M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1524 Press Mis.

91-92

Dated 6-7-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th July 1865.

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting, with remarks, letter from the Collector of Madras forwarding one from the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, furnishing the information required regarding certain points in Mr. Clarke's report on the Southern Salt works of the District. } (Here enter 31st May 1865, No. 2,847.)

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, 6th July 1865, No. 1,544.

Separate Revenue, No. 5.
Salt.

1. The papers submitted with the above Proceedings do not call for any further orders from Government on a subject which has been already very fully discussed.

2. The Government approve of the orders issued by the Board on the several controverted points, and concur with them in thinking that Mr. Smith evinces too much disposition to criticise orders issued by superior authority after full enquiry and consideration of the subject, instead of using his best endeavours to carry them out.

3. If after all efforts, success is not attained, or if further experience affords good evidence that the orders are unsuitable or impracticable, a respectful representation of the facts will meet with ready consideration; but Mr. Smith must distinctly understand that his first duty is to obey orders, and not to cavil at them.

4. The Government concur with the Board in thinking that Mr. Smith concentrates his attention too much on the Madras Depôt. Three visits in the year to the outlying stations was certainly insufficient, notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Smith was three months absent on leave, and for a short time suffering from ill-health.

5. The Government desire that the Board will take steps to ascertain from the District Officers, Revenue and Police, what opinion is generally entertained of the effect of the order abolishing Rowanahs, and will report the result.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2,847.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 31st May 1865.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 25th October 1864, No. 491 :—

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings of the 4th June last, No. 3,433, I have the honor to send herewith Mr. Smith, the Salt Deputy Collector's reply* to the remarks of the Board and Government on the salt manufacture of this District.

* With three Plans.

2. This report so thoroughly answers all Mr. Clarke's strictures, and the remarks of the Government that, voluminous as it is, I beg to submit it whole with some few remarks of my own.

3. I had hoped, before sending on this report to the Board, to have myself personally inspected each place of manufacture; but I have been lately unwell and unable to move about much, and was prevented, therefore, going any further than to the northern salt pans.

4. I saw, however, when there, quite enough to convince me of the impossibility, let alone the expense, of hedging round the salt pans, or even the platforms as recommended by Mr. Clarke, and agree with Mr. Smith that if any thing is to be done to protect the pans, it must be by deep broad channels. The difficulty of making an efficient hedge round even the salt platform at Homes' gardens has been very great, and the expenses up to date of surrounding the depôt with a young hedge of "Inga Dulies" Korakapuli, and a slight bamboo fence, has been upwards of Rupees 100. How much greater, therefore, would be the difficulty and expense to the other platforms, where the soil is probably very inferior to Homes' gardens, and where no convict labor is obtainable as at Homes' gardens.

5. As regards the evils expected from the discontinuance of Rowanahs, I also agree with Mr. Smith; but as the orders of the Government seem so positive on the subject, we must only look in future to the Police to put a stop to the illicit manufacture of salt, and to its transport and sale.

6. I think, however, that Mr. Smith's rules, as regards the giving of chits to persons passing in and out of the salt platforms, might fairly be carried out without injury or obstruction to traders, and with a decided benefit to the Government service.

7. Of the salt roads recommended by Mr. Smith, the one from Cheyur to the trunk road has been commenced. For the other, mentioned in paragraph 20, estimates have been framed to the amount of about 25,000 Rupees, and will be included in the Salt Budget about to be submitted.

8. As regards the extra Kudivaram for previous Faslis that Mr. Smith requires information about in paragraph 29, I beg to be informed whether the order of Government is intended to have a retrospective effect; the Ryots seem to expect so, as they have been supplying this extra quantity from Fasli 1266, when the rule was first enforced.

9. As regards Mr. Smith's scheme of a tramway from one of the northern pans to the Salt Kotaur at Madras, I doubt much the Government being prepared for any thing so expensive. One thing, however, is to be observed, and that is that if the Government are to go to the expense of digging channels around the salt pans, the direction of those channels and the earth from them might be taken advantage of to form the earthwork of the tramway; and the Board will perceive that such a channel can be made in the rear of all the northern salt pans, which would form both the protection required, and a straight line of earthworks for a tramway. Mr. Smith's scheme is, however, very ingenious; and I have much pleasure in bringing it to the notice of the Board.

10. As regards the reducing the number of platforms at Cheyur, I beg to state that a similar scheme was sanctioned by the Board as far back as 1861, estimates prepared by the Department Public Works, and the work entered in the Salt Budget submitted last year with Mr. Banbury's letter, No. 480 of the 9th November 1863, for execution in the year 1864-65.

11. With reference to paragraph 20 of the Board's Proceedings and 28 of the Government Order, I beg to state that I propose taking an early opportunity of visiting the southern pans, and then remedying on the spot the evils complained of by Mr. Clarke, of the establishments being inefficient through age, and shall also summon to the Huzur all such persons as in the northern pans are reported to be inefficient from the same causes.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. SMITH, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, to E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Voyalur, 10th August 1864, No. 379.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th June last, No 358, forwarding the papers noted in the margin, and requesting me to furnish information and explanation on certain points in Mr. Clarke's report of the result of his inspection of the southern salt works of this District, specially noticed by the Government and the Board of Revenue.

Report of T. Clarke, Esq., to Government, dated 11th February 1864.
Order thereon, 11th April 1864, No. 608.
Proceedings Board of Revenue, 4th June 1864, No. 3,433.

2. In addressing myself to this requisition, I shall follow the order in which Mr. Clarke's report is noticed by Government.

3. CHUNAMBET.—The cause of the simultaneous rise and fall in the sales of salt at Chunambet and Cheyur, is rightly attributed by Government to mere transfers of purchases from one to the other and from adjacent stations, favored by the failure of the manufacture at Mercanum, or exhaustion of the stock in store. There is no reason to believe that these variations in the sales are due to improper inducements held out by the *salt servants* of this District; but from the feeling of rivalry that has long existed between the manufacturers of Chunambet and Mercanum, it is to be feared that neither are free from the imputation of having resorted to irregular practices to increase the sales in their respective villages. The recent transfer, however, of Chunambet to the South Arcot District, is calculated to remove this feeling of rivalry; and if the practices alluded to are continued, of which I am not aware, they can only be repressed by the Collector of that District, my control over the manufacturers of Chunambet having entirely ceased.

Simultaneous rise and fall in the sales of salt in Faslis 1271 and 1272.
Order of Government, paragraph 8.
Board's Proceedings, do. 1.

4. On this point, I beg to observe that the sales were continued only until the stock in hand, at the date of Mr. Clarke's visit, was exhausted on the 15th February last, after which there were no sales until new salt was received into store. The cause of there not having been a sufficiency of salt, was the failure of the manufacture in Fasli 1272, an unfavorable year, 2,752 maunds only having been scraped out of a dittum of 1,44,000 maunds, and none at all in the adjoining works at Mercanum. The average sales at the Chunambet pans, during the last five years, are 70,000 maunds; while the dittum granted in Fasli 1272, viz., 1,44,000 maunds, was equal to two years' sales, the stock in hand when the dittum was given being about 79,000 maunds. Thus the salt in store, and the quantity ordered to be manufactured in Fasli 1272, would have left an ample supply to meet the demands of even the following year; but the unfavorableness of the season, as above stated, prevented the realization of our reasonable calculations.

Continuance of the sales when the stock of salt at the date of Mr. Clarke's visit was only 7,440 maunds, and manufacture had not then commenced.
Mr Clarke's Report, paragraph 6.
Order of Government, do. 9.
Board's Proceedings, do. 1.

5. The sales of salt at these outlying depôts have for a series of years fluctuated to an extent that has always made it a matter of great difficulty to fix a dittum which, while it rendered manufacture an object to the Ryots, did not inflict loss on Government by subjecting the stock to large wastage, consequent on long storage. The question was brought under the consideration of the Acting Collector, in my letter to his address, dated the 11th December 1863, No. 290, in connection with the suggestion of Government that the stock in hand at outlying depôts should not exceed the sales of twelve months, and at the principal depots those of eighteen months. In paragraph 6 of that letter, I observed that where "the sales are limited, say to the "average extent of 50 or 70,000 maunds per annum, as at Cheyur and Chunambet, a diffi- "culty arises, at the commencement of the season, as to the dittum that should be allowed, if "one year's supply should already happen to be in hand. In such cases, according to the rule "now suggested by Government for minor stations, a dittum equal to only one year's sale "can be granted; but to this the manufacturers of the above-named villages object, on the "score that the expenses of producing so limited a quantity of salt exceed the profits; and, "as has before happened, they prefer that their pans should be closed during an entire season, "in order that the dittum might be doubled or trebled at the next. On the other "hand, if a dittum equal to two or more years' consumption be regularly and annually granted "at these minor depots, the stock in hand will gradually accumulate, the salt will become "deteriorated from long storage, and the wastage proportionably increased. No general rule "can, I apprehend, be maintained and strictly enforced, where the sales have fluctuated so consi- "derably, as they have done at the above-men- "tioned depots; and it appears to me that "while it is desirable to provide for a specific "supply being kept at depots where the sales "are steady or progressing, it should be left "to the discretion of the Collector to relax or "modify, for the occasion, any general rule that may be made regarding the stock to be reserved "at the minor depots, in reference to the dittum and the probable sales."

Depots.	Fasli. 1268.	Fasli 1269.	Fasli 1270.	Fasli 1271.	Fasli 1272.
	Maunds	Maunds.	Maunds	Maunds.	Maunds.
Cheyur ...	59,241	84,869	23,851	56,712	29,823
Chunambet	81,865	38,994	64,489	1,26,860	83,389

6. I may here advert, *en passant*, to the observation that the Chunambet salt is remarkably fine and good, owing to the brine being kept for forty days in the pans. While this is true as regards the salt produced, it should be borne in mind that the same cause to which its superiority is due, is also the occasion, in many instances, of the dittum not being manufactured to its full extent, and of an entire failure of the produce in adverse seasons. Hence it is that, as remarked by Government in paragraph 5, the manufacture has varied greatly, and has generally been very much below the quantity ordered. There is a greater probability, in an unfavorable

Fine quality of Chunampet salt.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 7.
Order of Government, „ 3.

year, of obtaining salt from pans where the scrapings are made every ten days, than from those like Mercanum and Chunambet, where salt is collected after forty days. Last year, for instance, while the manufacture completely failed in Mercanum, and only 2,752 maunds were obtained at Chunambet; 7,30,550 maunds, being about half the quantity hitherto scraped in the most favorable years, were produced in the northern pans of this District! I shall again advert to this subject, in connection with the suggested introduction into Covelong, of the system of manufacture followed at Cheyur and Chunambet.

