

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1604	Press Ms.
212-13 2	Dated 21-10-1820	N .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st October 1870.*

No. 212. Read the following letter from Messrs. MAXWELL & Co., Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 5th October 1870:—

WE have the honour to forward herewith the report of the Council of the Salt Chamber of Commerce held at Northwich in July last, and, with reference to the correspondence published therein, which has taken place with regard to the importation to Madras of 1,000 tons Cheshire Salt as a trial-shipment, we have the honour to state that we are in receipt of advices, from the President of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, of a first shipment of 361 tons having been made to our consignment per ship *Gurland* from Liverpool.

2. Adverting to your Revenue letter, dated 27th May last, No. 2, we have to state, with reference to paragraphs 3, 4, and 5, that we shall make the necessary arrangements for landing and storing the Salt in a private warehouse on Bond under the usual provisions, and we concur in the opinion expressed by Government that the storing of it on the Salt-platforms covered with *catch* would be injurious to the Salt, and also attended with heavy expenses.

3. We observe that the Import-duty to be charged on the Salt will be Rupees 1-13-0 per maund on the quantity taken out of Bond monthly or quarterly, from which we infer that we shall be permitted to take out such quantities from time to time as we may require, paying duty monthly or quarterly, in respect of which we have the honour to request you will be pleased to make the duty payable quarterly, as the Salt Chamber of Commerce are not placing any funds at our disposal, and the freight, landing, carriage, etc., have to be incurred by us in the first instance besides the expenses attendant in placing the Salt in the market to compete with the country produce.

4. Requesting the early attention and orders of Government on our letter, we have, etc.

No. 213. ORDER THEREON, 21st October 1870, No. 1,604.

Separate Revenue, No. 15.

Salt.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue, with reference to the G. O. dated 24th May 1870, No. 771.

2. As observed by Messrs. Maxwell and Company, the duty to be charged on the Salt will be Rupees 1-13-0 per maund; and as the present shipments are experimental, the Government have no objection to payment being made quarterly as desired.

3. The Salt, like all bonded goods, will be liable to the provisions of Sections 70 to 115 of Act VI. of 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ Messrs. Maxwell & Co.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman:

11/10/70

JWS

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
1870.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

PRESENTED TO THE CHAMBER

AT THE

TWELFTH

ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

NORTHWICH,

29TH JULY, 1870.

LIVERPOOL:
PRINTED BY CHARLES WILLMER, 20, TITHEBARN-STREET.
1870.

Indicated by important.
24th Nov 25 1870
H. A. D. W.

Count. of 1870: 220,000

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Sec. Sec. Sec.

1st October, 21st.

2d.

3d.

G. O., 21st October 1870, No. 1,004.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 213-218.

From the Board of Revenue
24th Nov 25 1870
H. A. D. W.

Salt from England.—Messrs. Maxwell and Company's letter on the shipment expected, communicated to the Board of Revenue with orders relating to the payment of duty and the liability of the Salt to the provisions of Act VI. of 1863.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
1870.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

PRESENTED TO THE CHAMBER

AT THE

TWELFTH

ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD AT

NORTHWICH,

29TH JULY, 1870.

LIVERPOOL:
PRINTED BY CHARLES WILLMER, 20, TITHEBARN-STREET.
1870.

*From the Register
of the Salt to the provisions of Act VI. of 1863.
No. 4074/71*

*Salt from England.—Messrs. Messers. and
Company's letter on the shipment expected, com-
municated to the Board of Revenue with orders
relating to the payment of duty and the liability
of the Salt to the provisions of Act VI. of 1863.*

From Anne Richard
9 14 1870 No 5 4/12
1870-4/12/71

Salt Chamber of Commerce.

PRESIDENT.

H. E. FALK, ESQ., LIVERPOOL.

VICE-PRESIDENTS.

J. H. BRADLEY, ESQ., DROITWICH. | A. HOGARTH, ESQ., WINSFORD.

TREASURER.

J. B. BANKS, ESQ., NORTHWICH.

LONDON AGENT.

W. HADFIELD, ESQ.

SECRETARY & AUDITOR.

JOHN MOORE, ESQ., NORTHWICH.

MEMBERS.

ALCOCK, JAMES & Co., Winsford.
ATHERTON & GRIFFITHS, ditto.
ATHERTON, RALPH, ditto.
ATHERTON & ROYLE, ditto.
BRIDGE FIELD SALT COMPANY, Wincham.
BROMLOW, HADDOCK, & Co., St. Helena.
CROSS, WILLIAM, Exors. of ditto.
CORBETT, JOHN, the Stoke Works, near Bromsgrove.
DROITWICH SALTWORKS COMPANY (Limited), per JOHN LEA.
GIBSON & DARSIE, Marston.
DEAKIN, JAMES, Exors. of, Northwich.
DEAKIN, J. & W., ditto.
DEAKIN, GEORGE, Extri. of, Winsford.
DIGNUM, WILLIAM, ditto.
EVANS, RICHARD, Jun., ditto.
FALK, H. E., Liverpool.
FLETCHER & RIGBY, Marston.
GRIFFITHS, THOMAS, Winsford.
GRIFFITHS, WILLIAM, ditto.
HARRISON, WILLIAM, ditto.
HICKSON & Co., ditto.
HAMER & DAVIES, Wincham.
JUMP, W. A., Extri. of, Winsford.
LOVETT, JAMES, ditto.
MARSHALL, J. & T., Northwich.
MILNER, EDWARD, Warrington.
MILLS, JOHN & THOMAS, Winsford.
NATIONAL PATENT SALT Co., per A. HOGARTH, ditto.
SHAW, JAMES, ditto.
SHAW, JAMES, Jun., ditto.
STARKEY, BROTHERS, Northwich.
STUBBS, ROBERT & JOHN, Winsford.
THE CHESHIRE AMALGAMATED SALT COMPANY (Limited), ditto.
THOMPSON, JOHN, Northwich.
THOMPSON, JABEZ, ditto.
VERDIN, JOSEPH, & SONS, Winsford.
WORTHINGTON, WILLIAM, Northwich.

Among the numerous markets which the Chamber has had
foremost under view is

INDIA.

The Chamber are happy to report that in addition to the ports
of Chittagong and Rangoon, which have become regular customers
independent of Calcutta, the representations of the Chamber have
at last induced the Indian Government to afford the requisite
accommodation for a Salt Trade in the Presidencies of Bombay
and Madras. Arrangements are now making for the experimental
missions, and the Chamber hope that they will have it in their
power to report already next year, a most important addition
to their demand through these new Channels. From the sub-
joined correspondence and original despatches from the respective
departments in India it will be seen, that there is a very fair field
open to English Salt. The quality of our Salt will, unquestion-
ably, make its way in Madras and Bombay, as it has done in
Bengal; there can be no comparison in prices between dirty
deleterious produce of the native seashore and our refined white
pure Salt. The despatch from Bombay quoting "Kullu" Salt
£2 per Ton, whilst seashore produce is quoted 3s., clearly affirms
this view.

The Chamber will watch anxiously these new markets, and
their labours will be unremitting in this direction. It is very
satisfactory that the Indian Office in London is really
bestowing every attention upon the recommendations of the
Chamber, and no doubt mutually beneficial results will follow.

A most interesting discussion about Salt took place in the
Vice-Regal Legislative Council in Calcutta, in November, which
the Chamber printed and circulated among its members.

India Office, S.W., 2nd February, 1870.

Sir,—I am directed by the Duke of Argyll to acquaint you for the infor-
mation of the Northwich Salt Chamber of Commerce, that Mr. John Tolle-
mache, M.P., has placed in His Grace's hands two letters addressed to
him by Mr. Falk on behalf of the Chamber, dated the 15th of November and
21st of January last.

