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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th January 1872.*

Read the following:—

No. 224. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 29th November 1871,
No. 4,878.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Secretary to
the Board of Revenue, dated Chatterpore, 31st October 1871, No. 1,350.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings of the 7th July 1871, No. 2,880, I have

the honour to forward copies of the
correspondence marginally noted
relative to an alleged abandonment by
the Inland Custom Department of
any concern with Rowannahs, as

From Acting Collector, Ganjam, to Commissioner,
Inland Customs, Agra, dated 19th September
1871, No. 1,173.
To do. do., dated 3rd October 1871, No. 625D.
From do. do., " 31st " " " 1,340.

issued under arrangements already known to the Board. It would appear that the
report is correct, but as there was a certain amount of ambiguity in the letter from
Agra, I have thought it best to ask the Commissioner again, because the cancella-
tion of the present Rowannah orders might lead to embarrassment, unless the
frontier Customs Officers fully understand that no additional duty is to be levied
even when Rowannahs are not forthcoming.

2. Considering that the system of Rowannahs was started at the special

request of the Commissioner,* Inland
Customs, it would not have been unrea-
sonable if some intimation had been sent

* Government Order, 12th November 1869,
No. 2,955, Revenue Department.

us when the check was no longer deemed needful. Changes of this kind should be
made known most clearly, and I cannot help fearing that though the Customs
Department may have ceased to pay attention to the matter, in fact just let it alone,
the demand for Rowannahs may still be made on the frontier and be a cause of
extortion. It is most necessary that no check whatever should be placed upon free
trade in salt, and the best way of giving the Brinjaries confidence is to abandon
the Rowannah altogether.

3. In looking at the correspondence which has passed I observe that the
Board in their Proceedings dated 17th August 1870, No. 5,348, cancelled the
instructions contained in their previous Proceedings dated 9th December 1869,
No. 9,031. The order last named was the one which directed the issue of Rowan-
nahs in accordance with Mr. Hume's suggestions, and if the Board's subsequent
instructions had been carried out, the whole matter would have been settled.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Commissioner of Inland Customs, Agra, dated Chet-
terpore, 19th September 1871, No. 1,173.

I LATELY† wrote to you giving the names of the officers in this district, who had been autho-
rized to issue Rowannahs to the traders carrying
salt across the frontier for sale in the Central

† 25th August 1871, No. 1,030.

Provinces in pursuance of the arrangement previously entered into for the prevention of the intro-
duction of illicit salt into those territories. I have since been informed on good authority that
the system of requiring Rowannahs was abandoned some time ago by your department. If this be
the case I shall be obliged by you giving me positive information on the subject, in order that the
check to the salt trade, which the recent changes have certainly caused, may be entirely removed.

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At present the merchants and Brinjaries are not aware of any alteration, and accordingly do not carry on the business as formerly. Should I be correct in my information I would suggest that it be notified to the public, that salt crossing the frontier will in no case be charged full duty as was formerly the practice.

From the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner, Inland Customs, Agra, to the Acting Collector of Ganjam, dated Agra, 3rd October 1871, No. 625D.

I AM desired to acknowledge your letter No. 1,173 of the 19th ultimo, received on the 29th idem, and to state in reply that since the abandonment of the system of transfer credit, which was first authorized and then disallowed by the Supreme Government, this department holds itself to have no concern with the currency or non-currency of Madras Rowannahs covering despatches of east coast salt crossing the Inland Customs frontier line. As before no despatch of Madras salt is permitted to cross our line without payment of the differential duty, i.e., Rs. 1-2-0 per maund, but beyond requiring payment of this duty no interference is now exercised, it being considered by this department that the protection of its own interests is now its sole concern, since the recession of the system of transfer credit, whereby it would have profited largely in return for the extra labour the carrying out of the system would have entailed.

From the Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Commissioner of Inland Customs, Agra, dated Chatterpore, 31st October 1871, No. 1,340.

