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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1132	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19.3.1877	197

- Not to be folded or roughly handled

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1132
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.*

No. 583. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th February 1877, No. 916 :—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 30th October 1876, No. 2,690.

Read also the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kota, 22nd January 1877, No. 413 :—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,690, of 30th October last, inquiring when and under what circumstances the Sea Customs Establishment was placed under the Salt Deputy Collector, I have the honor to submit a letter* from that officer affording information on the subject.

2. I may add that, in connection with the importation of grain for Government into the various ports of the sub-division, I am placing the Sea Customs Establishments of those ports under the Sub-Collector tentatively, and, if the system works well and the Sub-Collector desires and finds he can manage the charge in his office satisfactorily, shall continue the arrangement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. E. PLUNKETT, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, Nellore, No. 204.

I HAVE the honor to reply to your foot-note, No. 3,151, dated 9th ultimo, appended to copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 2,690, dated 30th October last. I regret the delay that has taken place in the matter; but, as my time has been more than fully occupied in attending to relief work and other extraneous matter, I have not had the leisure to refer to the old correspondence on the inquiry made before submitting an answer to it.

2. The Board ask under what orders the present arrangement of having the Sea Customs work in this district under the Salt Deputy Collector was first established, how long it has subsisted, and whether the Deputy Collector's proper work is affected by it.

3. Prior to the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector to the charge of the salt, the Salt Superintendents, who were at that time also the local Sea Customs Officers along the coast in Nellore, were in the principal division under the orders of the Head Assistant Collector, and in the sub-division under the Sub-Collector. In 1859, however, the new office of Salt Deputy Collector was created, and the whole salt charge of the district was brought under him and removed entirely from the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors, who however retained the Sea Customs supervision. The Salt Superintendents were thus placed under two masters—under the Sub or Head Assistant Collector in the Sea Customs Department and under the Deputy Collector in the salt; and, as this arrangement was not convenient, the then Collector of Nellore, Mr. Dykes, proposed, and the Board supported the proposal in their Proceedings, No. 63, dated 6th January 1860, that "the Sea Customs Department may be placed under the Deputy Collector in charge of the salt revenue," as "this arrangement will be particularly convenient as the Salt Superintendents, with one exception, collect the customs dues, and will thus be under one superior in both departments." In their Order thereon, Revenue Department, 27th January 1860, No. 132, the Government sanctioned the arrangement, which was established and has since subsisted up to the present time.

4. Three or four years after the orders quoted in my foregoing paragraph, however, an entire and radical change was effected in both the Salt and Sea Customs Departments under the revision of Revenue Establishments carried out by the Hon. C. Pelly, then a Member of

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.

the Board of Revenue. A higher-paid and better class of Superintendents were employed, the two departments were separated, distinct establishments were entertained for both, and the Salt Superintendents ceased to have anything to do with the Sea Customs Department or revenues. The reason then which led to the carrying out in 1860 of the existing arrangement of the Sea Customs charge of the district being vested in the Salt Deputy Collector thus ceased to exist, and cannot in any way affect any further change, it may be desired now to introduce.

5. As to whether the Salt Deputy Collector's work is affected by the charge I must say decidedly it is not. The additional work it imposes is light, and so far I am perfectly willing to keep, and have no desire whatever to relinquish any part of it. But, at the same time, I must say that I think the transfer of the sub-division portion of the charge to the Sub-Collector, as proposed by the Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Hardinge, will be in many respects advantageous. In the first place his is far more a local office than mine, and he is better able, from his headquarters at Ongole, to exercise an immediate and direct check on the Sea Customs Office at Kottapatam (with regard to which principally the present question has arisen) than I can from my head-quarters at Nellore, or when I travel, as I ought frequently to do, to the southern salt stations of Dugarazupatam, Toda, or Sunnapugunta.

6. No inconvenience can arise by the division of the Sea Customs charge of the district between two officers by placing the ports of the sub-division under the Sub-Collector and leaving those of the principal division, as they now are, under me. It is altogether different to the salt charge, and I have shown that in former years such an arrangement did exist. All trade statistics and accounts are all tabulated, prepared, and sent to the higher authorities from the Department of your office, and the Salt Deputy Collector, and the duty as the officer in charge is restricted to the periodical examination of the local Sea Customs offices as I go up and down the coast, the inspection of the trade registers, &c., and the exercise of a sort of general supervision somewhat similar to what a Divisional Officer has over the offices of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars in his range. Thus a separation of the sub-division ports from the officer in charge of the principal division ports is not by any means likely to obstruct business or be of the least inconvenience, and by the better check the Sub-Collector, from his proximity and superior position, can bring to bear over them would be of much benefit.

