

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1871.*

No. 34. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th September 1871, No. 3,964:—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th August 1871, No. 1,518.

HAVING visited the Iskapully and Gogulapully Salt Stations I have the honour to report in connection with the Proceedings of the Board noted in the margin.

2. The late Acting Deputy-Collector in charge of the Salt Department having long been Tahsildar of the talook in which these stations are situated, I took the opportunity of calling upon him lately for a report on the subject. This report I have since submitted to Mr. Plunkett's criticism; and I now beg to transmit it, with its enclosures, and Mr. Plunkett's marginal comments. The Acting Deputy-Collector and Mr. Plunkett having taken opposite views, the former being in favour of the abolition of Gogulapully, and the latter of its retention, the Board will thus get the whole *pros* and *cons* of the case at one view.

3. Little remains for me but to give my verdict, and that I have no hesitation in doing in favour of the retention of Gogulapully with its Superintendent. I consider Mr. Plunkett's view to be sound and unanswerable, that it would not do, under all contingencies, to depend upon Iskapully alone to meet all demands. The outlay necessary to put Iskapully in this position would be so very large that I cannot think the attempt worth making.

4. I am altogether opposed to leaving Gogulapully in charge of a lower paid officer than the present Superintendent, but, with its own Superintendent, I see no reason whatever to anticipate greater probability of fraud there than at any other Salt Station. On the contrary, the only platform that will be retained has the rare, and by no means mean, advantage of being quite securely fenced. It is very accessible to traders, there is ample pasturage for their cattle, and I think it would be a great pity to abandon, without much more valid reason than has been yet adduced, the manufactory of the very finest salt in the district.

	RS.	
1 Superintendent	50	5. The establishment, however, the
1 Assistant Superintendent	15	cost of which now amounts to Rs. 144,
1 Clerk	20	might be reduced to Rs. 108 by striking
1 Shroff	10	off one Clerk on Rs. 20, converting the
2 Peons, on 6 Rs. each	12	Assistant Superintendent on Rs. 15 into
2 Measurers	12	a Clerk, one Measurer on Rs. 6, and two
5 Vettians, on 5 Rs. each	25	Vettians on Rs. 5 each.
Total...	144	

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Deputy-Collector in charge of the Salt Department, to the Collector of Nellore, dated 8th July 1871, No. 107.

HAVING been requested by you personally to submit my views with regard to the advisability of retaining Gogulapully Salt Station or otherwise, required by the Board in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings No. 6,894, dated 14th September 1869, I have the honour to state that I could not wait to forward my report till all the informations as I wished are procured, as I will have to give over charge of this Office on the day after to-morrow, Monday 10th.

2. I have had several occasions of visiting the salt-works at Gogulapully and Iskapully during my stay from July 1864 as Tahsildar of Nellore Talook, and all the while I have been

informed that the salt manufactured at Gogulapully was better than that of Iskapully, and Home traders generally resorted to the former station, owing to the good colour and *lightness* of the salt which give an increased outturn by measurement in the retail sale by private traders.

Mr. Plunkett's remarks.

That the Gogulapully salt is by repute deemed to be *lighter* than the salt at Iskapully is a long known fact, and as we sell by weight, and the purchasers retail again by measurement, the weight of the salt is to them a great inducement, and even so small a quantity as quarter to half seer in a maund will attract the petty trader. As to colour, granulation, and size of the crystals, I consider that Iskapully can in every respect make as good salt as Gogulapully, and perhaps better, and, if it does not, it must be owing to want of care and defective manufacture rather than to any local peculiarity of soil or improved system of manufacture. I am not aware of any particular system of manufacture peculiar to Gogulapully alone, and I believe the system pursued there is the general system of the district where the water is taken from a backwater and not from wells, although certainly owing to a better arrangement of the condensing reservoirs and salt-beds; the facilities for making salt are greater at Gogulapully than at Iskapully, but because the facilities are greater for making good salt, it does not follow that there must be a peculiarity of system or of soil or that equally as good salt cannot be made at Iskapully as at Gogulapully.

In my opinion, the theory of checking weight by measurement in salt-transactions is wholly fallacious and an altogether useless undertaking. It is with the view to such a check primarily that the new weighing machine has been devised, and there is by it a scientific system of correction adopted. It remains yet to be seen, however, how far this system can be relied on, and I fear the instances in which eight maunds of salt as weighed will exactly measure a vessel of the same cubical capacity will be rare. I consider the Acting Deputy-Collector's remarks in this paragraph 6 therefore to be of no utility in connection with the question at issue, viz., the retention or abolition of Gogulapully.

