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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

1783

Press ☒
Mis. ☒

Dated 23-11-1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

179

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department
23rd November 1876.

No. 441. Read Minute by the Hon. Sir W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

No. 441A. ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1876, No. 1,783.

Miscellaneous.

IN some recent demi-official letters addressed by Mr. Thornhill, First Member of the Board of Revenue, now on a tour of Inspection in Bellary, to his colleagues at Madras—it is suggested that a revival of the earth-salt manufacture in that district would be of great advantage, as tending to draw away from the ordinary relief works the class of people (Upparas) who were long engaged in the manufacture, and to stimulate a trade in grain, which would be tendered by merchants in exchange for the salt.

2. The Governor in Council has carefully considered this proposal. He observes that the gradual suppression of this manufacture in the Ceded Districts, was deliberately sanctioned by this Government in 1873 and approved by the Government of India; From Government of India (Commerce), 26th September 1873, No. 88. that it has in great part been already suppressed, and compensation granted to the people engaged in it; that its revival would be attended with the payment of considerable advances to a very indigent class, from whom recovery could only be assured by a continuance of the manufacture long after the present distress is at an end; and that the number whom a revival would affect in any one district forms a very small fraction of the local population which is now on Relief Works. The Board of Revenue, it is observed, are averse to any change, and the Governor in Council is of opinion that the proposal should not be adopted.

((True Extract.))

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

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Collector of Bellary.
„ the Collector of Kurnool.
„ the Collector of Cuddapah.
„ G. Thornhill, Esq., Bellary.

MINUTE BY THE HON. SIB W. ROBINSON, K.C.S.I.

I strongly support the recommendation of the local officers to suspend—in the face of the serious prospect of the coming hot weather—the gradual extinction of the earth-salt manufacture in the Ceded Districts.

2. The measure will at once provide useful industry at their homes for thousands—the Collector of Bellary estimates 12,000—and the production of a cheap necessary of life; it will relieve works and transport (of salt), and as well as the Police; and will encourage the people and save taxation.

3. There are, of course, fiscal objections ; but the inconvenience will be temporary and easily restrained when the pressure disappears. And I believe that the benefits of the measure will be found to justify the relaxation.

26th November 1876.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON.

Unit 157638104

37-10000

THE GOLDEN RULE

200

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

GOVERNMENT

[illegible]

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THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Minutes 1783

Should support the recomen-
dation of the local officers &
suspend in the face of the se-
rious prospect of the coming
winter - the gradual ex-
tinction of the Salt man-
ufacture in the Ceded Lands.

The measure will at once
provide useful industry at their
homes for thousands - the At-
torney estimates 12,000 -
& the production of a cheap ne-
cessary of life; it will relieve
work and transport of salt
as well as the Police &
encourage the people as a whole.

There are of course some
objections; but the inconvenience
will be temporary & easily sustained.

11/6

when the pressure disappears
and when that the bear
pts of the measure will be from
the relaxation.

26/11 M. W. W. W.

Memoirs x

For Mr. [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
on the [unclear]
[unclear] (C. [unclear])
[unclear]

This person has been
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear]
\$24/1/1

Revenue 1876 Depart^{mt}
No. 5153

Minister by the
Honble Sir W. Robinson K.C.S.T.
Member of Council.

Sept 23 } November 1876
Rec^d 24 }

On the subject
of the Salt question
in the Ceded Dist^{cts}

GA 23 Novemb^r 76-1783

No. 141 -

Revised 1783

Salt Manufacture
in Ceded Districts

The policy of putting
an end to this manufacture
was decided on. which
regard on soil - deliberately
after communication
with G. J. and
at considerable cost in
compensation - I should
the expediency of in
moments of pressure
winning a settled
policy in a matter of
this sort. unless it be
clear that the policy
was putative of the Company
was wrong - Although
I should generally be
averse to any measure
which should restrict

or impede the full
development of any
industry or production
which Nature has given
I am not prepared
~~to say~~ ~~that~~
~~that the policy~~
that the policy
of closing the manufactures
should now be reversed
on general grounds.
The salt revenue continuing
on its present basis -

2^d Shall it be reversed
as a ~~provisional~~ measure
of famine relief
to withdraw men
from the relief works?

