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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1100, Revenue.	Press.
B.P. No:		Mis.
Dated	19-7-1878	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I-5,806-24-2-78.

g. 24

1100

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th July 1878, No. 1,100.

Read the following paper :—

No. 199. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th June 1878, No. 1,752.

Read the following letter from H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 21st June 1878, No. 421 :—

THE Acting Collector of Chingleput has been good enough to transfer to me for disposal a letter from his Salt Deputy Collector proposing the entertainment of some additional hands under G.O., dated 20th June 1877, No. 2,058, Revenue Department, at the Madras Salt Cotaurs in consequence of the abolition of the discount system and the consequent necessity of weighing all salt sold.

2. Mr. Ricketts states that hitherto additional hands have been dispensed with, the services of some of the Assistant Superintendents of the divisions who were not required there in consequence of the failure of last season's manufacture having been temporarily utilized at the Salt Cotaurs, but that as these men are now again employed on their proper duties in connection with the manufacture, and as wholesale sales will be resumed at the Madras storeyard as soon as sufficient stock is there accumulated and the small store at Homes' Gardens sold off, it is necessary to strengthen the Cotaurs' establishment to enable it to deal with the enormous increase of weighments which the new system will entail.

3. The average sales at the Madras Cotaurs for the past five years have been—

Wholesale (unweighed.) IN. MDS.	Retail includ- ing export (weighed.) IN. MDS.
870,140	412,022

As therefore in the future weighments will be more than three times as numerous as in the past, it seems clear that some increase of establishment will be required in consequence.

4. Mr. Ricketts proposes the entertainment of the additional hands shown in the margin, whom he wishes to employ in the weighment of salt intended for transport by rail at the two Railway weigh-bridges which there are in the yard, and of which the Deputy and Assistant Superintendents are to be in charge, with the clerks to assist them, keep accounts of sales, &c. The Deputy and Assistant Superintendents are to be highly paid, Mr. Ricketts explains, so that he may be able to secure trustworthy men for the appointments.

	Salary. RS.
1 Deputy Superintendent	70
1 Assistant do.	50
2 Clerks on Rupees 20	40
2 Do. do. 15	30
Total ...	190

5. Having recently given some attention to the working of these weigh-bridges, and being of opinion from inquiries I have made and from personal observation of their action that they give very uncertain results, I consider that it is not safe to rely upon them alone for the sale of salt. I think also that men to be trusted to weigh out salt without supervision are not to be obtained for the salaries (Rupees 70 and 50) proposed. I am therefore unable to support Mr. Ricketts' recommendation as it stands, that is, so far as it relates to the appointment of two special officers to work the weigh-bridges.

6. I agree with him, however, that an increase in the establishment of the Salt Cotaurs is required for the reasons he gives, though not of the sort he proposes. I find that there are now employed there twelve clerks, half or more than half of whom might as well be called Assistant Superintendents, seeing that their duties are rather those of Assistant Superintendents (i.e., storage, sale, and the like) than of clerks. Of these twelve, eight are at the present moment required for receipt and storage of

the salt which is daily coming in in large quantities from the divisions, and will be required to attend to the same duty for (say) the next three months at least to complete the storage of the 20 lakhs of maunds we hope to get in this year. There remain four men only for employment in the office, where there is plenty of work for them. The sales are at present retail only, and are attended to by men who would be much more usefully employed in storage. Even now, therefore, additional hands are much needed and the want of them delays the storage to the danger of a very probable serious loss of salt at a time when we can ill-afford it, in the event of a heavy fall of rain; and I am sure the Board will agree with me that extra hands *must* be entertained when wholesale sales are resumed, which I hope will be shortly, unless storage is then to be stopped altogether.

7. In anticipation of sanction, therefore, in accordance with the Government Order before quoted, I propose to arrange for the entertainment of four additional clerks, two on Rupees 30 per mensem, and two on Rupees 25 per mensem, for the next three months only. I request that the sanction of Government may be obtained for the disbursement of their pay.

