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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1056 Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 12.7.1965 196—.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 147. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd May 1875, No. 1,139 :—

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1875, No. 132 :—

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1875, Miscellaneous No. 507, I have the honor to submit, herewith, copy of a letter from the Salt Deputy Collector, dated 9th March 1875, No. 29, reporting upon the swamp called Kalimangundu Tharavai.

2. The swamp is situated four miles to the east of the village of Tirupalanai and as many miles to the north-east of the Morekolum salt station. The tract from which the spontaneous salt was collected last year measured 1,500 yards by 200 yards.

3. The swamp in question has been regularly inspected since 1864. In 1864 and 1865 no salt was formed. In 1866, 1867, and 1868 a small quantity of salt which cropped up was destroyed. In April 1869 a deposit of salt in an area of 150 yards by 50 was reported to have been destroyed. Between 1870 and 1873 no salt was formed. The heavy rain in November 1869 flooded the swamp, and water remained in it till 1874, when 22,263 maunds of salt were collected and stored at a cost of Rupees 1,350-3-3.

4. The Deputy Collector states that, before hydrometers were furnished, the state of the brine in swamps had to be guessed and measures for destruction were only taken on the actual appearance of salt; the destructive operation was no more than the turning up of mud upon the salt. Since the receipt of hydrometers, the brine in the swamps is tested regularly, and when there is a probability of good salt fit for collection cropping up, the brine is allowed to evaporate and deposit salt; otherwise the brine is drained from the swamp.

5. On the 31st October 1874 the Deputy Collector brought to my notice that the ground upon which the 19 heaps, containing 22,263 maunds of salt, referred to in paragraph 3, had been stored, is close to the swamp, and forms the bank of it, and that, if the heavy rains which visited other districts in that month should set in, the bank would probably be flooded and the salt heaps damaged, and that it was, therefore, desirable to get the spontaneous salt off our hands as quickly as possible. With this view, and to induce traders who disliked the spontaneous salt to buy it, he proposed that a discount of one anna in the rupee, or 6¼ per cent., should be allowed to retail purchasers, and this discount *plus* five per cent. to wholesale dealers purchasing entire heaps.

6. In the above circumstances, I sanctioned the proposal of the Deputy Collector considering it emergent, but the Board's sanction was not obtained through inadvertence.

7. A sum of Rupees 2,000 was entered in the budget statement submitted by the Salt Deputy Collector for 1874-75 for the collection and destruction of spontaneous salt, but in the sanctioned allotment communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1874, No. 2,543, the above sum was cut down to Rupees 200, and he was not aware of this reduction till after the completion

of the collection of the salt from Kalimangundu: hence the excess expenditure over the budget allotment.

8. Four Kavalgars, on Rupees 6 each a month, were employed to collect the spontaneous salt. When it was stored, the services of one Kavalgar were dispensed with, and one man on Rupees 6 and two men on Rupees 5 each have been employed from the 26th October 1874. The heaps were watched by these men till the opening of sale on the 2nd December 1874. Since then they have been employed as measurer and vettians* for carrying and weighing salt and repairing the covering of the heaps.

	Rs.
* One Measurer	6
Two Vettians	10
Total ...	16

9. The Deputy Collector originally estimated that the aforesaid 19 heaps would be disposed of in three months, but he has been disappointed in his estimate for the reason stated in paragraph 8 of his letter referred to above.

10. With a view to the speedy disposal of the salt, the Deputy Collector now proposes† that higher rates of discount be offered to purchasers. He states that, if the salt remains in store, the evaporation of the moisture will lighten the salt and crumble the crystals, and recommends that a discount of 12½ per cent. to retail, and 17½ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers may be allowed. In the existing circumstances, I submit this recommendation for the Board's favorable consideration.

† *Vide* paragraph 9 of his letter.

11. It is estimated that with the above liberal rates the salt now on hand, *viz.*, 19,651 maunds, may be sold in four months. Sanction is, therefore, requested for the continuance of the establishment of measurer and vettians referred to in paragraph 8 and of the police guard sanctioned in G.O., dated 2nd February 1875, No. 168, Revenue Department. As regards the continuance of the police guard, I have applied to the Inspector-General of Police.

12. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Official Memorandum, dated 28th January 1875, No. 137, I beg to state that in future wholesale and retail transactions will be shown separately in the monthly account-currents.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From N. RAMASAMY, Deputy Collector, Salt Department, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 9th March 1875, No. 29.

I HAVE the honor to furnish the information called for in your letter, No. 311, dated the 8th ultimo, and docket on Board's Proceedings, No. 85, dated 15th January 1875.

2. The swamp called Kalimangundu Tharavai is situated four miles to the east of the village of Tirupalanai and as many miles to the north-east of the Morekolum salt station. The tract from which spontaneous salt was collected last year measured 1,500 yards by 200 yards. My proceedings in connection with the operations at Kalimangundu were reported in diaries from 8th August to 2nd December 1874.

3. The swamp in question has been regularly inspected from 1864. In 1864 and 1865 no salt was formed. In 1866, 1867, and 1868 a small quantity of salt which cropped up was destroyed. In April 1869 a deposit of salt, 150 yards by 50, was reported to have been destroyed. From 1870 to 1873 no salt was formed. The heavy rain in November 1860 flooded the swamp, and water had since remained in it till 1874, when 22,263 maunds of salt were collected and stored at a cost of Rupees 1,350-3-3.

4. Before hydrometers were furnished to the Salt Department, the state of the brine in salt-forming swamps had to be guessed, and measures for destruction were only taken on the actual appearance of salt; the destructive operation, as I have often brought to notice, was no more than the turning up of mud upon the salt.

5. Since the receipt of hydrometers the brine in the swamps is tested regularly, and when there is a probability of good salt fit for collection cropping up, the brine is allowed to evaporate and deposit salt; otherwise the brine is drained from the swamp.

6. With a view to meet the expenses attending the destruction, and, if necessary, the collection of spontaneous salt, I entered Rupees 2,000 in the Budget Statement for 1874-75 submitted by me on the 28th August 1873, but in the sanctioned allotment communicated in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,543, dated 9th September 1874, a spare copy of which reached me only on the 14th October 1874, the sum of Rupees 2,000 was cut down to Rupees 250. I calculated upon the provision made by me, but I was unaware of the reduction of the sum till after the completion of the collection of the salt from Kalimangundu on the 8th October 1874.

Collector's letter, No. 311, dated 8th February 1875, paragraph 1, clause 1.

7. During the collection of the salt, I had employed four Kavalgars on Rs. 6 each a-month. On the completion of the storage, I dispensed with one of them, and employed, from the 26th October last, one man on Rupees 6 and two men on Rupees 5 each. The watch of the heaps was performed by these men till the opening of the sale on the 2nd December on the arrival of the Police. Since they are employed as measurer and vettians for carrying and weighing salt and repairing the covering of the heaps. This temporary establishment was employed without obtaining previous sanction under the idea that the charge was of a contingent nature and did not require previous sanction. Copy of my order, dated 26th October 1874, appointing the temporary servants, was, in due course, submitted for your information.

Collector's letter, No. 311, dated 8th February 1875, paragraph 1, clause 2.

	Rs.
One Measurer...	6
Two Vettians	10
	16

8. I have been extremely disappointed in my estimate of the time within which the spontaneous salt might be sold with the discount of 6¼ per cent. to retail, and 11¼ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers. I calculated upon the average sale at Morekolum that the heaps would be cleared off in three months. The crystals of the spontaneous salt are larger and heavier than the manufactured salt; it has not been, therefore, notwithstanding the discount allowed, in favor with the traders, and has not found an active sale. The first two heaps at Kalimangundu were sold off in fifteen days. The inducement of a discount was the cause, but the traders who once bought salt here did not return; for, though they gained by the discount allowed, I am informed they could not compete in the interior market with the retailers of manufactured salt bought from Government depôts, and which is preferred by the consumers.

