

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

894

Press
Mis.

Dated

18-4-

1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1866.*

No. 240. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th April 1866, No. 2,311 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of the Kistna District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Gudivadah, 14th March 1866, No. 85.

1. In forwarding copy of a letter from the Salt Deputy Collector, I have the honor to request the Board's favorable consideration to the proposals contained therein.

2. The formation of spontaneous salt in the swamps at Cona, is a source of constantly recurring anxiety. In the present season there has been a large deposit of excellent salt; it must either be collected or destroyed.

3. The collection is difficult owing to the remote and exposed nature of the spot, far from any shelter or water to drink, and the salt, if collected and left unsold after the setting in of the monsoon, will require an additional guard for months, as the swamps surrounding the spot become impassable to carts or bullocks after heavy rains.

4. On the other hand, to destroy it is reported to be not only difficult, but almost impossible; I have the honor, therefore, to recommend that the extra rate recommended by Mr. Marjoribanks in paragraph 5 be sanctioned and that the salt be stored, and that the extra guard and establishment recommended

Quarter Anna per Maund.		
	Station Establishment.	RS.
1 Clerk or Assistant Superintendent.	...	20
1 Measurer	...	6
3 Vettyans at 5 Rupees	...	15
		41

in paragraph 8 be also sanctioned until the salt be disposed of.

5. I have authorized Mr. Marjoribanks to proceed at once to collect the salt, and to pay the higher rate in anticipation of the Board's sanction, as every week it remains exposed large quantities are likely to be abstracted, to the direct injury of the salt revenue.

6. Every effort will be made to get the salt sold before the monsoon.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, to the Collector of the Kistna District, dated Masulipatam, 8th March 1866, No. 30.

1. Adverting to my letter to Mr. Hutchins, dated 23rd ultimo, I beg to inform you that I inspected the salt swamps near Cona on the 6th instant.

2. The area of the bed on which salt has formed is about 1,000 yards in length, and 500 yards in breadth. The salt is white and hard, and the crystals are large; but the bed of the swamp is exceeding slimy, and great care will have to be taken to obtain the salt pure.

3. If sufficient labor can be had, I think about 300 garce of salt of excellent quality, adapted for the inland trade, can be collected, but I am sorry to say I have no hopes of procuring coolies near Cona. All that part of the country has been nearly depopulated by the late inundation. Very few of the former inhabitants are alive, and of these hardly any are used to the task of collecting salt.

4. I have written to the Buntumilly Salt Superintendent to ascertain and report to me if any coolies are willing to come from thence to Cona, but I am not sanguine of much help from such a distance, twenty-five miles.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1866.*

5. Perhaps, if the rate for collecting swamp salt were raised from half an anna, the present authorized rate, to three-quarters of an anna per maund for collecting the Cona salt, coolies may be induced to come from a distance. There are ample funds in the Budget to meet the extra charge, and I beg to suggest your proposing to the Board to sanction the raising of the rate to the above extent for Cona salt.

6. I would also suggest your soliciting their authority for entertaining a temporary Police Guard of a Deputy and six Constables for watching the salt at Cona, till it is all either stored or bles; at present three temporary Constables, out of the ten extra guards allowed for Mangenapudi, are watching at Cona.

7. The Assistant Salt Superintendent of Mangenapudi and two Vettyans are also at Cona, and have been there since the 5th February last, superintending the destruction of salt not fit for collection. Much of this description of salt still remains to be destroyed. The withdrawal of these servants from Mangenapudi, has crippled the Salt Establishment there very much. I have, therefore, directed a Clerk of Buntumilly Division to do duty at Mangenapudi, but at Buntumilly also, there is much work at present, as salt is forming in the swamp beds there in all directions. I trust we may soon receive sanction for increasing the Salt Establishments as lately proposed by Mr. Chase.

8. I have, agreeably to your request, spoken to the merchants at Bunder who generally engage largely in the salt trade to relieve us of the salt at Cona as soon as we are able to store it. Camaswe Row informs me that he is unable to purchase any salt at present, and Makuria Venkataswamy Naidu says he may take a limited quantity. Under these uncertain circumstances of the salt at Cona meeting with an immediate sale, it will be necessary to make arrangements for establishing a salt station at Cona, for the supervision of which I consider the following establishment will be necessary:—

<i>Station Establishment.</i>		RS.
1 Clerk or Assistant Superintendent	...	20
1 Measurer	...	6
3 Vettyans at 5 Rupees	...	15
		41

Police Guards.

One Deputy and six Constables to be reduced to one Deputy and three Constables after the salt is all stored.

9. If the increase to the salt Establishment at Mangenapudi proposed by Mr. Chase be sanctioned, the Station Establishment above specified will not be necessary, but the Police Guards will still be required.

10. In conclusion, I have the honor to request your instructions as to whether I may, at once, if I succeed in getting coolies, commence collecting the salt at Cona or not. If it is to be collected, the sooner it is done the better, or the along-shore winds will blow clouds of dust into the swamps, and the salt will be dirty and discolored.

1. The Board see no objection to the rate of hire for collecting spontaneous salt in the swamps near Cona being raised from half an anna to three-quarters of an anna, under the circumstances stated by the Salt Deputy Collector.

2. The Board resolve to request the sanction of Government for the entertainment of the temporary Establishment noted in the margin at Cona, pending the introduction of the revised Establishment for Mangenapudi, which is under the consideration of Mr. Clarke.

1 Assistant Superintendent	...	20
1 Measurer	...	6
3 Vettyans... ..	...	15
		41

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1866.*

3. The Board also request that the Inspector General of Mofussil Police may be authorized to provide Police Guards for guarding the salt collected, viz., one Deputy and six Constables. It appears from the Salt Deputy Collector's letter that the six Constables may be reduced to three after the salt is all stored.

No. 241. ORDER THEREON, 18th April 1866, No. 894.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.
Salt.

The Board's recommendations are approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Inspector General of Police.
.. the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2894-35

The 18th recommend.
No. 1000 are approved &
sanctioned.

14th of March 1894
4th of April 1894
6th of April 1894

21

21