8. I am aware of the objections not unnaturally entertained to the employment of temporary hands for so responsible a duty as the weighing of salt, and that the custom of employing Temporary Salt Establishments, which was formerly common and which is recommended by the unequal pressure of work in the department at different times of year, has in consequence been for many years abandoned. I am aware also that it may be objected that I am inconsistent in proposing the appointment of lowly paid hands when I have just before rejected Mr. Ricketts' scheme, partly on the ground that the higher pay he proposed was inadequate to secure honesty. But with a proper system of check I do not see why it should be dangerous to leave to temporary or to low paid hands the purely mechanical duty of weighing salt. On the contrary I think it will be perfectly safe and, with the Board's permission, I propose where necessary to adopt it. The fault of Mr. Ricketts' proposal, as of the present sale system generally, is that it provides no check of any kind whatever.

9. No one, I think, will deny that there should be some check on the sales of salt. The question is what is a proper system of check? To answer it, it appears to me necessary to undertake an examination of the whole existing system—a duty I had not intended to enter upon until I took charge of the department, but on which I have already formed an opinion. As therefore the consideration of the question is now in a manner forced upon me with reference to the Madras Salt Cotiaurs' establishment and as in my judgment that establishment cannot be put upon a proper or safe footing until it is disposed of, I will avail myself of this opportunity to submit my views for consideration without further delay.

10. The first object, of course, in the working of the Salt Department is to make certain, not only that all the salt that leaves the platforms is paid for, which is probably the case now, but that all the money which is paid for salt is credited to Government, which is almost certainly not the case now. It is in fact, in my humble opinion, hopeless to expect that it should be under our present system, which is (speaking generally) to leave the disposal of property of immense value to very low paid native servants, of whom it is no injustice to say that they are no more honest than their countrymen—or indeed than people on low pay in other countries—generally are; and who, so far as I can see, are entirely unchecked. Theoretically, of course, sales as well as storage are made by the Superintendents who are (comparatively) so well paid that something like honesty might be expected of them. But every one knows quite well that it is utterly out of the question for the Superintendents, even of the smallest divisions, personally to attend to one-half the duties for which they are responsible. They have to exercise a general supervision over manufacture, to see that the Police do their duty by night as well as by day, make the storage, pay the Kudivaram, issue permits for the removal of salt or at least (if the shroffs sign the permits) to assign each purchaser to the clerk who is to weigh out and deliver to him the salt he has applied for, see that correct weight is given, and keep a much too elaborate series of accounts and returns. Superintendents may be as honest as possible, but no real check of the sales results from all this labor; and my only

wonder is that we get in as good a revenue as we do under such a system as I have described. It will be objected, I dare say, to these criticisms that the storage accounts check the sales and the sales the storage. Theoretically they do; but seeing that the people who store are (speaking generally) the same people who sell, I must be excused if I consider this check practically inoperative. The only check, in fact, which we have is that afforded by the reweighment of heaps by Deputy Collectors and other superior officers. This, so far as it goes, is good. But it does not go far. Deputy Collectors cannot reweigh many heaps. The process is tedious; it is costly, and is after all not satisfactory, for from the notorious difficulty of accurately weighing large quantities of salt, it is impossible to conclude that fraud has been practised from the discovery of differences which though small in themselves represent in the aggregate a very serious loss to the State. A further objection to the system of check by reweighment of heaps is that after it has been made, and supposing that it has been carried far enough to *prove* that the storage has been made accurately, we are still as ignorant as we were before what the sale outturn will come to. No one knows with even an approach to accuracy what the wastage in a given heap of salt will be in 6, 12, or 18 months. I might reweigh every heap myself and spend my whole time in doing it, and it would be utterly impossible for me to be quite certain what the wastage of any heap ought to be when it was sold, within (say) 4 or 5 per cent.; I might have my suspicions; I might be morally certain when the wastage of a particular heap was declared to be so much that a fraud had been perpetrated. But I could prove nothing and I could do nothing.