3. I have ascertained the cause of the Gogulapully salt being formed lighter than the other stations, and I beg to annex a map, describing the salt-platform and pans, etc., of the station.

4. The soil of the pans is of pure sand, mixed with soft earth and quite free from hard black soil. When the swamp (L.) of 750,000 square-yards is overflowed on high tides from the backwater (M.), they close up five breaches on the dyke (N.), formed temporarily by the manufacturers, of 390 yards length by 1½ yards width. The water, thus secured is allowed to be heated at the swamp for about ten days and then carried to Ganjerus or reservoirs (O.) through the channels (E.) and (F.), and where, after being exposed to the heat of the sun for about eight days, it is let out to the salt-pans (A). This gives cause, they say, to form white and *lighter crystals* which, I believe, is the fact, and also with reference to the peculiarity of the soil itself.

5. This peculiar manufacturing system is not adopted in any of the other salt stations in the district, as they have not the similar facilities in those divisions.

6. The marginal figures show the results of outturn of seers by measurement of Iskapully. Gogulapully. No. of Seers. No. of Seers. Heaps. Heaps. 24 38 1 43 25 39 2 40½ 26 37 3 42 Average 38 ... 41½ 1278. This of course leads Home-traders (whose object is to make profits by measurement of salt in retail sale) to Gogulapully in preference to Iskapully. I cannot say that the increased outturn by measurement is in any way enjoyed by the general consumers, because I find no difference in the market price between the salt of Gogulapully and Iskapully which are equally sold at 16 seers per Rupee. The peculiar manufacturing system of Gogulapully does this benefit solely to Home-traders at the risk of general consumers, and give cause to exist permanent demand on the division which is the only source for the poor manufacturers to keep up their livelihood by the Cotaar being in existence.

I rather think the fears expressed in this paragraph are overdrawn, and the production of spontaneous salt in the swamp spoken of is by no means greater than other similarly placed localities along the rest of the coast of the district, the Pulicat Lake and its shores and creeks excepted.

7. I must take, however, strong objection to allow such a large extent of swamp being used for reserving and heating water. After the water reduced to "Ganjeru" and before the next high tide, there would, in all probability, be spontaneous production of salt which ~~may~~ not be strictly watched by the salt officials concerned, under the plea that the swamp is made use of for manufacturing purposes. Such are the swamps appertaining to the Pulicat Lake now kept under strict supervision, and for the prevention of smuggling a sum of Rs. 1,500 is in average spent annually to raise embankments across the swamps. These facts would have, I believe, led to the Honourable Member Mr. Clarke of the Board to pass the following remarks with regard to Gogulapully Station in paragraph 156 of his report, recorded in the Proceedings of the Madras Government dated 22nd December 1860, No. 2,476:—"This place bears a bad character for smuggling and frauds among the servants * * *. The pans are formed on the border of a large swamp."

I cannot apprehend these two paragraphs. How the raising of the embankment will give cause for malpractices so long as only so much water is let into the "swamp" or condensing reservoir as is required for the manufacture, I fail to see. Spontaneous salt must generate in all salt-beds and condensing reservoirs after manufacturing operations cease, and the only preventive is vigilance on the part of the Salt servants and Police, but because such salt does generate and for fear of its being illicitly smuggled to give up preparing the water for manufacture is altogether a wrong idea. In order to make good salt the water must be prepared, i.e., condensed, and the provisions against smuggling with vigilance must be the means to prevent the malpractices the Acting Deputy-Collector is afraid of, and not the abandonment of one of the most important steps towards the production of good salt, viz., condensing or preparing the water.

Of the retention of Iskapully in preference to Gogulapully there can be no doubt, and so far as I am aware this was never called in question, and is not the point at issue. The question under consideration is not which of the two, Iskapully or Gogulapully, is to be abolished,

8. I recommend therefore that the manufacturers should be strictly prohibited from raising the embankments (N.) which would only reserve water in the swamp, and thus give cause for malpractices.

9. This prohibition would bring the quality of Gogulapully salt on equal footing with that of Iskapully, and the traders will certainly prefer the latter with the advantages of a good metalled road to the station, abundant pasturage for cattle, ample accommodation for halting, good water for drinking, and open market for purchasing provisions of food. These facilities are quite unknown to Gogulapully. The branch road sanctioned* recently will remove the only difficulty of getting to the Iskapully Salt-platforms from the road to the beach.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government dated 8th Feb. 1871, No. 257.

