

(1) Number of pages 6

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

814

Press
Mis.

Dated

24. 2. 1877

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department.
24th February 1877.

No. 769. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th February 1877, No. 600:—

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 19th December 1876, No. 582.

In paragraph 2 of their Proceedings of the 25th October last, No. 2,656, the Board recommended to Government that the Manambady salt works should continue under the direction of the Salt Deputy Collector next year, or be leased out to some enterprising Contractor.

2. Pending the receipt of the order of Government on the Board's recommendation, I have the honor to report that in the middle of October last Mr. Freer forwarded to me an offer from three Mussalman merchants of Porto Novo, calling themselves Sheik Abdul Kadar Merkeir and Co., offering to make salt on the 16-cawny plot at Manambady if it is assigned to them or let on contract, according to the system which may be laid down for their guidance, if paid at the rate of 20 Rupees per garce delivered. Mr. Freer considered that by "contract" the applicants meant the excise system, and that the terms of the alternative proposal were too high to be entertained.

3. I asked the applicants if they would guarantee an outturn of 250 garce annually for three years, but they said they could not.

Impression is that the tenderers were willing to take a lease of the pans for a certain time, and would bind themselves to make a certain quantity of salt annually, and deliver it at a certain price under a penalty. The price they name is not high if they undertook to pay for the Police guards, &c., but I do not suppose this was their intention, because they quote Merkanam and say that the same rate prevails there, but at Merkanam what is paid is merely Kudivaram, the cost of guards, &c., being borne by Government. The terms asked therefore seem too high to make it worth while entering into negotiations with the tenderers. At the same time perhaps the amount of outturn asked by me was too high for contractors to guarantee. I forward the tender for the Board's perusal, and request it may be returned.

5. On the 20th ultimo, Mr. Freer forwarded another application, received on that day from one Ponnambala Pillay, offering to take up three cawnies of the plot and to deliver fifty or sixty garce per annum at 10 Rupees a garce, but the next day he forwarded another petition from the same individual saying that he could not undertake to make salt under the present system at less than 15 or 16 Rupees the garce.

6. These are the only two offers received. I would suggest Dr. Ratton's opinion being taken whether it is worth while to entertain the latter one or not. I am myself disposed to let the whole plot be worked by Mr. Freer next year with labor hired by the day or month. During the next three or four months such labor is likely to be abundant. I enclose Ponnambala Pillay's application for reference.

THE Board concur with the Collector in considering it preferable that the 16-cawny plot at Manambady should be worked by the Deputy Collector with hired labor,

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
24th February 1877.*

but the operations must be very carefully supervised otherwise the cost will be excessive. A full report on the result should be submitted at the close of the season.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

No. 770.

ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1877, No. 814.

Separate Revenue No. 43.

Salt.

APPROVED. An estimate of the cost of the proposed plan of operation should be obtained and submitted as soon as possible.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 600.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th February 1877.

Read the following letter from J. H. GARSTIN, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 19th December 1876, No. 582 :—

In paragraph 2 of their Proceedings of the 25th October last, No. 2,656, the Board recommended to Government that the Manambady salt works should continue under the direction of the Salt Deputy Collector next year, or be leased out to some enterprising Contractor.

2. Pending the receipt of the order of Government on the Board's recommendation, I have the honor to report that in the middle of October last Mr. Freer forwarded to me an offer from three Mussalman merchants of Porto Novo, calling themselves Sheik Abdul Kadar Merkair and Co., offering to make salt on the 16-cawny plot at Manambady if it is assigned to them or let on contract, according to the system which may be laid down for their guidance, if paid at the rate of 20 Rupees per garce delivered. Mr. Freer considered that by "contract" the applicants meant the excise system, and that the terms of the alternative proposal were too high to be entertained.

3. I asked the applicants if they would guarantee an outturn of 250 garces annually for three years, but they said they could not.

4. I do not take quite the same view of the proposal that Mr. Freer does. My impression is that the tenderers were willing to take a lease of the pans for a certain time, and would bind themselves to make a certain quantity of salt annually, and deliver it at a certain price under a penalty. The price they name is not high if they undertook to pay for the Police guards, &c., but I do not suppose this was their intention, because they quote Merkanam and say that the same rate prevails there, but at Merkanam what is paid is merely Kudivaram, the cost of guards, &c., being borne by Government. The terms asked therefore seem too high to make it worth while entering into negotiations with the tenderers. At the same time perhaps the amount of outturn asked by me was too high for Contractors to guarantee. I forward the tender for the Board's perusal, and request it may be returned.

5. On the 20th ultimo, Mr. Freer forwarded another application, received on that day from one Ponnambala Pillay, offering to take up three cawnies of the plot and to deliver fifty or sixty garces per annum at 10 Rupees a garce, but the next day he forwarded another petition from the same individual saying that he could not undertake to make salt under the present system at less than 15 or 16 Rupees the garce.

6. These are the only two offers received. I would suggest Dr. Ratton's opinion being taken whether it is worth while to entertain the latter one or not. I am myself disposed to let the whole plot be worked by Mr. Freer next year with labor hired by the day or month. During the next three or four months such labor is likely to be abundant. I enclose Ponnambala Pillay's application for reference.

The Board concur with the Collector in considering it preferable that the 16-cawny plot at Manambady should be worked by the Deputy Collector with hired labor, but the operations must be very carefully supervised otherwise the cost will be excessive. A full report on the result should be submitted at the close of the season.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of South Arcot, with two enclosures returned.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. W. J. Lewis.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated February, 24th.

G.O., 24th February 1877, No. 814.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 769-770.

Manambady of Salt in Manambady, South Arcot District.—Approving Board's Proceedings concerning with Collector that — be carried on by Deputy Collector with hired labor; and directing that an estimate of cost of proposed plan of operations be obtained and submitted.

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PROCEEDINGS, 13th FEBRUARY 1877, No. 600.

Copy 17 (20/11/77)

Encl.

Received 19th Feb 1877

FEBRUARY.

No. 600.

Manufacture of Salt in South Arcot District.—
Concurring with Collector in considering it
preferable that 16-acre plot at Manambadi
should be worked by Deputy Collector with
hired labor, and requesting a full report on the
subject at the close of the season.

At the end of the present season
of operations should be observed
whether the same can be worked
24-2-77