

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2148	Press ~~Mis.~~
174-77 Dated	12-8-	N 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following :—

No. 174. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd November 1867,
No. 7,153.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Secretary to
the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd September 1867, No. 668.

1. In their Proceedings, dated 26th March 1867, No. 1,888, the Board of
Revenue, before passing final orders relative to the closing of the shell pits in the
Pulicat lake, desire to have the opinion of the Collector of Nellore on the question
under consideration.

2. There can be no doubt that the spontaneous salt, which collects in the pits,
especially in those in the vicinity of the island of Irukam, is surreptitiously
collected in large quantities and used for curing fish &c., and that there is a con-
siderable smuggling trade carried on in the article. The late Salt Deputy Collector
wrote of this salt as not being of a good quality, and not capable of being utilized,
because it would not even pay the cost of scraping. Mr. Freer, the present Acting
Salt Deputy Collector, however, points out that the salt is not so bad but that it
can be used for culinary purposes, and when mixed with good salt, can be sold
without fear of detection. He remarks that it is far better than the earth salt of
Cuddapah and Bellary, which is largely used for culinary purposes.

3. In an account prepared by the Salt Deputy Collector, he shews that
between 1st December 1866 and 31st July 1867, or during a period of eight months,
in nine villages on the Pulicat lake, where there are 3,943 exhausted shell
pits, 704 Maunds of spontaneous salt were reported to be destroyed, and 21
Maunds were entered as stolen; but for want of any proper agency to collect the
returns, their correctness cannot be depended upon. The late Narayanasawmy
Mudaliar estimated the annual loss to the revenue at Rupees 9,000, the value of fifty
garce of salt, which he believed to be surreptitiously removed from these pits.

4. Mr. Freer has prepared a table, shewing the home sales at nine stations for
the last five years, the results of which are exhibited below :—

	RS.
Fusly 1272	17,322
„ 1273	26,457
„ 1274	30,995
„ 1275	37,505
„ 1276	33,874

He regards the fall to the extent of $9\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., between the sales of Fuslies
1275 and 1276, as apparently the result chiefly of increased smuggling. Seeing
how steadily the trade increased during the five previous years, the increase of this
smuggling trade he attributes to the facilities afforded by the exhausted shell pits
for the formation of spontaneous salt.

5. I agree with Mr. Freer in his recommendation that the Shell Contractors
should in future be always required to return to the exhausted pits the super-
incumbent layer of sand or mud which was first removed to reach the shell deposit.
The rest must be left to the action of the tides and the rains. Of course, it would
be quite impossible to require the pits to be filled up.

to prevent the smuggling of

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6. The present establishment employed in this locality to prevent smuggling, and to watch some 4,000 pits, whose number is continually increasing, scattered over an extended area, is only

	RS.	RS.
1 Gumastah	monthly 12, annually 144	
4 Peons	" 20, " 240	
		384

This establishment is quite insufficient. Mr. Freer would propose to substitute for it

	RS.	RS.
1 Supervisor... ..	monthly 40, annually 480	
10 Peons... ..	" 60, " 720	
		1,200

This establishment should be retained for three years at least.

7. I have addressed the Superintendent of Police, drawing his attention to the want of vigilance on the part of the Police in the suppression of smuggling in this locality. I have also published in the *District Gazette* a Notification regarding the payment of rewards to informers against parties guilty of breaches of the Salt Laws.

1. The Board consider it necessary, for the security of the Salt Revenue, to require in future that the Contractors shall throw back into the exhausted pits the sand and mud which they have dug out from them.

2. They admit the necessity of maintaining an establishment for watching the pits and destroying spontaneous salt, but before submitting the Collector's proposition for the sanction of Government, they wish to be informed, when the establishment of Rupees 384 per annum, alluded to in paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter, was sanctioned, at what distance from the salt stations the pits are situated, and whether the guards employed at the stations, with a few more Peons, would not be sufficient to attend to the work. He will also state what necessity there is for a Supervisor on Rupees 40 a-month to prevent smuggling.

No. 175. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd March 1868, No. 1,476.

Read the following letter from the Acting Deputy Collector in charge of Salt Department, Nellore, to the Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 16th November 1867, No. 268.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 7,153, dated the 2nd instant, forwarded to me with your Endorsement, No. 1,323, of the 8th idem, regarding the closing of the exhausted shell pits in the Pulicat lake.

2. The establishment of one Gumastah and four Peons, costing Rupees 32 per mensem, was provided in the estimates for Pulicat dykes and other preventive works, and was maintained from the 1st of February to the 31st October last. This is exclusive of the establishment of two Peons at 12 Rupees per mensem,

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sanctioned by the Board of Revenue in their Proceedings, No. 7,551, of the 19th October 1866, for nine months.

