M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 500 Press ~~Mis.~~

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Dated 23. 3_ ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 23rd March 1864.

No. 274. Read the following letter from T. CLARKE, Esq., Member of the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 11th February 1864 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report on the Southern depôts, and Southern Salt works, of the Madras District.

2. These consist of the Depôt at Home's Gardens, the Pans at Vadasamunjary, the Pans and Depôt at Covelong and Keelambakum, and the Pans and Depôt at Cheyur and Chunambat.

3. I left Madras on the morning of Thursday the 14th January, and the same day visited the Pans at Vadasamunjary ; on the 15th I reached Cheyur and inspected the works there. The 16th I passed at Chunambat, and proceeded to Mercanum the same evening, but, finding the works there more extensive than I had any idea of, and that to do justice to them I should be compelled to devote a longer time to their inspection than I could conveniently command on that occasion, I returned to Cheyur, and on the afternoon of the 19th I reached Covelong. I was engaged in examining the works at that place and Keelambak up to the 21st ; on the 22nd I examined the Pyanur works, and returned to Madras on the morning of the 23rd, on which day I examined the store at Home's Gardens.

4. Vadasamunjary is situated at about 18 miles south of Madras ; Covelong at about 22½ miles. Keelambakum is nearly opposite Covelong ; Cheyur is about 41 miles south of Covelong, and Chunambat is 10 miles south of Cheyur. Mercanum is 7 miles distant from Cheyur by the road in a southerly direction.

5. The manufacture of Salt had not commenced, at any of the places named, on the dates of my visits, but the ground was being prepared.

6. Salt was stored in the heaps and quantities shown in the subjoined table at Covelong, Keelambakum, Cheyur and Chunambat :—

	Covelong.	Quantity of Salt.	Keelambakum.	Quantity of Salt.	Cheyur.	Quantity of Salt.	Chunambat.	Quantity of Salt.
		I. Mds.		I. Mds.		I. Mds.		I. Mds.
Full heaps of 10 Garce.	11	13,200	7	8,400	81	97,200 0 0	6	7,200
Incomplete heaps...	1	588	1	1,072	17	11,040 18 14	..	.....
Heaps opened for sale.	1	102	1	413	...	....	1	240
Total ...	13	13,890	9	9,885	...	1,08,210 18 14	7	7,440

7. The Salt at the two last places was remarkably fine and good, in fact the best I have met with. It is manufactured on more correct principles than are generally observed. The brine used is highly concentrated and it is kept for forty days in the beds. The crystals are well formed, large and heavy, and the Salt highly pungent and good and white. The Salt is much liked, and though these Pans are almost unapproachable from the total absence of roads, the inland sales are, comparatively speaking, large.

8. The Salt of Covelong is white and the crystals are largish, but it is a very light Salt ; the crystals are not well formed ; the Salt has no substance and is easily crumbled. The brine from which it is made cannot be well prepared, and the Salt is scraped up in seven or eight days. The Deputy Collector should endeavor to introduce here the mode of manufacture followed at Chunambat and Cheyur.

9. The subjoined table gives the quantities of Salt ordered to be manufactured at the five places in question ; the quantities made, and the sales, during the last 13 years, at them, and at Home's Gardens, and the cost price paid for Salt by Government.

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9. The subjoined table gives the quantities of Salt ordered to be manufactured at the five places in question ; the quantities made, and the sales, during the last 13 years, at them, and at Home's Gardens, and the cost price paid for Salt by Government.

HOME'S GARDENS.

Fusly.	Home sale.			Inland sale.			Foreign sale.			Total.		
	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.
1260 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1261 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1262 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1263 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1264 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1265 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1266 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1267 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1268 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1269 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1270 ...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...
1271 ...	15,393	39	11	7,746	30	5	9,851	28	5	32,992	18	5
1272 ...	61,151	11	14	35,994	23	15	27,402	25	14	1,24,548	21	11
Total...	76,545	11	9	43,741	14	4	37,254	14	3	1,57,541	0	0
Average...	38,272	25	12½	21,870	27	2	18,627	6	17½	78,770	20	0

CHUNAMBAT.

Dittum.			Quantity Manufactured.			Quantity received into store.			Total cost.	Total cost per Garce.	Total cost per Maund.
Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	RS. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	RS. A. P.
96,000	0	0	54,858	0	0	54,858	0	0	8,210 7 3	17 15 4	0 2 5
1,20,000	0	0	38,446	0	0	38,446	20	0	5,775 15 10	17 9 5	0 2 4
1,20,000	0	0	31,209	0	0	31,209	0	0	6,251 11 11	24 0 7	0 3 2
1,20,000	0	0	1,75,332	0	0	88,055	4	0	12,468 2 11	16 15 10	0 2 3
84,000	0	0	1,00,464	0	0	1,55,332	20	0	20,480 12 4	15 13 2	0 2 1
84,000	0	0	34,690	0	0	1,00,465	20	0	13,887 4 5	16 9 4	0 2 3
1,92,000	0	0	1,80,066	0	0	34,688	30	12	6,033 2 8	20 13 11	0 2 9
1,20,000	0	0	6,642	0	0	1,80,065	37	12	24,738 5 1	16 7 9	0 2 2
1,80,000	0	0	34,035	0	0	6,641	35	7	3,399 6 5	61 9 1	0 8 3
2,40,000	0	0	2,30,450	0	0	34,033	34	11	6,096 10 1	21 7 11	0 2 10
63,945	0	0	0	0	0	2,30,450	3	12	33,507 7 6	171 14 3	1 6 11
1,20,000	0	0	1,02,184	0	0	0	0	0	2,002 7 4	... ...	... ...
1,44,000	0	0	2,752	0	0	1,02,184	0	0	17,127 13 7	20 2 6	0 2 8
16,83,945	0	0	9,91,128	0	0	10,56,431	6	6	1,59,979 11 4	0 0 0	0 0 0
1,29,534	9	4	76,240	24	49	81,263	37	6	12,306 2 1	32 6 8	0 4 4

