

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1736

Press
Mis.

272-273

Dated

22 — 9 — 1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd September 1863.*

No. 272. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th August 1863,
No. 5,113 :—

Read the following letter from H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District,
to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 17th
June 1863, No. 152.

SIR,

• Proceedings of Government, No. 1,291,
dated 3rd August 1860, and No. 771,
dated 14th May 1860.

My attention having been directed to your Memorandum
of the 7th June* 1862, requesting the transmission of a Report
from the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department,
I have the honor to forward copy of a report which I have
just received from Mr. Leggatt.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From B. C. LEGGATT, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of Salt and Customs Departments,
to H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada,
17th June 1863, No. 74.

1. In reference to Government Order, No. 1,291, dated 3rd August 1860, I have the honor
to submit the following report on the Salt Administration in this District, for transmission to
the Board of Revenue and Government.

2. When I was on sick leave in December 1861, Government were pleased to transfer me
from the Revenue Survey to the post of Deputy Collector in this District, and, having arrived at
Cocanada on the 19th March, I took charge of the Salt and Customs Departments on the 25th
idem, from the late Collector Mr. Purvis, who was at the time encamped in the District.

3. The various operations connected with the manufacture of salt for the season had com-
menced, and the first quantity of salt was gathered on the 20th April. The manufacture was
completed on the 20th June, on which date the process of storing the season's produce began.
This last operation was closed on the 10th August, the total quantity of salt heaped being
2,07,160 Indian Maunds, while the Dittum granted to the manufacturers was 3,50,000 Maunds.

4. The very unfavorable nature of the season, in a great degree retarded the manufacture,
throughout which heavy rains were occasionally experienced; and with the quality of the salt
produced, I was much dissatisfied. I had unfortunately arrived when the season was somewhat
advanced, and notwithstanding my exertions to remedy the evil, I am sorry to report I was not
very successful. I, however, gained experience, and then determined upon the course I should
pursue in the season of the present year.

5. In August 1862, I had the honor to communicate with the late Collector on the desira-
bility of abolishing the manufacture of salt in three villages in the Division, putting forth my
reasons for the same. My proposal, on being seconded by that Officer, was recommended by the
Board of Revenue to Government. In anticipation of sanction being accorded to the measure,
in September last I commenced disposing of the salt on the platforms appertaining to one village
(Vimavaram), all of which, four in number, have since been abolished. A saving has thereby
been effected in the salaries of eight Constables and a Deputy per mensem. I should like further
to discontinue the platforms (two in number) in the remaining two villages, but am unable to sell
the salt on them just yet, as unless sales are conducted in the other villages of the Division, we
shall not have sufficient space to store the past season's produce. I, however, venture to hope
that the platforms of the two villages above alluded to will be entirely done away with by the end
of the year.

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6. The season of 1863 having just closed, I would beg to say a few words regarding the manufacture, before reporting generally upon the Department, and Salt administration in this

Demand for Fasli 1273.				Indian Maunds.
For Home consumption for one year...	...	...	...	2,50,000
" Inland do. do. ..	...	...	...	50,000
Total...				3,00,000
Two years' supplying to be always in store as per Circular				
Order of Board dated 10th April 1854 ..	...	...	...	6,00,000
Quantity allowed for exportation for Fasli 1273 ..	...	...	...	2,00,000
Wastage, &c. ..	...	...	...	50,000
				8,50,000
Deduct amount estimated to be in store on the 30th June 1863. ..	...	...	...	4,20,432
				4,29,568
Balance for manufacture ..	...	...	...	4,00,000
Dittum ordered ..	...	...	...	4,00,000

District. The Dittum granted to the manufacturers was 4,00,000 Maunds, which was estimated to be the quantity required as per marginal Memorandum. The estimated quantity scraped is 2,64,993. The manufacture began on the 23rd March, and was closed on the 6th instant. I have been constantly out in the Division, and personally superintended the various operations. I have much pleasure in reporting the quality of the Salt produced, as good; indeed Mr. Purvis, who examined several samples before his departure, said that salt of so fair a quality had never been manufactured in this District since his arrival the time of which, as you are aware, extends so far back as 10 years. In mentioning this circumstance, I do not wish to take any credit to myself for the happy result of my endeavours to improve the quality of salt made in this Province, but as the subject of totally abolishing the manufacture of the article here has been mooted by the Government, I deem it my duty to bring the fact to their notice.