11. The fact is, to put it shortly, all our check is at the wrong end. We exert ourselves greatly, and we weary every one concerned in checking the storage of salt worth about Annas 1-6 per maund, and we provide no check whatever on the sale of salt worth Rupees 2-11-0 per maund, but leave the sale, in such a place as the Madras Cotiaurs, of property to the extent of nearly £350,000 a-year under the sole control of a man who is paid under £250. Such carelessness and negligence, if I may be permitted to use the words, seem to me almost appalling. They constitute a temptation which it appears to me almost wicked to throw in any man's way. No one ever heard of a mercantile firm confiding transactions of this enormous magnitude to an agent so lowly paid. Did any one do so, and were he cheated as he might expect to be; I am quite sure that when the case came on for trial the Judge who tried it would remark on his conduct in language that it would not be pleasant to hear. I hope the Board and Government will agree with me that it is time to remove from the administration the reproach that its system is such that its servants are actively tempted to crime.

12. I will now state the system of sale I would propose.

13. I consider that, what with general superintendence, storage, accounts, and execution of works, Superintendents have almost always more to do than they can be fairly expected to get through. I do not believe they have time properly to check sales except perhaps at some very small stations, many of which I believe it would be best to abolish; for this and other reasons I will not now enter upon. At all the larger stations I am as certain as I can be of anything I have not personally tested that it would pay well to have a separate preventive agency whose principal duty it would be to check the sales of salt. This agency should of course be subordinate to the Salt Deputy Collector, but should be independent of the Superintendent and should pursue its duties outside the local range of his authority except so far as for the effective general supervision of the working of the Police, which I would entrust to him, it might be necessary for the Preventive Inspector to enter the pans or platforms. His general duty would be to sit in his office outside the platforms, stop every cart and coolly bringing salt out, reweigh a certain percentage (say 10 or 15) of each consignment, and detain all he might find to be in excess of the permit by more than (say) one per cent.—an allowance that it would be necessary to make so as to provide for accidental variations in the different scales and weights used. This is substantially the system which is in force in the Bombay Presidency and which has resulted in an immense increase of revenue there. I beg that I may be allowed at least to make a trial of it here, and to introduce it first at the Salt Cotiaurs as soon as I can make arrangements to do so.

(Signed) H. W. BLISS,
Commissioner of Salt Revenue.

JULY 1878, No. 1,100.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Govt.

2. The Board recommend that four additional clerks (paragraph 7) be established (paragraph 14). The object of this is to have an independent check on the staff which will not of course be relieved by an independent officer, whose salary platform enclosures; a percentage will be added to the salary of increase will lead to immateriality and receivers more careful.

3. Whether one officer can be employed at Kotars without causing undue delay in the arrangement is experimental. The experience will show how it must be carried out in practice and what establishments will be required.

(A true

copy and Extract.)

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

No. 200.

ORDER THEREON

Separate Revenue, No. 200

Salt.

2. The first eight paragraphs of the temporary establishment necessitate No. 2,058, for the weightment of the system. For this purpose, the Commissioner of the Salt Deputy Collector of the four clerks, as shown below,

2 Clerks, at Rs. 8
2 do. at " 2

This establishment is sanctioned by the Government.

3. In the subsequent paragraph the question of a proper system of receiving and storing of an article is its issue, after it has acquired its value and is checked.

5. As increased vigilance is especially when the work on the chasers—is at its height simultaneous with the administration experiment

ent.

It is to be accorded to the entertainment of the salt as the Preventive Inspector and Estimation latter provision is to establish as far as possible the responsibility, but the salt will be examined fixed at a substantial rate, as it leaves the hands, and any excess above allowed percentage. This will tend to make both

check all consignments of salt leaving the Kotars without causing undue delay in the arrangement is experimental. The experience will show how it must be carried out in practice and what establishments will be required.

(A true

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

July 1878, No. 1,100.

The Board of Revenue submit, with their support, a letter from the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, embodying proposals for the employment of certain establishments at the Madras Salt Kotars.

of the Commissioner's letter relate to the Kotars, under G.O., 20th June 1877, consequent on the abolition of the discount system, in modification of the recommendation of the Singleput District, proposes the employment of four months:—

	Rs.
2 Clerks, at Rs. 8	60
2 do. at " 2	50
Total per Mensem	110

As the Commissioner refers to the important question of the sales of salt.