CHUNAMBAT.—(*Continued.*)

Fusly.	Home sale.			Inland sale.			Foreign sale.			Total.		
	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.
1260 ...	1,238	19	4	56,821	20	0	21,678	0	0	79,737	39	4
1261 ...	1,785	0	0	7,103	0	0	12,564	0	0	21,452	0	0
1262 ...	1,413	3	2	18,579	0	0	16,803	0	0	36,795	3	2
1263 ...	509	19	5	40,000	20	0	44,169	0	0	84,678	39	5
1264 ...	815	32	1	61,556	0	0	69,448	0	0	1,31,819	32	1
1265 ...	845	31	14	46,523	16	7	54,130	0	0	1,01,499	8	5
1266 ...	433	5	15	26,563	34	11	11,795	25	0	38,792	25	10
1267 ...	292	15	10	1,29,733	5	0	8,636	10	0	1,38,661	30	10
1268 ...	800	25	0	12,409	20	0	18,655	20	0	31,865	25	0
1269 ...	873	30	0	32,447	29	7	5,672	20	0	38,993	39	7
1270 ...	176	15	2	61,149	15	0	3,163	5	0	64,488	35	2
1271 ...	542	20	5	1,15,460	30	0	10,859	10	0	1,26,862	20	5
1272 ...	584	0	0	29,133	0	0	53,672	0	0	83,389	0	0
Total. ...	10,310	17	10	6,37,480	30	9	3,31,246	10	0	979,037	18	3
Average.	793	4	7	49,036	39	3	25,480	19	4	75,310	22	15

CHEYUR.

Dittum.			Quantity manufactured.			Quantity received into store.			Total cost.			Total cost per Garce.			Total cost per Maunds.		
Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,481	6	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,20,000	0	0	6,366	0	0	6,365	28	0	2,551	6	10	48	1	7	0	6	5
96,000	0	0	1,05,209	0	0	105,209	4	0	15,989	4	0	18	3	10	0	2	5
2,40,000	0	0	3,11,562	0	0	3,11,562	0	0	44,079	13	3	16	15	8	0	2	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,668	7	8	...	...	...	...	...	...
...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,790	0	0	...	...	...	...	...	...
1,20,000	0	0	1,45,525	0	0	...	...	...	1,799	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
60,000	0	0	20,449	0	0	1,45,524	36	4	23,505	15	4	19	6	1	0	2	7
...	...	...	...	...	...	20,448	38	8	5,928	2	2	34	12	7	0	4	7
1,20,000	0	0	1,70,171	0	0	28,800	0	0	2,200	11	11	9	2	9	0	1	3
...	...	...	...	...	...	1,41,150	0	0	20,284	2	2	17	3	11	0	2	3
96,000	0	0	75,589	0	0	38,400	0	0	2,209	0	4	6	14	5	0	0	11
...	...	...	...	...	...	37,189	0	0	15,101	6	11	48	11	5	0	6	6
852,000	0	0	8,34,871	0	0	8,34,649	26	12	1,38,589	0	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
65,538	18	7	64,220	33	13	64,203	32	13	10,660	11	1	16	14	2	0	2	3

CHEYUR.—*(Continued.)*

Fusly.	Home sale.			Inland sale.			Foreign sale.			Total.		
	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.
1260 ...	5,082	18	0	23,307	0	0	27,456	0	0	55,845	18	0
1261 ...	3,283	39	9	7,666	20	0	11,281	20	0	22,231	39	9
1262 ...	2,789	22	4	38,502	0	0	40,632	0	0	81,923	22	4
1263 ...	672	12	1	11,956	0	0	21,218	0	0	33,846	12	1
1264 ...	5,512	36	10	25,188	0	0	30,471	0	0	61,171	36	10
1265 ...	5,033	10	0	27,588	20	0	42,166	0	0	74,787	30	0
1266 ...	8,524	18	5	18,427	27	1	43,219	11	4	70,171	16	10
1267 ...	4,927	20	0	18,039	15	0	39,099	15	0	62,066	10	0
1268 ...	8,780	25	0	33,703	19	2	16,756	20	14	59,240	25	0
1269 ...	5,050	21	11	65,163	15	8	14,655	14	8	84,869	11	11
1270 ...	3,798	30	2	12,881	10	0	7,151	10	0	23,831	10	2
1271 ...	12,248	4	11	36,284	20	0	8,179	35	0	56,712	19	11
1272 ...	5,821	36	8	5,656	20	0	18,344	20	0	29,822	36	8
Total...	71,526	14	13	3,24,364	6	11	3,20,630	26	10	7,16,521	8	2
Average.	5,502	1	1	24,951	3	9	24,663	35	14	55,117	0	7

COVELONG AND KEELAMBAKUM.

Dittum.			Quantity Manufactured.			Quantity received into store.			Total cost.			Total cost per Garce.		
Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
84,000	0	0	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	1,894	13	1	...	...	...
1,20,000	0	0	80,398	0	0	80,398	20	0	10,675	13	1	21	4	0
1,20,000	0	0	65,545	0	0	65,545	20	0	9,289	9	10	22	7	10
2,04,000	0	0	2,04,607	0	0	1,86,738	0	0	25,085	5	3	16	1	11
60,000	0	0	64,528	0	0	2,13,487	20	0	28,323	0	1	15	14	8
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	35,728	20	0	8,554	1	5	28	11	8
1,20,000	0	0	1,32,770	0	0	.....	...	...	10,430	10	4	...	...	...
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	1,42,370	15	1	17,252	1	9	14	8	8
1,80,000	0	0	44,534	0	0	.....	...	...	13,005	9	6	...	...	...
3,44,400	0	0	2,62,944	0	0	1,18,934	17	6	7,728	1	10	7	12	8
96,525	0	0	1,80,377	0	0	1,88,132	21	14	25,773	12	4	16	7	0
1,44,000	0	0	1,32,175	0	0	71,187	18	1	11,074	8	8	18	10	8
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	.....	...	...	8,392	2	0	...	...	...
14,72,925	0	0	11,67,878	0	0	11,02,522	32	6	1,77,479	8	8	...	...	...
1,13,301	36	14	89,836	30	12	84,809	17	14	13,652	4	4	20	5	9

