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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st February 1871..*

No. 236. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st February 1871, No. 485:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 30th November 1870, No. 517.

In their Order, dated 20th May 1870, No. 746, communicated with the Board's Proceedings of the 30th idem, the Government call for a tabular statement of all the rates of Kudiwaram current in the Chingleput District as well as some explanation of the co-existence in the same district of a rate so low as Rs. 6 with one so high as Rs. 26-2-0 per garce.

2. By the above Order of Government the rate of Kudiwaram for all the pans north of Madras has been raised to the uniform rate of Rs. 12. The rates at the southern pans are given below:—

Names of places where salt is manufactured.	Denomination under which the pans are known.	Number of pans.	Rate of Kudiwaram per garce.		
Cheyur... ..	Coodepet	40	6	5	0
	Sarasari or gramasukavasi	6½	15	7	0
	Samoothayem or cawny maniem	1½	26	12	0
	Inam	1	22	6	0
	Sukavasi	68½	22	5	0
		117½			
Covelong	Mamulvarum	340	13	3	0
	Fakeer Maniem	2	22	6	0
		342			

3. In his letter of the 17th May 1854 Mr. G. H. Ellis, the then Officiating Collector of this district (*vide* pages 250 and 251 of the Appendix to Mr. Plowden's Salt Report), gives the reasons for the existence of these rates as follows, and furnishes a statement showing the rates of Kudiwaram that then prevailed in this district:—"These rates were, on the introduction of the monopoly, fixed in reference to the profits previously derived by the parties from the manufacture consisting of the waram or share which they receive from the proceeds of the salt, and, like the ryots' share on paddy cultivation, varied not only at different localities, but on different pans at the same station according to the situation of the parties by whom they were severally held at the time, whether Mirassidars, Poyakarries or Pagodas and Charitable institutions. The prices realized for the article likewise fluctuated according to the quality of the salt raised, and the facilities of communication with the respective depôts which then existed. Annexed is a list

of the different rates of Kudiwaram which are now in force in this district, and of the extent of pans under cultivation under each class":—

Names of places where salt is manufactured.	Denomination under which the pans are known.	Number of pans.	Rate of Kudiwaram per garce.		
1. Chunambut ...	Coodepet ...	25	6	9	1 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Gramasukavasi ...	8 ¹ / ₂	15	4	10 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Sukavasi ...	35 ¹ / ₂	16	4	6 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Davastanum ...	4	21	1	1 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Cawny maniem ...	1 ¹ / ₂	24	10	8 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Covil maniem ...	1	18	7	0 ¹ / ₂ *.
	Inam ...	1	15	5	10 ¹ / ₂ *.
		76 ¹ / ₂			
2. Cheyur ...	Coodepet ...	40	5	15	0 ¹ / ₂
	Gramasukavasi ...	6 ¹ / ₂	14	9	0 ¹ / ₂
	Sukavasi ...	53 ¹ / ₂	21	0	9 ¹ / ₂
	Cawny maniem ...	1 ¹ / ₂	25	3	9 ¹ / ₂
	Inam ...	1	21	1	7 ¹ / ₂
	Kudimaniem ...	5	...	...	...
	Davastanum ...	9 ¹ / ₂	21	1	1 ¹ / ₂ *.
		117 ¹ / ₂			
5. Covelong ...	Mamulwaram ...	220 ¹ / ₂	13	2	8 ¹ / ₂
	Fakeer Inam ...	2	21	1	6 ¹ / ₂
	Caroombaudy Waram ...	...	10	0	0
		222 ¹ / ₂			

NOTE.—Of the pans entered in this list those marked with an asterisk have either been abolished or transferred to other districts.

4. From this extract it will be seen that the rates were fixed on the introduction of the salt monopoly in 1805. When it was proposed to establish this monopoly the Board, in their letter to Government, dated 28th June 1804 (*vide* page 310 of the Appendix to Mr. Plowden's Report), opposed the scheme on the ground that "the interference with the hereditary privileges enjoyed by Mirassidars, which the introduction of a monopoly would render necessary, presented a very serious objection to the measure."

5. Mr. Falconer, however, who was a Member of the Board, was of a different opinion, and argued that the rights of the Mirassidars or of any other privileged manufacturers, might easily be commuted at the price of salt in the market (*vide* page 318 of Appendix to Mr. Plowden's Report).

6. This view prevailed, and when Regulation I. of 1805 was passed, the shares hitherto enjoyed by the Mirassi manufacturers appear to have been commuted into money at the market price of salt.

7. These rates were thus fixed with reference to the profits up to that time enjoyed by the Mirassidars, Inamdars, Sukavasi, and other ryots, and varied with the shares which these different classes of manufacturers were entitled to out of the whole quantity of salt made by them. What these different shares were will be seen from paragraphs 5, 6, 7, and 8 of Mr. Hepburn's report to the Salt Agent, dated 20th January 1806.