Collector's letter, No. 311, dated 8th February 1875, paragraph 2.

9. The sale at Kalimangundu is very dull, being only one maund a-day purchased by fishermen. I waited to bring the matter to your notice till the expiration of the three months calculated by me. I consider it now expedient that higher rates of discount be offered to purchasers if a speedy disposal of the salt be wished for. If the salt remained in store during the current year, the drainage of the moisture would lighten the salt and crumble the crystals, but it is not desirable to keep the spontaneous salt long in store both on account of the wastage which may occur in the heaps and the want of the necessary protection of a regular platform. Accordingly I beg to recommend that a discount of 12½ per cent. to retail, and 17½ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers

may be allowed, and I trust that with these liberal rates of discount, and with a good communication to Kalimangundu from Tirupalanai, the salt now on hand, maunds 19,651, may be sold off in four months, or by the end of June next. I have, therefore, the honor to request that sanction may be sought for the continuance of the establishment of measurer and vettians and the police guard till the end of June 1875.

10. I would also suggest—but the suggestion, I apprehend, will cause inconvenience to traders—to close the sale at Morekolum and Attengarai with a view to expedite the sale at Kalimangundu.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G.O., dated 2nd February 1875, No. 168.

2. It appears that 22,263 maunds of spontaneous salt were collected and stored on a swamp about four miles north-east of the Morekolum salt station in Madura at a cost stated to amount to Rupees 1,350-3-3. To secure a speedy sale, the Collector authorized the grant of a special discount of one anna in the rupee, or 6¼ per cent., to retail purchasers, wholesale purchasers being allowed in addition the usual five per cent. discount for wastage. It was estimated that the salt would be disposed of in three months; but, owing to its not being in favor with traders, sales have not been brisk, and 19,651 maunds still remain. The Collector recommends an increased discount of 12½ per cent. to retail, and 17½ per cent. to wholesale purchasers, and an application for the continued employment of the police guard sanctioned in G.O., 6th February 1875, No. 265, Financial Department, for a further period of four months, has already been submitted to Government.

Board's Proceedings, 19th April 1875, No. 961.

3. It appears that a small extra establishment, costing Rupees 16 per mensem is employed, but whether this item is included in the cost of storage is not stated, nor does the Collector explain how the sum of Rupees 1,350 has been adjusted. The budget allotment for the collection and destruction of spontaneous salt being only Rupees 250, the Board presume that the cost of storage must have been improperly debited to manufacture.

4. The Collector's action in granting a special rate of discount was illegal; it does not appear that the wastage in this instance was excessive, and the grant of special discount, except to cover exceptional wastage, is beyond the competence even of the Board and the Local Government, the price to be charged being fixed by law at Rupees 2 per maund. The salt being apparently unsaleable under existing conditions, the only course open appears to be to destroy it.

5. The Board, however, deem this a favorable opportunity for representing to Government the difficulty of dealing with these extensive salt swamps and of disposing of the salt under the existing state of the law. The spontaneous salt which now forms on these swamps must either be collected or destroyed. Destruction is now attempted either by flooding the swamp with fresh water when such a course is feasible, which is frequently not the case, or by turning in herds of buffaloes to trample the salt in, but the Board believe that this is very ineffectually done, and that, owing to the vast extent of the swamps and the numbers

who engage in pilfering, the guarding is very inefficient. There is no shelter for the guard, and the police are unable to deal with the large gangs that assemble to carry off the salt. These difficulties are sufficiently illustrated by the correspondence recorded in the marginally-noted papers and in G.O., dated 4th May 1874, No. 544.

Board's Proceedings,	5th July 1873,	No.	1,202.
Do.	23rd Sept. ,,	,,	1,910.
Do.	5th Nov. ,,	,,	2,251.
Do.	13th May 1874,	,,	1,122.
Do.	7th July ,,	,,	1,714.

6. It is hardly necessary to observe that such a system affords considerable opening for fraud, and tends to demoralize all concerned—Revenue officials, Police, and the people in the neighbourhood.

7. Such being the case, it would appear preferable to endeavor to utilize the salt. Looking to the increasing demand both for export and home consumption, it appears very desirable that an endeavor should be made to render this salt available for use, and the possibility of substituting it for Bombay salt for the supply of the West Coast Districts and Travancore suggests itself for consideration. Owing to its greater weight as compared with that manufactured at most stations, the merchants who buy by weight and sell by measure will not purchase it; it has also been alleged that the people of the Coast object to it on the ground that it is unwholesome, but the Board believe that there is but little ground for this prejudice, and that it is not shared by the inhabitants of the interior. Swamp salt would probably be freely taken were special inducements held out so as to enable the merchants to realize the same rate of profit as on manufactured salt.

8. The Board have recently considered the subject after calling for the views of Collectors and decided that nothing could be done except by the offer of a special discount which the change in the law which was then under discussion might facilitate. Since then the Madras Salt Act, No. XI. of 1875, has become law, but has only as yet been extended to the two West Coast Districts under the notification dated 9th March.

Proceedings, 2nd March 1875, No. 496.

G. O., 9th March 1875, No. 390.

9. But, even if this Act were extended to the East Coast Districts, it would only enable the Government to offer a special discount of 6¼ per cent., and this rate has been found to be insufficient in the case under notice. Under Section 3 the cost of storage, sale, and wastage must be added to the duty; allowing the small sum of one* anna per maund for this, the utmost concession that could legally be made would be a reduction of two annas per maund, or 6¼ per cent.

* The cost of collecting 22,263 maunds is given at Rupees 1,350, or nearly one anna per maund, but it is not stated what this sum includes.

10. The difference in weight between spontaneous and manufactured salt, however, has been found to amount to as much as 73 per cent. in some cases (*vide* paragraph 115 of Dr. Ratton's Report on the South Canara District); and, comparing the swamp salt of Kalimangundu Tharávai (on the assumption that its weight is similar to that of Vedarniem swamp salt, *viz.*, 74 oz. per measure of 115·5 cubic inches) with the manufactured salt of the neighboring station of Morekolum, with which it would be brought into competition, stated at page 83 of Dr. Ratton's

Report on the Southern Districts to be 68 oz. per measure, the difference is nine per cent. It is, therefore, clear that the margin allowed by Act XI. of 1875 is insufficient.

11. The Board would suggest that the Local Government should be empowered to remit a portion of the duty in the special case of swamp salt. The only alternative is to destroy it or to force it on the public in some localities by providing no other for the traders to take.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 148. ORDER THEREON, 13th July 1875, No. 1,056.

Separate Revenue, No. 17.
Salt.

IN these Proceedings the Board of Revenue, while bringing to notice a difficulty which has arisen as to the disposal of a quantity of spontaneous salt collected in a swamp called Kalimangundu in the Madura District, take the opportunity of representing the difficulty generally of dealing with extensive salt swamps under the existing law.

2. The practice hitherto has been to destroy the salt, but it is believed that this is very ineffectually done even when the persons employed in the work are honestly desirous of carrying it out, and this is probably seldom the case owing to the opening for fraud afforded by the system and its tendency to demoralize all concerned.

3. The present case is an example of the difficulty of carrying out the alternative system of utilising the article. If regarded as governed by the law which regulates the sale of manufactured salt everywhere, except in Malabar and Canara, the price is prohibitive owing partly to the unpopularity of this description of salt among consumers, partly to its very much greater density which operates against traders who have to buy by weight and sell by measure, and partly to the increased cost of carriage incurred by purchasers in consequence of the remote localities where this salt is produced.

