M.R.O. 14 - 5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1578 Press ~~His.~~

Dated 27. 6. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th June 1866.

No. 579. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue:—

Submiting, with remarks, letter from Officiating Collector of Tanjore, reporting what has been done in furtherance of G. O. on Mr. Clarke's Report on the Salt works, and requesting Collector to forward an Indent on Mint Master for required number of Salt Weighing Machines. } (Here enter 14th June 1866, No. 4,083.)

No. 580. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1866, No. 1,578.

Separate Revenue, No. 21.
Salt.

The proposal in paragraph 7 of the above Proceedings can be brought forward, if necessary, in full detail, after Mr. Morris resumes charge of the District, with his opinion as to the extent to which it should be adopted.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 4,083.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th June 1866.

Read the following letter from G. BANBURY, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 10th April 1866, No. 72:—

1. As directed in paragraph 10 of the Order of Government, dated 16th February 1866, No. 415, communicated with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 23rd February, I have the honor to forward, herewith, a report showing seriatim what has been done, up to the latest date, in furtherance of Government Order, dated 1st August 1865, No. 1,776.

2. Paragraphs 1 and 2 contain statistics and general remarks requiring no action.

3. In order to put a stop to the illicit manufacture of salt referred to in paragraph 3, orders were issued to the officers upon whom the duty devolved to pay most particular attention to the subject

4. No exertions were spared in bettering the state of the salt roads. A number of them are now under repair in the Revenue Department, and estimates for the repair of others are being prepared by the Public Works Department. The Board are aware how very difficult it is to keep up good communications in this District. In a season like the present they cannot be maintained in a decent state; they are sand and clay; no metal is procurable as a general rule.

5. In paragraph 9, the Government observe that there are no good reasons for the salt manufactured in the northern part of the District being of a better quality than that in the south. In reference to this subject, I take this opportunity to refer the Board and Government to the following remarks of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department:—

"The reason for the superiority of the quality of the salt manufactured in the southern "part of the District is doubtless attributable to the introduction of sea water into the pans, as "there, they are situated on a very low level, and liberally fed direct from the sea, which is not "the case with the northern pans where the brine is stinted being obtained from wells with "a limited supply in the immediate vicinity of the bed."

6. Paragraph 10 will be noticed in an after paragraph under the head of Negapatam.

7. As will hereafter appear, the instructions of Government (paragraph 11), regarding the abandonment of certain salt stations in this District, have been carried out as far as the quantity of salt in store in the neighbouring depot would allow of the same being done. To carry out in its entirety the proposal contained in paragraph 12, however, the boat canal from Vedarniem should be first completed.

8. As regards paragraphs 14 and 15, I have the honor to observe that, both during the past and the present year, the Salt Department has undertaken nearly all the salt repairs, as well as new works of a simple nature.

9. NEIDAVASAL.—*Paragraphs* 17 *to* 24.—Plan and estimates for uniting and extending Vadapathi and Thenpathi Platforms, as also for erecting a Cutcherry at the former station, have been prepared in the Public Works Department, but execution is delayed as no funds are at present available. Kelayur will be closed as soon as these works are finished, and the necessary stock secured, and the works proposed at Tranquebar are in good order. No weighing machine of the nature referred to in paragraph 23, have up to date been furnished. The Assistant Superintendent of Neidavassal has been removed, and a competent person appointed in his stead. Clerk Sitharamaiyan is not eligible for pension, as his services which count for pension fall below fifteen years; neither is he eligible for gratuity—*Vide* my letter, dated 10th March 1866, No. 49.

10. CHENDRAPADI.—*Paragraphs* 25 *to* 32.—Kovilpat has been already closed and Chendrapadi will be transferred to the north bank of the Nandalar, as soon as the necessary provisions are made by Mr. Pelly, in his final revision of the District Revenue Establishment. I would beg that this revision may be soon sanctioned, as it appears that, pending its receipt, it has been deemed necessary to postpone this transfer, which results in a considerable net saving annually. The new works, referred to in paragraphs 27 and 28, were commenced as early as the year 1865, and plans and estimates for building a Cutcherry (paragraph 29) have been prepared, but delayed for want of funds. As directed in paragraph 31, servants that declined to do the duties for which they were paid have since been dispensed with. The new establishment has been formed in unison with the Salt Deputy, but the same can be put into operation only after the receipt of Mr. Pelly's final scale. The instructions contained in paragraph 32 will then be duly attended to.

