M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 777 Press ~~Mis.~~

52-55

Dated 4-8- ~~19~~ 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th May 1864.

No. 54. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th April 1864,

No. 2,028.

Read again the following papers:—

From the Collector of Tanjore, dated Vellum, 18th January 1864, No. 4.

From Board 21st December 1863.
To do. 24th do.
From do. 28th do.

1. With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I have now the honor to submit the following report.

2. As I have already stated in my letter of the 24th December, the Salt Department has been for some time past reported to be in a very unsatisfactory state, and when it came under my own immediate charge during Mr. D'Monte's leave of absence, I deemed it my duty to make some inquiries into the truth of the reports which were constantly reaching me from various quarters, from Europeans as well as from Natives. In prosecuting these inquiries much difficulty has been experienced owing in some instances to the entire absence of any records, and in others to the fact of the little that is on record being as obscure and unintelligible as possible. From what I am now about to submit I however venture to think the Board will agree with me in considering that the interests of the public service imperatively require that some change should be made in the responsible Head of that Department.

3. MANUFACTURE OF SALT.—I would in the first place call the attention of the Board to the unsatisfactory out-turn of salt during the past season. It is of course admitted that the season was peculiarly unfavorable to the manufacture, and yet it will be seen from the annexed Statement that while operations have been carried out most vigorously at one station, in the very next one, and that the most important of all our stations and containing no less than 7,370 pans, the manufacture has been next to nothing.

Nadavasal	339	Garces.
Negapatam	639	
Vedarniem	791	Manufacture.
	422	Spontaneous.
Adrampatam	33	
Arasanaghari	434	

4. It thus appears that at Vedarniem where the manufacture of Salt at the full rates of Kudivaram has been carried on for the first time, and where the pans had to be newly made for the purpose, the out-turn for the season of manufactured Salt only has been nearly 800 garces, or about 23 times more than the quantity made at Adrampatam, the next adjoining and the station which possesses the greatest capabilities of turning out a very large quantity. On my return to the District in the beginning of June last, my attention was at once drawn to the deficiency of the manufacture at this station, and I repeatedly urged upon Mr. D'Monte the necessity for increased exertion with a view to renewing our stock; copies of two of these letters (4th August and 8th September 1863) are forwarded for the information of the Board, and I must add that no notice whatever was taken of them further than sending a register of the state of the season. This excuse however, I submit, cannot for a moment hold good; for it is simply an impossibility that at two adjoining stations, within a distance of 30 miles, the season should have been so totally different as to admit of the manufacture being carried on vigorously at one, and of its being almost at a stand still in the other. Besides from the statement shown in the margin it will be seen that during the past ten years, comprising some of the worst seasons known, the lowest quantity ever manufactured at Adrampatam was 109 garces.

Nos. 1 and 2.

1853	640
1854	3,289
1855	2,799
1856	1,079
1857	2,243
1858	1,757
1859	109
1860	4,369
1861	680
1862	2,073

5. The reason however for this, and as will be abundantly shown in the sequel, was that the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem was found to be more profitable, and that the coolies who usually cultivate Salt at Adrampatam were enticed away to Vedarniem on the promise of high wages.

6. To come however more particularly to the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem, the Board will remember that the sanction to manufacture Salt at this station, and at the full rates of Kudivaram, was conceded after some objections and in the full hope and expectation that an article very superior even to the spontaneous Salt would be produced. In their Proceedings, marginally noted, the Board laid particular stress on this point; but it is now my duty to inform them that instead of a superior article being turned out, the very contrary has been the case. I beg to enclose, in the accompanying sealed packet, a sample of the Salt as made in the first instance (1), a sample of the same as the manufacture has been carried on (2), and (3) a sample of the spontaneous Salt of this season. From these samples the Board will be able to judge how far the experiment made has succeeded or not.

11th February 1863, No. 832.

7. Further, as regards the way in which the manufacture has been carried out; it seems that applications for so many beds were made by any parties who chose to the Deputy Collector Salt Department, on which orders were passed by him. I enclose a List of the parties to whom permission to cultivate was given; who some of them are I have not been able to ascertain, but two of them it will be observed are P. Venkatachala Chetty and a "Mada Kovil." This Venkatachala Chetty is a Salt Merchant at Negapatam, and has from the commencement of the trade in Salt by the Railway done his utmost to decry the spontaneous Salt at Vedarniem. The other "Mada Kovil" means literally Roman Catholic Church, and how pans came to be given in the name of such an institution is in itself somewhat suspicious. Mr. D'Monte endeavours to explain the term by stating that it had reference to a certain set of potters skilled in the manufacture of Salt; but I confess that the explanation seems to me far from being satisfactory. Mr. D'Monte is himself a Roman Catholic; and even admitting his statement to be true, I fail to see why Mr. D'Monte, being himself then on the spot, should not have taken advantage of their skill on behalf of Government and conducted the manufacture under his own superintendence, instead of making over the whole of the manufacture to a set of adventurers.

No. 3.

Vide his letter of the 16th December 1863.

8. Further, with reference to the cost at which this manufacture at Vedarniem has been carried out, there is the strongest ground for believing that the profits of the manufacture have *not* been less than Rupess 3-10-0 per garce, and probably much more. I enclose a translation of an Arzi* from the Salt Superintendent at Adrampatam, the most experienced and efficient servant in the Salt Department, on this subject. It will be observed that the calculations have been made after allowing the highest rates for hire; but the Board having allowed the full rate of Kudivaram, I would not have deemed it necessary to allude to the subject had it not been that this manufacture has been carried on to the detriment of the out-turn in the District generally, and more especially at Adrampatam, and also to show that while the production of an inferior article has been the result, the difficulties and expenses attendant thereon have not been so great as have been represented. In making this statement, I beg to add that I have come to this conclusion not only from the report of the Peshcar but from inquiries made by myself from parties residing on the spot; and indeed the very nature of the soil and locality is such that manufacture as understood and carried on elsewhere may be deemed altogether unnecessary.

* Dated 28th October 1863, No. 4.

9. Another irregularity which has been brought to light, and which there is too much reason to believe has been systematically carried on, is the storing in the heaps of a much larger quantity of Salt than is allowed; this, as the Board are aware, is frequently done ostensibly with a view to guard the Government against loss by wastage, but in practice it is well known to afford a wide door for corruption and fraud; and that this has prevailed to an enormous extent during the past season at Vedarniem, there can be no reasonable doubt.

10. I beg to enclose a Statement (A) of the quantity found in several heaps, the examination of which was directed by me to be made by Mr. Hope, Assistant Collector, and Deputy Collector Ramachendra Row; the immediate cause of this examination was that a large loss was reported to have occurred in the gale of the 19th October, and I was desirous of having the same tested by a responsible officer. I took the opportunity at the same time of having the examination made of some of the uninjured heaps, and the result is as shown in the statement above adverted to. The storage of this Salt, it will be observed, took place under the immediate eye of the Deputy Collector, and if the result be what has been proved to be now the case in the heaps which remain unsold, it is easy to conceive what must have been the case in those heaps which were sold (without being measured), and in some cases almost as soon as the heap was laid. That these heaps must have contained a considerable excess put in them with a view to defraud, is an inference which must be naturally drawn from the fact that in violation of the rule (and which has always been strictly enforced in this District) heaps of new Salt have been sold both at Vedarniem and Negapatam while a large quantity of old Salt remained in store. This will be clearly seen from the Statement (B) herewith submitted.

11. Here it may be observed, that the Deputy Collector in his letter of the 20th December 1862, to the late Acting Collector Mr. Morris, distinctly states with reference to the sale of Salt at Adrampatam then under consideration, that "should we encourage the sale of the *new* our old "Salt at Sendalai will become a dead stock," and further admits "that my predecessors have "never permitted the sale of the new Salt in one Division where there was old Salt in the adjoining "Depots or Divisions; and indeed the concession made by you to the traders of Salt in this respect "must be considered a boon"; notwithstanding this it has been already shown that not only has new Salt been sold to a considerable extent while the old was on hand, but from the Statement C, also herewith submitted, it will further be seen that the sale of new Salt has not been open to all parties, but has been confined to a certain set of merchants who, on the pretext of being traders by the Railway and as such entitled to greater consideration and encouragement, have had the exclusive privilege of purchasing new heaps, and thus had the monopoly of the wholesale trade both at Negapatam and Vedarniem. Excepting these parties all others were compelled to take the old Salt.

No. 5.

12. With reference to the sale of new Salt while the old was on hand, it is however right I should inform the Board that, to a certain and very limited extent, a concession on this point was made by Mr. Morris. In his letters of the 15th and 17th May 1862, Nos. 419 and 430 (copies of which are enclosed), Mr. Morris authorized the sale of new Salt at Negapatam to two merchants only, provided they took an equal quantity of the old Salt, and provided also that such sale was not prejudicial to the sale of old Salt and that the new Salt was not to be sold within the District. This authority was not extended till the 2nd February 1863, when again, on the recommendation of the Deputy Collector, Mr. Morris sanctioned the division of all the new Salt on hand among the four Firms at Negapatam still, however, upon the conditions above specified; but as is shown in Statement B, already referred to, the greater portion of the new Salt was sold previous to that date to several other parties and without any conditions whatever. Mr. D'Monte has, in his Memorandum of the 11th instant, endeavoured to explain why he thus acted; but I confess his explanation is to me perfectly unintelligible.

Nos. 6 and 7.

13. But further, and with reference to the manner in which the sales of Salt have been conducted by the Deputy Collector, there are the strongest grounds for believing that the Salt thus sold wholesale, and to favorite parties, has been in many instances re-sold retail by these very

That this was done with Mr. D'Monte's knowledge is shown by his orders to the Peshcar of Negapatam of the 27th August 1862 and 20th March 1863 in which he ostensibly forbids the practice

parties on the Government stores; for what is left out of these sales (after deducting the quantity sold nominally for sale out of the District) could not possibly have been sufficient to meet local wants, and this more particularly as at this time (and as will be noticed hereafter) all the important Depots in the Adrampatam Division were closed.

D.

From the enclosed statement, marked D, it will be seen that out of the 500 garces sold at Vedarniem, during the 12 months from November 1862 to October 1863, only one and a half garce have been sold on retail in November 1862; and that in the remaining eleven months the retail sales were altogether blank. Taking the above two statements together it appears to me that this is simply an impossibility, and that there are the strongest grounds for inferring that almost the whole of the 210 garces bought by Messrs. Oliver and Co. and the other two or three favored Firms for "Local Trade" was by them sold retail on the Government stores, and that the loss thus sustained by Government is little short of 6,000 Rupees.

14. That this is however not only a matter of conjecture, and that the practice in question was not confined to the Vedarniem station, is, I submit, further shown by the fact that P. Venkatesa Chetty (before alluded to) having obtained an endorsement from the Deputy Collector to take certain heaps wholesale from the Adrampatam platforms, asked permission of the Peshcar to retail the same on the Government platform. This the Peshcar refused to permit, and addressed* the Deputy Collector on the subject, who in reply passed an order that the Government had no concern in the matter. The Peshcar however having still demurred to carry out this tacit permission to the prejudice of the interests of Government, the merchant proceeded again to the Deputy Collector, who came in person to the place, and verbally directed that the request of the merchant should be complied with. The Deputy Collector further with his own hand altered the place for which the Salt taken wholesale was intended from Pattukottai to Adrampatam.

* A translation of the Peshcar's Arzi and of Mr. D'Monte's Endorsement thereon is forwarded.

15. Further, and as affording another very strong presumption that these wholesale sales were allowed to be converted into retail sales, I may mention, that hitherto the practice has been to require the removal of the entire heap within a day or two; in opposition however to this practice, the Deputy Collector not only laid down the period of one month for the removal of a heap, but, in practice, parties have been allowed to remove the Salt as they please. As an instance I may state that in a letter lately sent me by Mr. Kohlhoff, a European merchant of Tanjore, that gentleman frankly admits that in a heap purchased by him wholesale in the month of May 1863, three garces were still remaining, and in another purchased at Negapatam on the 30th October last, three-quarters of a garce is still remaining on the platform.