REFERRING to your Personal Assistant's letter dated 2nd October 1871, No. 625D., I have the honour to ask whether, if the system of Rowannahs is altogether abolished, any charge in excess of Rs. 1-2-0 will be made on any salt crossing the frontier. I presume, from the wording of the letter under reply, that the issue of Rowannahs is no longer necessary, but as the question in my letter of the 19th September last, No. 1,173, has not been distinctly answered, I am anxious before cancelling instructions already issued, to be sure that the Brinjaries, who may hereafter pass the frontier with salt not covered by a Rowannah, will not be called upon to pay the full duty. I would again suggest the propriety of issuing a distinct notice on the subject, so as to take away all opportunity from unprincipled subordinates of making a profit out of the Brinjaries under the pretext that they were transgressing the Regulations.

It is clear from the letter of the Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Inland Customs, Agra, that that department does not now concern itself with requiring Rowannahs for Madras Salt crossing the frontier line, and that there is therefore no necessity for issuing Rowannahs.

2. The Collector will notify this as generally as he can, making it known at the same time that Madras Salt crossing the frontier is liable to payment of the differential duty, Rs. 1-2-0 per maund, and no more. It might be as well to send a copy of this notification to the Inland Customs Frontier Officers.

3. Ordered also that the following letter be despatched to Government:—

(Here enter letter dated 29th November 1871, No. 4,848A.)

4. It is observed that the reference to the Board's Proceedings quoted in the beginning of the Collector's letter is incorrectly given.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th January 1872.*

No. 225. From the Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 29th November 1871, No. 4,878A.

I AM instructed by the Board of Revenue to submit the accompanying Proceedings of the Board, from which it will be seen that since the abandonment of the credit system under the orders of the Supreme Government, the Inland Customs Department does not now concern itself with requiring Rowannahs or Passes for Madras Salt crossing the frontier line, and that Salt in transit is liable to payment of the differential duty, Rs. 1-2-0 per maund, and no more.

2. As several changes have of late years been made in regard to the requirements of the several authorities interested in the customs duties on this frontier, the Board consider that the Collector has done no more than was required of him in endeavouring to ascertain precisely, and in making known as generally as possible, what the requirements of the Customs Department now are, in order that there may be no misconception on the part of traders and no openings for malpractices on the part of subordinate officials on the frontier.

3. In addition to the orders to be issued by the Collector under the Board's instructions, the Board suggest that Government be pleased to forward to the Chief Commissioner for the Central Provinces a copy of their Proceedings now submitted, and to request the co-operation of the Chief Commissioner in taking measures to prevent any misapprehension on the part of traders as to the requirements of the Customs Department, and to provide against the possibility of demand on the part of subordinate officials on the frontier line either for passes or payment of any duty over and above that specified in paragraph 1.

4. It will be observed that the Commissioner of Customs is not in the Central Provinces and that his Assistant dates from Agra.

No. 226. ORDER THEREON, 18th January 1872, No. 114.

Separate Revenue, No. 11.
Salt.

THE Government observe that the differential duty leviable on Madras Salt crossing the Inland Customs line is Rs. 1-3-0 and not Rs. 1-2-0. The Board

are referred to G. O., 25th October 1871, No. 1,859.

2. The Commissioner, Central Provinces, will be requested to notify that Rowannahs are no longer required to cover Madras Salt imported into those territories.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

4012 of November 69 11268
 11 July 1900-52-53

The Board of Revenue
 Madras. No. 3908.
 Letter, 20th November 1871, No. 4,878A.
 @ 12:16 Dec 1/71
 Encl. 1
 Received. 7th Dec 1871.
 The Board of Revenue
 Madras. No. 3908.
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 @ 12:16 Dec 1/71
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 Received. 7th Dec 1871.

Revenue 1871. Disputes
 Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS. No. 3908.
 LETTER, 20TH NOVEMBER 1871, NO. 4,878A.
 @ 12:16 Dec 1/71
 Encl. 1
 Received. 7th Dec 1871.
 NOVEMBER.
 No. 4,878A.

Remuneration or Pusses for salt. - Suggestion made to Government that Chief Commissioner for Central Provinces should be requested to provide against possibility of demand being made by subordinate Customs officials on frontier line for Remuneration for Madras salt crossing frontier, or for payment of any but differential duty of Rupees 1-2-0 per moud on such salt.

1/10/71 - 18th Dec 1871
 With...

11. Board of Revenue. Dec 10 02 Jan 72