M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 859 Press Mis.

Dated 14-4- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th April 1866.

No. 171. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th March 1866, No. 2,221 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sreeperumbuthoor, 27th February 1866, No. 50.

I have the honor to forward herewith copies of two letters received from the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, and request the sanction of the Board for the immediate entertainment of the trained Mechanic and the extra hands asked for by Mr. Smith.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, to the Collector of Madras, dated Madras, 23rd February 1866, No. 56.

1. I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to address the Board of Revenue, in view to their obtaining the early sanction of Government, for the entertainment of the additional establishment proposed for the Madras Depôt, the necessity for which has been fully explained in my letter to your address, dated 10th October 1865, No. 380.

2. Our storing operations will commence in April next, and as it has been clearly shewn, in paragraph 8 of my letter above quoted, that we are short of hands, it will not be practicable, unless by retarding the storage, or conducting it through the agency of irresponsible persons, to get through the heavy work that will then fall upon the Department.

3. There are undoubtedly good reasons for the application, for additional hands made in October last, not having yet been disposed of by the Board ; and if those reasons still exist, I would respectfully suggest, that sanction may be obtained for the temporary employment of the additional hands proposed, pending the final revision of the Salt Establishments of the Maritime Districts of this Presidency.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, to the Collector of Madras, dated 23rd February 1866, No. 57.

1. I trust I shall be pardoned for again bringing to your notice the desirableness, not to say the necessity, for a trained Mechanic being attached to the Salt Department of this District, as, under instructions from the Board, you have desired* me to bear in mind, that "the Salt "Department should constantly bring to notice "its requirements, and not cease to urge improvements, until every defect is remedied."

* Memorandum, dated 20th June 1865, No. 369, paragraph 2.

2. Our storage of salt, at the Madras Depôt last year, amounted to 15,87,244 maunds, and the whole of this large quantity was weighed into store, by means of the fourteen improved Mint machines allotted to the Depôt.

3. These machines have recently undergone improvements, which have made them as accurate, and serviceable, as it is possible to render them. Yet, considering the very large quantities of salt daily weighed on them, it is not surprising that they occasionally get out of order, by the breaking of a nail or a screw. In such cases, instead of being immediately repaired on the spot, and rendered again available for use, the machines are forwarded to the Mint, and some days elapse before they are returned to the Depôt.

4. All this time, we are deprived of their use ; the storage, in the absence of the machines, is proportionably diminished ; the coolies, for want of sufficient work, decamp ; the manufacturers complain that their salt is not quickly weighed ; and the boatmen, not finding regular employment, stil off to their villages with their boats, and frequently do not return again to duty for some weeks after.

5. These are all serious inconveniences and annoyances to which the Department is exposed by an interruption in the storage, however brief ; and, I submit, that 25 Rupees per mensem, the salary proposed to be assigned to a trained Smith, would be well laid out in the removal of inconveniences which obstruct our storing operations.

6. There is no single Depôt, in the entire Madras Presidency, where the transactions connected with the storage, shipment, and sales of salt, are so extensive as at the Madras Depôt ; and if tis be an admitted fact, some exceptions should, I think, be made in its favor ; and if there be any present difficulty in respect to funds, the matter might be settled by authorizing the temporary employment of a Smith.

1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The application for additional hands, referred to in the above correspondence, involves a large increase of expenditure, in the shape of better pay to Superintendents, and the employment of additional Clerks and Peons. This application has not yet been disposed of by the Third Member of the Board, as it forms a part of the general scheme for the revision of the Salt Establishments, the submission of which must be deferred until Government pass orders on the question of reducing the number of Salt stations in Nellore, upon which subject the Board have last reported in their Proceedings of the 5th instant, No. 1,499.

3. Mr. Smith, however, is correct in his views in respect to the great advantage of having a trained Mechanic attached to his establishment, to repair on the spot such of the new salt-weighing machines as may get out of order, and thus prevent the stoppage of work by the injured machines being sent to the Mint to be repaired. The Government were pleased in paragraph 4 of their Proceedings, 3rd June 1865, No. 1,210, to approve of the proposal to attach an efficient Smith to each District Establishment as Inspector and repairer of the weighing machines; and in a letter, dated 27th September 1865, No. 178,* the Acting Mint Master informed the Board that he had such men in training at the Mint expressly for fitting up these machines, whom he could transfer, whenever wanted, at a salary of from 25 to 30 Rupees a month each. The Board recommend that the Collector of Madras be authorized, pending the issue of final orders, to obtain, as a temporary measure, the services of an efficient Smith, for the charge and repair of the salt-weighing machines of the Madras District, at a cost not exceeding 25 Rupees a month, which can be met from the general savings under the head of Salt.

* Board's Proceedings, 18th October 1865, No. 6,591.

4. The Board consider it advisable to keep a couple of spare machines in store at Madras, where the operations are very large, in order to replace any injured or worn out machines. The Collector will, therefore, submit the usual indent on the Mint Master for two additional weighing machines.

No. 172. ORDER THEREON, 14th April 1866, No. 859.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.
Salt

Sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro-3 Sept 62-A 91-92
26 Sept — 526-7

Rev: 1866. Department.
Bd. of Govt. for Appl.

No. 994.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 28th March 1866.
Govt. Consult
Rev. Jan. —

No. 2,221.

Recommending that Collector of Madras be authorized to employ, as a temporary measure, an efficient Smith for the charge and repair of Salt Weighing Machines, and requesting Collector to indent on Mint Master for two more Machines.

P. 859.
15 Sanctioned.
1167 Nil. 14 April 1866 Sec. GP

171-172.