4. The Government have not before them information to show whether the salt could be economically carried to the nearest depôt and sold on the same terms as ordinary salt, in other words whether the removal of the third objection would alone suffice to secure the disposal of the article at 2 Rs. a-maund *minus* the usual discount. They consider, however, that there is another alternative, and are not of opinion that Act XXIV. of 1869 fixes a minimum as regards this description of salt, which is not *manufactured*, but *spontaneously* produced. The production of such salt cannot be prevented, nor can the article be effectually destroyed, and it may, therefore, become necessary, in order to prevent a certain loss of revenue by its collection and consumption by private parties, to collect it on behalf of Government and sell it either on the spot or at the nearest depôt at such reduced rate as shall be found calculated to secure to dealers the same profit as would accrue to them from transactions in the manufactured article.

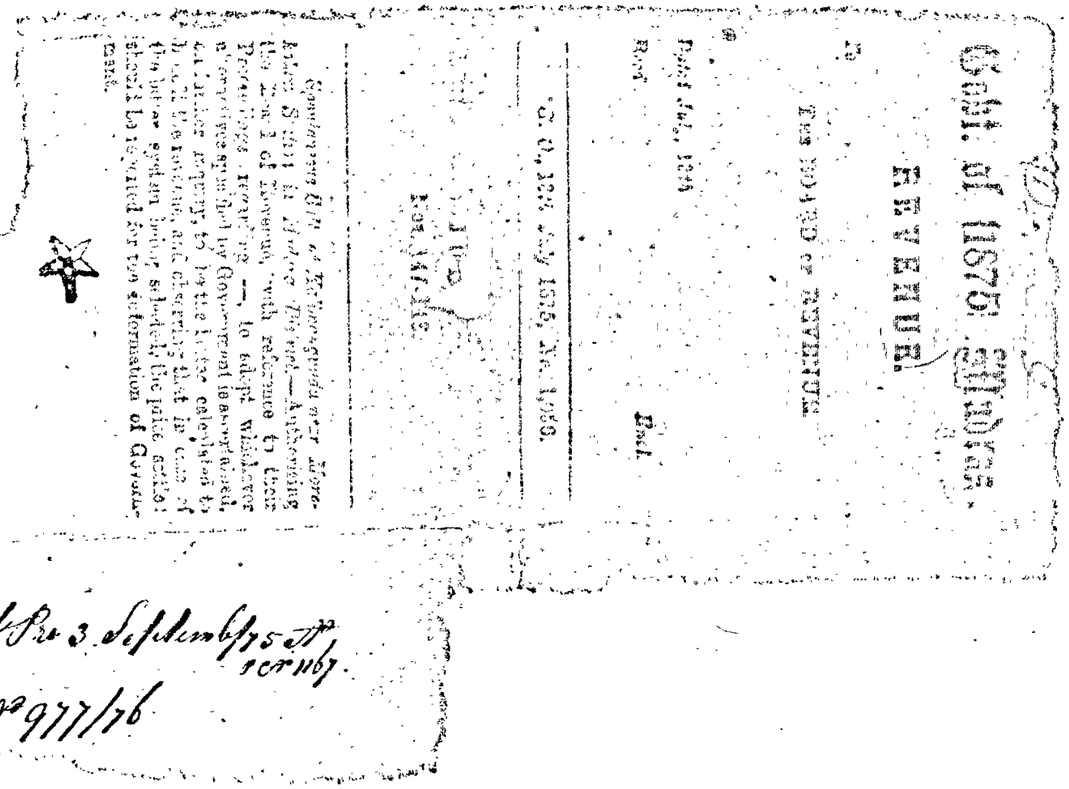
5. The Board are accordingly authorized to adopt whichever of the above alternatives is ascertained, on further inquiry, to be the better calculated to benefit the revenue; in case of the latter system being selected, the price settled should be reported for the information of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.



No. 1,139.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 3rd May 1875.

Read the following letter from W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, to H. E. STOKES, Esq, Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th March 1875, No. 132:—

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 25th January 1875, Miscellaneous No. 507, I have the honor to submit, herewith, copy of a letter from the Salt Deputy Collector, dated 9th March 1875, No. 29, reporting upon the swamp called Kalimangundu Tharavai.

2. The swamp is situated four miles to the east of the village of Tirupalanai and as many miles to the north-east of the Morekolum salt station. The tract from which the spontaneous salt was collected last year measured 1,500 yards by 200 yards.

3. The swamp in question has been regularly inspected since 1864. In 1864 and 1865 no salt was formed. In 1866, 1867, and 1868 a small quantity of salt which cropped up was destroyed. In April 1869 a deposit of salt in an area of 150 yards by 50 was reported to have been destroyed. Between 1870 and 1873 no salt was formed. The heavy rain in November 1869 flooded the swamp, and water remained in it till 1874, when 22,263 maunds of salt were collected and stored at a cost of Rupees 1,350-3-3.

4. The Deputy Collector states that, before hydrometers were furnished, the state of the brine in swamps had to be guessed and measures for destruction were only taken on the actual appearance of salt; the destructive operation was no more than the turning up of mud upon the salt. Since the receipt of hydrometers, the brine in the swamps is tested regularly, and when there is a probability of good salt fit for collection cropping up, the brine is allowed to evaporate and deposit salt; otherwise the brine is drained from the swamp.

5. On the 31st October 1874 the Deputy Collector brought to my notice that the ground upon which the 19 heaps, containing 22,263 maunds of salt, referred to in paragraph 3, had been stored, is close to the swamp, and forms the bank of it, and that, if the heavy rains which visited other districts in that month should set in, the bank would probably be flooded and the salt heaps damaged, and that it was, therefore, desirable to get the spontaneous salt off our hands as quickly as possible. With this view, and to induce traders who disliked the spontaneous salt to buy it, he proposed that a discount of one anna in the rupee, or 6¼ per cent., should be allowed to retail purchasers, and this discount *plus* five per cent. to wholesale dealers purchasing entire heaps.

6. In the above circumstances, I sanctioned the proposal of the Deputy Collector considering it emergent, but the Board's sanction was not obtained through inadvertence.

7. A sum of Rupees 2,000 was entered in the budget statement submitted by the Salt Deputy Collector for 1874-75 for the collection and destruction of spontaneous salt, but in the sanctioned allotment communicated with Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1874, No. 2,543, the above sum was cut down

to Rupeees 200, and he was not aware of this reduction till after the completion of the collection of the salt from Kalimangundu: hence the excess expenditure over the budget allotment.

8. Four Kavalgars, on Rupees 6 each a month, were employed to collect the spontaneous salt. When it was stored, the services of one Kavalgar were dispensed with, and one man on Rupees 6 and two men on Rupees 5 each have been employed from the 26th October 1874. The heaps were watched by these men till the opening of sale on the 2nd December 1874. Since then they have been employed as measurer and vettians* for carrying and weighing salt and repairing the covering of the heaps

	Rs.
*One Measurer	6
Two Vettians	10
Total ...	16

9. The Deputy Collector originally estimated that the aforesaid 19 heaps would be disposed of in three months, but he has been disappointed in his estimate for the reason stated in paragraph 8 of his letter referred to above.

10. With a view to the speedy disposal of the salt, the Deputy Collector now proposes† that higher rates of discount be offered to purchasers. He states that, if the salt remains in store, the evaporation of the moisture will lighten the salt and crumble the crystals, and recommends that a discount of 12½ per cent. to retail, and 17½ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers may be allowed. In the existing circumstances, I submit this recommendation for the Board's favorable consideration.

† *Vide* paragraph 9 of his letter.

