M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3105 Press ~~Mis.~~

341.342

Dated 15—11— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 341. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th October 1866, No. 7,413.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 7th August 1866, No. 241:—

1. I have the honor to submit my reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th June, No. 3,936, on the subject of increasing the stock of salt for sale at the Madras Kotar.

2. Mr. Smith, the Deputy Collector, proposed the required supplies should be obtained from the southern pans by enlarging the manufacture there, that the salt should be brought to Home's Gardens, and thence carried in carts to the Madras Depôt.

3. In remarking upon this scheme, the Board observe they are not satisfied, the outturn from the *northern* pans cannot be extended with advantage, and they call for information in regard to the degree to which this can be done.

4. I have the honor to enclose a letter from Mr. Smith on the subject. Mr. Smith states that, in the vicinity of Ennore and Kuttivauk, there are two spots of ground, which can be turned into places of salt manufacture, without any expense to Government. These places, it appears, can be converted so easily, because they will not require branch channels to be excavated and run through them. Together they will furnish 1,60,800 Indian maunds of salt.

5. At Attiput, Kattupully, and Voyaloor, Mr. Smith says, the manufacture can be much enlarged. Adjoining the first place, there is a piece of land which was formerly a pan, but was deserted, because the channel which fed it with water silted up, and became useless. This land can be made into 177 pans, provided the channel is re-opened. The channel, I understand, is three-quarters of a mile long, and would cost, certainly, 2,000 Rupees to excavate. This expense would have to be borne by Government, because, owing to the land being high, it would cost much money to convert it into pans, and though the ryots will be willing to incur expenditure for this purpose, they would not also be willing to meet the cost of re-opening the channel, and capitalists would be equally averse, under the circumstances, to lend their aid.

6. The case is different, Mr. Smith remarks, as regards the next place, at which, he proposes new pans should be opened. At Kattupully, he thinks 300 new pans can be formed, and the expense in connection with their conversion into places of manufacture, he supposes, capitalists from Madras will bear, provided they are remunerated with 180 of the pans, the expenditure they undertake will re-create. The ryots are willing to assent to this arrangement, and their Mirassi rights will be satisfied by the allotment to them of the remaining 120 pans. Mr. Smith says, the cost of opening the pans will not fall short of Rupees 4,500, as it will be necessary to build a dam and lock, as well as cut a channel. Similar arrangements, Mr. Smith thinks, can be made regarding Voyaloor, at which 130 new pans can be constructed.

7. Mr. Smith proposes, in all, 875 new pans in the north; calculating each pan at a production of 600 Indian maunds or five garce, their formation would

give an addition to the existing manufacture in that direction of Garce 4,375 per annum.

8. This supply would be sufficient for the present. I venture to recommend the northern scheme in preference to the scheme for extending the manufacture in the south. I believe it will be found more economical, as well as convenient, in several points of view.

9. As regards economy.—The Kudivaram and cost of landing, at the Madras Kotar, one garce of salt, is shewn in the margin. (The tolls form so large an item in the expense, because they are levied *per ton*, and one garce of salt fills a *five*-ton boat.) At this rate, the 4,375 additional garce would cost Rs. 62,181-3-11. They would cost also establishment charges (at Rupees 190 per month) Rupees 2,280, and an additional expenditure for preventive guard. The latter charge I estimate as follows: If the *number* of men employed in guarding the existing pans at Attiput, Voyaloor, and Puludiwak, is divided into the number of pans they protect, and the product is divided into the cost of the men, it will be found that the net cost of guarding 66 pans is 7 Rupees. If this calculation is correct, the 875 new pans will require a preventive guard costing Rupees 92-12-10 a month, or 1,113-10-0 a year; and the net cost of the 4,375 garce will stand—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Kudivaram	10	9	7
Tolls, at 4 Annas per ton... ...	1	4	0
Unlading charges	0	9	7
Boat hire	1	12	3
Average per garce	14	3	5

	Rs.	A.	P.
Manufacture and delivery averages	62,229	13	1
Establishment	2,280	0	0
Preventive Guard	1,113	10	0
Total ...	65,623	7	1

