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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue* DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

320

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

26.2.1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 351. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th February 1875, No. 314:—

Read the following letter from C. E. PLUNKETT, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, to G. VANSAGNEW, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated Dugarazupatnam, 29th January 1875, No. 17:—

I HAVE the honor to request attention to the diminished stock in hand at our two most southern salt stations of Tada and Sunnapugunta (Chunambukolam) on the shores of the Pulicat Lake, in view to the adoption of such remedial measures as appear to me to be the best and easiest means that can be resorted to for averting the salt scarcity in those parts that appears to be impending.

2. A salt famine any where is a cause for much apprehension, not only financially as respects revenue, but also in regard to the effect it is likely to produce on the health and comfort of the people; and it is all the more to be avoided in reference to the first of these contingencies at the two stations named above, because the shell-pits and shores of the Lake in that neighborhood are so fertile in the generation of spontaneous salt that we may be sure without a stock to meet local wants the people will undoubtedly resort to the use of the spontaneous article, or illicit manufacture, that no amount of vigilance will be able to effectually keep in check, and a loss of revenue be thereby inevitable.

3. I have just been all through this locality, and there remains now at Tada 19,850 maunds and at Sunnapugunta *The exact quantity for Sunnapugunta is not known. less than five thousand maunds,* which, according to the present rate of sale (which by the way is daily rising), will barely equal three months' supply, or in other words, we may expect that by the end of next April, we shall be left at both places without any salt, except such as we may be able to get up in the interval.

4. Arrangements for the prosecution of the manufacture vigorously were set on foot by me at Tada, and I hope by the time the existing stock is consumed in April we shall have *at least* 200 garces, or twenty heaps, of new salt stored there with which to go on meeting local wants. And so far as respects this place present deficiency may be averted. But as respects Sunnapugunta, matters are by no means as satisfactory. The people there are a most intractable set belonging as they do to another district; they have no interest whatever in the salt manufacture; they have so many other and more profitable means of livelihood that if any salt is got at Sunnapugunta at all, it is by dint of much pressure and influence of the salt establishment, who without exaggeration have to go some times daily to each man's house to turn him out to come and work in the pans, and even while at work too, the people have to be watched so closely as instances have occurred of their stealing away and going off into the shell-pits for work there instead.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1875.

5. I give below the transactions of both these stations in the last three years:—

Divisions.	Years.	Dittam or quantity ordered to be made.	Outturn or quantity actually stored and brought to account.	Proportion per cent. of outturn to Dittam.	Sales.	Wastage.	Total expenditure, or of Columns 6 and 7.	Proportion per cent. of expenditure to outturn.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Tada....	Fasli.	MAUNDS.	MAUNDS.		MDS.	MDS.	MAUNDS.	
	1281 (A. D. 1871-72)	80,000	61,569	76.98	63,920	1,659	65,579	106.51
	1282 (A. D. 1872-73)	90,000	80,344	89.27	74,309	3,073	77,382	96.31
	1283 (A. D. 1873-74)	84,000	49,907	59.53	78,745	2,185	80,930	162.16
	Average ...	84,667	63,940	75.52	72,325	2,305	74,630	116.72
Sunnapugunta.	1281 (A. D. 1871-72)	20,000	10,858	54.29	14,533	421	14,954	137.72
	1282 (A. D. 1872-73)	24,000	13,209	55.01	7,750	271	8,021	60.71
	1283 (A. D. 1873-74)	14,400	3,151	21.88	12,179	627	12,806	406.41
	Average ...	19,466	9,073	46.61	11,487	440	11,927	131.45
	Average of both together ...	104,133	73,013	70.11	83,812	2,745	86,557	118.55

From these figures it will be seen that in none of these years have we been able to complete our "Dittam" at either place. Our average outturn at Tada being only $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the quantity ordered, and at Sunnapugunta 46.61 per cent. only, or less than half. Last year was decidedly the worst, and whilst at the one station we made very little more than half we wanted, at the other we did not attain a fourth even. And while this has been so as respects supply, our demand on the other hand has been much in excess, and at Tada our expenditure last year was 62 per cent. in excess of what we made, and at Sunnapugunta we sold more than four times our outturn or receipts.

