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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***Revenue***DEPARTMENT****G.O. No.**

321

Press**B.P. No.****Mis.****Dated**

26. 2. 1875 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 353. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th February 1875, No. 251 :—

Read the following letters :—

From Surgeon J. J. L. RATTON, M.D., on Special Salt Duty, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 21st October 1874, No. 52.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 24th September 1874, referred to me for report and received this day, I have the honor to inform you that I can only offer a conjecture as to the composition of the "substance in mounds" alluded to by S. L. Assen Lebbe.

2. The Ceylon sailing packet leaves the Madras Presidency south-west of Point Calimere, and a sailing boat, disabled thereabouts during the south-west monsoon, would probably drift on to the southern shore of the promontory. Between Calimere and Killakari there are eight Salt stations, and of these two only, viz., Viravanadapatam and Autengarai, are supplied with brine pits. Four of the remaining stations, however, viz., Magalancottai, Kattumavady, Arasanegerry and Vettanam, might be described as "salt pan pits," as they are at the bottom of artificial excavations, and Viravanadapatam is also similarly situated.

3. S. L. Assen Lebbe speaks of having found "salt pan pits made under Government control in which contains a large material collection of bitter saline substance in mounds as if heaped up." I think he must refer to the last five stations mentioned. At these stations salt manufacture seldom ceases at the beginning of September, the date of his letter, and it is the custom there to leave the salt for a time, heaped in mounds within the excavations to drain before storage. The excavations are in some instances, especially at Viravanadapatam, so far from the platform and police observatory that one might ramble through them unobserved. I think Assen Lebbe must refer to these draining heaps of common salt, particularly as they are at the end of the season rather dirty and bitter from contamination with magnesian salts. Although he says "as this substance is unavailable in any way for any purpose in India," I cannot imagine to what else he can refer unless perchance this year a large crop of mixed Epsom and common salts was obtained at one or more of these stations and heaped aside to save the trouble of carrying it away and destroying it.

From N. RAMASAWMY, Deputy Collr., Salt Department, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 5th January 1875, No. 2.

ADVERTING to the Board's reminder No. 2,093, dated the 16th ultimo, returned herewith, I have the honor to state that the description of the saline substance given by S. L. Assen Lebbe, referred to in Government Proceedings, No. 1,209, dated 24th September 1874, is indefinite, and that I have through the Superintendent of Sea Customs, Killakari, requested Assen Lebbe to give a more definite account of the material and its whereabouts.

2. Three miles to the south-west of Killakari and two miles to the north-east of Yervadi is a low ground in the limits of the village of Mayakolam. This was about half a century ago a salt-forming swamp. Sand stone is quarried from

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

this low ground and pits are sunk for that purpose; the sub-soil spring in these pits is not brackish and is drunk by men. By these pits are small mounds of clay excavated from them, and I wait to ascertain whether these are the mounds referred to by Assen Lebbe. A sample of the clay is forwarded separately.

No. 15.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Official Memorandum No. 2,093, dated 16th December 1874. I shall report fully as soon as I can find out what "the large material collection of better saline substance is."

MADURA, (Signed) W. McQUHAE,
14th January 1875. Collector.

THESE letters will be submitted to Government with reference to G. O., 24th September 1874, No. 1,209.

2. It will be seen that it is not easy to discover to what deposit S. L. Assen Lebbe refers, but that the Salt Deputy-Collector, Madura, has addressed him direct for further information.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 354.

ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1875, No. 321.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government will await a further report on the subject.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

Recd. 16.3.9-20th March 1874.

Bitter saline substance at Killakari in Madras District applied for by Assen Lebbe of Colombo. —
Awaiting further report on the subject of the —

FEBRUARY.
No. 368-354.

G. O., 26th February 1875, No. 321.

Dated February 1874.
Recd.

Recd.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

To

REVENUE.

Obdt. of 1875: 23rd Dec.

Recd. 16.3.9-20th March 1874.

No. 251.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th February 1875.

Read the following letters:—

From Surgeon J. J. L. RATTON, M.D., on Special Salt Duty, to E. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 21st October 1874, No. 52:—

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From N. RAMASAWMY, Deputy-Collector, Salt Department, to W. McQUHAE, Esq., Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 5th January 1875, No. 2:—

ADVERTING to the Board's reminder No. 2,093, dated the 16th ultimo, returned herewith, I have the honor to state that the description of the saline substance given by S. L. Assen Lebbe, referred to in Government Proceedings, No. 1,209, dated 24th September 1874, is indefinite, and that I have through the Superintendent of Sea Customs, Killakari, requested Assen Lebbe to give a more definite account of the material and its whereabouts.

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MADURA,
14th January 1875.

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Collector.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

H. J. L. Ratten
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Madura.

„ Dr. J. J. L. Ratten on Special Duty.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

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The Govt will await
a further report on the subject.

26 Feb 1875

14 To the Board of Revenue

Butter Saline substance—heap up at Kallakuri, in Madura District.—Letters from Collector and Dr. J. J. L. Ratten on Special Duty, passing remarks in connection with proposal of Assen Lebbe of Colombo to remove a quantity of — for experimental purposes in Ceylon, submitted to Government, with certain remarks.

FEBRUARY.
No. 251.

Received

20th Feb 1875
Encl

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH FEBRUARY 1875, No. 251.

BOARD OF REVENUE,
MADRAS.

20th Feb 1875
20th Feb 1875

6024 4/11/75 No 210-11