10. If a similar quantity of 4,375 garces of salt could be obtained from the south, the cost, to Government, would, on the other hand, stand thus—

The Kudivaram in this direction is higher than the Kudivaram paid in the north; and Mr. Smith, in his letter appended to the Proceedings under reply, proposes even to raise it, and make the cost of each garce of salt, of southern manufacture, delivered at the Madras Kotar, 18-2-5, or 3-15-0 per garce more than the price of a similar quantity from the north. The difference between the cost of 4,375 garce of southern and northern manufacture would stand as per margin. It will be seen that the former would be more expensive than the latter, by a sum of no less than 17,180-15-10, and this, exclusive of any additional charges that might be expected to attach.

Garces 4,375 South, at 18-2-5 =	79,410	12	11
Do. do North, at 14-3-7 =	62,229	13	1
with contingent charges			
Difference	17,180	15	10

11. The additional charges would not be in the way of preventive guard, or of supervising establishment, because the increased southern production would be the result, not of making new pans, but merely of enlarging the dittum in the existing pans. The additional charges would be the cost of the guard employed to

protect the salt in its transport from Home's Gardens to the Madras Kotar. This would be no small item. One garce of salt fills eight bandies, and a policeman or two would have difficulty in assuring against pilferers the string so many carts would form.

12. As regards the contingent advantages of preferring the manufacture in the northern pans, Mr. Smith proposed the additional salt made in the southern pans should be brought to Home's Gardens, and transported thence to the Madras Kotar, where so much per garce should be paid for it on delivery. This proposition, if carried into effect, would leave the salt under the charge, and at the risk of the manufacturer until he delivered it; and hence it seems to me he would be under a great temptation to smuggle. The salt he pilfered from the carts *en route* from Home's Gardens, he could sell in the bazaar for five times what he could get for it from Government on delivery, and he would, as it were, have a premium held out to him to be dishonest. He would literally have no object in delivery at all at the Madras Kotar, because it would be so much more profitable not to deliver. The more salt out of each bandy load he could withhold from the Government Officers at the Madras Kotar, the greater would be his gain on that quantity. I venture to think this circumstance a strong argument in favor of enlarging the northern pans to the neglect of the southern scheme.

13. In their Proceedings, dated 15th ultimo, No. 1,459, the Government desire to be informed whether a reduction can be made in the supervising establishment at Home's Gardens. It is impossible to say, with certainty, whether the sales at this depôt will go on decreasing, and whether there may not be fluctuations and again arise. The reason that the sales at the Madras Kotar have so much increased, is owing, no doubt, to the railway which carries the salt into the interior, and whose goods traffic indeed is much made up of salt. I think it *probable* that the rail will continue more and more to deteriorate the trade at Home's Gardens, and am prepared to see the sales there yearly diminishing, at all events until such time as the junction between the Northern and Southern canals is effected. I have the honor to enclose a Statement shewing the sales at Home's Gardens during the last four years, as desired by the Board. The sales in 1862, when the Depôt was established, averaged more than 10,000 Indian maunds a month. In 1863-64, they averaged only 8,000 maunds a month; but in 1864-65, they rose again, owing to the sales being encouraged by special arrangements. Since, they have been falling, and for the first three months of this year have only averaged something over 5,000 Indian maunds a month. The establishment was reduced in 1864, as per margin.

Former Establishment.	Rs.		Present.	Rs.
Superintendent.....	85			60
Gumastah	30			...
Do.	20			20
Do.	15			...
Do.	15			15
Shroff	10			15
10 Peons, at 5	50	6 do. at 7		42
4 Vettians, at 5 ...	20	2 do.		12
		2 Measurers		14
1 Vettian.....	5			5
	250			183

As far as the present sales are concerned, Mr. Smith thinks that one Clerk on Rupees 15, one Measurer on Rs. 7, and two Peons on an aggregate pay of Rupees 14 might be subtracted from it,

without impairing its efficiency : but, he says, that if salt is taken in next year for store, it may be necessary to re-employ the discarded individuals.

