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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

1783

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

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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; 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.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1783  
2

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY THE HON. SIR 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.

Obht. of 118761 30/11/1876.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

£s. d. c.

Dated November 23rd.

Recd.

G.O., 23rd November 1876, No. 1,783.

NOVEMBER.

NO. 111-441A.

Encl. to the Hon. Sir W. Robinson, K.C.S.I.—Considers that the proposal to revive the — should not be adopted.



Minute 1783  
3

Should support the recommen-  
dation of the local officers &  
sustain 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 this  
time for thousands - the City  
of Bellingham estimates 12000 -  
the production of a cheap ne-  
cessary of life; it will relieve  
work and transport greatly  
and as well as the Police &  
encourage the people & save taxation.

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

when the pressure disappears  
and station that the beat  
fits of the measure will be from  
physiology the relaxation -

26/11 W. Robinson

1283/4

Memento x

For money  
left in shoe  
on the wall  
bush (Celtic)  
Bull

There goes on the page -  
frustrate for finding;  
G.O. - when I find back  
824/11/1

Revenue 1876 Depar<sup>mt</sup>  
N<sup>o</sup> 5153

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

Dated 23 } November 1876  
Rec<sup>d</sup> 24 }

On the subject  
of the Salt question  
in the Ceded Dist<sup>cts</sup>

GO 23 Novemb<sup>r</sup> 76-1783

Proof written  
Copy

N<sup>o</sup> 441-

Revival of 1783/6  
Salt Salt-manufacture  
in Ceded Districts

The policy of putting  
an end to this manufacture  
was decided on. whether  
in good or evil - deliberately  
after communication  
with G. J. I. and  
at considerable cost in  
compensation - I doubt  
the expediency of in  
moments of purpose  
reversing a settled  
policy in a matter of  
this sort. unless it be  
clear that the policy  
was premature of the emergency  
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~~  
of closing the manufactures  
should now be reversed  
on general grounds.  
The salt revenue continuing  
on its present basis —

2.<sup>d</sup> 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  
12,000 for Bellary —  
~~but~~ say 1/2 of them  
now on relief works  
but I think this number  
is overrated. For I find  
that in papers relating  
to compensation — ~~the~~ ~~same~~  
Modas is stated to  
employ from 2 to 4 men  
vide New Board for 2736 odd 1/2  
(each ~~man~~ in New area  
appears to employ about  
one — as 2798 Pans  
employed 2703 Pans  
vide Mad Gov. <sup>order</sup> ~~for~~ 203/11

I do not anywhere  
find an actual statement  
of the total number  
of Modas in the ~~same~~  
districts — but I find  
that in Cuddalore

633. were returned for  
compensation &  
100. claud which had no  
compensation had  
been claimed

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

In Bellary Kurnool  
there were 536 Modas  
(viz. Proc. Mad Gov. 444  
April 1861) which at an  
average would give  
which in collector's letter of  
15<sup>th</sup> June 1863 No 88  
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 modas 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 the 3 districts  
we have already 250000  
persons in relief - so that  
the number who would  
be withdrawn for salt-  
work 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 modas = 30 rupees  
each - i.e. to return

The 5000 modas. would  
cost an immediate outlay  
in money & labour - of  
150,000 Rupees -  
If this is to be done by Govt.  
Mainly to ~~benefit~~ <sup>small</sup> ~~the~~  
the labour of even 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 time  
at least sufficient to  
repay the outlay -

<sup>28<sup>th</sup>/10</sup>  
I therefore came to the  
conclusion that no good  
can be made out of  
having ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> modas  
as a relief measure -  
I desire distinctly to  
avoid now 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 hasty & hurried note  
but it is with the  
question as a relief one  
should be decided

By 23/11

1783/13  
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 difficulty  
process again - I would much

rather employ them who  
formerly manufactured this  
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  
Coastal - 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 <sup>or two months</sup> to revert to the  
ordinary rate when settled

## Memo.

3 letters from  
Mr. Thornhill

down on the works. Once there  
I told they would find no  
work at Bellary. They will  
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  
of 16-17-18th with a covering note  
to be lost by Mr. Stokes -

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

My earnest attention  
to Mr. H. letter of 18th on the  
subject of with drawing from the  
presence of salt industry

I have the papers ready  
to be sent at once - I enclose them

between starvation & leaving  
their homes - at the cost of  
much life & great suffering

W.H.

I can see no ground for  
raising money payments  
for salt at Bellary as proposed  
by Mr Thornhill to be done  
shortly. The grain rates do  
not justify this - & I would 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  
extravagant wages -  
As regards the earth salt  
question. It would employ  
about 10,000 persons - but  
we deliberately abandoned  
this manufacture as costing  
some 100,000 £ less of revenue annually -

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

2) The gradual suppression consisted  
in this: viz.

- ✓ new manufactures 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 manufactures near the  
line of rail go on briskly - that they make  
much more than license allows, & diffi-  
cult to catch them. Further inform<sup>n</sup> wanted.

4) Thornhill in two d/s: 7<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> last  
w<sup>th</sup> let the d/s term be opened out again -  
he had deprecate his d/s - we gave no order.  
22. Nov 20/76.

Traffic Code Form C1.

Class.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Local No.

6420

To (Station)

Madras

FROM (Station)

Bellary

No.

Words.

x

19

Time tendered for transmission.

(Madras time)

Day 21

pt H.

13

M

3-5-

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.

To (Person)

Sir W. Robinson

From (Person)

Collector

|         |             |           |
|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1       | 2           | 3         |
| Gowr    | telegram    | earth     |
| 4       | 5           | 6         |
| Salt    | manufacture | Commences |
| 7       | 8           | 9         |
| present | month +     | Probably  |
| 10      | 11          | 12        |
| twelve  | thousand    | persons   |
| 13      | 14          | 15        |
| 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

BY

MADRAS 21-11-76

Date

W. H. H. H.

Telegraph Master.

South Salt  
 Bellary  
 Manufacture  
 commenced at  
 once  
 12500000  
 supplies

addressed by

N-1783

of 23 November/73.

R.S. 1783

In some recent semi-official letter ~~addressed~~ <sup>from</sup> Mr. Thomhill, 1<sup>st</sup> Member of the Board of Revenue ~~at Bellary~~ <sup>now on</sup> a tour of inspection in Bellary, to his colleagues at Madras - it is suggested that a revival of the Earth Salt Manufacture in that ~~and~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~districts~~ <sup>district</sup> of Bellary & Chikmagalur will be of great advantage, ~~as~~ <sup>as</sup> 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 exchange for the Salt.

2. The Govt. has carefully considered his proposal - He observes that the <sup>gradual</sup> ~~subject~~ <sup>suppression</sup> of his Salt ~~duties~~ <sup>duties</sup> ~~manufacture~~ <sup>manufacture</sup> was deliberately ~~sanctioned~~ <sup>sanctioned</sup> by the Govt. in 1873 & approved by the C. of D. that it has in great part been already suppressed, & compensation granted 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 assumed 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 <sup>total</sup> ~~population~~ <sup>population</sup> of the ~~districts~~ <sup>district</sup> ~~concerned~~, it is none on Relief works.

From C. I. (Commerce)  
26<sup>th</sup> Sept/73 No 88.

The Bd. of Rev., Mr. Thomhill, are averse to any change, & the Govt. is of opinion that the proposal will not be adopted.

Bd. Rev.  
Col. Bellary, Kemur, Cuddalore.  
R. Thomhill, Secy. Bellary.

Leaves  
To  
Prof. - Mr. H.  
Chalmers