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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1135	<i>Revenue</i>	Press.
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	20-7-1878		197

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th July 1878, No. 1,135.

Read the following paper:—

No. 268. From the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, to C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 11th July 1878, No. 42.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 733, of the 11th May last, I am directed, by the Governor of Ceylon, to transmit to you, for the information of His Grace the Governor of Madras in Council, the enclosed copy of a letter from the Auditor-General of this Colony, and to state that this Government will be happy to furnish any further information that may be asked for.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. H. RAVENSCROFT, Esq., Auditor-General, to the Honorable the Colonial Secretary, Colombo, dated Colombo, 19th June 1878, No. 334.

IN returning the enclosure of your letter, of the 5th instant, No. 375, I have the honor to forward the following information on the points raised by the Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St. George:—

Salt forms naturally in greater or less abundance on almost the whole of the Low sandy coasts of Ceylon, and for revenue purposes the sale of it is reserved as a Crown Monopoly. The collection of salt is restricted to those districts which from climate and the presence of shallow lagoons offer the greatest facility for its production. In some of these the *naturally* formed salt is collected, in others *artificial* means are resorted to by which manufactured salt is obtained.

In the south of the island the former method obtains; in the Eastern and North-Western Districts the latter is employed, while in the Northern Province both systems are in operation. In some localities the Crown employs laborers to collect the salt, in others private parties receive annual license to manufacture it on their own property, and the Crown becomes the sole purchaser.

The collection of salt *naturally* formed is carried on as follows:—

At Hambantola in the Southern Provinces, where it is principally gathered, there are many large shallow salt-water ponds or lagoons near the sea-shore. Evaporation is very rapid, and consequently during the dry season large deposits of salt are made round the margin of the lagoons; this is collected, and as it is usually very pure it requires no further manipulation to fit it for the market. In the Northern Province the *naturally* formed salt is collected round the edges of the shallow lagoons along the sea coast; its formation is therefore due to the evaporation of sea-water.

The process of *manufacture* of salt differs slightly in detail in the several Provinces, but may be described as follows:—

A number of shallow pans are formed by excavating the earth to a depth which varies with the soil. Between each of these pans is left a bank, serving as a path for the men employed in the manufacture.

When the beds are excavated a certain quantity of water is let in from the lake and allowed to remain till the ground is thoroughly soaked. The water is then withdrawn, and the mud at the bottom is carefully removed; the bed is then prepared by stamping, and a thin coating of fine clean sand strewn. Into the pan thus prepared the water is again introduced and salt is produced in due course by evaporation. As soon as one crop of salt is removed from the pans the beds are repaired and water is again admitted for a second formation. Three, sometimes four, crops are thus secured in the course of a season.

The price of salt is Rs. 2.35 per cwt. for home consumption. I may observe that beyond the first sale the Government do not interfere. Salt must be purchased from Government, but afterwards the purchaser may sell his salt where and as he pleases without further interference.

The excise system does not exist in Ceylon, and when salt is available for export out of the island the purchaser is allowed at a moderate rate, say Rs. 4 or Rs. 4.50 per ton to buy a limited quantity for which he pays no export duty.

2. When there is a scarcity of salt in the island by failure of crop, which seldom occurs, supplies are usually obtained by native merchants from British India, and the importer has to pay customs duty at Rs. 2.13 per cwt. This duty is evidently levied as an equivalent for the revenue derived from the home manufactured salt.

As regards the arrangement for the accurate weighment of the cargo the Customs Ordinance, No. 17, of 1869, prescribes certain rules by which the correct weight of all goods imported is duly ascertained. Whenever the quantity landed exceeds that entered in the Manifest the importer has to pay the difference of duty by a post entry.

I would suggest, in further elucidation of these points, that the Madras Government be furnished with a copy of the report of the Salt Commissioners, dated 1st May 1857, as also the reports of Mr. Douglas, dated 22nd June 1871, and 22nd October 1872, together with a copy of the Customs Ordinance, No. 17, of 1869, and the Salt Ordinance of 1836.

No. 269.

ORDER THEREON, 20th July 1878, No. 1,135.

Separate Revenue, No. 27.