14. I beg to submit the Statement regarding paragraph 3 of the Proceedings under reply. It will be observed that the boat hire per mile from the various places differs. The reason of this is, that at some pans the cost of taking in salt is greater than at others, owing to the position of the various channels, which, at certain pans, leaves the salt to be brought from longer distances than at others.

15. As regards the last question asked by the Board in the last paragraph of their Proceedings, it will have been observed that the cost of salt made in the south, Mr. Smith proposed to raise from 17-14-5 to 18-2-5 the garce, and he contemplated the enhanced price (as I have stated above) should be paid on delivery at the Madras Kotar. Mr. Smith was correct in his estimate of bandy hire. It would average 8 Annas per cart.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, to the Collector of Madras, dated on Circuit at Ennore, 19th June 1866, No. 170.

1. The very large and rapid increase which has taken place in the sales of salt at the Madras Kotar during the last year, renders it absolutely necessary that some measures should be devised for providing a supply, commensurate with the increased and increasing demand for that article.

2. In pursuance of this object, I lately suggested an arrangement by which three lacs of maunds of salt could annually be added to the stock in Madras from the Covelong pans ; but I feel that even this arrangement, if sanctioned, will only partially meet an impending evil which threatens not only to imperil, to some extent, an important and thriving source of revenue in this district, but also to inflict serious inconvenience and loss on the large body of consumers, who are dependent for their supply of salt on the Madras Kotar, in the event of a failure in the manufacture arising from an unfavorable season.

3. A glance at the subjoined Statement will shew that I am not exaggerating the evil which may any year befall the depôt. The sales have lately so rapidly augmented, that, during the last year, they exceeded the manufacture by 88,910 maunds :—

Year.	Quantity manufactured.	Home and Inland sales.	Wholesales.	Exportations.	Total.
	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.	IN. MDS.
1864-65	15,91,638	89,943	9,67,200	2,04,119	12,61,262
1865-66	15,75,008	93,144	11,98,800	4,59,974	16,63,918

4. It seems evident, that, unless some measure be immediately adopted to relieve the pressure on the Madras Kotar, we shall be under the necessity, next year, of restricting the sales and exports of salt, especially if the season should unfortunately prove, as it did in 1863, unfavorable for the manufacture of that article.

5. To avert this catastrophe, I beg to propose the following arrangements, which, if sanctioned, will ensure a very considerable addition to the stock of salt at the Madras Kotar.

6. These arrangements consist in opening out additional places for the manufacture of salt, as near as possible to Madras, to lessen the cost of carriage. Two eligible pieces of land, admirably adapted to salt manufacture, are situated in the villages of Ernavur and Kuttivauk ; and a sketch,

shewing alike their relative positions, as well as their position in reference to Vulloor, accompanies this letter. Very little outlay, on the part of the ryots, will be required to convert the land into salt pans, and none whatever on the part of Government, in the way of excavating boat channels for the conveyance of salt to Madras.

7. The land at Kuttivauk can be converted into 114, and that at Ernavur into 154 pans, being 268 pans in all. When brought under full operation, they will, together, produce about 1,60,800 maunds of salt ; and this quantity, added to that proposed to be obtained from Covelong, will give an annual addition of 4,60,800 maunds to the stock at the Madras Kotar.

8. Respectable as this addition will be, it will not, I fear, suffice to meet the increasing demand for salt, and leave, at the same time, a sufficiency in store for probable contingencies. There seems, therefore, no alternative but to utilize such available pieces of land as may intervene between the existing pans or adjoin them ; and land of this description, capable of being converted into 607 pans in all, may be obtained at Attiput, Kattupully, and Voyaloor.

9. At Attiput, about 177 pans were abandoned by their late holders, in consequence of the silting up of the branch channel, which served the double purpose of supplying water for the irrigation of the pans, and affording facilities for the removal of the salt in boats to Madras. The rule that then prevailed imposed on the manufacturers the burden of excavating, and maintaining in repair, such channels, at their own cost ; and as their poverty precluded their undertaking the expense, they reluctantly abandoned the pans. A more liberal policy now obtains, and the branch channels are both excavated, and kept in repair, at the cost of Government. If the channel at Attiput, to which I refer, be put into thorough order by the end of the year, the whole of the pans dependent upon it will be brought under cultivation during next year, and yield 1,06,200 maunds of salt towards replenishing the stock at Madras.