An important consideration
in this question is the
number it is likely to affect.

Mr. Maitland puts it at
12000 for Bellary -
~~but~~ say 1/2 of them
are on relief works
but I think this number
is overrated. for I find
that in papers relating
to compensation - for Salt
Modas is stated to
employ from 2 to 4 men
vide Rev. Board for 2736. only 1/2
(each pair in May 1875)
appears to employ about
one - as 2798 Pains
employed 2703 Persons
vide Mad Gov. ^{order} ~~for~~ 203 June 1875

I do not anywhere
find an actual statement
of the total number
of Modas in the four
districts - but I find
that in Cuddalore

633. were returned for
compensation &
100. did not which had
compensation had
been claimed

733 which at an average
of 3 persons would
give. 2199 persons

in Bellary. Names
there were 536 Modes
(vide Proc. Mad Gov. 444
April 1865) which
average would give
which in collector's letter of
15th June 1863 No. 88
in Bellary par. 7. it is
stated that ~~the same~~ are
worked with 2 men each
which would only give
1072 persons

I do not find the
number of modes in
Bellary stated. but
I find in Proc. Feb/73

That the number ⁱⁿ the 3 districts is put
down as 5000. which
at 3 men each would
give only £ 15000
persons in the 3 districts

Now in these 3 districts
we have already 25000
persons in relief - so that
the number also would
be withdrawn for culti-
vation if the number employed
immediately equalled the
number employed - when
the manufacture was in full
vigour would not be very
material -
It must also be noted
that the cost of forming
the modes = 30 rupees
each. - i.e. to erect

the 5000 modas. would
cover an immediate outlay
in many places. of
150,000 Rupees -
If this is to be done by Govt.
mainly to ~~benefit~~ small ~~traders~~
the balance of some 15,000
to be employed for 3 or 4
months (as I note that
13 weeks is stated as the
former term of employment)
it would seem a very
expensive mode of relief.
If it is to be done by
private persons - it cannot
be hoped for without
security for their being
able to run the modas
for some definite term
at least sufficient to
repay the outlay -

I therefore come to the
conclusion that no good
can be made out of
this involving the Government
as a relief measure -
I desire distinctly to
avoid expressing any
opinion on the general
question - It requires
much thought & time as
well as information -
I must ask my Hon.
colleagues to excuse a
very hastily sketched note
but it is with the
question as a relief one
should be decided

By 23/11

In ordinary times there is no reason
to place the Bellary people on
more favorable terms - as con-
tributors to the Salt Revenue
than the people of other districts.
We decided to abolish the
manufacture - we did this
gradually - we paid liberal
compensation & we have gradually
weaned the people from
the manufacture.

I am indisposed to revive
the manufacture, to bring
back the manufacturers
who have been merged in
the agricultural classes, to
their old trade - which was
never very profitable - & only
lasted a few months in
the year - Once the Famine
over we should probably have
to go through the whole difficult
process again - I would much

rather employ them who
formerly manufactured their
salt, and who now follow
other pursuits - as we
employ the mass of suffering
people.

As regards the getting people
to leave Bellary for the Eastern
Canal - the only way to attract
them seems to be by the offer

of larger wages than are
given on the relief works.
If we do this - we shall have
to keep up this exceptional
rate for a fixed time, or it
will be a breach of faith -

How would it do to offer Bellary
coolies 3s a day for the first
six weeks, ^{or two months} to revert to the
ordinary rate when settled

C. 225. 10/2/46

Memo.

3 letters from
Mr. Thornhill

down on the works. Once there
I told they would build no
work at Bellary. They wd
probably remain. If they
set higher wages. They must
be kept separate from other
coolies - & revert at the
end of the period to ordinary
wages. We cannot stop work
at Bellary & watch the contest

Memo

Three letters from Mr. Thornhill
d/16-17-18th with a drawing note
to be lost by Mr. Stokes.

