M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-34.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 415 Press ~~Mis~~

103-104

Dated 10-3-~~10~~1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 10th March 1864.

No. 103. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd March 1864 :—

Read the following letter from W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 6th February 1864, No. 29.

SIR,

1. I have had the honor of receiving Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, under date the 13th ultimo, and in which the Board direct that the subject of the cost of manufacture of Salt do lie over till answers to the Circular therein referred to are received from other Districts.

2. The Board are aware that the stock of Salt in this District is at the lowest possible ebb, and that in consequence of the supply at Negapatam being almost exhausted, the traffic returns on the Great Southern India Railway had very seriously fallen off. Since the Board was addressed by the Consulting Engineer for Railways, the Agent of the Company has written to me stating that in the week ending January 9th, the Salt traffic has diminished by nearly 1,000 Rupees, and as under existing circumstances and at the rate the canal to Vadarnium is being carried out, it is utterly hopeless to expect that Salt can be received from that station for at least eighteen months. I must again beg the Board to re-consider their determination, and pending their final decision on the subject that they will be good enough to authorize me to raise the rates of Kudiwarum for this season only to the rates and at the places specified in my letter of the 26th September last, No. 346.

Mr. Cadell's proposal in his letter of 26th September 1863, No. 346, was that the rate of Kudiwarum be raised from its present amount of Rupees 10-10-0 per Garce to

Rupees 15 at Negapatam.
„ 13 at Kovilpat.
„ 12 at Nedavassal.

He now renews his proposal *as a temporary measure for this season only*, and the Board in consideration of the difficulty at present of maintaining an ample supply at Negapatam, resolve to recommend this temporary arrangement for the sanction of Government, on the distinct understanding that none but Salt of really good quality is to be received, and that all bad Salt is to be unhesitatingly destroyed. The quality of Negapatam Salt generally is very inferior. The Board trust the Collector is carrying out their instructions relative to the Vadarnium Salt to be brought to Negapatam.

No. 104. ORDER THEREON, 10th March 1864, No. 415.

1. The Government authorize the Board of Revenue to raise the rates of Kudiwarum, as shown below, for the current season only :—

	Per In. Md.				For Garce.		
	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Negapatam	0	2	0	.....	15	0	0
Kovilpat	0	1	9	.....	13	2	0
Nedavassal	0	1	7	.....	11	14	0

2. The difference between these rates and those proposed by the Board is very trifling, and, as the accounts are kept in Indian Maunds, it will be convenient to fix the price, on that weight rather than on the Garce.

3. The importance of expediting the construction of the Vardarnium canal will be pressed on the Superintending Engineer through the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 321.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th January 1864.

Read the following letters :—

From the Collector of Tanjore, dated Vellum, 22nd September 1863, No. 333.

1. I have the honor to submit the following reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXVIII, dated the 15th ultimo, relative to the cost of the manufacture of salt.

2. The change which has taken place in the state of the labor market, since the date on which the last report on the subject was sent from this District, has doubtless caused a considerable increase in the cost of the manufacture of salt as then reported. The charge now incurred by the owners of pans varies from 6 to 9 Rupees per garce according to the state of demand for labor in the different Divisions. In this District salt is made by the owners mostly by means of hired labor; and it is in very few cases, and where they are poor men possessing only a small number of pans, that the manufacture is carried on by their own labor.

3. The owners of pans in this District employ labor on daily wages; but not at a fixed sum per garce. The system of leasing out pans however, obtains to a very limited extent; and in such cases the rates at which they are so leased out are about the same as the actual cost incurred by the owners in manufacturing the article under their own superintendence. The quantity of salt made in this District under the system of lease last mentioned may, on a rough estimate, be set down at about 300 garces a year.

4. I do not clearly understand what is meant by the distinction contemplated in the inquiries made by the Board severally as to the cost "to a manufacture," and as to that incurred by the Proprietors of pans when they employ others to make salt on their account. If the proprietor makes salt by means of his own labor, he only does so by employing that labor of his own which, if let out to others, would bring him what is the cost incurred by those who make salt by means of hired labor—thus making no difference in the actual cost of manufacture, or the value of labor employed in both cases.

