M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 175 — Press ~~Mis.~~

19. 22

Dated 1—2— ~~19~~ 1864

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

Go 2447 Rev. dated 27.58

## *Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 1st February* 1864.

Read the following papers :—

No. 19. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th October 1863, No. 6,500.

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, 30th September 1863, No. 266 :—

SIR,

1. I am favoured with the Proceedings of Government through the Board of Revenue, under date the 19th September, No. 251, held on review of the proposal of Mr. Ellis to transfer the Salt Pans of Chunambat to this District.

2. The original proposition submitted to me by the Collector of Madras was to take over the Pans of Cheyur as well as Chunambat, and the reasons I gave in answer to Mr. Ellis objecting to such arrangement appear to have been subsequently acquiesced in by that Officer, for in his letter to the Board, copy of which stands at the head of the Government Proceedings now under acknowledgment, in paragraph 7, Mr. Ellis modifies his proposal and "proposes to retain Cheyur under the Sub-Collector, because it is too distant to be made over to South Arcot."

3. It is obvious that had this modified proposal been made to me I could not have objected as I did when the transfer of the Madras District Salt Pans included the distant ones of Cheyur; and should it be determined to continue the manufacture at Chunambat, I can offer no objections to their management being transferred to my Salt Deputy Collector, who has himself raised no difficulty in the matter.

4. That my objections in regard to distance against the transfer of the Cheyur Pans to this District have been fully recognized is clearly shown by the Board's acceptance of Mr. Ellis's modified proposal, which has now received the Government sanction. I, therefore, with all deference, submit that I was correct in putting forth my objections, and in declining to take over charge of the Cheyur Pans, which I was satisfied would impose on my Deputy Collector more labor than could fairly be expected of him. The separation of the Cheyur from the Chunambat Pans never occurred to me, and therefore I treated the question as a whole, and as it was put to me, although at the time I remarked to my Deputy Collector that if the proposal had been limited to the Chunambat Pans, I could not well offer any objection in view of their comparative proximity to the chief place of manufacture in my own District.

5. The foregoing observations are called for by those of the Board in the 7th paragraph of their Proceedings on the subject where they lose sight of the fact that my main objection was to the transfer of the Cheyur Pans on account of their distance, a point which the Government, however, have not overlooked.

6. I shall for many reasons be glad if the Chunambat Pans are given up, but if retained I shall at any moment be prepared to take them under my management.

1. Submitted for the information of Government, with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board await the further report called for from the Collector of Madras.

No. 20. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 10th December 1863, No. 7,777 :—

Read again letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, dated 2nd November 1863, No. 464, recorded in the Board's Proceedings under date 11th November 1863, No. 7,182.

Read also the following letters :—

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 13th November 1863, No. 311.

No. 3,781 of 1863, received with Board's Proceedings of the 11th November 1863.
Received } 13th November 1863.
Returned }

SIR,

1. In returning the Board's Petition from the Chunambat Salt Ryots this day received, I have the honor to state that I am unable to discover in the objections urged by

the Petitioners, any reason for re-considering the determination already arrived at, regarding the transfer of the Pans to South Arcot.

2. In the first place, I entirely disapprove of the superintendence of any Pans being made over to the Madras Sub-Collector. It is a far better arrangement that this work should be entrusted to the Deputy, who has special charge of the Salt Department, whether that Officer be attached to Madras or South Arcot.

3. To isolate one portion of this special duty from the legitimate Establishment is, I think, impolitic; the accounts must be sent in duplicate, the real management must virtually remain with the Salt Deputy, who will frequently have to arrange matters with reference to the requirements and conduct of the whole District Salt Department; the Sub-Collector has already quite enough on his hands, with his present limited staff of office servants; and although, as an exceptional case, Cheyur has been handed over to him, I would rather advocate its being restored to the Madras Salt Deputy, than that Chunambat should likewise be transferred to the Sub-Collectorate. Mr. Hutchins requests that the expediency of returning the control of Cheyur to Mr. Smith be re-considered, and I think this request is a reasonable one.