7. Again, by existing orders, the Sea Customs Superintendent of Kottapatam is also a Magistrate. The late man was not invested with such powers on account of his character and because he was not considered fit to be entrusted with them. But were he so invested, which but for the special reason I have first stated he ought to have been, as such he would have been under the orders of the Joint Magistrate *alias* Sub-Collector, and as Sea Customs Superintendent under myself, the Salt Deputy Collector, and have had two superior officers. Thus the very

* Paragraph 3 *supra*.

reason above* shown, which led to the Sea Customs charge in 1860 having been put under the Salt Deputy Collector, now presents itself for putting at least the Sea Customs Superintendent of Kottapatam, and as a consequence the two ports in his charge (Kottapatam and Itanambakole) under the Sub-Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. NARRAIN ROW,
Dy. Collr., for Ag. Collr.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of Nellore having referred for the Board's orders copies of correspondence relating to a proposal by the Sub-Collector that the Sea Customs Department in the sub-division should be placed under the latter's immediate super-

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19th March 1877.

vision instead of that of the Salt Deputy Collector, the Board called for a report as to the origin of the existing arrangement and the length of time it has been in force. From the report now furnished by the Salt Deputy Collector it appears that, prior to the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector to the charge of salt revenue, the collection of sea customs was entrusted to the several Salt Superintendents under the orders of the Head Assistant Collector in the principal division and of the Sub-Collector in the sub-division, and that subsequently the supervision of the Sea Customs and Salt Establishments was vested in the Salt Deputy Collector to obviate the inconvenience which would result from divided control. The necessity for this arrangement no longer exists, the two departments having been separated, and the Board therefore support the Collector's proposal that the control of the Sea Customs Establishment in the sub-division be transferred to the Sub-Collector as an experimental measure subject to report on the working of the system at the expiration of a year.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 584. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1877, No. 1,132.

Separate Revenue, No. 16.
Customs,

APPROVED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Offg. Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. Grubert.

1132/3

No. 916.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 28th February 1877.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 30th October 1876, No. 2,690.

Read also the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kota, 22nd January 1877, No. 413:—

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, No. 2,690, of 30th October last, inquiring when and under what circumstances the Sea Customs Establishment was placed under the Salt Deputy Collector, I have the honor to submit a letter* from that officer affording information on the subject.

* No. 204, dated 11th ultimo (copy enclosed).

2. I may add that, in connection with the importation of grain for Government into the various ports of the sub-division, I am placing the Sea Customs Establishments of those ports under the Sub-Collector tentatively, and, if the system works well and the Sub-Collector desires and finds he can manage the charge in his office satisfactorily, shall continue the arrangement.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. E. PLUNKETT, Esq., Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, Nellore, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, dated 17th December 1876, No. 204.

I HAVE the honor to reply to your foot-note, No. 3,151, dated 9th ultimo, appended to copy of Board's Proceedings, No. 2,690, dated 30th October last. I regret the delay that has taken place in the matter; but, as my time has been more than fully occupied in attending to relief work and other extraneous matter, I have not had the leisure to refer to the old correspondence on the inquiry made before submitting an answer to it.

2. The Board ask under what orders the present arrangement of having the Sea Customs work in this district under the Salt Deputy Collector was first established, how long it has subsisted, and whether the Deputy Collector's proper work is affected by it.

3. Prior to the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector to the charge of the salt, the Salt Superintendents, who were at that time also the local Sea Customs Officers along the coast in Nellore, were in the principal division under the orders of the Head Assistant Collector, and in the sub-division under the Sub-Collector. In 1859, however, the new office of Salt Deputy Collector was created, and the whole salt charge of the district was brought under him and removed entirely from the Sub and Head Assistant Collectors, who however retained the Sea Customs supervision. The Salt Superintendents were thus placed under two masters—under the Sub or Head Assistant Collector in the Sea Customs Department and under the Deputy Collector in the salt; and, as this arrangement was not convenient, the then Collector of Nellore, Mr. Dykes, proposed, and the Board supported the proposal in their Proceedings, No. 63, dated 6th January 1860, that "the Sea Customs Department may be placed under the Deputy Collector in charge of the salt revenue," as "this arrangement will be particularly convenient as the Salt Superintendents, with one exception, collect the customs dues, and will thus be under one superior in both departments." In their Order thereon, Revenue Department, 27th January 1860, No. 132, the Government sanctioned the arrangement, which was thus established and has since subsisted up to the present time.