2.—In the last of these letters the Chamber undertakes to export to
Madras, as an experiment, 1,000 tons of Salt, provided arrangements can
be made for a building of some sort to be ready for the storage of that
quantity on its arrival, the duty to be paid upon the Salt when delivered for
consumption, under the same bonding regulations as exist at Calcutta.
3.—The Duke of Argyll is very doubtful whether there are at the disposal
of the Government of Madras any buildings which could be applied to the
purpose indicated, but he has addressed a dispatch to that Government
desiring them to ascertain and report whether any arrangement can be made
by which the wishes of the Salt Chamber can be facilitated. On the receipt
of a reply to that dispatch a further communication will be addressed to you.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

HERMAN MERIVALE.

The Secretary to the Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

PERKINS, TARRANT, 7th February, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—On the 24th of last month I called at the India Office
with the letter addressed by the Salt Chamber to me, on the subject of
bonding facilities being afforded at Madras. The Duke of Argyll was not
at the office, but I placed the letter in the hands of his Private Secretary,
who promised that the matter should be attended to.

I went afterwards to the Board of Trade. Sir L. Mallet was absent, but I
saw Mr. Fanshawe, who evidently took a deep interest in the question, and
who, I have no doubt, will do his best to carry out the wishes of the Salt
Chamber. I have been expecting a letter from the India Office, otherwise
I should before have written to inform you of the steps I had taken.

Believe me, yours very faithfully,

J. TOLLEMACHE.

J. Moore, Esq.

INDIA OFFICE, S.W., London, 16th June, 1870.

SIR,—With reference to my letter of the 3rd of February last.
I am directed by the Duke of Argyll to acquaint you, for the
information of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, that His Grace
has received from the Government of Bombay a despatch, stating
that they will be prepared to provide suitable accommodation in
which to bond 1,000 tons of Cheshire Salt, on condition that the
importers consent to pay the usual rent, and to vacate the
premises whenever called upon to do so. A copy of the Report
of the Commissioner of Customs on the subject is herewith
forwarded.

I have to request that, in the event of the Chamber determin-
ing to make the experiment of exporting Salt to Bombay, due
intimation may be furnished to this Office, in order that the
Government of Bombay may be advised accordingly, in time to
enable them to make the needful preparations for the accommo-
dation of the Salt.

No reply to a similar enquiry addressed to the Government of Madras has yet been received.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
M. E. GRANT DUFF.

The Secretary,
Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

COLLECTION NO. I.
BOMBAY REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Accompanying Revenue Despatch from the Bombay Government,
dated the 21st May, 1870, No. 15.

No. 1090 of 1870.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

In reply to the above, the Commissioner of Customs has the honour to state that he referred these papers relative to the importation of Cheshire Salt into Bombay to Mr. Pedder, an officer who has lately been specially employed in examining the Salt system of this Presidency, and his report, which supplies most of the information called for, is as follows:—

2.—“I am humbly of opinion that every reasonable facility should be given for this experiment for the following reasons:—

“First.—It is, I think, beyond question that on a bulky article like Salt, a Customs import duty can be collected more cheaply, and with less risk of smuggling than an equivalent excise duty levied at the different places of manufacture, at least where, as in this Presidency, there is practically only one port of import. I do not, therefore, fear any such risk to the revenue from the proposed experiment, as is suggested in the Secretary of State's letter.

“Secondly.—It is, I think, evident that, under the present circumstances of the trade between Bombay and Liverpool, any article of import into Bombay, which will give a freight to ships outward bound from Liverpool, will have a tendency to lower return freights from Bombay, and thus to reduce the cost of carriage to England of the raw produce of India.

“3.—I think, therefore, that it would be advantageous both to the revenue and to this Presidency generally, if Cheshire Salt could be substituted for that manufactured here, provided that the price to the consumer of the former were not higher than that of the latter article.

“4.—The following fact may enable the Salt Chamber of Commerce to form a judgment upon this question of price:—

“At the sea-side works, either in the Island of Bombay itself, or near it, with easy carriage by boat or railway to a market, the average price of Salt (exclusive of course of excise duty) paid by the whole-sale dealers to the manufacturers may be taken at about nine shillings per ‘Ton.’ The sea-side Salt is now—

The price usually varies from Rs. 19 to Rs. 20 per ‘anna’ of 50 Indian maunds. It is, of course, very far inferior in quality to Cheshire Salt. But when the

proposed extension of the Bombay and Baroda Railway to Veerungaum and Patree is open, Government will be able to sell its Runn Salt, superior in quality to average Cheshire, in Bombay at about £2 per ton, exclusive of duty, but inclusive of railway carriage. I do not anticipate that even this fine Salt, which is in great demand on account of capability of carriage, will be able to compete with the sea-side Salt at this difference in price, and unless, therefore, the Salt Chamber of Commerce expect to be able to sell Cheshire Salt in Bombay at considerably less than £2 per ton, I should think it hardly worth while to make the experiment.

“5.—I do not know whether there is any Government warehouse in Bombay available for bonding 1000 tons of Salt, nor am I aware of the conditions under which imported Salt is bonded in Calcutta. But information on these points can probably be obtained from your own office.

“6.—I may mention that in the scheme which I am about to submit to Government for the supply of Runn Salt by Bombay and Baroda Railway to the Guzerat markets, I mean to propose that private traders be allowed on certain conditions to bond their Salt for sale in the depôts at different railway stations: importers of Cheshire Salt will of course, be at liberty, to avail themselves of this permission if they think it worth while to do so.”

2.—In this report the Commissioner of Customs fully concurs. Mr. Pedder has correctly given the value of sea-side Salt at about 9s. the ton, and of Runn Salt at £2 the ton, to which the usual excise duty of Rs. 1-13-0, or 8s. and 7½d. per Indian maund, or Rs. 50-12-0 per ton, would have to be added.

3.—In regard to providing Bonded Warehouse room, the Government contract for the purchase of the Elphinstone Company estate having been concluded, there will, I presume, be no difficulty in providing special sheds to warehouse the 1000 tons of Cheshire Salt proposed to be imported.

4.—The Commissioner of Customs considers that with this information the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich should be able to judge for themselves whether the undertaking is likely to be profitable.

A. F. BELLASIS.

Commissioner of Customs.

Bombay, 16th April, 1870.

Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India (Separate Revenue), to His Excel-

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ency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 10th February, 1870, No. 2:—

I forward herewith, for the information of your Excellency in Council, copies of two letters* addressed 15th Nov., 1869. by the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich to Mr. John Tollemache, Member of Parliament for the Western Division of Cheshire, which have been placed in my hands by that gentleman.

2.—You will perceive that the Chamber, on behalf of the Salt trade of this country, is desirous of trying the experiment of importing Salt into your Presidency, and that they are ready to undertake to ship 1,000 tons to Madras, provided that suitable accommodation can be found in which the Salt can be stored, without demand for duty until issued for consumption.

3.—I am far from sanguine as to the probable success of this experiment, but I am desirous that no unnecessary obstacles should be placed in the way of those who wish to make it. It has occurred to me that it might be possible to appropriate to the use of the importers some unoccupied portion of the platforms now used for Government Salt; and I desire that you will ascertain and report to me without delay whether it would be possible in this or any other way to meet the wishes of the Salt-trade, without exposing the revenue to undue risk. Any extraordinary expense, which might be occasioned by such an arrangement as you may be able to propose, would of course be charged to the owners of the Salt.

4.—The agitation of this question has led me to look into the state of the law affecting the levy of Customs-duties on Salt imported into your Presidency. The recent Indian Act (XXIV. of 1869) raises the price of all Salt sold in your Presidency on account of Government from one Rupee and eleven Annas to two Rupees per Maund; but neither in this nor in the Acts for fixing the price of Salt, which have preceded it, is there any provision for determining the rate of duty to be levied on Salt imported from abroad. I cannot, indeed, find that the principle of levying in the shape of Customs-duty precisely the same amount as is charged under whatever form on the Home-made article, which has, from the year 1836, been declared to be applicable to all India, has ever been legislatively acted on in your Presidency, as has been done in Bengal and Bombay. If, on investigation, this should prove to be the case, I desire that the omission may be at once supplied.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. E. FALK, Esq., President of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, to J. TOLLEMACHE, Esq., M.P., Peckforton Castle, Tarporley, dated Northwich, 15th November, 1869.

