M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1958 Press ~~Mis.~~

292.298

Dated 24-12-1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th October 1864.

No. 292. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th September 1864, No. 5,830.

Read the following letter from D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq, Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Jeypore, 3rd August 1864, No. 425:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the Board's Proceedings, No. 4,371, communicating the Government Order, 6th July instant, No. 1,166, about the salt of this District. Having carefully perused Mr. Clarke's Report, I do not, I am glad to say, find that his opinion of us is a whit worse than the opinion we entertain of ourselves; an opinion we have freely expressed,* now nearly twelve months since.

* Collector to Board (with Acting Deputy Collector's enclosure), No. 646, dated 21st August 1863.

2. When I joined this District in April 1862, I lost no time in reporting that the Judicial work required a separate Officer. The Government concurred, but the desired relief was not afforded till July 1863.

3. I then turned my attention to the salt, and having fortunately for eight months the assistance of a very superior Deputy, C. Venkatasawmi Nayadu Garu, "effected various improvements" (Government Order, paragraph 6,) Pantaya Pantulu's arrival threw every thing back. I knew him by character very well; for he settled several Talooks under the Inám Commission in this District; and a high official at Madras will bear testimony how earnestly I petitioned that I might *not have* Pantaya; but I asked in vain.

4. Our salt requires three things for its development. The careful and intelligent supervision of the Deputy Collector; some expenditure to improve the present pans, and roads. Had Pantaya not been sent to us, and my urgent appeals† for funds not been overlooked, our salt had been whiter; but as for roads, they fall under the Department Public Works. There has been no lack of representations as to their necessity.

† Vide paragraph 3, of my letter to Board referred in the margin above, and do. do. No. 938, dated 9th November 1863, paragraph 3.

5. In a District like this, where the chief Executive Officer spends more than a quarter of the year above the Ghâts, and has heavy Sessions work to attend to, he must be thoroughly well supported by competent Assistants, if efficiency in all Departments is demanded. The transfer of Mr. Leggett from the Godavery, with the expressed recommendation of the Government that he is an officer experienced in salt, leads me to hope that this is a proposition which in future will be acknowledged as an axiom.

6. Having said so much (I could not say less) not in justification (for I have not been blamed), but in explanation of the existing state of things, I proceed to offer my opinion on the points required of me; merely taking leave to add that I do not understand the computation in the 15th paragraph of the Order of Government by which it is made to appear that the consumption of salt in this District is only 9 lbs. per head. I am not aware that there is any law, natural or economical, which requires that the entire population of District A shall consume no salt, but what is produced in the pans of District A. Were the pans of District A the nearest and the most accessible, it might well be a scandal and a reproach to the authorities, if the population of District A were to send for their salt to District B. But if, as is actually the case in the present instance, several great emporiums in A are by considerable distances nearer to the salt pans of B than to any salt pans in A, and if further (from whatever cause) there are fine first class high roads connecting the emporiums in A with the salt pans in B, it will perhaps be admitted, on reflection, that no very equitable or useful result is arrived at, by dividing the population of A by the number of lbs. of salt sold in the pans of A. No: whatever reforms are needed and shall be carried out in Vizagapatam; so long as Palconda, Parvatipur, and Gunapur continue to possess (and may they long possess it) direct and excellent communication with the port of Kalingapatam, the Vizagapatam pans will never supply those quarters of the District; and any calculations made in forgetfulness of this condition of things, can end only in disappointment.

7. The first point to be answered is, "Shall Karasa be retained or Balacheruvu?" Mr. Clarke prefers the latter, but leaves the matter undecided. He justly remarks that the salt at both the stations is very bad, though (in paragraph 90) he thinks that "the salt of Balacheruvu "is better than that made at Karasa." In the too notoriously inferior quality of the salt of the District, it is difficult to condemn the salt produced at one pan to a greater extent than that of another. Our salt requires to be thoroughly improved, and if proper attention be paid, it can be manufactured as well at one station as at another. The badness of the salt cannot therefore be held as a point deserving of consideration, in estimating one pan over another. I know that at Karasa very superior salt can be manufactured.

