

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2470	~~Press~~ ~~Mis.~~
20s. 206	
Dated 12	10. 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th October 1865.*

No. 205. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th September 1865, No. 6,151.

Read the following letter from E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 23rd August 1865, No. 259:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you that on the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,847 of 31st May last, I sent the necessary instructions to Mr. Smith to carry out all the orders therein conveyed, and now beg to submit the reports called for on certain points of the same Proceedings.

2 In paragraph 8, the Board wish my opinion on Mr. Smith's suggestion to divert to Singaperumal Covil the proposed road from Kelambakam to Vendalore. This line would no doubt be the better of the two lines hitherto proposed; but, for various reasons, I would give preference to a road from Kelambakam (Covelong) to Chingleput, and thence, when funds permit, to Wandiwash. If the Board would consult a map, they would see that, except *via* Chingleput, but few people would carry salt or require a salt road.

3. The Vendalore route must have been proposed when no railway to Conjeveram existed, and was intended to tap that portion of the country; now if salt were taken there, it would of course go by rail, and the road to Vendalore would be but little used; the same may be said of the line *via* Singaperumal Covil. The line to Chingleput, on the contrary, is still quite uninfluenced by the rail, and if extended to Wandiwash would tap a country very distant from a railway, and consequently much in need of a road. Apart from the salt trade, there is this consideration in favor of the line now proposed by me, that it leads to Chingleput, a populous town, and the head-quarters of the Judge, the Sub-Collector, and the Tahsildar. I have also consulted Mr. Smith, and he agrees with me.

4. The Board in their Proceedings, No. 4,183 of 19th ultimo, communicated to me an Order of Government, sanctioning the introduction of an estimate of Rupees 25,100 for the Vendalore road into the Salt Budget of 1866-67. If the Board agree with my present proposition, I beg that instructions may be issued to the Superintending Engineer to make an estimate for the Chingleput line to take the place of the former.

5. With regard to the complaint made against the salt servants at Cheyoor of ill-using the salt purchasers, I beg to enclose copy of a letter I received from Mr. Webster, the present Acting Sub-Collector, under date the 7th ultimo, from which it appears that no one has come forward to make a definite complaint, or shewn a willingness to prefer charges and prove them.

6. It appears that putting Cheyoor under the Sub-Collector was a mistake, as the supervision has been less than ever; the Sub-Collector's other duties having prevented him visiting that salt pan oftener than once in eighteen months or so. I should recommend therefore, that, as already suggested by Mr. Banbury, Cheyoor be again put under the Salt Deputy Collector, who even now has under his control all the details of the office and expenditure of that pan, the simple visiting alone being supposed to be the duty of the Sub-Collector. The Salt Deputy Collector at present has an easy time of it in comparison with other Salt Deputies, and if now ordered to go to Cheyoor will be able to do the whole of the distance, but eighteen miles in a Budgerow, with all his comforts about him, and with greater convenience than the Sub-Collector, whose head-quarters are also some eighteen miles distant, but with a more difficult road to pass over.

7. As directed in paragraph 9, the attention of the Superintendent of Police has been called to the prevalence of smuggling in the neighbourhood of Covelong. Captain Cloete reports, that during the year 1864 only one case of making earth-salt was brought to his notice; and that even was dismissed for want of proof.

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8. The Board also, in their Proceedings under reply, ask my opinion as regards the best mode of enclosing the pans (paragraphs 10 and 19). The matter is now under reference to the Salt Deputy Collector, and will form the subject of a separate report in reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 3,094 of 8th June 1865.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. M. WEBSTER, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of the Madras District, to E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated Chingleput, 7th July 1865, No. 96.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th ultimo, No. 368, and in reply to state that from inquiries made in my office, I find that nothing was done in the matter of the complaint against the Cheyur salt servants.

2. It appears to me that the fact of no inquiry having been instituted is to be attributed to no regular complaint having been made to the Sub-Collector. When Mr. Clarke visited the Cheyur salt pans, the people there made a general complaint against the servants, and in his report* he mentioned this circumstance, noting that they had not substantiated their complaint when he examined into it. He also recorded his opinion that the Sub-Collector should, if any complaint were made to him, examine into it personally.