16. Again, another very suspicious feature in connection with these wholesales is, that in practice the Peshcars have not been allowed to sell full heaps on their own authority, but that the merchants, in the first instance, had to apply to the Deputy Collector. This is denied by Mr. D'Monte; but, as an instance in point, I may mention that during Mr. D'Monte's absence on leave, a merchant came to this office to ask permission to take a full heap, and when told that no such permission was necessary, or required, provided he complied with existing rules, he could scarcely believe what was told him. That permission was also actually sought and obtained in person from the Deputy Collector is also proved by a number of documents now before me, and in which applications for particular heaps and on particular platforms are made and granted. In some of these cases the endorsement on the application repeats the numbers so applied for; and besides these cases (34 in number and which now form a matter of record) entries have in some instances been made in the account of sales that such and such heaps were given on the verbal order of the Deputy Collector; in further corroboration of this being the case, I may state that in an Arzi written by the Peshcar of Adrampatam in December 1862, he apologizes to the Deputy

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Collector for having sold a heap wholesale without his previous orders, and the Deputy Collector in his order on this Arzi expresses his astonishment at the Peshkar's conduct, and forbids him in future to sell wholesale to any one without his previous sanction *excepting to Mr. Kohlhoff*.

17. Translations of the 34 documents alluded to in the preceding paragraph, as also of the Arzi of the Peshkar and the order of the Deputy Collector thereon, are forwarded for the information of the Board.

18. Besides these advantages and unfair concessions which have been made to the few favored parties at Negapatam and Vedarniem, the Deputy Collector on the pretext of clearing the stock of Salt at Sendalai, a station then proposed to be abolished, induced Mr. Morris to stop the sales in the Adrampatam and Arasanagheri Divisions from March to July 1863, all sales in the former and all wholesales in the latter having been forbidden during this period. It is true that this order was issued by my predecessor; but I submit that it was a mistake, and that the order having been issued at the instance and on the representations of the Deputy Collector, the responsible Head of the Department, that officer cannot be wholly exonerated.

19. I have already in a former paragraph alluded to the wilful and positive neglect shown in carrying on the manufacture in the Adrampatam Division; and I may here mention the facts of a case which also occurred at this station, and which seem to me not a little suspicious.

20. A complaint was lodged before me by certain of the Salt Mirasidars of Adrampatam protesting against the grant of 500 pans to one Shek Tambi Marakayan, as contemplated by the Deputy Collector, in violation of their own rights thereto, and a Yadast was accordingly sent to the Deputy Collector with the complaint, requesting that he would forward a report on the subject. The Deputy Collector, in his reply, stated that he had arranged for compensating the Mirasidars at Sendalai, who had suffered by the abolishment of the pans at that station, and it was only in the event of the Mirasidars at Sendalai not taking up these pans at Adrampatam, that the complainants before me could be allowed to have them. It was then pointed out to the Deputy Collector, that if the complainants had a right to the lands claimed by them, they could not be legally given to others, and Mr. D'Monte was requested to forward a more distinct and intelligible answer. In reply to this the Deputy Collector wrote an English letter giving cover to certain Court decrees which were presumed to establish the validity of the claim of Shek Tambi Marakayan, adding however "I await your orders on the subject."

21. Thus stood the matter, and the claims of the contending parties, as also the interests of a third party, viz., those of the Chuttrum at Raja Muttum (to whom the village belongs), were still under consideration when the Deputy Collector, on the eve of his departure for Calcutta on the 29th September last, issued an order in favor of his protege Shek Tambi Marakayan for 500 pans.

22. On the irregularity and impropriety of this proceeding I will offer no comment; but I must state that not only had the Decree of the Court alluded to no reference whatever to the land in question, but that the party in whose behalf the Deputy Collector had so warmly interested himself had not the smallest right to any compensation, but that a brother of his had the small number of 54 pans at Sendalai.

23. Another irregularity which has been systematically carried on is that the Mirasidars have been made to deliver Salt in heaped measures, while the standing orders are directly opposed to this; this is not denied by Mr. D'Monte, and the excuse is of course to guard against wastage.

24. There is one other matter to which also I think it my duty to call the attention of the Board, and that is, the frequency of the complaints which have been made (and some of which have been forwarded by the Board) of the trafficking in, and sale of, the minor appointments in the department. Of course I have no direct evidence to offer on this point; but the matter is one so very generally rumoured and believed in, that it is difficult to conceive there is not some founda-

tion for the rumour. As affording some ground at least for such rumour being true, I beg to enclose a list (E) of the appointments and removals which have been made in the Salt Department since March, having in view the impending re-organization of establishments. No reason what ever appears on record for the necessity of these changes; and from the number of complaint which have been made to me on the subject, I cannot bring myself to believe that the changes were made for the benefit of the Public Service.

25. Such are some of the irregularities which have come to light in connection with the administration of the Salt Department by Mr. D'Monte; and while I am free to admit that all of them are not capable of being proved by direct evidence, I conceive that, taken together as a whole, they afford a very strong presumption that Mr. D'Monte is not the person to be entrusted with so much responsibility. In the matter of the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem, I think, however, that Mr. D'Monte has evinced not only an utter disregard of the interests of Government, but I have no hesitation in stating my own conviction that it is to his intrigues with the merchants and dealers at Negapatam that the really superior spontaneous Salt of Negapatam has been so unjustly and untruly depreciated. From the communications I have had with Mr. D'Monte himself on this subject, I have always found him most unwilling to endeavour to make any efforts in removing this prejudice; and, on the contrary, when the Board authorized my bringing up Salt from Vedarniem to supply the expected deficiency at Negapatam, Mr. D'Monte threw every possible difficulty in the way, and so much so, that I was obliged to put the matter into the hands of Mr. Hutchins. Instead of doing all he could to carry out the orders of the Board, he showed an utter disinclination to afford any assistance, and continued to make useless and unnecessary references to this office. I enclose, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter I sent to Mr. D'Monte on this subject on the 8th September last, and would only add that though the Deputy Collector did not leave the District till the 2nd October, no notice was taken of the orders sent to him, or has any report ever been made to this day on the subject.

P. S.—I beg to enclose copies of the correspondence which has passed between Mr. D'Monte and myself regarding the matter contained in this report. Mr. D'Monte's answers are forwarded in original, and where necessary I have added a few hand notes to avoid swelling the bulk of the record. A list of the statements and translations sent is also herewith submitted.

From the same Officer, dated 19th January 1864, No. 5.

In continuation of my letter of yesterday's date, I beg herewith to forward the original thirty-four documents therein alluded to, together with translations thereof. The particular attention of the Board is requested to No. 25, by which it is shown beyond all question that the retail of Salt sold wholesale on the Government platforms has been systematically known and connived at by Mr. D'Monte.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 34.—Documents.

From the same Officer, dated 17th March 1864, No. 79.

1. With reference to the correspondence marginally noted, I have now the honor to submit the further report therein adverted to in the case of Mr. D'Monte, Deputy Collector, lately in charge of the Salt Department in this District.

From Board	21st December 1863.	
To Do.	24th do.	
From Do.	28th do.	
To Do.	18th January.	
To Do.	10th February.	
From Do.	13th do.	

2. On the 5th of February Srinivasa Mudali, lately a Moniagar and now transferred as a Shroff in the new Salt Establishment, appeared before me and produced the document A herewith submitted, and regarding which he gave the Statement marked No. I. In this he (Srinivasa Mudali) asserts that the document was given to him by Mr. D'Monte at the place and on the date it bears, in re-payment of certain sums which had been originally given by him or received through him on behalf of Mr. D'Monte, but which it appears the givers insisted on having re-paid.

Witness I.

The particulars of the sum of Rupees 410 (the amount for which the receipt was given) he further states to be as follows:—

	RS.	
Money given by Peon Tadi Virasami Naick, to ensure being re-appointed in the new establishment...	25	Returned to the parties.
Do. do. by Peon Parimana Naick, for a like purpose.	15	
Do. do. by Peon Ramasami Naick, for do.	30	21 Rupees has been paid back.
Do. do. by Peon Fatwa Ramasami, for do.	20	Not yet paid back.
Do. do. by Peon Govinden.....	20	Advanced by Srinivasa Mudali on Ragava Aiyangar's order.
Do. do. by Peon Ramasami Naick and Sabulita Naick, brothers.....	60	Out of this, Rupees 47 were paid by the parties, and Ragava Aiyangar made up the rest, Rupees 13.
Money obtained from Pichu Sastri of Vedarniem on two occasions.....	40 100	Private loans to be re-paid by Srinivasa Mudali.
Money received from Sitapathi Aiyan for his situation.....	70	Still to be re-paid.
Money received from Gurusami Aiyan for do.	50	Of this sum Rupees 35 was given, Rupees 15 in cash and three gold rings valued at Rupees 20. The remaining Rupees 15 was paid by Srinivasa Mudali himself.
Total...	430	

Of this the sum of Rupees 20 was remitted and the document A given for the remaining sum Rupees 410.

3. From the statement of Chitambara Pillai No. 2, and who is an ex-Moniagar of the Salt Department, it will be seen that he states he was not present when the document A was written, but saw it given to Srinivasa Mudali on the personal order of Mr. D'Monte by his Clerk Ramasami Pillai. This witness also distinctly states that Srinivasa Mudali (1st witness) then told him that the Deputy Collector had obtained money through him, and that it was for the re-payment of this that the document A was given. The document was to the effect that he (Mr. D'Monte) had received Rupees 410 from a Nottukottai Merchant named Alagappa Chetty.

Witness Chitambara Pillai, No. 2.

4. Statement No. 3 is that of the Deputy Collector's Clerk, Ramasami Pillai; he identifies the document as in Mr. D'Monte's handwriting, and states that it was shown to him by Mr. D'Monte himself; that Mr. D'Monte said at the time, it was given in order to get money to bring his family back from Bengal; he adds, however, that no money was given at the time, and that the party in whose name the receipt was given was *not* present.

3rd witness Ramasami Pillai.

5. The Head Clerk of the Deputy Collector's Office was next examined; he states the document A to be in the Deputy Collector's handwriting, but denies any knowledge of its contents or why it was given.

Statement No. 4.

6. The inquiry had proceeded thus far when I deemed it my duty to call upon Mr. D'Monte for any explanation or remark he might wish to make regarding the document. This he gave in the statement marked B, herewith submitted, and from which it will be seen that Mr. D'Monte admits the execution of the document, and states that it was given to his servant Muniandi to take to his agent Samu Pillai of Papakovil near Negapatam, and who was in the habit of lending him money. Mr. D'Monte was also asked to hear the statement regarding the document given by the

1st witness, but after hearing a small part of it he expressed a wish not to have it further read. I may here observe that it is not a little remarkable why if, as is stated by Mr. D'Monte, the money was to have been given by Samu Pillai, the receipt should be drawn out in the name of Alagappa Chetty, and with whom, it will be observed from Mr. D'Monte's further explanation (dated the 11th February and marked C), he was altogether unacquainted. In this latter statement Mr. D'Monte attempts to explain that the money was to have been procured from the Nattukottai Chetty by his agent Samu Pillai; but this is altogether irreconcileable with the former statement, especially when (as will be seen hereafter) his agent also was a stranger to Alagappa Chetti; it would appear therefore to have been an afterthought.

7. Further, I may also mention that previous to Mr. D'Monte being called on for an explanation, he had written to me stating that the document A had been accidentally lost by his servant, and, hearing that it had come into my possession, he requested me to return it. To this I replied that the document having been produced in an inquiry then pending before me, I was unable to comply with his request; with regard to this document it will also not fail to be observed that it was drawn out and signed at a place and time when neither Mr. D'Monte's alleged agent Samu Pillai, or the Nattukottai Chetti whose name was made use of, were present.