6. It is no doubt the unsatisfactory outturn of last year that more directly induces our present necessity, but if we look back into the transactions of both stations for a further period even than three years, say * seven or ten, it will be found that there has been a gradual tendency towards the present result.

* I am unable to give the figures for more than three years, writing as I am now doing from camp; but I am well aware that what I here state is a fact that the figures, if given, will fully support.

Year by year almost we have not been able to make the full quantity required, whilst our expenditure on the other hand has been annually rising, and been moreover several per cent. in excess of the outturn or quantity we were getting in.

7. The question thus arises how best it is possible to meet and avert the impending difficulty.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1875.

8. I have shown above in paragraph 4 that at all events as respects Tada there is no room for immediate apprehension. But it is not the present only that has to be considered. Suppose for instance that our season this year proves as adverse to the manufacture as that of 1874, what then? With 60 per cent. only of the Dittam in store at Tada, and less than one-fourth at Sunnapugunta, we shall not have sufficient salt to last us further than November or December next, and then the result we now apprehend must befall us. In other words, if no steps are taken now to remedy the deficiency, it will be only to postpone the evil day not to avert it.

9. I venture therefore to request permission to re-open the abandoned station of Pudi. Its pans lie about one and a half or two miles south of Tada, and are able by repute to make quite as good salt. In former years it has turned out as much as 500 garces I believe, but as the pans have been out of use so long and have to be reorganized, I suppose 300 garces is as much as we may calculate on from Pudi this year. In all respects it is very similar to Tada, which was favorably mentioned by Dr. Ratton and reckoned to be well laid out. Moreover, I do not recommend its retention permanently, but only as the most feasible and easy means of meeting a present pressure until such time as Tada is extended and enlarged, for which there is ample room, and also until the pending question as to the abolition or retention of Sunnapugunta, and the opening of another station in the Chingleput District in its stead, is disposed of.

10. I would not make Pudi a separate division in itself, but would put it as a sub-station under the Tada Salt Superintendent, who might be allowed some additional remuneration, say 15 Rupees a-month as horse allowance, so as to be able to exercise a proper supervision over the two places daily. A station establishment will, of course, be required, and I beg to propose as follows:—

	RS.
Additional remuneration to Salt Superintendent ...	15
1 Assistant Superintendent ...	20
1 Clerk ...	12
1 Measurer ...	6
1 Peon ...	6
3 Vettians each 5 Rupees ...	15
Total monthly cost ...	74

In addition the platform wants some repair, roughly estimated at 300 Rupees, a Police watch-hut 25 Rupees, and a temporary Kacheri at the platform 75 Rupees, total 400 Rupees.

There will be, moreover, an extra Police guard required, but as I am not aware of the data on which this is calculated, I am unable to furnish details; but the Inspector-General of Police could be asked to give the requisite instructions, and the charge be met from the salt budget if necessary. I should say one Head Constable with eight men while manufacture is going on, and four men only with the head afterwards will be ample. I would not keep a treasury on the Pudi Platform; but after sales are begun, which is not likely to be for another six months, I would send the remittances to the Tada Salt Kacheri daily; the distance is not more than three miles, and it will be exactly similar to what is done now at Devarampaud, the sub-station of the Padarti Division, where the distance is four

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1875.*

miles, and the collections are sent daily to the Padarti Salt Division Kacheri at Biramgunta.

11. The matter being very urgent and it being most desirable that as little time as possible should be lost, I beg that if my proposals meet your approval they may be forwarded for sanction without delay, and the Board be requested to telegraph to you their orders.

12. It is perhaps but necessary that before concluding this letter I should refer to but one point more by way of explanation. In paragraph 24 of the Proceedings,* passing orders on Dr. Ratton's first report on the districts, No. 2350, dated 22nd August 1874.

they observed, with reference to Tada, "the division is favorably mentioned and the manufacture capable of extension if needed." It may thus perhaps be asked why these orders have not been attended to by me, and why if more salt is wanted at Tada, I am not endeavoring to extend the pans there, but rather advocating the re-opening of an abolished station. In reply, I cannot I suppose do better than quote here *verbatim* my remarks on this point, under date the 27th September last, in my weekly diary submitted to you.