4. The Chunambat Pans are close to Mercanum; and when Head Assistant in South Arcot, I used to spend weeks together superintending the sales and manufacture at the Mercanum Pans; Mr. McDonell did the same before me; and I do not doubt, that the present Salt Deputy passes much of his time at this locality, by far the most important portion of his charge. There is too at Mercanum a Peishkar on a high salary, to whom the rank of Tahsildar was always accorded; this Officer will be close at hand, and able to settle any differences. In former days he had magisterial powers; how this is now, I cannot say.

5. Mr. Reade has expressed his willingness to take charge of these Pans. An Assistant Collector and Magistrate has lately been nominated to South Arcot, so that the Magisterial duties of the Salt Deputy at Cuddalore cannot now withdraw much of his attention from his special province, and finally as regards checks and good management, the proposed arrangement is a salutary one, apart from the very obvious advantages of the Peishkar close at hand, and the Salt Deputy's frequent visits. The Mercanum Salt Ryots have ever been remarkable for their internal animosity, wariness, and rivalry; frauds were rarely attempted, stealing and smuggling would have been at once brought to notice, and when the Chunambat Salt Ryots are brought under the immediate sway of the same authorities, we may fairly presume that the Mercanum manufacturers will quickly bring to light any attempts at under-hand dealings and undue gains on the part of their newly transferred fellow cultivators. Mercanum has, owing to the above causes and litigious nature of the Ryots, always been deemed singularly free from the frauds which were supposed usually to exist in the Salt Department. I have never heard the same character of the Chunambat Pans, but I doubt not that the transfer will have the effect of gaining for them an equally good reputation.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Representing the inconveniences they will be put to, by the proposed transfer of the Chunambat Salt Pans to the Collectorate of South Arcot; pray that the said Pans, like those of Cheyur, may be kept under the supervision of the Sub-Collector of the Madras District.

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From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 23rd November 1863, No. 311.

SIR,

1. In acknowledgment of the Orders of Government dated 17th instant, No. 2,064, communicated through the Board dated 19th idem, I have the honor to state that the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department in this District visits all the manufacturing Depôts under him once in every month as reported in my letter of the 14th July last, No. 179, and occasionally for prolonged periods.

2. It is not true that Mahomed Esuff has any special Magisterial charge, but when at Cuddalore I avail myself of his services as a Subordinate Magistrate of the 1st class, and he takes up any cases that may be referred to him by me; and when the ordinary Magisterial work is heavy, and he is present, it is shared between Mahomed Esuff and the Treasury Deputy Collector according as their more immediate duties will admit of.

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1. Resolved that the papers above recorded be submitted for the consideration and orders of the Honorable the Governor in Council, with reference to the Orders of Government under dates respectively 19th September 1863, No. 1,725, and 17th November 1863, No. 2,064.

2. In the former of the two Orders just quoted the Government were pleased, on the Board's recommendation, to accede to Mr. Ellis's proposal that, in consideration of the heavy duties which devolved upon the Salt Deputy Collector of the Madras District at the Madras Cotaurs, that Officer should be relieved from the charge of the outlying Salt Pans at Chunambat, Cheyur, and Paiyanur. The pans at the latter place were to be discontinued, the charge of those at Cheyur were to be given to the Sub-Collector, and Mr. Ellis's proposal for the transfer of the Chunambat station to the South Arcot District was referred for further consideration, with advertence to the Board's suggestion that these pans should likewise be discontinued, the supply derived from them being met, in future, by an extension of the pans at the Cheyur station, an arrangement which offered the additional advantage that it would supply employment for the Salt manufacturers both at Paiyanur and Chunambat.