* Paragraph 34.

3. I also find that on the 21st March 1864, a complaint was received by post by Mr. Hutchins, Acting Sub-Collector, from Ratna Chetty and other merchants of Cheyur, complaining against the salt servants at that place, and was returned to him on the 23rd with an endorsement directing him to appear in person if he wished his complaint to be inquired into. Mr. Hutchins went to Cheyur on the 22nd March, and it does not appear that any complaint was personally made to him there.

4. In November 1864, the Salt Superintendent of Cheyur was tried on a charge of breach of trust, and acquitted without any imputation on his character. No complaints were made against him at that time.

5. On receipt of your letter, I issued a notice to Ratna Chetty, (the man who wrote the tappal petition to Mr. Hutchins,) directing him to appear on the 5th instant if he had any complaint to make against the salt servants. The notice was duly served on him on the 25th June, but he has not appeared. The only conclusion, therefore, that I can come to is, that there is no present ground of complaint against the salt servants, and under these circumstances, I have the honor to request that you will inform me whether an inquiry is now considered necessary on the general statements made before Mr. Clarke, two years ago, and unsubstantiated at the time. I do not anticipate that any good would result from an inquiry held now, and indeed I do not know the persons who should be examined, as no names were mentioned in Mr. Clarke's report, and as no complaints have since been made, with the exception of the Petition sent by Ratna Chetty, who has neglected to appear.

6. With reference to the 2nd paragraph of your letter, I have the honor to state, that from what I have seen of the work in this office, the Sub-Collector will be unable to pay more than a flying visit to Cheyur, and these visits will be few and far between, as it is an out-of-the-way part of the District, and a part that would not be visited except at the Jummabundy. Only one visit has been paid to the Cheyur salt pans since they have been under the Sub-Collector.

7. I think, therefore, that the superintendence of these pans might with advantage be re-transferred to the Salt Department, as the Sub-Collector would not be able to give that attention to them which they require.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) E. G. R. FANE, Collector.

1. Resolved that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraphs 8, 9, 10, and 19 of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,847, dated 31st May 1865.

2. In paragraph 8, the Collector was requested to report his opinion on Mr. Smith's suggestion for the diversion of the proposed road from Kelambakam to Vandalur to Chengapermal Covil, and he now accordingly reports that he would give the preference to a road from Kelambakam, (Covelong,) to Chingleput, and thence, when funds permit, to Wandiwash.

3. The Board observe that Mr. Clarke in paragraph 25 of his Report, dated 11th February 1864, expressed himself as follows:—"There are no roads to Covelong or Kelambakum. If one were opened out to Conjeveram the sales

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th October 1865.*

" might increase. But if the tramway proposed to unite Conjeveram with the South-West line be early completed, I see no prospect of any increase, but rather of a falling off in the sales at this place," as the salt would be carried to it from Madras rather than from Kelambakam. The Board, therefore, concur with Mr. Fane, that in opening the country for the salt trade, the road he proposes from Kelambakam to Chingleput and ultimately to Wandiwash would be a more desirable one than that proposed by the Deputy Collector, or than any other, and they accordingly support his request that instructions may be issued to the Superintending Engineer to frame an Estimate for the Chingleput line in substitution of that amounting to Rupees 25,100, for a road from Kelambakam to Vendalore, which was approved by Government in their Order in the Public Works Department, dated 26th April 1865, No. 1,108, and ordered to be included in the Budget of 1866-67.

4. As regards the complaints of ill-usage made against the salt servants at Cheyur to Mr. Clarke by the purchasers of salt, it appears that nobody will come forward to make any definite charge, although in one instance a notice was duly served on the writer of a petition to appear before the Acting Sub-Collector on the 5th July last. The Board observe that Mr. Clarke did not suggest that any inquiry should be instituted into complaints made at that time, and that no good is likely to result from any further proceedings in the matter at this distant period. The Collector should, however, be careful to see that the conduct of the salt servants at that place is watched, and should any complaints be made against them that the charges are strictly investigated, and the offenders adequately punished.

5. Under the circumstances mentioned by the Collector and Acting Sub-Collector, the Board would again place Cheyur under the supervision of the Deputy Collector, whose head-quarters are more conveniently situated, and who has more time for the work than the Sub-Collector. The Deputy Collector should, however, be directed to visit the works periodically.