Govt. of 1877
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Nos. 383-384.
G.O. 199, dated 1877, No. 1132.
Encl.
Sea Customs Department of Sub-division
Nellore District.—Approving Board's proposal
of — from superintendence of
Deputy Collector to that of Sub-Collector.

4. Three or four years after the orders quoted in my foregoing paragraph, however, an entire and radical change was effected in both the Salt and Sea Customs Departments under the revision of Revenue Establishments carried out by the Hon. C. Pelly, then a Member of the Board of Revenue. A higher-paid and better class of Superintendents were employed, the two departments were separated, distinct establishments were entertained for both, and the Salt Superintendents ceased to have anything to do with the Sea Customs Department or revenues. The reason then which led to the carrying out in 1860 of the existing arrangement of the Sea Customs charge of the district being vested in the Salt Deputy Collector, thus ceased to exist, and cannot in any way affect any further change, it may be desired now to introduce.

5. As to whether the Salt Deputy Collector's work is affected by the charge I must say decidedly it is not. The additional work it imposes is light, and so far I am perfectly willing to keep, and have no desire whatever to relinquish any part of it. But, at the same time, I must say that I think the transfer of the sub-division portion of the charge to the Sub-Collector, as proposed by the Acting Sub-Collector, Mr. Hardinge, will be in many respects advantageous. In the first place his is far more a local office than mine, and he is better able, from his headquarters at Ongole, to exercise an immediate and direct check on the Sea Customs Office at Kottapatam (with regard to which principally the present question has arisen) than I can from my headquarters at Nellore, or when I travel, as I ought frequently to do, to the southern salt stations of Dugarazupatam, Toda, or Sunnapugunta.

6. No inconvenience can arise by the division of the Sea Customs charge of the district between two officers by placing the ports of the sub-division under the Sub-Collector and leaving those of the principal division, as they now are, under me. It is altogether different to the salt charge, and I have shown that in former years such an arrangement did exist. All trade statistics and accounts are all tabulated, prepared, and sent to the higher authorities from the Salt Department of your office, under the Treasury Deputy Collector, and thus my duty as the officer in charge is restricted to the periodical examination of the local Sea Customs offices as I go up and down the coast, the inspection of the trade registers, &c., and the exercise of a sort of general supervision somewhat similar to what a Divisional Officer has over the offices of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars in his range. Thus a separation of the sub-division ports from the officer in charge of the principal division ports is not by any means likely to obstruct business or be of the least inconvenience, and by the better check the Sub-Collector, from his proximity and superior position, can bring to bear over them would be of much benefit.

7. Again, by existing orders, the Sea Customs Superintendent of Kottapatam is also a Magistrate. The late man was not invested with such powers on account of his character and because he was not considered fit to be entrusted with them. But were he so invested, which but for the special reason I have first stated *he ought to have been*, as such he would have been under the orders of the Joint Magistrate *alias* Sub-Collector, and as Sea Customs Superintendent under myself, the Salt Deputy Collector, and have had two superior officers. Thus the very

* Paragraph 3 *supra*.

reason above* shown, which led to the Sea Customs charge in 1860 having been put under the Salt Deputy Collector, now presents itself for putting at least the Sea Customs Superintendent of Kottapatam, and as a consequence the two ports in his charge (Kottapatam and Itamukkala) under the Sub-Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. NARRAIN ROW,
Dy. Collr., for Ag. Collr.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of Nellore having referred for the Board's orders copies of correspondence relating to a proposal by the Sub-Collector that the Sea Customs Department in the sub-division should be placed under the latter's immediate supervision instead of that of the Salt Deputy Collector, the Board called for a report as to the origin of the existing arrangement and the length of time it has been in force. From the report now furnished by the Salt Deputy Collector it appears that, prior to the appointment of a Special Deputy Collector to the charge of salt revenue, the collection of sea customs was entrusted to the several Salt Superintendents under the orders of the Head Assistant Collector in the principal division and of the Sub-Collector in the sub-division, and that subsequently the supervision of the Sea Customs and Salt Establishments was vested in the Salt Deputy Collector to obviate the inconvenience which would result from divided control. The necessity for this arrangement no longer exists, the two departments having been separated, and the Board therefore support the Collector's proposal that the control of the Sea Customs Establishment in the sub-division be transferred to the Sub-Collector as an experimental measure subject to report on the working of the system at the expiration of a year.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copy of Board's Proc. dated 30th Oct. 1876, No. 2,690.
Copy to the Acting Collector of Nellore.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