7. CHEYUR.—The cause of this is fully explained in paragraphs 5 and 6 of this report. It is only necessary here to observe that the dittum is regulated with reference to the stock in hand, and the probable sales, and that the Ryots decline to manufacture when the quantity ordered is small, preferring to close their pans for the season, in order that the dittum may be doubled at the next.

Desultory manufacture, none having been ordered in six out of thirteen years.
Order of Government, paragraph 11.

8. The falling off in the sales is mainly owing, as observed by Government, to the absence of passable roads. The opening out of the approaches to the Cheyur pans formed, among other matters, the subject of a report to the late Collector of Madras, so far back as the 5*th November* 1861. I then suggested that a direct road should be made from Sotpakum, on the trunk road, to Cheyur, and a branch from Madurantakum to Tavullur. The proposal was approved both by the Board and Government,* and although the former of the roads was entered in the Supplemental Budget submitted with my letter to the Acting Collector, dated 5th November 1863, No. 258, and subsequently sanctioned by Government, it appears from paragraph 3 of a letter from Colonel Wilkieson, transcribed in the margin, that "nothing has yet been done by the Range Officer beyond inviting tenders for its execution on contract."

Falling off in the sales; want of roads; great number of platforms; alleged ill-treatment of salt merchants.
Order of Government, paragraphs 12 and 13.
Mr. Clarke's Report " 29 and 34.
Board's Proceedings, " 3.

* Revenue Department, 2nd June 1862, No. 1,213.

Letter from Colonel Wilkieson to Deputy Collector, dated 23rd June 1864, No. 1,153, paragraph 3 "With reference to the road from Cheyur to Chotpaukum, an estimate of Rupees 8,800 has been sanctioned by Government for the work, but nothing as yet been done by the Range Officer beyond inviting tenders for its execution on contract."

9. The great number of platforms at Cheyur also formed the subject of representation in my letter of *November* 1861, in paragraph 8 of which I suggested that these store-yards should be abolished, and "a single platform, capable of containing 2,000 garce of salt, erected in a centrical situation, with a Cutcherry upon it, the salt from the pans being conveyed to the former by "means of a boat channel as shown in the sketch." I added, "The advantages of a single platform, with a Cutcherry upon it, are obvious. The salt will be better guarded by the concentration in one locality of the peons who are now divided into separate parties for the different platforms. Roguery cannot be so easily practised, as all the peons must combine for the purpose. The store and sales will be conducted with greater rapidity, and the interests of Government, the manufacturers and purchasers, will be alike promoted by the arrangement." This proposal was also approved by the Board, (Proceedings, paragraph 7, 6th February 1862, No. 820,) and Colonel Wilkieson states, in his letter already quoted, that the estimates for the works have been returned by the Board with their approval, and that "As soon as the requisite plans have been furnished by the Range Officer, Government will be addressed on the subject of sanction being given for their early execution."

10. The Board, in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, appear to regard the improvements relating to the reduction of platforms at Cheyur, as now proposed for the first time. But it will be seen that they were suggested by me, as already stated, so far back as November 1861, and received the approval of the Board in paragraph 7 of their Proceedings of the 6th February, following No. 820. I advert to this, because it would seem from the general tenor of their

remarks, that the Board are not satisfied that sufficient attention has been paid by the Department to the requirements of the salt trade, "whether in regard to communications, or to other works on which the success of the trade depends." In both respects, it will be perceived, that this Department long ago took the initiative; and having formally represented its wants, and reiterated them at a subsequent period, it had no alternative but to wait till the authorities entrusted with the execution of the works, were in a position to prosecute them to completion.

11. I observe that you "Have requested the Sub-Collector to make inquiries as to the alleged "ill-usage of the Ryots by the Cheyur salt servants, and to transfer them, if necessary, in the "manner proposed by Mr. Clarke." I shall, therefore, only here add, that I was three days at Cheyur in the month of April last, and not a soul complained to me of ill-usage on the part of the Superintendent or his subordinates. The fact is that the delivery of salt by weighment entails, in the majority of cases, loss on the purchasers, who being ignorant Koravers, and hitherto accustomed to receive their supplies by measurement, conclude, when they find a deficiency in their purchases, that they have been cheated by the salt servants; and hence, probably, some wrangling may have ensued between the latter and the former. So long as some salt is heavy and some light, so long will the purchaser of the former receive less by weight, and of the latter more, than the supposed equivalent in mercals. The only remedy, in my humble opinion, is for the purchaser to sell his salt in the same way in which he buys it, namely, by weight; and I believe that it will come to this before long, without any interference on the part of the Legislature, if only no more salt than a person is strictly entitled to receive, is everywhere given by weight.

12. COVELONG AND KELUMBAKUM.—It will be necessary here briefly to advert to the causes which render the Cheyur salt superior to that of other villages, and to determine whether, in the absence of such causes, the same effects can reasonably be expected or produced.

Alleged defective manufacture at Covelong and Kelumbakum noticed, and the introduction of the Cheyur and Chunambet system, directed.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 8.
Government Order, " 14.
Board's Proceedings, " 2.

13. The Cheyur salt is superior to that of Chunambet, owing to its being manufactured from brine obtained from an extensive back-water adjoining the pans. From this back-water also the Chunambet pans, eight miles distant, receive their supply, the water being conveyed by a channel excavated by the manufacturers. In its course, this channel receives the drainage of the surrounding lands, and the salt-water being thus mixed with fresh, the brine irrigated into the Chunambet pans is in consequence weaker, and the salt produced of less consistency and firmness than that of Cheyur. Hence it is that occasional showers of rain, during the forty days in which the brine is irrigated into the pans, destroy entirely the salt that is being formed at Chunambet; while similar showers of rain do little or no injury to the salt at Cheyur produced from brine, in the adjoining back-water, of such concentrated strength, as to form into salt very soon after its irrigation into the pans.

14. To introduce the Cheyur and Chunambet system of manufacture into Covelong and Kelumbakum, as suggested by Mr. Clarke, and approved and directed by Government, two very important requisites are necessary. The first is, that the soils at both localities should be identical, instead of, as they are, essentially different in quality. The soil of Cheyur and Chunambet is soft and muddy, without any admixture of sand; while that of Covelong and Kelumbakum is a mixture of clay and sand. Previous to irrigation for the manufacture of salt, the beds at the former places are moistened with brine, rendered as muddy as

possible, and smoothed with a plank. The beds at the latter places, after being moistened, are stamped for several hours a day, for a period of eight or ten days, and then left to dry for a week, the object being to render the beds as hard and impervious as possible. In the former case, the soft, cool and muddy soil, by not imbibing heat too quickly, assists the evaporation of the concentrated brine in the beds, and thus admits of its retention for a period of forty days; in the latter case, the retention of the brine for a longer period than twelve or fifteen days, either converts the salt into powder, owing to the great heat imbibed by the beds, or by penetrating their surface, renders them moist and unfit for the production of salt. Hence it is that occasional showers of rain, during the great heat that prevails in May and June, are favorable to the manufacture of superior salt by cooling the over-heated beds.

15. The next important requisite is a natural back-water, such as exists at Cheyur, which, when once formed, receives no accession of either salt water or fresh, or comparatively little of the latter, from occasional showers, in reference to its great extent. In such a back-water, exposed for between three and six months to solar evaporation, the brine is in a highly concentrated state; and its irrigation into the pans every four days, for a period of forty days, naturally produces a thickness and weight of salt, closely resembling that of spontaneous generation. There is no such natural back-water at Covelong and Kelumbakum; and in its absence at those places, as well from the difference of soil above adverted to, it is obvious that similar results cannot be obtained as at Cheyur and Chunambet. Nor is this, in my humble opinion, to be regretted; for although the system of manufacture adopted at those places possesses advantages, it has also disadvantages, in the uncertainty of its operation, as explained in paragraph 6, which render it a matter of congratulation that it is not the process generally observed in this District. Had it been possible to have introduced this system of manufacture into the northern pans, our great source of supply, we should have had last year, an unfavorable one, probably no more than a few thousand maunds, instead of, as we did, upwards of seven lacs?

16. The paragraphs noted in the margin, relate to the small quantity of salt consumed at Covelong, the inference deduced therefrom by Government as to the extensive prevalence of smuggling, and the absence of fences or ditches around the pans and platforms as contributing to encourage and facilitate theft.

Small consumption of salt; prevalence of smuggling; absence of fences or ditches around the pans and platforms.

Mr. Clark's Report, paragraphs		23 to 26.
Government Order,	,,	16.
Board's Proceedings,	,,	2.

17. On the first point, I beg to observe that, although a great deal of fish is caught at Covelong, as stated by Mr. Clarke, it is not generally known that the bulk of it is instantly conveyed to Palaveram, Saint Thomas' Mount, and Madras, and that a comparatively small portion is converted into salt fish. There can be no question, however, that the consumption of salt, not only at Covelong and Kelumbakum, but at almost all the inland villages north and south of Madras, is considerably small in proportion to the number of inhabitants. And no marvel if, as I have recently been informed, earth salt is manufactured and consumed to a large extent by the poorer classes of the population. It appears that this salt is made not only in villages bordering on the sea-coast, but in many of the inland villages of the Ponnery, Trivalur, Sydapet, Chingleput, Conjeveram, and Madurantakum Taluks; and I beg to submit a specimen of the earth and of the salt* made therefrom. The serious attention of the Police should be drawn to the subject; and it might be worth while to inquire how many cases of illicit manufacture of this salt have been discovered and reported by them during the last two years.

*Made from earth obtained from Veysurpady, near Powder Mills.