7. The salt hitherto manufactured has been but of an indifferent quality, but there is not the slightest doubt, that it can be very much improved with ordinary precaution and care; but that it will ever attain a degree of superiority, is an open question. The soil is not favorable enough for that in my opinion. With reference to Government Order, No. 606, dated 1st April 1863, and above referred to, I beg to observe that even if it were possible to manufacture a sufficient quantity of salt in the Kistna District, to meet the consumption of the Godavery District as well, the price which would have to be fixed on the commodity here (to cover wastage, transit, and other charges) would be excessive, and as far as the interests of the inland consumers, and the people residing in the furthestmost parts of the District are concerned, burdensome.

8. The sales of Fasli 1271 were very much small, and as Mr. Purvis has already detailed, the causes which led to this falling off, I will not recapitulate them, but I may mention that from the commencement of the present Fasli during which I have been in charge, up to yesterday's date, the collections have been Rupees 3,66,950, or its equivalent in quantity (*i. e.*, of Salt disposed of) being 2,53,960 Maunds. This includes the amount of salt exported on private trade, but the item is very small, being but 8,800 Maunds. The Salt Revenue collected on account of Home sales has been the largest ever collected in this District, with one exception, for the last 16 years, and the fact tends greatly to prove that the falling off of the sales last Fasli was owing chiefly, if not exclusively, to the causes of a temporary nature, which were reported from time to time by the late Collector. I have the honor to append a Statement of Salt sold from the 1st July 1862 to the 16th instant, and would here mention that by the close of the Fasli I have great hopes of disposing of at least 15,000 Maunds more.

Items.	Quantity sold.
	I. Maunds.
Home consumption	2,20,468
Inland do.	23,252
Exportation by sea	8,800
Sold to the French Government ..	1,440
Total.....	2,53,960

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It will be observed that the sales for Home Consumption during the present Fasli (up to date) have been 2,20,468 Maunds, and taking the population of the District as 12,75,000 souls, the consumption per head, *up to yesterday*, has been nearly 15 lbs., which might be considered a fair allowance.

9. The Salt Division in this District consists at present of seven villages where the article is manufactured. The pans are not very widely scattered; the farthest being from my head quarters about six miles, while all the others are within an easy distance of 4, 3 and 2 miles. The soil, as I said before, is not very well adapted for the manufacture of Salt. In the Division there are 15 platforms on one of which sales are daily conducted. Some of the platforms on my arrival I found totally unprotected, and having several times brought the circumstance to the notice of the Collector, the District Engineer was written to on the subject, and some fences have been erected, while others are being constructed. I hope that in a very short time there will not be a single platform in the division without a fence encircling it. Roads are also in course of construction, and doubtless these will, when completed, open out more fully than at present the resources of the division.

10. Since my arrival in this District, I have always advocated the establishment of inland Depôts for the sale of salt in the interior of this District, as well as for inland consumption, but as Mr. Purvis did not support my views, and as great difference of opinion on the matter existed between us, I reluctantly dropped the subject. I am, however, more convinced than ever of the advantages to be derived both to Government, and the people from the measure. The system may not conveniently be introduced in other Districts, but in this, where water communication is available to so great an extent, it cannot but be beneficial, and the revenue must increase. From reports I have received from the several Tahsildars in this District, I find the rate at which salt is selling in their Taluks is as follows:—

	RS.	A.	P.	
In Cocanada	1	10	8	per Maund.
" Draktsaram	1	14	6	do.
" Rajahmundry	1	14	6	do.
" Pitahapur	1	13	1	do.
" Coringa	1	12	5	do.
" Tuni	2	0	0	do.
" Peddapur	2	0	0	do.
" Nursapur	2	0	0	do.
" Ellore	2	5	0	do.
" Undi	2	8	0	do.
" Tanuku	2	8	0	do.
" Yernagudem	2	4	0	do.
" Amlapur	2	2	0	do.

If the Government were to undertake to establish inland Depôts, they might, in my opinion, sell the salt at a much cheaper rate than the above, even if the charges for transit, wastage, &c., &c. are included in the price.

I would not press the subject so far, if I were sanguine of success attending the establishment of Depôts in the District; and as an experiment which will doubtless fully realize my anticipations, I would urge that permission be requested to set up a sales Depôt at Rajahmundry, or any other convenient spot in the District.