8. The second point which appears to have weighed with Mr. Clarke in his selection of Balacheruvu, is, that "there is a large swamp at Balacheruvu than at Karasa." This may be true, but Karasa can be made as large as Balacheruvu, if Nabobpet, a portion of the Karasa swamp, be added to it, as has already been decided upon. Though the *village* Nabobpet is one and a half mile distant from the platform, this distance will become nominal by the extension of new pans close up to the existing Karasa pans. These two sets of pans put together will produce salt sufficient for all purposes; indeed Mr. Clarke believes that "one of these places "(Karasa, Balacheruvu, and Nellimuku) will amply suffice to meet a larger demand than is now "made on the three existing stores." The large extent of the Balacheruvu swamp cannot therefore be held a great point in its favor.

9. It is argued (paragraph 9) that "the water supply is better at Balacheruvu than at "Karasa." The case however is quite the reverse. At Balacheruvu the creek from the sea has to run a mile or a mile and a half before it reaches the pans, and is constantly choked with sand at its mouth, so as to cause interruption in the supply of water, and consequent damage to the manufacture. At Karasa, the channel runs from the backwater to within a quarter of a mile of the pans, and the supply of water from it is constant and uninterrupted.

This circumstance alone is sufficient to justify the retention of Karasa; for without a free and good supply of saline water, what kind of salt can we expect to manufacture?

10. Besides this, Karasa enjoys the following advantages over Balacheruvu:—

Firstly.—Karasa is situated in the vicinity of a large Town, the capital of the District; when so large a population as 26,339 is deprived of an easy means of obtaining such an important necessary of life as salt, the consequences must be serious. The illicit manufacture, denounced (perhaps in harsher terms than its actual extent deserves) by Mr. Clarke, will increase; the interests of Government will suffer; and the inconveniences suffered by the people who already grumble at the *monopoly*, will be enhanced. It was these reasons which induced the late Collector, Mr. Reade, and the Government on his recommendation, to re-open the pans at Karasa which had been once before closed owing to arguments similar to those at present urged by Mr. Clarke. (*Vide* Extract from Minutes of Consultation, dated 19th March 1858, No. 354.)

Secondly.—Karasa is situated on a line connecting the Trunk road with Vizagapatam. I mean the new Gazuvaka road that passes by Karasa. This road is preferred by carters to the direct ferry line; in fact, it is the principal traffic road. So the traders from and to the Town will, by the Karasa pans being open, always have the salt ready at hand; while, if it were at Nellimuku, they would have to travel out of the road eight miles going and returning.

Thirdly.—Karasa is on the border of a backwater running from the sea, and on which boats ply. If superior salt is manufactured at those pans, there is every probability of its becoming an article of exportation. This is too important a consideration to be omitted.

Fourthly.—Judging from the results of past years, it must be said that the traders have always preferred Karasa to Balacheruvu. It need not be remarked that the former station was now and then required to be closed for the benefit of the latter, owing to the dulness of its sales when the Karasa pans were open. To wit, Take the sales in Fusly 1272 when salt was continuously sold at the two Kotars.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th October 1861.

	Balacheruvu. Maunds.	Karasa. Maunds.
July 1862	5,619	11,732
August	3,559	6,640
September	3,095	5,447
October	4,918	6,807
November	5,035	8,666
December	3,714	7,114
January 1863	3,276	6,317
February	3,422	5,039
March	3,431	6,729
April	3,563	8,146
May	3,775	6,833
June	3,874	8,021
	47,311	87,491

i. e, nearly double the sales at Balacheruvu.

11. We now come to the second point of reference, the *Kuppili pans*. Mr Clarke recommends their being re-opened as the *best* salt is, in his opinion, produced there. When he visited this place all the salt there was over. What was shown him must have been brought furtively from the bazaar. I mean that artifice was probably used to get a handful of the best salt possible as a muster; for of course a good many people are interested in re-opening those pans. However, all those that have salt experience in the District, consider that the Kuppili salt was always inferior to the salt of the other Kotars. It was in no way better than the Konada salt, which indeed always out-bid the Kuppili article in the bazaar.

12. The Kuppili pans were always held to be inferior to the other Kotars in every respect. I quote here the late Deputy Collector's remarks with which I fully agree:—

"The Kuppili Kotar does not, in comparison with the other Kotars, bear a good situation. "For the manufacture of salt in this Kotar, much trouble is experienced, partly, owing to the "*interruption of a sufficient supply of water* from the *constant accumulation of sand* at the "mouth of the sea, and partly, to some '*geddas,' or streams flowing up to the pans*" (right over the pans is in fact the case.)