18. With regard to the absence of hedges around the pans and platforms, I beg to solicit your attention to the correspondence which has taken place on this subject marginally noted, and to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th March 1863, No. 1,759, in which they intimated that Mr. Robinson's and their intentions had been misunderstood as regards *the salt pans* which, they observed, it was not intended to enclose. In paragraph 16, however, of the Government Order now under acknowledgment, I have been directed to report on the best means of protecting with a fence or ditch the pans as well as platforms at Covelong and Kelumbakum. In obedience to these orders, I lately visited those places, and have now the honor to submit a plan of both, with translation of an estimate, as per margin, amounting to Rupees 3,921-4-0, prepared by the Superintendent of Covelong, in communication with the manufacturers, for planting and rearing an aloe hedge, about five miles in extent, around the pans and platforms at that place and Kelumbakum, and cutting at the latter station two channels, amounting together in length to 1,300 yards, where a hedge will not grow in consequence of the land being submerged by salt water. I also enclose a plan of the Semenjari pans, with translation of an estimate, as per margin, amounting to Rupees 402-8-0, prepared by the Superintendent of that Division, in communication with the manufacturers, for planting an aloe hedge, miles 3, yards 1,160 in extent, around the pans only, there being no sale or export platforms at that place. The difference between the cost of the Covelong and Semenjari estimates is great; but the Superintendent and manufacturers of the former place account for it by alleging that the aloe cannot be obtained in the neighbourhood, but must be purchased and brought down from different and distant localities. No provision appears to have been made by the Semenjari Superintendent for planting and watering the hedge, and I beg to suggest that a sum of Rupees 252 be added to the estimate, being the wages of three men for two years, at Rupees 3½ per mensem each. Sanction is, therefore, requested for the disbursement of these sums, amounting in all to Rupees 4,575-12-0, in view to the hedges being planted as early as practicable. If considered desirable, one of the export platforms at Covelong might be abolished, and the other, with a watch tower in the centre, might be extended so as to contain the whole of the salt now stored on both, and a hedge planted around it as shown in the plan. But this will involve an expenditure of about 1,500 Rupees; and it seems doubtful whether, for the sake of economizing a single Constable, it would be worth while to go to that expense.

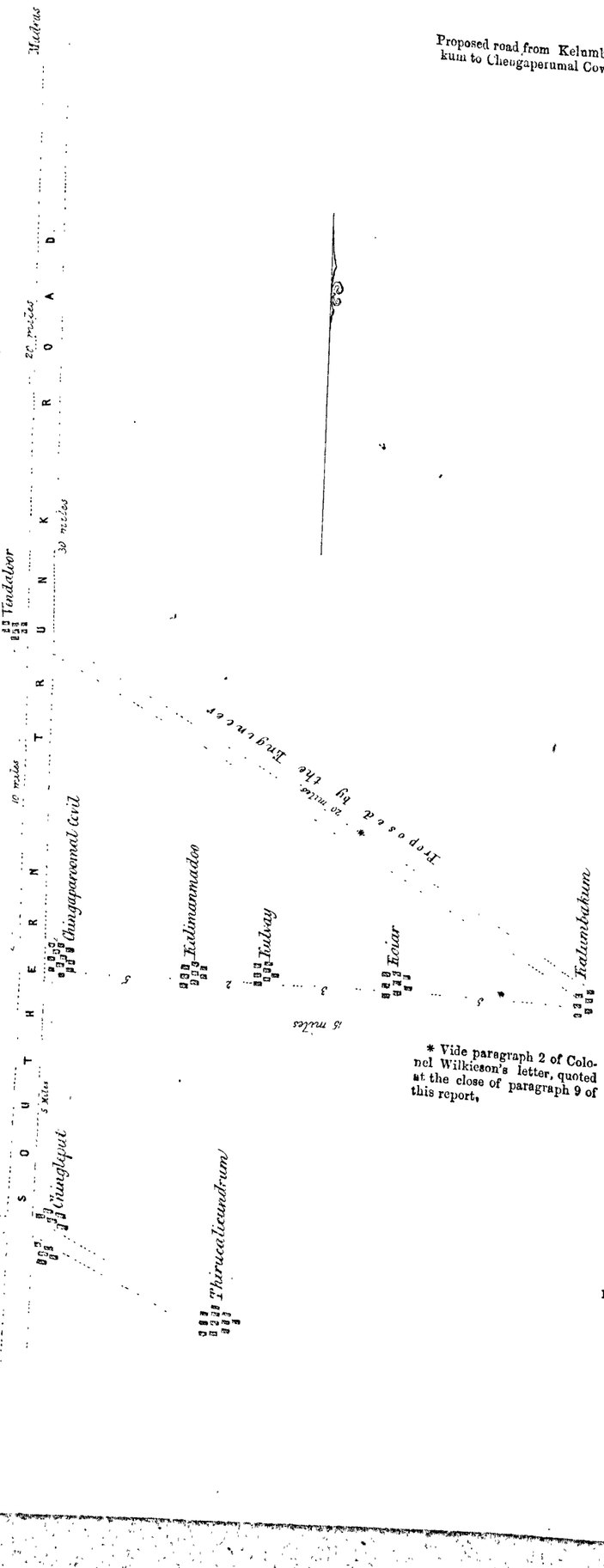
To Acting Collector, 23rd February 1863, No. 25.
To do. 7th March ,, ,, 41.
From do. 9th ,, ,, ,, 63.
To do. 11th ,, ,, ,, 46.
To do. 17th ,, ,, ,, 50.
From do. 19th ,, ,, ,, 85.
Board's Proceedings, 24th ,, ,, ,, 1,759.
To Acting Collector, 23rd April ,, ,, 79.
Board's Proceedings, 18th ,, 1864, ,, 2,329.
From Actg. Collector 25th ,, ,, ,, 230.
To do. 28th ,, ,, ,, 179.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Value of 2,935 bandies of the aloe plant, for enclosing the Covelong and Kelumbakum pans and platforms, five miles in all, at 8 Annas a bandy load	1,467	8	0
Cart hire for conveying the above to Covelong and Kelumbakum, at 4 Annas a bandy load	733	12	0
Pay of five men to plant and water the hedge for two years, at the rate of one man per mile, at Rupees 3½ per mensem each	420	0	0
Cost of digging a channel on the northern and southern sides of the Kelumbakum pans 1,300 yards in length	1,300	0	0
	3,921	4	0

Charge for cutting and conveying the aloe plant for enclosing the Semenjari pans, miles 3 and yards 1,160 in extent, at one Anna per yard. 402 8 0

19. Instead of this unimportant improvement, it would be far preferable to connect the principal temporary platform at Covelong with the export store-yards near the beach, the greatest difficulty being experienced, from want of a road, in conveying salt by carts from the platform to the beach, the present track being through heavy sand over which the bullocks are hardly able to drag the carts. If this proposal be approved, the proper Department might be called upon to submit an estimate for a road as shown in the Covelong plan.

Proposed road to connect the temporary platform and export store-yard at Covelong.



* Vide paragraph 2 of Colonel Wilkieson's letter, quoted at the close of paragraph 9 of this report.

Proposed road from Kelumbakum to Chengaperumal Covil.

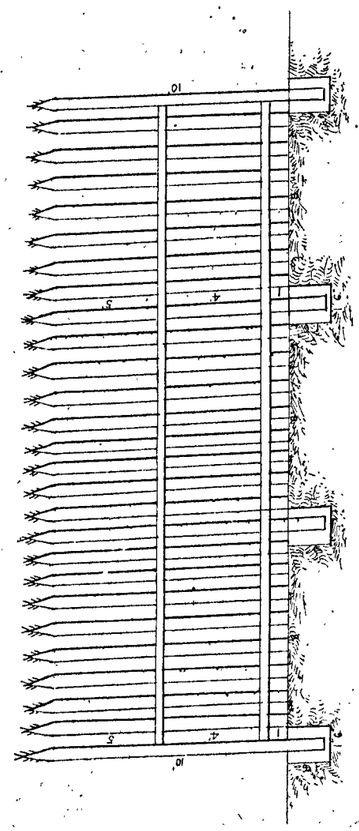
20. As Kelumbakum has recently been established as a depot for the sale of salt to the population of that part of the District between Cheyur and Homes' garden, it is desirable that access to the newly opened depot, should be facilitated by a road connecting it with the Southern Trunk line. I understand that one has been proposed between Kelumbakum and Vendalur, but a road between the former place and Chengaperumal Covil would appear to be better, as being shorter, and affording greater facilities of access to the depot to merchants coming up from the south. There may, however, be good reasons, of which I am not aware, for giving the preference to the other road; and I must, therefore, leave it to you to decide which of these roads should be constructed.

21. The Cheyur pans and platforms are under the management of the Sub-Collector, whose opinion should be taken as to the best means of protecting them, and the cost at which it can be done. As there is a probability, however, of the improvements recommended by me, in paragraph 8 of my letter of the 5th November 1861, No. 80, being early undertaken,* there seems no necessity for any steps being taken at present for enclosing the pans and platforms with a hedge, until those improvements have been carried into effect.

22. At the same time I venture respectfully to submit, in the interests of Government, that so far from a hedge *around the pans* being a protection to the salt, it will, in my humble opinion, be the cause of increased smuggling,

Apparent uselessness of a hedge around the pans, as a means of protecting salt from smugglers.