5. "On a reference to these statements you will find that the manufacture of salt has hitherto been carried on in twenty-four different Circar villages in this district. As the Mirassi tenure obtains universally in the district, it also extends to the manufacture of salt, and from the great variety of rates at which the people are remunerated for their labour in the manufacture in general, five or six different rates obtaining in the pans of the same village has rendered it exceedingly tedious and difficult to reduce them to the regular form of a statement. For reasons which will be hereafter given it is proposed to reduce the number of places of manufacture to five, namely, Cheyur, Chunambut, Covelong, Vulloor, and Attiput. I shall, therefore, as an example of the nature of Mirassi tenure in the manufacture of salt, explain the different rates and modes of their remuneration to the inhabitants of these five pans for your information.

6. "In Cheyur there are forty particular pans, to prepare and cultivate which 160 people are appropriated, which is four labourers to a pan. Of all the salt produced from these pans the inhabitants' waram or share amounts to only 15¹/₂ per cent.; but in order to make up the difference to them for this low rate, they enjoy 90 cawnies of paddy-land in the village rent free, and their labourers about 13 cawnies of backyards, for which also they pay no rent. The same Mirassi inhabitants receive, as their share of all the salt produced by their labourers in the other pans of the village to which no maniems belong, 60 per cent., excepting eight particular pans in the village cultivated by them on account of Brahmins and Pagodas, on which the inhabitants receive, as their share, 66¹/₂ per cent., and again two other pans called cawny maniems from which they are paid 83¹/₂ per cent. Independent of this the inhabitants' servants are entitled to a certain quantity of salt after it was manufactured, originally intended for the consumption of their own families, and paid daily. Custom has, however, changed that into an annual quantity of eighteen garce of salt, which being a determined quantity is easy to be commuted in to money upon the new plan.

7. "In Chunambut there are also as in Cheyur 33¹/₂ particular pans cultivated by 133 labourers which is four people per pan. On these the waram is only 18 per cent., but in addition they enjoy 45 cawnies of nunjah or paddy-ground, and 99 cawnies of punjah or dry grain ground; in all 144 cawnies of maniem for which they pay no rent. For all salt produced in the other pans the people are entitled to one-half, or 50 per cent., share, excepting in half pans cawny maniems, where their waram is 83¹/₂ per cent. Besides this the inhabitants' servants also receive a proportion of the salt after it is manufactured. This is not, however, a fixed quantity as in Cheyur, but is regulated by the number of persons employed, and amounts on an average to about six mercals a-year to each labourer employed. It is capable of commutation also, but cannot be determined with so much certainty as in Cheyur. The average amount for these last five years is Pagodas 189-3-70 per annum. There is also another allowance paid out of the sales to the inhabitants' servants called Calavasum. It is given in money, and amounts, on an average of the last five years, to Pagodas 25-36-12. This does not obtain in Cheyur probably from the inhabitants' servants being allowed backyards rent free, which they have not at Chunambut. The amount of this must also depend upon the number of garce sold.

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8. "At Covelong, occasioned probably by the peculiarity of its situation, "there being little or no cultivating land in the neighbourhood, no maniem are "attached to the manufacture of salt, and the inhabitants used to receive 60 "per cent. for all salt produced by them, which Mr. Place reduced to 50, and it "has continued so ever since. The inhabitants are also entitled to cawny "maniem, but the amount is trifling, being only Pagodas 18-10-5 a-year. In "Tyoor, a small hamlet dependent upon Covelong, the inhabitants used formerly "to enjoy 100 cawnies of Totecal or garden ground-rent free on account of their "manufacture of salt; but Mr. Place assessed it with 20 per cent. revenue, "leaving 80 per cent. to them. Their possessing this land, however, makes no "alteration in their waram upon the salt."

8. The different shares referred to in the above paragraphs having been commuted into ready-money, the manufacturers appear to have been paid up to 1821 according to the rates noted below, as will be seen from paragraph 4 of Mr. Smalley's letter to the Board, dated 14th June 1821. In this letter Mr. Smalley recommended an increase of Rs. 2 to the Kudiwaram in the Northern and of Rs. 1-4-0 to the rates in the Southern pans. In making this recommendation he observes that the rates of waram are very different, but that it would be better to raise the rates generally "following up the old rates, as there would be either some good reason for the difference, or in long established custom, from which it is safest not to depart."

Names of the pans.	Rates and description of Waram.	Amount of waram of each description per garce.	Average of each village.
Cheyur	Coodepet	4 11 1	17 8 7
	Sukavasi Mirassidars of the villages	13 5 0½	
	Sukavasi Mirassidars or other people of the other villages	19 12 9½	
	Churches	21 1 0½	
	Cawny maniem	25 3 9½	
	Inam maniem	21 1 7½	
		105 3 5½	
Chunambut	Coodepet	5 5 1½	16 5 10½
	Sukavasi Mirassidars of the villages	14 10 10	
	Sukavasi Mirassidars or other people of the other villages	15 0 6½	
	Cawny maniem	24 10 8½	
	Inam do.	15 5 10½	
	Covil do.	18 7 1½	
	Devastanum	21 1 1½	
		114 9 2½	
Covelong	Mamulvaram	11 14 8½	13 14 8½
	Carumboo Alum	8 12 0	
	Inam Maniem	21 1 6½	
		41 12 2½	

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9. This increase was sanctioned by Government in their Order, dated 10th July 1821, No. 487, communicated in Board's Proceedings of the 12th idem.