COVELONG, AND

Fusly.	Total cost per Maund.	Home sale.			Inland sale.			Foreign sale.		
	Rs. A. P.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.
1260	... ...	3,489	0	0	3,589	0	0	7,809	20	0
1261	0 2 10	6,609	38	10	6,766	20	0	27,295	20	0
1262	0 3 0	8,652	37	14	22,824	0	0	40,222	20	0
1263	0 2 2	217	15	0	2,447	20	0	2,978	0	0
1264	0 2 1	464	8	15	624	0	0	5,695	20	0
1265	0 3 10	1,401	17	7	1,943	37	14	4,102	0	0
1266	... ...	1,366	35	0	1,936	9	8	13,652	20	8
1267	0 1 11	1,051	9	11	1,355	25	0	6,215	25	0
1268	... ...	1,575	0	0	3,483	25	0	1,273	10	0
1269	0 1 0	609	25	3	1,854	29	8	856	20	8
1270	0 2 2	853	5	5	1,323	30	0	187	20	0
1271	0 2 6	2,188	30	10	335	0	0	1,815	0	0
1272	... ...	700	20	7	23	0	0	.....	...	...
Total..	... ...	29,180	4	2	48,506	36	14	1,12,133	16	0
Average.	0 2 9	2,244	24	15	3,731	12	1	8,625	25	13

KEELAMBAKUM.—*(Continued.)*

Exportation.			Salt sent to Madras Cotars.			Total.			VADASAMUNJARY. Dittum.			Quantity manufactured.		
Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Maunds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	14,887	20	0	72,000	0	0	67,680	0	0
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	40,671	38	10	96,000	0	0	65,701	0	0
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	71,699	17	14	96,000	0	0	29,199	0	0
19,680	0	0	29,640	0	0	54,962	35	0	96,000	0	0	68,622	0	0
40,059	39	12	13,620	0	0	60,463	28	11	60,000	0	0	58,809	0	0
39,420	0	0	.....	...	...	46,867	15	5	60,000	0	0	30,182	0	0
89,506	0	0	.....	...	...	1,06,461	25	0	84,000	0	0	79,280	0	0
.....	...	...	.....	...	...	8,652	19	11	0	0	0	0	0	0
2,32,354	26	7	.....	...	...	2,38,686	21	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
51,000	0	0	.....	...	...	54,320	35	3	60,000	0	0	43,444	0	0
51,040	0	0	.....	...	...	53,404	15	5	27,840	0	0	5,664	0	0
56,400	0	0	.....	...	...	60,738	30	10	60,000	0	0	36,923	0	0
81,871	0	0	.....	...	...	82,594	20	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
6,61,331	26	3	43,260	0	0	8,94,412	3	3	7,11,840	0	0	4,85,502	0	0
50,871	26	10	3,327	27	11	68,800	37	2	54,756	36	14	37,346	18	7

VADASA

Fusly.	Quantity received into store.			Total cost.			Total cost per Garce.			Total cost per Maund.			Home Sale.		
	Maunds.	S.	C.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Mds.	S.	C.
1260	67,680			7,430	11	2	13	2	10	0	1	9	6,284	28	1
1261	63,701	20	0	7,387	0	8	13	7	10	0	1	10	7,582	20	0
1262	29,199	0	0	4,142	13	6	17	3	5	0	2	3	6,482	23	1
1263	68,622	0	0	8,139	1	3	14	3	8	0	1	11	1,366	35	6
1264	58,809	0	0	8,834	10	0	14	3	5	0	1	11	6,658	8	12
1265	30,182	0	0	6,517	0	11	14	12	11	0	2	0	3,732	7	9
1266	79,280	0	0	6,621	7	8	15	6	5	0	2	1	8,876	7	6
1267	0	0	0	7,632	13	2	15	3	0	0	2	0	5,264	14	1
1268	0	0	0	1,370	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9,401	10	0
1269	43,444	0	0	2,883	4	10	15	8	9	0	2	1	14,459	5	13
1270	5,664	0	0	6,142	0	8	37	14	6	0	5	1	5,531	29	10
1271	36,923	0	0	1,909	6	7	40	6	11	0	5	5	2,518	17	15
1272	0	0	0	2,766	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	621	10	13
Total. ...	4,83,504	20	0	71,776	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	78,779	18	7
Average...	37,192	26	2	5,521	4	0	16	4	5	0	2	2	6,059	38	5

MUNJARY.—(*Continued.*)

Inland Sale.			Foreign Sale.			Exportation.			Total.		
Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.
11,056	0	0	34,454	0	0	0	0	0	51,794	28	1
10,395	0	0	52,312	20	0	0	0	0	70,320	0	0
17,967	0	0	53,365	20	0	0	0	0	77,815	3	1
1,892	31	0	4,209	9	0	0	0	0	7,468	35	6
20,749	20	0	41,799	0	0	0	0	0	69,206	28	12
44,811	26	11	16,880	0	0	0	0	0	65,423	34	4
8,963	8	4	14,384	1	12	0	0	0	32,223	17	6
2,526	31	11	4,841	38	5	0	0	0	12,633	4	1
5,544	35	0	3,644	20	0	8,616	30	4	27,207	15	4
4,070	10	0	6,343	20	0	21,000	0	0	45,872	35	13
1,910	25	0	2,270	25	0	0	0	0	9,742	39	10
6,000	0	0	2,400	0	0	0	0	0	10,918	17	15
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	621	10	3
1,35,917	27	10	2,36,934	34	1	29,616	30	4	4,81,248	30	6
10,455	8	4	18,225	27	12	2,278	8	5	37,019	5	6

