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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

206

Press
Mis.

Dated

14.2.1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 151. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th December 1875, No. 3,307 :—

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 9th November 1875, No. 5,137.

I HAVE the honor to request the sanction of the Board of Revenue for making at Point Calimere an additional experimental enclosure for curing fish with salt supplied at the reduced price allowed in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th August 1874, No. 2,394.

2. One place was selected at Adrampatam by the Salt Deputy Collector when I was quite new to the district, and I believe the selection was the best one possible in regard to the number of fish there caught and the number of fish-curers, and I would not repent of it; but I am anxious, if permitted, to have another experimental enclosure at Calimere, because Calimere has certain special advantages peculiar to itself.

(1.) It is immediately connected with Trichinopoly and the interior generally by rail and canal, so that both edible salt-fish and fish-manure, of which I shall speak below, can be cheaply sent to market, and the market is calculated to be a large one.

(2.) It is close to the Vedarniem salt swamp, so that we can supply for this the spontaneous salt, which is the cheapest we make, and which will thus be insured an increased local market.

(3.) It is a more accessible place for my own inspection than Adrampatam, for I have a house on the spot and can quickly reach it by rail and canal, and might perhaps be able to give the curers some hints as well as see what they were doing.

3. Though there may be more fish caught at Adrampatam, still the takes at Calimere are by no means small, for I myself saw a whole fleet of boats out fishing. Small sailing vessels coming in full of the *Polynemus Indicus*, Shaw (*Anglice*, Roe Ball and sometimes Salmon Fish), a good firm fish of ordinarily three feet in length, which were being unloaded and carried off in cart-loads. The fishermen and merchants were very anxious to have the same salt privileges as Adrampatam, and pressed me about it repeatedly. As they are so close to the spontaneous salt swamp, it is all the more advisable to remove the temptation to steal that salt by placing within their reach a legitimate method of getting salt cheaply.

4. I find that salt-fish are sold in the town of Tanjore which have come all the way from Beypore by rail. It is very unjust to our fishermen that they should be beaten in the competition by fish brought from such a great distance. It is hard on the consumer, too, that he should have to pay for the carriage of it from the other coast when he might be more cheaply supplied by rail from Negapatam.

5. I hope, therefore, that the Board will be pleased to sanction the accompanying estimates for forming an enclosure at Point Calimere for fish-curing and for the requisite police guards for watching the same.

6. While on the subject of edible salt-fish, I would bring forward the concomitant subject of fish-manure. The fish caught out at sea, where the fleets

stay for a week or thereabouts, are cleaned on board, and the offal, which amounts to I am afraid to say how many tons, is thrown overboard and wasted, whereas, if it were salted, it would make a valuable manure, and would, I think, command a good market on the Nilgiris, the soil of which is particularly deficient in salt, so that it would be a great boon to the coffee planters, who, I am told, would gladly give Rupees 25 a-ton for fish-manure delivered at Mettapolliem, and I am hopeful that it can be there delivered at something very much below that figure.

7. To give pure salt at the reduced price for use outside the enclosure would, of course, be dangerous to the monopoly. I would propose, therefore, that any salt mixed in at least equal proportions with ashes, bone-dust, lime, or anything that will render it unfit for human food, or, so to speak, methyrate it, might be carried outside the enclosures to be used on boardship.

8. If it will be no loss to Government to give the salt for curing purposes at the rates now allowed, it will be no loss to give it also for manuring purposes, and it is obvious that the larger the scale on which the experiment can be worked, the better will it be for Government, which has to keep up a Police guard, and the better for the curer who can work two trades as easily as one. And, if it will be profitable with the manufactured salt, much more will it be likely to be so with the cheaper spontaneous salt.

9. If this concession be allowed, the procedure will be as follows:—

(1.) The merchants will as now buy at monopoly price and take out with them to their fishing grounds enough of good edible salt to keep their fish from decomposition between the fishing grounds and the shore and enclosures.

