M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2718 Press ~~Mls.~~

195.196

Dated 9-10-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2718

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th October 1866.

No. 195. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th September 1866, No. 6,723.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Shadikhan Choultry, 29th August 1866, No. 361 :—

There are now 245 heaps of salt in store at Manjankolam, one of the salt pans ordered to be abolished. Under ordinary circumstances this salt is unsaleable, though just at present owing to the stock at Arasady being exhausted, some small sales are effected at Manjankolam. The ten per cent. discount offered to purchasers at the latter places is insufficient to induce wholesale dealers to buy up the stock at once. When I was at Tuticorin a short time ago, a merchant offered to buy the whole, if allowed credit, and a discount of twenty-five per cent. The present tender is to take the whole on payment as removed, in consideration of a discount of twenty-five per cent. ; the purchaser paying the cost of establishment and watching from the date of acceptance of his tender : this, I think, is an advantageous offer ; and I beg to recommend that it be accepted. I forward a copy of the Deputy Collector's letter and its enclosure. The Deputy Collector proposes offering a discount of twenty instead of twenty-five per cent., but I do not think it worth while running the risk of losing a good offer by endeavouring to abate the terms.

From the Deputy Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Trichendur, 27th August 1866, No. 142.

1. I beg respectfully to inform you that in their Proceedings, dated 7th April 1866, No. 2,353, the Board of Revenue directed that ten per cent. discount be offered to wholesale purchasers of salt at Manjankolam, with the view of getting rid of the immense quantity of salt stored there as speedily as possible, to prevent further excessive wastage, and they even expressed their desire to increase the discount to twenty-five per cent., should ten per cent. be found upon experiment insufficient to attract wholesale merchants. The widest possible publicity was given to the Board's offer of ten per cent., and though four months elapsed since the publication of the notice, the sales at Manjankolam remained as small as ever. The distance of Manjankolam pans from populous villages, the want of roads, and the long time the salt has been in stock from the year 1861, and the great wastage resulting therefrom, are really impediments in the way of rapid and large sales ; and ten per cent. discount is not a sufficient inducement to overcome them. Judging from the outturn of heaps now being sold there, the average wastage in each heap is about 62 maunds, or 5 per cent., and calculating the sales at the present slow rate, no chance remains of the stock being exhausted earlier than eight years. It is true that since closing the sales at Arasady for want of salt, the sales at Manjankolam are visibly increasing, but Arasady cannot be kept closed long. In another month or six weeks, Arasady will come up to its large dittum, and sales will begin then in justice to salt traders ; and Manjankolam as a natural consequence will find its own level in sales. At this unfortunate station there are 245 heaps in stock, and of them 27 heaps are of the year 1861, 101 of 1862, 87 of 1863, and 30 of 1864. However heavy the wastage may be in the salt of the first two years, I have no doubt but that the wastage in the salt of the last two years would be comparatively small, by reason of its exposure to a fewer number of years, and bearing this in mind, I don't see the necessity of offering twenty-five per cent. discount, as the Board proposed in their Proceedings above quoted, and that twenty per cent. discount on all heaps would, in my humble opinion, be a fair remuneration to, and gladly accepted by, wholesale, merchants.

2. The accompanying is a Petition from one Ramasamy Pillai, a great merchant of Tuticorin, and should the higher authorities consider that sufficient cause is shewn to dispose of the salt on reasonable terms, I recommend that this offer may be accepted with the proviso that twenty per

cent. discount only be given, and not twenty-five as requested by him. He proposes to buy up the whole salt, and remove it in two years from the date of purchase, paying in the meantime the charges of the Police and the Salt Establishment as at present retained. He offers to deposit the sum of 5,000 Rupees in cash liable to forfeiture in case he should fail to fulfil the contract. The merchant further represents that, as the whole sum required for the purchase of the entire stock is very heavy, he will pay the sum in instalments, and remove from or sell on the platform (which by the way does not seem to me to be objectionable, for, once the salt is sold outright, and the station abandoned, no harm can arise by granting this indulgence) only such quantity as the sum paid by him will cover. These are his terms, and they do not seem to me to be extravagant. If you concur with me, I respectfully request that you will be pleased to forward the application to the Board for their consideration and decision.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

ABSTRACT.—Tamil Petition and its translation.

1. Submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 25th April 1866, No. 972, Revenue Department, and in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 21st June 1866, No. 4,238, furnishing the information called for in paragraph 2 of the Government Order.