Attention is now too exclusively directed to the comparatively small cost to the State, while the enormously enhanced value, is inadequately

It is to be obtained from the existing establishment, sides—taking in stock and issuing it to purchasers, the Commissioner proposes to strengthen by a new and independent check on sales; this

check to consist of a Preventive Agency, the strength noted below, to be employed at the Kotars, for the period of one year:—

	Rs.
1 Preventive Inspector	250
1 Clerk	80
1 Do.	25
1 Head Peon	8
2 Trollymen, at 6 Rs. each	12
per Mensem	325

6. The Government think that a Preventive Agency, such as that suggested by the Commissioner, is very desirable, because not only does it provide increased guarantee as regards actual issues, but it provides a check over-storage from the difficulty of getting out the illicit surplus.

7. The establishment proposed is not to be immediate employment for the period of one year as proposed, as an experimental measure.

8. These Proceedings will be forwarded to the Government of India for information.

(True Extract)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

issues but the system

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2733.

From Board of Revenue

Dated 25th June

1878.

FOR ORDERS.

This is a very important paper.

Practically Mr Bliss tells us that attention is now too largely directed to the receiving & storing of an article of comparatively small cost to the State while its issue after it has acquired an enormous enhanced value is inadequately

Govt. of 1878

REVENUE.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

JULY
Nos. 199, 200.

Additional Establishment of the
Govt. of 1878. - Drawing sanction for the employ-
ment of certain and meeting to forward
these Proceedings to the Government of India
for information.



1/50

WCP 50/80

Supervisor is checked -
and I am unable to
gain say his position.

Increased vigilance
cannot be got out of
the Smeating Establishment
- Especially when the
work on both sides
- taking in stock and
issuing it to purchasers
is at its height -
I am anxious - and
he proposes to strengthen
the administration
by a new & independent
check on sales.

I think that he is
right because not
only does it provide
increased guarantee
as regards actual
issues

issues but the system
promises to check
over storage from
the difficulty of
getting out the illicit
surplus.

The Establishment
proposed is moderate
and the Superintendent
well worth trying -
and I would sanction
the thing at once.

29/6 1891

C. H. H. H.

Sanction the Smeating
for the purpose
of J. H. H. H. H.

43

202/23
FOR ORDERS.

900/20
100/17

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 19th July 1878

Read the follow-
-ing Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue dated
25th June 1878, No 1752
regarding the proposed
entertainment of ad-
ditional hands at
the Madras Salt
Kotans.

The Board of
Revenue submit, with
their support, a letter
from the Commissioner
of Salt Revenue, embody-
-ing proposals for the
employment of certain
Establishments at the
Madras Salt Kotans.

2. The first signi-
-ficant part of the Commissioner's
letter relate to the
temporary establish-
-ment

19/17

27-6-78
R 11-7-78
R 18-7-78
R 19-7-78

VCA 50/3

Establishment necessary
at the Kotlauro, under
G.O. 20th June 1877, No
2058, for the weighing
of Salt, consequent
on the abolition of the
discount System. For
the purpose, the Com-
missioner, in modi-
fication of the recom-
mendation of the
Salt Deputy Collector
of the Chingleput District,
proposes the employ-
ment of four clerks, as
shown below, for three
months:-

2 Clerks @ Rs 30- 60 Rs.
2 - do - @ a 25- 50 -
that per mensem 110 Rs.

This establishment
is sanctioned

3. In the sub-
sequent paras, the
Commissioner refers
to the important ques-
-tion of a proper system
of check on the sales
of Salt.

4. Practically,
he states that attention
is now too exclusively
directed to the receiving
and storing an article
of comparatively small
cost to the State, while
its issue, after it has
acquired an enor-
-mously enhanced
value, is inadequately
supervised and checked

increased vigilance
obtained from
cannot be got out of
the existing establish-
ment, especially
when the work on both
sides, taking in stock,
and issuing it to
purchasers, is at its
height, simultaneously,
the Commissioner pro-
poses to strengthen
the administration,
experimentally, by a
new and independent
check on sales, this
check to consist
of a Preventive
Agency of the stores
noted below, to be
employed

1100/9
employed at the Station,
for the period of one
year:-

1 Preventive Inspector	Rs 250.
1 Clerk	30.
1 Do	25.
1 Head Peon	8.
2 Jollymen at 6 Rs each	12.
Total permanent	325.

6. The Government
think that a Preventive
Agency, such as that
suggested by the Commr
is very desirable, because
not only does it provide
increased guarantee
as regards actual
issues, but it promises
to check over storage
from the difficulty of
getting out the illicit
surplus.

