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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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1332/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th August 1878, No. 1,337.

Read the following paper:—

No. 253. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th July 1878, No. 1,937.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 20th December 1877, No. 5,297.

Read also the following replies to ditto:—

Letter from the Collector	of Ganjam,	dated	17th April	1878,	No.	1,110.
,, ,,	of Vizagapatam,	,,	30th ,,	,,	,,	1,733.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	1st May	,,	,,	529.
,, ,,	of Godavery,	,,	1st June	,,	,,	138.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	7th ,,	,,	,,	142.
,, ,,	of Kistna,	,,	28th Feb.	,,	,,	605.
,, ,,	of Nellore,	,,	31st May	,,	,,	2,145.
,, ,,	of Chingleput,	,,	11th Feb.	,,	,,	54.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	14th ,,	,,	,,	66.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	15th Mar.	,,	,,	135.
,, ,,	of South Arcot,	,,	25th Feb.	,,	,,	87.
,, ,,	of Tanjore,	,,	12th Mar.	,,	,,	693.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	13th June	,,	,,	1,869.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	1st May	,,	,,	1,312.
,, ,,	of Madura	,,	21st Feb.	,,	,,	65.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	28th April	,,	,,	141.
,, ,,	of Tinnevelly,	,,	27th Mar.	,,	,,	230.

In the papers embodied in G.O., dated 21st November 1877, No. 3,289, the question of the grant of special discounts to facilitate the disposal of spontaneous salt was discussed; the Government of India declined to permit the continuance of the system, and suggested the expediency of devising methods of gathering and improving the quality of the article and so utilizing the existing natural resources of the country. The matter was referred to the Board for any remarks they might desire to offer, and in reply they pointed out the difficulties in the way of disposing of such salt, and expressed the opinion that they could only be surmounted by the offer of special inducement to purchase it, such as the grant of liberal discount affords; they saw no means by which the quality of the salt could be materially improved or cost of collection reduced, and feared that, as it will not sell at the monopoly price, the only alternative is to destroy it or prevent its formation in localities where it cannot be profitably collected and sold by Government; they, however, called upon all Collectors of East Coast Districts to furnish information as to the extent of the swamps where spontaneous salt is generated, cost of collection, best means of destruction, &c., and the foregoing letters are their replies.

2. The information given has been tabulated for convenience of reference. It seems that the collection of swamp salt and its storage for sale on behalf of Government is not likely to prove remunerative except at Pandraka in the Kistna and Vedarniem in Tanjore where such salt is now utilized, and perhaps at Nowpada in Ganjam and Panchakali in the island of Paumben. Elsewhere the salt must be destroyed or prevented from forming, and this is now done in various ways by flooding the swamps, draining off the brine into pits or trampling the salt into the mud. In the Vizagapatam District it is stated that the question of disposing of the

spontaneous salt is of minor importance as compared with the illicit traffic in salt earth so extensively carried on there. Steps have already been taken to repress smuggling by increasing the salt guards, and proposals will shortly be made for a similar increase to the force in Ganjam. In Chingleput, South Arcot, and Tanjore, except at Vedarniem, the production of spontaneous salt does not appear to be considerable; in the other districts, swamps of greater or less extent lie all along the coast, and the only course open is to strengthen the guards and destroy the salt or prevent its formation as local conditions may determine.

3. As regards the question of stimulating a demand for the article in localities where it can be collected and stored at a cost below that of manufactured salt, the Board believe that the prejudice against it on the score of its unwholesomeness dates from the past, and is without foundation now that the collection is timed so as to preclude the former admixture of purgative Epsom salts, and that it will yet find favor for export owing to its suitability for carriage. Under Section 9, Act XVIII, of 1877, it can be sold below the price of manufactured salt, but the difference is too slight, especially now that the duty has been raised, to have any material effect in inducing traders to take it. A discount of even 17½ per cent. did not prove successful in the case of the Kalimangundu swamp salt in Madura. The Board can only suggest that every facility should be afforded for the disposal of this description of salt for export, and that attention should be drawn to its peculiar suitability for that purpose. If the shipment which has recently been determined upon to supplement the stocks in the Vizagapatam District should prove a success, an outlet will have been found for some portion of the large stores which may be made available at such places as Vedarniem, seeing that similar scarcity may at any time arise again in some part of the Presidency or other; and the attention of the trade may be drawn to the suitableness of the article for the export trade, or perhaps even for the supply of the West Coast. With these remarks the Board resolve to forward the papers with the samples received to the Commissioner of Salt Revenue for any [illegible] he may have to offer.

4. The result of the experiments alluded to in paragraph 5 of the letter from the Government of India, dated 24th October 1877, No. 202, have not been communicated; as they have an important bearing on the question under discussion, the Board would suggest that the results should be ascertained.

(A true Extract.)

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

No. 254. ORDER THEREON, 19th August 1878, No. 1,337.

Separate Revenue, No. 31.
Salt.

RECORDED.

2. Application will be made to the Government of India with reference to paragraph 4.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1332/2

Govt. of [1878] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated August 19th.

Printed 24th.

Read.

G.O., 19th August 1878, No. 1,337.

AUGUST.

Nos. 253-254.