14-3-77

58-24

14-3-77

6-1-1877

14-3-77

Sea Customs Department — of Sub-Division of Nellore District. — Submitting to Government papers regarding proposed transfer of officer from superintendence of Salt Deputy Collector to that of Sub-Collector, and recommending that the transfer may be sanctioned as an experimental measure subject to report after one year.

FEBRUARY

No. 916.

Received 10 9/11/77

Copy 9 9/11/77

PROCEEDINGS, 28TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 916

MADRAS.

22/6/77

Count of Records

1877

No. 2,690.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th October 1876.
Read the following letter from F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd October 1876, No. 2,717:—

At the request of the Acting Sub-Collector, I have the honor to submit, for the consideration and orders of the Board, copies of correspondence* in which the officer desired, and I declined, the transfer of the Sea Customs Department connected with the sub-division to his superintendence from that of the Deputy-Collector in charge of the Salt Department.

2. As I have pointed out to Mr. Hardinge, the offices of the department in the sub-division can under the present system have the full benefit of his inspection from time to time as much as if they were in every way directly subordinate to him. But I think it advisable that, as regards all correspondence and office work, they should be directly controlled with the rest of the department in the district by the officer, the Salt Deputy Collector, who has more time for the transaction of the business connected with the department than the Sub-Collector has.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From T. von D. HARDINGE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, dated Singarayakonda, 26th May 1876, No. 356.

PARA. 3. The Sea Customs Department in this district is under the charge of the Salt Deputy Collector. That officer cannot visit any given station more than twice or thrice a year; nor on the occasion of a visit can he prolong his stay beyond one or two days. The only conceivable reason for the transfer, viz. that Hanumantha Rao would come under the supervision of an experienced instead of an unexperienced officer, is thus shown not to have been well founded. If the Sea Customs Department in the sub-division had been under the Sub-Collector (as I take this opportunity of suggesting that it should be in future) the reason of the transfer would have been an excellent one, for Ongole, the head-quarters of the Sub-Collector, is only ten miles from Kottapatam, and such a result as that now to be detailed—one that might naturally have been expected, it seems to me, by persons acquainted with the character of the Superintendent and the extreme independence of the post to which he was appointed—could scarcely, I think, have occurred.

From F. R. H. SHARP, Esq., Acting Collector of Nellore, to T. von D. HARDINGE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, dated 28th July 1876, No. 2,132.

With reference to the suggestion at paragraph 3 of your letter, No. 356, of 26th May last, that the Sea Customs Department in the sub-division should be transferred to your immediate supervision, I have the honor to state that while your general attention should be directed towards it, as it has been beneficially for Government in the recent Kottapatam case, still I think it inadvisable to disturb the existing arrangements by which the direct management is vested in the Salt Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From T. von D. HARDINGE, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to F. R. H. SHARP, Esq.,
Collector of Nellore, dated Ongole, 23rd September 1876, No. 658.

With reference to your letter, No. 2,132, of 28th July 1876, I have the honor to request that you will submit the matter treated of together with my letter of the 26th May, No. 356, to the Board of Revenue for their consideration and order.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) F. R. H. SHARP,
Acting Collector.

THE Board are of opinion that it would be very inadvisable that the charge of Sea Customs in the district should be divided, and will not at present disturb the existing arrangement. The Collector, however, is requested to report under what orders it was first established, how long it has subsisted, and whether the Salt Deputy Collector's proper work is affected by it.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of Nellore.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

1876.

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 30th October 1876, No. 2,690

Encl.

Received

1876: 1667/77
1876-19-0-77 4.11.1876

OCTOBER.

No. 2,690.

Sea Customs Department — of sub-division of Nellore District. — Requesting further information with reference to Collector's letter regarding transfer of — to superintendence of Sub Collector from that of Salt Deputy Collector.