3. In the first letter recorded at the head of these Proceedings, the Acting Collector of Madras adheres to the opinion expressed by Mr. Ellis that the Chunambat Pans ought to be transferred to the South Arcot District, and explains that it would not be feasible so to extend the manufacture at Cheyur as to find employment for the Salt manufacturers of Chunambat and Paiyanur. He adds that the salt produced at Chunambat is of good quality, and that the pans might be considerably extended. In his second letter he reports upon a Petition from the Salt manufacturers of Chunambat, urging several objections to the transfer of their Salt station to South Arcot, and praying that their Salt Pans, like those at Cheyur, may be placed under the charge of the Sub-Collector of Madras. Mr. Banbury is strongly opposed to increasing the Sub-Collector's connection with the Salt charge of the District, and indeed he supports the Acting Sub-Collector's request that the expediency of transferring to him the control of the Cheyur Pans may be re-considered. He further considers that the close vicinity of a highly paid Officer in charge of the Mercanum Pans, the frequent visits of the South Arcot Deputy Collector, and the competition with the Mercanum Salt Ryots, who it is stated have been always remarkable for their internal animosity, wariness, and rivalry, a state of things which rendered smuggling, fraud, or theft, almost impossible, will have a very salutary effect on the Salt Ryots of Chunambat, who have not, at present apparently, a high reputation for honesty.

4. The Board are not aware that the Salt manufacturers of South Arcot are more honest than their neighbours. Indeed, the very low rate of consumption per head of population in this District, would lead to an opposite conclusion, but, doubtless, the Mercanum Superintendent will be able to exercise an efficient control over the Chunambat Pans, and as the abolition of these Pans would involve difficulties, the Board recommend that the administration of the Salt Revenue derived from them should be transferred to the charge of the Collector of South Arcot, who has already expressed his readiness to undertake the management* of them in his letter, dated 30th September 1863, No. 266, which was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, under date 9th October 1863, No. 6,500.

* 30th September.

5. The Board would be decidedly averse to acceding to the Petitioner's request that the charge of the Chunambat Pans should be given to the Madras Sub-Collector, for though they do not share in the views expressed by the present Officers of that District, they would be averse to burdening the Sub-Collector with duties which have now been transferred to a Special Department. The Board consider it indispensable for the reasons urged by Mr. Ellis, that the Madras Salt Deputy should be relieved from the charge of these Pans, and they believe that the vicinity of the Madurantakam Tahsildar will enable the Sub-Collector, without inconvenience, to

exercise due control over them. In any case, the Board are not prepared to request a re-consideration of the arrangement already sanctioned by Government until after it has been fairly tried, and has been found to be objectionable.

6. It appears from Mr. Reade's letter that the Petitioner's two statements that the Salt Deputy Collector attached to the South Arcot District had Magisterial charge of the Town of Cuddalore, and that he rarely visited the Mercanum Salt Pans, are without foundation. Mr. Reade states that the Deputy Collector visits all the Pans under his charge once every month. The Board consider, however, that it should be distinctly understood that Mercanum is the Deputy Collector's head quarters during the whole of the manufacturing season. There is no objection to his occasionally residing at Cuddalore during the remainder of the year, paying monthly visits to the Paiyanur Pans as at present; and during his stay at the Collector's station, when not engaged by the duties of his own Department, he may be employed in the investigation of such Magisterial cases as the Magistrate may think proper to refer to him, but the Board have on more than one occasion expressed their opinion as to the impropriety of giving a *Magisterial charge* to a Salt Deputy Collector

7. The other objections raised by the Chunambat Petitioners do not appear to the Board to be deserving of consideration, for, as regards all matters connected with salt, or the revenue derived from it, it will be manifestly more convenient to the Petitioners to submit their differences to the Salt Superintendent and Deputy Collector at Mercanum, distant only three miles, than to the Tahsildar at Madurantakam, and the Sub Collector at Chingleput, which places are distant from the pans 22 and 28 miles respectively, and as regards all other matters their position will not be altered.

No. 21. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Works Department:—

Communicating letter from Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, regarding the roads leading to the Salt Pans in Madras, and deferring the issue of final orders in respect to the direction of the road from Chunambat pending the settlement of the question of the transfer of the Pans at that place to South Arcot.

(Here enter 12th December 1863, No. 3,671.)

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 1st February 1864, No. 175.

1. The papers recorded above contain the further correspondence which has taken place with reference to paragraphs 8 and 9 of G. O. 19th September last, No. 1,725.

