

(1) Number of pages 22

(2) Date of repair 18.12.72

(3) Initials of the Referencer [Signature]

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1484
B.P. No.

Press
Mis.

Dated

18. 4. 1877

197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 465. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1877:—

Read the letter from C. H. BUNKETT, Esq., Salt Department, dated 23rd March 1877, No. 90.
J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 23rd March 1877, No. 90.

By Arzi, No. 1, of the 4th January last, the Superintendent of the shell-pits, whose main duty it is, with his staff of twelve peons, to guard the spontaneous salt-producing tracts all round and in the bed of the Pulicat Lake, reported to me that he was afraid the generation of salt this year would be very plentiful, and his ordinary staff would not be equal to the work. He stated that owing to the failure of the monsoons no fresh water from the land-floods had come down into the lake, and by a storm-wave or extraordinary high tide in the sea about that time, the salt-water had spread over a wider surface than usual, and the water of the lake had become fully impregnated with salt. He therefore asked for additional aid, to wit, for twelve more temporary peons, as a special measure, for this year on account of the drought, to ensure the efficient guarding of the localities in question and the better detection of smuggling of illicit salt.

2. As I was not at the time able to come down and visit this neighborhood, I could form no opinion of the application, but judging from previous knowledge I did not think so large an additional staff of peons was called for; and I informed the Superintendent accordingly, reserving however final disposal of the matter till I did come and see for myself the exact state of things here.

3. In the interval the Superintendent has pressed the necessity for more aid on me more than once, and I have now been able to make a complete inspection of things, and having done so, I do not expect to find what I have done.

4. By the silting up all bars or inlets, all tidal connection with the sea is stopped, and from the non-flux of the fresh water from the land side this vast extent of water is being day by day concentrated by the heat and other atmospheric influences, and is becoming one large expanse of condensed brine which, if the present drought continues, will ere long become a sheet of salt some miles long and wide, such as has never before been seen on this side. Ordinarily in March lake water close by the western and southern edges adjoining the Tada and Sunnapugunta pans, marks 5° Beaumé. This is its usual density, which is generally greater along the edges where it is shallow, than in the deeper expanse as one goes further on into the middle of the lake. This year in the middle on the east side, that is, between the islands of Venad and Irakam and the eastern shore closer to the sea, it marked yesterday 11° Beaumé, and to-day on the west between those islands and the western shore which is 17° Beaumé. On the extreme edge near the Tada pans it is quite dry, and there is no water at all this year.

5. Thus the condition of the lake water is a cause for great anxiety as respects the generation of large quantities of spontaneous salt. With the water at 17° Beaumé and the present heat an inch let into a shallow pool or hollow will yield a patch of flaky salt in one day, and there is already salt to be found in the bed of the lake below the water which is not more than 10 or 15 inches deep. In many of the boats moored along the 48th mile of the canal the brine that had leaked into them had been formed into crusts of salt, which had been scraped off and taken away by the people. The bottom of such boats was thus a kind of profitable salt-pan; for as often as the salt forms and is removed, so often will it reform to be again removed.

6. Our dyke-bank has been put where hitherto was the limit of the ebb and flow of the tide and so, south of it, there always has been a continual supply of water rising and falling with the tides, and the generation of spontaneous salt there was prevented. But this season being altogether an unusual one with every thing as it were in the abnormal state, the lake water has

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

subsidised to nearly five miles south of this bank, and the whole expanse of the bed of the lake for these five miles is covered with patches of salt. I walked over parts of it yesterday, and picked up some very fine salt without the least trouble. It would be one of the easiest things possible for any one to walk out into this locality every day, and in the space of five or ten minutes collect enough of salt, that with the greatest facility he could earn 3 or 4 Annas for it in the neighbouring villages, and thus maintain himself and family adequately in these times of scarcity and high

7. I have thought it necessary, at the risk of being tedious to let you know exactly the state of things in this locality, and that they are such as to give cause for great anxiety as respects salt interests and the revenue to be realised from this source, and now having seen and judged for myself, I quite feel the absolute necessity for complying with the local Superintendent's application for additional aid, and I have the honor to request sanction for a staff of eight temporary peons for six months, from 1st April. At 6 Rupees per peon per month the total cost will be Rupees 288, which I trust will be more than compensated for by the diminished consumption of illicit salt that will, I hope, be the result of the greater vigilance and check a more adequate establishment will be enabled to maintain than the present limited staff can bring to bear on the matter.

