M.R.O. 14-5,450—5-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1200 Press / Mis.

Dated 21-5- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1200
21.5.66

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 21st May 1866.

No. 362. Read the following letter from the Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 12th April 1866, No. 2,505 :—

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit the information called for in paragraph 5 of Government Order, dated 6th July last, No. 1,544.

2. The Government desired that it should be ascertained from District Officers, Revenue and Police, what opinion is generally entertained of the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs.

3. A file of the replies which have been received from Collectors, in reply to Board's Miscellaneous Circular LXXXIX. of 1865, is herewith submitted.

4. Out of the thirty-three Officers who have expressed an opinion, *twenty-three* are more or less opposed to the old system of Rowanahs, while *ten* would like to see a return to that system.

5. The majority* then are against Rowanahs as formerly in vogue: though some of these Officers suggest modifications in the present practice which would result in a partial re-introduction of the old system.

		No.
* Ganjam.	Collector	
	Superintendent of Police	3
	Salt Deputy	1
Vizagapatam.	Superintendent of Police	1
Kistna.	Collector	1
Nellore.	Collector	
	Head Assistant	
	Superintendent of Police	3
	Superintendent of Police	1
Madras.		
South Arcot.	Collector	
	Salt Deputy	
	Superintendent of Police	3
Tanjore.	Collector	
	Superintendent of Police	2
Madura.	Collector	
	Deputy Collector	2
Tinnevelly.	Collector	
	Deputy Collector	
	Superintendent of Police	3
South Canara.	Collector	
	Superintendent of Police	
	Salt Deputy	
	Treasury Deputy	4
	Total ...	23

6. It must be noticed that the opposition of the majority takes in most cases the form of a general opinion that matters are well as they are. Nothing has occurred, it is said, to lead them to suppose that any loss to Government has been incurred through the abolition of Rowanahs, while freedom from official interference must be beneficial to the individual trader. Some Officers give more particular reasons for their opinion. One points out the advantage which the trader enjoys in no longer being liable to delay at Chowkeys, or to the unpacking and measurement of his Salt; while the Government are benefited by the saving in the paper formerly used for Rowanahs. One Superintendent of Police thinks that where the guarding of Salt works is efficient, Rowanahs cannot be required; if inefficient, the benefit of an after interference by the Police is doubtful. Another Police Officer observes, that as the Salt must be purchased at some Government pans, and as every purchaser is provided with a Pass before leaving the yard, the use of Rowanahs for Salt in transit is not very apparent, but, the Board must observe, this is rather begging the question. Another Officer considers that the former system was practically of no effect, as a smuggler would take good care to keep wide off a Police station; while it subjected honest men to annoyance. It is further stated, that Salt thefts are now matters of very rare occurrence, and that on this account a return to the old system is undesirable. Now that powerful establishments of

Constables and Peons are employed, it is no longer necessary to continue a system which was all very well in the days of badly guarded and ill-fenced pans and platforms, when a carrier of Salt needed satisfactory evidence as to where he had procured his Salt.

7. The Superintendent of Police in Ganjam, while deprecating any renewal of the old Rowanahs, is in favor of a modification of the present plan of Passes. He would introduce Tickets to be retained by the purchasers of Salt after they had been shewn to and marked by the Constable on duty at the platform-gate. The result of this would be that no large quantity of Salt could go about the country without a Ticket. The Salt Deputy Collector of the same District advocates a somewhat similar plan. The Collector, however, (not unjustly) observes that "if traders are allowed to carry away Passes from the stores they must be liable "to shew them when called on to do so, and the evils of the old system of "Rowanahs are at once re-introduced."

8. The Salt Deputy Collector in South Canara thinks that during the manufacturing season (three months) Rowanahs should be issued; because for want of them it is almost impossible to bring perpetrators of Salt thefts to justice.

9. The ten* Officers who advocate the re-introduction of Rowanahs speak from practical acquaintance with the evils which they believe have sprung from the change. The testimony is positive, not negative. They note, as a fact not to be gainsayed, that smuggled Salt can now be carried without a chance of detection. The Collector of the Godavery District observes, that the abolition of Rowanahs proceeded on two unwarrantable assumptions, viz., (1), that all Police guards are strictly and always honest; and (2), that there is no spontaneous Salt anywhere. The fact of the existence of spontaneous Salt is, of course, notorious; and as to the former assumption it is not impossible that the Police might take a bribe to pass more Salt than ought to be passed. It is further pointed out that the abolition of Rowanahs does not, as supposed, materially affect the existence of extortion; for a Policeman can always *say* that he suspects; and rather than be taken out of his way to a Police station, or before a Magistrate, the *bona fide* trader will pay a fee. The Police, again, if honest, are unable, from insufficiency of numbers, to guard the pans, or to patrol so as to prevent the removal of Salt from the producing pans, the consequence is that Salt smuggling and thefts have much increased; while in the absence of Rowanahs there is scarcely a possibility of conviction. The change is disadvantageous to the honest trader; because those who deal in swamp and smuggled Salt can of course dispose of it for less than the monopoly price, and so under-sell him.

		No.
* Vizagapatam. Godavery.	Collector...	1
	Collector	
	Police Superintendent	
	Salt Deputy	
	Treasury do	4
Madras.	Collector	
Tanjore.	Salt Deputy Collector ...	2
Madura.	Salt Deputy	1
	Superintendent of Police	
	Assistant do.	2
	Total ..	10

10. It is argued, that though the re-introduction of the Rowanah system might be made the means of petty exaction by unprincipled subordinates, the abuse of a thing is no argument against its use; and that of two evils it is best to choose the less.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st May 1866.

11. It is also noted, that by the existing law (Regulation I. of 1805, Section 12) Rowanahs are still required.

12. The Board have given their best consideration to the subject, and cannot but agree in the opinion expressed by the minority of the Officers whose sentiments have now been obtained. They think it placed beyond doubt that Salt smuggled and stolen from the pans is extensively carried about the country, and that the Officers of Government are powerless to ascertain, still less, to prove, such stolen Salt to be other than Salt obtained from the store.

13. Salt is procured not only from our stores and pans, but at many places, and by many devices and processes. It is found in swamps where it is generated by evaporation, in wells, and in abandoned pits and salt-pans; it is obtained from ships in transit, from sea-water boiled down, and from earth. It is very difficult for the Police to discern where Salt is made and gathered; but the article which can be manufactured so secretly as to elude detection is sold without difficulty.

14. A great deal has been written about the freedom which the trader enjoys under the present system; but it is plain that there is nothing to prevent a Police Officer, or any one else from stopping a carrier of Salt on the plea that he is a smuggler. Is it less hard to prove that a Peon had taken a bribe, or been guilty of oppression in examining a Rowanah, than to prove that Salt uncovered by a Rowanah had been smuggled?

15. The Board must observe, that the same objection is not made to the use of Permits in the case of liquor, especially in transit from a foreign territory; and yet the same argument holds good in both cases.