10. Between Kattupully and Voyaloor, there is a piece of land, now under water, which can be converted into 300 pans, yielding 1,80,000 maunds of salt. A dam must be erected to exclude the water from this land, and a lock, with channel, is necessary to regulate the supply to the old Voyaloor pans to which the water naturally flows. Some wealthy natives of Madras are prepared to bear the cost of constructing the dam, channel, and lock, provided a portion of the pans is allotted to them ; and as I am informed that the resident villagers are not opposed to the arrangement, if the remainder of the pans be given to them, perhaps we could not do better than adopt it, as the cost of constructing the lock and dam, and excavating the channel, is estimated at 4,500 Rupees.— *Vide* sketch accompanying.

11. Adjoining the present pans at Voyaloor is a piece of land, capable of being converted into 130 pans, from which 78,000 maunds of salt can be obtained. Here, also, a dam must be constructed to exclude the water which submerges the land at high tide ; and if the arrangement suggested in regard to the disposal of the Kattupully pans, be also adopted in respect to this land, capitalists will doubtless be forthcoming to raise the dam at once at their own expense.

12. Having pointed out the localities suited for manufacture, and the additional quantity of salt which may be obtained therefrom, I now proceed to touch upon a point which I confess is not

to me at least, a pleasant topic of discussion. I refer to the question of the additional establishment requisite for the efficient supervision of the manufacture at these different localities. Taking the places first mentioned in this letter, viz., Ernavur and Kuttivauk, it appears to me that the least expensive way in which the supervision of the manufacture can be effected, is to make both villages, stations, and to attach them to the Vulloor Division, from which they are not far distant. This arrangement will obviate the necessity of appointing a separate Superintendent on 50 Rupees per mensem; but as it will entail additional work and responsibility on the Vulloor Superintendent, it would be but fair to increase his pay from 50 to 70 Rupees. The present charge of the Superintendent of Attiput, whose salary is 60 Rupees, is less extensive than what will devolve on the Vulloor Superintendent, if the arrangement proposed be sanctioned; and it is to be further remembered, that the latter officer has also charge of the Ennore depôt, where large quantities of salt are both stored and exported under his supervision, as shewn in the margin.

Fasly.	Quantity of salt exported. Indian Maunds.
1273	1,12,322
1274	1,04,677
1275, up to May	3,95,467

13. As regards the subordinate staff to be attached to the two stations in question, I would suggest the appointment of an Assistant Superintendent on 20 Rupees, with three Vettians on 5 Rupees each for Ernavur, and an Assistant Superintendent on 15 Rupees, and two Vettians on 5 Rupees each for Kuttivauk.

14. With regard to the 177 pans proposed to be re-opened at Attiput, an Assistant Superintendent on 15 Rupees, and three Vettians on 5 Rupees each, would be sufficient for the conduct of the manufacture; but as additional work and responsibility will devolve on the Superintendent, in consequence of the arrangement, an increase of his pay from 60 to 70 Rupees would be gratifying to him, and stimulate his zeal and assiduity in the service of Government.

15. The 300 pans proposed to be opened between Kattupully and Voyaloor, may be placed in charge of the Assistant Superintendent of the former station, who has, at present, only 76 pans under his supervision, and his pay be increased from 25 to 35 Rupees, and five Vettians allowed him on 5 Rupees each; an Assistant Superintendent being transferred from Pulidiwauk to aid him.

16. With regard to the 130 pans suggested to be opened at Voyaloor, the Assistant Superintendents attached to that Division, having individually as extensive a charge as they can efficiently supervise, it would not be desirable to impose upon them any additional work. I would, therefore, suggest the entertainment of an Assistant on 15 Rupees, with two Vettians on 5 Rupees each, for the supervision of the manufacture at the proposed pans. And as this division, with the addition contemplated, will form as extensive and difficult a charge as that of Attiput, I would respectfully recommend that the pay of the Superintendent be raised from 50 to 60 Rupees.