11. It is estimated that with the above liberal rates the salt now on hand viz., 19,000 maunds, may be sold in four months. Sanction is, therefore, requested for the continuance of the establishment of measurer and vettians referred to in paragraph 8 and of the police guard sanctioned in G. O., dated 2nd February 1875, No. 168, Revenue Department. As regards the continuance of the police guard, I have applied to the Inspector-General of Police.

12. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Board's Official Memorandum, dated 28th January 1875, No. 137, I beg to state that in future wholesale and retail transactions will be shown separately in the monthly account-currents.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From N. RAMASAMY, Deputy Collector, Salt Department, to. W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 9th March 1875, No. 29.

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4. Before hydrometers were furnished to the Salt Department, the state of the brine in salt-forming swamps had to be guessed, and measures for destruction were only taken on the actual appearance of salt; the destructive operation, as I have often brought to notice, was no more than the turning up of mud upon the salt.

5. Since the receipt of hydrometers the brine in the swamps is tested regularly, and when there is a probability of good salt fit for collection cropping up, the brine is allowed to evaporate and deposit salt; otherwise the brine is drained from the swamp.

6. With a view to meet the expenses attending the destruction, and, if necessary, the collection of spontaneous salt, I entered Rupees 2,000 in the Budget Statement for 1874-75 submitted by me on the 28th August 1873, but in the sanctioned allotment communicated in Board's Proceedings, No. 2,543, dated 9th September 1874, a spare copy of which reached me only on the 14th October 1874, the sum of Rupees 2,000 was cut down to Rupees 250. I calculated upon the provision made by me, but I was unaware of the reduction of the sum till after the completion of the collection of the salt from Kalimangundu on the 8th October 1874.

Collector's letter, No. 311, dated 8th February 1875, paragraph 1, clause 1.

7. During the collection of the salt, I had employed four Kavalgars on Rs. 6 each a-month. On the completion of the storage, I dispensed with one of them, and employed, from the 26th October last, one man on Rupees 6 and two men on Rupees 5 each. The watch of the heaps was performed by these men till the opening of the sale on the 2nd December on the arrival of the Police. Since they are employed as measurer and vettians for carrying and weighing salt and repairing the covering of the heaps. This temporary establishment was employed without obtaining previous sanction under the idea that the charge was of a contingent nature and did not require previous sanction. Copy of my order, dated 26th October 1874, appointing the temporary servants, was, in due course, submitted for your information.

Collector's letter, No. 311, dated 8th February 1875, paragraph 1, clause 2.

	Rs.
One Measurer...	6
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8. I have been extremely disappointed in my estimate of the time within which the spontaneous salt might be sold with the discount of 6¼ per cent. to retail, and 11½ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers. I calculated upon the average sale at Morekolum that the heaps would be cleared off in three months. The crystals of the spontaneous salt are larger and heavier than the manufactured salt; it has not been, therefore, notwithstanding the discount allowed, in favor with the traders, and has not found an active sale. The first two heaps at Kalimangundu were sold off in fifteen days. The inducement of a discount was the cause, but the traders who once bought salt here did not return; for, though they gained by the discount allowed, I am informed they could not compete in the interior market with the retailers of manufactured salt bought from Government depôts, and which is preferred by the consumers.

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9. The sale at Kalimangundu is very dull, being only one maund a-day purchased by fishermen. I waited to bring the matter to your notice till the expiration of the three months calculated by me. I consider it now expedient that higher rates of discount be offered to purchasers if a speedy disposal of the salt be wished for. If the salt remained in store during the current year, the drainage of the moisture would lighten the salt and crumble the crystals, but it is not desirable to keep the spontaneous salt long in store both on account of the wastage which may occur in the heaps and the want of the necessary protection of a regular platform. Accordingly I beg to

recommend that a discount of 12½ per cent. to retail, and 17½ per cent. to wholesale, purchasers may be allowed, and I trust that with these liberal rates of discount, and with a good communication to Kalimangundu from Tirupalanai, the salt now on hand, maunds 19,651, may be sold off in four months, or by the end of June next. I have, therefore, the honor to request that sanction may be sought for the continuance of the establishment of measurer and vettians and the police guard till the end of June 1875.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to G. O., dated 2nd February 1875, No. 168.

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Board's Proceedings, 16th April 1875, No. 601.

3. It appears that a small extra establishment, costing Rupees 16 per mensem, is employed, but whether this item is included in the cost of storage is not stated, nor does the Collector explain how the sum of Rupees 1,350 has been adjusted. The budget allotment for the collection and destruction of spontaneous salt being only Rupees 250, the Board presume that the cost of storage must have been improperly debited to manufacture.

4. The Collector's action in granting a special rate of discount was illegal; it does not appear that the wastage in this instance was excessive, and the grant of special discount, except to cover exceptional wastage, is beyond the competence even of the Board and the Local Government, the price to be charged being fixed by law at Rupees 2 per maund. The salt being apparently unsaleable under existing conditions, the only course open appears to be to destroy it.

5. The Board, however, deem this a favorable opportunity for representing to Government the difficulty of dealing with these extensive salt swamps and of disposing of the salt under the existing state of the law. The spontaneous salt which now forms on these swamps must either be collected or destroyed. Destruction is now attempted either by flooding the swamp with fresh water when such a course is feasible, which is frequently not the case, or by turning in herds of buffaloes to trample the salt in, but the Board believe that this is very ineffectually done, and that, owing to the vast extent of the swamps and the numbers who engage in pilfering, the guarding is very inefficient. There is no shelter for the guard, and the police are unable to deal with the large gangs that assemble to carry off the salt. These difficulties are sufficiently illustrated by the correspondence recorded in the marginally-noted papers and in G. O., dated 4th May 1874, No. 544.

Board's Proceedings,	5th July 1873,	No.	1,202.
Do.	23rd Sept. ,,	,,	1,910.
Do.	5th Nov. ,,	,,	2,251.
Do.	13th May 1874,	,,	1,122.
Do.	7th July ,,	,,	1,714.

6. It is hardly necessary to observe that such a system affords considerable opening for fraud, and tends to demoralize all concerned—Revenue officials, Police, and the people in the neighbourhood.

7. Such being the case, it would appear preferable to endeavor to utilize the salt. Looking to the increasing demand both for export and home-consumption, it appears very desirable that an endeavor should be made to render this salt available for use, and the possibility of substituting it for Bombay salt for the supply of the West Coast Districts and Travancore suggests itself for consideration. Owing to its greater weight as compared with that manufactured at most stations, the merchants who buy by weight and sell by measure will not purchase it; it has also been alleged that the people of the Coast object to it on the ground that it is unwholesome, but the Board believe that there is but little ground for this prejudice, and that it is not shared by the inhabitants of the interior. Swamp salt would probably be freely taken were special inducements held out so as to enable the merchants to realize the same rate of profit as on manufactured salt.

5. The Board have recently considered the subject after calling for the views of Collectors and decided that nothing could be done except by the offer of a special discount which the change in the law which was then under discussion might facilitate. Since then the Madras Salt Act, No. XI. of 1875, has become law, but has only as yet been extended to the two West Coast Districts under the notification dated 9th March.

Proceedings, 2nd March 1875, No. 496.

G. O., 9th March 1875, No. 390.

8. But, even if this Act were extended to the East Coast Districts, it would only enable the Government to offer a special discount of 6¼ per cent., and this rate has been found to be insufficient in the case under notice. Under Section 3 the cost of storage, sale, and wastage must be added to the duty; allowing the small sum of one* anna per maund for this, the utmost concession that could legally be made would be a reduction of two annas per maund, or 6¼ per cent.

* The cost of collecting 22,263 maunds is given at Rupees 1,350, or nearly one anna per maund, but it is not stated what this sum includes.