16. The Police are neither sufficiently strong, immaculate, nor alert to put a stop to smuggling; and, in the Board's opinion, the Rowanah is required to protect our Salt Revenue. So long too as the monopoly exists it is necessary to take care that the dishonest does not benefit at the cost of the honest trader, and this is only practicable by adopting such check as may be the means of distinguishing between the honest man and the rogue.

No. 363. ORDER THEREON, 21st May 1866, No. 1,200.

Separate Revenue, No. 15.
Salt.

1. The Board of Revenue are requested to submit a Statement shewing in how many instances, during the last year of the currency of regular Rowanahs, smuggled salt was seized owing to its not being covered by a Rowanah, and the quantity seized in each case.

2. They will also state whether they propose that salt conveyed inland by rail shall be accompanied by Rowanahs.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LXXXIX.

Board No. 4,265.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd July 1865.

Under instructions from Government,* Collectors of Salt Manufacturing Districts are directed to report, as early as practicable, their opinion of the effect of the order abolishing Salt Rowannahs, accompanied with the views entertained by the Salt Deputy Collector, the Superintendents of Police, and any other intelligent officer in their Districts on the same subject.

* Order of Government, dated 6th July 1865, No. 1,544, Revenue Department.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. M. C. KELLY,
Acting First Assistant.

To All Collectors.

Copy to W. Robinson, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police.

Exd. J. Wright.

MISCELLANEOUS CIRCULAR, No. LXXXIX.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

To All Collectors, &c.

Dated 22nd July 1865.

Received

Board No. 4,265.

Requesting Collectors of salt manufacturing Districts to report opinion of the effect of the order abolishing Salt Rowannahs, accompanied with the views of the Salt Deputy Collector, the Superintendent of Police, &c.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector of Madras, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 14th August 1865, No. 248.

1. In reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular No. LXXXIX of 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from the Superintendent of Police of this District, wherein he states his reasons for being entirely opposed to the re-introduction of the Rowanah system.

2. Mr. Smith's views having been previously expressed in paragraphs 46 to 49 of his letter of 10th August 1861, published in the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,847 of 31st May last, a reiteration of them is not necessary, I then endorsed Mr. Smith's opinion in favor of the Rowanah system; and I am not inclined to alter that opinion, except that I would suggest drawing an imaginary line of five or seven miles inland, but parallel to the sea coast, and within which alone salt, artificial or spontaneous, is made, and allow no salt within that line to be carried without a Rowanah.

3. The Rowanahs given to bandymen could always be given over at the first Police station on the road outside the line; and there would be thus but little danger of vexatious delay or exactions being perpetrated, and smuggling would be prevented.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain H. D. CLŒTE, Superintendent of Police, Madras District, to E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector and Magistrate of the Madras District, dated Saint Thoma's Mount, 31st July 1865, No. 297.

As desired by the Board's Circular, No. LXXXIX, (herewith returned,) I have the honor to subscribe my opinion of the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Permits.

1. The present system appears to work well, and has no doubt relieved purchasers from having black mail levied from them, and from being subjected to the annoyance of being stopped and examined at every Police station; this boon must be especially felt by traders who have to pass through several Districts in order to reach their destination.

2. The old system of every officious Police officer being permitted to demand the production of the Pass, was open to abuse, and opened the door to bribery and corruption; I should much regret to see its re-establishment.

3. The Police at Depôts and places of sale are careful in seeing that every purchaser gives up his Permit before departure, and the Police at out-stations therefore allow such persons to pass unmolested.

4. The former system, ostensibly for the prevention of smuggling, was practically, I believe, of no effect; for a smuggler would take good care to keep wide of a Police station, and it only subjected honest men to annoyance.

5. By the Code of Criminal Procedure, Police officers can always seize salt under circumstances *creating a suspicion* of its having been stolen or of its being smuggled; and this appears to me to be all that is necessary.

(True Copy.)

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

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Nannagarum, near Tenkasy, 14th August 1865, No. 313.

1. I have the honor to reply to the Order of the Board of Revenue, Proceedings dated 22nd July 1865, No. 4,265, on the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs. It appears that salt sold out of store is still accompanied by Passes; in fact, by the old Rowanahs, showing the quantity of salt so issued, which are shown by the bandy-men to the Constable at the salt work gate, and returned by him to the Salt Deputy Collector's office. There is a difference of opinion as to the value of these salt Passes between the Deputy Collector Mr. Underwood and the Superintendent of Police. The former considers it advisable that they should be retained; while the latter reports (though apparently inaccurately) that they are not examined, and are of no use.

Whose letters are annexed.

2. As at present prepared and employed they cannot be of any use; but I am inclined to think that a simple Pass may tend to check fraud. I see no harm in the slight mental occupation of the Constable at the gate taking the Pass and counting the bags; nor does such an occupation seem inconsistent with the duty of guarding the gate.

3. Captain Porteous apprehends that his men may be corrupted if it is found that they are any check on unauthorized removals of salt, and that they would be more efficient checks against fraud if they did not examine the Passes when the carts left the gate. But it is not apparent how there could be any check over the contents of carts, with out looking at the Invoice of bags which the carter was licensed to remove. The only irregularity apparently now possible is the surreptitious removal of more bags than have been accounted for. The Pass checks the bags; without it it could not be known who had taken the unauthorized quantity. Cheating in weight on the platform could, of course, not be checked; but wholesale removal of bags might be prevented by the system of a Pass.

4. The above are remarks on the general question of salt Passes. As regards the employment of the old Salt Rowanah, as a pass at the salt work gate, it is almost useless as a check, there are many unnecessary entries as to destination and mode of transport, &c., and the only thing which it is desirable should be checked, viz., the quantity of salt removed, is not entered in bags that might be counted but in weight, which cannot, of course, be ascertained at the gate. I have directed the discontinuance of the old Rowanah and the substitution of a simple chit showing the date, party, and number of bags.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Courtallum, 9th August 1865, No. 153.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd July 1865, No. 4,265, requesting I should report my opinion of the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs.

2. I am of opinion that the present check employed is sufficient, viz., each cartman or person passing the guard at the gate with salt hands him a small olie chit stating the number of bags he is permitted to pass through with. The constable on guard counts the bags and passes the man, returning the chits to this office. I do not think the Order abolishing Rowanahs has done any harm; they were good only so far that they protected the carrier, as it was satisfactory evidence from whence he got the salt. This was necessary when the pans and platforms were so badly guarded and protected; but with the present establishment of Constables, Peons and Vettians and good hedges, I do not see any necessity for re-introducing Rowanahs.

From Lieutenant C. A. PORTEOUS, Superintendent of Police, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 11th August 1865, No. 70.

1. I have the honor to submit my opinion on the subject of Salt Rowanahs contained in Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX. of the Board of Revenue.

2. Although an Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs has been issued, still a system of Passes (which are nothing less than Rowanahs) obtains in this District.