17. To facilitate reference, and to exhibit at one view the arrangements suggested, I beg to append a Statement shewing the number of pans proposed to be opened, the quantity of salt expected therefrom, and the financial result of the arrangements.

18. I am unable to say whether the Inspector General of Police can, with the force at his disposal throughout the Maritime districts, arrange for the guarding of the additional quantity expected to be obtained from the proposed places of manufacture. My own impression is, that the force allotted to this district is numerically insufficient for the efficient discharge of its duties, and

that it would be false economy to diminish the guard at the present salt stations, for the purpose of supplying that required for the proposed localities.

Stations.	Number of pans.	Quantity of salt expected.	Proposed Establishment.	Total.	Remarks.
		Garce.			
Ernavur ...	154	770	1 Assistant Superintendent, on Rupees 20 3 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each 15		
Kuttivauk...	114	570	1 Assistant Superintendent, on Rupees 15 2 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each 10		
	268	1,340	Increase to Superintendent's pay ... 20	80	
Attiput ...	177	885	1 Assistant Superintendent, on Rupees 15 3 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each... ... ... 15 Increase to Superintendent's pay ... 10	40	
Kattupully...	300	1,500	Increase to Assistant Superintendent's pay 10 5 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each 25	35	The present channel to be re-excavated at the cost of Government.
Voyaloor ...	130	650	1 Assistant Superintendent, on Rupees 15 2 Vettians, at 5 Rupees each... ... ... 10 Increase to Superintendent's pay... ... 10	35	
	875	4,375 or 5,25,000 Indian maunds.	Rs. A. P. 8,85,937 8 0	190	

(Signed) A. SMITH,
Deputy Collector.
(Signed) J. R. COCKERELL,
Acting Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.
Abstract.—Statement of sales at Home's Gardens.

Enclosure No. 3.
Abstract.—Statement of sales at Cheyoor.

Enclosure No. 4.
Abstract.—Statement of sales at Covelong.

Enclosure No. 5.
Abstract.—Statement of Boat hire.
Enclosure No. 6.—Plans.

1. Ordered that the foregoing letter with its several enclosures be submitted to Government, in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 8th June 1866, No. 3,936, and with reference to the Order of Government thereon, dated 15th idem, No. 1,459.

2. In their Proceedings above quoted, the Board considered a proposal of the Collector and Deputy Collector of Madras to supplement the stock of salt at the central depôt, by drawing upon the manufacture of the southern pans, the supply from the northern pans being inadequate to maintain the stock required to provide against adverse seasons and the progress of the trade. The Board forwarded on the proposition having regard to the urgent importance of the subject, but they were not satisfied that the outturn from the northern pans could not be increased with advantage; and they accordingly called for information on various point calculated to clear up the question. In now furnishing the information required, both the Acting Collector and his Deputy express themselves in favor of extending the manufacture at the northern pans, as a scheme not only feasible in itself, but, for cogent reasons, preferable to the plan of bringing salt from the south.

3. The former plan was to bring down three lacs of Indian maunds, or 2,[illegible] garce of salt from Covelong and Kelambakum, by boat, to Home's Gardens, and thence by carts to the Madras Depôt. The financial result of this proposal, even with the advantage of reducing the Kudivaram of the manufacturer from Rupees 13-3-0 to Rupees 10 per garce, and the boat hire from Rupees 3-15-0 to Rupees 2-10-0 per garce, would be to make the cost of the three lacs of Indian maunds of salt, Rupees 45,377-9-8, at Rupees 18-2-5 per garce, delivered at the Madras Depôt; and this exclusive of cost of guards in transit.