3. The Board of Revenue inquire whether the guards employed at the stations, with a few more Peons, would not be sufficient to attend to the work. A close examination of the map and statement, submitted with late Narayanasawmy Mudaliar's letter, No. 17, of the 12th January 1865, will afford some idea of the extent of the shell pits as they then existed, and of their distance from the salt stations. They have increased considerably since then around Irukam, to the north and north-west of Venad, along the east coast of the lake from Musamoneode northward beyond Nakka Doruva. The work is too extensive for the Tada and Sunnapugunta Superintendents to exercise an effective supervision over it, especially as that supervision will be mostly required when they are fully occupied with the manufacture at their own stations.

4. In September 1865, I found the following drafts from other stations employed on this work :—

- 1 Assistant Superintendent.
- 1 Clerk.
- 8 Peons or Vetteyans.

In 1866, they were withdrawn by order of the Collector, in consequence of the Board's Standing Order, No. 218,* and extra hands were employed in 1867,

* Page 219 of Official edition.

and the result is shewn in the home sales.

5. The necessity of a separate preventive establishment presented itself forcibly to the mind of the late Narayanasawmy Mudaliar, when he wrote the 21st paragraph of his letter, No. 96, of the 10th June 1865; and the necessity for it has increased in proportion as the shell pits have multiplied, on account of which I have added only two more Peons to the establishment proposed by him. As the Superintendents of Tada and Sunnapugunta cannot, without neglect to their own work, be called upon to exercise even a cursory supervision over the Peons that will be required for the work in question, I beg that a Supervisor may be employed on the pay proposed, which has been considered with reference to the amount of travelling which will be required of him during the hottest season of the year.

6. The necessary orders have been issued to the Superintendents of Salt at Sunnapugunta and Tada, to watch closely and report every instance of neglect on the part of the Contractors to throw back into the exhausted pits the sand and mud which they have dug out from them. I may be erroneously impressed with the importance of the Deputy Tahsildar of Sriharikodi, and Poluru also, giving their earnest attention to this matter, but I venture the observation for such consideration that it may be worth.

No. 1,473.

Submitted to the Board of Revenue, with reference to their Proceedings, No. 7,153, dated 2nd November 1867. The shell pits in question have been personally visited by me, and I agree with the Salt Deputy Collector in considering that they cannot be efficiently watched by the salt establishments at Tada, seven

to prevent the smuggling of

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miles off, or Sunnapugunta, fifteen miles off. They are scattered, and extend over a very large area. The present Contractor carefully throws back the sand and mud into the new pits he digs.

NELLORE, (Signed) J. A. C. BOSWELL,
20th November 1867. Acting Collector.

The Collector is again requested to state, when the establishment of Rupees 384 per annum was sanctioned. The date and number of the Order of Government or Board's Proceedings should be given.

No. 176. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th July 1868,
No. 5,154.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd November 1867, No. 7,153.

Do. do. 2nd March 1868, „ 1,476.

Read also the following letter from the Acting Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Krishnapatnam, 22nd April 1868, No. 1,150.

1. With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 1,476, dated 2nd March 1868, requesting me to give the date and number of the Order of Government or Board's Proceedings, by which the extra establishment for watching the spontaneous salt producing tracts of the Pulicat lake was sanctioned, I beg to forward copy of a letter, No. 91, dated 30th March 1868, from the Salt Deputy Collector. From this it will be seen that the establishment is provided out of the Rupees 2,000 a-year, sanctioned by Government in their Order, dated 7th January 1863, No. 16, for the maintenance of the dykes across the Pulicat lake.

2. The cost of these dykes up to this time, including the extra establishment, is shewn below:—

	RS.	A.	P.
Original cost of construction in 1863	1,798	8	9
Repairs in 1864	861	6	7
Do. 1865	994	13	4
Do. 1866	1,046	3	5
Do. 1867	1,566	10	10
Do. (estimate in 1868)	1,712	2	7
Total	7,979	13	6

It will be seen that large repairs are required every year, as the embankment across the lake, only one yard high and made of salt soil which will not bund, is for the greater part breached and washed away annually. More than this, the pits dug every year to supply the earth for the bunds, ninety, are increasing in number, and form beds for the deposit of spontaneous salt, so that a Peon has to be retained specially for watching them.

3. I have very recently visited these dykes when the work of repair had been nearly completed, and think there is small prospect of reclaiming the northern portion of the lake unless it be planted out with such thorny bushes as will grow in saline soil, such as *Parkinsonia aculeata*, *Acacia arabica*, &c. These will serve the double purposes of preventing the formation of salt, and encouraging the accumulation of deposits of alluvium washed down by the streams.