11. NEGAPATAM AND VEDARNIEM.—*Paragraphs* 33 *to* 50.—With reference to paragraphs 34, 35, and 36, I would beg to submit Mr. Ricketts's remarks regarding these extremely troublesome Negapatam pan-owners in extenso, as his experience is of course far greater regarding them than mine :—

"No one can be more anxious than I am to improve the quality of the Negapatam salt, "and rejecting the bad; but the parties engaged in the manufacture being composed chiefly "of wealthy Mirassidars, take little or no interest in the manufacture, much less in the im- "provement of the quality. I have, on sundry occasions, held meetings of the Salt Mirassidars "of Negapatam, explaining how to proceed in the manufacture, and warning them of the loss to "which they would be subjected, should they continue to neglect to manufacture good salt, but "all to no avail, and it was only by insisting on the officials and subordinates of the Salt Depart- "ment that the salt should *not* be scraped every second or third day, that an advance on the "quality was made last year, and this year I hope to make a still further improvement in spite "of the Salt Mirassidars, whose passive opposition and tacit combination is far more galling than "the most obstinate refusal; and I shall be glad when the day arrives for the Vedarniem boat "canal to be an accomplished fact, as then we can hope to meet the daily increasing demand, "and destroy the present monopoly, by establishing a healthy competition."

"Every possible means have been adopted towards extending the manufacture of salt at "Negapatam, both by persuading the defaulting Salt Mirassidars to bring into cultivation their "waste lands, as also by taking up fresh "ground; but until the salt laws* are so framed "as to *force* the Mirassidar to cultivate his "waste lands (manufacture salt), or in default "forfeit his right to the same (land), I fear we "shall find them obstructing our path. More- "over, our extended operations at Negapatam "are somewhat retarded for want of extra es- "tablishment, as provided for in Mr. Clarke's "Report; and it would be a sad pity to curtail or neglect them for want of efficient superintendence, "the present staff of subordinates, Assistant Superintendents in particular, being inadequate to "supervise and control so large a tract, separated as it is from the town by a tidal river."

* "Regulation I of 1865, paragraph 6, would appear to me "to require some amendment in so much that the power "therein vested in the 'Judge of the Zillah' be similarly "vested either in the Collector of the District or his Salt "Deputy, even if only as a temporary measure, and limited "to Negapatam where the Mirassi manufacturers are so re- "fractory, and although they do not in so many words de- "cline the manufacture of salt, &c., they neglect in many "instances to do so year after year, and which in the end "resolves itself into a tacit refusal, (and what better proof "than the waste land themselves,) which, if the Collector or "his Salt Deputy had power to deal with summarily, would "doubtless lead to a better state of things."

12. Platform No. 3, referred to in paragraphs 37, 38, and 39, has been already abandoned, and a large and commodious storage constructed near the Railway terminus. The Salt Superintendent's Cutcherry is in progress in the immediate vicinity. At Vedarniem the salt pans alluded to in paragraph 43 have been restored to the original manufacturers about the commencement of the present season, *i. e.*, (January 1866) when Mr. Morris and the Salt Deputy proceeded there in person, and handed them over. As directed in paragraphs 45, 46, and 47, spontaneous salt has been collected and stored to the fullest extent possible. The platforms at Vedarniem will be re-arranged as soon as the boat canal is fit for the carriage of salt; at present some of these storage places are situated near the beach for convenience of export therefrom by sea; this arrangement is much needed till the success of the canal can be depended upon. A revised establishment is requisite here as also in Negapatam, and has already been submitted to the Honorable Mr. Pelly.

13. TAMBIKANALLAVANKOTTAI AND TAMARANKOTTAI.—*Paragraphs* 51 *to* 54.—The station of Tamarankottai has been closed, and steps have been taken towards clearing the low scrub jungle in the immediate vicinity. Tambikanallavankottai is now having a fair trial on his own merits. The objectionable practice of closing the Adrampatam store in order to force artificial demand at Tamarankottai, as also in Magalankottai, (paragraph 60,) a subordinate station of the Adrampatam Division, has now ceased.

14. ADRAMPATAM.—*Paragraphs* 55 *to* 64.—Magalankottai is likewise on probation, and unless it can maintain its position, it will be abolished in due course. The instructions contained in paragraph 63 will be attended to; orders have been issued to carry out Mr. Clarke's recommendations (paragraph 61), and provision has been made in next year's Budget for erecting a new Cutcherry on the Madura plan.

