

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 51

Press
Mis.

98-99

Dated

8 . 1 - 18 66.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th January 1866.*

No. 98. Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Nellore, 22nd December 1865, No. 48 :—

Having received, on the 19th instant, a copy of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 24th ultimo, No. 7,554, I have lost no time in replying thereto; and as the question has apparently been before Government for some time, I do myself the honor, to save time, to submit direct a copy of my reply; and I beg that you will do me the favor to lay the same before Government for their consideration, when disposing of the Proceedings to which my letter is the reply.

P. S.—It has struck me that a considerable saving might be effected in places like Gangapatnam by having salt manufactured once every two or three years, and only a Clerk left in charge with so many Maunds of salt to sell and account for. This is in reality the practice at present as regards manufacture, only instead of providing for such a system, our establishments are framed on the supposition that we shall have to manufacture every year. And the saving that might be effected by contemplating our actual wants, and only providing for such wants and no more, I would respectfully submit, for the consideration of Government, in continuation of the arguments brought forward in the enclosed letter against the present policy of concentration, or rather centralization.

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, 8th January 1866, No. 51.

Separate Revenue, No. 3.
Salt.

The Government will await the receipt of any observations which the Board may wish to offer on Mr. Dykes' letter.
(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Collector of Nellore.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

N^o 321

From

J. W. B. Dykes Esquire,
Collector of Bellare.

To

W. Huddleston Esquire,
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt yesterday of the Board's Proceedings of the 24th Ultimo, and lose no time in submitting for Consideration certain grave errors that I think are observable in those Proceedings.

2 In paragraph 7, the Board allude to the happy results to be anticipated when the Government unite the pains with the "great thorough fares of the Country by good roads". But what are the "thorough fares" of the Country - Are they good roads? We send our salt to Hyderabad, from Kanu-parti and Devarampadu. And the only "thorough

Bellare ✓
Collector's Office
20th December 1865

thorough fares" I know there are the tracks through the jungles by which the cattle move 6 to 8 miles a day - It would not be much use to unite such thorough fares with the pans by good roads.

3 In the next paragraph the Board state "in the Kistna District, where the salt is conveyed from the pans by pack bullocks, increasing the number of stations did not generally improve the sales;" and, observing that our means of carriage are alike, the Board go on to point, in the Kistna District, to 5 laes, and 6 laes, and 5 laes when there came an unhappy increase in the places of sale. But surely the Board forgot here water Carriage. I cannot speak from figures. Still I think

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Board's Proceedings
dated 19th July 1865
No 4, 168

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I heard of salt lost in boats in the late storm. And suggesting for consideration that water Carriage makes a difference, I would beg again to call the Board's attention to Mr Thornhill's figures. Four laes, and 3 laes, and 2 laes, and 1 lae show more correctly, I think, what are likely to be the results, when the means of Carriage are the same, viz pack bullocks.

4 I enclose a statement showing the annual sales of salt at each of the stations in this District, as called for by Mr Clarke; and from this statement the Board will see that a very grave error has been committed in the 10th paragraph of their Proceedings in assuming that the sales of salt at Devarampad must be most trifling.

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There in fact appears to have been some mistake of names, for the Board observe that the total sales of the Division in which Devarampad is situated were only 29,000 Maunds, whereas in reality the average sales of Devarampad were 66,000 Maunds.

5 I have only calculated the averages for 5 years, as the 6th year was the introduction of Deputy Collectors, and wholesome supervision.

6 And, viewing the question with reference to supervision, I would suggest for consideration what should be the effect of Deputy Collectors in this respect; an increased means of supervision and consequent power of increasing the number of our places of sale? or, are we so little the gainers

4
gainers by the measure, that we must decrease the number of our places of sale to meet the difficulties of supervision referred to in paragraph 2 of these Proceedings.