13. The sales here were always poor, and the reason assigned was that in its proximity is "a large and well known depôt at Umaravulli in the Ganjam District, to which the traders much "resorted for its superior quality of salt, and for the good condition of roads." This reason stands as good now as it ever was.

14. The Board themselves in their Proceedings of 10th December 1861, No. 6,886, said that "the complaints of the inferiority of salt at Kuppili are, the Board fear, well grounded, and "there is a strong inducement for the abandonment of these pans," &c.

15. Now that Konada is no longer to be a place of manufacture, it may be said that this may render Kuppili a more valuable pan than heretofore. But with Bimlipatam newly opened, even that advantage in favor of Kuppili will comparatively be reduced.

16. Thus it will be seen that I am in favor of having three pans only, viz., Bimlipatam, Karasa (near Vizagapatam) and Pentakota near Toonee, of the Rajahmundry District.

17. Bimlipatam should, in my opinion, be the Head quarters of Mr. Leggett, and he can have charge of the Sea Customs of that flourishing port.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government, with reference to the Order of Government, dated 6th July 1864, No. 1,166.

2. Mr. Carmichael's explanation of the apparently low rate of consumption per head of the population is satisfactory; and, as stated by him, the emporiums of trade in the northern portion of his District, are likely for some time to come to draw their supplies of salt from the neighbouring District of Ganjam.

3. As to the pans to be retained, the Board are of opinion that much weight is to be attached to the arguments brought forward by Mr. Carmichael in favor of his retaining the pans

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4. The Board agree with Mr. Carmichael in considering that the Head Quarters of the Deputy Collector ought to be fixed at Bimlipatam, and that he might with advantage be placed in charge of the Sea Customs at that Port.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 24th October 1864, No. 1,958.

Separate Revenue, No. 16.
Salt.

1. The Government sanction the retention of Karasa in preference to Balacheruvu, and also for the present of Kuppili.

2. The Deputy Collector may be stationed at Bimlipatam and have charge of the Customs.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government with reference to the Order of Government, dated 6th July 1864, No. 1,166.

2. Mr. Carmichael's explanation of the apparently low rate of consumption per head of the population is satisfactory; and, as stated by him, the emporiums of trade in the northern portion of his District, are likely for some time to come to draw their supplies of salt from the neighbouring District of Ganjam.

Rev: 1864. Department.
Pros: of Govt for Octr.

No. 2420.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 7th September 1864.

No. 5,830.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam offering remarks on Mr. Clarke's report on the Salt in the District.

Pro: 6 July /64 No 91-93.
" 5 June /62 " 59-61.
" 19 March /58 " 35-37.

No 1958.

The Govt. sanction the retention of Karassa on the recommendation of Balachoroo and also for the payment of Kuppili. The Chief Sea Customs may be stationed at Bimlipatam. I have charge of the Customs.

J. N.S

24th Octr 1864.

Exd. J. Wright.

No 2420 93.

Pro: 24 Octr 1864.
Read Order

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

Copy to T. Clarke, Esq.,
" to D. F. Carmichael, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

3. As to the pans to be retained, the Board are of opinion that much weight is to be attached to the arguments brought forward by Mr. Carmichael in favor of his retaining the pans at Karassa rather than at Balacheruvu. Though the Third Member still holds to his opinion as to the superiority of the latter station, he will not object to the adoption of Mr. Carmichael's proposal, and he expresses a hope that the inferiority of the salt, the chief objection to the Karassa pans, may be in part got over by careful attention to the manufacture. The Board think that it will be advisable, at any rate for the present, to retain Kuppili as a salt station. The distance between Bimlipatam and the nearest salt station in Ganjam is very considerable, and the Board do not consider that it would be treating the people of the northern part of the District fairly to deprive them of both Konada and Kuppili. There is an ample supply of salt-water at Kuppili, the fresh water might probably be turned in another direction, and a little attention will probably improve the quality of the salt.

4. The Board agree with Mr. Carmichael in considering that the Head Quarters of the Deputy Collector ought to be fixed at Bimlipatam, and that he might with advantage be placed in charge of the Sea Customs at that Port.

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No 1958 - 24 Oct.