9. The difference in weight between spontaneous and manufactured salt, however, has been found to amount to as much as 73 per cent. in some cases (*vide* paragraph 115 of Dr. Ratton's Report on the South Canara District); and, comparing the swamp salt of Kalimangundu Tharavai (on the assumption that its weight is similar to that of Vedarniem swamp salt, *viz.*, 74 oz. per measure of 115·5 cubic

nches) with the manufactured salt of the neighboring station of Morekolum, with which it would be brought into competition, stated at page 83 of Dr. Ratton's Report on the Southern Districts to be 68 oz. per measure, the difference is nine per cent. It is, therefore, clear that the margin allowed by Act XI. of 1875 is insufficient.

10. The Board would suggest that the Local Government should be empowered to remit a portion of the duty in the special case of swamp salt. The only alternative is to destroy it or to force it on the public in some localities by providing no other for the traders to take.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copies of Board's Proceedings, dated 5th July 1873, No. 1,202;
23rd September 1873, No. 1,910; 5th November 1873, No. 2,251;
13th May 1874, No. 1,122; and 7th July 1874, No. 1,714.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.
,, to Dr. J. L. Ratton.

Edd. J. W. Fischer.

Proceedings, 3rd May 1875, No. 1,139.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

Dated 12th April 1875.

Encls.

Rec'd 10th July 1875—

Received 24 June

MAY.
No. 1,139.

Spontaneous Salt—at Kalimangunda near Morekolum Station in Madura District.—Letter from Collector forwarding report of Deputy Collector on — submitted to Government with remarks regarding Collector's action in granting a special rate of discount. Difficulty of dealing with extensive salt swamps and of disposing of the salt under the existing state of law represented, and opinion expressed that for certain reasons the Local Government should be empowered to remit a portion of the duty in special cases where the salt is unsaleable.

No. 1,910.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd September 1873.

Read the following letter from A. SUDERSHANA ROW, Deputy Collector on General Duties, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Akvid, 16th August 1873, No. 207 :—

As directed in your Official Memorandum, dated the 17th ultimo, No. 179, I beg to furnish the information called for in paragraph 2 of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 5th idem, No. 1,202.

2. I held several private inquiries regarding the alleged clandestine use of spontaneous salt in villages east of the Narsapur Taluq the results of which clearly show that the salt-creeks, which are very extensive and which are in secluded position in the Nagaram Island, produce annually large quantities of spontaneous salt in hot weather from natural causes, and that the article is gathered and used by the people with much tactness and secretness.

3. I submit that in former days the practice was to have such salt destroyed by making cattle to trod upon it. Now such a course is not adopted. It is no wonder that the high prices of manufactured salt and the facilities of obtaining swamp salt would afford room to awful temptations.

4. The enclosed copy of a demi-official letter of the Deputy Tahsildar and 3rd Class Magistrate located at Sivacodu, in the island, does throw some light upon the matter.

5. I am sorry that I am not yet successful in discovering the places where this salt is said to have had stored; in fact, since the date of my letter of the 3rd May 1873, No. 99, I had not much time to go and inspect the salt-creeks, etc., as I had the magisterial charge of the Tanuku Taluq from the middle of that month to the beginning of this month in addition to the duties of my division.

6. During the last seven months of this year eleven cases, involving 180 seers of spontaneous salt, were tried in this division, and the people who had possession of it were convicted and visited with adequate punishments. The detection of the crime could safely be said to be very poor. The salt was found in certain houses, but not in salt-creeks, etc.

7. There are two Police stations in the Nagaram Island, viz., one at Sivacodu and another at Nagaram, but they are not in the vicinity of the scene of the crime. The tired Beat Constables, who scarcely go out of the way leading from one village to another, cannot be expected to be a check upon the evil.

8. In my humble opinion, some additional Police force would be necessary to look after the salt-creeks, etc., and get spontaneous salt destroyed occasionally.

9. I beg respectfully to assure you that I would keep always a sharp eye over the matter with a view to arrest the progress of the fraud.

P. S.—The other day, when I went to the village of Kalawapudy on duty, the people there informed me that in the Kistna District swamp salt is being collected from the salt-creeks near the Bantumilly Cotaurs and stored on the platform for sale purposes as crystals are large and their colour is white.

No. 270.

FORWARDED to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, dated 5th July last, No. 1,202.

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

COCANADA,
26th August 1873.

THE Collector is requested to report why the old custom of destroying spontaneous salt has been disused. The effectual destruction of such salt is an important part of the duty of the Salt Department, and the Board expect its performance in future.

2. It is believed that spontaneous salt is not found in sufficient quantities in the Godavery District to admit of its being profitably stored on Government account, but the Deputy Collector will pay special attention to the subject and the Board will request Dr. Ratton's opinion.

3. If absolutely necessary the Collector may apply for a small temporary establishment at the season when the duty of destroying swamp salt becomes pressing: the Board believe, however, that it was always discharged formerly by the regular establishment.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. ST. A. GOODRICH,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of the Godavery District.
" Dr. Ratton, on Special Duty,
with Board's Proceedings, dated 5th July 1873, No. 1,202.
Copy to the Inspector-General of Police.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Board of Revenue, 1873. MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD SEPTEMBER 1873, No. 1,910.

Encl.

Rec'd 24/9/73

Received

SEPTEMBER.

No. 1,910.

Salt—*Spontaneous*—in Godavery District.—Collector to report why old custom of destroying — has been disused, and to apply, if necessary, for a small temporary establishment at season when duty of destroying swamp salt becomes pressing. Opinion of Dr. Ratton requested on subject.

No. 2,251.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th November 1873.

Read the following letter from Surgeon J. J. L. RATTON, M.D., Special duty, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 30th September 1873, No. 20 :—

As requested by the Board in Proceedings, No. 1,910, dated 23rd September 1873, I have the honour to forward an opinion as to the disposal of spontaneous salt in the Godavery District.

2. I passed through the district in the month of March last year (1872), at a time when the coast road or rather track was still flooded by the Godavery, and was obliged to make a wide detour, *via* Dowlaishweram and Ellore, to reach Masulipatam. I know nothing, therefore, of the Godavery salt swamps, nor of the amount of salt they yield.

3. Swamp salt is of excellent purity; if properly gathered, purer than that manufactured in the present way. From an analysis before me, I see that the mean percentage of Sodic Chloride in four specimens of salt lately manufactured at Madras, Bombay, Canara and Goa, respectively, is 84·37; whilst the percentage in Cutch swamp salt is 90·35, and in the produce of the Vedarniem Swamp 96·70.

4. With this knowledge it seems a pity to waste it, especially as it is certain that as the staple of manufactured salt crystal improves, the prejudice against spontaneous salt, which has reference to its weight chiefly, will disappear. Spontaneous salt obtained on the south-east margin of the Godavery District is now stored and sold at Pandraka.

5. But the Board believe, that enough of it will not be found in the Godavery District to repay storage. Under the circumstances, it must of course be destroyed to prevent smuggling.

6. Before suggesting a means of destroying it, I would call attention to the fact or supposed fact, that the great majority of the men who pilfer swamp salt are the coast fishermen who require it to cure their fish, and that these men after its destruction cure their fish with the mud upon which it has lain into which it has been perhaps trampled, to the manifest injury of a very common food of the people.

7. Dr. Day is anxious that good salt only should be used in fish-curing, and an inquiry into the best way of providing it has been set on foot. Here is a salt, the purest we know of, which costs us nothing to make but a good deal to destroy, formed at the fisherman's door and regularly pilfered by him; why not turn it to account? I am not prepared with any scheme for the purpose, but I think the subject well worth looking into.