I expected to be able to bring them
papers into Council yesterday or today -
I am enculate them - there is nothing
emergent in them.

My warmest attention
to Mr. Stokes 10th in the
subject of water supply for the
purpose of salt - understanding
they had the right to be
at once - between starvation & leaving
their homes - at the cost of
much life & great suffering

W.H.

12

I can see no ground for
raising money payments
for at Bellamy as proposed
by Mr Thornhill to be done
other shortly. The grain rates do
not justify this. & I much
prefer giving grain pay-
ments only. It may not
be any immediate economy
but it is a much better
test of real distress than
exorbitant wages.
As regards the earth salt
question. It would employ
about 10,000 persons. - but
we deliberately abandoned
this manufacture as causing
some £50,000 loss of revenue annually.
on
c.2

Manufacture Earth Salt
ordered to be suppressed, gradually,
in Bellary, Cuddapah & Tumkur,
& same reported to G. I. 30 Aug/13.

2) The gradual suppression commenced
in this: viz.

- ✓ New manufactories prohibited
- ✓ present ones to pay enhanced tax,
- ✓ tax to be annually increased,
up to 79, when full tax leviable.

3) We have had a report (G.O. 14/9/76)
that some manufactories near the
line of rail go on briskly - that they make
much more than license allows, & diffi-
cult to catch them. Further informⁿ required.

4) Thornhill in two d/s 7th & 11th inst
wth let the d/s term be opened out again -
he had deprecate this d/s. We gave the order
by. Nov 20/76.

Traffic Code Form C1.

Class.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Local No.

To (Station)

Madras

FROM (Station)

Bellary

No.

Words.

Time tendered for transmission.

(Maximum time)

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS—

X

19

Day

21

11

H.

M.

35

To (Person)

Sir W. Robinson

FROM (Person)

Collector

Govt	Telegram	earth
salt	manufacture	commences
present	on month +	probably
twelve	thousand	persons
will	be	employed
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33
34	35	36

RECD. FROM

(L. L.)

SENT TO

(L. L.)

at

H.

M., on the

AT

H.

M., on the

BY

MADRAS 21-11-76

BY

W. H. H. H. H.

Telegraph Master.

South Bell
Bellary
Salt
Manufacture
Commissioners, M
Cuddalore
12-10-73
Mysore

addressed by

N-1783

23 November 73

R.S. 1783

In some recent semi-official
~~decision~~ ^{from} Mr. Thomhill,
1st Member of the Board of Revenue
~~at Bellary~~ ^{at Bellary} now on
a tour of inspection in Bellary
his colleagues at Madras - it is
suggested that a revival of the
East Salt Manufacture in that
~~district~~ ^{district} of Bellary
& Chikmagalur will be of great advantage
~~as~~ ^{as} tending to draw away
from the ordinary relief works the
class of people (Upparas) who were
long engaged in the manufacture, and
to stimulate a trade in grain, which
will be tendered by merchants in ex-
change for the Salt.

2. The G. Inf. has carefully considered
his proposal - He observes that ^{gradual diffusion} the subject
of his Salt ^{in the Ceded districts} manufacture was delicate
^{sanctioned} ~~sanctioned~~ by the Govt. in 1873 & affirmed
by the C. of I. that it has in great part
been already suppressed, & compensation
franked to the people engaged in it; that
its revival will be attended with the payment
of considerable advances to a very indigent
class, from whom recovery can only be secured
by a continuance of the manufacture long after
the present distress is at an end; and that the
number whom a revival will affect forms a very
small fraction of the ^{total} population of the district
concerned, it is now on the whole
perhaps works.

From C. I. (Commerce)
25th Sept/73 No 88.

The Bd. of Rev., who are
averse to any change, & the
G. Inf. is of opinion that the
proposal will not be adopted.

Bd. Rev.
& Colls Bellary, Revenue Cuddalore
& R. Thomhill Esq. Bellary.