10. The store at Homes' Gardens has been supplied, entirely, from Vadasamunjary, Covelong, and Keelambak, Pyanur and Cadumbadi in the proportions shown below:—

	Fusly 1269-70.			Fusly 1271.			Total Quantity.		
	Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.	Mds.	S.	C.
Vadasamunjary	41,616	22	2	41,165	26	2	82,812	8	4
Covelong and Keelambak.	92,230	25	3	1,32,174	23	12	2,24,405	8	5
Pyanur	7,360	32	11	31,393	23	1	38,754	15	12
Cadumbadi...	15,784	0	0	4,595	26	8	20,379	26	8

11. No Salt is now sold at Vadasamunjary, and the local sales at Covelong and Keelambakum are very trifling. Should they not increase, it appears to me to be a question whether the stores at those places should not be closed as well as the Export Depôt at Covelong.

12. The subjoined table shows the quantity of Salt exported from Covelong during the last eleven years. The average number of ships, taking the whole series of eleven years, is five ships a year. In the year 1858, 16 ships visited the port and carried away 2,32,355 Indian Maunds of Salt. Last year only two ships touched there and the quantity of Salt carried away by them was 43,071 Indian Maunds.

Fuslies.	No. of Ships.	Quantity of Salt. Mds.
1263 ..	5	19,680
1264 ..	5	40,060
1265 ..	5	39,420
1266 ..	6	89,506
1267 ..	0	.....
1268 ..	16	2,32,354 26 7
1269 ..	2	51,000
1270 ..	16	51,040
1271 ..	3	56,100
1272 ..	4	81,871
1273 ..	2	43,071
Average..	5	64,026

13. It appears to me it would be better to discourage the export of Salt from Covelong, and to connect the South Coast Canal with Cochrane's Canal. When the works on the Pier are completed, I do not see why a ship in fine weather lying off the Pier, might not be laden, in one day, with Salt from the Madras stores.

14. However, when the Cuddapah and Bangalore lines of rail are completed, the quantity of Salt, which will be required for Madras, will be so large, that, I believe, it will be desirable greatly to increase our stock at this place, and this can best be done, by bringing up Salt from the Southern pans. These will afford an almost unlimited supply, and during the prevalence of the south winds, the Salt can be rapidly brought up to Madras.

15. If this arrangement be not carried out, we shall be compelled to make large annual allowances, for compensation, to the pan-holders in the South, whose pans it will be necessary to close, while we shall be put to additional outlay for opening new pans to the North. The amount, required to purchase up the annual compensation to be paid to the owners of the closed pans, would go some way towards meeting the outlay for connecting the two canals, though the expenditure, under this head, should be very large, from the value of the land through which it must pass.

16. It will be seen from the table of sales given above, that, during the last Fusly, the sales, at Home's Gardens, have so largely increased that they exceeded the local sales at all the Depôts of Chunambat, Cheyur, Pyanur, Covelong and Vadasamunjary, and that the home sales, at Home's Gardens, nearly equalled its inland and foreign sales combined.

	Mds.	Mds.
Home sales..		61,151
Inland...	35,905	
Foreign..	27,403	
		63,308
		1,24,549

17. The Chunambat foreign sales (that is, Salt sold for Mysore) were, last Fusly, nearly double those at Home's Gardens,* while the inland sales nearly equalled the inland sales at Home's Gardens, and this, notwithstanding the great disadvantage Chunambat labors under from want of roads.

	Mds.
Chunambat...	53,672
Home's Gardens...	27,403

18. The foreign sales of Chunambat have, however, fallen off of late years very greatly. Taking the average annual sales of the first six years of the series, it will be seen that the sales during that period more than doubled the average annual sales for the last seven years.*

	Mds. S. C.
Average of foreign sales for six years ending Fusly 1265..	36,465 13 26
Do do do. of seven years ending Fusly 1272..	16,064 35 57

19. The inland sales have also fallen off. Excluding the exceptional sales of Fusly 1267, the inland sales, for the six years ending 1265, average 38,430 Indian Maunds a year, while, in the six years ending 1272, they only average 31,194 Indian Maunds a year, or about 19 per cent. less. This result is, no doubt, the effect of the Railway; but I believe that these sales have also been affected by the state of the inland communications, if the heavy sandy tracts, which unite Chunambat with the old sea coast line, or with its Cusbah Town of Madrantacum, deserve the name of communications. Most of the bandies, which carry away Salt from Chunambat, come viâ Salem and Pondicherry, while the carriers to Mysore chiefly come viâ Madrantacum. I would strongly recommend that, if possible, a good and passable road be made from Madrantacum to Chunambat, and that, if the South Coast line from Sadras to the border of the Cuddalore District be put into order, a cross road be made from that line to Chunambat. The road which unites Chunambat with Tindevanam is, I believe, in pretty good order.

20. Cheyur is still worse off than Chunambat. There are no roads whatever to it. The tracks, which unite it to the great Trunk Road, are a source of deep complaint to the people, and they have nothing whatever, in the shape of a road, to the eastward. They labor for days in carrying their goods a distance, which should be performed, by laden carts, in a few hours, I would most strongly, urge that the road, by Chotpaukum to the Trunk Road, be early commenced and completed, and that a cross road be made, by means of the Local Funds, from Cheyur to the coast road.

21. The average annual home sales at Cheyur, during the last seven years, have nearly doubled the average annual sales of the previous six years, and there has also been an increase, in the average annual sales of the inland sales, during the last seven years, over the average annual sales of the previous six years, as may be seen, in the margin, while the foreign sales have fallen, from an annual average of 28,870 in the first six years, to an annual average of 21,038 Maunds in the last seven years.

