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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1031 Press

B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 12-3-1877 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
Fort St. GEORGE,
19th March 1877.

No. 1,031.

No. 364.
To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

Separate Revenue, No. 8.
Salt.

No. 24, (Customs—Inland).

SIR,—I am directed by His Grace the Governor in Council to acknowledge your letters of the 19th February* ultimo, requesting an early expression of his views on the proposal to apply to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for sanction to a new appointment being made, in view to the salt revenue of this Presidency being administered by a separate head of the department, in subordination to the Board of Revenue, as is done in other parts of India.

2. The Madras Government concur in the expediency of such an appointment being made, and observe that they will have no difficulty in making a suitable selection for the post, on the pay and allowances suggested by the Government of India.

3. With reference, however, to the remark in paragraph 7 of your letter that this new "Commissioner or Collector of Salt Revenue" might be invested with the powers of a Collector throughout all the districts of the Presidency, it may be doubted whether this could be done without legislation. The matter is one of detail, and will be considered in communication with the Board of Revenue and the Law Officers.

4. In paragraphs 10 and 11 of your letter certain recommendations of the Salt Commission are mentioned, as either susceptible of early adoption, or as desirable after power has been obtained to introduce them, in some cases by legislation and in others by negotiations with Foreign States. The Governor in Council carefully notes these recommendations, but believes that the Government of India do not desire to receive his immediate opinion on the subject. They will be attentively dealt with in due course.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Original

griculture (1877) Department

Government of Fort St. George.

ed 12th March 1877. } No. 1,031.
ceived } Enclosures.
5 spare Co

No. Proc.

No. No.

Concurring in the expediency of the proposal for a new appointment for the administration of the salt revenue and offering remarks on the subject.

No. 24.

1031/2

From

G. H. M. BATTEN, Esq.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

To

The Secy. to the Government of Madras.

Dept. of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce.

Customs—*Inland.*

Calcutta, the 9th February 1877.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 327, dated the 27th November last, requesting an expression of the views of His Grace the Governor in Council on the conclusions arrived at in the report of the Madras Salt Commission, I am directed to state that the Governor-General in Council having perused the report, which is in his opinion excellent and exhaustive, thinks it very desirable that many of the practical suggestions with which it teems should be adopted as soon as possible.

2. The Commission recommend that steps should be taken for the introduction of an excise system, but they also shew that the present monopoly is susceptible of great improvement. It will be some time before the excise system can everywhere displace the monopoly, should it be decided to make the change, so that it seems unnecessary to await the final disposal of this question before proceeding to improve the present system of monopoly.

3. In this view I am to make the following remarks and suggestions, and to request an early expression of the views of His Grace the Governor in Council thereon.

4. Chapter III of the report fully describes the present system. The agency by which it is administered is explained in a general way in paragraphs 29 to 33 of Chapter II, and in grater detail in paragraphs 228 to 237 of Chapter III. Its defects are shewn in paragraphs 238 and 239, after which the Commission proceeded to shew how it may be improved.

5. The first proposal (paragraph 240) is "that the Collectors should be relieved of the control of salt revenue, and that it should be entrusted to a separate head of department, and that the officers under him should constitute a separate branch of the public service." In the Bombay and Bengal Presidencies, except in the Lower Provinces of Bengal (where such an arrangement is unnecessary, as, with the exception of Orissa, nearly the whole of the salt consumed there is imported by sea to Calcutta) and Assam, the salt revenue is administered by a separate department with a separate head, with great advantage to the Government, in respect both of administrative details and financial results; and the report of the Commission appears to shew conclusively that a similar step would probably be attended with equally good results in the Madras

Presidency. I am accordingly to enquire whether His Grace the Governor in Council agrees to the recommendations in paragraph 240 of the Commission's report.

