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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1675	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	15 . 11 . 1876 ~~196~~ .	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 236. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1876, No. 2,506 :—

Read the following papers :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 22nd June 1876, No. 836, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Fish-curing operations carried out in the Ganjam District in* 1875-76.—Ordering Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd May 1876, No. 1,334, regarding — to be placed on the Editors' Table.

Letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 5th June 1876, No. 905.

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Letter from the Collector of South Arcot, dated 3rd August 1876, No. 347.

Letter from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 30th May 1876, No. 546.

Letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 11th July 1876, No. 2,644.

Board's Proceedings, dated 24th February 1876, No. 545.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on letter from Collector of Tinnevelly reporting on experiment of supplying salt at reduced price for curing fish.

Board's Proceedings, dated 30th June 1876, No. 1,674.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on letter from Collector of Chingleput reporting on the same subject.

Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings, dated 22nd June 1876, No. 5,192, embodied in G.O., dated 29th June 1876, No. 867, Revenue Department.

ABSTRACT.—*Buildings connected with Fish-curing at Nadupad in the Madura District.*—Sanctioning the entertainment of a Kavalgar, for six months, on a salary of Rupees 5 per mensem to take charge of the —.

Letter from Collector of South Canara, dated 17th July 1876, No. 1,434.

THE foregoing papers relate to the supply of salt at a reduced price for the curing of fish and contain the information called for in paragraph 5 of G.O., dated 12th April 1875, No. 576. These reports refer almost exclusively to the official year

1875-76; further statements for the calendar half-year ending on the 30th June last are coming in from the districts, and will be submitted to Government in due course.

2. In *Ganjam*, as Government are already informed, the experiment has been successful.

3. In *Vizagapatam* nothing has yet been accomplished, and the Board are disposed to think that the Collector has not quite correctly apprehended the object in view, which is to secure a supply of wholesome, instead of semi-putrified food, and not primarily to develop an extensive trade in salt-fish, although the latter result may probably follow. Mr. Goodrich will doubtless have learnt, in reply to his inquiries in Ganjam, that the persons who have chiefly availed themselves of the concession are the fishermen of the villages on the coast, and the Board trust, when the fishing season is at its height towards the end of the year, that a demand may spring up in Vizagapatam.

4. *Godavery.*—In his letter embodied in G.O., dated 6th December 1875, No. 1,761, Mr. Foster reported that the experiment had failed, and the present Collector states that no applications have come in since.

5. In the *Kistna* District nearly a thousand maunds were brought to the yard during the six months—September to March. It can scarcely be doubted that the orders issued by the Salt Superintendent regarding the condition of the fish to be cured and the quantity of salt to be used must have had the effect of deterring customers [illegible] be expected that the fishermen will begin to appreciate the concession more fully than hitherto. The result so far is the reverse of discouraging.

6. In *Nellore*, *Chingleput*, and *South Arcot* the experiment has entirely failed. Orders have been passed to the two former districts (G.O., 20th March 1876, No. 707, and Board's Proceedings, 30th June 1876, No. 1,674). The Collector of South Arcot should cause the yard at Singaratope to be closed at once.

7. The Collector of *Tanjore* has nothing to report, the preparation for the experiment at Point Calimere sanctioned in G.O., dated 14th February 1876, No. 206, not having been completed.

8. In *Madura* the result is very satisfactory. During the half-year ending on the 31st March 2,519 maunds of fish were cured with 907 maunds of salt.

9. The experiment has not been successful in *Tinnevelly*, but it has been ordered to be persevered with till the end of the year.

10. No report for the period under review has been received from *Malabar*, but a return has been submitted for the first half of the current calendar year, from which the Board infer that success may be looked for.

11. In *South Canara* the result has been total failure.

12. The Board consider that, in spite of failure in five or six districts, the results may be regarded as encouraging on the whole. In Ganjam and Madura it may fairly be expected that a trade in wholesome salt-fish will eventually be firmly established. The Collector of the Kistna writes very hopefully, and, had it not been for the issue of the ill-advised orders referred to above, would no doubt have been able to report more favorably still. It was not to be expected that the concession would be understood and appreciated all at once, and it is more than probable that the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15*th November* 1876.

suspicions said to be entertained by the fishermen of the Kistna are prevalent in other districts also. When there is reason for supposing this to be the case, Collectors should endeavour to remove such erroneous impressions.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1876, No. 1,675.

Separate Revenue, No. 16.
Salt.