3. Since the introduction of the New Police, no examination by them of Salt Rowanahs, or Passes, has been permitted; nor do I think that it was or is necessary.

4. Rowanahs were used to prevent merchants, bandy men, &c., from taking away more salt than they had actually purchased, and then was entered in their Rowanahs; now, looking at the manner in which the salt pans are protected by good fences and ditches, with a large supervising salt establishment, and strong police guard, and with only one exit from the salt pan, I think it nearly impossible for salt purchasers, bandy-men, &c., to take away more salt than they have paid for, unless such is done with the *connivance* of the salt authorities; and Rowanahs, therefore, appear to me to be of little or no use.

5. If Rowanahs were still retained in use and the Police were ordered to examine them, I don't think that they would be the means of one Department being a check on the other; for, if one Department (salt) finds it can carry on any trickery without the other (police) it will: but, if the former finds that the latter will be any check on it, both will at once combine, and matters are made worse than ever; and if any complaints of irregularities were made the two Departments would stand up for each other and render inquiry thereby more difficult.

From W. E. UNDERWOOD, Esq., Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly, to A. WEDDERBURN, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Courtallum, 12th August 1865, No. 157.

1. In reply to your question, in forwarding letter of the Superintendent of Police respecting the discrepancy between the system adverted to in my letter of the Rowanahs, and that stated by the Superintendent of Police, I beg to state for your information that I was so far wrong in stating that olie chits were given to the Constable to pass the bandies through. Such Orders were issued by myself; but the late Collector, Mr. Silver, continued the Rowanahs. But these Rownahs are not taken on by the bandy-men as heretofore, but in accordance with Standing Circular, No. CXLVII, Board No. 7,122, Proceedings of the Board of Revenue 9th November 1863, circulated to all Collectors with paragraph 3 of Government Order, dated 10th July 1863, No. 1,249, the Pass is given to the Constable at the gate, who sees that the number of bags in the bandy to be passed are; as stated in the Rowanah, and then forwards them direct to this office. I send last package received from Arasaly with signature of the Deputy Constable.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) A. WEDDERBURN,
Collector.

Ext. R. H. Lee.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th August 1865, No. 191.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX, dated 22nd ultimo, calling for opinion as to the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs, accompanied with the views of the Salt Deputy Collector, the Superintendent of Police, &c.

2. I enclose, for the Board's perusal, copies of two letters from the Acting Head Assistant Collector in charge of the Salt Department, and the Superintendent of Police, from which it will be seen that both those Officers are of opinion that the abolition of Salt Rowanahs has been of much benefit to the salt traders as freeing them from the official interference to which they were continually subject under the Rowanah system, and that this abolition does not appear, so far as is yet known, to have occasioned any loss to Government. There has been, moreover, the saving of Stationery and trouble referred to by Mr. Pennington, and fully agreeing in the opinions of the afore-named Officers, I would most strongly deprecate any change of the present system, or a return in any shape to the old system of Rowanahs.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. B. PENNINGTON, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, in charge of the Salt Department, Nellore, to J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 12th August 1865, No. 157.

1. With reference to your instructions on the Proceedings of the Board, No. 4,265, (Miscellaneous Circular No. LXXIX,) under date the 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that in compliance with your order conveyed in letter No. 684 of the 20th November 1863, accompanied by the Board's Standing Circular, No. CXLVII, dated 9th idem, the Salt Rowanahs were abolished, and in their stead the system of issuing simple Passes was introduced in this District on the 23rd November 1863.

2. It is a fact universally known that when the Salt Rowanahs were in use, every Police officer used to interfere with the salt merchants, and that extortion was the consequent result.

3. To describe briefly the many advantages accruing from the system of issuing simple Passes:—

First.—It removes the various difficulties to which salt merchants were subject on their way, such as seizure and confiscation of the salt purchased, if it were found in the possession of the purchasers without a Rowanah, or beyond the period within which they would have to reach their destination. A serious instance of the latter case was brought to your notice by the Deputy Collector, in his Yadast No. 314, dated the 16th May 1863.

Second.—It avoids the delay occasioned to merchants by the Officer in charge of a Chowky in ascertaining whether the quantity purchased corresponds with that atestd in the Rowanah as required by Regulation I of 1805, and the inconvenience and trouble which the merchants underwent in measuring and packing the salt at whatever place they might stay wherever there was a Police officer.

Third.—As intimated in the Deputy Collector's letter, No. 135, under date the 12th December 1863, there is a great saving effected by Government in the quantity of paper annually spent for Rowanahs.

4. Moreover, the system of issuing simple Passes, a system of perfect freedom instead of vexatious interference has been working very satisfactorily for the last twenty months nearly.

5. Under the foregoing circumstances, it is my opinion that the system now obtaining in our District ought not to be altered.

From Lieutenant A. BALMER, Superintendent of Police, to J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated Nellore, 14th August 1865, No. 467.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter, No. 492, dated the 5th August, with its enclosure, on the subject of Salt Rowanahs being abolished.

2. The Rowanahs being abolished, has, in my opinion, been very beneficial to the salt traders, as they are not now subjected to any interference on the part of any official after quitting the salt platforms, and I do not suppose loss has occurred to Government as the Constables on duty at the platforms receive the Passes for all salt removed during the sales.

3. When the guarding of the salt works is efficient, there does not appear to me to be any necessity for having Rowanahs, and where this is not the case, the results of after interference by the Police would be doubtful.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) J. W. B. DYKES,
Collector.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 21st August 1865, No. 125.

1. I have the honor to reply to Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., Board No. 4,265, dated 22nd July, and to state, that in my judgment, the abolishing of Salt Rowanahs has been attended in this District with no disadvantage to the interests of Government, and I concur with the Superintendent of Police in thinking that all that is required is the simple pass now given up to the Constable at the stores.

2. I beg to forward, as desired, the views of the undermentioned Officers on this subject:—

The Acting Superintendent of Police.

The Treasury Deputy Collector.

The Salt Deputy Collector, and the Serishtadar of my Office.

Enclosure No. 1.

From Lieutenant R. G. JENKINS, Acting Superintendent of Police, to W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 7th August 1865, No. 207.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 40, dated 5th instant, and the copy of the Board's Circular Memorandum, No. LXXXIX., therein enclosed, I have the honor to report, that I am of opinion that Salt Rowanahs, if they are to be shown in transit by parties purchasing salt to Government Officers on their demanding them, are objectionable, and should be abolished.

2. The "simple pass," showing the quantity purchased, as is laid down in Government Order, No. 1,249, dated 10th July 1863, paragraph 3, which is supplied by the Salt Superintendents to purchasers, and delivered by them to the Costable in charge of the entrance, is a great check to salt thefts, and in my opinion should not abolished.

From J. F. FERNANDEZ, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of Treasury, to W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 11th August 1865.