6. The new head of the Salt Department might, I am to suggest, receive a salary of Rs. 2,000, rising by annual increments of Rs. 100 to a salary of Rs. 2,500, with a fixed travelling allowance of Rs. 250 per mensem. The consent of Her Majesty's Secretary of State will be necessary before the appointment can be finally sanctioned.

7. The first duty of this officer, who might be called either Commissioner or Collector of Salt Revenue, and be subordinate to the Board of Revenue and invested with the powers of a Collector throughout the Presidency, would be to submit a scheme for the reorganization of the department. This subject is fully entered into by the Commission (see paragraphs 240 *et seq* and paragraph 22 of Mr. Pritchard's dissent, page 247; and as regards police, paragraph 270).

8. The Commission shew (paragraphs 127 *et seq* and paragraphs 567 and 568), that, "whether for excise or monopoly, a thorough consolidation and revision of the law is in their opinion absolutely necessary" (paragraph 133). This subject might immediately be taken up by the new head of the Salt Department. All matters relating to the import or export of salt by sea might also be placed under his charge (see paragraphs 213 to 217 and 421 to 429 regarding the exports by sea and the loss to Government under the present system).

9. The new officer would also proceed to carry out, under the orders of the Madras Government, the improvements suggested by the Commission. Most of these are matters within the competency of the local Government to deal with; those requiring the orders of the Government of India would be referred accordingly. The possibility of a change from the monopoly to an excise system, should that change be eventually approved, will of course be borne in mind pending final orders on this subject.

10. The following recommendations of the Commission can, it is believed, be carried into effect without delay or difficulty:—

The form of agreement with ryots to be adapted to existing circumstances (paragraph 143).

Certain works to be closed (paragraph 153). (Regarding compensation see paragraph 140).

Salt to be stored more quickly (paragraph 182).

Beam scales with movable tripols and standard weights to be provided, and rules laid down for testing them (paragraph 192).

Rules to be laid down for regulating the order in which the produce of different owners of salt shall be taken into store (paragraph 193).

More test weighments of stored salt by trustworthy officers of superior rank necessary (paragraph 199).

Except in small deliveries not exceeding 2 maunds, all salt to be bagged by purchasers before weighment (paragraph 209).

Special discounts on wholesale sales to be abolished (paragraph 210).

All discounts to be abolished and all salt sold to be weighed in full (paragraph 211).

Better arrangements required to prevent smuggling back of exported salt (paragraph 217).

System of records of salt manufacture and sale to be thoroughly revised (paragraph 226).

The official year to be adopted in lieu of the *Fasli* year (paragraph 226).

Vedaranyam salt to be stored and sold at Vedaranyam. Chingleput salt also to be stored locally unless better arrangments are made regarding its weighments into boats and guarding in transit on the canal (paragraph 254).

Vedaranyam swamp salt to be better guarded (paragraph 261).

Wastage allowed in shipments of salt to Travancore to be reduced (paragraph 347).

Increase of expenditure on petty works to be checked (paragraph 406).

Rates charged for export salt to be revised (paragraph 423).

11. Besides the above, there are other recommendations of the Commission which will require in some cases legislation, in others negotiations with Foreign States. These are—

(*I.*)—The suppression of earth salt manufacture in British and in neighbouring Foreign Territory (see paragraphs 230, 300 and 303).

(*II.*)—The subjection of saltpetre manufacture to licence and control (paragraph 268). The Commission recommend the extension of Act XXXI of 1861 to Madras. But this Act has been repealed by the Inland Customs Act, 1875, so far as the Upper Provinces of Bengal are concerned, and it would, in the opinion of the Government of India, be better to include the necessary provisions in the consolidated and revised law, which, it has been suggested, should at once be taken in hand.

(*III.*)—The French authorities to be asked, if opportunity offer, to restrict the French supply of salt to the wants of their own settlement (paragraph 325).

(*IV.*)—The consumption of salt in Travancore be investigated and, if necessary, prices there be raised (paragraph 346).

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Off. Secretary to the Government of India.