	Mds.
Fusly 1260 to 1265	3,728
Do. 1266 to 1272	7,021
Fusly 1260 to 1265	22,368
Do. 1266 to 1272	27,165

22. The Pyanur works have been closed. The sales there had fallen to an annual average during the last three years of 7,935 Indian Maunds. A little Salt is left on the platform, 8,400 Indian Maunds. This has been ordered to be removed to Keelambakum.

23. During the last six years, the whole quantity of Salt, sold at Keelambakum, for use in this Presidency, averaged 4,287 Indian Maunds a year. These sales, it is true, were nearly suspended for the last two years; but this quantity is very small. The sales have now been resumed, and it may be found that the closing of the sale Depôts at Pyanur and Vadasamunjary may have the effect of increasing the sales of Covelong and Keelambakum; but it is remarkable that, though Covelong is a place where Salt-fish is largely prepared, and where a great traffic is carried on in this article, the amount of Salt, consumed, by each individual living at Covelong, according to the accounts, is about 3½ or 4 lbs. a year. At Keelambakum the sale of Salt is at the same rate.

Covelong contains a population of 1,642 people. Salt sold in seven months is 121 Indian Maunds, which gives 3¼ lbs. per head a year.
Keelambakum contains a population of 317 people. Salt sold in seven months was 16 Indian Maunds, which gives 3¼ lbs. per head per anum.

24. Since the sales have been resumed, now seven months, they have amounted to 2,672 Indian Maunds, of which 50 Indian Maunds have been sold for inland consumption, the remainder, 2,624 Indian Maunds have been sold for home consumption.

25. There are no roads to Covelong or Keelambakum. If one were opened out to Conjeveram the sales might increase. But if the tramway proposed to unite Conjeveram with the South West line be early completed, I see no prospect of any increase, but rather of a falling off in the sales, at this place. The extension of the South East Canal, and its junction with Cochrane's Canal, is the only undertaking, I am inclined to propose, in regard to this place.

26. The Pans of Vadasamunjary, are bounded, on the west, by the old coast road, and on the east by the Canal. The same may be said of the Covelong and Keelambakum pans. The platforms of the two latter places, as well as the Pans above referred to, are quite open and unprotected by any fence or ditch. It is desirable that some kind of protection should be devised for these works. In the manufacturing season the Salt, intended for transport to Madras, will be exposed on ridges near the canal, offering a strong temptation to guards and others to pillage and carry it away, and the Government have no defence or means of detection but the innate honesty, fidelity and vigilance of their native servants to depend on for exemption from fraud and peculation. Experience does not warrant our valuing these qualifications of our subordinate native servants at a very high standard, and I question whether modern organization or increased salaries have materially improved them. I am therefore strongly of opinion that every means of temptation should be removed as much as possible, and that our works should be surrounded by good material defences.

27. As an illustration of the amount of dependence to be placed on our native subordinate servants, I may mention that the Salt in store at Cheyur was measured into Store at 42½ Mercals the Garce. It is now sold by weight, and owing to the density of the Salt I found, by experiments, that a Garce of 120 Indian Maunds gives only 366 Mercals, being a difference of 58 Mercals between the quantity received into store, and that sold to the merchants, as a Garce. Yet, notwithstanding this large difference, the Superintendent, at Cheyur, has made it appear in his accounts that, in all the heaps sold by him, there was a deficiency, and in one heap, so great a deficiency as half a Garce. In this heap, the difference between the quantity stored and that sold, would amount to 763 Mercals or 18 per cent. of the quantity stored:—

Deficiency by wastage as reported ...	Mercals	183.	Quantity stored Mercals 4,210.
Difference between weight and measurement	,,	580.	
		763	or 18 per cent. of loss.

The heaps which I examined at Cheyur were in good order. The Deputy Collector should make full inquiries into this case and dispose of it on its merits. The Superintendent has for some neglect of duty been degraded, but if convicted of fraud, in the matter above reported, he should not be retained in the service.

28. The villages of Cheyur and Chunambat are 1½ and 1 Mile distant from the nearest platforms. The former works contain seven platforms, and the latter five, these platforms are from ¼ to ½ a mile distant from each other, in a line, the Pans lying in front. The platforms are raised mounds of different dimensions, wholly unprotected. The pans could not be effectually watched, in a dark night, without a very large patrol guard.

29. In regard to Cheyur, it is proposed to do away with six out of the seven platforms now in use, to enlarge platform No. 2, and to cut a canal from the lagoon, which supplies the water from which the Salt is made. To this enlarged platform small branch canals will be made to connect the Pans with the main canal, and all the Salt will be stored on the large platform, on which also

it is proposed to erect a Salt Cutcherry. It would be desirable, if it can be done without disproportionate expense, to raise a bank on the outside of the canal, from the mud dug from the Canal, and to plant a strong hedge on it of some quick-growing and impervious plant, such as the Aloe or wild Pine. If some similar out work could be carried round the whole of the Pans it would add considerably to the protection of the Government property. At present the Salt Cutcherry is in the village, 3 miles from the place where the Salt servants should always be in attendance. It is a low, dark, wretched building, not at all adapted for the use to which it is put.

30. Some similar arrangement might I think, be devised for the works at Chunambat, and for the erection of a Cutcherry on the platform selected to be retained. The Superintendent complained that he is put to great inconvenience by the want of a Cutcherry at the place of his labor; that there is no shelter at the platforms; and that being exposed to rain and sun and wind it is very difficult for him to write his accounts or Memoranda on the spot.