8. It is not very easy without some previous acquaintance with the particular swamps in question to write confidently respecting them. In fact, without a knowledge of the extent of swamp, of the depth of water in the swamp, of its level and distance from the sea, without knowing the character of the soil, the distance from the surface and character of the sub-soil, and the initial density of the contained brine, I am very badly prepared indeed to offer an opinion as to the best means of treating any swamp.

9. Speaking in a general way, I would propose that to prevent all chance of smuggling, the brine be dealt with before salt forms. The Deputy Collector need not trouble himself about it until the brine marks 25° Beaumè. By sending to the swamp occasionally for a specimen of it, he will know when the time for action has arrived.

10. When the brine marks 25° Beaumè, there will be very little of it left in the swamp—what with damage, leakage, and evaporation, not more than a twentieth of the original amount. This he can get rid of, if any channel or estuary is near at hand at a lower level, by cutting a superficial trench towards it. A single man may do this by scratching with his iron a way for the water. The water will flow out widening and deepening the road for itself.

11. Or the swamp may generally be drained, by digging shafts down to the sub-soil which is getting dry and thirsty about this time, and the swamp water will join the sub-soil brine and gradually percolate its way to sea.

12. Beyond this, I have nothing worth saying, as, if the salt is allowed to form, the Deputy Collector will be the best judge of how most economically to destroy it.

Dr. Ratton's remarks in paragraph 3 on the superior purity of swamp salt are worthy of consideration, and the Collector of Godavery is requested to forward, if it can now be procured, a specimen of Godavery swamp salt for examination. If it turn out to be as pure as supposed, it ought to be collected for sale wherever it can be conveniently stored.

2. The Board desire information as to the extent of the swamps in the Godavery, the quantity of salt which they may be estimated to produce, and at what period of the season it is deposited. If the quantity is extremely small, it might be possible to allow the fishermen to use it for curing fish, but there are obvious dangers in making concessions of this kind.

3. Dr. Ratton's suggestions in paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, as to the easiest mode of getting rid of the deposit of swamp salt may be practicable in some localities, and will be communicated to all Collectors of salt-producing districts. But, as these swamps are usually the most low-lying in the country, it will probably be found very difficult to drain off the water as proposed. In irrigated districts it might be easier to destroy the salt by flooding.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. JORDAN,
Acting First Assistant.

To the Collector of the Godavery District.
,, all other Collectors of Maritime Districts.

Copy to Dr. J. J. L. Ratton.

Exd. W. H. French.

Board of Revenue, MADRAS. 1873.

PROCEEDINGS, 5TH NOVEMBER 1873, No. 2,251.

Received Rev 3/24/15/25 Encl.

NOVEMBER.
No. 2,251.

Godavery Swamp Salt.—Collector requested to forward, if procurable, a specimen of — for examination, and to furnish information as to extent of swamps in district estimated quantity of salt produced therein, and period of season at which it is deposited. Dr. Ratton's suggestions as to easiest mode of getting rid of deposit of swamp salt, communicated to Collectors of Salt Districts.

14/1874

No. 1,122 :

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th May 1874.

Read the following letter from W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Bhadrachellum, 21st March 1874:—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in accordance with the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,251, dated 5th November 1873, I have told the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department to send you some of the Godavery swamp salt.

2. You will see that it is much whiter than the manufactured salt; that its crystals are larger and harder; and, judging by the taste, it appears to be purer.

3. I forward a copy of a letter from the Deputy Collector on the subject.

4. The swamps on which spontaneous salt can be formed extend along the coast some forty miles, but owing to the quantity of fresh water coming down the irrigation channels it is estimated that only about 3,000 or 4,000 acres can produce salt, and that these might produce two or three lacs of maunds of salt.

5. Now this salt being scattered over a large extent of country it would be impossible to collect it to any profit, and it would also cost a good deal to destroy.

6. If it must be destroyed this could be done by the methods proposed by Dr. Ratton, or that proposed by the Deputy Collector: the particular method to be adopted would depend on the circumstances of each swamp.

7. I am inclined to think that no appreciable harm is done to the revenue by this salt not being regularly destroyed. The country round them is very thinly populated; there are no roads, and the means of transit through this swampy ground so bad that the cost of conveying it would very considerably increase the price, and thus render it scarcely worthwhile to smuggle it by land. If they try to smuggle it by sea they have the danger of the Customs House people finding it, in which case they would have to pay a high duty, and they would have difficulty in landing at other places and disposing of it, because the people there, if they wanted to get salt illicitly, would be able to make it themselves cheaper than they could buy it from smugglers who had brought it from a distance. Besides, to these other places it is often difficult to bring boats.

8. I think that most of the swamp salt is used by the fishermen for their own domestic purposes or for preserving fish, and if we destroyed it we should not be likely to sell much more to these people.

9. I must say I do not like the idea of destroying salt: we ought to try every expedient possible before we attempt to raise the revenue by the destruction of any of the necessaries of life.

10. If we destroy this salt the fishermen will not go to the expense of buying it at a high price, and carrying it to their isolated villages either for culinary purposes or for curing fish; we shall do harm to them without doing ourselves good.

11. The people know that they have no right to this salt.

12. As the system of roads becomes extended we shall gradually be able to prevent the illicit use of this swamp salt, and at the same time provide the people with salt at lower rates than the present difficulty of transport will admit.

13. I would prefer that we should leave things as they are; not destroying the salt, but at the same time not giving permission to the people to manufacture it or store it. If they are detected doing this they must take the consequences.

14. It would, I think, be advantageous to us if we could rent out these swamps. If we could find people to take them at a rent per acre equal to the profit we at present make on the number of maunds an acre may be expected to produce we should suffer no loss, and we should enlist the services of more people interested in the prevention of the illicit manufacture; but I do not feel very sure that we should be able to find people to take these swamps on rent.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From L. VENKATAPPIAH, Deputy Collector, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 27th February 1874, No. 4.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 5th November last, No. 2,251, on the subject of the swamp salt yielding in this district, I have the honour to inform you as follows.

2. The extent of the swamps in the Government Taluqs of this district as ascertained by the Survey accounts is about 86,662 acres, and they lie over along the coast from Chirra Yanam in Amalapoor Taluq to Doddanapudy of Bheemavaram Taluq, about forty miles in length.* The swamps in Zemindari Taluqs, which are not brought under the operations of the Survey Department, may be estimated to extend to about 1,000 acres. Most of these swamps are now subject to the overflow of fresh water from the anicut channels, and those that produce salt are approximately estimated to be about 3,000 or 4,000 acres, capable of yielding some two or three lacs of maunds of salt if we establish a depôt at every available swamp.

* As shown in the accompanying sketch.

3. But these swamps are so scattered that the gathering and storing of the salt from them will be attended with many difficulties. It requires a very large establishment to prevent smuggling, and numberless platforms will have to be raised for storing the salt on at the different points along the coast.

4. Swamp salt is not entirely spontaneous. It requires some manual labour, such as raising banks to divide the swamp into large pans. Sea water has to be admitted into them several times during the season. If we don't do this the salt naturally deposited will not be so pure, while the quantity of it will be much less than otherwise.

5. During the last summer I gathered swamp salt from a swamp at Mogultoor, about 200 acres in extent. The floor of this swamp is so much sloped that for want of intermediate banks the salt water which originally stood all over the swamp gradually came down to the lowest part of it and salt was deposited only in about ten or fifteen acres, the rest of the swamp having dried up. The salt gathered amounted to 460 maunds, and though its quality† is superior to the manufactured salt it is not much liked by the people in this part. They have some prejudice to use this salt generally; but the chief point on which the dislike is based is this: the swamp salt is much heavier than the manufactured salt. I have ascertained that a measure of the former weighs as much as one-ninth more than a measure of the latter, thus a tradesman who takes a maund of the swamp salt can sell it only for $\frac{8}{9}$ths of what he can sell a similar quantity of the manufactured salt, as he buys from us by weight and sells it to the people by measurement. For this reason merchants and traders, who are the only men that purchase salt from our depôt, raise objections to the swamp salt. They often desire me to get an order for the people at large never to buy or sell salt by measurement, but to do so by weighment only, in which case they say they care not how heavy the salt is. But I was told that we could not give such an order, as it would be an unnecessary interference with the freedom of the public.