2. The Government have now before them the reports of the Collectors of Madras and South Arcot on the question of transferring to the latter District the Chunambat Pans which are situated at the extreme south of the Madras District.

3. The Board, as was observed in the Order quoted in paragraph 1, were doubtful of the necessity of retaining these Pans at all; if retained, however, the best course, they thought, would be to transfer them to South Arcot.

4. The Acting Collector of Madras is of opinion* that nothing would be gained by abolishing them. The reasons which he advances appear sound and sufficient. The Collector of South Arcot on his part is quite ready† to take the Pans under his management if it is determined to retain them.

* 2nd November 1863, No. 464, recorded in Board's Proceedings, 11th November 1863, No. 7,182.

† Board's Proceedings, 9th October 1863, No. 6,500.

5. The only objectors to the proposed change are the Salt manufacturers themselves. In a Petition which was referred‡ to the Board of Revenue for consideration they enlarge on the hardship of being placed in salt matters under the supervision of the Deputy Collector of South Arcot, whose head quarters are seldom near at hand, while their Revenue affairs take them to Sydapet fifty miles in the opposite direction. Their prayer is that their Pans may be treated like those of Cheyur and placed under the superintendence of the Sub-Collector of Madras.

‡ G. O. 17th November 1862, No. 2,064.

6. Mr. Banbury is strongly opposed to the latter proposal, and would much rather that Cheyur should be handed back to the Salt Deputy, Mr. Smith, than that Chunambat should be transferred to the Sub-Collectorate. Indeed, in any case he considers that the order already passed in regard to Cheyur should be re-considered.

7. The Government agree with the Board that the arrangement already sanctioned for Cheyur should have a fair trial. As regards Chunambat, the Board recommend that the administration of the salt affairs there should be made over to South Arcot, and in this view the Governor in Council concurs. The Board will issue the necessary orders. They will also inform the inhabitants of that place, who recently petitioned against the transfer, that in coming to this conclusion the Government have duly considered the representations put forward.

8. In regard to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 10th December 1863, No. 7,777, the Government are of opinion that as Mercanum is the most important station in the South Arcot District, it is not desirable that the Deputy Collector should be employed on Magisterial or other duties at Cuddalore. The sales of salt are certainly not so large as they should be in so large and prosperous a District, and it would be better therefore that the Deputy Collector should for the present devote himself exclusively to his salt duties, instead of merely visiting the works once a month. It is also desirable that the Deputy Collector should make Mercanum his head quarters. The reference to his visits to *Paiyanur* is probably a mistake. There is apparently no Salt Depôt of that name in the South Arcot District.

9. In paragraph 9, G. O. 19th September last, No. 1,725, certain suggestions of Mr. Ellis regarding salt roads were referred to the Public Works Department for consideration. The third paper recorded at the head of these Proceedings contains the report of the Superintending Engineer on the subject. This, it is observed, has already been communicated to the Board of Revenue. The only point on which observation seems necessary is that as the transfer of Chunambat to South Arcot has been sanctioned, the final orders referred to in paragraph 2, G. O. 12th December 1863, No. 3,671, can now be issued.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
*Deputy Secretary to Government.*

To the Department Public Works.
„ Board of Revenue
„ Accountant General.
„ Civil Paymaster.

Exd, S. T. Augustin.

4. The Board are not aware that the Salt manufacturers of South Arcot are more honest than their neighbours. Indeed, the very low rate of consumption per head of population in this District, would lead to an opposite conclusion, but, doubtless, the Mercanum Superintendent will be able to exercise an efficient control over the Chunambat Pans, and as the abolition of these Pans would involve difficulties, the Board recommend that the administration of the Salt Revenue derived from them should be transferred to the charge of the Collector of South Arcot, who has already expressed his readiness to undertake the management* of them in his letter, dated 30th September 1863, No. 266, which was submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings, under date 9th October 1863, No. 6,500.

* 30th September.