8. On the 11th February I myself proceeded to Negapatam, and on the same day sent for Samu Pillai (and his statement is also submitted, No. 7). From this it will be seen that this agent asserts that Mr. D'Monte had never asked him for so large a sum as Rupees 400, and that he was not even acquainted with Alagappa Chetty, the party in whose name the receipt was made out.

9. I then sent for the Nattukottai Chetty Alagappa Chetty, but I had great difficulty in procuring his attendance. As the Board are aware the merchants of this class bear a high reputation for integrity in their dealings, and they have a particular dislike to appear in our Courts. Alagappa Chetty however did appear on the 20th February, and gave the statement marked 16. It will be seen from this that he states he has no acquaintance whatever either with Mr. D'Monte, or his agent Samu Pillai, nor has he had any pecuniary dealings with either; he states, however, that he is well acquainted with Srinivasa Mudali, 1st witness, and had particular friendship with him.

10. From what has been above stated, it will be seen—

First.—That the document A was given by Mr. D'Monte, without any consideration being received, to a party who was *not* present, and to whom Mr. D'Monte was totally unknown.

Second.—That the statement made by Mr. D'Monte was that the money specified in the receipt was to have been obtained by his agent (Samu Pillai) from Alagappa Chetty is false, inasmuch as the former altogether denies that he had any knowledge of, or had any dealings with, the latter.

Third.—That the reason assigned for Mr. D'Monte requiring this money, viz., to bring his family from Bengal, is also false, Mr. D'Monte having himself applied for leave to proceed thither.

Fourth.—That the document having been given to a party known to, and an intimate friend of, the 1st witness Srinivasa Mudali, affords a strong presumption that the statement of that party is true.

11. With a view, however, further to ascertain the amount of credibility to be attached to the statement of Srinivasa Mudali, I examined the whole of the parties named by him, and I now proceed shortly to review the statements of each.

12. The party first named, Tadi Virasami Naick (a Peon), denies having given Rupees 25 in order to his being retained on the new establishment, but admits that he had money dealings with 1st witness, and that he (witness) had sent to 1st witness about Rupees 40 on different occasions; he further states that he has received this all back, and on one occasion 25 Rupees.

8th witness.

I may add that this witness gave his evidence with the greatest possible reluctance; he admits that he only knew Srinivasa Mudali for six months, and could not explain why he, a Peon on Rupees 3-8-0 monthly, should be in a position to lend so large a sum to the officer under whom he was serving, and who drew Rupees 10-8-0 per mensem.

13. Rungasami Naick, also a Peon on the Salt Establishment, likewise denied having paid anything for his appointment; but he admits that he also lent Rupees 30 to Srinivassa Mudali (1st witness) of which he has received back only Rupees 21, and that Rupees 9 are still due to him. These figures tally exactly with those given in the statement of Srinivasa Mudali; and, as remarked in the case of the last witness, this witness being in a position to lend money is not a little remarkable.

9th witness.

14. The next witness Pichu Sastri (or Ramaiyan as he *was* generally termed for he is now dead) denies having lent the sums of Rupees 100 and 40 as he is stated to have done by the 1st witness, but admits that the latter borrowed from him, on account of Mr. D'Monte, the sum of Rupees 250, and which is still owing; with reference to this witness it is to be observed that he was the purchaser of a large heap of salt, said to contain 75 garces stored by Mr. D'Monte (but which it is supposed contained a great deal of excess); to make up however the full amount of discount then allowed, as it were on 8 ordinarily sized heaps of 10 garces each, 5 garces were given from another heap. This transaction is believed to have been a most lucrative one, and the witness frankly admitted that he was retailing the Salt on the platforms for about three months.

10th witness.

15. Peon Parannana Naik was next examined; he at once admitted that he had given Rupees 15 to secure his appointment, and states that the money was paid into the hands of the 1st witness, and that he has received the money back. He adds that he heard of the witness Rungasami Naik and Virasami Naik having paid respectively Rupees 30 and 25 for the same purpose.

11th witness.

8th and 9th witnesses.

16. Another Peon, by name Jatwa Ramasami Naik, also admits having given Rupees 20 to 1st witness for the purpose of being given to Mr. D'Monte, and states that he has not yet received it back. He adds that he was actually dismissed, but on payment of the money immediately re-instated.

12th witness.

17. The 13th and 14th witnesses, also Peons and brothers, depose to the fact of the former having paid the sum of Rupees 47 for Mr. D'Monte into the hands of the 1st witness and in order to secure their situations. The 13th witness states all the circumstances at some length, and being as it were a witness against himself, I see no reason to doubt the accuracy of his statement. There is however a discrepancy between the amount stated by him not to have been paid and the payment of which was guaranteed by Ragava Aiyangar the 13th witness stating that the sum was 3 Rupees, while the 1st witness states it was THIRTEEN Rupees.

13th and 14th witnesses.

18. The 15th witness Govindapa Naik, also a Peon, admits having given Rupees 20 for the purpose of getting re-appointed; the money was advanced by the 1st witness who gave it to Mr. D'Monte. Witness had been dismissed, but immediately on paying the money was restored and appointed to Negapatam.

15th witness.

19. The 16th witness Kurnum Setapathi Aiyan admits having given no less than 70 Rupees for securing this appointment; the money was paid into Srinivasa Mudali's hand, who gave it to the Deputy Collector; this witness adds that he heard many others had given money for the same purpose.

16th witness.

20. The last party named in the statement of the 1st witness admits also having consented to give Rupees 50 for his appointment, and having given Rupees 15 in cash, and three gold rings valued at Rupees 30, both were given into the hands of Srinivasa Mudali, 1st witness, for the purpose of being given to Mr. D'Monte. It is observed that in the statement of the 1st witness the value of the three rings is stated to be Rupees 20 only.

17th witness.

21. On a careful consideration of all these statements I think it impossible to believe but they are to a large extent true. With regard to the degree of credibility to be assigned to the evidence, of the 1st witness, there can be no question but that he himself was deeply implicated in these transactions, and that in fact he was the chief agent employed by Mr. D'Monte in carrying on these exactions; his motives therefore in now coming forward as it were to be the chief accuser of Mr. D'Monte, must be viewed with suspicion; and yet I am inclined to think that what he states regarding this is true. Since the enquiries were commenced by me, to be made into the state of the Salt Department, it is a matter of notoriety that large sums which had been given to officials in the Department have been paid back, and the 1st witness states that it was owing to his inability to meet the clamorous demands made on him for re-payment that he has been induced to come forward and make these disclosures. It is also to be remembered that he as well as the other parties who have admitted that they gave bribes have nothing whatever to gain by their admission, and that, on the contrary, they have only been recording evidence against themselves; and taking all these things into consideration, together with the rumours which have reached me from to time, and which have been alluded to in my former report, I can come to no other conclusion but that the Salt Department under its late head has become thoroughly corrupt.

22. I come now however to another matter. When at Tranquebar about the end of February a merchant, Srinivasa Pillay, who stated himself to be a partner in the Firm trading under the name of P. Venkatesa Chetty and Co., and whose name the Board will see frequently in the statement submitted with my former report as purchasers of NEW Salt appeared before me and stated that he could obtain no settlement of accounts with the said P. Venkatesa Chetty, the managing member of the Company, because the latter insisted that a deduction should be made of Rupees 2,500 from the profits on account of payments made to Mr. D'Monte. He also stated that the books of the Firm were deposited with one Ramachendra Chetty who would produce them if required. I accordingly summoned that party and directed the books of the Firm to be brought at the same time; the other members of the Firm were also cited to appear.

18th witness.

23. The books were accordingly produced before me on the 4th March by Saminatha Mudali, the Gumastah of the Ramachendra Chetty alluded to in the preceding paragraph. His deposition, as also those of the three partners of the Firm, are also enclosed for the information of the Board. I also beg to enclose an extract, marked D, taken from the books of the Company and containing as will be seen a Debtor and Creditor account between Mr. D'Monte and the Salt Company, the balance however being against the Deputy Collector.

19th, 20th, and 21st witnesses.

24. With regard to these books, as produced before me, I must however state that a number of the pages (and which were consecutively numbered in print) had been torn out, and I am inclined to think therefore that the statement, as now made out, does not contain the real transactions between the Deputy Collector and the Salt Company, and that the accounts have been tampered with. I am strengthened in this belief by circumstances which have lately come to my knowledge, and which go far to show that evidence has been made away with, and had I not hoped to have been able to produce further evidence regarding P. Venkatesa Chetty and Co.'s dealings, this report would have been submitted at least ten days earlier.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th May 1864.

25. But whether the statement now submitted contain all the transactions between Mr. D'Monte and the Salt Company there can be but one opinion, that the very existence of such dealings is a gross impropriety; and under all the circumstances which have now been brought to light, I deem it my duty to recommend that Mr. D'Monte should be dismissed from the office of Deputy Collector in the Salt Department in this District.

26. I have to apologize for the delay which has taken place in the submission of this report, and which has been caused partly on account of my being led to believe that further evidence was procurable, and partly also by the amount of additional work thrown on myself, by the absence successively of the Deputy Collector Salt Department, the Acting Sub-Collector, and latterly of the Acting Head Assistant Collector.

From the Deputy Collector, Salt Department, Tanjore, dated Vellum, 15th January 1864.

1. I have the honor to forward an original Arzi, dated 10th ultimo, received from the Monigar of Vedarniem, stating that M. Ramachendra Row, the Deputy Collector who was deputed by the Collector to examine the Salt heaps there, has, notwithstanding the verbal protestations of the Monigar and Peishcar, and after intimidating the measurers, directed them to conduct the measurement in altogether a different manner from the mode observed here, according to rules.

2. In my reply dated 8th December last, to a set of questions put by my Collector, in which excess in heaps was a subject of reference, I stated "that it depends upon the method pursued in "examining heaps, and none but experienced men could check imposition, &c."

3. As the Collector, I regret to say, had not adopted any measures for testing the said heaps, as they should have been after receiving my report, nor was I directed to proceed to Vedarniem to see to the manner in which the measurement was and should have been conducted, I deem it my duty to lay the Arzi before the Board, with the prayer that it may be considered along with my representation which may come before the Board from my Collector on the subject of storage of Salt.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Arzi.

From the same Officer, dated Vellum, 18th January 1864.

1. Having been given to understand that the Collector has submitted to the Board a report which may tend to affect my private and public interests, and perhaps lower me in the estimation of the Board, I think it right to forward the accompanying papers and representation to the Honorable Board, and to beg that they will be pleased to peruse them. These are papers not now obtained, but received from time to time from my superiors and the Tanjore public, as to the manner I had watched over the interests of Government, and which I had referred to in the 9th paragraph of my reply to the Collector dated 11th January 1864.

2. I should have forwarded these papers through my Collector; but as the report I hear has been already forwarded, I have deemed it proper to send them up direct to the Board.

3. I respectfully beg that these documents may be returned when no longer required.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 14.—Papers and Representations.

From the Deputy Collector of Salt Department, dated Tanjore, 10th February 1864.

1. As directed by the Board in their Telegram to the Collector, under date the 3rd instant, I have the honor to submit my remarks on the several charges and imputations which that officer has made against me in his report to the Board, dated the 18th ultimo.

2. A copy of this report was furnished me only at 4 P. M. on the 2nd, and the Board's Telegram was communicated at 11 A. M. on the 3rd. The report alone having been sent to me,

without its enclosures, of which many seem to be documents material to the points at issue, I instantly applied to the Collector for copies of the latter; of these he sent me only two Arzis, and has positively refused me copies or even access to the others. These however, though material documents, I must try to do without. In order to facilitate reference, and to secure brevity, I annex my remarks seriatim and in juxtaposition with the Collector's charges against me.

