No. 125. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Resident in Travancore and Cochin, to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Officiating Chief Secretary to Government, Ootacamund, dated Courtallum, 20th August 1873, No. 73:—

ADVERTING to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 5th August 1873, No. 809, observing that, if the cost of carriage of Travancore salt for sale by Travancore at Shencottah has been over-estimated, *i.e.*, if the selling price arrived at in G. O., dated 24th June 1868, No. 1,775, is higher than the monopoly price (Rs. 2 per Indian maund), *plus* actual cost of carriage, then I am at liberty to forward any proposals for the reduction of the selling price at Shencottah, I have the honour to remark that such proposals are contained in paragraph 2 of my letter covered by the G. O. under acknowledgment.

2. It is proposed—

1*stly*.—To lower the price charged at the Travancore store, Shencottah, to Rs. 2-7-4 per maund, that having been ascertained to be the price ruling at Tenkasi, the Cusbah of the British Taluq adjoining, when the proposal was made.

2*ndly*.—To adjust the price from time to time, on authentic information obtained through the British and Travancore authorities, according to the market fluctuations in the adjoining British territory.

The actual price might, I think, without difficulty, be adjusted quarterly or half-yearly by the local authorities without the necessity of reference to Government on each occasion.

3. I mentioned a possible alternative arrangement; but those just again detailed seem sound in principle and calculated to meet all the necessities of the case. To them, therefore, I beg the sanction of Government for communication to the Travancore Sirkar.

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No. 126. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1873, No. 1,292.

| Separate Revenue, No. 9. |
|---|
| *Salt.* |

THE Governor in Council observes that the price of salt at Shencottah is ruled, under the agreement with the Travancore State, by the cost of carriage of Travancore salt to that locality, and has no reference to the market price of British salt at the neighbouring town of Tenkasi. The Resident has nowhere stated positively that this cost of carriage is Annas 7-4 and not Annas 11-8 per maund.

2. As, however, this Government desires to treat the matter in the most liberal spirit, the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the proposals made by the Dewan and referred to in paragraph 2 of the Resident's letter, dated 14th June 1873, No. 45, on the understanding that they are accepted as a concession.

(True Extrct.)

(Signed.) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

№2578

Resident of Travancore
submitting proposals for the
reduction of the selling price of salt
at Shencottah

20 Augt 1873 № 73

The undersigned begs
to re-circulate these papers
for orders. The Resident
in Travancore proposed
that the port of that
State should be per-
-mitted to regulate the
price charged at Shen
=cottah (a Travancore village
within the limits of the
British District of Tinnevelly)
with reference to the
price of salt in the
adjacent British town
of Tenkasi. It was
pointed out to him that
the proper course was

The terms of the
Convention are that
Travancore shall
charge the same
duty on its salt
as we do on ours.
If we do this, it must
charge the actual
cost of conveyance
inland + the 2 Rs
conventional duty. In
this particular
place our salt is
nearer at hand than

to correct the cost of carriage of salt to Shencottah if it had been wrongly estimated when the concession was first made. In his present letter he re-states his former proposals.

It is submitted that they cannot be acceded to, as if they were done it would be a departure from the terms of the Convention between the two Govts under which the price is to be changed for salt by the Travancore State is to be the same as that charged by the British Govt. Consequently the price is to be changed

its salt - and the expence of Conveyance being consequently less - our salt (though we get to the same Rate of 2 Rs) sells for less in the market - when the Rail is open to Tinnevelly - it will sell for still less. If we allow Travancore to regulate its price by the market price, the Convention will be broken - I am drawing

[illegible]ment of our salt.

J. DS.

I think that in fairness to Travancore and in the spirit of the Convention - its object was to prevent Smuggling into British territory - we are bound to aid them & this very moderate concession to prevent smuggling from British territory into Travancore -

Nenkotta is a small detached "bit" of Travancore on the East of the Ghaut near Courtallam practically de tached from the State / the Planters - and cannot be supplied cheaper at a great cost If we refuse this reasonable concession we simply de prive them of the supply & thus oblige them to go to Tuticorin & pay the duty - This is against the spirit of the Convention the necessary arrangements & conditions are easily made - and a special case can be made - I cannot bring myself to use the plea of evasion & do to a letter of this very silent [illegible]

at Shencottah must be Rs 2.0.0 per maund plus the cost of carriage - If it is sold below this rate, it would no longer be sold at the British rate, and the fact that British salt is sold by traders at Tencasi at a lower rate does not affect the question. The matter will be still further complicated when the Railway is completed between Tuticorin & Palamcottah as British salt will then be sold still cheaper at Tencasi. But that is no reason why Travancore salt should be sold at Shencottah at a rate below that determined upon in the Convention.

3

masters on & right plan
to work the approved parties.
2/10 WL.

[redacted]
Reserve me
2/10 WL

So be it - but
I think it is
prudent to give
them as a con-
cession & to main-
tain the Convention
in its integrity

I.O.L.

C29 Sept/73 & 22 Oct. R.C 27/10

For Orders

Reduction of selling
price of salt

H.