5. The Board would be decidedly averse to acceding to the Petitioner's request that the charge of the Chunambat Pans should be given to the Madras Sub-Collector, for though they do not share in the views expressed by the present Officers of that District, they would be averse to burdening the Sub-Collector with duties which have now been transferred to a Special Department. The Board consider it indispensable for the reasons urged by Mr. Ellis, that the Madras Salt Deputy should be relieved from the charge of these Pans, and they believe that the vicinity of the Madurantakam Tahsildar will enable the Sub-Collector, without inconvenience, to exercise due control over them. In any case, the Board are not prepared to request a re-consideration of the arrangement already sanctioned by Government until after it has been fairly tried, and has been found to be objectionable.

6. It appears from Mr. Reade's letter that the Petitioner's two statements that the Salt Deputy Collector attached to the South Arcot District had magisterial charge of the Town of Cuddalore, and that he rarely visited the Mercanum Salt Pans, are without foundation. Mr. Reade states that the Deputy Collector visits all the Pans under his charge once every month. The Board consider, however, that it should be distinctly understood that Mercanum is the Deputy Collector's Head Quarters during the whole of the manufacturing season. There is no objection to his occasionally residing at Cuddalore during the remainder of the year, paying monthly visits to the Paiyanur Pans as at present; and during his stay at the Collector's station, when not engaged by the duties of his own Department, he may be employed in the investigation of such Magisterial cases as the Magistrate may think proper to refer to him, but the Board have on more than one occasion expressed their opinion as to the impropriety of giving a *Magisterial charge* to a Salt Deputy Collector.

7. The other objections raised by the Chunambat Petitioners do not appear to the Board to be deserving of consideration, for, as regards all matters connected with salt, or the revenue derived from it, it will be manifestly more convenient to the Petitioners to submit their differences to the Salt Superintendent and Deputy Collector at Mercanum, distant only three miles, than to the Tahsildar at Madurantakam, and the Sub-Collector at Chingleput, which places are distant from the pans 22 and 28 miles respectively, and as regards all other matters their position will not be altered.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with copy of Board's Proceedings dated 11th November 1863, No. 7,182.

Copy to G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras.
" to C. W. Reade, Esq., Collector of South Arcot.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 7,182.

**Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th November 1863.**

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 2nd November 1863, No. 464 :—

1. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Board's Proceedings of the 14th August last, No. 5,075, and paragraph 8 of the Order of Government thereon dated 19th September 1863, I have the honor to report that though from the vicinity of Chunambat to Markanum, it may perhaps be supposed that there is no necessity for retaining the pans at the former place, still for other reasons more important, I concur with Mr. Ellis in the proposition of making them over to the Collector of South Arcot.

2. It would be difficult to find sufficient land at Cheyur for the manufacturers of Chunambat and Paiyanur, as suggested by the Board ; even should a sufficient extent be available, the arrangement would not only prove detrimental to the interests of the Cheyur manufacturers, but would be of no advantage to the new arrivals from Chunambat and Paiyanur, since it would be necessary to apportion the present Dittam not only amongst the original Cheyur manufacturers who now have the sole benefit thereof, but also amongst those newly settled at this locality from the abandoned pans.

3. The average sales at Cheyur during the last five years are only 50,895 maunds, and this demand the present Dittam of Cheyur is fully capable of meeting. The abolition of the Chunambat pans cannot be expected to increase the demand at Cheyur, for the merchants who have drawn their supplies from the former depôt would naturally prefer going to Markanum, a place only three miles distant, than to Cheyur, which is ten miles off. We could not therefore guarantee anything like a sufficient increase of Dittam to warrant our transferring to these pans the Salt Ryots of Chunambat and Paiyanur.

4. Abolishing the pans, and giving annual compensation in money to the manufacturers of Chunambat would only, I venture to suggest, be a source of unnecessary expenditure to Government ; the salt produced at Chunambat is of good quality, and the pans can on an emergency supply a far larger demand than is now annually made upon them.

5. Under these circumstances, I am of opinion that the best plan is to transfer the Chunambat pans to South Arcot, as Mr. Reade expresses his willingness to undertake their management.