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4. The Salt Deputy Collector, A. Narrain Row, has also written to me, suggesting that it would cost less than these annual repairs in the end to raise the embankment in a substantial manner above the rise of the highest tides, providing a road-way upon it for wheeled traffic, and furnishing it with sluices having wooden shutters for letting out the floods which at present breach it every year. He reports that, owing to the deficiency of the rain-fall, a larger quantity than usual of spontaneous salt is cropping up this year, and that the Assistant Superintendent of Dugarazupatnam with most of the Peons have to watch these tracts to the neglect of their more legitimate duties. He requests sanction for two additional Peons for this work in addition to the establishment recommended by Mr. Freer for looking after the old shell pits, &c.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of Salt, Nellore, to the Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 30th March 1868, No. 91.

1. In reference to Board's Proceedings marginally specified, I have the honor to state that there appears to be no distinct sanction for the establishment of 384 Rupees per annum. An outlay of Rupees 2,000 was sanctioned for the dykes repairs in the Order of Government, dated 7th January* 1863, No. 16, and in incurring that cost for the repairs, the cost of the establishment is also borne, chiefly for looking after the state of the anicuts, and incidentally as a work closely attached to it, for the guarding of spontaneous salt. But it does not appear that any fixed sum as 384 Rupees, (paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter to Board, dated 3rd September 1867, No. 6,683,) was laid down as the cost of the establishment, nor are the Peons and Gumastahs employed throughout the year.

2. Till 1866, no charge for the establishment was made; but the practice of drawing on the staff of the salt stations, and setting them on this work having been discontinued, in consequence of the Board's Standing Order, No. 218, the establishment was entertained as a part of the anicut cost, and Mr. Freer, in framing his estimate of the dykes repairs in 1865 for 1866, provided one Peon for the Musamona dyke, and four for the Venad and Otambad dykes, to aid the local establishment to look after not only these works but the shell pits, as these works "have to be attended to when the manufacturing season is in full progress." This estimate was sanctioned by the Collector in his letter, dated 8th November 1865, No. 750. Bill was passed for five Peons for 1866 accordingly.

3. In the year 1867, the establishment consisted of,

	RS.	A.	P.
Poluru ... 1 Gumastah, Rupees 12 a-month, for eight months and twenty-six days	107	2	4
3 Peons, at 5 Rupees each per month, for seven months	105	0	0
Sriharikota ... 4 do. do. for nine months and seven days	183	6	7
Sunnapugunta ... 6 do. do. for eight months	204	2	6
	599	11	5

On this point, Mr. Plunket, while he was in salt charge, proposed in his letter, dated 12th December 1866, No. 446, that "a temporary establishment was necessary, and it should be included and "debited to the charge for restoring and maintaining the dyke." The Collector in his Memorandum of the 22nd December directed that the Deputy Collector "should include executive superintendence in the estimates."

1. The Acting Collector states that Narrain Row has suggested that it would cost less than is annually spent in repairing the dykes to raise a substantial embank-

to prevent the smuggling of

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ment above the level of the highest tides, surmounted by a road fit for wheeled traffic and pierced by sluices.

2. The Acting Collector will cause an estimate for the work to be prepared, and submit it to the Board with his own opinion on the proposition.

3. Meanwhile, the Board resolve to request the sanction of Government for the entertainment of the establishment applied for by the Acting Collector, namely,

1 Supervisor, at Rupees 40 per mensem.

12 Peons, at Rupees 72.

The annual cost will be Rupees 1,344.

No. 177.

ORDER THEREON, 12th August 1868, No. 2,148.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.

Salt.

	Rupees	Per mensem.
1 Supervisor	40	
12 Peons, at 6 Rupees each	72	
		112
Per annum...	1,344	

The Board support the recommendation of the Acting Collector of Nellore to entertain the servants specified in the margin throughout the year, for watching the shell pits at the Pulicat lake, in order to prevent the smuggling of spontaneous salt. The Government doubt the necessity of such an establishment during the entire year. The papers before Government shew that the spontaneous salt is liable to be washed away in June, and it is clear that in 1867 the preventive establishment was entertained at a cost of Rupees 599-11-5 for periods ranging from seven months to nine months and seven days. The Board will, therefore, be requested to re-consider this part of their proposal. The temporary tenure of these posts is no doubt a great draw-back, and the Board will consider whether permanent Peons might not be detached with a daily batta for the outside work, the Peons temporarily entertained being kept at hand to do the usual routine work of the men so detached. This arrangement, with an intelligent and trustworthy Duffadar to do the work of "Supervisor," might answer well. The salary of the Duffadar may be fixed at Rupees 35 per mensem.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt
under date the July 1868.