2. As I have already stated in my letter of the 24th December the Salt Department has been for some time past reported to be in a very unsatisfactory state, and when it came under my own immediate charge, during Mr. D'Monte's leave of absence, I deemed it my duty to make some inquiries into the truth of the reports which were constantly reaching me from various quarters from Europeans as well as from natives. In prosecuting these inquiries much difficulty has been experienced, owing in some instances to the entire absence of any records, and in others to the fact of the little that is on record being as obscure and unintelligible as possible. From what I am now about to submit, I however venture to think the Board will agree with me in considering that the interests of the public service imperatively require that some change should be made in the responsible Head of that Department.

This is the first time I ever knew that the Collector was under the impression that the Salt Department was in a very unsatisfactory state. If any such report had been made to him I would respectfully ask the Honorable Board whether it was not necessary on the part of that officer to have noticed it to me, and to have directed my attention (either by communication or in person) to any irregularities which may have come to his notice, when I had (after Mr. Cadell's return to the District) waited upon him no less than six times in four months for reporting to him and obtaining his views and orders on subjects connected with the Salt Department. It was at one of these interviews that Mr. Cadell distinctly expressed his displeasure at the creation of pans at Vedarniem, and questioned me, "Why the Vedarniem Allum was created?" "Why it was not done in his time?" that he would see it abolished, or words to that effect.

Of whom the inquiries referred to by the Collector were made, and what records and papers were found wanting or obscure, are not known to me; they have neither been described to the Board in the Collector's report, nor was I called upon to explain any irregularities in them. With regard to this point I will only be too glad if my records are viewed by the Board.

The charge indirectly imputed to me in this paragraph would appear to be remissness of duty in having neglected the manufacture of Salt, a charge which, throughout my long and hard earned service in two Presidencies, has the first time been imputed to me. In refutation of this charge it will, I trust, be sufficient for me to refer the Honorable Board to the monthly Registers of Rain-fall at the several Salt stations for 1863, which may have been furnished by the Collector. Had I access to my records I would myself send a tabular report. These Rain Reports will speak for themselves, and from them it will be seen that in Adrampatam (the only division dwelled on by the Collector) the season has been, as the Collector admits, peculiarly unfavorable for the manufacture of Salt. It is true that the Collector had written to me two letters regarding the state of manufacture in that division; but what could have been done more than I did, I cannot discern. On the receipt of those letters, and even before that, I sent very stringent orders to the Peshkar, and more than twice repaired to Adrampatam and up to Aranagherry myself, and personally inspected and used every exertion in my power, and from several places of my encampment even wrote (about the weather on 9th, 17th, and 23rd July 1863) to the Collector. But while operations were in progress, a slight fall of rain used to undo all our exertions, falling, as it did, almost every week during the working season, as will be seen from the Rain Reports above referred to. The Adrampatam pans are situated in a level little lower than those of the two adjoining stations which the Collector refers to; a slight fall of rain at that station therefore not only affects the elements but prevents the formation of Salt more particularly there than anywhere further south; but at Vedarniem (the salt producing capabilities of which are far superior to those of Adrampatam or any other station in the District as the earth there is impregnated with layers of salt under ground) a slight brisk shower is not only soon absorbed but tends to improve the produce. Independent even of this fact, I would respectfully beg to ask whether the distance of 50 and 60 miles will not make a material difference in the phenomena of weather; when it is a matter of no uncommon occurrence that while rain falls, and that heavily, in one village, a hamlet situated not further than a few miles from it does not obtain a similar boon. I refer to this fact merely because, in paragraph 4 of his report, the Collector expresses in terms of astonishment, that "it is simply an impossibility that, "at two adjoining stations within a distance of "30 miles, the season should have been so "totally different" by "the adjoining stations," the Collector means no doubt Vedarniem and Arasanaghari. These however are not thirty miles distance, as stated by him, but 45 and 58 miles respectively. I therefore leave it for the consideration of the Honorable Board whether this distance is not suffi-

3. I would, in the first place, call the attention of the Board to the unsatisfactory outturn of Salt during the past season. It is, of course, admitted that the season was peculiarly unfavorable to the manufacture, and yet it will be seen from the annexed statement, that while operations have been carried out most vigorously at one station, in the very next one, and that the most important of all our stations, and containing no less than 7,370 pans, the manufacture has been next to nothing:—

		Garces.
Nadavasal	...	339
Negapatam	...	639
Vedarniem	...	791 Manufacture. 422 Spontaneous.
Adrampatam	...	33
Arasanaghari	...	434

4. Thus, it appears, that at Vedarniem, when the manufacture of Salt at the full rates of Vedarniem has been carried on for the first time, and when the pans had to be newly made for the purpose, the out-turn for the season of manufactured Salt only has been nearly 800 garces; or about 23 times more than the quantity made at Adrampatam, the next adjoining and the station which possesses the greatest capabilities of turning out a very large quantity. On my return to the District in the beginning of June last, my attention was at once drawn to the deficiency of the manufacture at the station; and I repeatedly urged upon Mr. D'Monte the necessity for increased exertion with a view to renewing up our stock. Copies, &c., of these letters (4th August and 8th September) are forwarded for the information of the Board, and I must add that no notice whatever was taken of them further than sending a register of the state of the season. This excuse however, I submit, cannot for a moment hold good, for it is simply an impossibility that, at two adjoining stations within a distance of thirty miles, the season should have been so totally different as to admit of the manufacture being carried on vigorously at one, and of its being almost at a stand still in the other.

1853	640
1854	3,289
1855	2,799
1856	1,079
1857	2,243
1858	1,757
1859	109
1860	4,369
1861	680
1862	2,073

Besides, from the statement shown in the margin, it will be seen that during the past ten years, comprising some of the worst seasons known, the lowest quantity ever manufactured at Adrampatam was one hundred and nine garces.

His two original Arzis to my Takeeds were forwarded with my letter to Collector No. 77, dated 16th September 1863 (not returned), or their translations would have been furnished.

Adrampatam to Moottoopettah	...	7
Moottoopettah to Tritorapoondi	...	26
Tritorapoondi to Vedarniem	...	25
		58

Adrampatam to Sundalie	15
Sundalie to Ayapettam	15
Ayapettam to Arasanaghari	15
	45

cient to make a difference in the fall of rain, and whether, under these circumstances, the backward state of manufacture at Adrampatam can be attributed to any carelessness or indifference on my part. Mr. Cadell's own letter in my favor to the Board, as also Mr. Morris's will bear me out in stating that, since I had the honor of being specially appointed by Government to the important charge which I now hold, I had evinced every exertion which was necessary to secure and promote the interests of Government, to which fact the increase in the Salt revenue itself will bear ample testimony. It may perhaps be in the recollection of the Board that when I first joined the Distict in 1859, the revenue derived from Salt in Tanjore ranged between 5 and 6 lacs of Rupees, and that it has now increased to 12 lacs though our sales are now confined only to Trichinopoly and Tanjore ; Salem and Coimbatore being supplied from Madras.

5. The reason however for this, and as will be abundantly shown in the sequel, was that the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem was found to be more profitable, and that the coolies who usually cultivate Salt at Adrampatam were enticed away to Vedarniem on the promise of high wages.

The Board are aware that the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem was sanctioned only as an experimental measure ; owing to this, and also to the uncertainty of the measure being permanently sanctioned, the Mirasidars, &c., were very unwilling to undertake the task at that place. To reconcile them to it and to get foreign coolies to go and work in Salt pits on wages less than what they get in the Department Public Works and Railway, were to me a work of no little trouble ; however, Mr. Morris at my suggestion recommended the prevailing rate of Rupees 10 and Annas 10 of Kudivaram as an experiment, and this was the only means by which we could have got coolies to go and work there.

Regarding the taking away of coolies from Adrampatam, I beg to state that it was indispensably necessary to take to Vedarniem some experienced men from other stations. For this purpose a few were taken from each Division (see margin), and only five coolies were taken from Adrampatam (because there was no manufacture), where from a large number of 530* coolies, the withdrawal of five, I submit, cannot in any degree affect the progress of manufacture in that Division.

From Negapatam	3
„ Adrampatam	5
„ Sendala	4

Tumbeks	170	530*
Taneren	130	
Maglen	80	
Adrampatam	150	

6. To come however more particularly to the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem, the Board will remember that the sanction to manufacture Salt at this station, and at the full rates of Kudiwarum, was conceded after some objections and in the full hope and expectation that an article very superior to even the spontaneous Salt would be produced.

11th Feb. 1863, No. 832. In their Proceedings marginally noted, the Board laid particular stress on this point ; but it is now my duty to inform them that instead of a superior articel being turned out the very contrary has been the case. I beg to enclose, in the accompanying sealed packet, a sample of the Salt as made in the first instance (1), a sample of the same as by the manufacture has been carried on (2), and (3) a sample of the spontaneous Salt of this season. From these samples the Board will be able to judge how far the experiment made has succeeded or not.

In regard to the quality of Salt manufactured at Vedarniem, I simply beg to refer the Board to the public opinion of European and Native merchants, and the report of the Tahsildars of this and the Trichinopoly Districts to whom I had sent samples, for their obtaining and pronouncing an opinion thereon, which I cannot now obtain from the Collector for transmission to the Board. I cannot say from what stock the sample which the Collector sent has been taken. To my knowledge inferior Salt was never manufactured at Vedarniem, and indeed the capabilities of the Vedarniem soil are such that it is impossible to turn out Salt of an inferior quality there. If the Salt, of which sample was sent, was inferior at all, it must have been manufactured during my absence. Even if I were present at the spot, I would respectfully ask whether on this account the whole system of manufacturing Salt at Vedarniem can be condemned? If inferior Salt had been *accepted*, are not the local officers the proper parties to blame?

7. Further as regards the way in which the manufacture has been carried out, it seems that applications for so many beds were made by any parties who chose to the Deputy Collector Salt Department, on which orders were passed by him. I enclose No. 3, a list of the parties to whom permission to cultivate was given. Who some of them are I have not been able to ascertain ; but two of them it will be observed are " P. Vencatachella Chetty," and a " Mada Covil." This Vencatachella Chetty is a Salt Merchant at Negapatam, and has, from the commencement of the trade in Salt by the Railway, done his utmost to decry the spontaneous Salt at Vedarniem. The other Mada Covil means literally Roman Catholic Church, and how pans came to be given in the name of such an institution is in itself somewhat suspicious. Mr. D'Monte endeavours to explain the term by stating that it had reference to a certain set of potters skilled in manufacture of Salt ; but I confess that the explanation seems to me far from being satisfactory. Mr. D'Monte is himself a Roman Catholic ; and even admitting his statement to be true, I fail to see why Mr. D'Monte, being himself there on the spot, should not have taken advantage of their skill on behalf

I am not aware of any restriction existing in the way of giving pans for manufacture ; my explanation to this paragraph is as follows. The orders I received were peremptory in regard to the manufacture at Vedarniem, and to accomplish the desired end, the licenses were given indiscriminately to all applicants, after of course ascertaining their capabilities, &c., for undertaking and expeditiously performing the work ; and I beg to assure the Board that it was no easy task that I had in gathering people to come forward to accept our terms, as they were universally prejudiced against making pans in that Allum, under the impression that they would be silted up as fast as they were made, and particularly when, to them, was explained, as per orders from Acting Collector, that they would have no Merassi right whatever to the land, &c. Among the applicants for pans, Vencatasela Chetty of Negapatam and some potters of Akustianpully also applied ; the latter in a body petitioned that they may be allowed 50 pans in the name of their Chapel at Vedarniem ; knowing these men to be skilled in earth-work, and that they would no doubt make superior pans (and indeed theirs are now the best worked pans in the whole Allum), I gave them the pans they applied for. Other Mirassidars (heathens) also obtained licenses in the name of their Pagodas Shewovaroyer, &c., at Akustianpully. When these applications are conceded to, and no objec-

of Government* and conducted the manufacture under his own superintendence instead of making over the whole of the manufacture to a set of adventurers.

tion taken to them, I cannot see why the application of the Roman Catholic Christians in the name of *their Church* cannot also be complied with. I confess that I am a Roman Catholic; but in the discharge of my duties towards the interests of Government I set aside all religious scruples to influence my feelings. We* (I mean the Collector and myself) did intend to do so; but looking to the expense (which we could not with any degree of certainty have calculated upon at the time) we could have done no better than leave the manufacture into the hands of these adventurers, superintended of course by the local Salt servants, Mr. Morris, and myself. The potters are only about 10 or 12 in number; is it possible that with their services I could have undertaken the manufacture of Salt over an area of 15 Valees (nearly 40 acres) of ground.