7 In paragraph 11, the Board refer to the sparse population along the coast, and

Names of Taluqs	Area Square miles	Population as per last Census	Average population per square mile
Coast Taluqs			
Angole	835	152,864	181
Kandukuru	731	108,451	148
Kavali	598	59,744	85
Bellare	640	137,005	214
Gudur (including Srikharikota)	913	99,140	99
Inland Taluqs			
Kanigiri	990	97,316	97
Udayagiri	862	75,725	88
Atmakuru	500	70,438	141
Papuru	644	41,880	65

the fact that the great Consumers live at a distance. The Commerce is the case as regards the home market. And I give in the margin figures showing that the population in our Coast Taluqs rises to 214 the square mile and in the inland

Taluqs is nowhere 100 save in Atmakuru where

where the comparison is affected by irrigation.

8. Here again it is my duty to bring to the Board's notice a very important point wholly lost sight of in these Proceedings - I have already shown as regards the distant markets what is the only facility possible at present in reaching the stores - If we make Padarti the Concentrated station proposed, we select the very worst place in the District for the measure - The Cultivation comes down to the stores; and for from 20 to 30 miles Westward there is the finest and richest sheet of Cultivation, I know of any where, to drive Cattle through!

9. I have no wish to press hard on
the

the Deputy Collectors in charge of the Salt. I am willing to do any thing in my power to meet their Convenience, and increase their powers of supervision without overtaxing their strength. But surely the services of a Special Officer of the grade of a Deputy Collector given specially to the Salt Department should be able to meet the requirements that existed previous to his appointment. I am willing to attend to his Convenience; but the people I would respectfully submit should be considered also.

10. And feeling sure that this view of the case would have the Board's Cordial approval, I do myself the honor to submit a statement I have had drawn up showing what would be the effects on the people
of

of the proposed Concentration -

11 I regret much the delay there has been in furnishing the Annual sales, which I have had by me for some time, and in submitting this statement showing roughly the increased cost of Carriage by Concentration; I have however been so closely engaged with Settlement work that I have never had time before today to take the subject up. And for the same reason, I must I regret, in apologising for the delay, send the statements on without looking into them and checking the results as closely as I could wish. They will however give roughly an idea of our operations, and with this explanation, I submit them.

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Irrigation.

12 The home market of Gangapatnam is put down at 27 Villages. The average distance of Carriage at present is 6 miles. To Concentrate sales we increase this distance to 16 miles, we raise the cost of Carriage 166 per cent; and our Establishment is put down as costing us 31 per cent on the salt sold. At Jogalapalli to meet the convenience of the Deputy Collector, we raise the cost of Carriage on 50 Villages 62 per cent, our establishment costing us 1 per cent. At Supili it is 51 and 1 per cent. At Kanuparti it is 57 and 10 per cent. Surely it would be better to call on the Deputy Collectors to exert themselves, rather than meet difficulties of supervision by reducing the number of places to be supervised.

and

And in conclusion, and in pursuing the theme of supervision and Deputy Collectors, I shall I trust not be considered to be taking a selfish view of the case if I request the Board to reconsider the decision arrived at in the last paragraph of the Proceedings under acknowledgment. The Deputy Collector of Madras has water carriage, and a night puts him at Sunambukulam. I, or my Deputy Collector have a long land journey of 80 or 90 miles to get to the same place. Bellare is a long District, Madras is compact. Can Bellare with propriety be called on to prevent smuggling in Madras? - To stop smuggling we have been called on to extend our operations to Pulicat. I cannot

attend

attend to this and my other duties. It is equally difficult for the Deputy Collector of this District. And finally, I do not lose sight of the fact, and would beg the Board to note the same, that this extension of our duties opens out a thoroughfare to Madras, the facilities of which are undeniable. And I do not think it right to increase what is well known to be a temptation, however highly I may esteem those tempted.

I have &c.

/Signed/ J. B. B. Dykes
Collector

P.S.

As the question has been apparently some time before Government, I propose to do myself the honor to forward direct a copy of this letter to same time.

/Signed/ J. B. B. Dykes
True
Collector

/ True Copy /

W. B. D. R.
Collector

Enclosure is a letter
from the collector of Kulu
to the Secretary to Government.
Revenue Department. For
Mr. George Bales 22. December
1865 L. 48

Rev. 33/66.

W. B. D. R.
10/98-99

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W. B. D. R.
Collector.

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