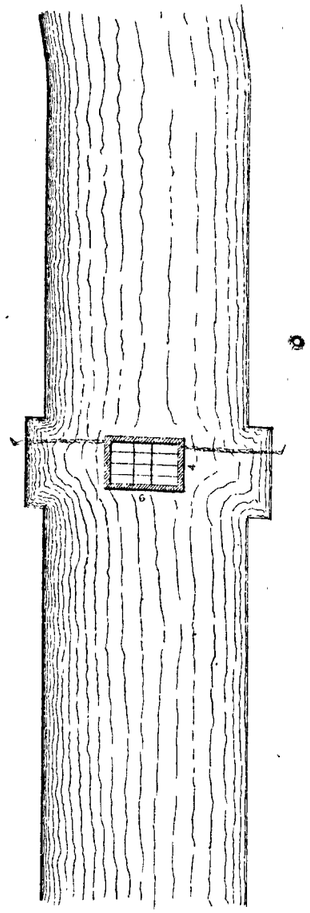
inasmuch as it will afford a safe retreat for thieves, who can at any time after dark conceal themselves behind it, without being perceived by the Constable on duty; and, watching an opportunity when he has proceeded to the opposite end of his beat, probably a distance of one-third or half a mile, quietly enter any convenient opening, and help themselves to the salt lying in all directions on the ridges of the pans. To this it might be objected that the hedge would be of such thickness as to prevent access to the pans, without a passage being made with a knife, or an axe, and that this would take time, and frustrate the designs of the smuggler, if it did not lead to his apprehension. But what is time to a thief, who has several hours before him, in a dark night, to effect his object; or what probability is there of defeating it, when the Constable is unaware of his presence behind the hedge, and consequently knows not when he will effect an entrance into the pans? He will, as aforesaid, watch his opportunity, make an entrance for himself, should not one naturally present itself somewhere in a hedge four or five miles in length, and walk off with the salt. A hedge too of such an extent cannot, I submit, be kept in good order; it will flourish only in wet weather, and in dry will present nothing but leafless branches; gaps, natural ones, will occur here and there; and I have seen aloe hedges presenting an opening below, with a shade above, under which natives, during the day, have retired to sleep. A hedge also generally harbours snakes of the most venomous descriptions; and even in such a public place as Homes' garden, the Constables have frequently mentioned to me that they were prevented from moving about their beats at night, from fear of encountering them. A hedge moreover is not likely to increase, but rather to diminish the vigilance of the Constables, who will readily take up the idea that as it has been planted for the protection of the salt, they need not give themselves much trouble by keeping awake, or walking up and down their beats. On these grounds, it appears to me that a hedge around the pans, whence chiefly salt is smuggled to a considerable extent during the season of manufacture, will involve a waste of money, cannot be planted and reared to perfection in a dry and sandy soil, and is but a poor substitute for that protection which an increase in the preventive establishment can alone afford. Rather than expend a Rupee upon hedges, it would be more economical, I submit, to spend fifty in enclosing the pans with a deep ditch, or with strong palmira railings, pointed at the end, and shod with nails, as shown in the margin. Through such a railing a Constable might be expected to espy lurkers, but he can't see through a hedge. A ditch would be a real protection to the pans, while a palmira railing would answer the same purpose in respect to the platforms; and when once made, both would require less looking after than a bedge.



C

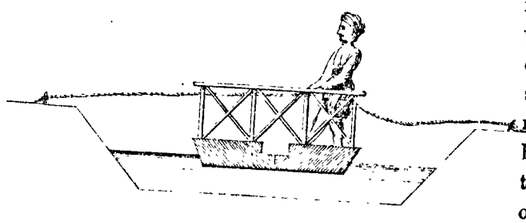
23. I take this opportunity to solicit your orders, and those of the Board if need be, regarding the export depot at Ennore. No contractor will engage to enclose it with an aloe hedge, and to water it until it attains maturity, for the sum of 30 Rupees. The Superintendent states that his estimate for that amount was simply for planting a hedge during the rainy season. From my inspection of the existing enclosure, I am not of opinion that a hedge will thrive in that extremely sandy locality. I shall, therefore, with your permission, appropriate the 30 Rupees towards repairing the present hedge; leaving it to you to decide whether it would not be better to enclose the depot with palmira railings of the description adverted to in the previous paragraph.

Proposed railing round the Ennore Depot.



24. The Superintendent of Police has represented the difficulty experienced by his men in performing their patrol duties, consequent on the impediments to their freely proceeding from place to place, presented by the numerous branch channels which intersect the northern pans. He has requested that planks may be laid across these channels, some of which are deep and wide, for the passage of his men; but as a Constable in pursuit of a smuggler cannot, without assistance, lay across the channel a plank which has been removed for the passage of salt boats, and as the planks are liable to be washed away on the occasion of floods, and are besides not always safe, being narrow and slippery, it appears to me that it would be better to establish a ferry of the description given in the margin at some of the principal branch channels, and to lay a plank over such as are not wide and deep. No establishment will be required to work the ferries, which might be placed in charge of the Police; all that is necessary for a person intending to cross, is to draw the ferry by the rope attached to it towards the shore on which he is standing, and after having got in to pull himself to the opposite shore by the rope attached to it in that direction. Twenty-six such ferries will be required in all, and the cost of each will not probably exceed 60 Rupees, and I request that you will be so good as to obtain sanction for their early construction. These ferries will not interfere with the passage of salt boats, as they can be moored, when not used, at the openings that will be made on either bank of the channel, as shown in the sketch.

Proposed establishment of ferries at the northern branch channels.



Proposed ditch around the northern pans.

25. Connected with the subject of protecting the salt, is the question of enclosing the northern pans; and looking to their extent, I would strongly advocate their being surrounded by a deep ditch. I am sure that a hedge could not be made around them for any effectual purpose, even if it grew and flourished in a dry and barren soil, where no good water can be obtained at any cost; and if the proposal I shall presently submit, be deemed feasible and advantageous to the interests of Government, as well as of those who may undertake it, its adoption will provide a ditch, in the natural course of its execution, without any expense to the State.

26. Our manufacture and sales have greatly increased within the last few years, and they will eventually amount to a very large figure, when the Bellary and Cuddapah lines of rail are opened to traffic. Considerable difficulty and delay are annually experienced in bringing down by boats to Madras the large quantities of salt manufactured in the northern pans; and this difficulty and delay will be more and more felt, as the manufacture increases. Much inconvenience is also experienced from the want of storage room at Madras; and the limited space now available will be further diminished, if the proposal to introduce light rails with weigh-bridges and turntables, for the more expeditious receipt of salt into store, be carried into effect. Under these circumstances, it seems deserving of consideration whether the salt from the northern pans might not be brought down by rail, instead of by boats, the branch line at the Madras depôt being connected by a tramway, running due west, with our northern pans, as shown in the accompanying sketch. The tramway will be available not only for the transport of salt to Madras, but also of the paddy, shells, firewood, cocoanut, tamarind, salt fish, &c., received from the north. From the Katur end of the tramway, a branch channel might be made to connect it with the coast canal, and the northern boats might go up this channel, and discharge their cargo on the goods waggons. The salt lying at a distance from the tramway might be conveyed to it on trucks moved along light lines of rail, a few of which might be laid down in each village. The cost of loading the trucks and discharging their contents into the waggons on the tramway, will be borne by the manufacturers, who now employ coolies at their own expense to convey their salt to the boats. If a tramway should be undertaken by the Railway, or Tramway Company now working in the District, the earth required for their purposes, can be excavated along the course of the tramway, and a deep ditch on the west will thus be made, for the protection of the pans, without any expense to Government.

27. The proposal requires further consideration, and accurate data should be obtained as to the cost of laying down a tramway of the same gauge as the railway with which it is to be connected. On the other hand, the Railway or Tramway Company should be furnished with a probable estimate of the traffic in other commodities, as well as salt, which is likely to avail itself of this mode of conveyance, in order that they might judge of the expediency of undertaking the project. In the meantime, I shall briefly advert to some of the obvious advantages to Government which the proposed undertaking would ensure, in view to a decision being arrived at as to the desirableness of further prosecuting the subject. These advantages are as follow:—

I. The early and more rapid transmission of salt from the pans to Madras. This in itself involves the following advantages:—

(1.) Delivery of the salt in a purer state, and its exemption from wastage, consequent on its not being kept a long time in store at the pans exposed to dust, floods, and rain.

(2.) Security from smuggling, the salt being removed as soon as made and sufficiently dried. A very important consideration as affecting the revenue, and a relief to the Police, who are numerically weak at these pans, in reference to their extent.

(3.) Removal of the difficulty annually experienced of obtaining a sufficiency of boats for the conveyance of the salt to Madras, and the impossibility of smuggling in transit.

II. The formation of a deep ditch along the course of the tramway, west of the salt pans, consequent on the excavation of the earth required for raising the ground and laying down rails. A ditch is a far better means of protection against smuggling than a hedge; and its excavation will be attended by no expense to the State, which, under other circumstances, may have to disburse a large sum, probably eighty thousand or a lac of Rupees, for the formation of one 14 miles in extent.

III. A saving of a portion of the sum now paid for the conveyance of the salt in boats. The average boat hire is Rupee 1-10-4 per 100 Indian Maunds; and assuming that our future annual manufacture will be 26,00,000, the charge for the transmission to Madras in boats of that quantity of salt, will be Rupees 42,792. The difference between this sum and the railway fare, which, I presume, will be less, will constitute a permanent annual saving to Government.

IV. An entire saving of the sum now disbursed on account of tonnage, which, at the rate of 4 Annas a ton on the above-mentioned quantity of salt, being 95,498 tons, will be Rupees 23,874 per annum.

V. A further annual saving of considerable sums, as will be presently shown, if, in connection with the proposed tramway, it be resolved to sell, without receiving into store, a portion of the salt, not less than a waggon load at a time, as it is brought down by rail. This idea is no novel one, it has before occurred to the Board, but objection has hitherto been raised against it on the ground that, as the salt conveyed in boats was wet, merchants would not consent to purchase it, without its first being weighed and received into store. This ground of objection will no longer exist, if the salt is conveyed to Madras by rail, there being no opportunity for its imbibing moisture in transit, as it does when brought down in boats. The salt received by rail might be weighed on a weigh-bridge, to be laid down at the entrance of the northern platform (vide plan), and sold on the spot without being unladen, weighed and stored. By thus disposing of the salt, storage room will be economised at the Madras Kotar; and as there will be no wastage on such salt, a discount of 2½ per cent. will be ample on all wholesale transactions, and a saving of 2½ per cent. effected. The arrangement too is likely to attract a number of purchasers, and consequently to increase the sales, many now keeping back from the trade in consequence of having to buy an entire heap of 20 garce, involving a ready money payment of so large a sum as 3,420 Rupees. Supposing that ten lacs of maunds, out of the twenty-six lacs manufactured, be disposed of in the manner suggested, there will be a permanent annual saving to Government of Rupees 38,509 on the following items of expenditure, besides the saving in tonnage and boat hire already referred to, and that arising from the protection of the salt from smuggling and wastage at the pans, and in transit to Madras.