8. Further, with reference to the cost at which this manufacture at Vedarniem has been carried out, there is the strongest ground for believing that the profits of the manufacture have not been less than Rupees 3-10-0 per garce, and probably much more. I enclose a translation of an Arzi from the Salt Superintendent at Adrampatam, the most experienced and efficient servant in the Salt Department on this subject. It will be observed that the calculations have been made after allowing the highest rates for hire; but the Board having allowed the full rate of Kudivaram, I would not have deemed it necessary to allude to the subject had it not been that this manufacture has been carried on to the detriment of the out-turn in the District generally, and more especially at Adrampatam; and also to show that while the production of an inferior article has been the result, the difficulties and expenses attendant thereon have not been so great as have been represented. In making this statement I beg to add that I have come to this conclusion not only from the

†No. 4, dated 28th October 1863.

With regard to the profit of Rupees 3-10, which the Collector states the manufacturers at Vedarniem got from the Kudivaram per garce, I confess I am at a loss to know how he has arrived at this result. The account forwarded by the Officer who had been sent to Vedarniem for inquiry into these things shows an expenditure of Rupees 9-4-0, leaving a balance of Rupees 1-6-0 of this account. I beg to forward a copy (enclosure A). In this account the item of making large embankments for the protection of the pans from inundation, digging channels for bringing in sea water, and sinking wells have been omitted; these are items of expenditure which were actually incurred by the Mirassidars, being indispensably necessary for the first year of manufacture. If these items are taken into account there will be little or no profit.

†The Adrampatam Peshkar in this Arz says that he is of opinion that the saving might be Rupees 3-10-0; while I can confidently state, being an eye-witness to the works carried on at Vedarniem, that such is not the case, at least during the past season.

The same cost for works which were required for the pans last year not being required for the next, a reduction in the Kudivaram may be feasible.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th May 1864.

report of the Peshcar,‡ but from inquiries made by myself from parties residing on the spot, and indeed the very nature of the soil and locality is such that manufacture,* as understood and carried on elsewhere, may be deemed altogether unnecessary.

‡A man in his dotage, without a tooth in his mouth, who knows nothing of the Vedarniem Allum, and to obtain the favor of the Serishtadar has denounced that Allum. I beg the Board would call for and peruse the said Peshcar's report sent by him on that Allum during Mr. Morris's administration. How he can reconcile his former report with his present one I cannot say.

* When the Canal, for which the Government have been put to so much expense, shall have been finished, the theory of Mr. Ballard's proposition will then be known in practice, and whether the manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem would prove profitable or not, because the collection of spontaneous Salt is so very precarious.—*Vide* Mr. Ballard's report on Vedarniem.

9. Another irregularity which has been brought to light, and which there is much reason to believe has been systematically carried on, is the storing of the heaps of a much larger quantity of Salt than is allowed; this, as the Board are aware, is frequently done, ostensibly with a view to guard the Government against loss by wastage, but in practice it is well known to afford a wide door for corruption and fraud; and that this has prevailed to an enormous extent during the past season at Vedarniem there can be no reasonable doubt.

The excess brought to notice in this paragraph is solely owing to the method pursued in examining Salt heaps, as none but experienced men could check imposition, as Mr. Bayley rightly observes in his Memorandum on Salt, "that Salt is an article which is capable "of being greatly tampered with in measuring, "especially in large quantities (a 10 garces heap "is nearly 45 tons) a slight jerk will make the "Marcal hold an extra quantity, and a loose "pouring will make 9 garces appear 10." The practice in this District in measuring the Salt sold to every Purch (5 Marcals 6 Maws struck) should, it would appear, result to the purchaser 37 large bazaar or 74 Tanjore Puddies (measures). If the examination was thus conducted *(which I am told was not)* there is no other reason for enormous excesses resulting anywhere unless caused in Orehs, for which the Officers who have had the immediate superintendence of storing the Salt should be made accountable. In regard to the mode in which the measurement of Salt heaps examined under orders from Collector were conducted, I beg leave to enclose a translation of a Tamil Petition (Enclosure B) received by me from the Monigar of Vedarniem, and which I have already forwarded to the Board with my letter of the 15th ultimo. From this the Board will perceive what exertions are in vogue in the District (I mean among the Brahmin officials) to prejudice and injure me, the only East Indian Deputy

10. I beg to enclose a Statement of the quantity found in several heaps; the examination was directed by me to be made by Mr. Hope, Assistant Collector, and Deputy Collector Ramachendra Row; the immediate cause of this examination was that a large loss was reported to have occurred in the gale of the 19th October, and I was desirous of having the same tested by a responsible officer. I took the opportunity at the same time of having the examination made of some of the uninjured heaps, and the result

is as shown in the Statement above adverted to. The storage of this Salt, it will be observed, took place under the immediate eye* of the Deputy Collector, and if the result be what has been proved to be now the case in the heaps which remain unsold, it is easy to conceive what must have been the case in those heaps which were sold (without being measured), and in some cases almost as soon as the heap was laid; that these heaps must have contained a considerable excess put in them with a view to defraud is an inference which must be naturally drawn from the fact that in violation of the rule, and which has always been strictly enforced in this District, heaps of new Salt have been sold both at Vedarniem and Negapatam, while a large quantity of old Salt remained in store. This will be clearly seen from the Statement B, herewith submitted.

11. Here it may be observed that the Deputy Collector in his letter of the 20th December 1862, to the late Acting Collector Mr. Morris, distinctly states, with reference to the sale of Salt at Adrampatam then under consideration, "that should we encourage the "sale of the new, our old Salt at Sandalai will "become a dead stock," and further admits that my predecessors have never permitted the sale of the new Salt in one Division while there was

Collector in the District. I would only be too glad if the Honorable Board be pleased to depute some experienced officer of the Salt Department from any adjoining District to examine the heaps at Tanjore; because it is beyond doubt that the measurement followed by Deputy Collector Ramachendra Row is incorrect. As another instance of the irregular mode of measurement conducted by Deputy Collector Ramachendra Row at Vedarniem, I would state that, while the measurement was going on, a merchant who witnessed the measurement, and who had applied for a quantity of Salt, refused to accept the quantity already measured unless it was measured over again according to rule and practice and went away.

This would seem to mean* I connived at the fraudulent storage. On my questioning the Collector how he came to the understanding that this excess quantity was stored under "my immediate eye," that officer states that by this term he meant my presence in the village while the heaps were stored (Memorandum, dated 4th February 1864, Enclosure C). The Salt of the year 1863 being superior, applications for this Salt were frequent, and the applicants had declined to take the old Salt that Mr. Morris directed that of the quantity applied for by such applicants, a half should be of the old and a half of the new Salt, and in doing so, just heaped used of course to be taken off, and because this was done, is fraud to be the inference? In regard to this point I have only one word more to add, and that is, if excess quantities were thus sold, as the Collector imagines, will not the Salt Revenue of the District be affected thereby? When this is not the case, but on the contrary an increase is the result, how could such a charge against me stand at all is for the Board to determine?

Not having access to the Statement B, I am unable to render any explanation on this subject. I presume, however, that the Collector means that while so many heaps of new Salt was sold at Negapatam a corresponding number of old Salt was not taken by the merchants. I did not intend this; my object was to have utilized spontaneous Salt as much as possible, and with this view allowed them to take as much Vedarniem Salt as they chose in addition

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th May 1864.

old Salt in the adjoining depots or Divisions, and indeed the concession made by you to the traders of Salt in this respect must be considered a boon. Notwithstanding this it has been already shown that new Salt has been sold to a considerable extent* while old was on hand; but from the Statement C, it will further be seen that the sale of new Salt has not been open to all† parties, but has been confined to a certain set of merchants, who on the pretext of being traders by the railway, and as entitled to greater consideration and encouragement, have had the exclusive privilege of purchasing new heaps, and thus had the monopoly of the wholesale trade both at Negapatam and Vedarniem. Excepting these parties all ‡others were compelled to take the old Salt.

12. With reference to the sale of new Salt while the old was on hand, it was however right I should inform the Board that, to a certain and very limited extent, a concession on this point was made by Mr. Morris. In his letters of the 15th and 17th May 1862, Nos. 419 and 420 (copies of which are enclosed), Mr. Morris authorized the sale of new Salt at Negapatam to two merchants only, provided they took an equal quantity of the old Salt, and provided also that such sale was not prejudicial to the sale of old Salt and that the new Salt was not to be sold within the District. This authority§ was not extended till the 2nd February 1863, when again, on the recommendation of the Deputy Collector, Mr. Morris sanctioned the division of all the new Salt on hand among the four persons at Negapatam ¶still however upon the conditions above specified; but as is shown in Statement already referred to the greater portion of the new Salt was sold previous to that date to several other parties and without any conditions whatever. Mr. D'Monte has in his Memorandum of the 11th instant endeavoured to explain why he thus acted; but I confess his explanation is to me perfectly unintelligible.

13. But further, and with reference to the manner in which the sales of Salt have been conducted by the Deputy Collector, there are the

to the Negapatam new Salt (hence our Revenue 12 lacs of Rupees.)

Our old Salt at Negapatam was always appreciated by the Negapatam public, and therefore could always obtain sale; but not if the new Negapatam Salt was permitted to be sold, and this was strictly observed.

*At Vedarniem and Negapatam only, for rail.

† Because the sale of the new Salt was not only allowed for Inland consumption and not for retail sales for home use at Negapatam, retail purchasers were therefore refused the Salt of 1863, manufactured.

‡Whom does this mean? Was any complaint preferred to the Collector? I am not aware. Merchants who refused to take heaps of old Negapatam or spontaneous Salt from Vedarniem were refused the new Negapatam Salt by Mr. Morris to whom I referred them.

If the Board will be pleased to notice the number of old heaps taken at Negapatam, and the quantity of spontaneous Salt taken at Vedarniem, and add both, it will be found to be near the mark of the number of heaps of new Salt taken at Negapatam, if not more. To propagate the Vedarniem Salt, I proposed, in a demi-official letter dated 25th June 1862, to Mr. Morris that wholesale traders should be made to take portions of spontaneous Salt also; Mr. Ballard's instructions and the object held in view by the Board being to utilize and propagate the Vedarniem spontaneous Salt.

§ No authority was necessary for merchants taking Salt on payment, and the records would prove that parties have obtained Salt heaps from stores where they chose.

¶*Four Firms.*

1. Oliver & Co.
2. Vencatchella Chetty & Co.
3. Thoppia Pillay & Co.
4. S. N. B. & Co.
5. A set of Trichinopoly Merchants.

When I was encamped at Vedarniem in March, April, and May, with Mr. Morris, I had personally ascertained of the traders and Koo-

strongest grounds for believing that the Salt thus sold wholesale and to favorite parties has been in many instances resold retail by these very parties on the Government stores; for what is left out of these sales (after deducting the quantity sold nominally for sale out of the District) could not possibly have been sufficient to meet local wants, and this more particularly as at this time (and as will be noticed hereafter) all the important Depots in the Adrampatam Division were closed. From the enclosed Statement marked D, it will be seen that out of the 50 garces sold at Vedarniem during the 12 months from November 1862 to October 1863, only one and a half garce have been sold on retail in November 1862, and that in the remaining 11 months the retail sales were altogether blank. Taking the above two statements together it appears to me that this is simply an impossibility, and that there are the strongest grounds for inferring that almost the whole of the 210 garces bought by Messrs. Oliver and Co., and the other two or three favored Firms for "Local Trade" was by them sold retail on the Government stores, and that the loss thus sustained by Government is little short of 6,000 Rupees.