8. In my separate letter of this date forwarding the usual estimate for the dyke-bank, &c., I have shown how the expenditure required for that work this year is less than one-fourth the annual average, and if we add the amount of the present proposed establishment also, it will be seen that (400+288) 688 Rupees is still far below half the annual average outlay on these works, which either in the way of establishment, or of preventive banks, have all the same object, viz., the prevention of the formation and smuggling, where produced, of spontaneous salt in order to the due development of our salt revenue. I trust, under the circumstances, the outlay proposed in this letter will not be reckoned excessive. I have stated, after personal inspection, I consider it to be very necessary, and I beg for sanction accordingly.

9. In the circumstances of the case, I have authorised the Superintendent to entertain the eight peons from 1st April, in anticipation of sanction; and I beg that this course may be approved. If not, I beg I may be informed in time that I may be able to cancel my order.

No. 1,544.

SUBMITTED to the Board of Revenue for favorable consideration and early orders.

2. Mr. Plunkett shows clearly enough that the special circumstances of the season render it necessary to employ eight peons for six months, at 6 Rupees a-month each, to guard the tracts producing spontaneous salt in and around the bed of the Pulicat Lake.

Nellore, 5th April 1877.

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the favorable consideration of Government.

2. The Deputy Collector shows satisfactorily that a temporary establishment of eight peons is required for six months to guard the tracts producing spontaneous salt round the Pulicat Lake. The charge can be met from Savings.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

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

No. 466.

ORDER THEREON, 19th April 1877, No. 1,484.

Separate Revenue, No. 12.

Salt.

UNDER the circumstances stated, the Government sanction the employment of the proposed temporary establishment of eight peons at Rupees 6 per month for a period of six months.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE
THE BOARD OF REVENUE,
Calcutta.
GOVT. OF INDIA
APRIL 16 1877
No. 100-100

Revenue Dept
Proceedings of the Dy Commr.
Dated 16th April 1877.

Recd the following
No 90.

From
C. C. Phunkel Esq
Satt of Mr. Vellor
To
J. G. Esq
Satt of Mr. Vellor

Sir. My Agent of the
4th Jan. last the Supt
of the Shell pits, whose
main duty it is with his
staff of twelve Peons to
guard the spontaneous
salt producing tracts all
round & in the bed of the
Pulicat Lake, reported

to see that he was afraid
the generation of salt
this year would be very
plentiful & his ordinary
staff would not be equal
to the work. He states
that owing to the failure
of the monsoons, no fresh
water from the land floods
had come down into the
lake & by a storm wave
or extraordinary high tide
in the sea about that
time the salt water
had spread over a wider
surface than usual &
the water of the lake
had become fully impreg-
nated with salt. He

2
1484
therefore asked for ~~an~~ ^{an} ~~order~~
at once, to wit, for twelve
more temporary men, as
a special measure for
this year on account of
the drought to ensure
the efficient guarding
of the localities in ques-
tion & the better detection
of smuggling of illicit
salt.

2. As I was not at the
time able to come down
& visit this neighbourhood
I could form no opinion of
the application but judg-
ing from previous know-
ledge I did not think
so large an additional

Chief of Peons was called
for & I informed the Supt.
accordingly, reserving how-
ever final disposal of
the matter till I did
come & see for myself
the exact state of things
here.

3. In the interval the
Supt. has prepared the re-
ceipts for more and on
the more than once & I
have now been able to
make a complete inspec-
tion of things & having
done so I must confess
I did not expect to find
what I have done.

4. By the sitting up all
bars

3 148/5
bars or inlets, all. Salal
connection with the sea
is stopped & from the non-
flux of the fresh water
from the land side, this
vast extent of water is
being day by day concentra-
ted by the heat & other
atmospheric influences
& is becoming one large ex-
panse of condensed brine
which if the present
draught continues, will
in long become a sheet
of salt some miles long
& wide, such as has never
before been seen on this
side. Ordinarily in March
lake water close by the

western & southern edges
adjoining the Tada & sun-
napungtha pans, marks
50 fms. This is its usual den-
sity, which is generally
greater along the edges than
it is shallow, than in the
deeper expanse as one goes
further on into the middle
of the lake. This year in
the middle on the east
side, that is, between the
islands of Venar & Irakam
& the eastern shore closer
to the sea, it marked yes-
terday 110 fms & to day on
the west between those
islands & the western
shore it is 170 fms. On the

IX
extreme edge near the
Tada pans it is quite
dry & there is no water
at all this year.
5. Thus the condition
of the lake water is a
cause for great anxiety
as respects the generation
of large quantities of
spontaneous salt. With
the water at 170 fms & the
present heat an inch
let into a shallow pool
or hollow will yield a
patch of flaky salt
in one day, & there is
abundantly to be found in the
bed of the lake below

The water which is not
more than 10 or 15 inches
deep. In many of the boats
run along the 48 mile
of the canal the brine
that had leaked into them
had been formed into cracks
of salt which had been
scraped off & taken away
by the people. The bot-
tom of such boats was
thus a kind of profitable
salt pan; for as often
as the salt forms & is
removed, so often will
it reform to be again
removed.