15. AYEPATAM.—*Paragraphs* 65 *and* 66.—The salt stations of Ayepatam and Sembiamahadevi have been closed, and our operations are consequently now concentrated at Kattumavadi. One platform will be closed as soon as the salt stored on it is disposed of, and provision has been made in next year's Budget for adding a Cutcherry to the storage still to be retained.

16. ARASANAGARRI.—*Paragraphs* 67 *to* 71.—This division is retained as directed. The Cutcherry has been transferred to Platform No. 1, and one platform will be abolished as soon as the stock of salt at present stored thereon is cleared off. The instruction about the residences of the officials has been carried out.

17. Arrangements have been made, in communication with the Superintendent of Police, regarding the subject matter of paragraph 72, and the Police force is now checked monthly by a nominal roll.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing letter be submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 10 of their Proceedings, dated 16th February 1866, No. 415.

2. The Board proceed to remark on those paragraphs of the Collector's report which appear to call for notice by them.

3. In paragraph 5 the Collector refers to the observations of Government in respect to the quality of salt manufactured in the northern part of the District. He quotes the Government as stating that there was no good reason "for the salt manufactured in the *northern* part of the "District being of a *better quality* than that in the south." This is evidently a mere clerical error on the part of the Collector, for it is in the south, and not the north, that the superior salt is made. His simply quoting a passage from a letter of his Deputy, explaining why better salt is made in the south than in the north, does not meet the case; for in paragraph 20 of his Report, Mr. Clarke expressly states that "late experiments made in this District have most clearly "established the fact that really good salt can be made at the northern pans." The brine for making salt in the north is obtained from wells; but it is probable that salt water can be introduced and used in some at least of these pans. No doubt the abundant supply of salt water and the density of that water have a great deal to do with making good salt: if the wells, therefore, cannot afford the required supply, means should be taken for getting what is needed from the sea direct, where practicable, or from backwaters and lagoons. The Collector will direct his Deputy's special attention to this suggestion, and to his seeing that the water is retained sufficiently long in the pans to allow it to be condensed.

4. With reference to paragraph 9, the Board have already in their Proceedings, 5th June 1865, No. 2,988, explained to Government that they were unable to supply either Tanjore or Madura with weighing machines, as improved ones are now being made up at the Mint, and gra-

dually supplied to all Districts in sufficient numbers for each depot, the old machines being returned into store for alteration. The Collector will be requested to send in an indent immediately on the Mint Master for the required number of weighing machines for Tanjore. He will at the same time report to the Board the number he proposes to allot to each depot.

5. Regarding the inefficient Clerk referred to in the same paragraph, Government will observe that the Board, in separate Proceedings, dated 11th June 1866, No. 3,975, recommend that, under the circumstances therein reported, he be removed from the service on a gratuity of thirteen months' salary.

6. The Collector reports in paragraph 10 that he defers transferring Chendrapadi station from the south to the north bank of Nandalur river, until Mr. Pelly's revised scale of Revenue Establishments is sanctioned. There is no occasion to postpone this transfer until then. The station should be removed at once to the north bank of the river, and in the meantime the Chendrapadi Establishment may, if necessary, be temporarily supplemented by means of the reduction at Covilpat. The proposals for the Salt Establishments, as finally revised, will shortly be submitted to Government.

7. In paragraph 11 the Collector introduces an extract from his Deputy's Report on the difficulties experienced with the Mirassidars in the manufacture of good salt at Negapatam. From what has fallen under their notice, the Board apprehend that nothing can be done with these men, unless Government interfere. The requisite land should be taken up as for public purposes, and after being properly laid out, should be let as Government land to those who will conform to the public requirements and produce salt of the quality approved at a fixed price, Government retaining the power to eject the farmers. Unless this is done, it is very much to be feared that sufficient good salt will not be had at Negapatam; and a large quantity will be needed to supply the District, which will require probably more than Vedarniem can yield, and Negapatam must supplement the manufacture of Vedarniem. But, as already remarked, nothing can be done with the present Mirassidars.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
" the Collector of Tanjore.
" the Acting Mint Master.

27 June 1866.

Exd. J. Wright.

Submitting with remarks letter from Officiating Collector of Tanjore reporting what has been done in furtherance of G. O. on Mr. Clarke's Report on the Salt works and requesting Collector to forward an Indent on Mint Master for required number of Salt-Weighing Machines.

Dated 14th June 1866.

No. 4,083.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,

No. 1773.

Revenue Department.

Read Govt Letter

1866.