Saving realized by the sale of ten lacs of Indian Maunds of Salt as brought down in waggons.

Hire of unlading the salt, at 8 Annas per 100 maunds.	Hire of weighing into store, at 6 Annas per 100 maunds.	Ditto of forming and covering the heaps at 1 Anna and 7⅜ Pice per 100 maunds.	Cost of ten lacs of Palmyra leaves, at 6 Annas per 100.	Saving of 2½ per cent. on 10 lacs of maunds.	Total.
Rs. 5,000	Rs. 2,750	Rs. 1,009	Rs. 3,750	Rs. 25,000	Rs. 38,509

VI. If a tramway be constructed, and a weigh-bridge laid down as suggested, there will be a further saving of Rupees 6,000 per annum, being the hire of weighing into store 16,00,000 of maunds, the quantity left out of the 26,00,000 expected to be manufactured, after the sale of 10,00,000 in the manner proposed. The weight of this salt can be ascertained, as the waggons pass over the weigh-bridge at the entrance of the northern platform; and the tedious process of weighing the salt in detail, and the cost of the operation, be thus avoided. The arrangement will render unnecessary, and save the cost of, the not very satisfactory machines now being made up at the Mint; and as the salt coming in, and going out, will be weighed on the single weigh-bridge above proposed, the arrangement will also obviate the necessity and cost of the expensive mechanical appliances for the more expeditious unlading and storing of salt, now under the consideration of the Mint Master and the Superintending Engineer. Indeed the advantages of the proposed tramway to the Government, the manufacturers and the merchants, will be so important and numerous, that greater space would be required to enumerate them in detail, than can be afforded in the present report.

28. In dismissing this subject, I may add in conclusion, that no impediments of a serious nature appear to oppose the construction of the proposed tramway, there being no rocks or rivers along the whole course, except a branch of the Cortelliar near Vullur, which will have to be bridged.

29. Measures have been taken to redress the grievance of the Covelong manufacturers, so far as it has reference to the salt manufactured by them for export during the present year. It does not appear whether the re-imbursement now ordered for the extra quantity of 24 mercals on each garce of export salt, is to take effect from the current year only, or from the date from which the additional quantity was supplied; and on this point I beg to be favored with your orders.

Grievance of the Covelong manufacturers.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 35.
Order of Government, " 18.
Board's Proceedings " 4.

30. HOMES' GARDEN DEPOT.—Mr. Clarke states that the depot was "well laid out, and the heaps in good order and preservation;" that the heap he opened contained "very fine white salt of large well-formed crystals," and that the sales "were increasing," as shown in paragraph 16 of his report. This, I respectfully submit, is a satisfactory account of the state of things at the depot, and that more could hardly have been said in praise of its management; the manufacture, store and sales of salt being the principal points to which the attention of the Department should be directed.

Alleged unsatisfactory state of things at Homes' garden depôt.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraphs 39 to 43.
Order of Government, paragraphs 21 to 23.
Board's Proceedings, paragraph 5.

31. As regards the allegations that the machines were "out of order," that "any one employed on the premises appeared at liberty to handle them," and that no "one seemed to understand them;" I beg respectfully to observe that the machines are constantly getting out of order, not only at Homes' garden, but wherever they have been supplied in this District, and that several of them have from time to time been returned to the Mint for repair and adjustment. In the Memorandum of instructions originally furnished with the machines, it was distinctly directed that the weight should be *tightly* screwed to the lever, and the supposed omission to do this was considered by the late Mint Master* to have almost vitiated the results of the experiments reported in my letter of the 3rd April, and recorded in the Board's Proceedings of the 2nd May 1862, No. 2,798. When the Board, with Colonel Carpendale and the Mechanic who made the machines, tested them at the Madras Kotaur on the 25th May last, the latter declared, in contradiction to the written instructions issued for our guidance, that the weight should not be tightly but moderately screwed to the lever! After this, can it be

* To Board 23rd May, paragraph 3, in Proceedings, dated 28th July 1862, No. 4,873.

wondered that on the date of Mr. Clarke's visit to Homes' garden, just four months *before* the revelation to the Department of this essential condition of adjustment, "no one," as stated by that gentleman, "seemed to understand the machines?" And might not the unsatisfactory results to which he refers, be simply owing to the tightening of the set screws as previously ordered?

32. With regard to the machines being out of order, the Superintendent states, in his explanation herewith submitted, that they are used only during the storing season, the daily retail sales being conducted by a one and two maund cup scale; that they were, therefore, not used from July 1863 to April 1864; that they were in charge of Peon Sivaprasad; that he himself was appointed to the depôt only eleven days previous to the date of Mr. Clarke's visit, and that during that time he was engaged in preparing certain accounts required by that gentleman. It appears to me that some qualified person should be entrusted with the charge of these machines, attend at their daily use, see to their proper adjustment, and repair them when necessary. I would, therefore, respectfully reiterate the recommendation of Mr. Clarke, that "the machines should be placed in charge of some competent person who alone should be allowed to adjust them." An experienced Maistry or two, thoroughly acquainted with their construction, and able to repair them on the spot, might, with advantage, be attached to each Maritime District. The cart hire paid for conveying the machines to the Mint for repair, and back again to the outlying depots, would probably go a great way towards meeting the pay of a Maistry.

"Foreign sales" at Homes' garden depot, and improbability of salt being there purchased for transport to Mysore.
Order of Government, paragraph 22.
Board's Proceedings, paragraph 5.

33. In this paragraph, the Government observe that "It seems very unlikely that salt should "be purchased at this depot for transport to "Mysore, when it can be procured on the same "terms at Madras and placed on the Railway "without further expense;" and they desire that some explanation may be furnished on this point. In complying with the requisition, I have the honor to observe that it seems to be above assumed, that the purchaser had only to place his salt on the Railway at Madras, to ensure its being taken direct to Mysore; but it will be remembered that at the time the transactions took place, the line was complete only as far as Tripatur, and that the purchaser would there have to unlade his salt, procure carts, if able, for the remainder of the journey, and lade his salt thereon. Hence it would appear that to avoid uncertainty, delay, and wastage in unlading and lading at Tripatur, he preferred sending the salt in carts from Homes' garden direct to Bangalore. Another reason why this mode of conveyance is adopted by some merchants, in preference to that by rail, is the fact that they have depots for the sale of salt in Mysore; that their agents there hire carts at cheaper rates, for both the forward and return journey, lade them with merchandise, and request their agents or partners here to send salt in return by the same carts. A third reason, which, however, is applicable alike to home, inland and foreign sales, may be found in the fact that wholesale purchases of salt at the Madras Kotaur, involve a ready money payment of Rupees 3,420 for a heap of 20 garce; whereas those at Homes' garden depot involve the payment of only half that sum for a heap of ten. Parties not possessing an exuberance of cash, and wishing to send salt to Mysore, would from necessity buy a heap at the latter depot; and even those who may have sufficient funds at their disposal, but are unable to command a brisk trade, would also resort to the same depot, in order to save the interest on the large sum they would have to invest in the purchase of a heap at the Madras depot. Again, it sometimes happens that, owing to the non-arrival of up-country carts, a wholesale merchant cannot get rid of his heap within the period allowed for its disposal; and when this occurs, he forwards his salt in carts from Homes' garden depot for transmission by rail to any intermediate station between Madras and Tripatore, where there may be a demand for it specifying Mysore as the place of destination. These seem to be the principal reasons for the rather, at first sight, inexplicable proceeding on the part of the native merchants at Homes' garden, in resorting to the traffic by cart rather than by rail; but it should be remembered at the same time that no reliance can be placed in their statements as to the places to which they intend to take their salt.

Re-weighment of heaps at Homes' garden depot.
Order of Government, paragraph 22.
Board's Proceedings, paragraph 5.

34. As directed by Government, I have tested the following heaps at Homes' garden depot, and beg to append the results for the information of the Board:—

Heap No.	When weighed into store.	When re-weighed.	Result. Excess.	Result. Deficiency.	Centage.	For what period in store.	Remarks.
			Maunds.	Maunds.		M. Days.	
122	20th and 21st March 1863.	7th June 1864.	...	110	9⅛	14 17	The wastage in heaps Nos. 122, 130, 49, 128, and 136, is large. It is partly due to the greater facility with which rain penetrated into the heaps, consequent on their disturbance by the subsidence of the newly constructed platform; and partly to the depredations made by white ants generated in the soil on the palmyra coverings of the heaps, which had, therefore, to be renewed several times. The wastage due to these causes was reported in my letter to the Acting Collector, dated the 11th March last, No. 74.
130	30th March and 6th April 1863.	27th June 1864.	...	92	7⅞	14 21	
46	14th and 16th July 1863.	...	...	56	4⅔	11 11	
8	28th April 1864.	5th July 1864.	...	22	1⅝	2 7	
	When measured into store.	When re-measured.	Excess.	Deficiency.	Centage.	For what period in store.	
			Mercals.	Mercals.		M. Days.	
49	3rd July 1862.	30th June 1864.	...	560	13⅓	23 27	
128	17th September 1862.	...	...	328	7¾	21 13	
136	25th September 1862.	5th July 1864.	...	346	8⅜	21 10	

The first cause is not likely again to occur; the second will disappear as the soil becomes impregnated with salt, which will prevent the generation of these destructive insects.

Wholesale merchants retailing salt on the platform.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraphs 42 and 43.
Order of Government, " 23.
Board's Proceedings, " 5.