"As the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,350, dated 22nd August 1874, passing orders with reference to Dr. Ratton's first report on the salt manufacture in the northern districts of the Presidency, reached me after my arrival at this place last Friday, I took the opportunity of several of the manufacturers appearing before me in a body to instruct them on various points in which their present system is defective. I also impressed on them the necessity for working hard next season, and as it appears from the result of the last few years that the pans at this Cotaur are not equal to the demand, I offered to lease them new pans, for which there is plenty of room, as mentioned in paragraph 24 of the Proceedings referred to. I also offered to make them a condensing tank in accordance with the instructions given in same paragraph, and they were very eager, and it seemed as if I was to be overwhelmed with applications for new pans. But then came the hitch. I told them, however, new pans will be leased on the condition that they are to be made after a given plan, and worked according to certain definite rules that I would draw up; that on no account would they be allowed to form and work the new pans according to mamool; and that whoever failed to abide by the rules thus prescribed for him would forfeit his land, and it would be given away to some one else willing to conform to my terms. This was too much for them. It was quite a poser, and it was rather amusing to see men who previously were full of joy and concern to get more pans, at once fall back and not a single application was made."

From these remarks it will be seen that the Board's order in question had my immediate attention, but was not successful. I have every hope, however, of being able to effect it, not this year certainly, but in next and the following probably; and as stated by me above in paragraph 9, I resort to Pudi as a temporary measure, as the easiest and most ready means of adverting a threatened salt scarcity and loss of revenue in a locality where of most others it is most desirable to prevent it. It is always easier to take up pans abolished not many years ago, and work them on an emergency with a willing and anxious set of men, than to attempt in a hurry to get up and organize new pans with men who are already unable to give us the salt

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we want. It is not land for new pans that we require at Tada, but fresh and willing people to work them.

No. 312.

SUBMITTED for the immediate and favorable consideration of the Board, with request that, if the proposal be approved, their sanction may be telegraphed.

NELLORE, (Signed) G. VANSAGNEW,
1st February 1875. Collector.

THE Board approve generally the Deputy Collector's proposals for re-opening the abandoned salt station at Pudi as a temporary measure, and placing it under the Tada Salt Superintendent.

2. The necessary works, estimated to cost Rupees 400, may be proceeded with at once; the requisite funds being met from savings in the allotment for Petty Construction and Repair. The sanction of Government will be requested for the entertainment of the requisite establishment at a cost of Rupees 74 per mensem, which includes Rupees 15 for additional remuneration to the Tada Salt Superintendent. Early orders are requested as the season is advancing.

3. As regards the Police guard the Collector should, in communication with the Superintendent of Police, submit his proposals to the Board through the Inspector-General of Police, with a view to the sanction of Government being obtained in accordance with the course prescribed in Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd July 1874, No. 1,669.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 352.

ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1875, No. 320.

Separate Revenue No. 29.

Salt.

	Salary per mensem, Rs.
1 Assistant Superintendent.....	20
1 Clerk	12
1 Measurer.....	6
1 Peon	6
3 Vettians, at 5 Rs. each	15
Total..	59

SANCTION is accordingly granted for re-opening the Pudi pans as well as for the entertainment of the temporary establishment noted in the margin, and the payment of Rs. 15 per mensem to the Tada Salt Superintendent as horse allowance.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.

Ed. W. H. French.

Mellore District Salt
Deputy Collector's Office
Dugara Zupatnam
29th January 1875

No. 17
From, C. C. Plunkett Esquire
Deputy Collector
in charge of the Salt
Department
To, G. Vans Agnew Esquire
Collector of Mellore

Sir,
I have the honor to request
attention to the diminished
stock in hand at our two most
Southern Salt Stations of
Tada and Sunnapugunta
(Chunnarankholam) on the
shores of the Pulicat Lake
in view to the adoption of
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as appear to me to be the
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2. A salt famine anywhere
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Cont. of 1875 Returns
REVENUE
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
FEBRUARY
Nos. 351-352
G.O. 26th February 1875 No. 350
Date of return 25th
Recd.
Paid Salt Passes, Mellore District. — Sanctioning
the re-opening of the — as well as the sale of
ment of a temporary establishment, and the pay-
ment of Rs. 15 as horse allowance to the
Salt Superintendent.
★
Vide C. No. 1023 from D. P. of Rev.
20 March 1875.

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* the exact quantity for Sunnapungunta is not known

thereby inevitable.