10. Besides, the Iskapully is the only port in the district for export salt trade. Much has been laid out already in improving the two export platforms and forming, about 40 years, a canal of about 2 miles length to convey salt to the said platforms. There is a bungalow

and which one is to be retained, but whether Gogulapully is to be abolished outright or be retained as a sub-station of and auxiliary to Iskapully.

This paragraph is a continuation of the argument in favour of Iskapully over Gogulapully, but as I said before this is an admitted fact which has never been called in question, and a consideration of the arguments in its favour is totally unnecessary.

on the shore, and which is chiefly used by the Captains of ships resorting to the port of salt. This is therefore an important cause to go much in favour of retaining Iskapully.

11. It is true that the following Statement of figures show the Home and Inland sales at Gogulapully take precedence of Iskapully owing to the reasons explained in paragraph 4, but the total sales thereof of these two divisions does not exceed 52,366 Maunds in average per annum, and though there has been no export sale for the last two years, the average sale of preceding seven years becomes to 38,228 Maunds, which make a total demand on the division of 90,594 Maunds. I enclose Statement A. showing the sales in these two divisions for the last ten years:—

Fuslies.	Iskapully.	Gogulapully.
	RS.	RS.
1278	30,231	29,263
1279	12,133	35,686
1280	15,567	34,218
Total...	57,931	99,167
Average...	19,310	33,056
Total Home and Inland		52,366
Average of export sales		38,228
		90,594

This is the point for disposal. It will be seen, that in reference to the results of the manufacture in 1869 I advocated the retention of Gogulapully as an auxiliary to Iskapully, because I thought that Iskapully in itself might not be able to produce sufficient salt to meet the demand of both places.

The results of Fusly 1272, which the Acting Deputy-Collector gives in paragraph 13, were altogether exceptional, and it must be remembered that it is the salt of this year that we have a reserve of now on our export platforms, and cannot get rid of, because it is inferior, and to agree that because in that one year a large quantity of bad salt was made, the pans at Iskapully can make a sufficient quantity to meet the demand of both places is a false idea. Can we make enough of good salt at Iskapully alone is the question. I rather think not, and let us look into the figures given in the Acting Deputy-Collector's Statements A. and B. The Statement B. shows that during the last ten years there has been manufacture at Iska-

12. Here, it occurs expedient to consider whether the retention of Gogulapully at least as an auxiliary to Iskapully is requisite to meet the demand of salt in these two divisions, I think it is not.

13 The enclosed Statement B. exhibits that there are about 200 pans, altogether at Iskapully, and they had in Fusly 1272 produced 164,037 Maunds of salt both for Inland and Export trade. I annex herewith a map showing the platforms and pans of Iskapully for your perusal.

14. It is beyond any doubt that the Iskapully pans will themselves supply the wants of the two divisions. Moreover, a sub-station, with an ill-paid officer shall always be subject for malpractices and fraud. There is a good 4 miles distance between Gogulapully and Iskapully, and it is not to be expected that strict supervision will be had by a responsible officer at a distance. As an instance, I beg to refer

pully only in four years, viz., Fuslies 1271, 1272, 1276, and 1278, or 1862, 1863, 1867, and 1869, and in those four years the average Dittam or quantity ordered to be made was 140,000 Maunds, and the outturn or quantity actually made and taken into store was 101,285 Maunds. We may thus assume the capabilities of the Iskapully pans to amount to a lakh of Maunds of good salt in round numbers, more or less. The Statement A. shows the average demand or sales of the two places during the last ten years to be—

	Maunds.
For the land-trade or "Home" and	
Inland sales	78,142
Export trade or shipments by sea	26,760
	1,04,902

or 3,000 Maunds in excess of the ordinary capabilities of the Iskapully pans. Our average demand in the last ten years, moreover, it must be remembered has been considerably diminished by a gradual subsidence, nay an almost total cessation of the export trade, but what is to prevent revival of this trade and a renewal of the former demand of something like a lakh of Maunds for shipment alone. Where is the land trade to be supplied from? Whence are we to get the reserve stock equal to two years' consumption to meet vicissitudes of season and required by the Board's orders to be maintained? Can Iskapully alone meet it?—I rather think not, and the foregoing figures support my opinion; and then, under such circumstances, the very great importance of Gogulapully, as an auxiliary to fall back upon, becomes apparent. Either we must abolish the export platforms at Iskapully and have no export depôt at all in this district, or we must keep Gogulapully, I think, as a help in times of necessity.