That this was done with Mr. D'Monte's knowledge is shown by his orders to the Peshcar of Negapatam, dated the 27th August 1862, and 20th March 1863 in which he ostensibly forbids the practice.

14. That this is however not only a matter of conjecture, and that the practice in question was not confined to the Vedarniem station, is, I submit, further shown by the fact that P. Vencatachella Chetty (before alluded to) having obtained an endorsement from the Deputy Collector to take certain heaps wholesale from the Adrampatam platform, asked permission of the Peshcar to retail the same on the Government platforms. This the Peshcar refused to permit and addressed the Deputy Collector on the subject, who in reply passed an order that the Government had no concern in the mattter*. The Peshcar however having still demurred to carry out this tacit permission to the prejudice of the interests of Government, the merchants proceeded again to the Deputy Collector who came in person to the place and verbally directed that the request of the merchants should be complied with. The Deputy Collectors (general retail dealers) why they don't purchase Salt from us, their reply was invariably that they obtained their Salt on credit from wholesale purchasers, and if for cash they pay some 3 or 4 Annas less for a Purch of Salt, which was the fact. But whenever I observed some 20 or 30 bandies, or some 50 or 60 asses laden with, or brought to the Vady, for Salt, I always made it my duty to inquire, in presence of the Police and Salt officers, as to from whom they had purchased the Salt; whence they came from; and so on; they always said that they were engaged to carry the Salt to the Merchants' godowns. I did suspect the conduct of the Kooroovers and gave stringent orders to the Police Head Constable to watch and seize any Salt that may be sold by traders at the Government Vadies, telling them that they will be rewarded, and that no other but Government sales should be conducted at the platforms. I had also warned the Salt officials that they would be forthwith dismissed if I found them conniving at such sales. Neither the Police nor Salt officials have ever (but once in August 1862) brought to my notice any retail sales having been made by traders at the platforms; if there had been anything of this sort, I should say that the Police would have been foremost to seize and bring up cases of this kind.

* A translation of the Peshcar's Arzi and Mr. D'Monte's endorsement thereon is found.

The words that Government have no concern in the matter did not refer to the retail sale of Salt by the purchasers at the Government Vadies, which, records will show that I expressly prohibited in an order to the Adramapatam Peshcar, dated the 31st January 1863, and also as a check over the Salt servants, enjoined the Police Constables (vide my Rules for the guidance of the Police) but the words in question were meant to say that the Government had no concern in this matter of the purchaser issuing chits for removing the quantity he purchased in quick instalments. This merchant having at first wished to remove the Salt to Puttorkotai it was accordingly written on the receipt, but subsequently he countermanded this request and wished to remove the Salt to his godowns at Adramapatam (1½ mile from the stores); the receipt was then brought by him with this request, and I accordingly altered the place of destination in it and in the Shroff's receipt register. The Board will observe the wiliness of the Peshcar in with-

tor further with his own hand altered the place of sale for which the Salt taken was intended from Puttoocottah to Adrampatam.

15. Further, and as affording another very strong presumption that these wholesale sales were allowed to be converted into retail sales, I may mention that hitherto the practice has been to require the removal of the entire heap within a day or two; in opposition however to this practice the Deputy Collector not only laid down the period of one month for the removal of a heap, but in practice parties have been allowed to remove the Salt as they please. As an instance I may state that in a letter lately sent me by Mr. Kohlhoff, a European Merchant of Tanjore, that gentleman frankly admits that as a heap purchased by him wholesale in the month of May 1863,* three garces were still remaining, and in another purchased at Negapatam on the 30th October last, three-quarters of a garce is still remaining on the platform.

* At Sundelai.

16. Again another very suspicious feature in connection with these wholesales is, that in practice the Peshcars have not been allowed to sell full heaps on their own authority, but that the merchants in the first instance had to apply to the Deputy Collector. This is denied by Mr. D'Monte; but as an instance in point, I may mention that during Mr. D'Monte's absence on leave, a merchant came to this office to ask permission to take a full heap, and when told that no such permission was necessary or required, provided he complied with existing rules, he could scarcely believe what was told him. That permission was also actually sought and obtained in person from the Deputy Collector is also proved by a number of documents now before me, and in which applications for particular heaps and on particular platforms are made and granted. In some of these cases the endorsement on the application repeats the numbers so applied for, and besides these cases (34 in number and which now form a matter of record) entries have in some instances been made in the account of sales that such and such heaps were given in the verbal order of the Deputy Collector. holding from the Collector, by the advice of a Serishtadar, the prohibitory order I had sent simultaneously, (vide Enclosure D), and forwarding only the other one with a wrong construction to it; the conduct of the Peshcar my Collector took no notice of, but on the contrary promoted him from 28 to 85 Rupees per mensem.

It is only in the Sundelai and Arasanaghari Divisions that this concession was made. It was allowed in consideration of the bad state of the roads and of the fact of their being intersected by rivers unbridged, in consequence of which it was impossible for the purchasers to remove their heaps of Salt immediately, particularly as the Salt is to be taken to Trichinopoly, a distance of 50 or 60 miles. If the retention of purchased heaps in the platforms occurred at Negapatam on the 30th October last, as appears from the Collector's letter, it was during my absence and during the time that officer had charge of the Salt Department.

Such a prohibitory order was never issued by me; what the Collector refers to is however this: the whole of the Salt at Adrampatam being of the manufacture of 1863, wholesale purchasers used to flock there for the new Salt, leaving thereby no demand for the old Salt at the adjoining abolished stations of Sumbai Kovoken and Sundelai, if this was allowed the Salt at the latter stations will never be sold, and the establishment there cannot consequently be dispensed with without putting the Government to the unnecessary expense in maintaining them, while by proper arrangements this can be avoided. With this view therefore I simply directed the Adramapatam Peshcar that when he receives applications for the Salt there (being all new) he should communicate with the local officers of those minor stations to be abolished, in order that of the quantity applied for a half may be issued at Adrampatam and the other half at any of those adjoining stations. It is this order that I issued, and did not prohibit the sale of full heaps without my permission; a reference to this order (to which I now have no access,) will, I trust, convince the Honorable Board of the fact.

In further corroboration of this being the case, I may state that in an Arzi written by the Peshcar of Adrampatam in December 1862, he apologizes to the Deputy Collector for having sold a heap wholesale without his previous orders, and the Deputy Collector in his order on this Arzi expresses his astonishment*at the Peshcar's conduct, and forbids him in future to sell wholesales to any one without his previous sanction excepting to Mr Kohlhoff.

The Collector sent an order to all the Peshcars asking them if I ever issued an order of the kind, and they all replied (excepting the man at Adramapatam) in the negative; these Arzis if referred to will also show the Board that the statement made by the Collector in this paragraph is incorrect.

* For selling new Salt wholesale, while in the adjoining station at Sendalai upwards of 1,000 garces old Salt was on hand unsaleable.

17. Translations of the 34 documents alluded to in the preceding paragraph, as also of the Arzi of the Peshcar and the order of the Deputy Collector thereon, are forwarded for the information of the Board.

From the above the Board will I trust be convinced that I never issued the prohibitory order referred to by the Collector. When however parties unnecessarily come to me and present their Petitions for heaps of Salt, I used to endorse their Petitions referring them to the Peshcars. it is such endorsements that the Collector refers to in this paragraph as 34 documents.

18. Besides these advantages and unfair concessions which have been made to the few favored parties at Negapatam and Vedarniem, the Deputy Collector on the pretext of clearing the stock of Salt at Sendalai, a station then proposed to be abolished, induced Mr. Morris to stop the sales in the Adrampatam and Arasanaghari Division, from March to July 1863, all sales in the former and all wholesales in the latter having been forbidden during this period. It is true that this order was issued by my predecessor; but I submit that it was a mistake, and that the order having been issued at the instance and on the representations of the Deputy Collector, the responsible Head of the Department, that officer cannot be wholly exonerated.

Vide my remarks to paragraph 16. I shall not trouble the Board with a recapitulation of the same.

19. I have already, in a former paragraph, alluded to the wilful and positive neglect shown in carrying on the manufacture in the Adrampatam Division, and I may here mention the facts of a case which also occurred at this station, and which seems to me not a little suspicious.

The Collector admits the past season as having been unfavorable for the manufacture of Salt; notwithstanding such adverse season, 2,640 garces have been manufactured during 1863. How wilful and positive neglect can be attributed to me is for the Board to determine. I send a tabular statement (Enclosure E) of all my travels during the year 1863, from which the Board will see whether I have been active or idle with regard to the interests of Government. If the Board are pleased to compare the manufacture of 1863 in this District with the adjoining Districts of South Arcot and Madura, they will at once see whether I have been idle or active.

20. A complaint was lodged before me by certain of the Salt Mirassidars of Adrampatam protesting against the grant of 500 pans to one Sheik Tumbi Merkoyen, as contemplated by the Deputy Collector, in violation of their own rights thereto, and a Yadast was accordingly sent to the Deputy Collector with the complaint, requesting that he would forward a report on the subject. The Deputy Collector, in his reply, stated that he had arranged for compensating the Mirassidars at Sendalai who had suffered by the abolishment of the pans at that station, and that was only in the event of the Mirassidars at Sendalai not taking up these pans at Adrampatam that the complainants before me could be allowed to have them. It was then pointed out to the Deputy Collector that if the complainants had a right to the lands claimed by them they could not be legally given to others, and Mr. D'Monte was requested to forward a more distinct and intelligible answer. In reply to this the Deputy Collector wrote an English letter giving cover to certain Court decrees which were presumed to establish the validity of the claim of Sheik Tumbi Merkoyen, adding however, "I await your orders on the subject".

Agreeably to Government Order, dated 10th February 1863, the late Acting Collector directed that all those Mirassidars who lost pans by the abolition of some stations may open other pans in the retained Allums where they may have land; accordingly this Sheik Tumbi, who with his relatives lost about 6 or 700 pans, and who had land at Adramapatam, applied for 500 pans at that place; this, in the ordinary course of business, was sanctioned in July last (not on the eve of my departure to Calcutta). Certain other Mirassidars (not Salt) having however come forward, and objected to the grant by disputing his right for the land, I withheld the permission, upon which the parties left saying that they will go to the Court and obtain a document to show their right to the land; in the meantime this Sheik Tumbi having produced some Court Decrees I forwarded them to the Collector in July; no answer was however received to this; and as there was very little Salt at Adramapatam and the contending parties did not come, *vide* Peshcar's report 24th of September 1863), I thought it would not be for the interest of Government to delay the manufacture any longer. I therefore *after consulting* with *the Collector* Mr. Cadell, on 12th August 1863, issued the order granting the 500 pans to Sheik Tumbi Merkoyen. The Board will be pleased to remember that this grant is not a new one, but only in exchange of those abolished at Sendalai.

21. Thus stood the matter and the claims of the contending parties, as also the interests of a third party, viz., those of the Chuttrum and Rajah Muduni to whom the village belongs, were still under consideration when the Deputy Collector on the eve of his departure for Calcutta on the 29th September last, issued an order in favor of his protége Sheik Tumbi Merkoyen for 500 pans.

I was not aware of any appeal having been lodged in the Collector's office against my giving pans to the ex-Mirassidar who with documents established his right to the land at Adramapatam, or that the interests of the Rajah Muduni Chuttrum was still pending in his office after my reply dated the 5th August to his reference of 23rd July was furnished; nor has his office issued any instructions to my department on this subject. Were I at all aware that an appeal was in the Collector's office I should have forwarded the endorsed Petition for his disposal.

