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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th July 1873.*

No. 108. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, (Customs,) to the Hon. R. A. DALYELL, Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 10th June 1873, No. 12:—

REFERRING to your letter, No. 1,661, dated the 10th December 1872, I am directed to forward, for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council, copies of the papers noted in the margin, regarding the transit of Madras Salt through the Bengal Districts for consumption in the Central Provinces, and to state that His Excellency the

Governor-General in Council concurs in the view taken by the Government of Bengal in regard to the routes passing through the regulation districts of the Lower Provinces. As regards the other routes, passing through the Tributary Mehals, the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that it may possibly be necessary to take such steps as will effectually close to the Ganjam lower-taxed salt, the country which ought to be occupied by the more highly-taxed salt of the country north of the line.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. J. S. COTTON, Esq., Officiating Assistant Secretary to the Government of Bengal, in the Revenue Department, (Salt,) to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Department of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce, dated Calcutta, 8th May 1873, No. 1,274.

I AM directed to submit herewith, for the favourable consideration and orders of His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, the accompanying copy of the papers noted on the margin, regarding the transit of salt for consumption in the Central Provinces via the Bengal districts.

Letter from Board of Revenue, No. 172, dated the 2nd April 1873, and enclosure.
A map showing the routes through which the salt is carried, of which the return is solicited when no longer required, is also enclosed.

2. The Lieutenant-Governor concurs with the opinion of Mr. Money that no salt, which has not paid full Bengal duty, should pass through the Regulation Districts.

From T. B. LANE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Revenue Department, dated Fort William, 2nd April 1873, No. 172-C.

WITH reference to Government Order, No. 306, dated 20th January last, and subsequent reminders, I am directed by the Member in charge to submit an extract from a letter, No. 109, dated 10th ultimo, from the Commissioner of Orissa, and copy of a map showing the routes from Ganjam to the Central Provinces there referred to.

2. It appears clear from Mr. Ravenshaw's present report that the assertions made by the Madras Board, and endorsed by the Madras Government, on the insecurity of the routes passing through the Tributary Mehals, rest entirely on the Ganjam Collector's statement, which is simply an echo of the statements of the brinijaras. Mr. Money has on former occasions pointed out at length the necessity for strictly enjoining that no salt, which has not paid full Bengal duty, should pass through the Regulation Districts. He must again repeat that this rule entails no hardship whatever on the honest trader wishing to carry salt from Ganjam to the Central Provinces. Mr. Ravenshaw's knowledge on this subject is entirely trustworthy, and there are no grounds whatever for controverting his statement that the Tributary Mehals routes are much more direct than any other, and are perfectly safe.

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Extract from a letter from Commissioner of the Orissa Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Lower Provinces, dated Cuttack, 10th March 1873, No. 109.

PARAGRAPH 2.—Madras salt, in transit to Central Provinces, has no need to come to Cuttack, and the only object in the objections raised by Madras traders is to enable them to smuggle and sell salt in transit, and I am somewhat astonished that any official support should be given to such objections.

3. I submit a map showing the routes to Central Provinces.

No. 1, *via* Russoolkoonda, Besiparah to Manmoondia and Sonpore.—I understand that this road is well made and passable for carts at all seasons as far as the foot of Boadhills; here the road ceases, and the rest of the journey is made with pack-bullocks *via* Besiparah. I have travelled between Goomagurh and Manmoondia, and seen troops of bullocks carrying Ganjam salt, under pass for Sumbulpore. I know the route to be passable and used throughout nine months of the year. There is another branch of route, No. 2, *via* Boni and Pooroona Katak; this is passable for carts between Ganjam and Russoolkoonda, and thence by pack-bullocks only. No. 2 route, from Ganjam to Kurcholi, and thence *via* Mohipore, Mohetoma to Belparah, is easily passable for carts during nine months of the year, and with occasional interruptions even during the rains. I have seen hundreds of carts going by this route; it is much frequented. There is another road branching off from Kumanda *via* Itamatti to Kontillo; this is also passable for carts for nine months in the year; from Kurcholi to banks of the Mahanuddi, no made-road exists, but the cart-track is good and much used.

4. The above two routes with their branches are the direct, nearest, and only legitimate lines for salt honestly intended for consumption in Central Provinces. I know both lines so far as they lie within Cuttack tributary territory; I have travelled over them, and can certify to the fact that troops of pack-bullocks and trains of carts go by these routes during the hot and cold seasons of the year.