There is no doubt much force in the Acting Deputy-Collector's remarks as to under-paid establishments, etc., but I can see no help for it under the circumstances detailed above. Devarampaul has been ordered by the Board to be closed as soon as Biramgunta is sufficiently opened out, and as the correspondence in this Office has been referred to, it will have been seen that this is the last year in which manufacture at Devarampaul was permitted, and that it was

to Devarampaul, which is the only sub-station attached to Padarti in the district. During my short stay in charge of this office, 27 Maunds of the salt manufactured this year were traced out and found concealed in pits, etc., of ten individuals in the village, and I do not know how many more would be found, if thorough search is made in the whole village on sufficient grounds. There is only one Assistant Superintendent on a monthly salary of Rs. 20 employed to superintend both manufacture and sale to an average extent of 47,719 Maunds per annum. It was my desire to go to Devarampaul as soon as it is convenient, and to make a thorough inquiry of the station, which I hope my permanent successor will make a point.

15. Thus I would strongly protest against the proposal of leaving any Salt Station in charge of ill-paid and insufficient establishment, and accordingly I would respectfully record my opinion that the station Gogulapully may, with great advantages both to the State and to the general consumers, be altogether abolished after the present stock of 53,202 Maunds are sold, which would probably take about eighteen months.

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4th October 1871.

only from sheer necessity that any dittam was assigned even this year to it at all. It is notorious for the practices described by the Acting Deputy-Collector, and perhaps the fact that the station is to be done away with makes the people more callous as to results and more bold in committing offences.

16. Of the present establishment at Gogulapully as detailed in the margin, I propose to dispense with the services of the Assistant Superintendent and three Vettians at a monthly saving of Rupees 30, should the station be abolished:	Monthly pay.
Superintendent	50
Clerk	20
Assistant Superintendent	15
Shroff	10
2 Peons, at 6 Rs. each	12
2 Measurers, at 6 Rs. each	12
5 Vettians, at 5 Rs. each	25
Total...	144

The malformation of the Iskapully pans and the other evils complained of by the Acting Deputy-Collector have long since received my attention, but I could never see my way to remedying them. The maps and sketches now sent up by the Acting Deputy-Collector are what I had prepared nearly three years ago, in view to meet the Board's call for fences and hedges round the pans to keep off depredators, and it then occurred to me that to concentrate the Iskapully pans, remove the sand ridges and mounds which are interspersed therein, give up what are called the Bundavani dianna pans at the south-east corner, as they offer greater facilities for smuggling than any of the other pans, would all be desirable improvements, but they will entail a large outlay of money which the manufacturers cannot be expected to incur. As it is with only four seasons of work in the last ten years, the manufacturers are quite indifferent about their pans which they regard as so much lost property, and if we have to make a large dittam next year to induce them even to restore the existing pans as they used to be and work them properly, will be a matter of difficulty, still less will they be disposed to undertake improvements.

(Signed) C. E. PLUNKET,
Deputy-Collector.
(true copy.)
(Signed) G. VANSAGNEW,
Collector.

18. With the exception of foregoing remarks, I have no hesitation in stating that only Iskapully division may be retained both for Inland and Export trade in this part of the district. The brine forms into large and heavy crystals with reference to the peculiarity of the soil, and the colour of the salt is quite whitish than that of Gogulapully.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1871.

