous rain which fell recently for several days, evening after evening, that there is little hope of any successful result attending the Deputy Collector's repeated efforts.

7. I can only express the hope that our future returns of home consumption may prove more satisfactory to the Board and Government; but I am not very sanguine that it will be so in any material degree, however, the Board may be sure that every thing shall be done within the compass of possibility to improve and keep up the Salt revenue of the District.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From MAHOMED ESOFF, Deputy Collector, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 14th July 1863, No. 660.

SIR,

1. In reference to your Official Memorandum of the 6th instant, No. 478, directing me to submit the information called for in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings dated 29th ultimo, No. 3,938, I have the honor to state that my visits to Merkanum and the other salt

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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manufacturing places in the District have been constant, and there is not a month in the year in which I have not visited one or the other. These visits are not, as you may have been pleased to observe, merely *en passant*, but extending to a week or ten days at a time, and during the manufacturing season they are prolonged.

2. In fact I would beg leave to observe that whatever may be the pressure of other work, I make it a point of invariably visiting these places every month.

3. As regards the illicit manufacture of castor salt (?) I would respectfully crave permission to assure you that I have not been careless or unmindful of the evil. Every measure tending towards its suppression and prevention has been adopted by me, and I have every reason to believe with success. Nevertheless in conformity with your orders, my special attention shall still be devoted to it until it has been effectually suppressed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

1. Resolved that the above letter be submitted to Government in continuation of the Board's Proceedings dated 29th June 1863, No. 3,938, and with reference to the Order of Government thereon under date 1st August 1863, No. 1,436.

2. The Board rely on the Collector and his Deputy in charge of Salt to use every means in their power to prevent the evasion of the Salt tax by the inhabitants of South Arcot; but, with reference to paragraph 5 of his letter, Mr. Reade will be reminded that untaxed consumption may be traced to theft and pilfering from the Salt Pans, as well as to the illicit manufacturing of salt. He will accordingly be requested to direct the attention of the Deputy Collector in charge specially to this matter.

3. The Board have no reason to believe that the higher rate of consumption per head of the population in the Tanjore and the Nellore Districts is caused by the exclusion of children from the calculation. They hope that the more complete system of guarding, which will take place under the Mofussil Police, will do much towards increasing the home salt sales in this District.

No. 86. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1863, No. 1,642.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 5,352.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 26th August 1863.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From MAHOMED ESOFF, Deputy Collector, to C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, dated Cuddalore, 14th July 1863, No. 660.

1. In reference to your Official Memorandum of the 6th instant, No. 478, directing me to submit the information called for in paragraph 7 of the Board's Proceedings dated 29th ultimo, No. 3,938, I have the honor to state that my visits to Merkanum and the other salt manufacturing places in the District have been constant, and there is not a month in the year in which I have not visited one or the other. These visits are not, as you may have been pleased to observe, merely *en passant*, but extending to a week or ten days at a time, and during the manufacturing season they are prolonged.

2. In fact I would beg leave to observe that whatever may be the pressure of other work, I make it a point of invariably visiting these places every month.

3. As regards the illicit manufacture of ester salt (?) I would respectfully crave permission to assure you that I have not been careless or unmindful of the evil. Every measure tending towards its suppression and prevention has been adopted by me, and I have every reason to believe with success. Nevertheless in conformity with your orders, my special attention shall still be devoted to it until it has been effectually suppressed.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) C. W. READE, Collector.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]

Sub-Secretary.

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

Copy to C. W. Reade, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

Bo 1 Aug 63 / 63 m 3-4-

*1285-486-
C. W. Reade Esq.*

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of South Arcot accounting for the low rate of home consumption of Salt in the District and requesting the Collector to use every means possible in preventing the evasion of the Salt tax by the inhabitants.

No. 5,362.

Dated 26th August 1863.

Despatched 31st

Received 1st 1863.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 2069.

1863. Department.

*Rev. =
Secy of Govt for India*

RECORDED.

22-16-12.

*11 Copies to the Secy of Govt for India
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1863: 1/1*