35. The practice referred to in these paragraphs, of wholesale purchasers retailing their salt on the platform, is one that is very difficult to put down, in consequence of the deceptions practised, and the falsehoods told, by cartmen in collusion with the Gumastahs of the wholesale dealers, who give their employés no fixed wages, but a commission on the sales they effect. The Gumastahs tout for purchasers, receive the money for salt sold *outside* of the depôt, and when taxed with retailing it on the platform, boldly deny the fact, alleging that the salt has been supplied to the bandymen, for conveyance into the interior, in exchange for merchandise brought down and sold by them to their principal. The cartmen repeat the same story; and though the practice is by no means "allowed," nor of frequent occurrence, it being resorted to only when *bona-fide* up-country carts do not arrive, every endeavour is being made to repress it, by giving the wholesale dealers the full benefit of the time allotted for the removal of their heaps, and refusing passes for small quantities. The practice will entirely cease when wholesale dealers are compelled, in due course of time and for the sake of their own interests, to sell their salt by weighment instead of measurement, the latter mode, as better understood, being now the attraction with purchasers, who, but for it, would not apply to wholesale dealers.

Unsatisfactory state of the roads from the salt stations into the interior.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraphs 19, 20 and 25.
Order of Government, " 24.
Board's Proceedings, " 3.

36. The chief roads required to facilitate access to the southern depôts of this District were more than once recommended by me; but, as explained in paragraphs 8, 10 of this report, they have not as yet been made. The road from Cheyur to Chotpaukum on the

trunk road, most strongly urged by Mr. Clarke in paragraph 20 of his report, was one of the roads recommended; and in paragraph 20 of this report, I have now suggested a road being made from Chengaperumal Covil on the trunk road to Kelumbakum, the newly opened depôt opposite to Covelong. The only other sale depôts in this District are those at Madras and Homes' garden; and these require no roads to facilitate access to them. On the whole, I respectfully submit that so far as this Department is concerned, it has done its best to bring the requirements of the salt trade to the early notice of higher authority; and that if any delay has taken place in carrying the suggested improvements into effect, it is not fairly attributable to the Department.

37. For the introduction of these rules I alone am responsible; and at the risk of being censured for conceit or obstinacy in venturing to advocate their continuance, I would earnestly beg attention to the circumstances under which they were introduced; merely premising that they do not owe their existence to ignorance or caprice, but to a deliberate conviction, strengthened by experience, that they are absolutely necessary, in my opinion, for the prevention of fraud, both at the receipt and sales of salt.

Rules for the purchase of salt introduced by the Deputy Collector.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 31.
Order of Government, ,, 25.
Board's Proceedings, ,, 6.

38. At one of my visits to the Chunambet pans, I unexpectedly arrived at the platform where the Peishkar (the present Superintendent) was conducting the sales, and was surprised at the confusion and din which prevailed thereat. The Peishkar was comfortably seated in a bandy which he had contrived to get on the platform; at a little distance from him were three men, measuring out salt at the same time to three purchasers, and each bawling out different numbers; while the Shroff was not far off, receiving and counting money. On the platform were fifty or sixty men, either talking to each other or clamouring to be supplied with salt; and the confusion and noise which prevailed, appeared to me to be permitted for the express purpose of practising some fraud at the sales. At all events, no state of things could have been more favorable for that purpose. Owing to the noise, it was impossible to find out what was going on; and if any one of the three measurers, after he had counted 80 (எண்பது) sung out 50, (ஐம்பது) it could not have been discovered by any inattentive looker on, owing to the similarity in sound of the two Tamil numbers and the sing-song humbugging way in which they are purposely pronounced, and the purchaser would thus have obtained, for a consideration of course, thirty mercals of salt at the expense of Government. In weighment, the trick will be attended with heavier loss to Government, as instead of being cheated by mercals, they will be defrauded by maunds. Suppose, for instance, ten maunds of salt were being weighed out at a time, by three different machines, under the superintendence of one officer; three different numbers, according to the progress made in the weighment, will be sung out by the weighing men; and if the officer superintending is not particularly sharp, any one of the weighing men, disposed to defraud, can without detection cry out four (நாலு,) tens, after he has actually weighed six (ஆறு) tens, and thus cheat the Government out of twenty maunds.

39. Now at Cheyur and Chunambet, and in fact at all the southern pans of this District, the counting used to go up from one to four hundred in regular succession, no entries being made of intermediate numbers by either Peon or Superintendent. At Madras it used to be the same, until the tricks practised by the measurers, in collusion with the peons, in the manner above described, became so glaring, that no number higher than ten was permitted to be counted. At the southern pans the measurer alone sung out the numbers; at Madras and Homes' garden, every tenth cry is repeated after the measurer by the peon, and entered by the latter, and the officer at the sale in their respective cadjans. Even this did not prevent fraud, as the other trick, also above described, of making six tens into four tens and *vice versa*, was frequently practised; and poor manufacturers, who could neither read nor write, were made victims of the fraud, and the salt out of which they had been cheated, was juggled in the same manner to the account of more knowing ones, who of course paid the peons and measurers a consideration for this addition to their stock. Several instances might be mentioned of irregular practices of this sort, but one will suffice for the present. Many months ago, a complaint was made to me by a manufacturer that he had been cheated of his salt at the measurement. I at once proceeded to the spot, and on remeasurement of the salt, found about 100 mercals in excess of the quantity which the peon had put down to the manufacturer's account, and which, by the juggling process alluded to, he intended to transfer to another for a consideration. The peon was then and there dismissed, and finding after a while that he could not get re-employed in the Department, entered my office room by stealth, or by connivance of other peons who found their hope of illicit gain was gone, dug up the flooring under my chair, and buried a rusty old nail, a small vial of scent, and some human hair, in order, as he supposed, in his superstition, that I might sicken and die. The summary punishment inflicted on the peon had a salutary effect on the others for a season; but attempts of the same sort were made again from time to time, until at the suggestion of the present Superintendent, Chinasawmy Pillai, I had moveable black-boards put at the places of sale and store, on which every ten counted at the measurement, and every number sung out at the weighment, was repeated aloud by a peon after the measuring or weighing men, and distinctly recorded in chalk on the black-board. This has put a stop to the really scandalous fraud against poor and ignorant manufacturers that had been going on for years past, as the greatest bumpkin can now tell, by means of the black-board, whether he or any one else has been cheated of his salt.

40. I shall now describe the rules issued so far as they affect purchasers, and briefly assign the reasons for their introduction. It will be necessary to bear in mind, that the transactions between the purchaser and the salt servants take place at or near the platform where the latter are assembled, and that the purchaser has not to go to any great distance for either the Peon's memorandum, the Shroff's receipt, or the pass of the officer at the sale.

41. Purchasers are to come into and go out of the platform by the gate of entrance, and by no other. They are to obtain from the gate peon a memorandum or cadjan, specifying the quantity of salt required by them, and are to present this memorandum to the Shroff, who will receive their money and furnish them with a cadjan receipt, bearing the following number and the Deputy Collector's stamp. This receipt and gate memorandum they are to present to the officer at the sale, who will supply them with the requisite quantity of salt, and furnish them with a pass, returning at the same time the gate memorandum, on which will be duly entered the number of times the salt has been weighed. On going out with the salt, purchasers will deliver the pass to the Police Constable, and the gate memorandum to the Peon.

16th June 1864
Raman, 10 Maunds.
1 Bandy or 5 Bags.

16th June 1864.

No. 5, Paramsarai Chetty, Shroff.

42. The first of these rules enforces order, and prevents the confusion arising from a number of persons crowding at the same time on the platform. The next rule, relative to the gate memorandum; and the last, requiring its return by the purchaser to the Peon, appear to be the two rules objected to by Mr. Clarke and the Government, who are of opinion that the Shroff's receipt and the pass to cover the salt, are all that are really necessary.

43. With all submission and respect, I beg to explain that in doing away with the gate memorandum, the Government unwittingly remove the only check which exists against fraudulent transactions at the sales. When the gate Peon gives the purchaser a cadjan, bearing his name, and the quantity of salt required, he makes a similar entry in a separate cadjan which he keeps, and when the purchaser returns, he compares the entry on the back of the cadjan made at the sale and showing the number of times salt has been weighed* out, with the entry in his own cadjan, and if the quantity corresponds he allows the purchaser to pass, and not otherwise. The check against fraud being in the hands of the gate Peon, neither the Superintendent, nor the Shroff is likely to place himself in his power, by giving purchasers more salt than they are entitled

* If it is 25 maunds of salt, and 5 maunds are weighed out at a time, the entry on the back of the gate memorandum will be thus made. 1111 ⓟ 5.
This entry corresponds with that on the black-board, which is put up in a conspicuous place at the sale. The circumstances which necessitated the use of the black-board have been already explained.

to. It is true that the Peon, and probably the Constable also may be induced for a consideration to connive at fraud; but as the gate Peon and Constable are daily changed, this in itself is calculated to lessen the chances of irregular practices, if not to prevent their taking place. At all events, the object intended is to guard against fraud by making it necessary that if any should be attempted, it should involve such a number of persons as would lead to its easier detection and punishment.

44. As regards the order that no more than two maunds of salt should be weighed out to purchasers at a time, I regret to say that owing to a misunderstanding of my instructions on the subject, such an order was issued, with the others above noticed, on the 9th January last, but was cancelled on the 26th idem, when it was directed that the two weighing machines should be so adjusted that one should weigh five, and the other ten maunds at a time. The reason assigned to Mr. Clarke for my ordering only two maunds to be weighed at a time, viz., that the machines might not be injured by too frequent adjustments is, I need hardly add, an invention of the salt servants

45. I have now described the rules objected to, and have mentioned the circumstances under which they were introduced. I have only to add that they have been in force at Homes' garden since its establishment, and at the Madras Kotaur for some years past, and have to my knowledge been instrumental in checking frauds. No one has, during the above period, made any complaint whatever as to their minuteness or vexatious character; and it remains for you to decide whether they shall stand, or be abrogated throughout the District.