3. I have just been all through this locality and there remains now at Sada 19850 Mannas and at Sunnapungunta less than five thousand Mannas, which according to the present rate of sale (which by the way is daily rising) will barely equal 3 months' supply, or in other words we may expect that by the end of the next April we shall be left at both places without any salt, except such as we may be able to get up in the interval.

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As the Board's Proceedings No. 2350, dated 22nd August 1874, passing orders "with reference to Dr. Patton's first report on the salt manufacture in the Northern Districts of the Presidency, reached me after my arrival at this place last Friday. I took the opportunity of several of the manufacturers appearing before me in a body to instruct them on various points in which their present system is defective. I also impressed on them the necessity for working hard next season, and as it appears from the result of

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13
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people to work them.

I have signed
/signed/ L. E. Plunkett
Deputy Collector

/True Copy/

1/3/2.

Submitted for the immediate
and favorable consideration of the Board
with request that, if the proposal be
approved, their sanction may be telegraphed.

Bellore
Collectors office } /signed/ G. V. Agnew
1st February 1875 } Collector.

To The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Madras.
/True Copy/

C. M. M. M.
C. M. M. M.

C. M. M. M.
Acting Sub Secretary

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
Dated 11th February 1875

No. 314

Read Endorsement of the Collec-
tor of Nellore, dated 1st February
1875, No. 312, submitting copy of
Salt Deputy Collector's letter, dated
29th January 1875 No. 17, pro-
posing to reopen the abolished
Poody Cotaur again &c.

The Board approve gene-
rally the Deputy Collector's pro-
posals for reopening the aban-
doned Salt Station at Pudi,
as a temporary measure and
placing it under the Tada Salt
Superintendent.

2 The necessary works
estimated

Amherst



5 pages
Current imposed

Enclosure in Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue
to the Acting Secretary
to Government, Revenue
Department, dated 11th
February 1875

Rev-512/75

Copy of Collector's letter
dated 1st February
1875 No. 312

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is advancing.

3 As regards the Police
guard the Collector should
in communication with the
Superintendent of Police submit
his proposals to the Board
through

15
through the Inspector General
of Police with a view to the
sanction of Government being
obtained in accordance with
the course prescribed in Board's
Proceedings dated 2^d July
1874, No. 1669.

(Enc. extract)

To
Collector
of Sub-Collector

The Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department.
with copy of letter.

E. M. S.
Chunnam.

No. 512

From 13^d of Rev.

Dated 11th February 1875.
FOR ORDERS.

For Sanction the
proposed transfer
the Padi Jams

1572 Mt

Sol 119 1/2
17

40 1st November 1875
2000-84 74-153-84
5000-84 74-153-84
45-46

No 512
Revenue 1875-86
Proceeding of the
Board of Revenue

Subd 11th Feb 1875
Dated 11th Feb 1875
Recd 12th Feb 1875

Subd 300-26 February 1875

Approximately finally
separately & this pro-
posal for re-arranging
the advanced salt
stacks at Padi in
relation to the request
made by the Padi Jams
for the re-arrangement
of the request & the
arrangement of the
Padi Jams

No 354
C 15th Feb 1875 150 20 1875

FOR ORDERS.

Re-opening of
a Salt Station
in Nellore Dist.

Revenue Department.

No. 320

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26th February 1875.

Read the following Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue.

Approving generally D^r Collector's
proposals for re-opening the abandon-
ed Salt Station at Pudi in Nellore
Dist. and requesting sanction of Govt. for
the entertainment of the requisite estab-
lishment &c.

H. E. 11th February 1875. N^o.

Sanction is accordingly
granted for re-opening the Pudi
pens as well as for the entertain-
ment of the temporary establishment
noted in the margin and the pay-
ment of Rs 15 per mensem to the
Tada Salt Superintendent as horse
allowance.

	Salary per mensem.
1 Assistant Superintendent	20--
1 Clerk	12--
1 Measurer	6--
1 Peon	6--
3 Vettiyans @ 5 Rs each	15--
<u>Total</u>	<u>59--</u>

For per order
20/2/75

Board of Revenue Des^r Sec^y
Accountant General. S

Sd^d [Signature]

90

Reopening of the
Pandi Salt Sta-
tion, Nellore Dist.

Sept