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The Board resolve, before submitting the above letter to Government, to transmit to the Acting Collector an urgent representation which they have received from the Salt manufacturers at Chunambat praying that their Salt station may not be transferred to the District of South Arcot, with the request that he will report on Petitioner's proposition at his earliest convenience.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) B. A. DALYELL,
Sub-Secretary.

To G. Banbury, Esq., Acting Collector of Madras, with a Petition.

Exd. J. Wright.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 12th December 1863.*

No. 306. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 4th December 1863. No. 3,752 :—

1 Letter from Collector of Madras No. 168, dated 6th October 1863.
1 Letter from Collector of South Arcot, No. 151, dated 3rd November 1863 (to be returned).

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government, No. 2,827, dated 30th September 1863, and your Memorandum No. 137, dated 25th November 1863, I have the honor to report that immediately on the receipt of the former it was communicated to the Sub-Engineer of No. 3 Range, Madras District, for report on paragraphs 15, 16, 17 of Mr. Ellis's letter.

2. Since then an Estimate for making a new road between Cheyoor and Chotapakam, which the Collector now prefers to Madranticum as the point at which it should touch Trunk (Road No. VIII) has been received, and was forwarded to the Board of Revenue for approval on the 25th ultimo.

3. This line was approved of by Government in their Proceedings No. 2,382, dated 4th October 1862.

4. I proposed to the Collector to give a branch from it to Madranticum, but that Officer writes, "there will be no necessity for even the bifurcation of the line to Madranticum, the traffic going mainly to the westward."

5. The Sub-Engineer No. 3 range has now been instructed to furnish as soon as possible a Survey and Estimate for the road from Covelong to Vandaloor.

6. An Estimate has been prepared for the road from Tirukalikundrum to Sadras, and was forwarded to the Acting Collector for signature in token of approval on the 18th ultimo.

7. With respect to the road from Chunampett to the Southern Trunk Road, it appears by the enclosed letters from the Collectors of Madras and South Arcot that the Salt Pans at Chunampett are about to be transferred to South Arcot, and that the Collector of the latter District is of opinion that should they be continued (it being now a question whether the Pans shall be closed), the road should meet Trunk Road, No. VIII near Oongur (Wongoor in map) which, however, appears to be a village on the southern branch line leading to Pondicherry.

8. The Collector of South Arcot also considers that if the Chunampett Salt Pans are transferred to his District, a good road should be constructed from them direct to Merkanum, a distance of some 5 or 6 miles in lieu of the circuitous road 9 miles long now open viâ Allatoor. That however would seem to be a question to be settled in communication with the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

No. 307. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1863, No. 3,671.

1. Communicated to the Revenue Department with reference to Proceedings of that Department dated 19th September 1863, No. 1,725.

2. The issue of final orders in respect to the direction of the road from Chunampett will be deferred until the settlement of the questions which appear to be now pending connected with the transfer of the Pans at that place to South Arcot and their probable abandonment.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Revenue Department.
" Board of Revenue.
" Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.
" Do. do. 5th Division.

Ead. S. T. Augustin.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Rev. 3052/63.

*Dated 11th November* 1863.

1863. Department.

No. 7192.

Transmitting an urgent representation from Salt manufacturers at Chunambat in their Salt station to be transferred to Arcot, and requesting a report on the proposition.

No. 3668.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt. in the Pub. Dept.

Dated 12th December 1863.
Recd 15th Jany 1864.

No. 3671.

Rect. 16th Jany 1864.

Communicating letter from Superintending Engr. Pub. Dept. regarding Railroad leading to the salt farms in Pondicherry & referring the issue of final orders in respect to the direction of the road from Villupuram to Salt farms pending the settlement of the question of the transfer of the farms at that place to South Arcot.—

No 21.

Original Rep.

Original Rep.