11. The duties of guarding the platforms and Treasury were taken up by the Police on the 20th September last. As they have been in charge of the pans during only one manufacturing season, I do not consider myself justified in passing an opinion on the working of the new system; but I think if a proper control and check is exercised over the Department *at the scene of their duties*, under an efficient supervision of European authority, there is no reason why it should not answer. Smuggling (which is the only thing to be guarded against) of such a bulky

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article as salt to any great extent is impossible, and the illicit transaction cannot occur but with the connivance of the guarding establishment. Smuggling, however, does still prevail, but Lieutenant Robertson, the Superintendent of Police, is fully alive to the irregularities that exist and I hope that in a short time they will be entirely suppressed. All such cases that my establishment has detected, and those brought to notice by the Police, I have investigated and disposed of in my Magisterial capacity, and in most cases convictions have been obtained.

12. In concluding my report, I have the honor to state, that the storing of the present season's manufacture commenced on the 1st instant, and I hope that the whole of the salt will be taken into store by the 10th of July, if not before the beginning of that month. Up to date 60,000 Maunds have been heaped. The new platform weighing machines are being used; they are a great improvement over the old scales. With the former I have weighed 620 Maunds in an hour, while with the latter (beam scales) not more than 100 Maunds can be accomplished in that time. There is, however, one improvement which I think might be effected in the platform weighing machine, particularly as it is chiefly handled by natives. The long lever, if jerked in removing from, or placing baskets of salt, on the platform, is apt to be mis-placed which is the cause of some inconvenience and delay in weighing. This I think might be remedied if the incisions, in which the knife-edged-centres of the lever rest, were deepened, or if some other means were contrived to prevent the knife-edged-centres getting out of place. I think the object would be gained, even if small moveable projecting pieces of iron or steel were placed in the sides of the frame or stand, to press over the lever when in position.

(A true Copy)

(Signed) H. MORRIS, Acting Collector.

1. Resolved that the above letter with its enclosure be submitted to Government, with reference to the Order of Government under date 3rd August 1860, No. 1,291, Revenue Department.

2. With the above letter the Acting Collector submits the Salt Administration Report of his Deputy in charge, Mr. Leggatt. The Board proceed to record the few remarks which it occurs to them to make on its contents.

3. Mr. Leggatt joined the District in April last year, and apparently at once set himself to work to master the details of the Department placed under his charge, the duties of which were, of necessity, in a great measure new to him. He found that during the first season of his residence, the quantity of salt manufactured was only 2,07,160 Indian Maunds, though the estimate (Dittum) was Maunds 3,50,000.

4. The manufacture for the past Fasli was fixed at Indian Maunds 4,00,000, an estimate which has already been condemned by the Board and Government* as far in excess of what was required; but the Board are willing to ascribe this error to Mr. Leggatt's inexperience, and to his desire to have a sufficiency of salt in store. They cannot gather from the report what was the quantity manufactured during the Fasli, a point on which precise information ought invariably to be given. It appears, however, that only 82,300 Maunds were made up to the 9th May; it therefore would seem that Mr. Leggatt has not been successful in increasing the quantity manufactured during the period he has been in charge of the Department.

5. The Board consider it very desirable that the estimated quantity should be manufactured during the Fasli, and that if the estimate is framed with due regard to the demand, and to the capability of the pans, the Deputy Collector should rarely fail in effecting this object. It is observed that in the past Fasli less than 25 per cent. of the estimate was manufactured within the 6th of May, and that the total manufacture of the previous Fasli was less than 60 per cent. of the estimate.

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6. The Board are glad to notice from the concluding sentence in paragraph G of Mr. Leggatt's report, that in the opinion of the late Collector, the salt manufactured during the past Fasli was superior in quality to any that had hitherto been made in the District. Should Mr. Clarke concur in this opinion when he visits the District, the Board would be decidedly opposed to the idea of discontinuing the manufacture.

7. The most satisfactory feature in the report is the very large increase which took place during the past Fasli in the sales for Home consumption. The quantity thus disposed of has probably reached Maunds 2,50,000, which is in excess of the quantity sold on the same account in any previous year with one exception. The sales under this head will bring the annual consumption per head of the population above the Board's standard of 15 lbs. They consider this result to be satisfactory.

8. Mr. Leggatt strongly urges the establishment of inland depôts for the sale of salt, and gives the selling rates as reported by the several Tahsildars. These rates range from Rupees 1-10-8 to Rupees 2-8-0 per Maund. Mr. Leggatt is anxious that an experimental depôt should be established at Rajahmundry. The Government have refused to sanction the setting up of inland depôts, when on different occasions the Board have proposed such depôts. It seems to the Board that the expediency of having inland depôts turns on the question whether the present sale platforms be easily accessible or not. If they are not easily accessible, or if the expense of roads to make them so would be greater than the cost of conveying salt to an inland depôt, the Board, from motives of economy, would be in favor of inland depôts.