1. With reference to your letter of the 5th instant, No. 101, I have the honor to state, that I do not find that the abolition of Salt Rowanahs has worked in any way unsatisfactorily, both as regards the interests of Government and of the purchasers of salt at large.

2. The inland purchasers of salt were found apprehensive at the very beginning of the system, that they would have been subjected to some inconvenience in the absence of such Rowanahs in their hands on crossing the Mysore frontiers. Having once experienced that they met with no objection in their transit, these traders do not now attach any importance to these documents, and readily delivered them to the Police guard at the door of the Cotaurs.

3. The Rowanahs, according to the present practice, do not go beyond the doors of the salt depôts, where they are, as shown above, taken hold of by the Police guard, and transmitted daily to the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Deparment. This Officer also receives into his office the receipts of Shroffs granted to the purchasers in token of money come into their hands under Rule 28 of the Salt Manual, and upon which salt is issuable from the depôts. Both of these documents furnish the same information, and finally reach the same office. I may state that much labor would be saved if these receipts could be possibly given up, at least in this District where the store rooms are but within a few yards of the Salt Cutcherries.

From J. BALL, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, to W. M. CADELL, Esq., Collector of South Canara, dated Mangalore, 10th August 1865, No. 47:—

1. In reply to your letter, No. 100 of the 5th instant, I beg to state that the abolition of the Salt Rowanahs has worked well in this District. It has not been attended with any inconvenience to the purchasers, although at the outset the inland traders objected to handing them over to the Police, on the ground that they would be subjected to some annoyance and trouble, if they did not present these documents to the Frontier Chowkedar when entering the Mysore country. Since then, however, no complaints have reached me, and now the inland trader, in common with the local purchaser, readily gives up his Rowanah to the policeman at the door of the Cotaut.

2. I would, however, beg to recommend that these Rowanahs be issued to all purchasers during the salt manufacturing season (about three months in the year) at the manufacturing and adjacent depôts, as, in the event of a quantity of salt being stolen from the pans, it is now a matter of great difficulty to seize it, and to bring the offenders to justice, unless they be taken in the very act. If people, therefore, found that all salt purchased from a store room during the manufacturing season, must be covered with the usual Rowanah, it will be some check on the salt thefts.

3. In connection with this subject I would beg further to state, that as these Rowanahs are sent by every day's post to this office, in the same manner as the Shroff's receipts granted to a purchaser under Rule 28 of the Salt Manual, the latter may, with advantage, be discontinued. The Rowanahs afford the same information as the Shroff's receipts and can be compared with the sale book, instead of them. They serve no purpose whatever at present, but to swell the records. The Shroff's receipt is granted to a purchaser in token of his having paid the value of a certain quantity of salt, and on his producing it before the person conducting the sales (the Superintendent) he receives the salt; and at the close of the day all these receipts, are sent in to this office for the purpose of being compared with the sale book. As our store-rooms are situated within a few yards of the Salt Cutcherries, there does not appear any necessity for these receipts. Besides this, we have but five Shroffs to our seventeen salt depots, and the labor of drawing out these receipts at the remaining twelve depots necessarily falls on the Superintendent, or his Likavat, who prepares the Rowanahs. It will, therefore, appear evident that the labor and paper now spent in the preparation of these receipts can be turned to better account.

RUDRAPPDIYA, Serishtadar of the South Canara Collector's Office, begs leave to submit his opinion upon the abolition of Salt Rowanahs referred to in the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX.

It is usual to issue Rahadaris for the salt purchased for transport above ghauts, and chits for that purchased for home consumption, from the tannahs from which it is sold. Since the past two years, the Police Officers of the respective tannahs take these Rowanahs from the purchasers before the salt is removed from the tannah. Hence the salt is not covered by a Rowanah when it is taken to some distance beyond the tannahs, and, therefore, it is impossible to know at once whether any salt that is being conveyed above the ghauts, or from one place to another in the District, is actually bought from the Government Colaurs or surreptitiously imported from any port, or otherwise fraudulently obtained. Further, if the salt *bond fide* purchased at the Government depot were seized, in transit, on any suspicion of fraud, the purchaser will be unjustly subjected to inconvenience and trouble, until he can procure a document from the salt authorities to clear all suspicion. From the reasons given above, it would appear that it is necessary, for the benefit and convenience of both the purchaser and the Government, to issue Salt Rowanahs to the purchaser, provided they are not taken by the police on the spot. If the police wish to detect or prevent any frauds that may be committed by the salt officials, they can easily do so without taking the Salt Rowanahs from the purchasers, since they are present at the spot when the money is paid by the purchaser to the officials, and when salt is made over to them by the latter. If necessary, the police can even take the Rowanahs and examine the salt, and return them to the purchaser if they are satisfied that no fraud has been committed.

This course, I beg the suggest, may be adopted.

MANGALORE,
18th August 1865.

(Signed) RUDRAPPAIYA,
Serishtadar.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Collector.

Exd. J. Wright.

From G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st August 1865, No. 254.

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX, Board No. 4,265, dated 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to state, that I am of opinion that the effect of the Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs has been to put an end to a system of extortion which was only too generally practiced by many Taluk and village servants when those Rowanahs were in existence, and that I have never heard that salt theft, or salt smuggling, has in any way increased since that Order was passed. Copies of the letters addressed to me on the subject by the Salt Deputy Collector, and the Superintendent of Police on this subject are herewith forwarded.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. G. RICKETTS, Esq., Deputy Collector, to G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated Camp Negapatam, 11th August 1865, No. 121.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 860 of the 24th July 1865, giving cover to the Board's Proceedings, No. LXXXIX, dated 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to observe that from the information I can gather on the subject, it would appear that in the year 1844-45 that the junior official of the Sayer Department, which was then in existence, were in the habit of arresting and examining the Rowanahs at the several Choukees, and forwarding the same to the Hoosoor. After the abolishment of that Department, the same system was pursued by the Revenue Kurnums, but which having proved a source of inconvenience and annoyance to the salt traders, both on account of the delay and abuse of authority by these subordinate officials, to say nothing of the temptation to bribery and corruption it offered them, it was ruled in 1855 that such Rowanahs should be arrested only by a competent authority, such as Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars, provided there was sufficient reason to suspect the genuineness of the carriage of such salt; and in the year 1863 the Rowanah was abolished in lieu of a pass, and which is still in existence.

2. Now it strikes me in case of a theft from a salt pan (as such robberies seldom or ever occur on a salt platform) it would be a very difficult matter to convict, even though the suspected parties were in possession, as they would naturally set up the plea of having purchased it, and, in the absence of a Rowanah, there is really nothing to prove to the contrary; and I would, therefore suggest, that the present system of issuing Passes be modified, with this addition that they be issued in duplicate, one to be made over when leaving the platform to the Constable, (after the purchase has been made and the transaction completed,) and the other to remain in the purchaser's possession, and which is only to be challenged on strong suspicion and that only by competent authority, any abuse of which to be severely punished.