6. In paragraph 9, the Board referred to the prevalence of smuggling in the neighbourhood of Covelong, and requested the Collector to report what number of cases of smuggling had been brought to notice by the Police during the past year; and Mr. Fane now states, on the authority of Captain Cloete, Superintendent of Police, that only one case of making earth-salt was brought to this Officer's notice; this case was dismissed for want of proof. The Superintendent should be directed to keep a strict watch on the people at Covelong to see that they do not use smuggled salt in curing the fish which forms the principal trade of the place.

7. The subject of enclosing pans economically, and at the same time efficiently and durably, alluded to in paragraphs 10 and 19 of the Board's Proceedings is, the Collector reports, under consideration, and will form the matter of a separate Report.

No. 206.

ORDER THEREON, 12th October 1865, No. 2,470.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.
Salt.

1. Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Board's Proceedings will be disposed of in the Department Public Works.

2. The Board will use their own discretion as to the supervision of the Cheyur pans.
(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.

Exd. S. T. Augusin.

3. The Board observe that Mr. Clarke in paragraph 25 of his Report, dated 11th February 1864, expressed himself as follows:—"There are no roads to Covelong or Kelambakum. If one were opened out to Conjeveram the sales might increase. But if the tramway proposed to unite Conjeveram with the South-West line be early completed, I see no prospect of any increase, but rather of a falling off in the sales at this place," as the salt would be carried to it from Madras rather than from Kelambakum. The Board therefore concur with Mr. Fane, that in opening the country for the salt trade, the road he proposes from Kelambakum to Chingleput and ultimately to Wandiwash would be a more desirable one than that proposed by the Deputy Collector, or than any other, and they accordingly support his request that instructions may be issued to the Superintending Engineer to frame an Estimate for the Chingleput line, in substitution of that amounting to Rupees 25,100, for a road from Kelambakum to Vandalore, which was approved by Government in their Order in the Public Works Department, dated 26th April 1865, No. 1,108, and ordered to be included in the Budget of 1866-67.

4. As regards the complaints of abuse made against the salt servants at Cheyur to Mr. Clarke by the purchasers of salt, it appears that nobody will come forward to make any definite charge, although in one instance a notice was duly served on the writer of a Petition to appear before the Acting Sub-Collector on the 5th July last. The Board observe that Mr. Clarke did not suggest that any inquiry should be instituted into complaints made at that time, and that no good is likely to result from any further proceedings in the matter at this distant period. The Collector should, however, be careful to see that the conduct of the salt servants at that place is watched, and should any complaints be made against them that the charges are strictly investigated, and the offenders adequately punished.

5. Under the circumstances mentioned by the Collector and the Acting Sub-Collector, the Board would again place Cheyur under the supervision of the Deputy Collector, whose headquarters are more conveniently situated, and who has more time for the work than the Sub-Collector. The Deputy Collector should, however, be directed to visit the works periodically.

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7. The subject of enclosing pans economically, and at the same time efficiently and durably, alluded to in paragraphs 10 and 19 of the Board's Proceedings is, the Collector reports, under consideration, and will form the matter of a separate Report.

(True Copies and Extract.)


Acting Secretary.

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

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

Exd. R. H. Lee.

No. 9. June/65 - 1195-116
6 July - 91-72

Rev^d 2 1865. Department
Secy of Govt for Cistern

No. 2498
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 29th September 1865.
Rev^d 3 Cistern
Rev^d 4 Cistern

No. 9. 11. 1195-116
29.9.57. No. 6, 151.

Requesting that instructions be issued to the Superintending Engineer to frame an Estimate for a Salt road from Kelambakam to Chingleput in substitution of the sanctioned Estimate for the road from the former station to Vendalur, and recommending that Chayur be again placed under the supervision of the Deputy Collector of Madras.

No. 2490 - 180 Cistern

With order

No. 2490.

Resolⁿ 243 of the Board of Revenue
will be dispensed of in the S. P. M.

The Board will meet

their own discretion as to the super-
vision of the Chayur branch.

12. Oct/65

14th Board of Revenue
21. Oct/65