46. There can be no doubt that Rowanahs have been, and will be made the means of extorting money from traders. Every petty official, "drest in a little brief authority," is likely to abuse it, when he thinks that he can do so with impunity; and, therefore, it appears to me very doubtful, whether the abolition of Rowanahs will have the effect of preventing men of this stamp from continuing to pursue a course of petty exaction, which has been a source of profit to them. However this may be, the utility of Rowanahs in checking smuggling and illicit sales is very great, though few cases of the good effected through their instrumentality, may have been brought to the notice of higher authority. When the order for the abolition of Rhadaries was enforced in this District, Jaffer Sahib, a wholesale merchant at Homes' garden, complained to me that some bandy loads of salt which he had forwarded to the south, were detained by the Munsiff of Tindevanum, on the plea that the salt was not covered by a Rowanah, and that it was about to be confiscated and sold. I immediately addressed the Deputy Collector of South Arcot, pointed out that Rhadaries were no longer in force, and requested that if the salt was detained simply in consequence of its not being covered by a pass, it might forthwith be released. Now if this had been smuggled salt, and the Munsiff aware at the time that Rowanahs had been abolished, he would not have interfered, and the smuggler would have walked off with his booty.

Salt Rowanahs.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 32.
Order of Government, ,, 26.
Board's Proceedings, ,, 7 and 8.

47. That salt is smuggled from the pans in large quantities, concealed in pits in lonely places, or in the back-yards of the manufacturers' houses, and sold as opportunities offer, is a notorious fact, amply confirmed by the small quantities everywhere purchased for home consumption. Hitherto, there was some danger in trafficking with smuggled salt, inasmuch as it was liable to confiscation with other salt duly paid for, if found not to correspond with the quantity entered in the Rowanah; and the very knowledge of this doubtless operated as a check to some extent. Now that Rowanahs have been abolished, and the fear of detection through their instrumentality removed, traders will not be slow to take advantage of this state of things, and by every means in their power to stimulate and encourage the smuggling of salt. As for themselves, they have only to buy a small quantity at one of the sale depôts, deliver their pass to the Constable at the gate, proceed to one of the "lonely places" adverted to, fill their carts with smuggled salt, and go on their ways without question or interference on the part of any, except the officials alluded to in the previous paragraph; who, though knowing full well that they cannot legally interfere, will nevertheless do so, in the hope of screwing something out of men conscious that they have done wrong, and who will not, therefore, object to give a trifle to get rid of troublesome inquirers.

48. As for the Police, to whom the Government justly look for the repression of smuggling and illicit sales, I have the honor to observe that they are obviously insufficient to guard our pans, especially the extensive works north of Madras. And looking to the pay of the majority of these men, viz., Rupees 5-13-0 and Rupees 6-12-6 per mensem, to the almost Military discipline to which they are subjected, to the onerous duties they have to perform, exposed to sun and rain, and to the insalubrious localities in which they are stationed, circumstances not calculated to make the service attractive, so far at least as the Salt Department is concerned, there is no reason to believe that as a class they are more honest, or less liable to temptation, than the old salt Peons on Rupees 6 and 7 per mensem whom they have superseded at the northern pans.

49. Under these circumstances, it appears to me that a useful check against smuggling and illicit sales has been removed by the discontinuance of Rowanahs; and although their re-introduction may be made the means of petty exaction by unprincipled subordinates, who are, however, amenable to the law for this as well as for other offences, the abuse of a thing seems no argument against its use, and of two evils, we may, I presume, choose the less.

50. The heap in which Mr. Clarke states that the accounts showed so great a deficiency as half a garce, was stored on the 27th August 1860, and sold between the 27th July and 8th August 1863, having been very nearly three years in store. When the Peshkar opened the heap for sale, he found it much injured by rain; and fearing that he might hereafter be called upon to account for any undue wastage that might appear therein, fortunately for himself summoned some of the manufacturers, showed them the heap, obtained a Mazurnamah from them respecting its condition, and submitted it with an Urzi to my address, dated the 28th July 1863.

Alleged misconduct of the Peshkar lately in charge of Cheyur.
Mr. Clarke's Report, paragraph 27.
Order of Government, ,, 28.
Board's Proceedings, ,, 10.

51. If I understand Mr. Clarke aright, he seems to think that if a garce of salt weighed from a heap should contain a certain number of mercals by measurement, every garce in that heap will contain exactly a like quantity. My experience does not lead me to the same conclusion; and I am of opinion that each weighed garce will contain several mercals less or more by measurement, according to the heaviness or lightness of the salt in the heap. The outer salt being more exposed to the influence of the sun is lighter than the inner salt, which being moist is consequently heavier; and this is the case, whether the salt be from the same or from different pans.

52. To return to the Peshkar. As, on opening the heap and perceiving its condition, he immediately submitted it for the inspection of others, and reported the anticipated wastage to me, there seems no reason to think that the deficiency in the outturn occurred from any but natural causes, the salt having been in store for a period of three years.

53. With reference to this inquiry, I have the honor to state that I visited the southern pans of the District thrice during the last twelve months. It will be remembered that for three months out of the twelve, I was absent on privilege leave at Bangalore, viz., from 15th May to 15th August 1863; that for six weeks, I was unfortunately incapacitated from exposing myself to the sun from rheumatic sore-eyes, the result of sciatica contracted during a visit to the newly projected Katur pans, as reported in my letter to the Acting Collector, dated the 6th* June last, No. 278; and that, excluding the above periods, and six weeks out of the monsoon months, making altogether an aggregate of six months, I had the remaining

How often the Deputy Collector visited the southern pans during the last twelve months.
Order of Government, paragraph 28
Board's Proceedings, ,, 10

* Board's Proceedings, dated 20th June 1864, No. 3,785.

six months to visit both the northern and southern pans, to look after the store and sales of salt at the Madras and Homes' garden depots, and to dispose of the in-door work of the Department, and the correspondence appertaining thereto. I grieve to find that, notwithstanding the efforts made by me to improve the efficiency of the Department, efforts that have been recognized alike by the Board and the Government, some confidence should not be reposed in me, as would appear from my being called upon to report how often I visited the pans. As Mr. Clarke did not give even a hint on the subject, I am compelled to think that the requisition was made, in consequence of the representations in his report regarding the want of roads to connect the southern pans with the trunk road, the large number of platforms at Cheyur, the alleged defective manufacture at Covelong and Kelumbakum, and the absence of hedges or ditches around the pans and store-yards. On all these points, a satisfactory reply will, I trust, be found in the paragraphs of this report relating to those subjects; and to give some proof that notwithstanding my late illness, I have sufficient tact to manage my subordinates, even when absent from them for a season, I have the pleasure to point to the fact that the manufacture this year at the northern pans, our great source of supply, has been eighteen lacs of maunds, being three lacs more than the largest quantity ever before manufactured; and that this result has been attained without any extension of existing salt works, and in spite of impediments to manufacture presented by the damming up, by the Engineer Department, of some of our principal channels for the purpose of repair.

Board's Proceedings, 6th February 1862, No. 820, paragraph 17.
Order of Government, 2nd June 1862, No. 1,213, paragraph 7.

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1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government, with reference to the Order of Government, dated 11th April 1864, No. 608.

2. This Order was communicated to the Collector of Madras with the Board's Proceedings, dated 4th June 1864, No. 3,433, in which certain instructions for the guidance of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department were given, and information on certain points was called for.

3. Instead, however, of submitting merely the information called for, and setting himself heartily to work to carry out the instructions conveyed to him, and to endeavour, by the best means in his power, to remedy the defects pointed out in the administration of the Department, Mr. Smith has thought proper to enter into a lengthened review of Mr. Clarke's Report, the Government Order, and the Board's Proceedings, and in endeavouring to justify his own acts or short-comings, to carp at almost every suggestion made by Mr. Clarke, and to reiterate his own opinions, although in many instances they are opposed to those of persons who have had far more experience than himself.

4. In the early part of his report he endeavours to explain the great variation in the apparent demand for salt at the southern salt pans, as desired by Government, but the Board are unable to see that he has arrived at any definite conclusions on the point. It is clear that if the demand at any set of pans is so small in any one year as to make it necessary, as stated, to manufacture only in alternate years, in order to enable the manufacturers to obtain a fair return for their capital and labour, the number of pans attached to the station ought to be diminished. All the outlying pans, and those situated at an inconvenient distance from the platform, ought, under such circumstances, to be closed permanently. Though it may not be remunerative to manufacture a small quantity of salt each year at a certain number of pans, there is no reason to suppose that such would continue to be the case if the pans were reduced to half that number. It is well known that salt deteriorates from keeping, and, in the Board's opinion, the course alluded to ought to be invariably adopted when sales fall off; and by such means all such salt stations as are not required to supply the natural demand for salt would be gradually diminished in size, and eventually might be discontinued altogether if thought necessary.

5. Another point on which Mr. Smith dwells at considerable length is the process of manufacture at Chunambet and Cheyoor, and although this process results, as he admits, in the production of a very superior description of salt, he deprecates its introduction at any of the other pans, even did facilities exist for introducing it, which he denies. He shows the additional risks from season which the lengthened process adverted to involves, and roundly states that, if it were insisted on at the northern pans of the District, it would be quite impossible to bring into stock anything like a sufficient quantity of salt to meet the demand.

6. In effect, the whole of Mr. Smith's arguments are in favor of ensuring a *large* supply of salt by receiving into store an inferior description, on the ground that during manufacture the inferior kind is not liable to those risks which are necessarily incurred in the preparation of the superior article which the Board desire to see supplied to the public, and which the Government have insisted shall invariably be required from the manufacturers. The course that ought to be adopted at Covelong and Kelambakam is to prepare the necessary reservoirs for the preparation of the brine either by the damming up of existing salt-water channels, or by the sinking of tanks for concentration. The rule should be to reduce twenty cubic feet of ordinary sea-water to ten or five feet of brine by evaporation, and then to admit the brine to the pans. The result would be equal in a few days to what is obtained at Chunambet after the forty days' exposure. At the same time there would be but little less risk, as the brine would be liable to injury during the lengthened period required for its concentration. Mr. Smith is altogether in error in supposing that the nature of the soil has anything to do with the description of salt produced, beyond rendering the formation of the pans difficult or easy as the case may be.

7. In paragraph 10 of his report Mr. Smith complains that the Board impute blame to him in regard to the large number of pans, and to the want of proper roads, and explains that upwards of two years before the date of the Board's Proceedings he brought these matters to the Collector's notice. The Board, however, need hardly say that nothing was further from their intention than to blame Mr. Smith, nor indeed do they consider that this interpretation can fairly be placed upon those parts of their Proceedings which refer to the want of roads, and to the propriety of diminishing the number of pans and concentrating those which are retained. It is, however, the duty of the Salt Department to bring these matters constantly to notice, until everything which may be defective is remedied. The necessary improvements at the Cheyoor pans are now in progress the Board believe, and the Collector reports that the road connecting these pans with the Trunk road is under construction.