3. The Passes might with advantage, be printed at the several Collectorate presses in the form of a Cheque Book leaving blanks for the station and date, purchaser's name, quantity of salt, and destination.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. L. MORRIS,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From Lieutenant A. T. ROLLAND, Superintendent of Police, to G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated 17th August 1865, No. 134.

1. Your letter of the 29th ultimo. It appears that the system of issuing Salt Rowanahs was abolished in the year 1863. While the system was in force it was from all accounts open to much abuse, and paved a way for extortion; since its abolition, at least, since I have been in the District, no complaints have reached me. Thefts of salt, either from the pans or platforms, are now of very rare occurrence I judge from the number reported.

2. Such being the case, there can be no advantage gained from reverting to the old system: The Police guard seems to be sufficient to check thefts on platforms and pans.

3. I beg to return the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX, received with your letter.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. L. MORRIS,
Collector.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Kistna District, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 28th August 1865, No. 145 :—

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., dated the 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to state, that I hardly think that there are sufficient grounds for re-introducing Rowannahs if they are not required to protect Government interests. I am of opinion it would be better to give greater publicity to the orders abolishing them, and directing Tahsildars to punish in all instances when village authorities interfered with the traffic.

Exd. J. Wright,

From J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 31st August 1865, No. 197.

1. In reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., Board No. 4,265, dated 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to reply as follows :—

2. In my opinion the doing away with salt Rowannahs and substituting for them simple passes was a great mistake. The system of Rowannahs entailed no real hardship on salt dealers, and in their abolition Government seem to have proceeded on two unwarrantable assumptions.

(1.) That all Police guards are strictly and always honest.

(2.) That there was no spontaneous salt anywhere.

3. Under the present system, the moment a man passes out from a salt platform and delivers his pass he is safe from any inspection of his salt.

4. I do not see why it should be supposed impossible that a Police Constable should receive a bribe to pass more salt out than should be passed, and it cannot be that the number of Constables employed to patrol can check effectually the removal of salt from the producing pans before it is brought to a platform ; particularly during cloudy dark nights.

5. The advantage of the Rowannahs was, that under it illicit carriage of salt could be detected up till it reached the destination mentioned in the Rowannahs, or till sold *en route*. This cannot now be done, and I am certain that much smuggling is the result.

6. The Rowannahs ought always to be delivered at the Police station within which the salt it covers is sold, or to which it is carried from the pans, and then the Rowannahs should be at once returned to the officer in charge of the Salt Department.

7. I would strongly advice the introduction of the abandoned system.

8. I forward the opinions in writing of the Acting Police Superintendent, the Salt Deputy Collector, and the Treasury Deputy Collector also.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. M. JONES, Esq., Acting Superintendent of Police, Godavery District; to J. FRASER, Esq., Collector of the Godavery District, dated Rajahmundry, 23rd August 1865, No. 204.

1. With reference to your letter, No. 256, dated 1st August 1865, forwarding a copy of the Proceedings* of the Board of Revenue, I have the honor to inform you that I am of opinion that doing away with the Salt Rowannahs was an act of very doubtful expediency; cases of salt theft and smuggling have much increased since the abolishing of the Rowannahs. Forty-eight cases of salt have taken place, owing to the Rowannahs having been abolished, and if they have been retained this could not possibly have occurred. In one case at Narsapoor a person conveyirg a large quantity of salt said that he bought it at Bantumilli in the Kistna District; however, the salt found in his possession proved to be of an inferior quality when compared with that usually produced at the place. In ascertaining this, great delay occurred, and though there was every certainty of salt having been smuggled, still we could not get a conviction. This could not possibly have occurred if the person were required to have a Rowannah with him.

* Herewith returned.

2. And in another case which occurred in the Carapa Division, the person found with sal
in his possession had bought a cavady load of salt from the Cottaur and mixed it with spontane
ous salt, thus making two cavadies. If he had a Rowannah, this could not have occurred.

3. In addition to this, the abolishing of Rowannahs has opened a wide door for extortion t
the Police. In the old days if a man had his Rowannah he was all right; the Police had no chanc
of being able to extract any thing on account of irregularity. Now, a man not being protected
by the Rowannah, if a Police officer says "I suspect that salt is smuggled," will much sooner giv
him a Rupee or so than go back perhaps 10 or 12 miles to a station, or before a Magistrate.

4. It is only when unaccompanied by a Rowannah that the Police dare detain salt : vide Act I
of 1805, Section 12, or when the quantity conveyed did not correspond with the quantity in the
Rowannah. No Rowannah being required, it is obvious that smuggling to an unlimited extent may
go on (paragraph 2), and in no case dare the Police *legally* detain salt except at their own risk,
which risk they wont run.

5. For these reasons, in my opinion, the abolishing of Rowannahs was a mistake. I would
strongly recommend that the system of Salt Rowannahs should be again resorted to.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. PANTAYA PANTULA, Deputy Collector, Salt Department, to J. FRASER, Esq.,
Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 29th August 1865, No. 40.

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., dated 22nd ultimo,
I have the honor to state that on giving effect to
the Order* abolishing the present system of
Rowannahs, my predecessor Mr. Leggatt ad-
dressed a letter to the then Acting Collector, Mr. Morris, under date the 19th December 1863,
No. 130, for transmission to the Board of Revenue, strongly advocating the continuance of the
former system of issuing Rowannahs in place of the present simple passes. I have given my best
consideration to the above subject, and have every reason to support the views entertained by
that officer, as the present system does not afford means for detecting thefts and guarding
against the sale of the smuggled and swamp salt. I therefore request you will be so good as
to forward this and Mr. Leggatt's letter, together with your opinion to the Board of Revenue.

* 10th July 1863, No. 1,249.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From B. C. LEGGATT, Esq., Deputy Collector, to H. MORRIS, Esq., Acting Collector of the
Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 19th December 1863, No. 130.

1. In reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 7,122, dated 9th ultimo,
communicating the Order of Government, No. 1,249, dated 10th July 1863, directing the sub-
stitution of a simple pass in place of the Salt Rowannahs now in use, I respectfully beg to sub-
mit a few remarks on the subject, which I trust you will make known to the Board.

2. The above Order was brought into effect in this District on the 7th instant; but I am
afraid if it continues in force a very material decrease in the Salt Revenue will be the result.

3. Disagreeable as it is to admit the fact, yet it cannot be denied that smuggling of
salt prevails in this District as in every other of the Presidency, and the only means we had of
checking the illicit practice is entirely done away with by the discontinuance of the Rowannahs.

4. The guarding of the salt platforms and pans by the Police is not in my opinion on so
efficient a footing as to justify at present such a measure being adopted. As matters now
stand there is nothing to prevent persons so inclined stealing any quantity of salt from the
platforms and pans either with the connivance of the guarding establishment or without, and
selling it at broad day light under the very eyes of the authorities. Hitherto we could call
upon every salt merchant to produce the Rowannah covering the salt in his possession in
support of his having obtained the salt by fair means, and undoubtedly this practice has
been the means of preventing, in a great measure, the sale of smuggled salt; but now he has no
Rowannah to show.