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Kudivaram	10	9	7
Tolls, at 4 Annas per ton	1	4	0
Unlading charges	0	9	7
Boat hire	1	12	3
	11	3	5

	Rs.	A.	P.
† Kudivaram...	10	0	0
Carriage from Home's Gardens to Madras Depôt	4	12	0
Unlading charges	0	10	0
Tolls	0	2	5
Boat hire	2	10	0
	18	2	5

4. It is now reported that the northern pans, which are the readiest (in the absence of the junction canal) most natural means of supply to Madras Depôt, can be readily extended so as to produce an additional outturn of 5¼ lacs of Indian maunds, or 4,375 garce. The average cost of delivering this salt at Madras is reckoned at Rupees 14-3-5* per garce, or Rupees 62,184-6-3 for the 4,375 garce, against Rupees 79,410-12-11 for a like quantity from the south at the rate of Rupees 18-2-5.†

5. To procure the above-mentioned quantity of 5¼ lacs of Indian maunds, or 4,375 garce of salt, the proposal now submitted is to open 875 additional pans in all, towards the north, by taking up available ground at Kuttivauk, Ernavur, Attiput, Kattupully, and Voyaloor. The available ground at Kuttivauk and Ernavur can be converted, without any expense to Government, and but little to the ryots, into (114+154=) 268 pans, capable of producing together 1,60,800 Indian maunds. At Attiput, 177 new pans capable of yielding 1,06,200 maunds can be made, by re-opening a former

	Pans.	In. Mds.
Kuttivauk 114 / Ernavur 154	268	1,60,800
Attiput	177	1,06,200
Kattupully	300	1,80,000
Voyaloor	130	78,000
	875	5,25,000

branch channel three-quarters of a mile long, at a cost of 2,000 Rupees to be borne by Government. At Kattupully, 300 new pans capable of yielding 1,80,000 maunds can be formed, by constructing a channel with dam and lock at a cost of 4,500 Rupees; which expense certain wealthy Natives of Madras are willing to undertake, provided they are allowed the right of occupying and working 180 of the 300 pans, leaving 120 to the Mirassidars, who consent to the arrangement. At Voyaloor, 130 pans capable of producing 78,000 maunds can be formed under similar arrangements.

6. This large increase of manufacture in the north will necessarily entail additional expense on the State for supervision, beside the outlay of 2,000 Rupees for re-opening the branch channel at Attiput; and the Acting Collector adopts the Deputy Collector's estimate of 190 Rupees a month, or Rupees 2,280 per annum, (as shewn in the margin,) on account of the employment of Assistant Superintendents and Vettians for the immediate working of the pans, and increase of pay to the Superintendents at Kuttivauk, Attiput, Kattupully, and Voyaloor, for the additional duties of supervision that will devolve upon them under the proposed arrangements. It is not expected that the existing staff of Police will be sufficient to undertake the watching of the additional pans, and it will, therefore, be necessary to furnish an extra Police guard. The Acting Collector finds that the average cost of guarding 66 pans is 7 Rupees a month; and at this rate, it will cost Rupees 92-12-10 a month, or Rupees 1,113-10-0 a year, for guarding the additional 875 pans proposed to be opened. The net cost of the 5¼ lacs of Indian maunds of salt, as given by the Acting Collector, will therefore be Rupees 65,623-7-1; thus:—

	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Ernavur Station.			
1 Assistant Superintendent ...	20		
3 Vettians, at 5 Rupees	15		
	—	35	
Kuttivauk Station.			
1 Assistant Superintendent ...	15		
2 Vettians, at 5 Rupees	10		
	—	25	
Increase of pay to Vulloor Superintendent for supervising the above additional stations, from Rupees 50 to Rupees 70...	20		
	—	80	
Attiput.			
1 Assistant Superintendent... ...	15		
3 Vettians	15		
	—	30	
Increase to Superintendent's pay, from Rupees 60 to Rupees 70...	10		
	—	40	
Kattupully.			
5 Vettians	25		
	—	25	
Increase of Assistant Superintendent's pay, from Rupees 25 to Rupees 35...	10		
	—	35	
Voyaloor.			
1 Assistant Superintendent ...	15		
2 Vettians...	10		
	—	25	
Increase of Superintendent's pay from Rupees 50 to Rupees 60.	10		
	—	35	
Additional expenditure per mensem.		190	
Additional expenditure per annum...		2,280	

	Rs.	A.	P.
Cost of Manufacture, &c.	62,229	13	1
Supervision, &c.	2,280	0	0
Police Guards...	1,113	10	0
	65,623	7	1

7. The southern scheme would not entail any additional expense for supervision or guarding of the pans; because there, it would not be necessary to make any new pans, but simply to increase the manufacture in the existing pans. But, on

* Paragraph 11, Acting Collector's letter.

the other hand, it would be necessary to employ a large number of Police Peons to watch the laden carts in their way from Home's Gardens to the Madras Depôt; and the system would offer great temptations for pilfering the salt in transit between these two points, and selling it surreptitiously in the bazaars. Thus, both on public grounds, as well as for reasons of ordinary economy, the scheme of extending the manufacture in the northern pans is much to be preferred to that of procuring salt from the south.

