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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th August 1873.*

No. 69. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1873, No. 1,161:—

Read the following letter from J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1873, No. 668:—

I HAVE the honour to forward the report of the Salt Deputy-Collector regarding the seizure of illicit salt during the last month.

2. His exertions have produced some good, but the illicit manufacture from salt-earth still prevails to a very great extent, especially in the Survasiddy Taluq.

3. The Deputy-Collector complains of the Police, the taluq and village-officers. I do not think it is necessary that the Sub-Magistrate should personally accompany the Deputy-Collector in his searches. It would be sufficient if he obtained a Search Warrant.

4. The ordinary Police force would be insufficient to furnish such a guard as would patrol the swamps from which the salt-earth is taken.

5. The most direct way of stopping the illicit manufacture is through the heads of villages: it is impossible that large quantities of salt can be introduced into a village without their knowledge.

6. In no single instance has information been received through a headman: their sympathies are with the villagers.

7. They will be warned that it is a breach of duty not to give information.

8. Any special measures as a patrol guard would not, I think, be sanctioned by the Government. I shall direct the Police and Sub-Magistrates to give their best assistance to the Deputy-Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From MAHOMED ALI, Deputy-Collector, to J. R. DANIEL, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 10th May 1873, No. 107.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that since my last report* on the result of the searches for salt-earth, 160 persons have been found with salt-earth.

No. 73, dated 3rd April 1873.

2. There is a decrease of Rupees 13,066 in salt-sales at Balacheruvu, which is attributable to the enormous prevalence of salt-earth in the Survasiddy Taluq. I went to search the taluq on three occasions, giving previous notice to the Tahsildar, but my attempts were in vain: the first time I went, he said that he could not accompany me, having plenty of work in hand; the second time he wrote that he was sick; the third time he was engaged in the Jummahbundy. Mr. Cruickshank wrote that he could not spare him.

3. During the last month, I searched four villages in the Ankapilli Taluq. On my return from Kondakerla, on the 5th instant, I met a large crowd of people carrying salt-earth near Paravada.

4. The illicit dealing in salt-earth has prevailed almost everywhere in the district.

5. My repeated tours during last year for salt-earth in several taluqs as reported monthly by me have only resulted an increase of Rupees 93,118 in salt-sales. For the pains I have taken

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in this I anticipated more favourable results, but my expectations were not realized so far as I hoped.

6. You are well aware that I have no magisterial powers, nor am I strong enough to put a stop to this illicit practice, which prevailed throughout the district. Had the Police and the Taluk and village-officers taken any interest in the matter, the result would have been far better. There are so many villages in this district that, if I continuously search every day, it will take me about a year or so before I go through all of them. At present, I observed that on my return from a village after search, the villagers recommence their practice, thinking that I will not come there till some time; consequently, I think, their illicit practices could never be put a stop to. The best plan would be, I think, to keep Police guards patrolling on the salt-swamps from whence salt-earth is taken away for illicit practices. This will serve to the easy detection of offenders, and relieve the district officers from the special duty of searching the villages.

THE consumption of illicit salt and its manufacture have long embarrassed the Collectors of Vizagapatam. The chief causes of this are the abundance of saline earth on the shores of the lagoons near the coast, and, in a less degree, the short supply at the pans.

2. The inhabitants of this part of the sea-board have been impressed by a long familiarity with this breach of the law that it has the sanction of custom and the advantage of comparative impunity.

3. Local officers have been prone to think that the salt establishment could dispose of business arising out of the operations of the department, and have been backward to initiate such unpopular measures as wholesale search and seizure, and the remedial action hitherto taken has hence been too little sustained, though vigorous occasionally.

4. Mr. Carmichael's seizures in 1865 somewhat checked the illicit manufacture, and his reports and that of his Deputy, illustrating the whole question, are dealt with in Proceedings Board of Revenue dated 16th October 1865, No. 6,555.