The recent intemperance from India leads us to hope that Government are dealing with the Salt-duty question in a manner which will certainly be in favour of greatly augmented imports of British Salt. This Chamber have little doubt that the prestige of Calcutta will also apply, as regards its leading features of larger revenue, even to the other provinces ultimately, notwithstanding the other present apparent disparity of the situation of the two sections of country as regards the cost of native supplies. The collection of the revenue by the Custom-house in Calcutta has done away to a vast extent with smuggling, and the necessity of a large Preventive Establishment. The duty being increased now in the other provinces, little doubt can exist that the incentive to smuggling will be greater, and hence the collection by the Custom-house become of even more importance than it is now.

2.—Under these convictions the Chamber take leave to ask you kindly to represent again their case and application for bonded Warehouse accommodation at Madras and Bombay to the Indian Government. They are exceedingly anxious to have a fair trial for their produce, and they hope that Government in the interest of the revenue alone, apart from the more remote consideration of opening an increased traffic between this country and India, will see their way to give traders the bonded facilities of Calcutta, for without them no experiment even can be fairly made.

3.—If the Government will give accommodation in some of their convenient revenue buildings at Madras and Bombay, say for 2,000 tons, on the Calcutta bonded terms, we will guarantee that they shall be applied for and used without delay, and thus under no circumstances lay Government open to the risk of spending money without the prospect of an immediate adequate return.

4.—The Chamber venture to hope that this small favour will be granted without delay, and trust you will kindly ask the Indian Government to give the subject their immediate attention.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From H. E. FALK, Esq., President of Salt Chamber of Commerce, to J. TOLLEMACHE, Esq., M.P., Peckforton Castle, Tarporley, dated Northwich, 21st January, 1870.

Notwithstanding the opposition we met with, the Calcutta market—thanks to the assistance of Lord Halifax—was thrown open, and bonding facilities were given to the British Salt-trade.

2.—The result has been a great increase to the revenue of India, a severe check to smuggling, the exportation to the country of 250,000 tons of Salt, employing for its conveyance an equal amount of tonnage of shipping at a time, too, when the British Shipping Trade was, as it continues to be, in a most depressed state. The shipping thus employed can but return with a back cargo of Indian produce.

3.—We believe that the same advantages would, to a great extent, attend the exportation of Salt to Madras, and probably to Bombay also, if the markets of these Presidencies were fairly thrown open to us. We are prepared to incur the risk of making this important experiment, if the Government would give us bonding facilities in a way in which we think no loss could accrue to the public. The duty would of course be paid upon the Salt, when delivered for consumption, under the same bonding regulations as exist

at Calcutta, and the same rent might be charged to us for the Warehouse placed at our disposal as at Calcutta.

4. We beg therefore to authorize you to pledge us to export to Madras, as an experiment 1,000 tons of Salt, provided His Grace the Duke of Argyll will arrange for a building of some kind to be ready for the storage of that quantity of Salt on its arrival.

5.—We authorized you to mention the quantity of 2,000 tons to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, but this was intended for Bombay as well as Madras; and as we deal with the subject of Madras *per se* at present, we think half this quantity will be sufficient for the experiment.

No. 6. ORDER THEREON, 2nd May, 1870, No. 622.

Separate Revenue, No. 1.
Salt.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will be good enough to submit an immediate report

as to whether accommodation is available in the Government Bonding Warehouse for storing the 1,000 tons of Salt, which the Northwich Salt Chamber of Commerce desire to place in Bond at Madras. If accommodation cannot be provided there, the Board will ascertain if a Warehouse can be rented, and on what terms. Failing either arrangement the Board will reserve a sufficient space on one of the platforms, selecting the most convenient spot for sales.

2.—With advertence to paragraph 4 of the despatch it is observed that, under Act VI. of 1844, the price of salt was fixed at Rupees 1-8-0 per Maund, and the Import-duty at Rupees 3 per Maund. The price was subsequently reduced under Section 44 of that enactment, and afterwards raised to Rupees 1-11-0 and Rupees 2 by Acts XIX. of 1866 and XXIV. of 1869, but the Import-duty appears to have remained unaltered up to the passing of Act VIII. of 1868. All the various enactments relating to Customs-duties, which were passed between 1844 and 1868, made special provision that the rate of duty on salt should not be affected, so that so much of Schedules A. and B. of Act VI. of 1844, as related to that article continued in force up to the latter date. Act VIII. of 1868, however, though making special provision that the enactment should *not* affect any duties leviable upon salt, specifically repealed so much of Schedule A. of Act VI. of 1844 as related to salt. It is therefore a question whether subsequent to the passing of this Act any legislative provision was in existence for levying any duty on salt imported into the Madras Presidency. In the Salt Excise Bill the matter is provided for in regard to districts to which it may be extended, and this Bill was under consideration before Act VIII. of 1868

became law. The question will be referred for the opinion of the Advocate-General.

(True Extract.)

(Signed). R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
the Advocate-General.

Ed. F. R. Dantleman.

No. 305. Read the following papers:—

In Re effect of Act VIII. of 1868 on the Schedules of Act VI. of 1844, so far as the levy of Duty on Salt is concerned.

With reference to the question submitted to me by Government in the Revenue Department, dated 2nd May, 1870, No. 622, I have the honour to state that in my opinion Schedule B. of Act VI. of 1844, so far as Salt is concerned, must be considered to be in force, notwithstanding Act VIII. of 1868.

2.—The course which the Legislature has chosen to take is most embarrassing. Act VIII. of 1868 is expressly passed to repeal other Acts. All the Acts intended to be operated on are by Section 1 thrown into the Schedule. Section 1 points out the extent to which each of such Acts is to be repealed: that is, to the extent specified in column 3 of the Schedule. On turning to Act VI. of 1844 in the Schedule we find that the whole of A., B., and C., not repealed before, are thereby repealed.

3.—Nothing can be clearer or more explicit than this; and if it had not been intended to alter the law as to Salt and Opium, one would have imagined that the Legislature would have simply left the Schedules of Act VI. of 1844 alone: instead of which, after expressly repealing them, it says that such repeal shall have no effect whatever; for it is said this Act shall not affect any duties leviable upon Salt or Opium.

4.—To this extent I think that a statement I made in paragraph 6 of an opinion, which I wrote *in re* the transmission of a parcel containing Opium by Post, dated 8th March, 1870, requires modification. The Schedules have not been *entirely* repealed.

No. 305. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated
11th May, 1870.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Sea Customs, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 7th May, 1870, No. 357.

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BOARD'S Order of the 5th instant on the Proceedings of the Madras Government, 2nd May, 1870, No. 622.

2.—I have the honour to inform the Board that there is no Government Bonded Warehouse, nor is there any room in the Custom-house premises for storing Salt.

3.—A private Warehouse to contain 1,000 tons of Salt can be rented for about 50 or 60 Rupees per month.

4.—I would suggest reference being made to the officer in charge of public buildings; if no building is available, the Salt might be landed and stored at Ennore.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Government Order, 2nd May, 1870, No. 622.

2.—There is no Government Warehouse in which the imported Salt could be stored, but a private Warehouse can be engaged at a rent of Rupees 50 or 60 a-month. Accommodation will be reserved at the Salt Cotaur if this is desired.

3.—The Board think it may be worth while to suggest that the Northwich Salt Chamber of Commerce may have overlooked the fact that the selling-price of Salt is less at Madras than at Calcutta.

A ton of Salt is sold here for Rupees 54-4-0. The original cost of the same quantity in England would be about 15 Shillings, and the Duty, at Rupees 1-14-0 a-maund, would alone amount to Rupees 51.