31. The people at Cheyur and Chunambat complained that they are subject to great and unnecessary detention, from the new rules for sales, introduced by order of the Deputy Collector. When a purchaser, proposes to buy Salt, he has to obtain, at the gate of entrance, a cadjan Memorandum or pass, specifying the quantity of Salt required by him. He next proceeds to the Shroff, who receives his money and the Memorandum or pass, and grants him a receipt and returns him his pass duly endorsed. With these he passes to the officer superintending the sales, to whom he delivers the Shroff's receipt. The original pass is given to a Peon, who enters on it the number of times Salt has been weighed out to the purchaser. After receiving his Salt the purchaser is furnished with a pass from the Superintendent, and the original cadjan Memorandum is also returned to him, with instructions to give the first to the Police Peon at the gate of exit, and the second to the Salt Peon. Both of these officials are presumed to examine the Salt. The Salt Peon delivers the pass given to him to the Superintendent's Cutcherry, from whence it is sent to the Deputy Collector's Office. It is further laid down that no more than 2 Maunds of Salt shall be weighed out at a time, so that, though the applicants may require 60 or 70 Maunds, he is obliged to receive it weighed out to him, in quantities of not more than 2 Maunds, the weighing machine being capable of weighing 20 Maunds at a time. The reason of this latter order, that no more than 2 Maunds shall be weighed out at a time, is, that the machines may not be injured by too frequent adjustments. It appears to me that this order is an unwise one and should be abrogated or altered. As there are several machines supplied to each of the depôts it might be well that one of them should be fixed at 2 Maunds and another at 10, and that all the large sales should be made with the one, and all the smaller ones by the other, though, I think, it would be preferable to have no restrictions of the kind, but to classify the sales and supply first those who purchase more than 10 Maunds, and then those who require a smaller quantity. I think too, the rules regarding the passes are needlessly numerous and minute, and that by being too minute they defeat the very object they have in view. A receipt from the Shroff, and a pass from the Superintendent on delivery of the Salt, would, in my opinion, be sufficient. The latter document might be initialed at the gate of exit, by both the Police and the Salt Peon, and returned to the Superintendent, if necessary, for transmission to the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry.

32. The several Superintendents I met, and the Deputy Collector of Madras very strongly urged the necessity of reverting to the Rowanah system. They remarked that it is now impossible to detect smuggled Salt, from that which has been fairly purchased, and that the usual effect of the late order doing away with Rowanahs was most prejudicial, and that at the Pans smuggling was greatly on the increase. I do not believe that Rowanahs are a very effectual mode of putting a stop to smuggling, and that we must look to the efficiency and honesty of our servants to prevent the frauds which are carried on in the Salt Department. Nevertheless, while our servants are so little to be depended on, I do not think it desirable to do away with

any means, which may act as a check upon them. It is not to be doubted that Rowanahs have not only proved a moral check in restraining some, but that they have contributed to facilitate the detection of fraud in others. It was frequently the practice, in Madura, to examine Salt passing through the District with the Rowanahs, and frauds have thus been brought to light, while the very knowledge that Salt not covered with a Rowanah would be dealt with as smuggled Salt and lead to the punishment of all concerned in the fraud, no doubt, acted as a check on the servants and merchants, and prevented any extensive smuggling, though it did not effectually counteract petty pilfering and small frauds.

33. During my late tour I have been careful in testing the weighing machines, now in use The results of my several experiments are given below:—

	No. of Machine.	Quantity of Salt weighed.	Quantity by measurement.	Equivalent of 1 Maund.	Equivalent of 1 Garce.	
			Mer. Mea.	Mer. Mea.	Mer. Mea.	
Experiments made on 16th January 1864 at Chunambat	No. 1	10 Maunds...	32 3	3 1 9/10	388 4	A heap of 10 Garce with both machines weighed 10 Garce and 12 Maunds.
	„ 2	10 do. ...	31 2	3 1	375 0	
	„ 1	10 do. ...	32 2	3 1 4/5	387 0	
	„ 2	10 do. ...	32 2½	3 1 11/10	387 6	
	„ 1	1 do. ...	3 ¼		363 6	
	„ 2	1 do. ...	3 2		390 0	
Experiments made at Cheyur on 18th January 1864 ...	„ 1	10 do. ...	32 2	3 1 4/5	387 0	
	„ 2	10 do. ...	31 0	3 ¼	372 0	
	„ 1	10 do. ...	30 5¾	3 0	368 5	
	„ 2	10 do. ...	30 2½	3 ¼	386 6	
	„ 1	2 do. ...	6 1	3 ½	367 4	
	„ 2	2 do. ...	6 3	3 1½	382 4	
	„ 1	1 do. ...	3 1	1 0	375 0	
	„ 2	1 do. ...	3 1¼	1 0	378 6	
Experiments made at Covelong on 19th January 1864 at the Export Platform	„ 1	2 do. of Covelong Salt.	7 2½	3 5¼	438 6	
	„ 1	2 do. of Pyanur Salt.	6 4½	3 2¼	393 6	
Experiments made at Keelambakum on 20th January 1864	„ 1	10 do. ...	30 7	3 7/10	370 4	
	„ 2	10 do. ...	30 7	3 7/10	370 4	

It will be observed that though the discrepancies are not very great they are so numerous as to render it desirable that if possible, some scientific persons should be deputed to ascertain whether some improvement cannot be introduced to render the machines more perfect. I am aware that there is a great difference in the comparative weight of different Salts, but I hardly think that in the same heap there should be such differences as are exhibited above, and I can only attribute those differences to the difficulty experienced in determining when the machine is exactly balanced. At Covelong I used sticks as Indices to the two machines with which I was

weighing, and it is remarkable that in that instance the two machines tallied with the exception of the most trifling fractional difference in the weighment of the 10 Maunds of Salt.

