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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

.....*Res.*.....DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 89	Press
B.P. No.	Mis.

Dated 11.8.1963	196 .
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Minute of 2nd Member of the Board
of Revenue dissenting from Board's letter
dated 30th May 1873, regarding the
suppression of the manufacture of
Salt from saline earth. -

The question before us is a
momentous one. It means (1) depriving
a large body of men and cattle - num-
bering many thousands in the 3 Districts
of a useful and wholesome industry
and trade - which are followed
during a season when other labor
is very slack or entirely wanting.
This deprivation will fall amongst
populations and races hereditarily
addicted to gang robbery by night
in houses and may possibly lead to
an increase of crime. It means (2)
suddenly adding 8 to 10 lacs to the
taxation of a population of about
4 millions - chiefly of the lower and
indigent orders - who consume earth-
salt. It means (3) almost absolutely
depriving the farm cattle - the finest
probably in the Presidency - of salt,
at

at a great sacrifice of health and condition and therefore of agricultural efficiency. It means (4) the extensive organization of contraband trade in salt all along the foreign frontier of the 3 Districts as well as extensive illicit home-manufacture, with the wide spread accompanying penal consequences. It means (5) greatly increased difficulty in procuring a necessary of life in the outlying parts of these vast Districts. Kurnool is not touched by the rail and in Bellary it passes along the eastern frontier and through the north east corner of the District only. It means (6) compensation for several thousands of factories at Rs 100 per factory. It means (7) deliberately setting at naught the persistent and earnest advice of every Collector and local officer who has written or reported on the subject from the earliest times.

So far as I can see the only argument on the other side is why should the Ceded Districts enjoy

an immunity not conceded to other Districts - a prescription of well nigh 70 years notwithstanding? 89

Mr. Thornhill judges rightly that excise is out of the question. It would be impossible to administer it either thriftily or effectually. Direct taxation - whether in the form of licenses or (Moturpha) Putta - which would produce anything like what is supposed to represent the loss to the State is out of the question. Very moderate direct taxation would kill the industry at once; for the manufacture is very costly and laborious, the manufacturers very poor. I think Mr. Thornhill's estimates are far short of the true cost of production. I have been assured on good authority that the average cost of manufacture is 50 Rs and upwards per piece in many parts and I believe it.

Mr. Thornhill proposes to fix a high license and limit production with the ulterior object of reducing and

and finally, suppressing the production of Earth-salt ~~and~~ altogether or of limiting it to the manufacture of what is required for the supply of cattle alone.

I believe that this is equally out of the question. Such a measure means giving a monopoly to a few privileged licenses to make as much as they can out of the poor. They will take all the margin between Sea-salt and Earth-salt, and it cannot help us for it will merely stimulate illicit traffic under the color of license and render detection almost impossible except under preventive conditions which must prove almost as costly and vexatious as Excise.

I think that there is no alternative between peremptory and entire suppression and leaving things much as they are - save the need of better regulation in Cuddapah and I am in favor of

of the latter alternative at present.

The Salt Revenue is rapidly increasing and all these 3 districts are paying their quota though of course not all they might pay, were no Earth-salt to be had and I think that the time is eminently inopportune when the question of adding enormously to the Salt duties of the Presidency, is under consideration, we may not only be suppressing a prescriptive right but may be introducing the charge simultaneously with a vast increase of taxation throughout the Presidency.

26th May 1873.

Signed W. Robinson
2nd Member of the
Board of Revenue

(True Copy)

J. G. Cole
Secretary

Chd. N. K. Appanij

89/4
REVENUE BOARD OFFICE,
Madras,
Dated 11th June 1873.

No. 828.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

With reference to Official Memorandum dated 4th June 1873, No. 114, the undersigned has the honor to forward to the Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, copy of the minute of the 2nd Member of the Board of Revenue dissenting from the views expressed in Board's letter, dated 30th May 1873, on the subject of the suppression of the manufacture of earth-salt.

(My Order)

J. G. G. G.
Secretary

For the Off. Under Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
with copy of minute

G. G. G. G.
Sd. Frank Apping

2/19/73

Enclosure in Off. Memo
from the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue to the
Off. Under Secretary to
Government, Revenue
Department, dated
11th June 1873, No. 828.

Copy of
Minute of 2nd Member
of the Board of Revenue
dissenting from Board's
letter dated 30th May
1873, regarding the
suppression of the
manufacture of
salt from earth-salt.

11/15/73
87-03

Recd 1893 Sept.
No 1/121

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

From

The Sub-Secretary to the

Board of Revenue,

To

Mr. Sub-Secretary
The Collector of
Revenue Dept.

Dated

11/15/73
June 1893

Received

by

No. 328

Transmitting copy of the
Minister's minute sheet
= of from news expressed
in Board's letter of 30 May
1893 regarding the
action of manufacturing
of salt from saline earth

215/224/73228 July 12, 1893