10. The rates as then increased are the same as those given in Mr. G. H. Ellis's letter above quoted,* and appear to have remained unaltered till the passing of the Board's Order, dated 18th July 1856, which fixed the value of 120 maunds in weight as equivalent to 424 mercals by measurement, and increased the then existing rate of Kudiwaram to the manufacturers by 6 per cent. per garce. The rates thus raised are given in the tabular statement annexed to paragraph 2, and are those now in force.

11. The great variety of rates which has been pointed out as prevailing in this district is also to be found in the Chunambut† pans now attached to South Arcot. I have, therefore, thought it advisable to trace the origin of these rates also. This information will be found in the quotation from Mr. Hepburn's report given above.

12. In Cheyur as well as in Chunambut the manufacturers in receipt of so low a rate of Kudiwaram as Rs. 6 were remunerated by maniem which they continue to hold. The Cheyur manufacturers are in the enjoyment of the 90 cawnies of Inam land referred to in paragraph 6 of Mr. Hepburn's report. These Inams as well as those enjoyed by the Coodepet manufacturers of Chunambut have been confirmed by the Inam Commissioner free of tax as service grants, given as remuneration for working salt-pans, so long as the condition attached to the grants is fulfilled; and Title-deeds have been issued accordingly.

13. There are besides two pans in Covelong, the Kudiwaram of which is Rs. 22-6-0. These pans are not mentioned in Mr. Hepburn's report of 1806. They were, however, brought to the notice of the Board in the letter from the Head Assistant Collector in charge, Mr. W. Bell, dated 23rd March 1817, and the manufacture of salt at them was sanctioned by the Board in their letter dated 29th May 1817.

14. Having shown the cause of the existence of the various rates of Kudiwaram in this district, it remains to consider whether it would be fair to reduce the several rates to an average, or to close those pans at which the price is apparently extravagantly high, as proposed by Government in their Order of the 7th May 1860, No. 723.

15. As the Government have agreed to take salt at certain prices equivalent to the profits obtained by the pan-holders before the passing of Regulation I. of 1805, and as these prices are guaranteed by Section 4 of that Regulation, I am of opinion that the rates cannot now be altered without the consent of the manufacturers. Even if these rates had not been guaranteed, I should question the policy and justice of altering them after they had been in existence for upwards of 60 years. Neither do I think it advisable to abolish the pans, as this measure would involve the payment of a heavy compensation to which the manufacturers would be entitled under Section 5 of Regulation I. of 1805.

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16. Under these circumstances I beg to recommend that the rates at the southern pans be left undisturbed.

In this letter the Acting Collector of Chingleput replies to paragraph 3 of Government Order, 20th May 1870, No. 746, calling for a statement of the rates of Kudiwaram current in the district, with the reasons for variations in them. Those for the northern salt stations having, in the order cited, been converted into a uniform rate of Rupees 12, Mr. Blair confines his report to the southern stations of Cheyur and Covelong.

2. At the former station the rates vary from Rs. 6-5-0 to Rs. 26-12-0, the average being Rs. 16-8-5; and at the latter there are only two rates, Rs. 13-3-0 and Rs. 22-6-0, average Rs. 13-4-3. The average for the two stations is Rs. 14-1-3.

3. As shown by the Acting Collector the variation in the rates is explained by the fact that, when they were fixed, the arrangement was made with the owners of salt-pans having a right to manufacture salt. Thus the nominally low rates allowed in some pans were supplemented by grants of land. Looking to the care with which the rates were originally fixed, the peculiarity of the tenures in the Chingleput District, the small proportion which the Kudiwaram bears to our increasing salt revenue, the fact that the demand for salt is sufficient to employ all the pans, and the difficulty of assigning compensation to the owners of those which might be closed, the Board, in concurrence with the Acting Collector, do not think that any change is called for, either in the existing rates of Kudiwaram or the pans at present used.

No. 237.

ORDER THEREON, 21st February 1871, No. 321.

Separate Revenue, No. 14.

Salt.

THE Government concur in opinion with the Board that no action is needed in this matter at present.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department.

No. 3212

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 21st February 1871.

Read the following letter *Pro: of the*

Board of Revenue

*Subj. letter from Coll^r
reporting rates of Kudiwaram
paid to salt manufacturers at
southern salt stations in Chingleput
Dist. & explaining variations in
them.*

(H.E. 1st February 1871 No. 485)

*The Government
concur in opinion with the
Board, that no action is
needed in this matter
at present.*

*These send me a
short copy of this
letter.*

*14 To the Board of Revenue 23 Feb
1871*

[Signature]

No 21 24/11 1871

Handwritten:
To Salt manufac-
turers at Chingleput
Salt Statutes in Chingleput
District

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February 21st.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 21st February 1871, No. 321.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 236-237.

Kudiwaram paid to Salt manufacturers in Chingleput District.—Proceedings Board of Revenue on the inadvisability of making any change in the existing rates, with orders thereon.