34. The people at Cheyur and Chunambat complain that they receive less Salt for their money than they used to do; and this no doubt is the case with the heavy Salts manufactured at Cheyur and Chunambat. They now receive only 3 Mercals and from 1 to 2 Measures instead of 3 Mercals 4 Measures for Rupees 1-8. The merchants at Cheyur further complained that the servants defrauded them and did not give fair measure, and that when they remonstrated they were ill-used and not supplied with Salt. They said they were entitled to 8 baskets full of Salt for their Rupee and a half. I tested their basket and found that a Maund only gave 6 or 6½ baskets full. I examined into their charge of ill-usage and found they could not substantiate it and that they had been all lately supplied with Salt. There may be, *perhaps, some* small ground of complaint. Native servants are apt to treat with rudeness and harshness any who act independently and claim perhaps too peremptorily to be heard and redressed, and to resent any complaint made against them. The servants in Cheyur are active and energetic. The Sub-Collector, if any complaint is made to him against them, might examine into it personally, and should he find reason to attach any credit to the charge made, might perhaps change some of the servants to Covelong where the staff of servants is exceedingly mild and gentle, and where a little of the activity too exuberant at Cheyur might with advantage be infused.

35. A complaint was made to me by the Covelong manufacturers that when the capacity of the Garce was changed from 400 to 424

29th May 1855.

Mercals, and an increased rate of Coodyvaram was paid to all Salt Ryots, they received no increase for the Salt supplied by them for exportation, though they equally with others gave in an increased quantity of Salt in every Garce. On inquiry I found the complaint was substantiated to the full. It appears that the Government charge 18 Rupees for Salt purchased for exportation, and pay Rupees 18-2-7 for it to the Covelong manufacturers; and as the giving the extra price would increase the cost of the Salt to Rupees 18-14-11 the Ryots were told that unless they would consent to deliver a Garce of 424 Mercals of Salt at the price they had been in the habit of receiving, the export trade at Covelong would be closed. As the greater quantity of the Salt purchased from the Covelong manufacturers was received for exportation they assented to the proposal. It appears to me the condition imposed on them was opposed to the instructions and orders conveyed in the Board's Circular Order of the 18th July 1856, paragraph 6, and was not fair to the people. They appear to me to be entitled to the increase sanctioned by the order above quoted, on all the Salt delivered by them, and I would recommend that they be so paid. The price paid for Salt sold for use in this country is Rupees 13-3-0, that paid for Salt assigned for export is Rupees 12-6-8, being a difference of 12 Annas 4 Pice in every Garce.

36. I have ascertained that the cost price of Salt to Government at the different places of sale visited by me, varies according to the subjoined table.

Divisions.	Quantity received into Store.		Actual Expense. Total Cost.		Actual Expense. Cost per Garce.		Cost of wastage Salt. Net wastage Salt.		Cost as per rate shown in column 4.		Total Cost per Garce.		Total Cost per Maund.		REMARKS.
1	2		3		4		5		6		8		9		
	I. Mds.	S. C.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	I. Mds.	S. C.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	
Chunambat	8,19,431	6	1,50,926	0 2	21	5 2	48,153	6 9	8,556	7 8	22	8 6	0	3 0	Contingent and sundry charges consist of the following items :—
Cheyur.	8,31,649	4 6	1,31,132	4 6	19	6 10	48,077	5 9	7,763	4 9	20	8 9	0	2 9	Value of Mercals.
Covelong and Keelambak	11,02,329	32 6	1,75,400	5 1	19	1 5	62,520	23 1	9,945	2 1	20	5 9	0	2 9	,, Mamooties.
Vadasamunjary	5,15,407	10 13	69,053	10 3	16	1 2	23,888	7 1	3,186	6 6	16	13 0	0	2 3	,, Wooden Stamps.
															,, Cash Chest.
															,, Palmyra leaves.
															Hire for measuring Salt.
															,, Re-covering heaps.
															,, Boats for conveying Salt.
															,, Gathering spontaneous Salt.
															,, Coolies for examining Salt heaps.
															,, Remittance, Carriage of weighing machines, &c.
															Saderwarid charges consist of the following :—
															Stationery.
															Lamp Oil.
															Mats.
															Gum.
															Cotton thread for light.
															Cloth for Cash bags including charges for sewing.
															Duffer Cloth.
															Sealing Wax.
															Hire for Sweeper.
															Shipping charges.
															Cost of the Salt lost during shipment.

Statement giving in detail the items of charges and the actual sums expended during the last 13 years for each item which makes up the amount included in column 3 of the above Table.

Divisions.	Pay of Establishment. Kudivaram.		Permanent.		Temporary.		Police.		Contingent and sundry charges.		Saderwarid charges.		Charge of Shipment.		Total.		Total Cost per Maund.	
1	2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9			
	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.	Rs.	A. P.
Chunambat	1,27,103	5 8	18,201	13 0	1,113	11 5	2,760	0 0	1,406	1 4	306	0 0	0	0 0	1,50,926	0 2	0	3 0
Cheyur.	1,08,129	1 4	21,781	2 5	602	3 3	2,760	0 0	447	5 6	382	8 0	0	0 0	1,34,102	4 6	0	2 9
Covelong and Keelambak.	1,08,797	15 8	20,252	12 9	3,868	1 0	2,760	0 0	5,471	10 1	516	0 0	33,703	13 7	1,75,400	5 1	0	2 9
Vadasamunjary... ...	48,730	6 11	13,897	13 3	891	9 10	1,380	0 0	3,849	12 3	304	0 0	0	0 0	69,053	10 3	0	2 3

It ranges from 2 Annas 3 Pice a Maund to 3 Annas a Maund. The data on which this calculation is made is given in the table, and the items of which the charges are composed are also specified.

37. I found the heaps in the different stores all well covered when I examined them, and the platforms were generally in good order.

38. The servants on the whole appear efficient and active. There are a few old Peons, almost too old to be of much use, and one or two of the Superintendents do not command instant attention and obedience from their subordinates. The Superintendent at Chunambat was not as attentive as he should have been. He was ordered to meet me at 5½ A. M. at the Pans, and though I was in attendance he did not make his appearance till 6½ and then nothing was ready.

