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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

910

B.P. No.

Press

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Dated

22-7-

1874

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,**
22nd July 1874.

No. 177. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th June 1874, No. 1,355 :—

Read again G. O., dated 22nd April 1873, No. 424, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 14th May 1873, No. 792.

Read also the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 13th September 1873, No. 985, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Import Duty on foreign-cured Salt-fish.*—Forwarding to the Board of Revenue, for report, papers from the Government of India suggesting whether — can be levied, and whether this Government is desirous of trying the experiment of salting enclosure where salt can be supplied at only a little above cost price.

Official Memorandum from J. STURROCK, Esq., Acting Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1874, No. 59.

ABSTRACT.—Calling for early reply to Government Order inquiring whether import duty can be levied on foreign-cured salt-fish, etc.

Replies from the Collectors to Board's Proceedings, dated 14th May 1873, No. 792.

From	Collr.	of	dated	No.
		Gaujam,	14th February 1874,	491.
„ Ag. „	„	of Vizagapatam,	11th October 1873,	1,491.
„ „ „	„	of the Godavery District	28th July „	248.
„ „ „	„	of the Kistna District	7th October „	1,504.
„ „ „	„	of Nellore,	19th June „	1,377.
„ „ „	„	of Madras,	27th November „	259.
„ „ „	„	of Chingleput,	13th October „	474.
„ „ „	„	of South Arcot,	18th June „	209.
„ „ „	„	of Tanjore,	8th October „	346.
„ „ „	„	of Madura,	„ December „	380.
„ „ „	„	of Tinnevely,	28th July „	395.
„ „ „	„	of South Canara,	6th June „	626.
„ „ „	„	of Malabar,	3rd December „	271.
„	Sanitary Commissioner for Madras,		27th May „	973.

recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 8th July 1873, No. 1,225.

In the first of the Orders quoted above the Board were requested to give their attention to the effect of the salt duty on the trade of fish-curing and to report in what form and to what extent a remedy, if found necessary, can be applied.

2. In their Proceedings under date 14th May 1873, No. 792, the Board

* The Board have since ascertained that the figures then given are considerably below the mark owing to certain omissions. Complete returns have now been called for.

quoted the returns* of the value of salt-fish imported to and exported from the Madras Presidency from 1863-60 to 1873-73 as indicating the existence of the germs of a prosperous trade in that commodity, the development of which might be materially promoted by relief from the burden of the salt-tax; and expressed a hope that no loss need result to the revenue by the adoption of a system of issuing

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd July 1874.*

salt to fish-curers at or about cost price, under certain limits and securities. All Collectors of Sea Coast Districts were called upon to report as to the feasibility of the measure suggested and as to the arrangements best calculated for carrying it into effect.

The opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, as to the effect on the public health of the use of insufficiently-salted fish, was at the same time solicited. A file of replies is annexed.

3. The Sanitary Commissioner is strongly of opinion that the use of semi-patrid fish is a frequent cause of sickness, and that the amount of salt employed in the process of fish-curing in vogue, both on the Eastern and Western Coasts, is insufficient to preserve the animal matter from decay. He further states that salt-fish as an article of diet is undoubtedly wholesome, and that any measure which can be devised for the improvement of the supply cannot but have a beneficial effect on the public health.

4. The Collectors consulted are not very sanguine of success. The difficulties pointed out by them are—

1st.—The opening afforded to fraud, and the probable injury to the salt revenue.

2nd.—The improbability of inducing the fishermen, who now pay nothing for the salt-earth and salt-water with which they cure their fish, to pay even the lowest rate at which it may be possible to offer salt, subject to the restriction of curing within certain limits.

3rd.—The impossibility of starting any enterprise, such as that proposed, without prohibiting the use of salt-earth for fish-curing and insisting on all fish-curing being conducted within the limits of the Government enclosure.

4. The Board do not anticipate any great difficulty in preventing the fraudulent use for other purposes of salt issued at a reduced price for fish-curing; the process of curing must, of course, be conducted under strict supervision, and within fixed limits. There is no reason why such enclosures should not be capable of being guarded quite as effectually as salt-pans, whilst salt is being made, or platforms where it is stored.

5. The second objection is much more valid, and the Board doubt whether the fishermen will, of their own accord, resort to Government curing-yards, at some cost and greater inconvenience, merely to be enabled to produce a better article. But they are decidedly of opinion that it would pay European firms and native capitalists to establish curing depôts in such situations as afford facilities for exportation by sea or land.

6. Doubtless all idea of a monopoly must be abandoned, the fishermen being still permitted to cure their fish in their own way, should they prefer to do so; if it can be demonstrated that the improved method holds out prospects of larger profits than the primitive mode in vogue, it may fairly be presumed that they will in time give in their adherence thereto.