Revenue Department

1175

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 1st December 1863

Read the following Report

Proc: of the Board of Revenue

Submitting a letter from the Collr of South Arcot suggesting remedies on the breaches of certain salt pans. } Referred to the Collr of South Arcot for report

Proc: of the Board of Revenue

Submitting with remarks a letter from the Collr of Madura stating that the increase of the duty on salt recently imposed has not as yet had the effect of reducing the stock in the hands of the Chowkidars but has only increased the profits of the latter

Proc: of the Madras Government

Communicating letters from Superintending Engineer S. Arcot regarding the roads leading to the Salt Pans in that Collectorate & requesting the issue of final orders in respect to the diversion of the road from Chunampetty pending the settlement of the question of the transfer of the Salt works to the South Arcot } Referred to the Collr of South Arcot for report

Wh

contain the further correspondence which has taken place with reference to paras 8 and 9 of G. O. 19th September last No. 1725.

2 The Govt. have now before them the reports of the Collectors of Madras and South Arcot on the question of transferring to the latter District the Chunambat pans which are situated at the extreme south of the Madras District.

3 The Board, as was observed in the order quoted in para 1, were doubtful of the necessity of retaining these pans at all; if retained, however, the best course, they thought, would be to transfer them to South Arcot.

4 The Acting Collector of Madras is of opinion that not much would be gained by abolishing them. The reasons which he

advances seem good and sufficient. The Collector of South Arcot on this point on the other hand is quite ready to take the pans under his management if it is determined to retain them.

* Bd. Pro: 9th Octr. /63 No. 6,500.

5 The only objectors to the proposed change are the salt manufacturers themselves. In a petition which was referred to the Board of Revenue for consideration, they enlarge on the hardship of being placed in salt matters under the supervision of the Deputy Collector of South Arcot whose head quarters are seldom near at hand, while their Revenue affairs take them to Sydapet some miles in the opposite direction. Their pray is that their pans may be treated like those of Cheyur and placed under the superintendence of the Sub Collector of Madras.

° G.O. 17th Novr. /63 No. 2064.

6. Mr. Danbury is strongly oppose

opposed to this latter proposal and would much rather that Cheyur should be handed over to the Salt Deputy. Mr. Smith than that Chunambat should be transferred to the Sub-Col. Electorate. Indeed in any case he considers that the order already passed in regard to Cheyur should be reconsidered.

The Government agree with the Board that the arrangement already sanctioned for Cheyur should have a fair trial. As regards Chunambat the Board recommend that the administration of the Salt affairs there should be made over to South Arcot, and in this view the Governor in Council concurs. The Board will issue the necessary orders. They will also inform the inhabitants of that place who recently petitioned against the transfer that in coming to this conclusion the Govt have duly considered the representations submitted.

In regard to para 6 of the Board's Proceedings dated 10th December 1863 & 7777 the Government are of opinion that as Mercara is the most important station in the South Arcot district, it is not desirable that the Dy Collector should be employed on Magisterial or other duties at Cuddalore. The sales of salt are certainly not so large as they should be in so large and prosperous a district, and it would be better therefore that the Dy Collector should for the present devote himself exclusively to his salt duties, instead of merely visiting the works once a month. It is also desirable that the Dy Collector should

should make Mercaramin
his head quarters. The
reference to his visits
to Paiyanoor is probably
a mistake. There is app-
arently no salt depôt
official named in the
South Arcot District.
9 In para 9 of G.O.
19th September last No 1725
certain suggestions of Mr
Ellis regarding salt roads
were referred to the Public
Works Department for con-
sideration. The third paper
recorded at the head of
these Proceedings contains
the report of the Superin-
tending Engineer on the
subject. This, it is observed,

has already been communi-
cated to the Board of Reven
The only point on which
observation seems necessary
is that as the transfer
of Chanamtal to South
Arcot has been sanctioned
the general orders referred
to in para 2 G.O. 12th Dec. 1863
No 3671 can now be is-
sued

Dept. of Works Dept. of Salt
Board of Revenue with an Extra
Accountant General
Civil Paymaster
Inspector Genl of Police

Revenue 1864 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt for February

No: 175.

Pro: of the Madras Govt:

Dt 1st Feby 1864.

Pro: Sn Ch: Sy: All: Sc: Cy: Ld: Ad: Sy:
" Bs: of Rev: — 23 — — 487.

Transfer of Cummanbar
Pays from the Madras Distt:
to that of Arcot sanctioned.

No: 19 @ 22.