5. The third route which Ganjam traders want to take follows the trunk road as far as Chandika Bazaar, whence there is no sort of road, except a jungle-track to the Mahanuddi between Domparah and Bunky. This route, as the map will show, is not the direct road to Sumbulpore; but the reason it is preferred by traders is the facility it affords for selling their salt as they pass through regulation territory, and also the fact that the tract of jungle between Chandika Bazaar and Domparah is very favourable for smuggling operations. Salt once arrived there can be slipped down the Mahanuddi to Cuttack or across the river into tributary estates.

6. There is an indifferent route from Khoorda to Kontillo, but it is not so short or so direct as the line through Kurcholi to Belparah. There can be no sort of reasonable demand made to permit Central Provinces salt to pass through Orissa regulation territory, while there are several more direct routes which do not involve entry over the boundary where Bengal duty is current.

7. We have no check whatever on salt in transit from Ganjam to Central Provinces, and we cannot prevent its being largely sold on the road; and even were the Khoorda and Chandika Bazaar line the nearest, I should most strenuously oppose the entry of Ganjam under-taxed salt into Orissa regulation territory, as tending to seriously injure Bengal revenue and to offer a premium on smuggling and illicit sale.

8. The main trunk road from Ganjam to Cuttack *via* Chandika is metalled and bridged and passable at all seasons, but the road from Khoorda to Sumbulpore is only a fair-weather road, passable easily in the cold and hot seasons, or, say, from November to July, and with occasional interruptions, practicable even in the rains. Under any circumstances, Sumbulpore salt could not pass with facility by any route during the monsoon months from July to October; and during the rest of the year there is no more difficulty in passing *via* Kurcholi or Russoolkoonda than there would be *via* Khoorda and Chandika.

9. As regards difficulties in procuring water and pasturage, I am in a position to assert that there is no greater difficulty on the Kurcholi and Kontillo or Belparah lines than there would be on the Khoorda and Chandika line. The complaint made by the traders regarding dangers of

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robbers or wild beasts is simply false: they are just as likely to be eaten by tigers or robbed in the Khoorda jungles as they are in Nygurb, Duspulla, and Boad.

10. During my tenure of office in Orissa, I do not recollect any serious case of robbery of Sumbulpore salt-traders having been brought to my notice; but I have detected numerous cases of illicit sale of under taxed Ganjam salt by the said traders both in regulation and non-regulation territory; I am perhaps the only European officer at present possessing personal knowledge of the various routes through Cuttack tributary estates. I have travelled over all the routes noted in the map, so far as they lie within my jurisdiction, and I can confidently assert that there is neither difficulty or danger, or want of water or fodder anywhere.

11. I regret that I have not been able myself to travel again over these routes this season, but I may state that detachments of troops have this year marched from Ganjam to Sumbulpore by route No. 2, with carts and baggage, and experienced no difficulty either in the way of water, fodder, or supplies. It will rest with Government to believe me or the Madras salt-traders

No. 109.

ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1873, No. 723.

Separate Revenue, No. 7.

Salt.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

2. It will be observed that the Government of India support the decision of the Government of Bengal not to permit Ganjam Salt intended for the Central Provinces to pass through any portion of the regulation districts of Lower Bengal, without payment of the Bengal rate of duty.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

20 10 Dec under 1872. No 60-62

Recd 1873 Sept
No 1729

From
Govt of India Dept of Agr & Revenue
No 12

Dated 10 June 1873
Recd 18 - 1873

Enc 2

Forwarding for information
copies of papers regarding
the transit of Madras salt
through the Bengal Districts
for consumption in the Central
Provinces

L. 108-109

S.O. No 723-12 July 73.

C. 4 July 73 R. 10 July

Separate
salt

Govt of India. Agricultural
Permit of Madras salt through
the Bengal Dist for consumption in the
Central Provinces.

10 June 1873, No 12.

No 723. 12 July 73

C^d to the Board of
Revenue

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that the Govt of India
support the decision of
the Govt of Bengal not
to permit Ganjam salt
intended for the Central
Provinces to pass through
any portion of the Regulation
Districts of Lower Bengal, without
payment of the Bengal rate of duty.

Note In the face of Mr. Ramsden's
letter I do not see how we
can argue the route question
further.

Agreed
A

Transit of Madras
through the British District
for consumption in the
Provinces.