M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1526 Press Mis.

56.57

Dated 4-7-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 56. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st June 1865, No. 3,393.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Negapatam, 27th May 1865, No. 160:—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1865, No. 2,442, forwarding a letter (herewith returned) from the Agent of the Great Southern of India Railway to the Secretary to the Railway Board of Directors in England, regarding the salt traffic, &c., on the Railway, I have the honor to submit the following remarks.

2. Mr. Betts writes as follows:—"You will have seen in my annual report "that the rival port and salt depôt of southern Tanjore does as large a business as "Negapatam. If the manufacture of salt was confined to the Negapatam Vedar- "niem District, Government would gain largely not only in the cost of establish- "ment kept at Adrampatam, but also by the decreased amount of subsidy they "would have to pay to the Railway Company, for when once the salt traffic is wholly "thrown over the line, (on the Madras Railway they have no rival depôt to con- "tend with,) the bandy-men will cease to carry grain to Mutupettah at the rate now "charged. Can the Directors induce Sir C. Wood to address the Madras Govern- "ment on the subject, and recommend the concentration of the manufacture of salt "in the Negapatam District."

3. There are two reasons why Mutupettah "does as large a business" as Negapatam. One is because it is a good port where goods can at all times be easily shipped or re-shipped; and the other, because it is close to Adrampatam, where salt of very fine quality is always procurable.

4. In consequence of these two causes, it is not only the Mirassidars of the neighbouring Talooks of Tritrapundy, Munnargudy, and Puttukotta, who send their rice in bandies for export to Mutupettah, and bring them back loaded with salt from Adrampatam, but their example is followed by numbers who live in Tanjore and Combaconum, and to whom Negapatam, as far as time and distance is concerned, is much nearer.

5. The port of Negapatam is in a deplorable condition, the bar being so silted up, that unloaded cargo boats cannot cross it at low water.

6. The salt hitherto manufactured at Negapatam has also been of a very inferior quality: Adrampatam salt selling at Trichinopoly at 20 Rupees a garce more than it does.

7. Great efforts are now being made to improve the quality of the Negapatam salt, and what has been manufactured this year is decidedly better than any hitherto turned out, though it does not equal the Adrampatam article.

8. A canal from Vedarniem to Negapatam has been projected, and is now being excavated; it cannot possibly, however, be completed before this time twelve months, and Vedarniem manufactured salt must, therefore, be brought up to the Railway by sea or by bandies from Kalimod, which is as far as boats will be able to use the canal this year.

9. The foregoing facts shew plainly enough the advantages which Mutupettah and Adrampatam possess over Negapatam and Vedarniem at present, and I have stated them thus at length in order to shew exactly what it is that Mr. Betts wants Sir C. Wood to do. Mr. Betts's great aim, and a very natural one it is for a person in his situation, is to make the Railway pay a good dividend; as long as that very desirable result is produced every thing else is ignored, and nothing is thought of the numbers of people in the Talooks of Tritrapundy, Munnargudy, and Puttukotta who would, in consequence of the Adrampatam pans being abolished, have either to go much longer distances for their salt, or to pay higher prices than hitherto.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th July 1865.

10. If it is desirable to "concentrate the manufacture of salt to the Negapatam District," in order to decrease the amount of subsidy which the Government has to pay to the Railway, I don't see why, for the same reason, the port of Mutupettah should not be closed, and Mirassidars be thus compelled to bring their grain to Negapatam, and export it from thence.

11. The great thing to be done now is to improve the quality of the Negapatam salt, and to remove every obstacle which prevents the Vedarniem salt from reaching Negapatam ; and when this is once accomplished, I see no reason for doubting that the Great Southern of India Railway will bye and bye carry enormous quantities of Vedarniem salt from Negapatam to Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, and Malabar, and thus realize large profits in a fair and legitimate manner.

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1. Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, under date 8th May 1865, No. 942.

2. The Board quite concur with Mr. Morris as to the impolicy of any violent interference with the natural course of trade. Every effort is being made both to improve the quality and to increase the quantity of the salt made at Negapatam, and the Vedarniem pans are every day being brought nearer to the Railway terminus by the progress of the canal connecting these pans with Nepapatam. Nothing further can be done at present, and the proposal to deprive a large section of the District of its natural salt depot, in order to increase the receipts of the Railway, is altogether out of the question. The Collector, however, should carefully watch the course of trade, and as the Negapatam and Vedarniem salt obtains a legitimate command of the market in consequence of improved and increased supply, which it is hoped present efforts will ensure, he should make such reductions at Adrampatam as may be necessary.

No. 57. ORDER THEREON, 4th July 1865, No. 1,523.

Separate Revenue, No. 1.
Salt.

The Government entirely agree with the Board and Collector. Mr. Betts' suggestion is altogether inadmissible.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 1526

The Govt entirely agree with the Bd and Collr - Mr Betts' suggestion is altogether inadmissible. —
4 July 65

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To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.