A. STATEMENT SHOWING THE SALES OF SALT IN THE DIVISIONS OF ISKAPULLY AND GOGULAPULLY FROM FUSY 1271 TO 1280.

Divisions.	Fusies.	SALES.											Remarks.
		Home.	Cuddapah.	Kurnool.	Bellary.	Hydrabad.	Gudwal.	Total.	Inland.	Total of Home and Inland sales.	Export trade.	Grand Total.	
		Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	Mds. S. C.	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	13
Iskapully.	1271	13,219	2,387	3,073	6,531	4,198		16,187	29,406	108,000	137,406	0 0 0	These figures represent the sales of the abolished Cotiaurs of Juvvaladina and Varni together with Iskapully.
	1272	19,385	1,714	17,715	6,127	5,036	278	36,890	50,475	7,400	50,475	0 0 0	These are the results of sales both of Iskapully and Varni; Juvvaladina having been closed since.
	1273	19,619	727	9,847	4,807	1,964	1,560	18,905	38,624	4,880	43,504	0 0 0	Sales of Iskapully alone.
	1274	15,231	15,516	69	1,249	4,675		21,503	36,734	103,453	127,557	0 0 0	
	1275	13,214	5,294	127		6,470		11,801	26,103	33,027	63,933	0 0 0	
	1276	2,924	1,367	879	2,928	10,235		11,961	14,905	1,800	99,833	0 0 0	
	1277	63,310	7,835	22,930	541	2,434		31,603	93,033	1,800	93,271	0 0 0	
	1278	25,466	683	888	76	990		4,745	30,231	5,040	35,271	0 0 0	
	1279	8,670	813	1,584	242			3,403	13,133		12,133	0 0 0	
	1280	11,926	1,983	1,813				4,041	15,567		15,567	0 0 0	
Total...		193,814	33,515	58,425	22,501	36,020	1,838	17,299	351,113	267,539	618,712	0 0 0	
Average...		19,381	3,351	5,843	2,251	4,502	919	1,729	35,111	26,760	61,871	0 0 0	
Gogulapully.	1271	21,388	7,286	25,556	9,747			41,621	64,009		64,009	9 13	
	1272	20,107	2,094	12,714	11,197			26,006	46,714		46,714	9 8	
	1273	17,774	4,193	9,245	16,503			24,946	47,720		47,720	0 0 0	
	1274	19,007	7,223	14,848	13,624			34,690	54,697		54,697	0 0 0	
	1275	30,143	8,416	10,886	11,676	615		24,993	56,136		56,136	0 0 0	
	1276	36,053	8,913	8,012	9,335			21,261	57,814		57,814	0 0 0	
	1277	9,403	694	745	220			1,659	4,561		4,561	0 0 0	
	1278	35,131	1,467	2,460		205		4,133	29,263		29,263	0 0 0	
	1279	32,161	585	2,990				5,235	35,086		35,086	0 0 0	
	1280	31,218	1,731	1,269				5,000	34,218		34,218	0 0 0	
Total...		235,884	33,156	89,251	72,204	820		194,134	430,318		430,318	20 5	
Average...		23,588	3,315	8,925	1,374	410		19,413	43,031		43,031	0 0 0	

(Signed) K. SUBBA ROW,
Acting Deputy-Collector.

NELLORE,
8th July 1871.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1871.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.
Statement showing the manufacture, etc., at Iskapully Division from Fusly 1271 to 1280 in the district of Nellore.

Division.	Fuslies.	Total number of Salt-pans.	Pans brought under manufacture.	Quantity sanctioned.	Quantity received into Store.	COMPARISON BETWEEN COLUMNS 5 AND 6.		Date of commencement of manufacture.	Date on which the manufacture is closed.	Remarks.
						Decrease.	Increase.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Iskapully...	1271...	2,222½	2,222½	2,00,000	1,38,052	31,948	MAUNDS.	23rd December 1861.	20th May 1862...	
	1272...	197½	197½	2,28,000	1,64,037	63,963	MAUNDS.	3rd February 1863.	June 1863...	
	1273...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
	1274...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
	1275...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
	1276...	198½	81½	72,000	38,942	33,058	MAUNDS.	January 1867...	16th July 1867...	
	1277...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
	1278...	198½	98½	60,000	64,110	...	MAUNDS.	5th February 1869.	12th July 1869...	
	1279...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
	1280...	...	...	...	...	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	
Total...		...	...	5,60,000	4,05,141	1,58,969	MAUNDS.	...	...	
Average...		...	...	1,40,000	1,01,285	...	MAUNDS.	...	...	

Nellore,
July 1871.

(Signed) K. SUBBA ROW,
Acting Deputy-Collector.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th October 1871.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 4 and 5.—Maps.

As the necessity for Gogulapully is a good deal on the retention or
tion of the export platform (viz. Proceedings No. 3,707 of 28th
10.1) at Iskapully, the disposal of the papers will be deferred till that question is
decided. In the meantime the establishment may be kept on at the reduced rate
suggested by the Collector in paragraph 5.

2. The Board do not understand why a properly fenced platform should be
the exception in Nellore.

No. 35.

ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1871, No. 1,733.

Separate Revenue, No. 2.

Salt.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

W. R. Bantleman

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Res. 1871. Sept
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 14TH SEPTEMBER 1871, No. 3,964.

Dep-Ex-171 Encl

Received. 28- - -

SEPTEMBER.

No. 3,964.

Gogulapulli Salt Station in Nellore District.—Disposal of certain papers regarding advisability of retaining, deferred till question as to retention or abolition of export salt-platform at Iskapulli is decided.—A reduced establishment to be kept on at former station, in meantime.

No 34-35

63rd Oct. 71 R. 47

14. Es ist Odoz. Der am 11 Oct 71 der 44 Jar 72
H. W. H. C. v. Krentsch und General