22. On the irregularity and impropriety of this proceeding I will offer no comment; but I must state that not only had the Decree of the Court alluded to no reference whatever to the land in question, but that the party in whose behalf the Deputy Collector had so warily entrusted himself had not the smallest right to any compensation, but that a brother of his had the small number of 54 pans at Sendalai.

Answered above.

23. Another irregularity which has been systematically carried is that the Mirassidars have been made to deliver Salt in heaped measures, while the standing orders are directly opposed to this; this is not denied by Mr. D'Monte, and the excuse is of course to guard against wastage.

I am not aware of this; the Standing Rules are clear, and the subsidiary instructions which I have published in Part 2, Arts. 5 and 6, pages 9 and 10 of my Salt Vade Mecum (duly circulated to all the Salt servants in the District) strictly prohibits any such excess measurements as those referred to by the Collector. Whenever I personally inspected the storing of Salt I never observed mercals being heaped. On representation of the large amount of wastage in Neidavasel in July 1861, the Collector directed me to make arrangements for preventing such wastage; the order was duly communicated by me to all the Divisions, who were strictly warned that if there is any excess wastage, they will be severely dealt with; perhaps this order led to the error, if it at all is in existence; for, as I said above, I am not aware that such is the case. Such a measurement was never made at any time in my numerous visits to the Salt stations.

24. There is one other matter to which also I think it my duty to call the attention of the Board, and that is the frequency of the complaints which have been made (and some of which have been forwarded by the Board) of the trafficking and sale of the minor appointments in the Department. Of course I have no direct evidence to offer on this point; but the matter is one so very generally rumoured and believed in, that it is difficult to conceive there is not some foundation for the rumour. As affording some ground at least for such rumour being true, I beg to enclose a List of the appointments and removals which have been made in the Salt Department since March, having in view the impending re-organization of Establishments. No reason whatever appears on record for the necessity of these changes, and from the number of complaints which have been made to me on the subject, I cannot bring myself to believe that the changes were made for the benefit of the public service.

In regard to the charge indirectly laid against me in this paragraph, I would respectfully beg of the Honorable Board to consider how distressing such an accusation should be to me, and whether I am not justified in asking the Collector to produce one instance of the kind, though active attempts had been made to elicit something of the kind against me. Of the great injustice of the manner in which such attempts were made, *vide* my Telegram to Board, and copies of letters to the Collector and his Serishtadar (Enclosures F and G) will show. In regard to this charge, I am not the person to be asked. I would therefore respectfully suggest that a formal inquiry be made. I may however observe that the parties summoned by the Collector to give evidence in my case have been compelled by Departmental and Criminal threats, both by the Collector and his Serishtadar, to say something against me. Notwithstanding all these exertions on their part during the past four months, nothing has been elicited. This itself is a clear proof in my favor.

25. Such are some of the irregularities which have come to light in connection with the administration of the Salt Department by Mr. D'Monte; and while I am free to admit that all of them are not capable of being proved by direct evidence, I conceive that, taken together as a whole, they afford very strong presumption that Mr. D'Monte is not the person to be entrusted

Of the list of removals and appointments (transfers from one place to another) of servants referred to in this report I have not been furnished with a copy. I may however furnish the following explanation as stated by me in paragraph above. After the whole of the Salt in some of the stations to be abolished had been sold, the services of the Establishment attached

with so much responsibility. In the matter of manufacture of Salt at Vedarniem I think however that Mr. D'Monte has evinced not only an utter disregard of the interest of Government, but I have no hesitation in stating my own conviction that it is to his intrigues with the merchants and dealers at Negapatam that the really superior spontaneous Salt of Negapatam has been so unjustly and untimely depreciated. From the communications I have had with Mr. D'Monte himself on this subject, I have always found him most unwilling to endeavour to make any efforts in removing this prejudice; and on the contrary when the Board authorized my bringing up Salt from Vedarniem to supply the expected deficiency at Negapatam, Mr. D'Monte threw every possible difficulty in the way; and so much so that I was obliged to put the matter into the hands of Mr. Hutchins. Instead of doing all he could to carry out the orders of the Board he showed an utter disinclination to afford any assistance, and continued to make useless and unnecessary references to this office. I enclose for the information of the Board copy of a letter I sent to Mr. D'Monte on this subject on the 8th September last, and would only add that though the Deputy Collector did not leave the District till the 2nd October, no notice was taken of the orders sent to him, or has any report even been made to this day on the subject.

No. 8.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

P.S.—I beg also to enclose copies of the correspondence which has passed between Mr. D'Monte and myself regarding the matter contained in this report. Mr. D'Monte's answers are forwarded in original, and where necessary I have added a few hand notes to avoid swelling the bulk of the record. A list of the Statements and translations sent is also herewith submitted.

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

to such stations I availed myself of at other places where there was enough for them to do; such as Vedarniem, where there was extensive work going on, and at Negapatam, where the Papa Covil pans were re-opened. I would have given a detailed explanation of each individual case of transfer, but not having been furnished with a copy of the list which the Collector has sent up to the Board, I am unable to do so. Minor servants, such as peons, &c., in the Salt Department, when allowed to be stationed long at one place, generally become careless, or otherwise attain such a position of influence among the Mirassidars and coolies that their retention leads to theft in the Allums, and which cannot be discovered; this, when I hear or have reason to suspect I transfer them immediately. Can such transfer for the interests of Government be attributed to any self-interested motives on my part? Such transfers will of course not be congenial to their feelings; and will they under such circumstances be pleased or annoyed with me? And how can such changes be viewed with suspicion? The Collector states that complaints of such transfers have reached him; when was this? Was it not after the Collector had ostensibly set his face against me? And if this is the support I am to derive from my immediate superior, how can I be expected to manage this important Department efficiently? Further, it is stated that no reason appears in the record for such transfers; surely records will not show my reasons as above given, and perhaps it is in no way necessary that such circumstances should be placed on record.

In paragraph 25 the Collector lays against me a charge of having intrigued in such a manner as to be the cause of the depreciation of the Vedarniem spontaneous Salt. I simply deny such a charge. In fact it was through my exertions alone, and by the arrangements ordered by me (by which I made it *imperative* on the wholesale purchasers to take this Salt in part of the quantity they may demand from the Negapatam Stores) that they have been compelled to accept Vedarniem Salt. I am grieved that such imputation should be laid against me after all the troubles and difficulties which I underwent in utilizing and propagating this article. How much this subject has engaged my attention will be seen from the following extract of one of my demi-official letters to Mr. Morris, dated 25th June 1862:—

"We should have no desire to sell our superior Negapatam Salt; and as it is the wish of the "authorities to introduce Vedarniem Salt, all wholesale traders in Salt of new manufacture

"should, I am of opinion, be made to take portions of spontaneous Salt also. However I "leave this to you to decide." I shall not say any thing further on this subject than to refer the Honorable Board to the only criterion of judgment on this point, I mean the increase in the sales of the Vedarniem spontaneous Salt, which from about 100 or 150 garces has last year risen to, as the Collector himself admits in paragraph—, 500 garces. Does not such an increase show that the Salt in question has been very extensively propagated; and can such a result be the effect of "my intrigues," is a question I beg the Honorable Board to consider.

I am perfectly astonished at the imputation that "I threw every possible difficulties in "bringing up Vedarniem Salt to Negapatam;" and more so, not understanding what the Collector means. What object or interest I can have in throwing difficulties in the way of the interest of the Government? It is the prejudice which the Collector's mind has been led to entertain against me that has suggested to him to entrust the business to Mr. Hutchins, to whom I rendered all the assistance in my power in proceeding to Vedarniem to see the shipment of the Salt, engaging boats and coolies, to collect spontaneous Salt, see to the manufacture also there, exportation of Salt to the Straits, and superintending again the landing of the Salt at Negapatam. All these duties were conducted simultaneously. In respect to my having made no reports as stated by the Collector, I beg to inform the Board that in a letter No. 80, dated 19th September to his address, and verbally on 29th idem, I kept that officer informed of the progress in the shipment of Salt, and of the collection of the spontaneous Salt, and which that officer has evidently overlooked.

In conclusion I solicit the pardon of the Board for trespassing on their valuable time with the following few lines:—

I have been in the service of Government, off and on, 32 years; having been originally employed in the Financial Department in the North-West Provinces, from whence my services were transferred by the Supreme Government, on special duty in the Madras Presidency, to the responsible office of Head Assistant to the Civil Auditor, which post I filled for the space of four years before I was appointed to my present office in 1860. That I rendered meritorious service to the State is, I submit, a fact borne out by the accompanying credentials from the Government of Madras, the Supreme Government, and the Honorable the Secretary of State for India. The Financial Department to which I had formerly belonged afforded me very good prospects (though remote) for advancement. I however accepted my present office merely to make myself useful in the Revenue Department, and to extend my humble efforts in this branch of the service towards the interest of Government. That since my appointment to my present office I have always labored diligently, with the object of promoting the interest of Government, will be seen by the increase in Salt Revenue which has accrued, *i. e.*, from five or six lacks in 1860 to eleven and twelve lacks in 1863.

Finding that my residing two miles from my place of business at Negapatam did not allow me sufficient opportunity to govern and conduct the manufacture and the daily increasing sale of Salt at Negapatam, I have built a house in an unhealthy locality (in the midst of the Salt pans at Papa Covil and only 50 yards from the Vady No. 3, where all retail sales are conducted). That this secluded position though to mine and my large family's inconvenience, was so capitally suited to the advantages of a detective and efficient management that the results can no doubt be seen in the enormous increase in the sale of Salt at Negapatam, and the absence of any such thing as smuggling, theft, illicit sale, imposition on purchases, &c. (*Vide* Enclosure II). These have been entirely put a stop to; so that for the past four years, in not more than two instances had I any necessity for exercising the Magisterial functions of my office.

In his report the Collector makes two very discreditable charges against me, which so affect my credit as a public officer that I shall only be too glad if inquiries are instituted by any officer other than Mr. Cadell himself as to the extent of truth in them. I refer to the two charges of my having pecuniarily benefited myself by appointments and changes of Salt servants, and my having connived at, or rather instigated, the depreciation of the Vedarniem spontaneous Salt.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 4th May 1864.

The Salt Department has itself been noted to be one of discredit from time immemorial. Rumours of the kind referred to by the Collector must be received with much caution, more so because in a District like Tanjore they are not scarce, and so feasible that even if complaints are necessary to substantiate such rumours they can be got up in no time, especially when it is known by disaffective parties (of whom an Officer in my position can scarcely be wanting) that a high Officer like the Collector has set his face against the victim. In regard to this point I would simply crave the attention of the Board of the manner in which parties have been called up by the Collector and induced to say something against me both by promises and threats. If they had any complaints against me will they not come forward at any time during the past four years instead of producing them out now and seeing that the Collector is conducting inquiries against me. Enclosure will show the Board what a deal of attempt is being made against me.

Vernacular Original sent with my letter to Secretary to Board, 29th January 1864.

The Collector in the very first part of his letter states that the Salt Department has for some time past been reported to be in an unsatisfactory state, had such been the case why did he not make this report before (18th January 1864) and ere his departure to England. The fact of his not having done so; his question why the Vedarniem Allums were not made in his time but during his absence, and the indignant manner in which he expressed his determination to abolish the pans at Vedarniem lead me to the conclusion that it is in connection with the new Vedarniem Allum made during his absence that the Collector is prejudiced, and it is I can feel since that time that he has set his face against me. I am, however, glad that these charges have fallen into the hands of a just tribunal where no partiality is shown, and from whom I have the full confidence that justice would be rendered to me.