7. In the second paper quoted at the head of these Proceedings, the views of the Board on the two following questions are required—

1st.—Whether an import duty should be imposed on all foreign-cured salt fish; and, if so, at what rate.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd July 1874.*

2nd.—Whether it is advisable to try the experiment of a Government salting enclosure, where salt shall be supplied at only a little above cost price; and, if so, where the experiment should be tried.

9. Before addressing Government on the subject the Board resolve to request the Chamber of Commerce to favour them with their opinion as to whether there is any probability of firms on the Coast embarking in the enterprise, together with their views on the questions raised by the Government of India, and any suggestions they can offer for promoting the industry.

10. In considering the question it must be understood that the Government must exercise sufficient supervision to prevent abuses; that all expenses of guarding, etc., must be included in the price to be charged for the salt; and that no monopoly can be allowed.

No. 178.

ORDER THEREON 22nd July 1874, No. 910.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.
Salt.

THE Governor in Council considers that the experiment of supplying salt at a little over cost price for the curing of fish should be tried at one place in each

coast district. The Board will, in communication with the Collectors, select the most convenient spot, say the largest fishing village in the neighborhood of a salt station, and have inexpensive enclosures and sheds erected for the purpose. The Board should lay down general rules for the supervision of the process and the prevention of fraud.

2. They will submit an estimate of the probable additional charge which the experiments will involve, and report how far it can be met, in the first instance, from savings in the Salt Budget.

3. The price at which the salt is to be sold should be sufficient to cover the charge, including the cost price of the salt. An approximate valuation is all that can be expected till some progress has been made in the experiment.

4. In the meantime, an estimate should be made and the details submitted for approval.

5. When this information is received, the Government of India will be addressed with reference to their letter recorded in G. O., 13th September 1873, No. 985.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Edw. R. Bantianan.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 13th September 1873, No. 985,
Revenue Department.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM from J. STURROCK, Esq., Acting Under Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort St. George, 27th March 1874, No. 59.

Replies from the Collector to Board's Proceedings, dated 14th May 1872, No. 792

In the first of the Orders quoted above the Board were requested to give their attention to the effect of the salt duty on the trade of fish-curing, and to report in what form, and to what extent, a remedy, if found necessary, can be applied.

2. In their Proceedings under date 14th May 1973, No. 792, the Board

* The Board have since ascertained that the figures then given are considerably below the mark owing to certain omissions. Complete returns have now been called for.

1873-78 as indicating "the existence of the germs of a prosperous trade in that commodity, the development of which ought to be materially promoted by relief from the burden of the salt-tax; and expressed a hope that no loss need result to the revenue by the adoption of a system of issuing salt to fish-curers at or about cost price, under certain limits and securities." All

Collectors of Sea Coast Districts were called upon to report as to the feasibility of the measure suggested, and as to the arrangements best calculated for carrying it into effect.

The opinion of the Sanitary Commissioner, as to the effect on the public health of the use of insufficiently-salted fish, was at the same time solicited. A file of replies is annexed.

3. The Sanitary Commissioner is strongly of opinion that the use of semi-patrid fish is a frequent cause of sickness, and that the amount of salt employed in the process of fish-curing in vogue, both on the Eastern and Western Coasts, is insufficient to preserve the animal matter from decay. He further states that salt-fish as an article of diet is undoubtedly wholesome, and that any measure which can be devised for the improvement of the supply cannot but have a beneficial effect on the public health.

4. The Collectors consulted are not very sanguine of success. The difficulties pointed out by them are—

1st.—The opening afforded to fraud, and the probable injury to the salt revenue.

2nd.—The improbability of inducing the fishermen, who now pay nothing for the salt-earth and salt water with which they cure their fish, to pay even the lowest rate at which it may be possible to offer salt, subject to the restriction of curing within certain limits.

Lastly.—The impossibility of starting any enterprise, such as that proposed, without prohibiting the use of salt-earth for fish-curing and insisting on *all* fish-curing being conducted within the limits of the Government enclosure.

5. The Board do not anticipate any great difficulty in preventing the use of salt-earth for other purposes of salt issued at a reduced price for fish-curing; the process of curing must, of course, be conducted under strict supervision, and within fixed limits. There is no reason why such enclosures should not be capable of being guarded quite as effectually as salt-pans, whilst salt is being made, or platforms where it is stored.

6. The second objection is much more valid, and the Board doubt whether the fishermen will, of their own accord, resort to Government curing yards, at some cost and greater inconvenience, merely to be enabled to produce a better article. But they are decidedly of opinion that it would pay European firms and native capitalists to establish curing depôts, in such situations as afford facilities for exportation by sea or land.