5. The present price paid to Government, for salt taken for export, does not fully re-imburse Government for the cost incurred by them on account of the salt, but falls short of it by about Rupees 6 per garce as shown below :—

Cost of salt per garce.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Kudivaram, or hire for manufacture.....	10	10	0
Superintendence.....	4	2	0
Saderward...	0	2	0
Police guards.....	3	4	0
Average cost of export	6	0	0
	24	2	0
Price now paid to Government for export.....	18	0	0
Excess of cost over the price.....	6	2	0

From the same Officer, dated 26th September 1863, No. 346.

1. With reference to the Board's Endorsement on Petition No. 2,742 of 1863, addressed by the Agent of the Mirasidars of the Salt pans at Negapatam, I have the honor to state that in my opinion the rate of Kudivaram, or hire now paid for the manufacture of salt at this station, is unquestionably too low.

2. Irrespective of the increase which has taken place in the cost of labor generally since the present uniform rate of Rupees 10-10-0 per garce was fixed for the whole District, the peculiar circumstances which influence the state of the labor market at Negapatam have rendered this rate any thing but remunerative. The operations of the Railway Company, whose head quarters have been fixed at this station, together with those of the Railway now under construction in Ceylon ; the

demand for labor generally in that island; and the numerous Emigration Agencies throughout the country, have led to the rates of wages being raised nearly three times of what they used to be; and at present it has become almost impossible for the Mirasidars to keep up their manufacture at Negapatam.

3. In my report of the 22nd instant No. 338, on the subject of the cost of manufacture of salt, I have stated that it varies from 6 to 9 Rupees a garce. On further consideration, and under the present exceptional circumstances of this station however, I am inclined to doubt whether the sum of Rupees 9 will at present cover the whole cost of manufacture at Negapatam. Admitting however that the manufacture can be carried on at that rate, the small margin of Rupees 1-10-0, which the present Kudivaram would leave to the manufacturer, is scarcely sufficient to cover ordinary losses and contingencies arising from vicissitudes of season and such other causes.

4. At present, and in the absence of any means for transporting the spontaneous salt from Vedarniem at a moderate expense, Negapatam must for a time at least be the principal station of manufacture in this District, and from which alone the present increased demand for the Railway trade can be met; and I doubt not but that the inadequacy of the Kudivaram paid to the Mirasidars forms a great drawback to the manufacture of an adequate supply at this station.

5. I would further add that the salt manufactured at Negapatam has to be conveyed over a distance of from one to three miles before it can be placed on the Vadies, and that the cost of this transport alone (including the crossing of the Upanar, and for which 8 annas per garce is paid), varies from Rupee 1-4-0 to 3 Rupees per garce. This item of cost applies however only to the Cusbah station and not to the adjoining one of Kovilpat, I would therefore take leave to recommend that as a temporary measure, and at least till the Canal between Negapatam and Vedarniem shall have been completed, the rate of Kudivaram at Negapatam be raised to Rupees 15 per garce, and at Kovilpat to Rupees 13,—subject to such revision as may be found necessary hereafter. The Board are aware that in the year 1860 an increase Kudivaram of Rupees 12 a garce was allowed at this station as a temporary measure but was afterwards discontinued.

6. I would take this opportunity also of recommending that the rate of Kudivaram be raised to Rupees 12 in the northernmost Division of Neidavassal. In this Division it has been the practice from time immemorial for the Mirasidars to pay the wages of the labourers employed in the manufacture of salt in grain instead of in money as is done elsewhere; and as the labourers employed in agriculture all round the pans obtain their wages accordingly, those employed in the making of salt will not receive it otherwise. Consequently, and as the price of grain is now twice as much as it was before, the salt Mirasidars find it difficult to maintain the manufacture of this article with the Kudivaram they now receive from Government.