9. It seems, however, very doubtful whether Government could perform the part of carriers so economically as private traders. On the whole, the Board must decline to recommend Mr. Leggatt's proposal, even as an experimental measure. The Collector will, however, be requested to report on the state of the approaches to the various Salt Pans, and on the vicinity of the pans to the water communications of the District. They believe that Rajahmundry, the town at which Mr. Leggatt wishes to have a depôt, is not very distant from the Salt Pans, and that the whole distance, with the exception of a few miles, may be traversed by canal, which fact offers a very favorable opportunity for private enterprise establishing a depôt at that place.

10. No detail, as to the number of places at which the manufacture, or the sale of salt, takes place is given in the report; nor is there any detailed account of the process followed in the manufacture. The Board observe that the storing of salt is not commenced till the manufacture for the year has been concluded, and that this system leads to considerable fraud and irregularity. Mr. Leggatt will be careful in future years to see that the process of storing is carried on concurrently with the manufacture.

11. It is stated in paragraph 9 of the Report, that the manufacture is carried on at seven villages, though in the revised List of Salt Stations, entered in the Board's Circular Order dated 23rd February 1863, No. 1,066, it is said that the division consists of three villages only. The Collector will be good enough to submit further explanation on this point. With reference to paragraph 5 of his Deputy's report, Mr. Morris will be reminded that the Government sanction for the introduction of Mr. Pelly's revised scale of establishment will probably be received shortly, when no provision will remain either for guarding or for sales at the two villages noted in the margin, orders having been given on the recommendation of his predecessor, that the manufacture at those places should be discontinued.

Vatmalavada and Salapak.

* Government Order, 10th February 1863, No. 501.

12. Mr. Leggatt expects that the new Police will prove efficient as guards for the Salt Pans. The Board trust that his anticipations in this respect will be realized; but, with reference to his remark at the close of paragraph 11 of his Report, the Board would again bring to the notice of Government the objection which exists to Deputy Collectors in charge of Salt being vested with

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Magisterial powers; the effect of which is to make those Officers both prosecutors and judges in all cases involving a breach of the Salt Laws.

13. The Board are very glad to receive Mr. Leggatt's testimony, as to the improvement resulting from the introduction of the new weighing machines. His suggestions for simplifying and improving them have already been communicated to the Mint Master.

14. Mr. Morris has submitted his Deputy's report without remark. He should have noticed Mr. Leggatt's suggestions, on the subject of an inland depôt; and, in future, should acquaint the Board with his own views on every suggestion which the report of his subordinates may contain.

15. In conclusion, the Board must express their satisfaction at Mr. Leggatt's general administration of the department under his immediate superintendence. Increased sales for Home consumption, and the manufacture of a superior description of salt are the natural result of efficient and intelligent superintendence, and the Board trust that in the coming season the Deputy Collector's attention will be turned with equal success to increasing the quantity manufactured.

No. 273.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1863, No. 1,736.

1. The Government have recently* requested Mr. Clarke carefully to scrutinize the Salt administration of the Godavery District, and will therefore only express their general approval of the Board's order on the papers now before them.

2. The Board of Revenue will be requested to call upon the Collector of the Godavery District, with reference to paragraph 12 of their Proceedings, to report under what authority the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department was vested with Magisterial powers. The Order of Government, dated 7th November 1859, No. 1,512, specially prohibited Collectors from giving any other charge to the Salt Deputies without sanction, and the Government in paragraph 5 of their Order, dated 5th May 1862, No. 976, declined to allow the Collector of the Godavery District to employ Mr. Leggatt on general duty till the Salt Department was reported to have been brought into a thoroughly efficient state.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
To T. Clarke, Esq.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Clarke concur in this opinion when he visits the District, the Board would be decidedly opposed to the idea of discontinuing the manufacture.

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9. It seems, however, very doubtful whether Government could perform the part of carriers so economically as private traders. On the whole, the Board must decline to recommend Mr. Leggatt's proposal, even as an experimental measure. The Collector will, however, be requested to report on the state of the approaches to the various Salt pans, and on the vicinity of the pans to the water communications of the District. They believe that Rajahmundry, the town at which Mr. Leggatt wishes to have a depôt, is not very distant from the Salt pans, and that the whole distance, with the exception of a few miles, may be traversed by canal, which fact offers a very favorable opportunity for private enterprise establishing a depôt at that place.