Salt.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue with reference to their Proceedings, dated 26th April last, No. 1,119.

2. Application will be made to the Government of Ceylon for copies of the Reports and Ordinances mentioned in Mr. Ravenscroft's letter of the 19th June last, No. 334.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. C. Howarth.

No 334

Audit office

Columbo 19 June 1878

Sir,

In returning the enclosure of your letter of the 5th instant, No 375, I have the honor to forward the following information on the points raised by the Chief Secretary to Government of Fort St George.

1. Salt forms naturally in greater or less abundance on almost the whole of the low sandy coasts of Ceylon, and for revenue purposes the sale of it is reserved as a Crown monopoly. The collection of salt is restricted to those districts which, from climate and the presence of shallow lagoons offer the greatest facility for its production. In some of these the naturally formed salt is collected, in others artificial means are resorted to

The Hon^{ble}

The Colonial Secretary

by

Col. of 1878

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated July 20th.

No. 208-209.

JULY.

Sell.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue letter from the Ceylon Government regarding —, and resolving to make application to that Government for copies of certain Reports and Ordinances.

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by which manufactured salt is obtained.

In the South of the Island the former method obtains; in the Eastern and North-Western districts the latter is employed, while in the Northern Province both systems are in operation. In some localities the Crown employs laborers to collect the salt, in others private parties receive annual license to manufacture it on their own property and the Crown becomes the sole purchaser.

The collection of salt naturally formed is carried on as follows:-

At Hambantota in the Southern Province where it is principally gathered there are many large shallow salt water ponds or lagoons near the sea shore. Evaporation is very rapid and consequently during the dry season large deposits of salt are made round the margin of the lagoons; this is collected and

removed, the bed is then prepared by stamping and a thin coating of fine clean sand strewn. Into the pans thus prepared the water is again introduced and salt is produced in due course by evaporation. As soon as one crop of salt is removed from the pans the beds are repaired and water is again admitted for a second formation. Three, sometimes, four crops are thus secured in the course of a season.

The price of salt is Rs 2.36 per Cwt. for home consumption. I may observe that beyond the first sale the Government do not interfere. Salt must be purchased from Government, but afterwards the purchaser may sell his salt where, and as he pleases without further interference.

The excise system does not exist in Ceylon, and when salt is available for export out of the Island, the purchaser is allowed at a moderate

rate

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The process of Manufacture of salt differs slightly in detail in the several Provinces, but may be described as follows:-

A number of shallow pans are formed by excavating the earth to a depth which varies with the soil. Between each of these pans is left a bank, serving as a path for the men employed in the manufacture.

When the beds are excavated a certain quantity of water is let in from the lake and allowed to remain till the ground is thoroughly soaked. The water is then withdrawn and the mud at the bottom is carefully

removed

Elucidation of these points that the Madras Government be furnished with a copy of the Report of the Salt Commissioners dated 1st May 1857, as also the Reports of Mr Douglas dated 22nd June 1871 and 22nd October 1872, together with a copy of the Customs Ordinance No 17 of 1869, and the Salt Ordinance of 1836.

I am &c.

Sd/- W. H. Ravenscroft

Auditor General.

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a limited quantity for which he pays
no export duty.

2. When there is a scarcity of salt in
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As regards the arrangement for
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the difference of duty by a port entry.

I would suggest in further

Elucidation

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Colonial Secretary's Office
Colonado 11 July 1878.

Sir,

With reference to your
letter No 731 of the 11th May last, I am
directed by the Governor of Ceylon to
transmit to you for the information
of His Grace the Governor of Madras
in Council the enclosed copy of a
letter from the Auditor General of
this Colony and to state that this
Government will be happy to
furnish any further information
that may be asked for

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your obedient servant

G. M. M. M.

The Secretary to Government
Fort St George
Revenue Department

for Colonial Secretary

Recd 30 July 1878
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Ms. B. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

Oct 11th Sunday
Dec 16th Sunday

Forwarding for
 information, copy of
 a letter from the Austin
 Guild of Pious & Devout
 W. M. Good with the
 request to forward any
 further information that
 may be asked for.
 With order