Rev. 1877. Dept

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

CUSTOMS—INLAND.

No. 1444

To

THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

E 1

No. 24.

Dated Calcutta, the 19 February 1877.

Read 26 — do

Pb 12-3-77 to 1031

SUBJECT.

SUGGESTS the appointment of a separate head with a separate establishment for the administration of the salt revenue in the Madras Presidency, and offers certain remarks with reference to the recommendations made in the report of the Madras Salt Commission.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 1444

1031/4

From Govt India - Rev Dept

Dated 19th Feby 1877

FOR ORDERS.

G.O 7th Decr 76.

Some time ago we were asked our views on the Salt Report. We are awaiting the views of the Bd Rev.

2. The present reference is a simple one. The Govt India say that (if at all) it will be some time before Excise will displace the present system - but to improve the present system, they offer us a Salt Collector, a new office, at 2000 Rs a month rising to 2500 Rs, & good travelling allowances.

3. This will, I appreh[end], be brought to an offer too good to be refused - Everybody knows that Salt wants a special officer. Once appointed, he will submit suggestions for carrying out such of the Salt Commission's proposals as are approved by Govt.

Vague in the desirability of an special officer for Salt - but recommendation as to bagging salt -

para 6/

4. The Govt of India cannot themselves create a new appt of this nature, but request an early expression of the wishes of this Govt, in view to obtaining sanction from the Secy of State.

H.V. 26/2/7.

FOR ORDERS.

Salt Collector -
Mer 4 - 4 Cert &c

No 1444/77

I think that we might tell the Port of Maldon that we had full contemplate accommodating the appointment of a Special Officer in charge of the Salt Duty at those times & recommend in the meantime decisive action in this direction as respects the Maldon Port

It must still be reported to the P.O. till secure the best attention of Mr. in his absence of the report

none seem open to us save Letter arrangement & greater energy both exported Salt Mr Commissr. to propose preparation of public duty - and (2) Storing Crown salt - at Custom and Mer Clapgate - salt - Sum it is produced - unless better arrangements left - transit - can be made with respect and Consideration -

Pll (II) Proposes further enquiries as the manufacture of salt before - already endorsed

28/2 DD2

I agree. Let us get on Salt Journ & then work out. responses.

M.H.
2/3/77

Ceve

Ack'd -
Prepare draft &
Circulate as usual
5/3 DM

No. 1031 & 12-3-77

R. 1031/6

To the Secy G.I. Dept of Revenue &c

Sir.

I am directed by the Govr Genl to acknowledge the Letters of the 19th Feby ultimo, requesting an early expression of his views on the proposal to apply to Her Majesty's Secy of State for sanction to a new appt being made, in lieu to the Salt Revenue of this Presy being administered by a separate dept into a separate Dept as is done in other parts of India.

2. The Madras Govt concur in the expediency of such an appt being made, and observe that they will have no difficulty in making a suitable selection for the post, or the pay and allowances suggested by the Govt of India. With reference, however, to the remarks in para 7 of the Letter that this new "Commr or Collr of Salt Revenue" might be invested with the powers of a Collr throughout all the districts of the Presy - it may be doubted whether this could be done without legislation. The matter is one of detail & will be considered in connexion with the Bill of Revenue Officers.

+ No 24 Customs - Inland.

Inserted this - to obviate their making over Salt a dept of their own like Accounts, e.g. &c.

P3.

3. In para 10 & 11 of the letter,
certain recommendations of the
Salt Commission are mentioned,
as either susceptible of early adoption;
or as desirable after power has
been obtained to introduce them,
in some cases by legislation and
in others by negotiations with
Foreign States. The G. in C. carefully
notes these recommendations, but
believes that the Govt of India do
not desire to receive his immediate
opinion on the subject. They will be
duly attentively dealt with in due
course -

D.F.C. 2 march 61

1031/7

To Lat. Institute
Light Collection