7. The establish-
ment proposed is
moderate

1100
 100
 10

Moderate, and sanction
 is granted for its
 immediate employ-
 ment for the period
 of one year as proposed,
 as an experimental
 measure.

8 These Proceedings
 will be forwarded
 to the Government
 of India for inform-
 -ation.

W. H. L.

To the Board of Revenue
 the Comptroller and
 the Secretary to the Government of India

6/8

Special

LyD

Additional Establisht
ment at the Maudas
Salt Kotaur

1100

20

180-19 study 1/3 5
180-19 study 1/3 5

Enclosure in
Bair Porewings
of 24 June 188
No 1702 No
The above party
to Govt. 188
No 1733/18
Statements of
Proportions
for Division
of Caballerosman

Sir W. H. O'Brien

Ch 197-200

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board recommends that sanction be accorded to the entertainment of the 4 Additional clerks (p. 7) as well as the Preventive Inspectors & Establishment (p. 14). The object of the latter provision is to establish as far as possible an independent check on the weighments for sale. The Supt & his Staff will not of course, be relieved of any responsibility but the salt will be examined by an independent Officer whose salary is fixed at a substantial rate, as it leaves the platform Enclosures, a percentage will be weighed. Any excess above allowed

confiscation. This will tend to make both weighers & receivers ^{efficiently} more careful.

3. Whether our Officers can check all consignments of salt leaving the Kistans without causing undue delay and annoyance to purchasers must be seen. The arrangement is experimental. The Board approve the principle ⁱⁿ entirety and experience will show how it must actually be carried out in practice and what establishments will be required.

(True Copy and Extract)

To

The Secretary to Govt
R. D.
with copy of Encl.

C. L. Chatterjee
As Secretary

20th May

at 11

No. 421

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 25th June 1878.

Read the following

No. 421.

To. C. A. Galton Esq
Secy to the Board of Revenue

Sir
The Acting Collector of Chingleput has been good enough to transfer to me for disposal a letter from his Salt & Collector proposing the entertainment of some additional hands under G. O. of 20 June 1877, No. 2050 R-5 at the Madras Salt Works in consequence of the abolition of the discount system & the consequent necessity for weighing all salt sold.

2. Mr. Picketts states that hitherto additional hands have been at the disposal of the Superintendents of the Divisions who were not required there in consequence of the failure of last season's manufacture having been temporarily utilized at the Salt

No. 20.6.77 No. 444-45

Revenue 1878 Oct 11

No. 2733

Proceedings of the

Board of Revenue

Dated 25th June 1878.

Dec. 26

E. N.

Dec. 1100 - 19 July 1878

Submitting for sanction

of Govt. letter from Commr

of Salt & Revenue proposing

entertainment of 2000

hands at the Madras

Set return

For order

27-6-78
28-7-78
28-8-78
28-9-78
28-10-78

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again employed on their proper duties in con-
nection with the manufacture & as wholesale
sales will be resumed at the Madras Store
yard as soon as sufficient stock is there ac-
cumulated & the small store at West Gardens

It is necessary to strengthen the
Kottam establishment to enable it to deal
with the enormous increase of weighments
which the new system will entail.

3. The average sales at the Madras Kottam
for the past 5 years have been

Wholesale (unweighed) Indian Mounds.	Retail including export (weighed) Indian Mounds.
870440	412022

As, therefore, in the future weighments will
be more than 3 times as numerous as in the
past, it seems clear that some increase
of establishment will be required in
consequence.

4. Mr. Pickett proposes to entertain
ment of the additional hands shown

		Salary Rs.
in the margin, whom he wishes to employ in the weigh- ment of salt intended	1. By Superintendent	70
	1. Asst. " "	50
	2 Clerks on Rs. 20	40
	2 " " 15	30
	2280 = Rs. 190	412

for transport by rail at the 2 Railway weigh
bridges which there are in the yard, and of
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5. Having recently given some attention
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when wholesale sales are resumed, which I hope will be shortly, unless storage is then to be stopped altogether.