I cannot conclude this letter without soliciting the attention of the Board to the humiliating treatment which the Collector has evinced towards me throughout this affair. Soon after I returned from leave from Calcutta I reported my arrival at Negapatam to the Collector, and told him as a sort of apology for not proceeding up immediately to Tanjore to pay my respects to him, that in consequence of the fatigue and exhaustion caused by seven day's voyage and an attack of fever I had on Board, I would remain at Negapatam one or two days to recruit myself, and then proceed to Tanjore to take charge of my Office (there being four days of my leave unexpired.) In reply to this Mr. Cadell said that he had no objections to my doing so, but that when I was able I was to come to Vellum and do duty at the head quarters (in his Office) until further orders. When I did so I was made as it were as a ministerial officer; told by the Collector (*vide* Enclosure I) that a table and chair will be given in his office (where his Gumashtas and clerks sit). What duty I was to do I really did not know. The Collector in his order published at page 747 of the District Gazette (Enclosure J) directed all the Salt servants to address their reports to his office; so I have not done my duty as a Salt Deputy Collector since I returned from leave on the 26th November; and I have therefore virtually been suspended from office by the Collector. Mr. Cadell adduces my health as a reason for this, I beg respectfully to refer the Honorable Board to Enclosure K, requesting that I may be permitted to resume charge of my Office and Establishment. The only attention these letters received was in the first place directing me to put myself under Medical treatment, and upon my urging that my health was not so impaired as to require immediate Medical attention and that I would convince him of my ability to perform my duties, he replied (2nd December) that my return to the District would be gazetted from the 26th ultimo without any allusion whatever to my office; instead of my request being complied with I received a set of questions to answer which taken in conjunction with the Notification published at page 747 in the District Gazette of the 5th December that all correspondence, &c., &c., led me to conclude at once that causes other than my personal health kept the Collector from not delivering over my office.

Under these circumstances, I would respectfully ask of the Honorable Board whether this is the treatment which my long and faithful service entitles me to, and whether the Collector was at all justified in depriving me of an office which the Government have thought proper to confer on me.

Also from the same Officer, dated Madras, 16th March 1864.

1. Owing to the interminable delay in the submission of the promised report by my Collector against me on the accidental occurrence which took place at Tanjore on the 26th idem, now upwards of a month, and which no doubt has prevented the Honorable Board from disposing of Mr. Cadell's first Report, dated 18th January last, I have thought proper to submit a brief summary of the unfortunate circumstance for their information.

2. Should my Honorable Masters view the case as one purely private which did not require the interference of the Collector, or that he should have first transferred the lost note to the Police authorities for preliminary investigation instead of his being my prosecutor and judge, I pray they will either now or after receipt of the Collector's report, relieve me of all suspense, and that I may be ordered to resume my duties.

ENCLOSURES NOS. 1 to 10.—Papers.

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1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted for the consideration of Government, with the Board's opinion that in fairness to all parties Mr. Cadell's charges against Mr. D'Monte should be formally and thoroughly investigated.

2. The Board consider that a Commission of inquiry would be the preferable mode of procedure.

3. The Government will observe that Mr. D'Monte has had an opportunity of replying to Mr. Cadell's first letters condemning his administration of the Salt Department; but that the latest letter, dated 17th March, has not been yet communicated to him, although Mr. D'Monte in his letter of 16th idem volunteers an explanation of what he believed to be the subject of Mr. Cadell's further inquiries. There are however many points in Mr. Cadell's letter which Mr. D'Monte has naturally left untouched, but which need explanation; and as the Collector's letter contains specific charges, the Board consider that the whole matter should now be formally investigated, Mr. Cadell being directed to frame his charges, and to prosecute the inquiry into them before such tribunal as the Government may direct.

4. As the Board consider the matter to be now *sub judice*, they abstain from expressing any opinion on the several charges.

No. 55.

ORDER THEREON, 4th May 1864, No. 777.

The Government resolve to deal with Mr. D'Monte's case under Act VII of 1857. The Board will instruct him to repair to Tanjore and report himself to the Collector, who will afford him full opportunity of cross-examining the witnesses who have already been examined, and of adducing fresh evidence. The evidence, parole and documentary, and Mr. D'Monte's written defence will be forwarded by the Collector with any remarks he may wish to offer to the Board, who will submit the same to Government with their opinion.

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

15

1. Unsatisfactory out-turn of Salt during the season, especially at Adrampatam, where only 33 garce was manufactured (it being an important place and containing about 7,000 pans) whilst in the neighbouring village of Vedaraniem where the pans are quite new, the manufacture was 791 garce, beside 422 garce spontaneously produced; these being similarly affected by seasons that cannot be brought forward in extenuation, i.e. Remissness of duty in having neglected the manufacture of Salt at Adrampatam.

1. Denies the charge of negligence; refers to the tables of rainfall; Adrampatam is nearly 60 miles distant from Vedaraniem and in a lower situation; moreover Vedaraniem is naturally more favorable for Salt manufacture, a good smart shower in that place does more good than harm.

That Coolies were taken away from Adrampatam to Vedaraniem under promise of high wages.

2. As the manufacture at Vedaraniem was only an experiment, the Mirasidars were reluctant to undertake it, and it

was necessary to pay the coolies well; the Kudivaram of Rs 10-10, was sanctioned by Mr Morris, only 5 out of 530 coolies at Adrampatam were taken to Vedarniem, and a few more were taken from other places.-

3. The salt at Vedarniem was expected to be of a very superior quality, instead of which that actually manufactured is very inferior.-

3. Denies inferior salt has been produced, at least whilst he was present.-

4. Making over the manufacture to a set of adventurers - two parties especially noticed (1) Venkatachella Chetty, who was always decrying spontaneous salt, (2) Mada Covil, or Roman Catholic Church, of which he is himself a member.-

4. Was not aware of any restrictions in disposing of pans; gave to all those who applied and seemed capable of carrying on the manufacture.- Under the name Mada Covil, 50 pans were granted to certain potters of Akustinupully; pans granted to one or two bodies of heathens were also entered in the names of their temples.

5. The cost at which the manufacture at Vedarniem has been carried in has been unnecessarily great, the profits being not less than Rs 3-10 out of Rs 10-10 per garce.

5 The cost per garce to the cultivators is Rs 9-4, exclusive of cost of embankments &ca, necessary to be made during the first year.

6. Storing in each heap a larger quantity than is allowed; moreover new salt was sold to certain merchants pretending to be traders by the Railway; whilst heaps of old salt were yet standing unsold. i.e. Connives at fraudulent storage &ca.

6. The difference is explained by the difference in the way of measuring it. New salt was only allowed to be sold for inland consumption but not to be retailed for Home use. When new salt was given, the party had to take an equal amount of old. Wishing to utilize spontaneous salt, allowed as much Vedarniem salt as was required to be taken in addition to Negapatam new salt. It will be found that some of new heaps = old heaps + spontaneous.

7. Salt sold to favorites has been allowed to be sold retail

7 If retail salt on the premises did take place, it happened

retail by them, at the Government stores, and the heaps allowed to be removed at leisure instead of within a day or two after the sale.

happened without his knowledge; on certain occasions did suspect Kairowers and warned them; and threatened the Govt. servants: only one case been reported by the Police, had expressly forbidden the retail on several occasions. The interval of a month or two was allowed only at Sandelai and Arsnagherry, and that because the roads between these places and Trichinopoly were very bad.

8. The Peshcars have not been allowed to sell full heaps without previous sanction of Deputy Collector, and purchasers frequently applied for and obtained particular heaps.

8. Did not issue any such prohibitory order; but only that when application was made for salt at Adrampatam (where all was new) Peshcar should communicate with neighbouring places about to be abolished and containing a quantity of old salt and let applicants take a share of each. "But if people unnecessarily

unnecessarily applied to me, I endorsed them and sent them to the Peshcar."

9. Issuing an order in favor of Sheik Tambi Mercoyan for 500 pans at Adrampatam knowing that an appeal against the act had been presented and that other interests were concerned.

9. Was not aware of appeal still being in existence; the pans had been granted in July to Sheik Tambi, because he possessed land in Adrampatam and his pans at Sandclai had been abolished; as others claimed same land deferred delivery till Sheik Tambi Mercoyan fully proved his title and was not aware of other interests being concerned.

10. Mirassidars have been made to deliver salt in heaped measures, contrary to standing orders.

10. Not aware of any such excess.

11. Selling minor appointments in the Salt Department and in proof of this a document purporting to promise payment of Rs. 410 is forwarded to

11. Is quite willing that this should be enquired into. The note promising payment of 410 Rs. was in repayment of moneys already borrowed, and

to one Nalakistran Alagappa and about to be borrowed,
Chetti. The document had from his agent Sami Pillay
been given to Sinevasa — it was made out in the name
Woodelly in repayment of — of Alagappa Chetty who was
certain sums which had been a partner of Sami Pillay's,
originally given by him, or — and this was done in accor:
received through him or — : dance to Sami Pillay's in:
behalf of Mrs. D'Monte, and : structions.
which had to be given back
to those from whom they had
been received.

J. P. P.

Brief Precis
of Complaints
Supplies

Draft

The Govt. resolve to deal with Mr. D'Monte's case under Act VII of 1857. The Bd. will instruct him to repair to Tanjore and report himself to the Colr., & no will afford him full opportunity of cross-examining the witnesses who have already been examined ~~by the Colr.~~ & of adducing fresh evidence. The evidence parole and ~~of the witnesses~~ ~~with the~~ documentary ~~evidence~~ & Mr. D'Monte's written defence will be forwarded by the Colr. with any remarks he [illegible] to offer to

No. 777

For Orders.

4th May/64

Mr. D'Monte is a Dep. Colr. and as such comes under Act VII of 1857. By Sect VI of this Act whenever there is reason to believe that a Deptg Colr. is disqualified by neglect, incapacity or corruption, a report is to be submitted by the Colr. or Magte through the proper channel for the consideration & orders of the Govt. inc. "who shall be competent to suspend such Dep. Colr. & order a further enquiry into his conduct, or to

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his immediate dismissal, as may appear just & proper.

It is also open to Govt. to deal with a Dep. Y. Coll. under Act XXXVII of 1850. i.e. try him by a Special Commission. In this case the imputations have to be drawn into specific charges — the enquiry may be entrusted to the Bd. Coll. or any other person selected by Govt. — and the trial is formally conducted & reported to Govt. for their final orders. Sect. XXIV enables Govt. when they see fit to apply this Act to a Dep. Y. Coll. & Sect. XX

the Bd. who will submit the same to Govt. with their opinion.

[illegible]

Lt. Coll.

saves their power of suspending or removing any public servant for any cause without an enquiry under it —

Mr. Cadell's charges against Mr. D'Monte are contained in his letters of 18 Jany. & 17 March last. To the first Mr. D'Monte replies but the latter which contain very serious charges has not been communicated to him. He was however present at part of the enquiry.

The Bd. give no opinion, as they recommend that Mr. D'Monte

be tried - evidently
under Act XXXVII
of 1850. If pet. applt
thinks plan it will
be necessary to
frame a Comm.
The local Officers
~~who~~ available are
Mr R Clarke - Ex Re
of Hampshire
Mr Bird & Langrish
Mr Plumer Lt Col
Mr J Clarke applt
to be back from the
Right Hon be Em-
ployed on the Rly

I should myself
think it would be
enough to require
the Directors to put
in his defence &
give him the Author-
-ity of calling
evidence on his
behalf and cross
Examining the Witt.

Ex parte Clarke
Petn of Right
Petn Dismissed with Costs
Copies of Letter Book
Letters 7 Nov 1857
Letters 11 Nov 1857
Letters 14 Nov 1857
Letters 17 March 1858
Letters 17 March 1858
Letters 17 March 1858

Reported to England
of 26th Octr. 1865. No. 63. Mis.
15-11-7

Revenue 1864 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt for May.

No. 777.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dd 4th May 1864.

Pro Board of Revenue
Dd 2 July '64, C No. 1738.
Further C A 1994 of 1864.
Boards Pro 9 August /64 C A 2116

Mr. De Monte Salt
Dy Collr. at Tanjore in-
structed to report himself
to the Collr. for undergoing
an examination regarding
certain charge against
him.

No. 54 & 55.