5. Swamp salt with which this District abounds at times will also now enter the market
and be sold as legitimate.

6. In my humble opinion, it is impossible to calculate the evils which will arise from the
new arrangement. I do not think that the new Order is advantageous to the traders; on the con-
trary, and I have been at some trouble in ascertaining the opinions of several merchants who
deal largely in salt, it will prove of great disadvantage to them. Honest men obtaining their
salt from the Government stores will lose; while dishonest men trading in swamp and smuggled
salt, and selling it cheaper than the monopoly rate, will gain by the measure.

7. I would earnestly beg a re-consideration of the Order, and trust I may be excused the
liberty I take in expressing myself so freely on the subject. A sense of duty alone prompts me
to do so.

8. It would be far better if Rowannahs were issued as hitherto, and I would propose that
these should be handed over to the nearest Police authority for transmission to the Collector as
soon as the salt covered by them has been disposed of.

(True Copy).

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

MEMORANDUM.

1. In my opinion the abolition of the Salt Rowannahs prescribed in Regulation I of 1805, and
the Board's Circular, 30th March 1857, was a mistake. The change from Rowannahs to passes opened
a wide door for smuggling on the part of petty dealers and manufacturers without the possibility of
detection, especially when the pans are in the vicinity of large towns, and for extortions on the
part of the Police. I do not mean to say that there was neither smuggling nor extortion in for-
mer times; but the interests of Government and salt-dealers were better protected by Rowannahs;
since on one hand the Government servants had an opportunity of ascertaining at once, when-
ever they had to pass salt, whether the quantity found in the possession of dealers was procured
or not by them from Government stores; and on the other hand the purchasers had a certificate
for being shown to any one questioning them about the salt in their charge.

2. The present system has had a fair trial since December 1863, and has been condemned
alike by all, viz., the Executive Revenue authorities, the Police officers, and the traders. For
instance, a petty dealer living in the vicinity of the salt pans might bury a maund and mix it up
with spontaneous salt at his house or elsewhere and convey the same maund by maund to Coca-
nada for sale without the possibility of being questioned. Perchance if, on any occasion during
his interval, he is asked to account how he came into the possession of the same, he can refer
he questioner to the place he bought, and make plausible excuses for delay in disposing of the
ame. He would not be doubted, unless there be good reasons. Such cases, I know, actually
ccurred. The Police also had been too frequently interfering with the dealers, rightly or
therwise. The present passes merely serve as the Police sentry's authority for allowing a cer-

tain quantity to pass from the stores. The Police sentry may, under the Rowannah system, refer to the Rowannahs before allowing the egress of salt. Under these circumstances, I would strongly advocate our reversion to the old Salt Rowannah system.

(Signed) K. JUGANAUTHAM,
Deputy Collector,
in charge of the Treasury.

(True Copy).

(Signed) J. FRASER,
Collector.

Exd. R. H. Lee.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd September 1865, No. 231.

1. In obedience to the Order of the Board conveyed in their Proceedings, dated 22nd July ast, No. 4,265, (Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX.,) I have the honor to submit copies of he opinions of my Salt Deputy and the Police Superintendent, regarding the abolition of the Salt Rowannahs. I am averse to revert to the former practice, as it might be used as a tool in the hands of the Police, to molest and annoy the salt traders. I see no objection to the introduction of the additional information, in the Pass now in use, as to the number of bags in which salt is being taken out of the depôt.

2. Since the commencement of the Pass system, no instance of its shortcoming has fallen under my notice.

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Enclosure No. 1.

From T. RAM ROW, Deputy Collector, Ramnad, to V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated 3rd August 1865, No. 85.

1. In answer to your Memorandum subjoined to the Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, dated the 22nd ultimo, No. LXXXIX., I have the honor to report, that on the abolition of the Rowanahs, the merchants are freed from the unwarranted molestations which they were occasionally put to by the public servants.

2. In giving out the Pass (substituted for the Rowannah) in the form now in use, I beg to suggest that another column be opened for the entry of bags as per quantity sold. In doing so the Police, by mere ocular observation, may be able to detect any apparent fraud.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) V. H. LEVINGE,
Collector.

—

Enclosure No. 2.

From A. GORDON, Esq., Superintendent of Police, to V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Melur, 23rd August 1865, No. 159.

In reply to your letter, No. 1,413 of yesterday's date, I have the honor to enclose, in original, the opinion of the Assistant Superintendent of Police, (in whose immediate charge the Police at the salt pans are,) regarding the total abolition of Salt Rowannahs, and I concur with the Assistant Superintendent in thinking that the Rowannahs do act as a check on thefts, and if the merchants do not complain of being unnecessarily troubled by the Police on account of the Rowannah system, I think that matters should be allowed to remain as they are.

—

From Lieutenant H. W. BLAIR, Assistant Superintendent of Police, to A. GORDON, Esq., Superintendent of Police, Madura, dated Ramnad, 21st August 1865, No. 32.

In reference to your Memorandum, No. 150, having made inquiries on the subject, I beg to state, that although the abolition of Rowannhs may prevent merchants from being unwarrantably molested by public servants, yet, at the same time, it is hard even now to detect and convict a salt theft, and it will be more so hereafter should the said Rowannahs be altogether abolished.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) V. H. LEVINGE,
Collector.

Exd. J. Wright.

From D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 18th September 1865, No. 733.

1. Referring to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., of 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to state that the abolition of the Rowanah system has been productive of more harm than good in this District. It is true that it puts a stop to any interference of the Police in regard to the salt in transit, but it at the same time allows smuggled salt to be carried without the chance of detection. In a District like this, where the manufactured salt is so bad, the detection of spontaneous salt in its transit, becomes impossible without the Rowanah system for Government salt. I am of opinion that there was very little *vexatious* interference on the part of the Police. The force in our District is a particularly good natured one, with strong sympathies for the people.

2. I also doubt whether the abolition of Rowanahs is not opposed to the existing law on the subject, Section 12 of Regulation I. of 1805, expressly prohibits the conveying of salt either by land or water, without a Rowanah; and "persons in charge of salt are required to keep these "Rowanahs with the salt; if the Rowanah shall not be produced when required; the salt shall be "liable to seizure and confiscation" (Clause 5).

The passes given on the platform are given up by the purchasers to the Constables at the gate, and sent to the Deputy Collector direct.

3. Two enclosures are submitted from the Superintendent of Police and the Acting Deputy Collector, Salt Department.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Superintendent of Police, Vizagapatam, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 3rd October 1865, No. 144.

I have the honor in acknowledging receipt of Revenue Board's Circular, No. LXXXIX., of 12th July 1865, to state that I consider the order abolishing salt Rowanahs to have the effect of putting a stop to the possibility of malpractices on the part of the Police, by their not having authority to interfere with salt in transit, and would deprecate a return to the old system for obvious reasons.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. M. MACGREGOR, Esq., Acting Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, Vizagapatam, to D. F. CARMICHAEL, Esq., Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 4th August 1865, No. 18.