7. In anticipation of sanction, therefore in accordance with the G.O. before quoted, I propose to arrange for the entertainment of your assn. clerks, two on Rs. 30 per mensem, and 2 on Rs. 25 per mensem, for the next 3 months only. I request that the sanction of Govt. may be obtained for the disbursement of their pay.

8. I am aware of the objections not unnaturally entertained to the employment of Temporary hand for so responsible a duty as the weighing of salt, & that the custom of employing Temporary salt establishment, which was formerly common & which is recommended by the unequal pressure of work in the Department at different times of year, has in consequence been for many years abandoned. I am aware also that it may be objected that I am inconsistent in proposing the appointment of lowly paid hands, when I have just before rejected Mr. Ricketts' scheme partly on the ground that the higher pay he proposed was inadequate to secure honesty. But with a proper system of check

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fiction. I don't
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to expect

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system generally, is that it provides no check
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The question is what is a proper system of check?

To answer it, it appears to me necessary to
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existing system - a duty I had not intended
to enter upon until I took charge of the
Department, but on which I have already
formed an opinion. It therefore the considera-
tion of the question is now in a manner
forced upon me with reference to the Madras
Salt & the Establishment in my

Judgment that Establishment cannot be put
upon a proper or safe footing until it is
disposed of, I will avail myself of this
opportunity to submit my views for conside-
-ration without further delay.

The

110
17

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of the Salt Department is to make certain not
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but that all the money which is paid for
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-most certainly not the case now. It is in
fact in my humble opinion hopeless to expect
that it should be under our present system,
which is (speaking generally) to leave the
disposal of property of immense value to very
low paid native servants, of whom it is no
injustice to say that they are no more honest
than their Countrymen - or indeed than people

on low pay in other countries - generally are;
and who, so far as I can see, are entirely
unchecked. Theoretically, of course, sales
as well as storage are made by the Supts
who are (comparatively) so well paid that
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of them. But every one knows quite well
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personally to attend to one half the duties for
which they are responsible. They have to
exercise a general supervision over manufacture;

to

to see that the Police do their duty by night
as well as by day; ^{make the storage; pay the Ambararam} issue permits for the removal
of salt or at least (if the shop sign the permits)
to assign each purchaser to the clerk who is to
weigh out and deliver to him the salt he has
applied for; see that correct weight is given;
and keep a ~~small~~ ^{small} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~subordinate~~ ^{subordinate} series of accounts
and returns. Superintendents may be as
honest as possible, but no real check of the
sales results from all this labour; and my only
wonder is that we get in as good a revenue
as we do under such a system as I have
described. It will be objected, I dare say,
to these criticisms that the storage accounts check
the sales and the sales the storage. Theoretically
they do; but seeing that the people who store are
(speaking generally) the same people who sell
I must be excused if I consider this check
practically inoperative. The only check, in
fact, which we have is that afforded by
the reweighment of heaps by District Collectors
or other superior officers. This, so far as it
goes, is good. But it does not go far.
Deputy Collectors cannot reweigh many
heaps. The process is tedious, it is costly,
and is after all not satisfactory for ^{the}

the notorious difficulty of accurately weighing
large quantities of salt it is impossible to
conclude that fraud has been practised from
the discovery of differences which though small
in themselves represent in the aggregate a very
large loss to the State. I have a further objection
to the system of check by reweighment of
heaps is that after it has been made and
supposing that it has been carried far enough
to prove that the storage has been made
accurately, we are still as ignorant as we were
before what the sale outcome will come to.
We are known with even an approach to
accuracy what the wastage in a given heap
of salt will be in 6, 12 or 18 months. I might
reweigh every heap myself & spend my whole
time in doing it, and it would be utterly
impossible for me to be quite certain what
the wastage of any heap ought to be
when it was sold, within (say) 4 or 5 per
cent. I might have any suspicion. I
might be morally certain when the wastage
of a particular heap was declared to
be so much that a fraud had been
perpetrated. But I could prove nothing
and I could do nothing.

The

11. The fact is, to put it shortly, all our check is at the wrong end. We exert ourselves greatly and we weary every one concerned in checking the storage of salt worth about 1/2 annas per maund and we provide no check whatever on the sale of salt worth Rs. 2-11-0 per maund, but leave the sale, in such a place as the Madras Kottah, of property to the extent of nearly £35,000 a year under the sole control of a man who is paid under £250. Such carelessness & negligence, if I may be permitted to use the word, seem to me almost appalling.