I return the official
papers received with my former
note. It is clear that
by acting upon it we shall
be urged by the Resident,
& acting at least
within the spirit of
the Convention. If the letter
of the Convention will really enhance
our net Revenue (but is
this certain?) I should not object
to taking credit accordingly

W. Dec 6/73

Revenue Dept.

No.

Pros. of the Madras Govt.
Under date the Sept. 1873.

Read the following letter
from the Resident in Travancore
and Cochin.

Submitting proposals for the reduction of the selling price of salt at Shencottah.

R. E. 20 Augt. 1873, No. 73.

In his letter recorded
with G.O. No. 1775 dated
24 June 1868 the Resident
reported that the Travancore
Circar were willing to agree
to the arrangement proposed
by the Govt whereby to the
monopoly price of salt was
to be added the actual cost
of carriage to Shencottah;
and it was finally settled
that the addition would
amount

I.G.I.

I fail to see any objections
in the present proposal. All that
the Govt are interested in is that
there shall be no difference of price
and as that lead to trouble
on both sides terms - & for
clearly must coincide the

amount to 11 Cs 8 pies a maund.

2. The Govt in their order to which the Resident now replies distinctly repudiated the price of salt at Shucottah being regulated on any other basis and the proposition to make it coincide with the market price at Kukasi should not have been again submitted.

3. If the Resident has ascertained that the actual cost of carriage was originally over-estimated or has since been reduced he should distinctly intimate the fact setting forth his conclusions and the manner in which they have been arrived at, and the Govt will then be prepared to consider on this ground the question of a reduction in the amount at present added to the monopoly price.

Sd

Same & Nagercoil – the market prices of the neighbouring Brinjal towns & villages – Timash of the cost of carriage – Which may be more fallacious – in the paper standard to be fixed of the Travancore Salt

16/9 Sd

If I understand this position rightly, I am inclined to agree with Mr Robinson –

It appears that, whereas in this Presidency it is only after a wholesale trade in Salt that is carried on after port, – in Travancore all Salt sold, whether by wholesale or retail, is sold after port. Thus on one side of the frontier the market price at any given time is determined by natural causes: – on the Travancore side by the will of the Govt. Under these circumstances it would seem that all that we can require of the Travancore Govt is that it should not

2015

2596

sell its Salt any where at such a price as may lead to smuggling into our territory: - ~~and it will be well~~ and it will be well it ought to see that the price at Hemmatlah is not lower than that at Devikari: which (as per Bullard 1st/cancl. is fairly averaged pan tam to Tuti.

H

H.E. 27/10 R. 6th Nov/93 RC 10th-R17th
C. 12 Inclo. R. 18 Sept. R. 29 Sept/93
& 22nd Oct.



N° 2598/93

I fail to see anything objectionable in the present proposal. All that the Government are interested in is that there should be no difference of price such as should lead to smuggling into the British territories - and we clearly must ensure the same to Travancore - The market price therefore of the neighbouring British towns and not an Estimate of the Cost of Carriage - which may be most fallacious - is the proper standard to exact of the Travancore State.

H H

Inclosure - proposal

H

Residents Office,
On Circuit, Courtallum,
26th August 1873

No 73

From,

G. A. Ballard Esquire
Resident in Travancore & Cochin

To

The Honorable R. A. Dalyell
Offg: Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St George
Coelacamund

Sir,

Adverting to para 2 of the Proceedings of Government dated 5 August 1873 No 809 observing that if the cost of carriage of Travancore Salt for sale by Travancore at Shencottah has been overestimated, i.e. if the selling price arrived at in G. O. dated 24 June 1868 No 775 is higher than the monopoly price (Rs 2 per candy maund) plus actual cost of carriage, then I am at liberty to forward any proposals for the reduction of the selling price at Shencottah, I have the honor to remark that such proposals are contained in

para

c 29 Sept 73 & 22 Oct & 2 27/10

GO 24 June/18 No. 563. 64
5 August/73. 22. 23.

Rev. 1873 Dept.

From No. 2598

The Resident in Travancore & Cochin

To

The Offg Chief Secretary to Government Fort St George Ootacamund

Dated 20th August 1873

Received 26 " "

No. 73

Enclosure none

No.

No. 1292 - 24 Nov.

Submitting proposals for the reduction of the selling price of Salt at Shencottah

With Order

R.C. 27/10 R. 8th Nov/73 RC 10 R 17 C.

C. I. E. Dept. R. 18 Sept. R.C. 29 Sept/73 R 22/10

No. 1292

14 B. P. Revenue } Ser.
4 Rev. in Revenue } 25 Nov.

1. The C. in C. observes that [~~the principle of the~~ ~~Resident's proposals is correct.~~] The price of Salt at Shencottah is evident, under the agreement with the Travancore State, to be the cost of carriage of Travancore Salt to that locality, and has no reference to the market price of British Salt at the neighbouring town of Tenkasi. The Resident has no-where stated, however, that the cost of carriage is ~~[illegible]~~ do 7.4 of which Rs 11.8 he named.

2. As however, the [illegible] desires to test the ~~[illegible]~~ matter in the most liberal spirit, the C. in C. is pleased to sanction the proposals made by the Resident and referred to in para 2 of the Resident's letter dated 14 June 73 No 45, with the understanding that they are accepted as a concession.

24 Nov. 1873

[initials] 27/10