No. 307. ORDER THEREON, 21st May, 1870, No. 771.

Separate Revenue, No. 29.

Salt.

RESOLVED that the foregoing papers, together with the Proceedings of Government, under date 2nd May, 1870, No. 622, be submitted for the information of His Grace the Secretary of State, with advertence to his despatch, under date 10th February, 1870, No. 2.

2.—The attention of His Grace will be drawn to the remarks of the Board of Revenue in regard to the small margin of profit, which is available on the ton of imported Salt, owing to the low rate at which the country-made article is obtained.

3.—As it appears from the Advocate-General's opinion that the Import-duty on Salt is still Rupees 3 per maund, copies of the papers above recorded, together with the G. O., under date 2nd May, 1870, will be forwarded to the Legislative Department, in view to steps being taken to reduce the Duty to

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Rupees 1-13-0 per maund, in accordance with the instructions of His Grace the Secretary of State, as expressed in the concluding paragraph of his despatch.

4.—The Board of Revenue will be good enough to reserve accommodation for the Salt at the Salt Platforms until the reply of His Grace the Secretary of State is received.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

R. A. DALYELL,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
„ the Legislative Department.
Edw. P. R. Bantleman.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Northwich, 4th July, 1870.

M. E. Grant Duff, Esq., Her Majesty's Under Secretary of State for India,
India Office, London, S.W.

SIR,—Reverting to the respected communications of the India Office, dated 16th and 30th ult., this Chamber in Council have deputed me to express their humble recognition of the assistance which the India Office has given in supporting their views upon the subject of the experiment of importation of English Salt into the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras.

The Bombay dispatch of the 16th April, mentions a description of Salt of Government manufacture called—“Runn Salt,” which is likely to become a competitor of Cheshire Salt in Bombay, chiefly “on account of its capability of carriage.” This Chamber, in making the experiment, are anxious to meet this case, and as they are convinced that Government will be quite above the jealousy of private traders, they take leave to ask you kindly to direct the department in Bombay to forward a fair sample of this said Runn Salt immediately to this country, as old residents of Bombay acquainted with the trade, and whom the Chamber has consulted, are quite ignorant of the description aforesaid, and the Chamber deem it exceedingly desirable to make their experiment with a fair start, as the price named is deemed remunerative for Cheshire Salt, and they are convinced that no Salt in the world is superior to English Salt.

The Chamber also ask Government kindly to express in a few words:—

“That both at Madras and Bombay they will duly ~~the~~ the respective departments to be ruled in principle and detail by the *Calcutta regulations in bonding as well as charges*” for these experiments, inasmuch as the dispatches referred to are rather ambiguous on these points, and might, if left to the interpretation of naturally jealous adherents of the old Salt regime in the Presidencies, cause needless trouble to Government and damage the experimental enterprise.

The Chamber will immediately, on receiving your reply to this letter, make arrangements for trial shipments, and thanking Government again for their readiness in meeting and supporting their views they cannot refrain from paying a tribute of admiration to the foresight and enlightened policy by which

9/12/1870
H. E. FALK
President of the Salt Chamber of Commerce

the Bombay dispatch is dictated, showing in bold relief the natural sequences of an import Salt trade and the logical advantages to British shipping and the Indian produce return trade.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your most humble obedient servant,
H. E. FALK,
President of the Salt Chamber of Commerce.

INDIA OFFICE, S.W., 21st July, 1870.

SIR.—In reply to your letter of the 4th instant, (received on the 12th,) I am directed by the Duke of Argyll to inform you that he has requested the Government of Bombay to forward to this office, for transmission to the Salt Chamber of Commerce at Northwich, a fair sample (fifteen or twenty pounds) of the "Runn" Salt, referred to in the Report of the Commissioner of Customs, dated the 16th of April, 1870.

Considering the spirit in which the application of the Chamber has been received both at Madras and Bombay, His Grace does not consider it necessary to make any further reference to those Governments in regard to the terms on which the Salt to be sent out will be admitted. In Calcutta the Salt is bonded in warehouses which are the property of the Government, who can, of course, fix its own rate of charge; but the warehouses to be provided for the importers at Madras and Bombay, must be hired at current rates, and the importers, it is presumed, will only be required to defray the actual charge incurred by the Government.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
THOMAS MELVILL.

H. E. Falk, Esq.

CHINA.

The Chamber have had numerous communications with the Foreign Office and Board of Trade, also an interview with Sir R. Alcock, on this most important subject. The correspondence and extracts form the best report the Council can give; and, since their long labours, which now extend over ten years in this same direction, seem to culminate to a tangible and practical point, the Council are sanguine, that the current year will place them at last in the position of reporting success.

The Shanghai Chamber of Commerce and other public bodies, especially those representing the great shipping interest, are not unmindful of the importance of the subject.

The extract from the Shanghai Chamber's report gives valuable and correct data for prices, &c.

Extract from Sir R. Alcock's Despatch dated Peking, October 23th, 1869.
I made a final effort to obtain the admission of Foreign Salt, as will be seen by the enclosed correspondence. I believe the objections might not have proved so insurmountable had the Yamen felt they had to deal with

Great Britain only; but to grant to England a right to import one shipload every month was to concede the same right to every other Treaty Power, and twelve times twelve ships every year would not have left much monopoly in the hands of the Salt Commissioners.

Sir R. Alcock to the Prince of Kung.

PEKING, October 6th, 1869.

SIR.—I have been instructed to represent to the Government of His Imperial Majesty the expediency of some relaxation of the rules by which the British merchant is at present prevented from importing salt into China.

The relaxation contemplated is this: that the Chinese Government allow the British merchants to import into the port of Shanghai a limited number of cargoes of salt, say a cargo per month, or twelve cargoes a year, for the period of five years. An import duty would, of course, be levied on the article, and by means of the foreign collectorate the trade could be put on a satisfactory footing.

It must be well known to your Highness that a supply of good and cheap salt for the people is a most important consideration, second only, indeed, to that of grain, quantities of which China is glad to receive from foreign countries.

Fifteen years ago the import of salt to British India was prohibited, and the salt trade generally in that country was on much the same footing as is that of China. Year after year the restrictions on its import have been gradually removed, and foreign salt is now admitted on payment of a fixed duty like other goods.

The results have been advantageous to Government and people; the salt revenue in India has doubled; the people can get good salt at a cheap rate; the duty is collected in one payment at the port of entry, so that the salt smuggler has ceased to exist. The labourer who produced the native salt, now produces jute for the English market, rice, and a variety of oil-bearing plants, working for a much higher rate of wages than he did previously, and becoming a producer instead of a consumer of food.

I submit the above consideration to your Imperial Highness, and am satisfied that the experiment suggested will be highly advantageous both to the British salt merchants and to the revenue and people of China, while such an experimental concession would be received with satisfaction by Her Majesty's Government.

I renew, &c.
(Signed) RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

* The Prince of Kung to Sir R. Alcock.

(Translation.)

THE Prince of Kung makes a communication in reply.

ON the 6th instant His Highness received a despatch from the British Minister requesting that, as an experiment during five years, one foreign ship per month during the year, twelve in all—might be permitted to bring a cargo of salt to the Port of Shanghai, the duties to be charged on the article being made the subject of arrangement between the two Powers, &c.

The Prince has to observe that, with regard to the import of foreign salt, memoranda exchanged while the Treaty was under revision were very explicit as to the impossibility of removing the prohibition; for there is a certain amount of salt produced in China, which is divided into a fixed number of lots; and if in addition to this quantity foreign salt were to be introduced, some of the native article must cease to circulate.

The amount receivable as duty on the foreign salt would not indemnify the losses of the salt gabelle.

Moreover, the (number of) licensed merchants, the number of licenses issued for each locality, and the quantity of salt saleable under these, is by law prescribed. If the native article ceases to circulate in any district, then the permits issued there are bought to no purpose, and the licenses are subjected to very serious losses.