8. The Collector should report his opinion on Mr. Smith's suggestion for the diversion of the proposed road from Kelambakam to Vandalur, to Chengapermal Covil. The line Mr. Smith proposes appears to be a more direct line to the Trunk road, and is five miles shorter than the road to Vandalur. The Collector's attention is also drawn to Mr. Smith's proposal to connect the platform at Covelong with the export store by a good road, and to reduce the number of export platforms from two to one. The latter proposal, however, appears to involve a considerable outlay, without securing a corresponding reduction in the cost of guarding. It appears that the complaint made against the salt servants at Cheyoor for ill-usage of the purchasers has been referred to the Sub-Collector for inquiry, and the Board await the Collector's further report. Even in this matter, however, Mr. Smith endeavours to form an excuse for his department, stating that the substitution of weighing for measuring induced the ignorant purchasers to suppose themselves cheated by the salt servants.

9. In paragraphs 16 and 17 of his report, Mr. Smith asserts that Mr. Clarke was incorrect in supposing that a large trade in salt fish was carried on at Covelong. The Board can only observe that the Third Member had occular demonstration of the fact while at Covelong, and that it was reported to him by many persons resident there. It is, however, unnecessary further to discuss the subject as Mr. Smith himself admits the general prevalence of smuggling in the neighbourhood. As suggested by Mr. Smith, the Collector should report what number of cases of smuggling have been brought to notice by the Police during the past year, and the attention of the Superintendent should be called to the matter.

10. As to protecting the pans, Mr. Smith submits two estimates for raising hedges round the pans at Covelong and Kelambakam, and at Semanjari. He, however, expresses his opinion that a hedge is not a good protection, as it may harbour thieves in a dark night, and does harbour snakes, and he expresses himself strongly in favor of a deep ditch, or a palisade in preference to a hedge. The Collector endorses Mr. Smith's views on this point, and instances the difficulty he has experienced in raising the hedge round the depot at Homes' gardens. The Board merely suggested hedges as being the least expensive mode of protecting the pans, and as having been successfully, and without difficulty, introduced by Deputy Collector Ram Row at the salt stations of the Madura District. If a difficulty is found in raising hedges round the pans from their scattered position, it will be sufficient if drying grounds are selected in the vicinity of the platforms to which all salt as scraped might be brought. There would then be no difficulty in making the platform, and drying ground thoroughly secure by surrounding them with a ditch, or channel, or with a hedge, whichever proved least expensive. The security of all salt depots would also be much improved by the construction of watching towers, and pending their construction, a raised platform from 12 to 16 feet high on palmyra stocks, and thatched with palmyra leaves, the cost of which would be about Rupees 10, will serve the purpose.

11. In paragraph 29 of his report, Mr. Smith inquires whether the increased Kudivaram for the exported salt is to be paid to the manufacturers at Covelong in arrear. The Board however, consider that they will be dealt with in a sufficiently liberal manner if they receive it from the date of the Government order.

12. The Board cannot consider that Mr. Smith's explanation of the very unsatisfactory state of the weighing machines at Homes' gardens can exonerate the Department from blame, though there is considerable weight in his remarks as to the difficulty of keeping the machines in order. The improved machines, regarding which the Third Member of the Board has recently addressed Government, will remedy many of the defects pointed out, but the employing of a competent person on each Deputy Collector's establishment, to keep the ... ing ... hines of the District in order, is well worth ... of consideration.

13. With reference to the remarks of Government regarding the salt said to be taken from the Homes' gardens depot to Mysore, Mr. Smith explains that at the period to which the returns referred to related, the Railway was completed only as far as Tripatore, and he states that the Mysore merchants were in the habit of sending down cart loads of produce direct to Madras rather than by rail from Tripatore, and that such carts on their return journey frequently took away salt.

14. The result of Mr. Smith's examination of some of the salt heaps at this store shows a very large wastage, and the explanation which he has given the Board on that point has not satisfied them. The Collector should look into the matter himself, and should let Superintendents of depots understand that they will be held personally responsible for any large wastage which they are unable to account for in a satisfactory manner. The retailing of salt on the platform will be put a stop to at once, but Mr. Smith explains that there are certain difficulties in doing so.

15. In paragraph 38 *et sequitur* of his report, Mr. Smith defends the rules which he has introduced, and requests that they may still be enforced. The Board however, while admitting the absolute necessity of some method, and order being followed in the sales, do not see any necessity for the checks which are involved by Mr. Smith's rules which must inconvenience purchasers to some extent. The giving of a receipt by the Shroff for money paid, and of a pass to permit the salt to leave the Kotaurs, is all that is necessary. Some responsible servants should be in charge of the sales, whose duty it would be to see that each person was served in order, and with the full quantity of salt for which he had paid. The black-board on which the number of maunds weighed out to each person is checked by the Peon should of course be retained.

13K

16. Mr. Smith, as well as the Collector, is in favor of returning to the Rowanah system, as there is now no check on persons in possession of any quantity of salt when once they are clear of the Kotaurs. The Board have already recommended to Government that the opinions of Collectors of Coast Districts should be taken on the point,* but no orders have yet been passed on the subject.

* Board's Proceedings, 4th June 1864, No. 3,433.

17. Mr. Smith in paragraphs 50, 51, and 52 endeavours to explain the extraordinary deficiency found by Mr. Clarke on the examination of a heap of salt at Cheyoor. It is stated that immediately on opening the heap in question, the Peishcar reported to head-quarters that it had been much injured by rain, and that the salt had been stored for upwards of three years. Mr. Smith also contends that Mr. Clarke is in error in supposing the variation which is found between weight and measurement in one portion of a heap of salt will be the same throughout the heap, inasmuch as the salt in the centre of the heap having been but little exposed to the action of the sun will always be heavier than the salt on the outer coating. The Board have no doubt that Mr. Clarke took these matters into consideration when he made the comparison between weighment and measurement, and they are unable to admit Mr. Smith's explanation of the Peishcar's conduct. The man is stated to have borne a bad character. The Collector will accordingly be requested to warn him that on the first occasion on which he again brings himself under suspicion, he will be removed from the service. Mr. Fane will be good enough himself to see that these orders are carried out should the occasion arise.

18. In the concluding paragraph (28) of the Government Order under notice, Mr. Smith was called upon to report how often he had visited the southern salt pans of the District during the previous year. Mr. Smith states that he has done so only thrice, but he explains that he was absent on privilege leave for three months, and was unable from illness to bear exposure, for a further period of six weeks. The Board have on more than one occasion pointed out to Mr. Smith that he attaches too great importance to what he terms, the in-door duties of his office. Mr. Fane will be good enough to see that the Deputy Collector exercises an efficient control over the several stations and ... his charge, it being ... impossible for Mr. Smith to do this unless he makes much more frequent tours than he has hitherto done. ... Boards ... roads prepared to admit that the largely increased sales at the Madras Kotaurs, to which Mr. Smith points with such satisfaction, are owing to his "having had sufficient tact to "manage his subordinates even when absent from them for a season." These sales are the natural result of an increased demand caused by the extension of the Railway.

19. The Board do not deem it necessary to notice at length Mr. Smith's remarks in paragraphs 25 to 28 of his report. His proposals for enclosing and improving the Northern Pans should be separately submitted with the Collector's opinion on them after he has visited the spot. The suggestion for the construction of a Railway or Tramway between the Kotaurs and the Northern Pans is not based on sufficiently reliable data to enable the Board to take it under consideration. They will merely remark that with a cheap water carriage already provided it is very unlikely that Government would look with favor on the proposal. In view, however, to meeting the further increased demand for salt which is likely to occur, by ensuring a rapid delivery of the article into store, the Board deem it worthy of consideration, whether it would not be advisable to entertain two small steam tugs to ply on the canal between the Kotaurs and the Pans.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.,
with three Plans.

Copy to E. G. R. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras.

Exd. J. Wright.

Pro 23 March 1864 - 1974 - 25-
" 11 April — 185-
14 October — 1858 185
8 Sept 62 - 119 - 120
2 June 14 - 15-
7 " 89 - 90 94

1865. Department

Sir: of Gaut for Jury

No. 1598

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 31*st May* 1865.

No. 2,847.

c Ord. 1544 - 64 July

Submitting with remarks letter from the Collector of Madras forwarding one from the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt furnishing the information required regarding certain points in Mr. Clarke's report on the southern Salt works of the District.

Mr 91.

c 3d July 03-24

Enquiry & consideration
of the subject - in order
opening his last Evidence
& carry them out.

I shall also effort
succeed in not
attained original
Existence assured
first Evidence that
the orders are unintelligible
& impracticable -
a respectful representation
of the fact will result
& I hope consider
that Ld. Lieutenant
& directly understand
that the first duty is
& obey orders - that
& cavil at them -

The Ld. Lieut
& the Bd in thinking
that Ld. Lieut encountered

the attention Council
on the Guardianship.

Then visit in the
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Clothing & certainly
insufficient & not:
& the standing the
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have 3 months
abandon Clothing
& forwarded
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the Board.

The Lieut
that the Ld will take
steps to ascertain
from the Officers
Lieutenant & Price
what opinion is
generally entertained
of the effect of the
Order abolishing
Rewards — &
with what & the result.

1. July/60.

14 Feb Bd Boards Rewards & Clothing
dd 7 July

Revenue 1865 Sept.th
Pro: of Govt. for July

No. 15/164.

Pro: of the Madras
Government
Dated 6th July 1865.
From B. of Revenue dated
12th April 1866 (A 1709)
Pro. of the Board of Revenue
29 Sept. 1865 A 2778.

Passing orders on Mr.
Dy. Coll.r Smith's
Report regarding certain
Points noticed by Mr.
Clarke, and noting
his disposition to the
Circle ordered by Superior
Authority.

8. 91 & 92.

C.S. July 05 R4.