With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., dated 22nd July 1865, I beg to inform you that I entered the Department subsequent to the abolition of the Rowanah system, and am consequently unable to form any opinion of its effect.

Exd. J. Wright.

From G. BANBURY, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddaloro, 11th October 1865, No. 211.

1. In reply to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX., dated 22nd July 1865, I have the honor to state that no injurious result has followed from the order abolishing Salt Rowanahs.

2. Mahomed Esuff Saib, Salt Deputy Collector, and the Superintendent of Police, are of the same opinion; as observed by the latter, the salt must be purchased at some Government pan, and as every purchaser is provided with a pass before leaving the yard, the use of Rowanah for salt in transit, is not very apparent.

3. When Acting Collector of Madras, I had a long personal discussion with the Inspector General of Police regarding this question. Mr. Robinson was much opposed to the continuance of the transit passes; and his views seem to be the correct and sound ones.

Exd. J. Wright.

From G. THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 18th October 1865, No. 2,177.

1. With reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular, No. LXXXIX, Board No. 4,265, calling for opinion on the effect of the Orders of Government abolishing Salt Rowannahs, I have the honor to submit copies of letters from the Superintendent of Police, and Salt Deputy Collector, and Memorandum from the Deputy Collector in charge of Treasury, recording their views on the subject. It will be seen that the officers all concur in thinking the abolition of Rowannahs advantageous.

2. It appears that the recent Order of the Board directing the passes to be handed over to the guard at the gate of the Salt stores have not been carried out in this District. The traders still retain their passes.

Order of Government, 10th July 1863, No. 1,249.

3. This system is acknowledged by the Superintendent of Police to be useless, and I shall take measures to cause the Orders of the Board to be at once enforced.

4. The system in this District necessarily differs from that in others in respect to salt sold for the inland trade, as large quantities of this salt are carried across the Bengal frontier, and are of course subject to the differential duty between Madras and Bengal salt.

5. The practice in regard to salt sold for export by land to the Bengal Territories is to collect the differential duty at the time of sale, and to issue a pass, in the enclosed form, to the purchaser. I am told that without a pass *all* salt attempting to pass the Bengal frontier is looked upon as smuggled, and held liable to confiscation.

Proceedings, Board of Revenue, No. 4,525 of the 22nd July 1863.
In Cons. 17th July 1863, No. 4,538.

6. The difference of duty is credited in our accounts to the Bengal Government.

7. So far as salt issued for sale in Bengal is concerned therefore, it would appear necessary to retain the system of permits, or passes.

8. With regard to salt sold for consumption in our own territories, the Board will observe that the Superintendent of Police and Salt Deputy suggest the continuance of a modified system of passes.

9. The lengthened experience of these Officers in the District entitles their views to much weight; but I certainly incline to the opinion that it would be better to adhere to the system last sanctioned by the Board, and to collect the passes at the gate of the stores.

10. If traders are allowed to carry away passes from the stores, they must be liable to show them when called on to do so, and the evils of the old system of Rowannahs are at once re-introduced.

11. It may be that an illicit trader would occasionally be detected in this way; but the gain to the revenue would in no way compensate for the inconvenience and hardships to which honest traders would at all times be liable.

12. The true modes of restricting smuggling will be to give every possible facility to the trader to obtain Government salt without hinderance, and to increase, as far as possible, the efficiency of the watching establishment.

13. I trust it may not be out of place here to remark on one branch of the establishment which is still notoriously inefficient. I allude to the extra guards during the manufacturing season.

14. As at present arranged, the Police Officers have to raise an extra body of men for duty at the different salt pans during the manufacturing season. These men are paid only for the time they are actually required. It is of course necessary to take any men who may be available, and as there is no time to instruct them in their duty, they are sent to work at the salt pans totally uninstructed, their terms of service is only limited, and they have no incitement to an energetic performance of their duty.

15. These men are often stationed out in dreary swamps, where the necessaries of life are difficult to obtain, and where they are often even without water fit to drink, and yet they are expected to be vigilant day and night, and to resist the temptations which cannot fail to be thrown in their way.

16. I would respectfully urge, that it would be good policy to retain these men, or at all events a portion of them, permanently on the Government establishment. Their cost would, I am sure, be more than made good by the improvement of the Salt Revenue.

17. They need not of course be perpetually kept at their work when not required, but might be called in to join the reserve and made available for general service; their cost being all the year debited to the salt establishment, which should have the first claim upon their services.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Captain R. A. W. C. STUART, Superintendent of Police, Ganjam District/to G. THORNHILL, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Ganjam, dated Chetterpore, 27th September 1865, No. 523.

1. With reference to the letters noted in the margin, I have the honor to inform you that the cause of my not having earlier replied to Mr. Foord's letter was in consequence of my not possessing a copy of Government Proceedings referred to, nor could I obtain a copy in your Cutcherry. I wrote to Madras for one, it was but yesterday's post which brought me Government Order, No. 1,544, 6th July 1865, and that which you sent me, No. 1,249, dated 10th July 1863. I now hasten to state that I am of opinion there has been no ill-results from the abolishing of the old system of Salt Rowannahs; on the contrary, I am of opinion, the old system was most objectionable, useless, inconvenient, and perhaps detrimental to trade.

Letter from the Acting Magistrate E. B. Foord, Esq. Letter No. 1,257, dated 20th September 1865.

2. Useless, so far as paragraph 3 of Section 12 of Regulation I of 1803 is concerned, it never was carried out in this District, as a general rule, or indeed could it have been; secondly, it required but a small bribe to be offered when any amount of salt in excess of that noted in the "Rowannah" would have been passed, and this was the case I am well assured. The system in this District was (and up to this last year too) men who had purchased salt encamped close by the nearest village to the salt pans, they would there receive large amounts of spontaneous and stolen salt which was mixed with that purchased. The Rowannah was of course of no use then as to quantity, and as I said above, the "Chowkedars" would be most easily satisfied in order to let it pass; again, the old "Chowkedars" and Peons had only to express a doubt as to the quantity of salt being removed, stating, without the slightest knowledge of the amount of salt entered in the "Rowannah," "that the traders had much more than therein entered." To escape detention and forego examination of the salt, the Peon was paid. I have personally known a salt trader's carts in Gumsur being detained three days, on the plea that he had more salt than entered in the Rowannah. The Rowannah with the traders was taken several miles for examination, the period granted the trader, under the old Rowannah system, to get to his village, was consequently insufficient, and so to avoid detention, or being sent back for an extension of time, he paid liberally. I am of opinion, therefore, the old Rowannah system was a curse to the trader, and of no earthly use in protecting the Government.