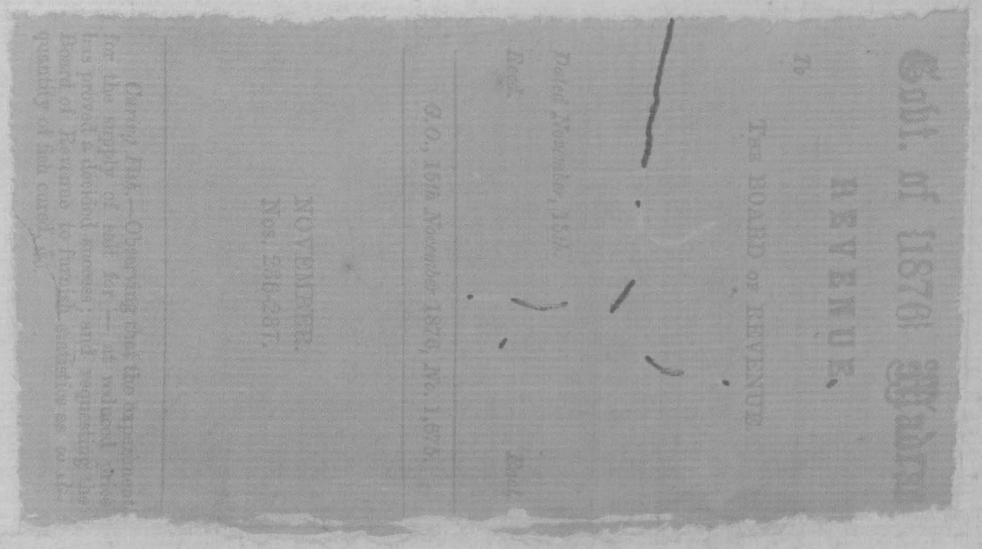
THE Government observe that the experiment has proved a decided success in Ganjam and Madura, and that there is a reasonable prospect of success elsewhere. They agree with the Board that time is required for full development of the manufacture and trade. Full statistics should have been furnished as to the number of applications, quantity of fish cured, quantity and value of salt supplied, and the charges connected with the experiment incurred in each district. The omission will now be supplied by the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.


Govt. of 1870 [illegible]
REVENUE.
To
THE BOARD of REVENUE.
Dated November 1870
Rect
G.O. 15th November 1870, No. 1,675
NOVEMBER
Nos. 240-287.

No. 545.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th February 1876.

Read the following letter from A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tinnevelly, 6th January 1876, No. 6 :—

I HAVE the honor to submit the enclosed report from the Salt Deputy Collector on the experimental arrangements made under Board's Order, No. 1,076, dated 29th April 1875, for the sale of salt at a reduced price to fishermen. The report is interesting, and I beg to draw attention to paragraphs 10—13.

2. It appears to me that the rules, paragraph 4, are needlessly strict; but there can be no doubt that the real reason why the experiment has failed is that there is so large a demand for fresh fish that but little salting is carried on. This is the account given to me by the headman of the fisherman caste at Tuticorin, and I have had other opportunities of observing that there is a brisk demand in all the sea coast taluq villages for fresh fish, so that practically the quantity of fish salted is small.

3. Notwithstanding the present failure, I should be glad if the Board would permit the experiment to be repeated for another year, with permission further to arrange for the establishment of curing yards near the fishermen's hamlets.

4. The salt should be supplied by Komaties in retail quantities at a fixed price, allowing them a margin for profit over the reduced price already sanctioned, the quantity sold to them at the pans being checked again at the curing yard and kept there under guard until all sold and used on the spot for curing fish. The thirteen rules contained in paragraph 4 of the Salt Deputy's letter should be done away with altogether, and a small police guard with one or two salt peons placed over the enclosure to see that no salt was removed; a notice should be put up in a conspicuous place to show what are the retail prices at which the Salt Komaties within the enclosure are authorized to sell salt to the fishermen to be used on the premises only, and in curing fish.

5. It is an advantage in every way to encourage the proper curing of fish. Such food is wholesome and much liked by many castes as a relish to otherwise insipid rice, but if ill-cured it is likely to be unwholesome both to the stomach of the eater and to the nostrils of the neighbourhood. I would limit this experiment to Tuticorin and its neighbourhood until success justified further and more elaborate arrangements.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of Deputy Collector's Report.

THE Deputy Collector deserves credit for the interest he has taken in the experiment, which may be continued for another year if Government permit; a reference on the subject has already been made.

2. There seems to be no objection to the opening of a curing yard near the fishing villages, provided it can be effctually guarded at no great increase of cost; but the concession cannot be extended to allowing salt to be taken to the houses of the fishermen. Nor do the Board see how the system of selling the salt through Komaties can be worked with due regard to safety. The Board have no objection to any modification of the rules which affords increased facilities, whilst maintaining the object of securing that the salt shall be sold only for fish-curing purposes.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

1876.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Proceedings, 24th February 1876, No. 545.

Read

Rec'd 4-12-76

Rec'd 12-2-76

Received

FEBRUARY.

No. 545.

Fish-curing—in Tinnevelly District.—Passing orders on Collector's report on experiment of supplying salt at reduced price for —.

1875
2

No. 1,674.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th June 1876.

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 19th May 1876, No. 299 :—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 29th April 1875, No. 1,076, I have the honor to forward a copy of the Salt Deputy Collector's report on the result of the experiment of supplying salt on easy terms for the curing of fish.

2. It will be observed that the experiment, as far as this district is concerned, is a dead failure.

3. Neither of the suggestions made at paragraphs 2 and 4 for constructing sheds in each Cooppum and for supplying each Cooppum with salt, practically without any restriction, is advisable.