There are hundreds of thousands of the population, too, who make their living out of the salt, being either engaged in its manufacture or in its transport. Simple as the people of China are, these would certainly not submit to be, as the British Minister's despatch suggests, turned into cultivators of jute, abandoning a certain means of livelihood for wages in prospective, nor is there any quantity of vacant ground for them to till.

There is a Treaty provision prohibiting [trade in] salt, and it will be inexpedient to modify the regulations in this respect.

During the course of this present year, an Australian merchant was detected bringing a cargo of salt to Tien-tsin. This case was leniently dealt with, by the confiscation of the salt only; the merchant was not punished, as this was his first visit to China, and he was not familiar with the Treaty. But, for the future, clandestine trade in salt by any and every foreign merchant will be punished as the Treaty requires.

Foreign salt cannot be put on the same footing as foreign grain, as the despatch under acknowledgment suggests.

As in duty bound the Prince addresses his Excellency the British Minister. A necessary communication.

FOREIGN OFFICE, January 20, 1870.

SIR.—Lord Clarendon having observed that a Convention supplementary to the Treaty of Tien-tsin, recently signed by Sir R. Alcock with the Chinese Plenipotentiaries, has been published in the Newspapers, his Lordship thinks it may be agreeable to the Chambers of Commerce to have before them, with the Convention, a copy of Sir R. Alcock's Despatch explaining the several Articles of it; and he accordingly directs me to transmit herewith the inclosed printed papers for the information of the Chamber of Commerce to which you are Secretary.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

E. HAMMOND.

The Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
12th March, 1870.

To the Right Honourable Earl of Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, London.

MY LORD.—In the despatch of Sir R. Alcock, dated Peking, 28th October, 1869, the following paragraph occurs:—

"Salt." "I believe the objections might not have proved so insurmountable, had the Yamen felt they had to deal with Great Britain only; but to grant to England a right to import one shipload every month was to concede the same right to every other Treaty Power, and twelve times twelve ships every year would not have left much monopoly in the hands of the salt Commissioners."

Now the chamber submit that Sir R. Alcock could scarcely have had any difficulty in convincing the Chinese Yamen of the fact that Great Britain is the only salt Trading Nation to distant parts of the globe, that no other nation, having treaties with China, could or would value or take advantage of such a concession. Or, under any circumstances, the chamber apprehend there would be small difficulty to obtain through diplomatic negotiation from the other powers a renunciation of their privilege.

The chamber deem the privilege of the experiment suggested of the utmost consequence, and they, therefore, again respectfully urge on your Lordship

the extreme importance of the case. Once British pure salt legally introduced into any section of the Chinese Empire, and the chamber are satisfied no native power will avail to stop the trade for the future, as the article will establish a firm basis upon its merits.

In the present day of dearth of employment for our fine British sailing ships, the opening of this trade is of the last consequence to the shipping interest, as well as to the salt manufacturers, and the chamber, therefore, trust your Lordship will, without delay, urge Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires, at Peking, (who is thoroughly conversant with the subject,) to represent the case and obtain the concession which Sir R. Alcock says "might not have proved fraught with insurmountable objections."

We have the honour to remain,
Your Lordship's most obliged, humble servant,
The Salt Chamber of Commerce,
(Signed,) H. E. FALK,
President.

8, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.

March 15th, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR.—I was detained in Che-bire, owing to circumstances over which I had no control, consequently, I had not the pleasure of seeing you and Mr. Hadfield, when you called upon me. I am glad you followed so promptly the advice given by Sir Lewis Malet. I will to-day hand to him a copy of the letter you addressed to Lord Clarendon on the subject of Sir R. Alcock's despatch. In that letter you have hit upon the weak point in that despatch, which I had before named to you.

I am fixed in London now, and I beg that you and the Salt Chamber will never hesitate to apply to me whenever you think that I can render any service to the trade.

Believe me, yours very faithfully,
(Signed,) J. TOLLEMACHE.

H. E. Falk, Esq.

P.S.—I will call at the Foreign Office, and do my best in supporting the representation the Chamber has very properly made.

FOREIGN OFFICE.

March 17, 1870.

SIR.—I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, requesting, on behalf of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, of Northwich, that Mr. Wade, Her Majesty's Charge d'Affaires at Peking, may be instructed to press upon the Chinese Government the importance of conceding the right to open trade in salt; and in reply, I am to acquaint you that the matter will be duly considered by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant,

A. HAMMOND.

The President, Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

8, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, S.W., April 27th, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR.—Will you kindly inform the members of the Salt Chamber that Sir Rutherford Alcock is in London, and that I have had an interview with him on the subject of opening the Market of China to the British Salt trade. I am sorry to say that he considers we have nothing to expect from the Chinese at present, owing to the Government of that country being so beset with difficulties both at home and abroad. Sir R. Alcock does not intend to return to China, but, if any of the gentlemen connected with the Salt trade would like to see him on the subject in which they are so interested,

he will be most happy to give them an interview, and it will afford me much pleasure to introduce them to him.

Sir Rutherford will be in town for some time, therefore there is no occasion for the gentlemen connected with the trade to come up until they have other business to attend to in London.

Believe me, yours very faithfully,

(Signed)

J. TOLLEMACHE.

J. Moore, Esq.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, NORTHWICH, 22nd July, 1870.
To the President of the Board of Trade, London.

SIR,—The Chamber beg again to address you on the subject of a Salt Trade with China, as the production of this country, in relation to the existing demand, must be contemplated with grave apprehension, unless new markets, hitherto closed, be opened to us.

We have had the advantage of an interview with Sir Rutherford Alcock, and the result of that interview leads us to hope for success in our endeavours to open the Chinese markets to the British Salt Trade, provided we can obtain the consent of the other Chinese Treaty Powers.

We therefore venture to ask Her Majesty's Government to enter into diplomatic negotiations to promote that end. No European power has any Trade in Salt with China; neither had they until recently with Calcutta, whereas now all nations send their ships to Liverpool, to load Salt for Calcutta, and thus derive an advantage, previously not enjoyed by them. The same effect would ensue as regards China if the Treaty Powers were to consent to some such arrangement as the following—twelve cargoes of Salt to be admitted annually as an experiment into Shanghai for five years, on the understanding that each Treaty Power should have the option of finding one ship, annually at Liverpool, to load a cargo of salt for the Chinese market. This would promote the object which the Salt Chamber have in view, viz., the introduction of pure British Salt, leading eventually, in their opinion, to the opening of other ports in China to that article.

The advantage of this arrangement to all the Treaty Powers is so manifest, that their ready consent might probably be obtained.

The Chamber earnestly entreat the assistance of the Board of Trade in this important matter.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,

Your most humble servant,

JOHN MOORE,

Secretary to the Salt Chamber of Commerce.

Extract Report, Shanghai Chamber, dated Shanghai, 17th July, 1869.
SALT.

This is another important source of the wealth of Szechuen. It is produced in many parts of the province, as in Foo (chow) and in the prefecture of Khwei, but the largest supplies are found in the three following places.

1st.—In Wutung keon, in Keating foo, a kind is made out of springs, which is white, and is called "Hih pa." The principal markets for it are in Kwei-chow and Hoonan provinces.

2nd.—In Sz'lew-kin in Foo-shan-hien, also white, and called "Sz'yen," is sent to Hoonan and Hoj ch.

3rd.—In Shay-hung-hien in Tang-chuen-foo, in black and white blocks; some pure white and some very dirty.