3. I would undoubtedly urge no return to the old system. I think it will not be out of place here to state, that I believe the present "Pass" system is nearly useless; for these reason, say some fifty women attend to purchase salt at the platforms, they lump their money, and one of

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

Memorandum.

1. The absence of complaints from the Salt Department, the Police, or the people, against the orders is, perhaps, the best proof of its good effects.

2. The numerous Circulars passed by the Board on the subject of Salt Rowannahs show that they were fully aware of the extortions, oppressions, and other evils attending the system.

3. There is no doubt these Rowannahs tended to restrict the trade in salt to a certain class who knew too well the rules and practices, good and evil, of the gullies.

4. But a change has taken place for the better. At present, every merchant, nay every cartman, knows that Government supervision ceases the instant he leaves the gully, and armed with this knowledge he trades in the article with the same freedom, or rather without the dread of the interference of the petty servants of Government, as he does in other goods, to the great gain of himself, the people, and the State, and further; there is every reason to believe, that a better class of the population is beginning to engage in the local trade in salt.

5. Extensive smuggling is without doubt now of rare occurrence. But it is questionable, considering the immense profit on the sale of salt, whether this illegal practise in a small way will ever be altogether suppressed. Punishment on detection to all concerned, and not the protection of Rowannahs, seems to be the only available means to check the offence.

6. The re-introduction of salt Rowannahs will no doubt tend to relax supervision at the gullies. At present, as already shown, Government control ceases the instant the salt is out of the gully, and this circumstance compels the acknowledgedly inadequate guards, &c., to be very vigilant. But should a change take place, there will be every reason to fear that their watchfulness will be less strict, and too much trust thrown on subsequent detection on the line of road; for then the Government will have a lien on every cart of salt, no matter where it may be, and the same state of things will follow that the Government and the Board so much apprehend.

7. The concentration of the pans; the improvements therein, and in the manufacture of the salt itself; the raising the rate of the manufacturer's hire; the construction of roads fit for cart traffic at all seasons of the year; the improved condition of the salt servants in respect to pay; the introduction of the new Police have all helped to render the relaxation of Government supervision, beyond the precincts of the gully, a matter of easy accomplishment, and the result is an unprecedented increase in the revenue from salt; a gradual accession to the local trade of a better and more respectable, and it is hoped, of a more honest class of persons, and the removal from village officers, Taluk peons, and Police Constables of strong incentives to oppression and extortion.

8. Ganjam being on the confines of Bengal and Nagpore, the Madras system of Rowannahs has no relation to them.

Chetterpore, 28th August 1865.

(Signed) R. H. LYONS.
Treasury Deputy Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.—Form of Salt Rowannah.

Enl. R. H. Lee.

them purchases for all. The salt being passed, an immediate division takes place immediately outside the platforms. It is impossible for the Police, meeting a large number of women carrying salt, to say whether they have stolen it or no, they not having "Passes." If I might be permitted to suggest a pass, I would recommend one, which should serve all purposes, viz., tickets resembling somewhat Railway tickets, colored say red for bandies, yellow for bullocks, and so on.

Salt Pans.
Ten Baskets. 1-10-65
Gumastah Constable. Ramiah [A] 260.

Salt Pans.
Ten Bandies. 1-10-65
Gumastah Constable. Ramiah [A] 500.

The Gumastah would simply have to enter the number of baskets and date, and initial the ticket in left corner; on passing the gate, the Constable on duty should have a pair of nippers, nip a bit out (A), enter his number and return to purchaser. No *large quantity* of salt then could go about the country without being accompanied by a nipped ticket.

4. I am convinced too it would be a saving in time. The present pass requires first the Salt Deputy Collector's signature and stamp, signature of the Superintendent of Salt, and also the Gumastah's signature, the name of the party to whom it was sold, the quantity and date of sale, how being carried, where to, &c.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From D. VENKATA NARSINGA ROW GARU, Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, Ganjam, to E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, dated, 18th October 1865, No. 135.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd ultimo, No. 4,265, I have the honor to inform you that I received no Order of Government, dated 6th July 1865, No. 1,514, abolishing the system of Salt Rowannahs; but I know that there was an Order issued on the same subject, which was dated 10th July 1863, No. 1,249. I suppose that the Board call to know the result of the same.

2. The system of abolishing the Rowannahs has freed a merchant from all sorts of detentions before he passes thirty miles within two days from the pans, as directed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 13th March 1857, and as helped in causing an increase to our salt revenue.

3. The same Order of Government directs that the pass which was given to a trader in lieu of a Rowannah should be handed over to the Police Constable at the gate of the platform and walk free. You are aware that salt is still smuggled to some extent, either manufactured or spontaneous. If a man was to possess some salt of the kind, I suppose that he can sell it in the open market in front of a Constable, pretending it to have been purchased from the pans. I, therefore, suggest that the passes which are issued to the salt traders should be taken away by them to cover the salt in their possession. This will be some sort of check against the illicit traders, until further time, and which causes no inconvenience to the traders.

4. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice, that some of our salt goes through the Bengal Territories into the Central Provinces, and the authorities of those places do not let it go without a pass for it.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. THORNHILL,
Acting Collector.

(17)

No. 7,645A.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 29th November 1865.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cannanore, 26th October 1865, No. 228:—

No. 89, dated 22nd July 1865.

1. Adverting to the Board's Miscellaneous Circular noted, and Memorandum dated 2nd instant, I have the honor to state, that as the Police has not yet taken charge of the salt depots in this District, the system of issuing Rowannahs, to cover salt conveyed for inland consumption, still obtains.

2. Purchasers of salt for retail sale, at places in the vicinity of the Gollahs are furnished with simple passes.

The Collector will be requested to report, why the Police have not taken charge of the salt stores in Malabar, as in all other Districts.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary.

To G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Fxd. J. Wright.

55. Department.

No.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 29th November 1865.

No. 7,645.

Requesting to report why the police have not taken charge of the Salt Stores in Malabar as in all other districts.

Rec: 19/7/66

Proc: 21st May 66 Ld de 362

Regarding Salt
Rowanalso

Qr 1200. (15)

The Bds of Rev are requested to submit a statement shewing in how many instances during the last year of the currency of Repd or Rowanals - Salt supplied salt was seized during it not being covered by a Rowanah & the quantity seized in each case.

They will also state whether they prefer that Salt conveyed inland by Rail shall be accompanied by Rowanals

21st May 66 J. D.S.

W. Ellis Esq Bonded Wrhse Dublin

Rec: 6th July/63 No 9[illegible]

Pro: of the Board of Revenue of 5th July/66 No 2012

1866. Department.

Rev. Letters from Govt for May

No. 1097

From the Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue.
To the Secretary to Government, R. D.

Dated 12*th April* 1866.
Despatched 16
Received 17

No. 2,505.

Submitting Reports of Collectors on effect of Order abolishing Salt Rowanahs and recommending its re-introduction.

Nos 362-363.

Copies sent to Madras

Withdrawn