(2.) They will also bring to the enclosure before starting out fishing as much ash, lime, or bone-dust as they want salt; and, the two being there well mixed in equal proportions, they will be charged for this salt at the reduced price only, and will, after the mixture, be allowed to take it out to their fishing grounds, and, their fish offal being well treated with this mixture on boardship, will be ready for market directly they land.

(3.) Their partially-cured fish will come to the enclosure, and be there thoroughly well salted with salt supplied at the reduced price.

10. I may here remark that the salt bought at monopoly price and taken on boardship was very inadequate in quantity, for the fish were most offensive and alive with well-grown maggots. The excuse was that the salt was dear. Perhaps this state of things may mend when the merchants have before them the prospect of a thorough good salting in the enclosures and a good market afterwards; they promised me it should, but, if it does not, it may become a subject for consideration hereafter whether fly-blown fish should be admitted to the enclosures at all. I shall watch this point.

11. Other points also occur to me which it would be premature to detail at present, but they are reasons why I should like to have an enclosure at a point within reach of my own inspection more than once in the year, for Adrampatam is so far off that I could not hope to visit it oftener than once a year at most if so much.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board support Mr. Thomas's application for permission to open an additional experimental fish-curing enclosure at Point Calimere, and request sanction for the proposed outlay in connection therewith, *viz.*, Rupees 670, in addition to the cost of the necessary Police guard estimated at Rupees 40 per mensem. The charge can be met from savings in the Salt grant.

3. As regards Mr. Thomas's proposal to allow the issue of salt at the reduced rate for the purpose of converting the offal into fish-manure, provided the salt is rendered unfit for human food before its removal from the salting yard, the Board are by no means sanguine of the success of the experiment, but think that permission should be given for a trial, due care being taken to prevent fraud, and attention being paid to sanitation in the preparation and transport of the manure.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 152.

ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1876, No. 206.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government sanction the opening of an additional experimental enclosure for curing fish at Point Calimere. The estimated charge connected therewith of Rs. 670 and the cost of the necessary Police guard will be met from the source pointed out by the Board of Revenue.

2. The Government are not prepared to sanction an extension of the concession made in respect of salt sold for curing fish to Mr. Thomas's proposal concerning fish-manure for agricultural purposes. It is very doubtful whether any agricultural manure could bear the cost of transit by rail from Negapatam to Mettapolliem, and if there be a demand for manure of the kind proposed, it should be prepared on the west coast for plantations on that side of India, as there is no lack of material on that coast. Further, the object of the concession in favor of fish-curing being to provide wholesome food, that object will be best served by the offal being got rid of at sea so as to preserve the useful part of the fish. Its retention for removal on shore for purposes of manure might lead to the deterioration of the fish as food.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Inspector-General of Police.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 7th December 1875.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 9th November 1875, No. 5,137:—

I HAVE the honor to request the sanction of the Board of Revenue for making at Point Calimere an additional experimental enclosure for curing fish with salt supplied at the reduced price allowed in Board's Proceedings, dated 26th August 1874, No. 2,394.

2. One place was selected at Adrampatam by the Salt Deputy Collector when I was quite new to the district, and I believe the selection was the best one possible in regard to the number of fish there caught and the number of fish-curers, and I would not repent of it, but I am anxious, if permitted, to have another experimental enclosure at Calimere because Calimere has certain special advantages peculiar to itself.

(1.) It is immediately connected with Trichinopoly and the interior generally by rail and canal, so that both edible salt-fish and fish-manure, of which I shall speak below, can be cheaply sent to market, and the market is calculated to be a large one.