The cost prices of these were Tls. 2.8 0, Tls. 2.2 3 and Tls. 2.0 0 per 100 catties respectively. But other informants quoted some of the kind as low as Tls. 1.5 0 at the first shipping point. The charges on transmitting this product to ports down the river are represented as being very heavy. In the first place, the Toutai of the place of production receives 24 taels, and the Salt Commissioner who resides at Chingtu receives 40 taels, for 50 bags,

each bag containing 320 catties. Next, the Transit Likin, from Sz'lew-kin to Lou chow, 300 li, amounts to 100 taels per boat load of 300 bags; and 40 taels is charged for the China, and in addition the mandarin at Chung King levy 250 taels per boat load. At Khwei another 50 taels is charged, and at Ichang 1,000 strings of cash per load. After that it may go free anywhere. These imports amount to about 1,350 taels on a boat load, and when the boat hire is added, the invoice would stand somewhat thus:—

Cost of boat load of salt.....	Pds. 1,000 @ Tls. 2=Tls. 2,000
Duties as above.....	Tls. 1,350
Boat hire from place of production	
to Chung-king.....	250
Do. Chung-king to Shashi.....	350 1,350

Tls. 3,650

costing, laid down in Shashi about 4 taels per picul, which is the present selling price there and at Ichang. Sometimes Tls. 4.4 0 can be obtained for it at Shashi, but more frequently the margin for profit is only such as can be found in considerable evasions of the heavy taxes above enumerated. It is estimated to lose 10 per cent. in weight by evaporation between the place of production and Ichang.

A license is necessary to enable a merchant to deal in Salt, which is said to cost 20,000 taels; besides paying which the applicant is supposed to find security for his possession of sufficient capital to carry on the trade. The license remains in the family transmissible from one generation to another, but each successive holder is required to pay 10,000 taels to the mandarins, besides making them frequent presents. So the matter was described to us, but in point of fact the cost of a Salt license probably depends on the terms which the holder of it can succeed in making with the mandarins.

The Salt trade of Szechuen received a very important stimulus from the closing of the navigation of the lower Yangtze in consequence of the capture of Nankin, and the occupation of the River by the Taipans. Up to that time the whole of the provinces of Hoopoh, Hoonan, Kiangsi and Anhui had been supplied with the "Hwai-yen" Salt, so called from its passing Hwai-kwan barrier, to its depot at Yang-chow, all other Salt being contraband. But when communication with Yang-chow had been stopped the Vice-Roy Taou petitioned the Emperor to permit the Szechuen Salt to be brought for sale to Hankow, which was of course granted, and Szechuen Salt kept possession of the market until the reopening of the river navigation by the English in 1861. The "Hwai-yen" Salt again began to come to Hankow in 1862; and for some years past Tching kwo-fan has been making great exertions to bring the trade back to its old channel, petitioning to have the Szechuen Salt again interdicted in Hoopoh. Time will be required, however, before the trade can be organised on its former footing; for the old monopolists or Yunshang were dispersed by the rebellion, and the mandarins have been obliged to grant licenses to new men of inferior standing, called Yen-fan. The authorities are, however, making every effort to place the matter on a permanent basis, compelling applicants for license to go to Peking, and making the license not transferable.

The Hwai-yen Salt arriving in Hankow is placed under the control of an officer called "Tuh-sao Hwai-yen-kech," who regulates the price at which it shall be sold, and the order in which the boats shall discharge, the owner having no voice in the matter. With Szechuen Salt it is different—for having paid duty at Ichang on the way down, it is there forth free from official interference.

The following figures taken from official returns will show that the Szechuen Salt is being fast driven out of the market at Hankow. The annual receipt of Hwai-yen is put at 900,000 piculs, and the unsold stock in Hankow at New Year 1866 was 250,000 piculs; same time in 1867, 180,000

peculs; in 1868, 80,000 peculs; shewing a regular increase in the annual quantity sold. The receipts of Szechuen Salt in 1866 were 400,000 peculs; 1867, 300,000 peculs; 1868, 140,000 peculs, shewing a rapid falling off in the quantity imported.

Szasi and Ichang are found to be more profitable markets than Hankow for the Sze-chuen Salt, as the "Hwai-yen" cannot there so easily compete with the western product. A considerable quantity also goes to Sinto, a large market town on the Yangtze, 90 miles above Hankow. But the populous province of Hoonan is undoubtedly the great consumer of Szechuen Salt, and a large trade it must be.

The price of Hwai-yen in Hankow, medium quality, is now about 4 Taels per picul. The Szechuen sort being 2m. to 3m. lower.

JAPAN.

Considerable attention has lately been bestowed by many of the houses, connected with this country, upon the subject of Salt importations, as it seems the article is admitted free and is in much request now. Sundry trial shipments have been made, and resulted fairly. Lately entire cargoes have been sent, and we may now consider Japan enrolled amongst our regular customers.

The subjoined extract of a letter from a private firm will give valuable information, and the Chamber continues to be occupied with the subject whenever its services are called upon by various members.

YOKAHAMA, 15 January, 1870.

We have not had this pleasure for some time, and our attention having lately been drawn to your staple article Salt through importation from China, we now beg to hand you by this opportunity a tin canister containing Japanese Salt, which we trust will arrive in sufficiently good condition to enable you to judge of its quality. The very heavy rains prevalent during last summer, have not only spoiled all logs of any kind, but, also, materially interfered with the manufacture of Salt through evaporation. Hence the article is imported from China, and several shiploads have already arrived from Hong Kong, fetching \$1 30c. \$1 40p. pic. for best—75 to 80 cents per picul of 133lb. for lower qualities. The Japanese Salt, as per our to-day's sample, sells here at \$1.50 to \$1.60 per picul, and is greatly preferred to China Salt, as the latter is too much crystallised and requires crushing, your own "Sielsalz" comes nearest to the Japanese Salt, and although better in colour is still objected to by the natives as not containing the same volume of Salt matter as the native produce. We hear, however, that English Salt now to be used in mixing up and might probably fetch from \$1.10 to \$1.20 per picul. We should greatly warn against taking this price as the base of a calculation which with cost 20s. and 30s. to 40s. freight, 50s. to 60s. cost and freight, against 81s. 9d. to 92s. 2d. selling price here, would show a handsome margin. Still the necessity of importing Salt from China is sufficient to cause your Salt proprietors and shipowners to make a trial by a cargo of English produce, by way of experiment, and we should be happy if the same, through your exertions, would be entrusted to our care. The thin end of the wedge appears to be inserted already, and it will now require hammering on your part by making trial consignments. The largest sale of Salt is in April and May, when the

fresh vegetables begin to ripen, which are afterwards pickled or salted. We think it would be best to send a small cargo by itself at low freight, because the London and Liverpool rates for manufactures will be too heavy. Besides the Salt suffers in appearance when knocked about amongst heavy cases. A great point will be to prevent loss in weight, and we think Gunny bags, or something like them, will be best, as your experience with Calcutta will teach you, besides Salt in bags would be easier saleable at first before Japanese are used to buy a whole cargo in bulk at once. In the beginning Salt would partake more or less of the nature of retail business.

The Chamber have also to acknowledge a report from Mr. Samuel Lawder, communicated to them by the Foreign Office, which is of much interest, as showing the desirability of a trade with this country.

BELGIUM.

This country has abolished its present system of onerous duties at last. The numerous representations made by this Chamber for many years past may have contributed their share to this gratifying solution. The law is to take effect on the 1st of January, 1871, and it will add, probably, the material figure of 20,000 tons to our annual export tables of White Salt, for the future.

Probably this step will also have a material influence upon the policy of Holland and France, and it is very likely that we may soon have to chronicle these adjoining countries as our customers.

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE,

23rd March, 1870.

SIR,—I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to transmit to you, for the information of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, the inclosed copy of a bill which has been laid before the Chamber of Representatives in Belgium, proposing the abolition of customs and excise duties on Salt in that country.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

C. CECIL TREVOR.

The Secretary, Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

OFFICE OF COMMITTEE OF PRIVY COUNCIL FOR TRADE,

13th April, 1870.