2. In consideration of the unfavorable position of Munjankolam, the bad quality of the salt, and the difficulty in disposing of it, the Board recommend that the present offer be accepted on condition that the heaps are to be taken in order as stored; that the payment shall be adjusted after each removal by the purchaser of five heaps; that he shall deposit Rupees 5,000 as he proposes, and pay the cost of guards and establishment, which last might be reduced to a minimum of one or perhaps two Gumastahs, and that the whole of the salt must be removed and the account adjusted within two years' time. The attention of the Deputy Collector would need to be carefully directed to the prevention of any irregularities, especially in regard to the order in which the heaps are taken.

No. 196. ORDER THEREON, 9th October 1866, No. 2,718.

Separate Revenue, No. 6.
Salt.

Before passing final orders on this proposal, the Government resolve to direct the Board of Revenue to ascertain and report whether at the same, or a smaller sacrifice of revenue, it would not be possible to make roads to the Manjankolam pans, and convey the salt to a locality where sales might be effected. It is observed that discount at twenty-five per cent. on the price of 245 heaps of salt amounts to nearly a lac of Rupees.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

18th Jan: 20 Sept-66. No 6723

The salt in store at Munjunkolam amounts to 2450 Garce - or the at present whole sale price R. 471,319.

Ramaswamy Pillay offers to purchase the whole of a discount of 25% & cl. used of him - that is he will pay R. 372094 for the salt or R. 99,225 less than the fee.

Such wholesale & Ret
124,031 less than the
present retail price
of the salt.

Ramasawmy undertakes
to pay for the salt by
instalments - reserving
the right in that case
paying the cost of a
fortnight's salt in case
he cease the mining as he
like the salt & losing
his hire as during for

the due fulfilment of his
engagement.

This does not strike
me as altogether a satis-
factory arrangement.
Nothing is said of Rama-
sawmy's competency pecu-
niarily to enter into con-
tract and the security
tendered is very small -
I prefer the arrangement
which he for hire & pay
for the salt in regular
monthly or fortnightly

security, & lastly that able to
carry it.

Looking at the large scale
on which the arrangements
extend, it seems to me
worthy of enquiry whether
part could not, for the time
about to be employed, use
some of the roads of the county
and hire the salt some
distance from the works only
be transported by it.

Richard Lyon Esq.

To H. M. R.

C. Rennick

Deputy Collector of Customs

The humble Petition of

Ramanarayna Pillay Inhabitant

Sulcorai

Sheweth that Petitioner has been informed by Government that salt has been warehoused by Government for sale to wholesale purchasers & is offered to wholesale purchasers at the Public stores at Mangan holam from the 1st to 15th, and that a notification to that effect has been published in the Gazette & I am willing to become a purchaser of all the Salt heaps, provided the discount be increased, to 25 per cent, because the heaps at Mangan holam are of long standing and consequently there may be wastage of salt in the heaps which are damaged by rain and the road to the Pans in that part is indifferent for Merchants to come and buy up the salt.

If my tender be accepted, I shall purchase the whole quantity in the said pans for sale and pay the price by

instalments

instalments. I shall deposite a sum of Rupees 5000 in cash for the due fulfilment of my engagement, and then remove the salt and sell this stone within two years. After the whole quantity has been sold I shall receive back the deposited amount from Government.

I therefore request that all the salt heaps may be ordered to be given to me. The services of the Police men are not required at present. If required at any time hereafter, I shall report the same and if any one is appointed by Government I shall pay them from my own pocket. Further at the ~~same~~ time of sale a Peon at Cash or Shroff should be appointed by Government for receiving money, and I shall pay them from my own funds.

(True Translation)

A. C. Pinhey
Collector

Rev: 3267/66

Encl 2
In No 6203 of 1866

Rev. Proc. 9th October 1866
Ln No 195

No 2718.

No 2706.

Before pursuing final orders on this proposal the Govt resolve to direct the Board of Revenue to ascertain & report whether at the same, or a smaller sacrifice of Revenue it would not be possible to make roads to the Manjanakolam paras, & convey the salt to a locality where sales might be effected. It is obvious that to discount at

25 % on the wholesale
price of 24 Reams of
Bills amounts to Rs.
less than ~~Rs 25~~ Rs 1
in Lac.

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Revenue 1806 Depart.
Pro: of Govt for October

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Pro: of the Madras Govt:
D/ 10th October 1806

Board to report —
whether at a small sacrifice
of Rev: a road may not be
made to the point at Mayaveram
to convey the Salt
Kolums to Convey the Salt
to a locality where sales
might be effected. —

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