They constitute a temptation which it appears to me almost wicked to throw in any man's way. No one ever heard of a mercantile firm confiding transactions of this enormous magnitude to an agent so lowly paid. Did any one do so and were he cheated as he might expect to be; I am quite sure that when the case came on for trial the Judge who tried it would remark on his conduct

in language that it would not be pleasant to hear. I hope the Board & Govt. will agree with me that it is time to remove from this Administration the reproach that its system is such that it is actively tempted to

12. I will now state the system of sale I would propose.

13. I consider that, what with general Superintendence, storage, accounts & execution of works, Superintendents have almost always more to do than they can be fairly expected to get through. I do not believe they have time properly to check sales except perhaps at some very small stations, many of which I believe it would be best to abolish for this & other reasons. I will not now enter upon. At all the larger stations I am as certain as I can be of anything I have not personally tested that it would pay well to have a separate preventive Agency whose principal duty it would be to check the sale of salt. This Agency should of course be subordinate to the Salt

Deputy

Deputy Collector but should be independent of the Superintendent & should perform his duties outside the local range of his authority except so far as for the effective general supervision of the Police, which I would entrust to him, it might be necessary for the Preventive Inspector to enter the Pans or Platforms. His general duty would be to sit in his office outside the platform, stop every cart & coach bringing salt out, reweigh a certain percentage (say 10 or 15) of each consignment, and detain all he might find to be in excess of the permit by more than (say) 1 per cent. an allowance that it would be necessary to make as to provide for accidental variations in the different scales & weights used. This is substantially the system which is in force in the Bombay Presidency and which has resulted in an immense increase of revenue there. I hope that I may be allowed at least to make

a trial of it here, and to introduce it first at the Salt Kottars as soon as I can make arrangements to do so.

14. The establishment I propose is as follows.

1 Preventive Inspector	250
1 clerk	30
1	25
1 Head peon	8
2 Tolly men at Orb	12
Total per mensem 325	
or per annum 3900	

15. I enclose a proposition statement in the prescribed form in which I have also entered the clerks above mentioned (in para 7) and request sanction for the Preventive establishment for one year to begin with.

Funds will be easily available from Departmental Savings generally & especially from the sum of Rs. 2000000 granted by the Govt. of India home granted for my pay and that of my establishment.

16. I give the Preventive Inspector pay at Rs. 250 per mensem because

I

I want to get a really good man, trust-
worthy & the sort of person who, if he
gives satisfaction, will be educationally
qualified in time to rise to the higher
grades of the Department. After all
£250 per annum or £300 per annum
is not much to pay a man who
will be almost solely responsible for
sales amounting to nearly £25000 a

year. My only doubt has been whether
I should not at once apply for an
Additional Deputy Collector specially
to have charge of the sale at the
Salt Potters, and I dare say that
is what it will come to in the end
if the Salt Depot there is maintained.

But

The pay proposed But a cheaper agency may be tried
is that of a
4th class of first.
Collection

17. Two clerks are required to take

them with the weight shown in the permit,
calculate percentages of error & tabulate
and report results for check with the
Superintendent's accounts showing what
he has sold

18. Peons are required to keep order
among the Cartmen while waiting for
the contents of their carts to be checked &c.
They may be taken from the existing
establishment which is stronger in peons
than I think is necessary. But a head
Peon will be required to look after
the others. I have therefore provided
for one.

Folly

do not think it is safe to trust to them
alone for the checking of original weigh-
ments. On the whole, as any one can
see who will take the trouble of visiting
the Salt Kottar, he will still have his
hand full, and more than full, during the
storage season. For the rest of the year, though
he will not be very hard worked, he will still
by no means be idle.

21. The Board will, of course, understand
that if these arrangements are sanctioned and
are found to work well it will be my
desire to introduce similar ones at other
places where the sales are large, as soon as
from personal observation I have satisfied
myself how they can best be worked
with reference to local topographical

Conditions.

Salt Commr's Office
Madras 21 June 78

I have &c.
C. W. Bliss
Commissioner of Salt Rev.

Submitted