SIR,—With reference to the letter from this department of the 23rd ult., relative to the abolition of the import and excise duties hitherto levied upon Salt in Belgium, I am directed by the Lords of the Committee of Privy Council for Trade to request that you will inform the Northwich Chamber of Commerce that the Committee of the Chamber of Deputies appointed to examine the law on fiscal reforms, have accepted it with certain modifications.

The abolition of the excise duty on Salt will only take effect from the 1st January, 1871, and the Belgian Salt refiners will receive a reduction of twelve per cent. on the duties on Salt in warehouse on December 31st, 1870.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

LOUIS MAILLET.

The Secretary, Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

FRANCE.

The Chamber have continued their labours in this direction unremittingly, as will be seen from the subjoined correspondence. The greatest hope they have is drawn from the liberal initiative taken by Belgium, as their stock of arguments has been repeated *ad nauseam*, and they are simply driven in this matter to a continuous repetition.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Northwich, 24th January, 1870.

To the Right Honourable Lord Clarendon, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

MY LORD,—This Chamber feels itself under the necessity of again calling the attention of her Majesty's Government to the nonfulfilment by France of the promises made to the late Mr. Cobden, and the commission of which he was the head, for admitting English manufactured Salt into France at an equitable rate of duty.

During the negotiation of the treaty, evidence was given by this Chamber as to the prohibitive nature of the French Salt duties, and it was fully understood that a revision of the said duties should be made so soon as the Government had time to enquire into the subject and to consider the last mode of effecting a change, which, after a delay of several years, appeared in the shape of a voluminous report from a commission unaccompanied by any recommendation whatever as to the carrying out of the original promise to Mr. Cobden that Salt should form one of the deferred articles for settlement. The Chamber has made repeated representations to her Majesty's Government, and questions have been put in the House of Commons, so as, if possible, to get something done, but hitherto without success, owing, it is believed, to the opposition of certain French Salt proprietors, who have long enjoyed a monopoly of the article.

Had there been no treaty, or any understanding such as I allude to, of course the English Salt trade could have had no claim, but it is well known that such was the case, as admitted by Monsieur Reuher, late at the head of the Government.

The discussion now taking place in the French Chambers as to a continuance or otherwise of the treaty, appears to be a favourable opportunity for calling the attention of the French Government to what passed at the time the treaty was under negotiation, and the Chamber would respectfully urge on your Lordship that efforts should be made in order to induce the French Government to carry into effect this supplementary article of the treaty as applied to the importation of English Salt.

I have the honour to remain, My Lord,

Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) H. E. FAIRL.

FOREIGN OFFICE, February 9, 1870.

Sir,—I am directed by the Earl of Clarendon to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 24th ult., in which the Salt Chamber of Commerce call His Lordship's attention to the state of the case as regards the Salt Duties in

France; and I am to request that you will acquaint the Chamber that the facts stated by you will receive consideration at the proper time.

I am, Sir, your most obedient, humble servant.

CHARLES SPRING RICE.

To the President of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

8, ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON, S.W.

March 30th, 1870.

MY DEAR SIR,—Perhaps I should inform you that when I called at the Board of Trade, a week or two ago, Sir Louis Mallet was not there, but I left a copy of your letter to Lord Clarendon with the Secretary, Mr. Fanshawe. I also, shewed it to Mr. Le Fèvre, who, in Mr. Bright's absence, is the chief authority at the Board of Trade. I went thoroughly into the Salt Question with these gentlemen, and they promised to do their best for us at both the Indian and Foreign Offices.

I have also had an interview with Mr. Grant Duff the Under Secretary of State for India. He is now fully alive to the importance of the Salt Question, and will urge the opening of the Madras Market to the Trade by affording lending facilities.

I have also had an interview with the authorities at the Foreign Office. I was told that, although no other power could send its own Salt to compete with the English Salt in the Chinese Market, still, if this market were found to be lucrative, France, Holland, and other Treaty Powers, might purchase British Salt, and forward it in their own vessels to China, and by this means, as much Foreign Salt might be imported into China as if all the Treaty powers had Salt of their own to send to that country. It is as well that you and the other members of the Chamber should know all that can be urged against us on this point. I beg also to tell you that Sir R. Alcock is expected shortly to arrive in England for the purpose of explaining fully his views, on various points of the Treaty with China. I shall let you know when he arrives, that the gentlemen connected with the Salt Trade may be afforded an opportunity of submitting their case, and views, thoroughly to him.

Believe me, yours very faithfully,

J. TOLLEMACHE.

The Chairman, Salt Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber have specially to acknowledge Mr. Corbett's attentive services to the direction of this branch of their labours. Mr. Corbett has been many times in Paris, and exchanged valuable information with the authorities. He has the matter under his especial care.

THE BOARD OF TRADE

Have maintained their regular communications with the Chamber upon all subjects connected with our special Trade, and the Chamber have to acknowledge also their regular statistical issues and numerous other documents of interest. Sir Louis Mallet has invariably responded most courteously to any calls made upon him by the Chamber for advice and assistance, and deserves its best thanks.

THE POST-OFFICE.

The Chamber have felt themselves, at the instance of a large body of their members, called upon to press sundry reforms, especially in the Telegraph system, upon the authorities, but they have been unsuccessful.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, &c.

The Chamber have entertained, at various times, this subject, and especially with respect to the Admiralty jurisdiction of the County Court.

They were also called upon to join movements in the re-construction of the India Council, which they declined.

Numerous other communications upon imperial reforms, &c., have occupied them at sundry sittings, but they are not of special interest to the Salt Trade, and require therefore no record.

THE MERSEY DOCKS AND HARBOUR BOARD.

The Hydraulic Crane and Elevator for discharging Salt Flats and loading sea-going vessels at Birkenhead has been in use last year, and contributed materially to the expeditious movements of craft, but the machinery of the Elevator is still defective, and the Guarantee cannot therefore come into operation. It is to be hoped, that the able engineer of the Board will soon afford the promised facilities, as it is a reflection upon the port of Liverpool, that machinery which has been in use for many years in the United States, cannot be brought to practical perfection here. Some correspondence to this effect has taken place between the Chairman and the Mersey Board.

BRINE SUPPLY OF THE DISTRICT.

The Marston shafts, supplied with natural Brine, have been at various periods rather short of the required supply, but the flow has continued without perceptible diminution. The shafts supplied by Rock Brine in the Northwich district continue inexhaustible. The Winsford district levels have continued their downward movement, but there are few complaints of insufficiency for current requirements.

THE RIVER WEAVER TRUST.

The Chamber are happy to record the opening of the first of the new series of large locks at Sutton and the completion of the deepening of the Weston Canal, and sundry other great improvements for the facility of Trade in that locality.

The Chamber had also the further improvements of the Navigation, very much called for, under discussion, and the subjoined correspondence took place.

SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

Northwich, 1st October, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—At a meeting of the Chamber held this day, the following resolution was passed, and in conformity with instructions I beg to communicate the same to you:—

RESOLVED—That a rumour being current through the country and upon the river Weaver, endorsed by the speeches of Mr. Brossehurst at Macclesfield, Mr. Wilhelmina Tollemache and Mr. Leigh, to the effect that the improvements on the river are to be entirely suspended after the Weston Canal Works are finished, this Chamber deem it incumbent in the interests of the trade to ask the trustees for an interpolation, and a deputation consisting of Mr. Falk, Mr. Blackwell, Mr. B. Deakin, Mr. Robert Verdin, Mr. Evans, Mr. William Deakin, Mr. George Cross, Mr. Shaw, and Mr. Hogarth is requested to ask for an interview with the Chairman, Deputy Chairman, and Finance Committee of the Trust in order to be able to report to the trade what ground there is, if any, for the gloomy forebodings which threaten their best interests.

That the Secretary be requested to communicate the above resolution to Mr. Blake, and ask for the appointment of an interview at an early date.

I remain, dear Sir, your obedient servant,

“JOHN MOORE, Secretary,”

W. W. Blake, Esq., Castle, Northwich.

NAVIGATION OFFICE, CASTLE NORTHWICH,

7th October, 1863.

