

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 871	Press ~~Mis.~~
121-122	
Dated 11. 5. - 19-1864	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th May 1864.*

No. 121. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th April 1864,
No. 2,610.

Read the following letters :—

From the Collector of Tanjore, dated 15th March 1864, No. 78.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, under date the 25th ultimo, No. 344, communicated with the Board's Order of the 7th instant.

2. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Government Order, I would beg to state, that if Mr. Betts really means to refer to the quality of any salt at all, it must be the spontaneous salt which was brought from Vedarniem last year. This was the salt which was selling at Negapatam at the time referred to. It certainly cannot be the salt manufactured at Negapatam, which has always found favour with those merchants who are termed Railway traders, and no complaint was made of the quality of the salt so long as that salt was selling.

3. Such being the case, and the purity and the superior quality of the spontaneous salt above the manufactured article, being an undoubted and admitted fact, the only way in which the complaint of no saleable salt having been obtainable can be accounted for, appears to me to be simply this.

4. It is notorious that the so-called Railway traders have realized during the last two years very large profits from the excess above the proper quantity in the heaps of salt stored at Negapatam as well as at Vedarniem. Finding however, that this excess in the spontaneous salt brought from Vedarniem, and failing to obtain the small remainder of the profitable heaps of salt manufactured and stored last year at Negapatam, and which I refused to sell until the old spontaneous salt of the preceding year was exhausted, they raised a clamour that they were not able to obtain a supply of saleable salt, and it is this clamour which, I apprehend, has formed the basis of Mr. Betts's report under reference.

5. It was regarding this spontaneous salt of which one of the Negapatam merchants by name P. Venkatesa Chetti complained to me about three months since, stating that it could not find a ready sale at Trichinopoly. It is, however, to be observed that it is these Railway traders only who have raised and continue to objections to this salt, and which is disposed of readily and freely to other merchants.

6. With reference to the Board's remarks as contained in paragraph 2 of their Order, I would beg to observe, that under existing circumstances, the pans at Negapatam are doubtless incapable of yielding an out-turn equal to the present increased demand, but it is to be remembered, that the unremunerative rate of Kudivaram, and the difficulties which exist in delivering the salt into the stores, are two very serious drawbacks to the manufacture at this station. These, however, are capable of being removed, and if removed, the manufacture will, I am confident, be carried on to the full extent necessary to meet the demand.

7. Including the new pans now being formed, there are nearly 20,000 pans at Negapatam, and which on a very moderate estimate, can be calculated to produce 3,000 Garces a year, while the average annual sales of the last five years amount to only 1,000, and the largest sales during the said period, and which took place in the last Fusly (1272), amounted to only 1,865 Garces.

8. The proposition submitted by me for raising the Kudivaram is already before the Board, and the measures necessary for removing the obstacles in the way of conveying salt from the pans to the stores, have been included in the Budget of Salt Works submitted by me for the year 1864-65. I am further in communication with the Superintending Engineer maturing certain further plans for facilitating at a moderate cost the manufacture and storage of salt at this station.

9. With regard to the Board's observations as contained in paragraph 3 of their Order, I would take leave to submit, that until direct water communication between Negapatam and Vedarniem is permanently made available, there is very little hope of the Vedarniem salt finding

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its way into the market except at a very large discount, and probably four times as great as the increase in Kudivaram, which I have recommended at Negapatam, and which I have every reason to expect will have the effect of ensuring an adequate supply on the spot.

10. I would only beg to add that to adopt the process of manufacture at the cost of Rupees 10-10-0 per Garce, at a locality where by proper management, the spontaneous produce of the sea and of the best quality, can be gathered almost to any extent at about one-fourth of that cost, and then to find a market for the article thus manufactured at a special discount of Rupees 12-60-0 per Garce, appears to me to be a measure of very doubtful expediency. The aggregate cost of the article would thus be Rupees 23 in this instance, while the same can, as already shown, be had stored at Negapatam for Rupees 15 by manufacture on the spot, and it is altogether a mistake to suppose that Salt manufactured at Negapatam must necessarily be of inferior quality.

From the same Officer, dated Combaconum, 9th April 1864, No. 111.

As directed in the 1st paragraph of the Board's Order communicating the Proceedings of Government marginally noted, I have the honor to submit a Statement showing the quantity of salt conveyed by the Railway monthly from Negapatam into the interior during the past year 1863, as also during the first two months of this year.

25th February 1864, No. 344.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

STATEMENT showing the quantity of Salt conveyed inland monthly from Negapatam by the Railway during the years 1863 and 1864.

Months.	Quantity of Salt conveyed.	Remarks.
1863, January	Garce. 170	
February	160	
March	160	
April	60	
May	180	
June	120	
July	150	
August	100	
September	110	
October	100	
November	140	
December	60	
Total.....	1,510	
1864, January	30	
February	0	
Total.....	30	
Grand Total.....	1,540	

TANJORE, 9th April 1864.

(Signed) W. M. CADELL, Collector.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

2. On his first letter the Board observe that the rate of Kudivaram at Negapatam has been raised as suggested by him, and that it is open to him to propose a revision of the Vedarniem rate for the manufactured article.

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3. They are sanguine that the sales of Salt for despatch by rail will rapidly increase far beyond Mr. Cadell's anticipations; and they trust that the water communication between Negapatam and Vedarniem will be opened out thoroughly before long.

No. 122.

ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1864, No. 811.

Government will await the receipt of the report called for in G. O., 2nd instant, No. 750.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

rd. S. T. Augustin.

Recd by Mr. 1887/104
20 May 1-2

Copy in a letter to Mr. 1887/104
of 11th June 1887

Recd 1887. Department
No. of Govt for May.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
No. 1187-

Dated 29th April 1887.
Raj. & Co. Secy.

No. 2,610.

Letter from Mr. 1887/104

Submitting with remarks letter from the
Collector of Tanjore furnishing information on
the quality of saleable Salt in store at Nega-
patam.

open n. May

M. D. 1887

No. 121/4722.

8/11/87-811-
Govt will await

The receipt of the

report sales for

in G.O. and meet

May 58-

1887-88. 11th June 1887.

14th June 1887. Secy. to Govt.