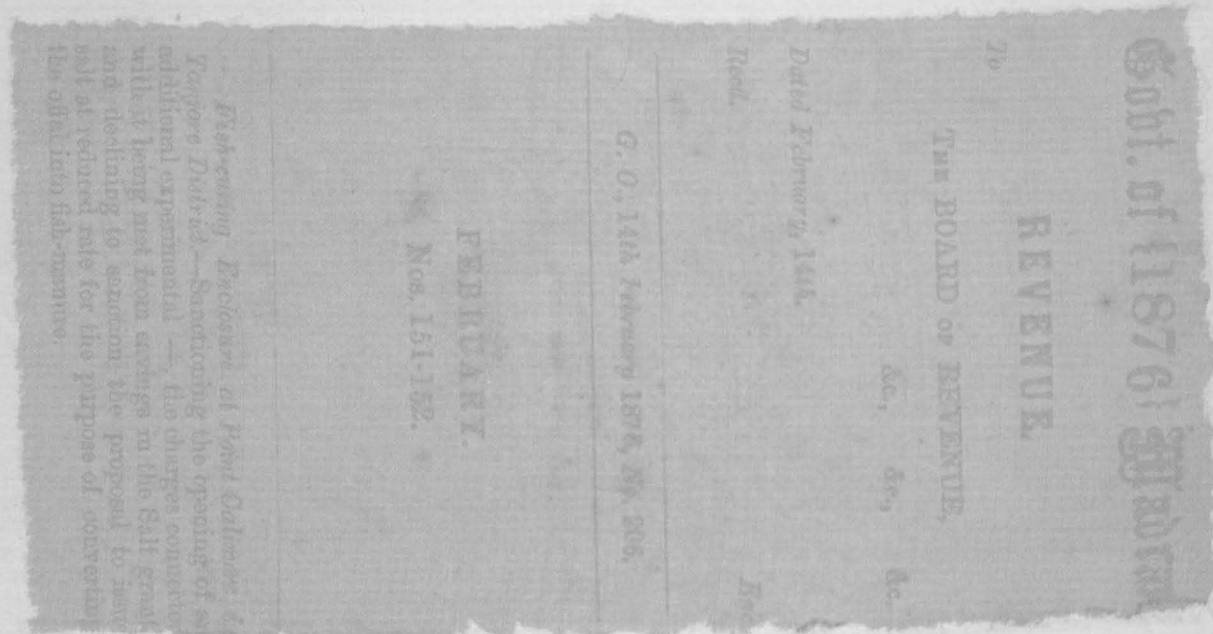
(2.) It is close to the Vedarniem salt swamp, so that we can supply for this curing the spontaneous salt, which is the cheapest we make and which will thus be insured an increased local market.

(3.) It is a more accessible place for my own inspection than Adrampatam might perhaps be. I have seen what they were doing.

3. Though there may be more fish caught at Adrampatam, still the takes at Calimere are by no means small, for I myself saw a whole fleet of boats out fishing. Small sailing vessels coming in full of the *Polynemus Indicus*, Shaw (*Anglice*, Roe Ball and sometimes Salmon Fish), a good firm fish of ordinarily three feet in length, which were being unloaded and carried off in cart-loads. The fishermen and merchants were very anxious to have the same salt privileges as Adrampatam, and pressed me about it repeatedly. As they are so close to the spontaneous salt swamp, it is all the more advisable to remove the temptation to steal that salt by placing within their reach a legitimate method of getting salt cheaply.

4. I find that salt-fish are sold in the town of Tanjore which have come all the way from Beypore by rail. It is very unjust to our fishermen that they should be beaten in the competition by fish brought from such a great distance. It is hard on the consumer too that he should have to pay for the carriage of it from the other coast when he might be more cheaply supplied by rail from Negapatam.

5. I hope, therefore, that the Board will be pleased to sanction the accompanying estimates for forming an enclosure at Point Calimere for fish-curing and for the requisite police guards for watching the same.



6. While on the subject of edible salt-fish, I would bring forward the concomitant subject of fish-manure. The fish caught out at sea, where the fleets stay for a week or thereabouts, are cleaned on board, and the offal, which amounts to I am afraid to say how many tons, is thrown overboard and wasted, whereas, if it were salted, it would make a valuable manure, and would, I think, command a good market on the Nilgiris, the soil of which is particularly deficient in salt, so that it would be a great boon to the coffee planters, who, I am told, would gladly give Rupees 25 a-ton for fish-manure delivered at Mettapolliem, and I am hopeful that it can be there delivered at something very much below that figure.