10. No detail, as to the number of places at which the manufacture, or the sale, of salt takes place is given in the report; nor is there any detailed account of the process followed in the manufacture. The Board observe that the storing of salt is not commenced till the manufacture for the year has been concluded, and that this system leads to considerable fraud and irregularity. Mr. Leggatt will be careful in future years to see that the process of storing is carried on concurrently with the manufacture.

11. It is stated in paragraph 9 of the Report, that the manufacture is carried on at seven villages, though in the revised List of Salt Stations, entered in the Board's Circular Order dated 23rd February 1863, No. 1,066, it is said that the division consists of three villages only. The Collector will be good enough to submit further explanation on this point. With reference to paragraph 5 of his Deputy's report, Mr. Morris will be reminded that the Government sanction for the introduction of Mr. Pelly's revised scale of establishment will probably be received shortly, when no provision will remain either for guarding or for sales at the two villages noted in the margin, orders* having been given on the recommendation of his predecessor, that the manufacture at those places should be discontinued.

12. Mr. Leggatt expects that the new Police will prove efficient as guards for the salt pans. The Board trust that his anticipations in this respect will be realized; but, with reference to his remark at the close of paragraph 11 of his Report, the Board would again bring to the notice of Government the objection which exists to Deputy Collectors in charge of Salt being vested with Magisterial powers; the effect of which is to make those Officers both prosecutors and judges in all cases involving a breach of the Salt Laws.

Revenue Department

N^o 1736.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 22^d September 1863

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board of
Revenue.

Submitting with remarks on
letter from the Collector of the
Godavery District reporting on
the state of salt manufacture in
the District.

(Here enter 17th August 1863
N^o 5113)

The Government have,
recently requested Mr. Clarke
carefully to scrutinize the salt
Administration of the Godavery
District, and will therefore
only express their general
approval of the Bds order
on the papers now
before them.

The Board of Revenue
will be requested to call upon
the Collector of the Godavery
District

* Order dated 2nd July 1863
N^o 1161.

J.P.

W. A. Gell
Sub-Secretary.

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

Ed. J. Tulloch.

14 Aug 1863 - 34.
3 Aug 1863 - 27.
18 Aug 1863 - 159-160
1 Aug 1863 - 7-8.
2 July 1863 - 21-22.

Recd 1863 Department
20.9.63 for Dept

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
No. 1960.

Dated 17th August 1863.
Despatched 20th -
Received 21st 1863.

No. 5113.

CC No 1736-22864

Submitting with remarks letter from the Col-
lector of the Godavery District reporting on the
state of Salt manufacture in the District.

N^o 272.

2182844/103 R.R.

13. The Board are very glad to receive Mr. Leggatt's testimony, as to the improvement
resulting from the introduction of the new weighing machines. His suggestions for simplifying
and improving them have already been communicated to the Mint Master.

14. Mr. Morris has submitted his Deputy's report without remark. He should have noticed
Mr. Leggatt's suggestions, on the subject of an inland depot; and, in future, should acquaint
the Board with his own views on every suggestion which the report of his subordinates may contain.

15. In conclusion, the Board must express their satisfaction at Mr. Leggatt's general
administration of the department under his immediate superintendence. Increased sales for Home
consumption, and the manufacture of a superior description of salt are the natural result of
efficient and intelligent superintendence, and the Board trust that in the coming season the Deputy
Collector's attention will be turned with equal success to increasing the quantity manufactured.

(True Copies and Extract.)

District with reference to para
12 of their Proceedings, to report
under what authority the Deputy
Collector in charge of the Salt
Department was vested with
Magisterial powers. The order
of Govt dated 7th November
1859, No 1512 specially prohibited
the Collectors from giving any
other charge to the Salt Deputies
without sanction, and the Govt
in para 5 of their order dated
5th May 1862 No 976 declined to
allow the Collector of the ^{Godaverry} District
~~under notice~~ to employ Mr. Leggett
on general duty till the Salt
Department ~~was~~ reported to have
been brought into a thoroughly
efficient state.

JCS

14th Bd^r of Revenue Dist P^r 23rd Bd^r
Chas. J. Clarke Esq. S^r

Revenue 1863 Sept^r
Pro: of Govt. for Sept^r.

N^o 1736.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

D^y 22^d September 1863.

From B. J. Num. of 25 Oct^r 1863 Cr 2593.

Salt report of the
Godaverry District, re:
ceived through the Board
of Revenue, with orders
thereon.

N^o 272 + 273.