

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 750

Press
Mis.

1-2

Dated

2-5-1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd May 1864.*

No. 1. Read the following Endorsement of the Consulting Engineer for Railways, dated Madras, 25th April 1864, No. 226.

Read the following letter from W. S. BETTS, Esq., Agent, Great Southern of India Railway, to Lieutenant-Colonel P. P. L. O'CONNEL, R. E., Consulting Engineer for Railways, Madras, dated Negapatam, 20th April 1864, No. 1,122 :—

SIR,

1. As money still continues to be lost to the State through the discontinuance of the trade in Salt over the Railway from Negapatam to the west, I consider it my duty again to bring the fact under the notice of Government.

2. The following figures show the receipts from the Salt traffic this season in comparison with the receipts taken in the corresponding period of last year :—

	1863.	1864.
January Rupees	2,988	1,006
February... .. „	2,366	468
March „	2,254	476

nearly Rupees 1,900 per month is thus shown to be lost on the Salt traffic alone.

3. Unfortunately, however, the loss is not confined to the carriage of this commodity. In consequence of no Salt being obtainable at the Negapatam Government Depôt, traders had to proceed to Adrampatam to procure supplies, and cart from thence to the interior. The bandy-men knowing Salt was not elsewhere procurable, increased their rates from the coast, and thereby were enabled to decrease their charges to the coast drawing in consequence the grain traffic to Moothoopettah (a port some three or four miles from Adrampatam) for shipment, and thus securing loads in both directions for their bandies.

4. To some extent too our passenger traffic also suffers from the above causes, for the merchants naturally follow their produce to the market to which it is taken for disposal.

5. Again our trucks, now that the Salt trade has ceased, have to be run *empty* to the west to bring back traffic to the coast.

6. On the 19th January last (letter No. 1,004), I called your attention to the exhaustion of the Negapatam Salt Depôt, and you informed me on the 18th February (letter No. 64) that Government had called upon the Board of Revenue for certain information, and had requested the Board to instruct the Collector to replenish the Negapatam stores as soon as practicable.

7. Soon afterwards I noticed the issue of placards calling for tenders for the conveyance by sea of 500 Garces of Salt from Vadarniem to Negapatam, and within the last few days a portion of this Salt has arrived, and is now being formed into heaps upon ground transferred to the Railway Company.

8. The Salt thus brought is, however, what is known as “spontaneous” Salt, and a strong prejudice exists against it; so much so that the Salt merchants decline to buy it as they cannot dispose of it. Up-country “manufactured” Salt sells readily at Trichinopoly at about Rupees 23½ a Garce, whereas purchasers cannot be found for the “spontaneous” Salt at Rupees 20½ a Garce.

9. If it is the desire of Government that this prejudice should be overcome, such a desire can only be effected by ceasing to sell “manufactured” Salt. So long as the people can buy both sorts, it is proved that the wholesale dealers gladly pay Rupees 30 more a Garce for the “manufactured” article—the extra *retail* price will no doubt be proportionally greater.

10. Or, the selling of one heap of “spontaneous” with two heaps of “manufactured” (so that the dealers could mix the three together) might perhaps help to get over the difficulty.

11. At any rate something should be done to save the loss of public money which is now taking place. If it is desirous to force the sale of the “spontaneous” Salt, could it not be arranged to dispose of that Salt at the Adrampatam Depôt instead of at the Negapatam Depôt?

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd May 1864.*

A loss of Railway revenue would not then result, and the object of Government would still be served.

12. I understand that an Officer of the Board of Revenue is shortly to visit this District to inquire into certain irregularities which have crept into the Salt Department. Will you please ascertain if this gentleman could also be deputed to inquire into the matter I have brought under your notice in this letter.

1. I submit this letter for the orders of Government, in reference to Proceedings in the Revenue Department of the 2nd February last, No. 188, communicated to me with Order No. 91.
Dated 17th February 1864.

2. In the event of an Officer being deputed to Negapatam, I would recommend that the Agent's letter be communicated to him for such inquiries as he may consider it advisable to make.

(Signed) P. P. L. O'CONNELL, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Consulting Engineer for Railways.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

*Fort Saint George,
23rd April 1864.*

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

No. 2.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd May 1864, No. 750.
Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for early report.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd, S. T. Augustin.

77-750.

*Forwarded to the
Board of Revenue for
early report.*

L R

*Fort St. George
2^d May 1864.*

14 Copies Letter of Rev Dept 3 May

50

To
The Blue Jay Club
Jas. H. Hays

Pro: 2 Feb 1864 47-48

Copy in letter to Comd of 14th
of 11th Sept 1864
Revenue Dept.

For M. G. G.
23 April
1864. J. W. Hunt
Chief Secretary

From the Comd of G. S. Railway
through the Comd of Railway
C. No 1836.

Pro of the D. of Revenue
of 26 May 1864 C. No 1838

No 152.

Revenue 1864
From the Comd of G. S. Railway
to the Comd of Railway
C. No 1086.

The Agent of the Railway
G. S. of India
To the Comd Engineer
for Railways

Dated 20th April 1864
Received 25th April 1864
No. 112 of 1864
No. 316 of 1864

Brings to the
notice of Comd
the loss sustained
to the Railway Traffic
thru the discontinuance
of the Salt trade over the
Railway from Kym to the
west. With Order