DEAR SIR,—Your letter of the 1st inst., embodying a Resolution of the Salt Chamber of Commerce, requesting an interview with certain members of our Trust, was laid before the Committee Meeting of the Trustees on Monday last, when I was directed by the Trustees to state that they have not come to any such determination as that alluded to in the Resolution; and that they are not to be considered responsible for any such public speeches as those therein referred to.

Yours faithfully,

WILLIAM WOOD BLAKE.

John Moore, Esq., Secretary Salt Chamber of Commerce, Northwich.

The Trade on the River is increasing considerably, and, with it, the dimensions of the craft using it; steam is taking the place of sail more widely every year, and the necessity for deeper

*Trans. Birkenhead
21. 6. 1870 to 5. 11. 1870
Page 417/11*

water and larger locks is becoming daily more imminent. The Chamber believe that the Trust is fully impressed with these views, and will endeavour to retain their Trade by a more rapid development of the great resources of the river, and a wise expenditure of the large Tolls paid by the Salt Trade, for the legitimate uses of the Trade.

SALT STATISTICS

Have been kept with great accuracy, and printed and distributed amongst members of the Chamber, regularly, once a month. They are of great value to the Trade, and fully appreciated.

The Chamber have to record, with great sincerity and pleasure, the invaluable services of the Honorable Members for Cheshire, Liverpool, and Birkenhead. Their especial thanks are due to Mr. Tollemache, who has, at great inconvenience and much trouble, always seconded and initiated their public movements, giving them always his advice, influence, and experience, both at personal interviews and by correspondence, as the records of the Chamber will truly amplify.

STATEMENT OF ROCK AND WHITE SALT SHIPPED FROM LIVERPOOL AND RUNCORN.

	One Year to 31st Dec., 1869.	Half-Year to 30th June, 1870.
FROM LIVERPOOL:—	TONS.	TONS.
To United States.....	211,873	76,763
„ British North America.....	83,293	75,873
„ West Indies and South America.....	5,705	4,509
„ Africa.....	16,928	11,555
„ East Indies.....	231,310	96,662
„ Australia.....	12,316	5,993
„ Baltic and North of Europe.....	93,789	59,674
„ France and Mediterranean.....	625	194
„ Coastwise.....	76,721	44,571
„ Holland and Belgium.....	40,807	14,544
Total from Liverpool.....	773,367	390,343
FROM RUNCORN:—		
To all parts.....	170,604	99,964
Total from Liverpool and Runcorn....	943,971	490,307

A TABLE SHOWING THE NUMBER OF PANS IN EXISTENCE, 1st JULY, EACH YEAR.

DISTRICT.	1867	1868	1869	1870.
Winsford.....	459	489	503	517
Northwich.....	293	316	343	351
Middlewich.....				13
Sandbach.....				60
Droitwich District.....				137

James Banks, Esq.
9th July 1870
11/17/71

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT.
THE SALT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,
J. B. BANKS, ESQ., TREASURER,
IN ACCOUNT WITH
MADE UP TO 15TH JULY, 1870.

£.

s.

	1869.	1870.	£	s.	d.
September 7, To Cheque, F. Carnes, half-year's printing account					
to 30th June			8	10	8
October 9, " Cheque, A. Mackie, printing 250 copies Annual Report			7	10	0
December 4, " Cheque, Blake and Trafford, Law Charges for framing Guarantee Document, in June, 1869..			22	10	9

	1869.	1870.	£	s.	d.
January 7, " Cheque, London Agent, half-year's salary to 31st December, last			25	0	0
" " Cheque, Secretary's half-year's salary to 31st December, last			50	0	0
" " Cheque, half-year's Office Expenses to 31st December, last			11	14	0
10 " Cheque, R. Oakes, Stocktaking, &c., half-year to 31st December, last			22	10	0
12 " Cheque, W. Hobson, half-year's Printing and Stationery to 31st December, last			10	19	0
July 1, " Cheque, London Agent, half-year's salary to 30th June			25	0	0
" " Cheque, Secretary's half-year's salary to 30th June			50	0	0
" " Cheque, half-year's Office Expenses, to 30th June			15	2	3
" " Cheque, R. Oakes, Stocktaking, &c., half-year to 30th June			10	10	0
" " Balance in the hands of the Treasurer			44	6	3

	1869.	1870.	£	s.	d.
August 3, By balance from last statement			61	3	5
December 3, By Weaver Trustees, (donation)			20	0	0
By Subscriptions received for half-year ending 30th June, 1869—viz.:					
6, William Dignum			£1	5	0
Edward Milner			5	0	0
Richard Evans, Jun.			10	0	0
National Patent Salt Co.			10	0	0
J. and T. Marshall			5	0	0
William Harrison			1	5	0
Atherton and Royle			1	5	0
Cheshire Amalgamated Salt Works Co.			10	0	0
Atherton and Griffiths			1	5	0
Gibson and Darsie			2	10	0
James Shaw			1	5	0
James Shaw, Jun.			2	10	0
Jabez Thompson			1	5	0
Hickson and Co.			1	5	0
Starkey Brothers			1	5	0
Joseph Verdin and Sons			10	0	0
John Thompson			2	10	0
Executors late William Jump			1	5	0
21, Fletcher and Rigby			2	10	0
James Lovett			1	5	0
Deakin Brothers			1	5	0
1870.					
February 8, Executors late George Deakin			10	0	0
15, Hauser and Davies			2	10	0
March 11, Executors late William Cross			5	0	0
By Subscriptions received for half-year ending 31st December, 1869—viz.:					
4, James Lovett			1	5	0
6, Executors late James Deakin			2	10	0
7, Jabez Thompson			5	0	0
8, Edward Milner			10	0	0
21, Drotwich Salt Co.			10	0	0
29, J. and W. Deakin			10	0	0
3, John Corbett			10	0	0
6, J. and T. Marshall			5	0	0
John Thompson			2	10	0
William Dignum			1	5	0
Cheshire Amalgamated Salt Works Co.			10	0	0
Hauser and Davies			2	10	0
R. and J. Stubbs			1	5	0
Starkey Brothers			1	5	0
H. E. Falk			10	0	0
Ralph Atherton			1	5	0
Executors late William Jump			1	5	0
Bromlow, Haddock, and Co.			5	0	0
Joseph Verdin and Sons			10	0	0
National Patent Salt Co.			5	0	0
William Worthington			10	0	0
Fletcher and Rigby			2	10	0
William Harrison			1	5	0
James Shaw, Jun.			1	5	0
James Shaw			2	10	0
Richard Evans, Jun.			10	0	0
Exec. late George Deakin			10	0	0
Gibson and Darsie			2	10	0
180			0	0	0
£303			13	5	

Examined 15th July, 1870.

By balance carried down.....£44 6 3

JAMES B. BANKS, Treasurer.
JOHN MOORE, Secretary and Auditor.

20

From 21st Oct 1870 L. L. 32

L. B.

* There are to charge but
only on the ground
taken out of Road.
In the rate of waste
is necessary.

and the Bd of Rec will be
good enough to report the
* rate of wastage which should
be allowed in finally adjusting the
duity, with ~~and~~

77-1604.

RL

Pro^o of the Madras Govt
Under date the 21st Oct 77

Read the following
letter from Miss Maxwell &c
(Ms. B. 5. 4. Oct. 1040).

Com^d of the Board
of Rev with reference
to the G. O. dated
24 May 1820 No 771.

As observed by Mr.
Knowell & Co the duty to
be charged on the Salt
will be \$0.13 per barrel
as the present stipulations are
and the port have no
objection to payment
being made, quarterly, as
desired

The fact like all banded
frogs will, ~~however~~, be liable
to the provisions of sec 20 to 115
of Act of 1863.

[Handwritten signature]

10
Entry to land on
in Eastern Field

Depth
100