Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22*nd July* **1873.**

No. 188. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th June 1873, No. 993:—

Read again Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, dated 17th October 1871, No. 1,430.

Read also Special Report from Captain H. S. COURT, Acting Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly, dated Caroor, 13th May 1873.

In pursuance of instructions received from the Inspector-General of Police, the following information has been obtained with reference to the manufacture of earth-salt at Moganoor and its vicinity under cover of a license for the manufacture of saltpetre held by Mr. Fischer.

2. Agencies for the manufacture of saltpetre have been established by the late Mr. James Fischer of Salem under a Manager named Ram Iyer, who draws a salary of Rs. 60 a-month, and resides at Erode. Under this Manager there are Agents in Erode, Darapooram, Caroor, Namkul, Kulitullay, and Moosery. Advances are made to these Agents by the Manager, and the Agents make advances to Oopeleers who locate themselves in villages, the soil of which is best suited for the production of saltpetre. The productions of Erode and Darapooram are conveyed and stored at Erode, and those of Caroor, Namkul, Kulitullay, and Moosery, are stored at Moganoor, in the Namkul Taluq, where there are very extensive godowns, and where a considerable quantity of saltpetre is produced. In this place there are twenty-five houses of Oopeleers and about fifty coolies, five of whom are head-men who receive advances and carry on the manufacture. The Agent of the proprietor at Moganoor is one Seeva Rama Iyer. His salary is Rs. 9 per mensem, and under him there is an Accountant and some Peons. Since the death of Mr. James Fischer the control of the saltpetre business is said to be vested in the Reverend Mr. Foulkes. Mr. Robert Fischer, the brother-in-law of the deceased James Fischer, has no interest or concern in this trade.

3. The following are the villages in which the manufacture of saltpetre is carried on to a considerable extent:—

Namkul Taluq, Salem District.

1. Puttay Pollium	...	...	3 persons manufacture.
2. Valavundee	...	...	20 ,, ,,
3. Eddyar	...	...	20 ,, ,,
4. Valloor	...	...	20 ,, ,,
5. Pundeemungalum	...	...	35 ,, ,,
6. Vudajurray Athoor	...	...	10 ,, ,,
7. Pulloor	...	...	5 ,, ,,
8. Tholoor	...	...	6 ,, ,,
9. Velleepooram	...	...	15 ,, ,,

Moosery and Kulitullay of Trichinopoly.

1. Iyloor	...	...	20 persons manufacture.
2. Totiem	...	...	30 ,, ,,
3. Cuttalay	...	...	25 ,, ,,
4. Veerakium	...	...	5 ,, ,,
5. Mayenoor	...	...	10 ,, ,,

4. Besides the above, a Brahmin manufactures saltpetre in the villages of Naganaloor and Munathettay, in Kulitullay Taluq, of Trichinopoly District. This man's business is quite unconnected with that of the late James Fischer.

5. The following is the method of manufacturing the saltpetre adopted in Moganoor and the other villages:—

A round hole is dug in the ground, into which the salt-earth is placed. A clay-wall on the level of the ground is made round this hole. Water is poured on the salt-earth. After the water has received the essence of the salt-earth, an aperture is opened in the clay-wall, by which the salt-water runs off by a water-duct into an earthen pot, which is let into the ground close to the original hole. The water is next taken out of this pot and transferred to a copper vessel, in which it is boiled. The next process is to pour the water into another earthen pot with a wide mouth. In this the saltpetre crystals form in the space of twelve hours. When the crystals are removed a sediment is found at the bottom of the remaining liquid in the pot; this sediment undergoes the operation of being spread out on a layer of wood-ashes and exposed to the sun. The ashes absorb all moisture from the substance, when it becomes fit for consumption as salt, and has the appearance of moist sugar. A sample is herewith forwarded. This is somewhat different to the mud-salt ordinarily manufactured, called "Utoopoo," which is considered of a better flavour and more like Government salt. The mud used for "Utoopoo" will not produce saltpetre; but if this description of mud is mixed with the mud used for the saltpetre, the mixture produces equally good saltpetre, and the sediment is much greater for the purposes of making salt. The two kinds of mud, therefore, are almost invariably mixed in Moganoor and other villages, and large quantities of salt produced thereby.

6. It does not appear, however, that this salt is specially made *under cover* of the license to manufacture saltpetre, and sold for the benefit of the proprietor. This salt is the sediment of the preparation from which the saltpetre is formed, and the presence of this salt is the consequence of the manufacture of the saltpetre.