7. To give pure salt at the reduced price for use outside the enclosure would, of course, be dangerous to the monopoly. I would propose, therefore, that any salt mixed in at least equal proportions with ashes, bone-dust, lime, or anything that will render it unfit for human food, or, so to speak, methylate it, might be carried outside the enclosures to be used on boardship.

8. If it will be no loss to Government to give the salt for curing purposes at the rates now allowed, it will be no loss to give it also for manuring purposes, and it is obvious that, the larger the scale on which the experiment can be worked, the better will it be for Government, which has to keep up a Police guard, and the better for the curer who can work two trades as easily as one. And, if it will be profitable with the manufactured salt, much more will it be likely to be so with the cheaper spontaneous salt.

9. If this concession be allowed, the procedure will be as follows:—

(1.) The merchants will as now buy at monopoly price and take out with them to their fishing grounds enough of good edible salt to keep their fish from decomposition between the fishing grounds and the shore and enclosures.

(2.) They will mix with the salt as much ash, lime, or bone-dust as they want salt; and, the two being there well mixed in equal proportions, they will be charged for this salt at the reduced price only, and will, after the mixture, be allowed to take it out to their fishing grounds, and, their fish offal being well treated with this mixture on boardship, will be ready for market directly they land.

(3.) Their partially-cured fish will come to the enclosure, and be there thoroughly well salted with salt supplied at the reduced price.

10. I may here remark that the salt bought at monopoly price and taken on boardship was very inadequate in quantity, for the fish were most offensive and alive with well-grown maggots. The excuse was that the salt was dear. Perhaps this state of things may mend when the merchants have before them the prospect of a thorough good salting in the enclosures and a good market afterwards; they promised me it should, but, if it does not, it may become a subject for consideration hereafter whether fly-blown fish should be admitted to the enclosures at all. I shall watch this point.

11. Other points also occur to me which it would be premature to detail at present, but they are reasons why I should like to have an enclosure at a point within reach of my own inspection more than once in the year, for Adrampatam is so far off that I could not hope to visit it oftener than once a year at most if so much.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 and 2.—Estimates.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board support Mr. Thomas' application for permission to open an additional experimental fish-curing enclosure at Point Calimere, and request sanction for the proposed outlay in connection therewith, *viz.*, Rupees 670, in addition to the cost of the necessary Police guard estimated at Rupees 40 per mensem. The charge can be met from savings in the Salt grant.

3. As regards Mr. Thomas' proposal to allow the issue of salt at the reduced rate for the purpose of converting the offal into fish-manure, provided the salt is rendered unfit for human food before its removal from the salting yard, the Board are by no means sanguine of the success of the experiment, but think that permission should be given for a trial, due care being taken to prevent fraud, and attention being paid to sanitation in the preparation and transport of the manure.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with two original enclosures to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department

Memo for Orders.

Secy of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting to Govt., with
Bd's support, application of Coll^r
of Tanjore for opening an add^l
experimental enclosure at
Point Calimere for curing fish,
& passing remarks with reference to
proposal to issue salt at reduced
rate for the purpose of converting
the offal into fish-manure.

N. E. 7th Dec 87/95 No. 3307.

The Coll^r of Tanjore
requests sanction to open
an experimental salting
enclosure at Point Calimere,
in addition to the one
already opened at Naghila.

in that District, under the
arrangements sanctioned in

G. O. 12th April 1875 No. 576.

2nd July 1875 No. 177-78
1875

42-157

80 4877

Revenue 1875. 8th Dec

BOARD OF REVENUE
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 7TH DECEMBER 1875, No. 3,3

Order: 21 Dec 87/95

Dec

Order 806-114 February 1877

Received 22nd Dec 87/95

DECEMBER.
No. 3,307.