8. This being admitted, it is necessary to see what are the prospects of the salt trade at the Madras Depôt. That it is rapidly increasing is very evident, Mr. Smith's letter shews that the increase last year over the operations of the preceding year was four lacs of maunds, or 33 per cent. The sales actually exceeded the manufacture of the year by 88,910 maunds.*

	In Mds.
* Sold in 1864-65	12,61,262
Do. 1865-66	16,63,918
Manufactured in do.	15,75,008

This increase will be checked if salt is not procurable in sufficient quantities and of fair quality; but not otherwise; for present experience of things in the south of the Presidency does not offer any solid ground for believing that the competition thence is likely to affect any reduction in the sales at Madras. Errode is 243 miles, and Salem 206 miles from Madras. Negapatam is 169 miles from Errode, and will be 206 from Salem by rail. Salem, therefore, will be equi-distant by rail from the two depôts of Madras and Negapatam, and may be supposed to be the limit henceforward of the Madras salt traffic on that line of Railway. The competition between Madras and Negapatam will begin in the 37 miles between Salem and Errode. Negapatam has an advantage of 74 miles in distance over Madras at Errode, and when the junction of the Railways has been effected at Errode, and a continuous Railway communication is open from Negapatam to the west coast, it should be able to keep all Madras salt out of the market at Errode and all parts to the west. This will no doubt relieve Madras of a very large portion of its salt trade, which has hitherto extended up to Palghaut, or 50 miles of country beyond Errode. Another possible rival source of supply is Adrampatam, lying about 40 miles to the south of Tanjore, but having no railway between it and Tanjore. Tanjore being 120 miles from Errode, the whole distance from Adrampatam to Errode is only 160 miles, while Madras is 243 miles from Errode. On the other hand, the cost of carriage must be taken into account. Madras salt costs about 66 Rupees a garce in carriage up to Errode, while the carriage of a like quantity from Tanjore to Errode will be about 30 Rupees; but it costs 40 Rupees to carry it by carts from Adrampatam to Tanjore; so that the cost of carriage from Adrampatam to Errode would be about 70 Rupees, against 66 Rupees from Madras to Errode. Competition may reduce the cost of carriage from Adrampatam, and thus give that place also an advantage over Madras; but to do this, it would be necessary that the cartmen should, for the carriage of a garce of salt from Adrampatam to Tanjore, reduce their present charge by three or four annas per mile.

9. On the other hand, it is clear that by the opening of the Madras Railway to the North-West, there will be a corresponding increase in the sale of salt at Madras; and it is probable that the Madras trade has not reached its limit in the places already occupied on that line. The present disastrous season and the increase in

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th November 1866.

the price of salt may perhaps impose a temporary check on its extension; but the Board do not suppose that the limit of the salt traffic from Madras has been reached either in the Mysore, or Cuddapah country, while all beyond is comparatively unbroken country. This increased trade can only be supplied by extending the sources of supply from the north. The additional 875 pans proposed above will yield, it is estimated, five and a quarter lacs of Indian maunds, which, added to the existing yield of about sixteen lacs, will give from twenty to twenty and a quarter lacs of Indian maunds of salt. The largest sales as yet were only a little under sixteen and three-quarters lacs of maunds; so that the surplus would be only about three months' requirements.