7. This description of salt is valued at 1 Anna a-seer, and is the perquisite of the manufacturing coolies, who carry it away, make use of it, and barter it clandestinely. What they do not require for house-hold consumption is exchanged for grain generally, but sometimes for toddy. The following agricultural classes are usually the persons who exchange a seer of grain for a seer of salt, viz., Pullers, Pariahs, Pudiachees, and others in indigent circumstances. Money is seldom or never given for it, and the salt is said never to change hands a second time, so that it is not traded with.

8. Every saltpetre employé and cooly who manufactures, pays a fixed sum yearly, which goes to the local Agent, in order that this salt be allowed to be carried away without any objections being made. The Moganoor Agent of the late Mr. James Fischer receives from Rs. 70 to 80 a-year by this arrangement.

9. The barter of the salt is invariably managed by female relatives of the coolies engaged in the saltpetre manufacture.

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10. It occasionally happens that these females are found conveying this salt for barter, when they are charged and fined. On the 5th instant, in the limits of Moganoor Police station, two women were stopped with seventeen measures of this salt, and were fined Rs. 1 by the Firka Sub-Magistrate of Valoor, Namkul Taluq.

Salem District.

CAROOR, 13th May 1873.

(Signed) F. C. COURT, Captain,
Acting Superintendent of Police.

P.S.—The proportion of salt to saltpetre is one-third; *i.e.*, if 9 seers of saltpetre is produced in a pot, three seers of salt will be found at the bottom of the pot.

THE Board resolve to submit the above report, furnished in answer to an inquiry directed by them, for the consideration of Government.

2. It is clear that the manufacture of saltpetre entails the production of a proportion of edible salt, and, although unwilling to burden a branch of industry which has been in a languishing condition for some years, they think that some measures are necessary to check the violation of the law which now takes place at all the saltpetre-pans.

3. The provisions of Act XXXI. of 1861 may be extended to Madras, and the Board observe that, under its 7th Section, the manufacturer is at liberty to compound for the duty leviable on the salt he produces.

4. The Board suggest that a reference be made to Collectors as to the best manner of working the Act, should Government be prepared to recommend its extension to Madras.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department for disposal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

19*th June* 1873.

No. 189. ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1873, No. 763.

Separate Revenue No. 12.
Salt.

THE Board of Revenue will be good enough to ascertain and report, as soon as possible, the opinions of the Collectors of Coimbatore, Salem, Trichinopoly, and Madura, on the suggestions made in the foregoing Proceedings.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 12th June 1873.

Read again Proceedings of the
Madras Government, Judicial
Department, dated 17th October 1871,
No. 1430.

Read also Special Report
from Captain Court, Acting Superintendent of Police Trichinopoly,
regarding the manufacture of
Earth-Salt at Mogamoor Village,
Namkul Taluq, Salem District.—

The Board resolve to submit the above report, furnished in answer to an enquiry directed by them, for the consideration of Government.

It is clear that the manufacture of saltpetre entails the production of a proportion of edible salt and although unwilling to burden a branch of industry, which has been in a languishing condition for some years

years, they think that some measures are necessary to check the violation of the law which now takes place at all the Saltpetre pans.

The Provisions of Act XXXI of 1863 may be extended to Madras, and the Board observe that under its VII^th section the manufacturer is at liberty to compound for the duty leviable on the salt he produces.

The Board suggest that a reference be made to Collectors as to the best manner of working the Act, should Government be prepared to recommend its extension to Madras.—

/True Extract/

H Goodrich

Ag^g. Sub Secretary

for the Chief Secretary to Government

Judicial Department

with special Report from

Capt^n. Court in a cover.

Capt Frankaffaing D

Pro. Board of Revenue. 12 June 1873.

Report of the Ag. Supt. of Police Trichinopoly, on the manufacture of Earth-salt at Mosa-nur

No. 763. 22 July 73

The Bd of Revenue will be good enough to report to ascertain the opinions of the Collr. of Coimbatore Salem, Trichinopoly & Madura on the suggestions made in the foregoing Proc.

14 To the Board of Rev. dated 30 July

Inasmuch as practicable

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Read the Report from the Acting Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly on the manufacture of Earth-salt at Mosanur.

Ordered, that the Acting Superintendent be requested to submit Report on the manufacture of Earth-salt at Mosanur.

(Sd) [illegible]

Read the Report from the Acting Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly on the manufacture of Earth-salt at Mosanur.

Ordered, that the Acting Superintendent be requested to submit Report on the manufacture of Earth-salt at Mosanur.

(Sd) [illegible]

19 June 1873

Inasmuch as practicable.

Read 168-169