Fish—Submitting to Government,
Board's support, application of Collector
Tanjore for opening an additional experimental
enclosure at Point Calimere for curing —,
passing remarks with reference to proposal
to issue salt at reduced rate for the purpose
converting the offal into fish-manure.

for the use of salt on easy terms for curing fish. The cost involved is Rs. 670 in addition to Police guard, of which the monthly cost is estimated at Rs. 40.

2. Point Calimere is a fishing place connected by the Vedaranyam Canal with Nagapattinam, the terminus of the South Indian Railway, and has further the advantage of proximity to the Vedaranyam Salt Swamp, where the spontaneous salt is collected and stored at a very small

cost. The Collector states, that the fishermen & merchants at this place are anxious to have a fish curing yard on the terms sanctioned, and his

proposal is supported by the Board of Revenue.

3. Mr. Thomas submits another proposal at the same time.

He recommends that

that at this place, salt should be supplied at the same reduced rate also for converting the offal into fish manure; care being taken that it is mixed in equal proportions with ashes, bone-dust, lime or the like, and thus rendered unfit for human food, before it is removed from the guarded enclosure. By this means, Mr. Thomas considers, the offal which in the process of cleaning the fish out at sea, is thrown over

over-board in very large quantities, can be converted into valuable manure. The manner, he adds, would command a good market on the Nilgiris, where the soil is particularly deficient in salt. The Board, however, are by no means sanguine of the success of the experiment; but think their permission should be given for

for a trial, due care being taken to prevent fraud, and attention being paid to sanitation in the preparation and transport of the manure.

14. This proposal however, it is submitted, goes beyond the legitimate scope of the experimental salting enclosures; where, with the approval of the Govt. of

I would confine the concession to a legitimate object - salt-donors or the agricultural manure of the cost of the railway had from the railway. If there be a demand for manure of this kind it should be prepared on the West Coast of India. There is no want of material

G.O. 13 Sept. 1873 N. 985
Letter to the Govt. of India
12th April 1875 N. 1875

of India, salt is
supplied at a little
over cost-price
for curing fish, in
order to provide
cheap and whole-
sale food for the
masses:

on the West Coast - Further
the object in view is to prepare
oleosome food; the oil
is got rid of at sea, in order
to preserve the useful part
of the fish & to effect the
transformation of it into a
tanned & denaturalized state
for manurial purposes
It is sanctioned the
experiment for fish curing
purposes but refuses its
extension

2/2 M.

Jay

Memorandum
Proposal for opening
an additional experi-
mental enclosure
at Point Calumet
for curing fish -

1875/5

Crs

Revenue Department
N^o 206

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 14th February 1876

Read the following ~~letter~~ ^{minutes} ~~minutes~~

of the 18th of Dec^r of 7 Dec^r
1875 no 3307.

The Government sanction
the opening of an ad-
ditional experimental
enclosure for curing fish
at Point Calumet. The
estimated charge estimated
thereof of Rs. 670 & the cost of
the necessary Police Guard
will be met from the
sums granted out by
the Board of Revenue.

The Government are not
prepared to sanction an
extension of the enclosure
made in respect of salt-
fish curing, to the Kanak
proposal concerning fish-
manure for agricultural
purposes. It is very doubtful

whether any agricultural
 manure could bear the
 cost of transit by rail
 from Hepatoun to Metta-
 patzen. If there be a
 demand for manure
 of the kind proposed, it should
 be prepared on the west
 coast for Mantahms
 on that side of the river, as
 there is no lack of material
 on that coast. Further
 the object of the measure
 in favor of fish curing, being
 to provide wholesome
 food, that object will
 be best served by the
 offal being got rid of
 at sea, ^{road} to preserve the
 useful part of the fish.
 Its retention for removal
 on shore for manure
 purposes ^{manure} will lead to
 the deterioration of the fish as food.

11. To the Board of Dec. 15 Feb
 to the Accountant General
 to the Inspector General of Police
 to the Municipal Dept

8/9/6

Cost. of 1873 & 1874.

To

Debit
Recd.

}

187, No.

Nos.

10000

By
from order.