† A sample of it is herewith submitted.

6. For these reasons I am not in favour of the proposition that swamp salt should be gathered all over the district, but at the same time I would be glad to try in one or two swamps adjoining the salt pans of Mogultoor, whereby we do not require any additional establishment to look after the works, except a few extra Police guards for three or four months in the year. I am induced to make this proposal as I understand that Brinjaries and others coming for salt from distant countries prefer swamp salt to the manufactured salt, on the ground that the crystals of the former are harder and are not so easily friable as the latter, whereby the former is subject to much less wastage than the latter when carried long distances.

7. If I am to do this I must have permission to spend some money in raising banks, platforms, etc., as stated in paragraph 3, as without this process the yield will be very small and the quality of it will be inferior.

8. As for destroying swamp salt the method suggested by Dr. Ratton, and by the Board in the concluding part of paragraph 3 of their Proceedings under reference, will be tried in the approaching salt season. I would further beg to suggest another mode of preventing the formation of swamp salt, that is to say, the swamps are invariably situated within a short distance of some salt creek or other, which is subject to rise and fall by the tide of the sea, and so a small channel, say two yards wide, may be dug from such creek so as to fill the swamp daily at the high tide and to empty it when the tide is low. If this is approved I can prepare estimates for the channels, which I don't think will require more than 2 or 3,000 Rupees for the whole district.

9. Of course these channels require to be looked after constantly during the hot weather to prevent their being bunded up by the villagers, but this can be done by a much less paid agency than the other methods require; even the village watchers can be employed on this work, an official of some rank going over the place once or twice in the month to see that the channels are kept open. It takes a long time for the salt to form after the channel is bunded up, and so there is no fear of the people getting much salt by closing the channels in question for a week or two.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Sample of Salt.

IT is clear that the collection and storage of the swamp salt in the Godavery will not be remunerative; the only alternative is to destroy it. This must be done as effectually as the means at hand will admit of. The District Engineer should be requested to report if any of the swamps can be flooded with canal water, which will be the most certain way of destroying the salt. The mode proposed by the Deputy Collector in paragraph 8 of his letter is open to the objection that unless the tide water can be admitted at all times the tendency will be to increase the deposit of salt rather than to diminish it.

2. The Collector's proposal as made in paragraph 13 is quite inadmissible; he will see on reflection that if the principle therein laid down were acted on all along the coast the destruction of the Salt revenue would only be a matter of time.

3. The heavy duty imposed on salt renders the most stringent measures necessary to prevent its evasion; and any relaxation of those precautions is certain to lead to an increase of smuggling and to the demoralization of all concerned.

4. The Board must impress on the Collector the necessity of guarding this branch of the revenue with the utmost vigilance.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of the Godavery District.

Copy to the District Engineer, Godavery District.
,, to Dr. J. J. L. Ratton, on special duty.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

1874.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH MAY 1874, No. 1,122.

Received

Rev 4/419/1874

Encl.

MAY.
No. 1,122.

Swamp Salt—produced in Godavery District to be destroyed.—Collector to request District Engineer to report if any of the swamps can be flooded with canal water.

No. 1,202.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th July 1873.

Read the following letter from A. SUDARSHANA ROW, Deputy-Collector on General Duties, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Nursapur, 3rd May 1873, No. 99:—

IN obedience to your instructions, I beg to offer explanation for the discrepancy pointed out in the Official Memorandum (herewith returned) of the Acting Sub-Secretary of the Board of Revenue, dated the 18th ultimo, No. 503.

2. In my answers to the questions of Dr. Day, I stated that salt sells in this Division at 3 Rupees a maund. This will certainly not correspond with the District Returns. The latter, I believe, contains the average of the prices prevalent at various places in the whole district.

3. Subjoined is a Statement shewing the average prices of salt of the entire district, as entered in the *Fort St. George Gazettes*:—

Months.	Average price per garce.	Price per maund at this rate.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
1. January 1872	282 0 0	2 5 7
2. February ,, ...	278 0 0	2 5 1
3. March ,, ...	278 0 0	2 5 1
4. April ,, ...	277 0 0	2 4 11
5. May ,, ...	273 0 0	2 4 4
6. June ,, ...	275 0 0	2 4 8
7. July ,, ...	illegible	illegible
8. August ,, ...	283 0 0	2 5 8
9. September ,, ...	277 0 0	2 4 11
10. October ,, ...	279 0 0	2 5 2
11. November ,, ...	280 0 0	2 5 4
12. December ,, ...	278 0 0	2 5 1
13. January 1873	273 0 0	2 4 11

4. I beg to add that a garce contains 120 Indian Maunds. The price per garce at 3 Rupees a maund, is Rupees 360. The prices of this article in the Nursapur Taluq vary from Rupees 2-8-0 to Rupees 2-13-6 per Indian Maund. In the villages situated in the heart of the Bheemavarum Taluq, salt is sold generally at 3 Rupees, and at sometime more than that amount a maund. Many of the villages in this Division are far from Salt Kotars. The nearest Salt Kotars to this Division are Karapa and Penuguduru near Cocanada and Bantumilly near Masulipatam.

5. Salt is conveyed to the villages situated in the heart of this Division in Cavadies from want of roads and communications. The Cavady coolie is not moderate. In rainy weather the retail salt sellers cannot go to several villages in this Division to sell salt as they will have to walk on bare regar soil.

6. The Kotar newly opened at Mogultur will really check the high prices of salt in this Division. I have every reason to believe that spontaneous salt is being much used by the people clandestinely, in the villages situated east of the

6½ percent to retail purchasers. allowing to wholesale purchasers in addition to usual four percent. By this arrangement he could effect his sale of only 2612 maunds.

The continuance of this police guard for a further period of six months was sanctioned in Govt Order 5 May 1875 No 994.

The Collectors action in granting a special case of discount is illegal as observed by the Bd of Revn & the only point calling for decision is how is the salt to be got rid of!

The question of use of preventive establishments as there are at present in the Presidency & difficulties encountered in the disposal of the Spontaneous salt under the existing

Ground salt. &
certainly be exempt
if intended for sale & if
he cannot destroy the
salt himself only alternative is to collect
it on behalf of Govt & permit
certain trade & the
& it collection & removal
by private parties.
He cannot sell it at the
price fixed for manufd
salt. & the Board
state that it is collected
& have been informed
that whether it came
Economically conveyed
to the hands of Superior
Officers. I think the
Bd. to limited Govt
Govt plan is more
advantageous for the
public revenue. RK

Conveyed to manufactured
Depot. & thence to Consumers as manufd salt.
& to Collectors factories
Rebate not calculated
Govt & duties the
same profit as by
Contractors or Merchants
Salt transported to
Depot. & thence
Cost by Bd. Depot
Price settled for
Govt. Govt.

RK

I think the courses
indicated by Mr Thuleston
will meet the difficulty
& we refer them to the
Board for their choice

RK

I am doubtful whether
the 2d alternative proposed
by Mr Thuleston is within

Our

State of the Law.

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destroying such salt by
cutting flooding the swamp
with fresh water or by
turning on herds of buffa-
loes to trample the salt
in, is justly condemned
by the Board as affording
considerable opening for
fraud & tending to demo-
ralize all concerned.