4. The Salt Deputy Collector originally reported that no Police Guard was needed, but it now appears that a guard consisting of three Constables is necessary and must be separately provided for if the experiment is to be continued.

5. Statements of salt supplied during the past two quarters are herein enclosed.

Enclosure No. 1.

From D. V. NARASINGA ROW, Deputy Collector, Salt Department, Chingleput District, to R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Collector of the Chingleput District, dated Madras, 2nd May 1876, No. 307.

In submitting statements (sent already) for the supply of salt for curing fish from the Covelong Depôt for the quarters ending 31st December 1875 and 31st March 1876, I have the honor to report, with reference to your docket of the 3rd June 1875, No. 960, that a very convenient shed, at a cost of Rupees 199-12-0, has been built at Covelong with hedges around, at an easy distance both to the Cooppums of Covelong and those of Semmenjery, where the sea as well as sweet water is abundant. The shed with salt in it is guarded by three Constables; but, notwithstanding the inducement of the Superintendent, the total quantity of salt sold is too small. During the last two quarters, it amounted to only 4½ Maunds. In January of the second quarter a great number of vessels arrived at the division, and a large number of coolies and boatmen resorted to it; consequently there was a great demand for raw fish, and not a maund was sold for curing purposes. Moreover, the fishermen of the Covelong Cooppum are not willing to carry their fish to the shed in question guarded by the Police men; particularly they take great objection to allow their females to go to the shed for curing fish. To avoid it, they requested me to build an enclosure in the centre of their huts to be convenient for themselves and their females to cure fish at any time they wished it. But I could not accede to this, as the shed is intended for the convenience of the neighbouring villages also.

2. I am therefore of opinion that, unless sheds are built at each Cooppum in the centre of the fishermens' huts, the object of Government to supply salt to cure fish with pure salt at cheap rates would not be realized.

3. From my experience in other districts, I beg to state that fish cured with pure salt does not give the same taste as that cured with earth salt, and I believe some fishermen do not wish to cure fish with pure salt. Fish is cured partly with salt and partly with earth which cannot be done where there is a Police guard. I therefore think that the system proposed is not suitable to this district.

4. In conclusion I must state that if a certain quantity of salt were supplied to each Cooppum every month at the sanctioned low rate for the estimated quantity of salt-fish prepared in each village, I venture to think the object may be effected. Information regarding results will have to be collected from the accounts of the heads of the villages or the same may be left to the supervision of any Government Officer close by.

5. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that no special sanction has been obtained for guarding the shed, and the Superintendent of Police writes to me that he cannot spare three Constables, who are now doing duty at the shed, from the number of men sanctioned, for guarding the salt-pans. I therefore request that you will be pleased to obtain sanction for three Constables to guard the shed should it be retained any longer.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. W. BARLOW,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 and 3.—Statements.

THE Board learn with regret that the experiment has failed in the district of Chingleput. An attempt was made by placing the depôt in a central position to make it accessible to all, but the result has shown that it would probably have been better to have placed it near some one village. For the present the curing yard must be closed, but, in the event of any demand arising hereafter, the Board will be prepared to receive proposals for making a fresh experiment.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) E. GIBSON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of the Chingleput District.

Exd. A. Gruber.

1876.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH JUNE 1876, No. 1,674.

Encl.

Rec^d 4/12/76
Rec^d 12/12/76

Received

JUNE.
No. 1,674.

Fish-curing.—Passing order on letter from Collector of Chingleput reporting result of experiment of supplying salt for —.

No. 2,506.

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6. In *Nellore*, *Chingleput*, and *South Arcot* the experiment has entirely failed. Orders have been passed to the two former districts (G.O., 20th March 1876, No. 707, and Board's Proceedings, 30th June 1876, No. 1,674). The Collector of South Arcot should cause the yard at Singaratope to be closed at once.

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(A true Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with nine original letters to be returned and copies
of Board's Proceedings, dated 24th February 1876, No. 545,
and 30th June 1876, No. 1,674.

„ all Collectors of Salt Districts.

No 4512
No 1252
Revd 1876. Sept

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH OCT. 1876, No. 2,506.

Despd 24 Oct 76

Encl. 11

Received 25

OCTOBER.

No. 2,506.

Supply of Salt at reduced price for curing fish. —Submitting to Government, with Board's views, letters from Collectors of Salt Districts regarding —, and stating that the yard at Sngaratope in South Arcot District should be closed at once.

with order

No 1675 - 15th Nov.

The Government regret to observe that the experiment has proved a failure in all Districts save Ganjam and Madura - The Board of Revenue will adopt measures for confining expenditure to those Districts only where there appears a reasonable prospect of success - Full statistics should have been furnished as to the number of applications, quantity of fish cured, quantity and value of salt supplied and the charges connected with the experiment incurred in each District - The omission will now be supplied by the Board

14 to Bd Revenue Dep 16-11-76
Mr of Coll

Cl Bd 76 24 Nov 76