7. Doubtless all idea of a monopoly must be abandoned, the fishermen being still permitted to cure their fish in their own way, should they prefer to do so; if it can be demonstrated that the improved method holds out prospects of larger profits than the primitive mode in vogue, it may fairly be presumed that they will in time give in their adherence thereto.

8. In the second paper quoted at the head of these Proceedings the views of the Board on the two following questions are required:—

1st.—Whether an import duty should be imposed on all foreign-cured salt fish; and, if so, at what rate;

2nd.—Whether it is advisable to try the experiment of a Government salting enclosure, where salt shall be supplied at only a little above cost price; and, if so, where the experiment should be tried.

9. Before addressing Government on the subject the Board resolve to request the Chamber of Commerce to favour them with their opinion as to whether there is any probability of firms on the Coast embarking in the enterprise, together with their views on the questions raised by the Government of India, and any suggestions they can offer for promoting the industry.

10. In considering the question it must be understood that the Government must exercise sufficient supervision to prevent abuses; that all expenses of guarding, etc., must be included in the price to be charged for the salt; and that no monopoly can be allowed.

(A true Extract.)


Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,

with file of Collectors' replies.

the Chamber of Commerce, with Board's Proceedings,

dated 14th May 1873, No. 792; G. O., dated 13th September 1873,

No. 985, Revenue Department; and a file of replies.

Copy to all Collectors of Maritime Districts,

to the Sanitary Commissioner.

The reports of the Collectors are
 certainly not encouraging. They
 have been willing to drift & let the
 fishermen make use of salt for
 which they have to pay even an
 advanced price - and are conse-
 quently most difficultly in the
 way of smuggling. Still I
 think the experiment is worth
 a limited & cautious trial. It

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Revenue 1874. September

Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1, 1874.

20 2/158

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JUNE
 No. 1, 1874.

Salt for curing fish. - Reports of Collectors
 of Coast Districts on proposed issue of
 permits at a fixed cost price, under certain
 limits and conditions, submitted to Government
 with remarks, together with letter from Salt
 Tax Commission regarding use of permit
 with reference to questions referred by Govern-
 ment regarding levy of duty on foreign-
 cured salt fish and establishment of a Govern-
 ment salting agency.

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C. J. H. R. R.

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C. J. H. R. R.

is admitted that very little salt
is used in curing fish, owing to
the high rate of duty - and much
of the fish consumed may be so
This is a state of incivility, but
there can be no doubt that it
is a whole mass of an article of duty
I should be disposed to select
a few places - such for instance
as Calicut on the West Coast - &
Orissa & Patna on the East Coast
and if the fishermen will select
salt - to be used at (say) 8 or 12 lbs.

^{1/10}
would meet in broken line. En-
closed & sealed for the purpose.

J. P. S.

47

Letter of appeal - But we direct the Govt to
all Coast districts to select a place
- the largest fishing village - then
respecting districts - at what
to be proposed by the Government

7/2 1862

I agree it would direct Mr. Noad
to take measures for trying
the experiment, in the manner
suggested by Mr. Robinson. He must

11/17

inform the Govt of India accordingly
in reference to ~~the~~ the
provisions asked in their letter of 1/3
1874 (see Rec. post of 10/1/74)

12/7



3610
No 910 Revenue Department.
Proceedings of the Madras Government.
Order date the 22nd July 1874.

Read the following Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting Reports of collection
of Coast Districts on proposed
issue of salt for curing fish
to curers at or about cost price
under certain limits & securities

H. S. 5th June 1874. N^o 1355.

S. O. S.
15.7

1874

The Governor in
Council considers that the
experiment of supplying
salt at a little over cost price
for the curing of fish, should
be tried at one place in each
Coast district. The Board
will, in communication with
the Collectors, select the most
convenient spot, among the largest
fishing villages in the neighbourhood of a post station
and have inexpensive end

and should be for the purpose
The Board should lay down
general rules for the supervision
of the process and the preven-
tion of fraud.

They will submit an in-
formation of the probable ad-
ditional charges which the
experiments will involve, and
report how far it can be
met, in the first instance,
from savings on the salt
budget.

The price at which the
salt is to be sold should
be sufficient to cover the charges
including the cost of the
salt. An approximate
valuation is all that can
be expected. It will show progress
in the matter. It will show
the number of pounds
of salt which will be sold
at the price offered.
It will show the
approximate value of the
salt.

of India will be addressed
with reference to their letter
recorded in G.O. 13 September
1843 N° 985.

CW

To B. Munn 3/8/74

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117-118

Cybernetic Art