Our Lyke bank
has

5
1484/7
has been put in ~~his~~ his
there was the limit of
the ebbs & flow of the tide
& so south of it there
always has been a con-
tinual supply of water
rising & falling with the
tides & the generation
of spontaneous salt there
was prevented. But this
season being altogether
an unusual one with
every thing as it were
in the abnormal state
the lake water has sub-
sided to nearly five miles
south of this bank &
the whole expanse of the

The bed of the lake for
these 5 miles is covered
with patches of salt.
I walked over parts of
it yesterday & picked up
some very fine salt wi-
thout the least trouble.
It would be one of the
easiest things possible
for any one to walk out
into this locality every
day & in the space of 5
or 10 minutes collect enough
of salt that with the
greatest facility he could
earn 3 or 4 annas for it
in the neighbouring vil-
lages & thus maintain
himself & family adequately

in these times ¹⁴⁸⁴ of scarcity
& high prices.

7. I have thought it
necessary at the risk of
being tedious to let you
know exactly the state
of things in this locality &
that they are such as to
give cause for great an-
xiety as respects salt in-
terests & the revenue to
be realized from this
source, & now having seen
& judged for myself I quite
feel the absolute neces-
sity for complying with
the local supply appli-
cation for additional
aid & I have the honor

to request sanction for
a staff of 8 temporary
Peons for 6 months from
1st April. At 6 Rs per Peon
per month the total
cost will be Rs. 288 which
I trust will be more
than compensated for by
the diminished consump-
tion of illicit salt
that will I hope be
the result of the greater
vigilance & check, a
more adequate staff
will be enabled to main-
tain. Again I have the present
limited staff can bring
to bear on the matter.
In

8. In my ¹⁴⁸⁴ ~~statement~~
letter of this date forward-
ing the usual estimate
for the dyke bank &c, I
have shown how the ex-
penditure required for that
work this year is less
than one-fourth the
annual average & if we
add the amount of the
present proposed estab-
lishment, it will be seen that
(400 + 288) 688 Rs is still far
below half the annual
average outlay on these
works, which either in
the way of establishment or of
preventive banks, have
all the same object; viz

the production of the for-
mation & suggesting where
produced, of spontaneous
salt in order to the suc-
cessful development of our salt
revenue. I trust under
the circumstances, the
outlay proposed in this
letter will not be reckoned
too expensive. I have stated
after personal inspection
I consider it to be very
necessary & I beg for sanc-
tion accordingly.

9. In the circumstances
of the case, I have au-
thorized the Supt to
entertain the 8 persons
from 1st April in

4
anticipation of ^{1480/10} production
I beg that this course
may be approved. If not
I beg I may be informed
in time that I may be
able to cancel my order.
Yellow Salt by } I have for
Collier's Office 23 Mar 1115 (20) C. E. Plunkett
by Col Mr

(True Copy)

No 1544.

Submitted to the
Board of Rev for favorable
consideration & early order.
2. Mr Plunkett shows
clearly enough that the
special circumstances of
the season render it ne-
cessary to employ 8 persons
for 6 months at 6 Rs a month
each to guard the tracks

producing spontaneous
salt in & around the bed
of the Puget Lake.

Stallor Collier & (2) J. G. Rose
Office 5th April 1871 } Collier

Submitted for the fa-
vorable consideration
of Govt.

2. The Dy Collier shows
satisfactorily that a
temporary establishment of 8
Persons is required for 6 months
to guard the tracts pro-
ducing spontaneous salt
round the Puget Lake.
The charge can be

met

met from same ¹⁴⁸¹ p. 11

(True Copy & Expt)

W. H. Allen
Sub Secretary

To The Secretary to Govt.

Revenue (107) Department
No 2158

Pr of Mr R
Rue

Recd 16th 17th 18th 19th
20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th

Recommend
for the construction
of first the temple
many schools &c
to send to guard
of the construction
in the future.

With 1788

Clerk Mr. R. R. R.

Subscribed
1/2

No 1484.

Under the circumstances

stated, the Govt sanction the
employment of the proposed
temporary establishment of eight
men at Rs 6 each per mensem,
from 1st instant, for a period
of six months.

19-4-77

2

1/1

14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th

1/2

1788