5. Sales declined again in 1869-70 and 1870-71, and the Board directed increased vigilance and activity in the suppression of smuggling; and in the first three months of 1872, owing to the energy of Mahomed Ali, about 2,000 people were fined or imprisoned, having been found in possession of some 10,000 maunds of earth-salt. Besides this, large quantities of illicit salt were thrown away or destroyed to escape seizure, and the sales increased.

6. It is evident, however, to the Board that the hands of the district officers must be strengthened, in view of the great extent of this evil; and they would advocate the conferring on Mahomed Ali, the Deputy-Collector, of magisterial powers, so far only that he may have authority to issue Warrants and Processes, and to direct inquiry with a view to legal proceedings before a Magistrate in all cases involving a suspected breach of the salt laws. The main difficulty with respect to Search Warrants would thus be got over.

7. It appears that a special body of Police might also be profitably employed on the special duty of watching the places when the illicit manufacture or collection of salt is likely to be attempted. The regular Police have plenty of important work, and their beats lie away from the lonely salt swamps. The Salt Police are occupied in guarding the platforms and pans. But a body of twenty-five

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men under an Inspector selected for his activity and intelligence might, under the Deputy-Collector's direction, be expected to effect much more than it has been hitherto found possible to do in the suppression of this illicit trade.

8. The Board resolve accordingly to lay the matter before Government, with the hope that the measures advocated by them may be adopted as an experiment; the working of which should be watched from its initiation with extreme care by the Collector and divisional officers. It is not without very grave and obvious disadvantages, and the Board would not propose that this itinerant guard should be left permanently in the district. They hope that, within a limited time, this illicit traffic might be permanently checked and the special guard disbanded.

No. 70. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1873, No. 833.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are unable to give effect to the Board's recommendation regarding the Deputy-Collector, as

they anticipate legal difficulties in the way of investing him with the limited powers proposed, and as they further deem it wrong in principle to entrust officers with magisterial or judicial powers in cases in which they have an interest of a direct nature.

2. The addition to the regular Police of a body of twenty-five men under an Inspector to be employed as a special preventive establishment is sanctioned as a temporary measure, and the results that have attended it should, from time to time, be specially reported on. This force, however, will merely be viewed as a special addition to the District Police for this special duty, and will be under the control of the Superintendent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
.. the Inspector-General of Police.
.. the Judicial Department.
.. the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2062

From

Board of Rev: Dated 2 July 1873. No. 1161 187

FOR ORDERS.

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the Dept of the West
I do not understand
It would be very likely
investing in the only the
limited power is recommended
by

by the Act and it is
wrong in ~~place~~ principle
to entrust officers with
magisterial or judicial
powers in cases where
they are personally in-
terested. If we derive
from the sound principle
in this case we must do
so in the case of every "felt"

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Sept 4th. They also have
a handkerchief in the in-
put on which the pos-
session of these powers confers
on them L. O. S.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11 August 1873

Read the following Proceedings

of the Board of Revenue

Recommending that the
Deputy Collector of Vizagapatam,
East Department may be invested
with Magisterial powers to a
limited extent for arrest &c. of
parties, suspected of a breach of
the salt laws relating to the
Police Force of twenty five men
and a sub-inspector may be sanc-
tioned to assist in the suppression of
the manufacture of salt.

27/8/73
H. S. H. 11/8/73 N. 1161

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Direct

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This force, however, will merely be viewed as
a special addition to the District Police and
will be entirely under the control of the Deputy
Magistrate of course it will be competent to the
Deputy Magistrate to assist them effect by his
advice and assistance

for this Special
force

L. B. Allen
Inspector General of Police
J. L. Deane
Assistant General
Assistant General

Note. The D. G. has written me
a private note objecting strongly
to the police being placed under
the Deputy Magistrate.

11-00-71

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Measures adopted for
the suppression of the illicit
manufacture of salt.

Mr. F. J. [unclear]

Despatch