7. In the Southern Divisions of this District however, there is no necessity for increasing the Kudivaram, as the special reasons abovementioned do not exist in those Divisions, and as the process of manufacture is also more easy there than in the Eastern Divisions of Negapatam and Neidavassal.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Petition.

Resolved that the above papers do lie over until the other replies to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular Order, under date 15th August 1863, No. 5,091, are reviewed. Meantime the following Endorsement will be passed on Petition No. 2,742 of 1863:—

"The subject of this Petition is now under the consideration of the Board."

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To W. M. Cadell, Esq., Collector of Tanjore.
MS. copy of Endorsement to Petitioner.

✓

Exd. R. H. Lee.

Mr. Cadell's proposal in his letter of 26th September 1803 No 340 was that the rate of Kudivaram in lieu raised from its present amount of Pu. 5 rees 10-10 per Garce to

Pu 15 at Negapatam
13 at Koilpat
12 at Tondawassal

He now renews his proposal as a tem. porary measure for this season only. and the Board in consideration of the difficulty at present of maintaining an ample supply at Negapatam resolve to recommend this temporary arrange. ment for the sanction of Government on the distinct understanding that none but Salt of really good quality is to be received and that all bad salt is to be unhesitatingly destroyed. The quality of Negapatam Salt generally is very inferior. The Board trust the Collector is carrying out their instructions relative to the Ve. dageem Salt to be brought to Negapatam.

(A true Copy and Extract)

A Thomson
Secretary.

To I. D. Sim Esq
Secretary to Government P. D.

Ex Campbell
P. D. to Government

Rec'd 18th March
Pro: of Govt Jon March
No 557

Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 2d
Desp. 2d } March 1862
Rec'd

Pro: Bd of Revt 4th June 1864 No 1538

Submitting with the Board's
recommendation Letter from the
Collector of Tanjore requesting
sanction to raise the rates
of Kudivaram only for
this season at the places
noted within.

No 103 & 104.

No 485 dt 10th March

With all due respect

Govt Gazette 1st Sept 1864

We should
have no objection
to the
proposed
course

Rec'd 15th March 1862

The Govt authorise the Board
of Revenue to raise the rates of
Kudivaram, as shewn below
for the current season only.

	Per Ld Dry	Per Land Wet
	R a p	R a p
Negapatam	2 0	15 0 0
Koviltat	1 9	13 2 0
Nedavasal	1 7	11 14 0

The difference between these rates
and those proposed by the Board
is very trifling and as the accounts
have kept in Indian names it will
be convenient to fix the price on
that weight rather than on the Land-

The importance of the pro-
-ducing the construction of the Vadava
-rium Canal will be provided on the
duty by Govt from the 10th March 1862

S. D. L.

Revenue Department

No.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 2. March 1802.

Read the following letter

No. 29.

From

W. M. Cadell Esq.
Collector of Tanjore

To

W. Hudleston Esq.
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
&c &c &c

Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue under date the 18th 21st Ultimo, and in which the Board direct that the subject of the cost of manufacture of Salt do lie over till answers to the Circular therein referred to are received from other Districts.

2. The Board are aware that the stock of Salt in this District is at the lowest possible ebb, and that in consequence of the supply at Negapatam being

being almost exhausted, the traffic re-
turns on the Great Southern India
Railway had very seriously fallen off
since the Board was addressed by the
Consulting Engineer for Railways, the
Agent of the Company has written to
me stating that in the week ending
January 9th the Salt traffic has di-
minished by nearly 1000 Rupees and
as under existing circumstances and
at the rate the canal to Vedaraniem
is being carried out, it is utterly hope-
less to expect that Salt can be received
from that Station for at least 18
Months. I must again beg the Board
to reconsider their determination and
pending their final decision on the
subject that they will be good enough
to authorize me to raise the rates of
Kudiwárum for this season only to
the rates and at the places specified
in my letter of the 26th September last
No. 346.

Tanjore Coll.
Office, Vellam,
6th February, 1862.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. R. Cadell
Collector.
MS

103-1862
10-3-64