Read the following Pro: of the Board of Revenue -

Requesting sanction of Govt for entertainment of an establishment at an annual cost of Rs 1,344 for watching spontaneous salt producing tracts of Pulicat lake in Nellore & desiring Board to submit an estimate for permanent proposed in lieu of annual repairs to dyke across that lake.

(H. L. 14th July 1868, No. 5154)

The Board support the recommendation

of the Ag. Collector

1 Supervisor 40. of Nellore to entertain
12 Peons at 6 Rs each 72. the servants specified
112. in the margin throughout
Per annum 1,344. the year, for watching
the shell pits at the
Pulicat lake in order
to prevent the smuggling
of

of spontaneous salt.

The Govt doubt the necessity of such an establishment during the future year. The pits must be under water for some months when watching must be unnecessary. The Ag. Collector of Madras &c. marked in para 16 of his letter to the Board dated 5th December 1866 that any quarries with 2 inches water are within the water & spread of the lake, & great many close on the margin, and some paper had been a little removed from the lake and that when he is Mr. he was on the spot they would work.

were all filled with water. The Board will therefore be requested to reconsider the subject

But the present establishment being Rs 384 is maintained throughout the year and of trust with the supervision of Mr. I imagine that the men must be maintained for the entire year. known the rains on this coast are so uncertain that it is impossible to say that any quarry will be dry for any given time. I must be disappointed in my opinion in this respect, but the paper had been a little removed from the lake and that when he is Mr. he was on the spot they would work.

The papers show that the spontaneous salt is liable to be washed away in June and December that in 1867 the precipitation

no. 2. In the year 1867

his salary certainly seems high.
by A.

was entertained at a cost of Rs 599.11.5 for period of seven months & seven days. (See of four letters 30 March 68 in Vol. No. 14 July 68). I think Mr. Freer the 18th May with his wife & children he asked to remain at his post of the hospital.

Mr. Freer, Salt of Govt, when travelling in the hot season at the "Superior" will have to do this as his season for fixing the salary at 40 Rs. He ought to have a substitute man to keep the room to their work & be above temptation. No doubt the temporary tenure of these posts is a great drawback. I ask the Bd. with reference to this obvious weakness in the proposed arrangement whether permanent men might not be detached with a daily allowance for their outside work, the persons temporarily entertained being kept at hand to do the usual routine work of the men so detached. Thus too, with an intelligent trustworthy Suddhar 600 "Superior" work. - Iw. fine to this man certainly 35 Rs a month. 5 Aug. 68. WdK

and to state for how many months the estate will be required. The salary of Rs 40 proposed for the supervisor is large - this work ^{will be} apparently merely that of a head peon, to see that the other peons are at their respective stations and attend to their duties. The designation should be changed & a salary of between 15 & 20 Rs per mensem would be probably be a sufficient remuneration.

WdK

Revenue Dep^t

2148.

Proceedings of the Madras Gov^t
Under date the 11th August 1868

Read the following
Pro: of the Board of Revenue

Requesting sanction of
Gov^t for entertainment of an Estab^t
at an Annual cost of Rs 1344 for
watching Spontaneous Salt pro-
-ducing tracts of Pulicat lake
in Nellore Dist^o & desiring Col^o
to submit an Estimate for
embankment proposed in lieu
of Annual repairs to dyke
across that lake

(Here enter 11th July 1868
H^o 5154)

will

As/

The Board support the
recommendation of the Acting
Collector of Nellore to entertain
the servants specified in the
margin throughout the year for
watching the Shell pits at the
Pulicat lake in order to prevent

1 Supervisor	40
12 Men at 6 Rs each	72
	<u>112</u>
Per annum	<u>1344</u>

the smuggling of spontaneous salt. The Govt. doubt the necessity of such an establishment during the entire year. The papers before Govt. show that the Spontaneous salt is liable to be washed away in June and it is clear that in 1864 the preventive establishment was entertained at a cost of Rs 599-11-5 for periods ranging from seven months to nine months & seven days. The Board will therefore be requested to reconsider this part of their proposal.

The temporary tenure of these posts is no doubt a great drawback and the Board will consider whether

permanent

permanent peons might not be detached with a daily batta for the outside work, the peons temporarily entertained being kept at hand to do the usual routine work of the men so detached. This arrangement with an intelligent and trustworthy Duffadar to do the work of "Supervisor" might answer well. The salary of the Duffadar may be fixed at Rs 35 per mensem.

MA

14 Copies of the Report of the Dep'ty Secy to Govt.

6. — Secy to Govt.

Rs 35

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Ms. A. 9. 2. 177

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Proof Govt for Aug^t

Ms 2148

No of the Madras Govt
of 12 August 1868

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