Swamp & salt is heavier
than manufactured salt
but is quite as wholesome
as the latter. The people
are said to have some pre-
judice against it & the
merchant cannot realize
as much profit from it
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article.

The Bd shew that even
should the Madras Salt
Act. XI of 1875 be applied
to the case of Swamp Salt

62 Enclosure to Board's Proceedings

1874.

Board of Revenue, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH JULY 1874, No. 1,714.

Encl.

Rev 5/2419/25
Rev 103/25

Received

JULY.

No. 1,714.

Swamp Salt—in Godavery District.—Board prepared to consider any reasonable proposition which may be submitted by Collector for destruction of—. In meantime Taluq and Salt Officials to do their best to destroy it and to check illicit trading.

The Board will be prepared to consider any reasonable proposition which may be submitted by the Collector, but cannot fix any definite sum as available for the purpose. In the meantime the Taluq and Salt officials must do the best they can to destroy the swamp salt and to check illicit trading.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of the Godavery District.
Copy to the District Engineer, Godavery District.
" to Dr. J. J. L. Ratton, on Special duty.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Memo for order

B2nd Rec: 3d Aug 1870 No 1139

In these Proceedings the Board of Revenue submit for orders of Govt. letter from the Collector of Chittagong reporting that 22,265 Mds of Spontaneous Salt were collected & stored in a swamp about four miles from the Golah Salt stations & that it is impossible to dispose of the Salt unless a special discount of 12½ percent to retail & 17½ per Cent to wholesale dealers is sanctioned.

Before the Collector was called on to Report, he had authorized the grant of a special discount of one Rupee on the Rupee.

I think there is nothing in the Law & precedent in the Govt. Sons disposing this article of this Spontaneous Salt at any rate the Govt. Salt is the distinct Govt. Salt in the Statute Book.

Act XI. of 75: Sec 10 authorizes the appointment of Salt Chokidars & Peons Chokidars

Act XXIV. of 69. is the enactment governing the case.

The act fixes a price for Manufactured Salt sold under the Orders of Govt. -

It has no Provision for Spontaneous Salt

Our powers. I do not think that we can declare a Spontaneous salt "outside the Law" (we might take legal opinion) after it has so long been considered to be protected by the Govt. regulations for applying thereto or that we can deal with a source of Imperial Revenue without notice to the Govt. of India especially as to ascertain a basis as a rate calculated to "grant to dealers the same profit "as they can secure on "Manufactured Salt from "the Depot."

Letter drawn in Com

11/9 WL

Note

Mr. Reily has lately had occasion frequently to see the working of Salt Factories & he has been a good deal surprised to find how little Salt is made in the Factories (& this accounts for the delay in the Submission of this papers) which has been

Under the circumstances that Salt cannot be made legally and be a remunerative one as far as the Govt. only 6¼ per cent, which is proved in the case of Kalmi or spontaneous Salt is insufficient to induce merchants to purchase it. The Board therefore suggest that the Local Govt. should be empowered to remit a portion of the duty in the special case of Swamp Salt, or to apply other alternative which either to destroy it or give it on the public works in some localities by providing no other for traders to take.

Orders are requested in the Letter.

WL

6¾ percent to retail purchasers allowing to wholesale purchasers in addition the usual four percent. By this arrangement he could effect his sale of only 2612 maunds.

The continuance of this Police guard for a further period of six months was sanctioned in Pd 5 May 1875 No 994.

The Collectrs action in granting a special case of discount is illegal as observed by the Bd of Revl. & the only point calling for decision is how is the salt to be taken off?

The question is one of great importance as there are extensive Salt Swamps in the Presidency & difficulties constantly occur in the disposal of the Spontaneous Salt under the existing

Ground Salt. &
certainly be exempt
pretended to apply &
be cannot destroy the
Salt effectually. The
only alternative is to collect
it on behalf of Govt. & permit
certain persons to take the Earth
& it collection & removal by
private parties.

To cancel it at the
price fixed for manufd.
Salt. & the Purchaser
shall have it in Col
& have nothing from
Govt whether it could
Economically conveyed
to the Nearest Depot
Depot. I think the
Bd. to direct Collr
Govt plan is more
advantageous for the
public Revenue. Yrs

Convey to Nearest Govt
Depot. & then deliver Ground
Earth as Examples Salt.
& Collr to ascertain
Exposed Salt calculated
Earth & deduct the
same possibly as they
can discern on Examn of
Salt Earth at the
Depot. In the latter
case they Collr Depot
the price settled for
Govt Salt.

EB

I think the courses
indicated by Mr Hudleston
will meet the difficulty
& I refer them to the
Board for their choice

BH

I am doubtful whether
the 2d alternative proposed
by Mr Hudleston is within

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Letter on the subject - No satis-
factory decision appears to
have been come to - See Pro 30
of 21 Oct 1862 No 702 & Mah 6 Nov
November 1863 No 2804 shew-
that the following doubts
have been started in
1. The meaning of the Spon-
taneous Salt must be
manufactured
2. The encouragement of the sale
to the lowest could be
by lowering the duty on
Salt & keeping up a Separate
establishment for it can be
avoided & the Salt
made saleable

If a Separate Establishment
be retained for the
Swamp made Salt Pro-
duced to be brought to
the Same Salt Golah
& Pro which is to be
Sold at Same Price &
Same Stock, inspection of
& Accounts of such the
Manufactured Salt
Sold on the usual
Terms.

If no Separate Establishment
the Collectr will have to be
asked of each Separate Sale
will be the Cost to be kept -
These Conditions as to Separate
Margin & Price of Separate Establishment

No. 1056

13 July/75. Read Pro. Board of Rev.
dated 2 May 1875.
Rec 1139 —

In their Pro. the Board of Rev. while bringing to notice a difficulty which has arisen as to the disposal of a quantity of Sportsmen Salt collected in a swamp called Kalimanjundu in the Madura District, take the opportunity of representing the difficulty generally of dealing with Salterns on salt swamps under the existing law —

The practice hitherto has been to destroy the salt but it is believed that this is very imperfectly done, even when the persons employed in the work are honestly desirous of carrying it out

Remarks Rec 17 July/75

& this is probably seldom the case owing to the opening for fraud afforded by the system & its tendency to demoralize all concerned.

The present case is an example of the difficulty of carrying out the alternative system of utilizing the article. It regarded as proceeding by the law which regulates the sale of manufactured salt would be, under the Malabar & Canara, the price is prohibitive owing partly to the unsuitability of this description of salt for many consumers, partly to its very much greater density which operates against traders who buy & sell by measure, & partly & the increased cost of carriage incurred by purchasers in consequence of the remote localities where this salt is produced.

The Govt have not before them information whether the salt could be economically carried & the usual debit & sold on the same terms as ordinary salt, in other words whether the removal of the third objection would alone suffice to secure the disposal of the article at 2 Rs a maund minus the usual discount — They consider however that there is another alternative & an act of opinion that Act XXIV of 1869 fixes a minimum as regards this description of

salt, which is not manufactured but spontaneously produced - the production of such salt cannot be prevented nor can the article be effectually destroyed: it may therefore become necessary, in order to prevent a certain loss of revenue by its collection & consumption by private parties, & collect it on behalf of Govt. - to sell it either on the spot: or at the nearest depôt at such reduced rate as shall be found ~~necessary~~ calculated to secure dealers the same profit as would accrue to them from transactions in the manufactured

article -

The Board are accordingly authorized & adopt which from the above alternatives is ascertained on further enquiry - to be the better calculated to benefit the Revenue in case of the latter system being selected the price settled should be reported for the information of Govt.

A. Ld.

14th The Board of Rev. on 23d July