10. The salt trade is very capricious and uncertain. Another year's increase equal to that of last year, would exhaust the increased supply, and necessitate a further extension; and to be prepared to meet such a contingency and for the risk of bad manufacturing seasons, it should be ascertained whether all the sources of supply up to Katoor (the furthest pans towards the north) have been exhausted. If not, no time should be lost in occupying all available ground between Madras and Katoor, in adition to the localities pointed out by Mr. Smith. But if all the available intervening sources of supply have already been exhausted by the present proposals, it will be necessary to ascertain what ground is available beyond Katoor as far even as Chunamkolum, and take into consideration, besides, the desirableness of again placing the station of Chunamkolum, &c., under the Collector of Madras. The Acting Collector will also report how much salt can be stored on the platforms at Madras, for it will be useless to make more salt than there is room or provision for. Should it be necessary, the platforms at Madras must be increased so as to hold, at least, from twenty-five to thirty lacs of maunds, or from 1,000 to 1,200 heaps of salt of twenty garce each.

11. The Board have already stated their preference for procuring the additional salt required from the north, as the least expensive and easiest worked plan. The southern scheme is not feasible until the junction canal is formed; and even then, salt cannot be delivered from the southern pans at the same rates as from the north. The Board therefore recommend the adoption of the northern scheme, even should Government have to bear the cost of all the Maramut works required, up to 10,000 Rupees. The additional establishment proposed, at an annual charge of 2,280 Rupees, amounts to less than one-eighth per cent. of the increase; and the Board recommend it for sanction. Hereafter, it may be necessary to revise the whole establishment, and apportion it better. For the present, however, the Board recommend that sanction be granted for opening the 875 pans proposed above, re-forming the branch channel at Attiput at a cost of 2,000 Rupees, entertaining the additional establishment proposed at paragraph 6 at a cost of 2,280 Rupees a year, and employing an extra Police guard at a further expense of Rupees 1,113-10-0 per annum.

12. Referring to the enquiry in paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of Government under reply, the Board are of opinion that the present establishment at Home's Gardens cannot be conveniently reduced, notwithstanding the diminished sales at present at that depôt. The establishment has been reduced from 250 Rupees to 183 Rupees a month; and although the Deputy Collector thinks that it

may be still further reduced to 147 Rupees a month, he nevertheless states that the dismissed servants might have to be almost immediately re-employed. The present establishment is detailed in the margin of paragraph 13 of the Acting Collector's letter. It is not too large for even the reduced transactions at Home's Gardens. The sales amounted even in the last year to 86,718 maunds, or Rupees 1,46,336 in value, about one-fourth of these sales being retail.

13. From the Statements submitted, the Board are glad to find that the sales at Covelong and Cheyoor are satisfactorily increasing. The Acting Collector will, however, report how the Tramway to Conjeveram has affected the salt trade in this direction. He will ascertain and state whether the Tramway supplies any portion of the country hitherto supplied from the southern pans of Madras; and if so, how much the traffic increases on the line, and what has been the quantity of salt carried on it since its opening.

14. The Acting Collector will also report whether a sufficient number of boats will be available for the increased demands of the Madras Depôt, where the sales, it may be anticipated, will soon reach thirty to thirty-five lacs of Rupees per annum.

No. 342. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1866, No. 3,105.

Separate Revenue, No. 11.
Salt.

1. The Governor in Council approves and sanctions the arrangements proposed by the Board, who will issue the necessary instructions to the Collector for promptly carrying them out. Great care should be taken in laying out the pans, so as to economize the expense of watching and diminish the openings for fraud as much as possible.

2. The Board will submit a tabular Statement of the requisite establishment for submission to the Supreme Government.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Inspector General of Police.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

W. 3105.
Bds Proc: 15 Oct 66
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statement

Statement of the
Expenses to establish
Guard for the suppression
of the Slave Trade &c

J. D. S.

Wash. Navy Dept. Dec. 16

Chief Clerk

24th Mr. N.
Subs. Acct. Genl. Dept. of the Navy

P.20. 342. 3 d 15. 6 d 13

Revenue 1866. Departt
Pro: of Govt for November.

No 3105

Pro: of the Madras Govt:
Dy 15th November 1866

Pro Indl Dept. No 7
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Arrangements proposed for increasing the stock of salt at Madras Rotan Sanctioned.

No 3418342