39. On Saturday the 23rd January I examined the Madras Cotar at Home's Gardens. I found the place well laid out and the heaps in good order and preservation. The servants were not as alert as they ought to have been, and I found the weighing instruments so out of order that I was not able to complete my examination of the contents of a heap. Any one employed on the premises appears at liberty to handle the machine. The consequence was several of the screws had been spoiled and the machine could not work at all. No one seemed to understand the machine. It should be placed in charge of some competent person who alone should be allowed to adjust it. The Head Peon when called on to do so virtually declined and at last left the place where the weighing was going on. The Salt stored at this Depôt is received from Vadasamunjary, Covelong, Pyanur and Cadumbadi and is of two years' date. The quantities in store, received from the several places of manufacture specified, are given below :—

	Maunds.	S.	C.
Vadasamunjary ...	14,945	2	5
Covelong ...	95,935	29	14
Payanur ...	21,574	20	14
Cadumbadi ...	1,569	2	5

40. The sales at Home's Gardens are increasing, as shown above in paragraph 16. The Salt from the several places of manufacture is not kept separate, but is mixed up in the heaps. The heap that I had opened contained very fine white Salt of largo well-formed crystals. It had been received from Pyanur and Covelong.

41. The subjoined table gives the result of some experiments made by me with the two machines in use at Home's Gardens. The results were so unsatisfactory that at 11 o'clock, I gave up all hope of being able to come to any satisfactory conclusion, of the exact contents of the heap which I was examining. I therefore closed my inspection.

10 Maunds of Salt weight by Machine No. 1 gave 31 Mercals, 6 Measures.
Do. do. do. 32 ,, 6 ,,
No. 1 again the same ... ... 32 ,, 2 ,,
No. 2 do. ... ... 32 ,, 7 ,,

		Maunds.
The whole amount of Salt in store was 111		
full heaps containing	... ...	1,33,200
One open heap containing	... ...	825
	Total ...	1,34,025

The total cost to Government of an Indian Maund of Salt at this store is 2 Annas 10 Pice, as seen by the subjoined table :—

Total quantity of Salt brought from Vadasamunjary, Covelong, Pyanur and Cadumbadi during time from Feb. 1862 to Dec. 1863.			Total Kudivaram.			Boat hire for conveying the Salt to Home's Gardens.			Total wastage.			Total value of the wastage.			Total of hire for inlading and covering, contingent and other charges.			Canal Toll.			Grand Total.			Total charge to Government per Maund.	
Mds.	S.	C.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P	Mds.	S.	C.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.	A.	P.
3,66,351	19	7	38,763	8	5	12,490	1	6	12,974	33	5	1,339	11	0	10,345	4	5	1,681	13	6	64,625	6	10	2	10

42. I found that the wholesale purchasers are retailing their Salt at the Cotar. This should not be allowed. They sell their Salt by a Mercal measure, while the Government Salt is sold by weight. They calculate the Garce at 400 Mercals and sell accordingly, thus making a profit with the discount allowance of from one and a half to two Garce in the heap, and selling by the measure they undersell the Government selling by the Machine.

43. The excuse of the servants for allowing this infringement of the rule was, that the merchants when remonstrated with denied the sale, and stated that the bandymen who carried away the Salt were their debtors, and that on an adjustment of accounts a balance was found against the bandymen, which they paid, carring away the Salt in part payment. This, though a plausible, is a very flimsy explanation and should not have had any weight.

P. S.—Since writing the above, my report on the Salt works of Malabar and Canara has been returned by the Collectors of those Districts, and will be submitted to Government in a few days

No. 275.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd March 1864, No. 500.

Ordered to lie over.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S.T. Augustin.

11

cost price of salt to Government at the different places of sale visited by me, varies according to the subjoined table.

Divisions	Dittum	Manufacture		Total Cost			Total Cost per Garce			Total Cost per Ton	
	Gs	Pots		Rs	As	P	Rs	As	P	Rs	P
Chunambet.	129,584	76,240	"	12,267	13	11	32	6	8	4	3
Cheyjur.	65,538 2/20	64,220	33	67 10,914	4	4	15	14	2	2	3
Covelong & Kuelcumbak	113,301 2/10	82,144	10	37 14,257	5	5	12	7	1	1	8
Vadasammunjy.	54,756 2/10	37,346	4	7 5,557	3	9	10	4	5	2	2

It ranges from 2 annas 3 pice a maund to 3 Annas ~~1 Rs 8 P a maund to 1 Rs 8 P~~ a maund. The data on which this calculation is made is given in the table, and the items of which the charges are composed are also specified.

37. I found the heaps in the different stores all well covered when I examined them, and the platforms were generally in good order.

38. The servants on the whole appear efficient and active. There are a few old peons, almost too old to be of much use, and one or two of the Superintendents do not command sufficient attention and obedience from their subordinates. The Superintendent at Chunambut was not

attentive as he should have been. He was ordered to meet me at 5¼ A.M. at the pans, and though I was in attendance he did not make his appearance till 6¼, and then nothing was ready.

39. On Saturday the 23rd January I examined the Madras Cotar at Home's Gardens. I found the place well laid out and the heaps in good order and preservation. The servants were not as alert as they ought to have been, and I found the weighing instruments so out of order that I was not able to complete my examination of the contents of a heap. Any one employed on the premises appears at liberty to handle the machine. The consequence was several of the screws had been spoiled and the machine could not work at all. No one seemed to understand the machine. It should be placed in charge of some competent person who alone should be allowed to adjust it. The Head Peon when called on to do so virtually declined and at last left the place where the weighing was going on. The salt

Copy in a Lr. to Engd
Dy 6th May No. 34 of 1864.

Rec.d 1864. Office of
Engr. Genl. for Claims.
Report No. 377
From J. Clarke Esqr.
Member of the Board of
Revenue - - - - - - - -

Dated 11th Feby. 1864.
Received 11th "

Rec.d 377-/64.

Reports on the Southern
Salt Depots and Southern
Salt works of the claims
Dist.s C.

Orders issued