Extent of the Swamps where spontaneous salt is generated, cost of collection, best means of destruction, &c.—Recording Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of the above, and resolving to apply to the Government of India for the results of the experiments conducted on the utilization of certain refuse salt.

1337/3

No. 1,937.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th July 1878.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 20th December 1877, No. 5,297.

Read also the following replies to ditto :—

Letter from the Collector of	Ganjam,	dated	17th	April	1878,	No. 1,110.
,, ,,	of Vizagapatam,	,,	30th	,,	,, ,,	1,733.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	1st	May	,, ,,	529.
,, ,,	of Godavery,	,,	1st	June	,, ,,	138.
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,, ,,	of Kistna,	,,	28th	Feb.	,, ,,	605.
,, ,,	of Nellore,	,,	31st	May	,, ,,	2,145.
,, ,,	of Chingleput,	,,	11th	Feb.	,, ,,	54.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	14th	,,	,, ,,	66.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	15th	Mar.	,, ,,	135.
,, ,,	of South Arcot,	,,	25th	Feb.	,, ,,	87.
,, ,,	of Tanjore,	,,	12th	Mar.	,, ,,	693.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	13th	June	,, ,,	1,869.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	1st	May	,, ,,	1,312.
,, ,,	of Madura	,,	21st	Feb.	,, ,,	65.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	28th	April	,, ,,	141.
,, ,,	of Tinnevelly,	,,	27th	Mar.	,, ,,	230.

In the papers embodied in G.O., dated 21st November 1877, No. 3,289, the question of the grant of special discounts to facilitate the disposal of spontaneous salt was discussed; the Government of India declined to permit the continuance of the system, and suggested the expediency of devising methods of gathering and improving the quality of the article and so utilizing the existing natural resources of the country. The matter was referred to the Board for any remarks they might desire to offer, and in reply they pointed out the difficulties in the way of disposing of such salt, and expressed the opinion that they could only be surmounted by the offer of special inducement to purchase it, such as the grant of liberal discount affords; they saw no means by which the quality of the salt could be materially improved or cost of collection reduced, and feared that, as it will not sell at the monopoly price, the only alternative is to destroy it or prevent its formation in localities where it cannot be profitably collected and sold by Government; they, however, called upon all Collectors of East Coast Districts to furnish information as to the extent of the swamps where spontaneous salt is generated, cost of collection, best means of destruction, &c., and the foregoing letters are their replies.

2. The information given has been tabulated for convenience of reference. It seems that the collection of swamp salt and its storage for sale on behalf of Government is not likely to prove remunerative except at Pandraka in the Kistna and Vedarniem in Tanjore where such salt is now utilized, and perhaps at Nowpada in Ganjam and Panchakali in the island of Paumben. Elsewhere the salt must be destroyed or prevented from forming, and this is now done in various ways by flooding the swamps, draining off the brine into pits or trampling the salt into the mud. In the Vizagapatam District it is stated that the question of disposing of the spontaneous salt is of minor importance as compared with the illicit traffic in salt earth so extensively carried on there. Steps have already been taken to repress smuggling by increasing the salt guards, and proposals will shortly be made for a similar increase to the force in Ganjam. In Chingleput, South Arcot, and Tanjore, except at Vedarniem, the production of spontaneous salt does not appear to be considerable; in the other districts, swamps of greater or less extent lie all along the coast, and the only course open is to strengthen the guards and destroy the salt or prevent its formation as local conditions may determine.

3. As regards the question of stimulating a demand for the article in localities where it can be collected and stored at a cost below that of manufactured salt, the Board believe that the prejudice against it on the score of its unwholesomeness dates from the past, and is without foundation now that the collection is timed so as to preclude the former admixture of purgative Epsom salts, and that it will yet find favor for export owing to its suitability for carriage. Under Section 9, Act XVIII, of 1877, it can be sold below the price of manufactured salt, but the difference is too slight, especially now that the duty has been raised, to have any material effect in inducing traders to take it. A discount of even 17½ per cent. did not prove successful in the case of the Kalimangundu swamp salt in Madura. The Board can only suggest that every facility should be afforded for the disposal of this description of salt for export, and that attention should be drawn to its peculiar suitability for that purpose. If the shipment which has recently been determined upon to supplement the stocks in the Vizagapatam District should prove a success, an outlet will have been found for some portion of the large stores which may be made available at such places as Vedarniem, seeing that similar scarcity may at any time arise again in some part of the Presidency or other; and the attention of the trade may be drawn to the suitableness of the article for the export trade, or perhaps even for the supply of the West Coast. With these remarks the Board resolve to forward the papers with the samples received to the Commissioner of Salt Revenue for any suggestions he may have to offer.

4. The result of the experiments alluded to in paragraph 5 of the letter from the Government of India, dated 24th October 1877, No. $\frac{77}{2}$, have not been communicated; as they have an important bearing on the question under discussion, the Board would suggest that the results should be ascertained.

G.O., dated 21st November 1877, No. 3,289.

(A true Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, with 17 original replies
and their enclosures to be returned and samples of salt;
also file of printed papers, and statement.

Copy to all Collectors of East Coast Districts.
" to the Collector of South Canara, with copy of Board's
Proceedings, dated 20th December 1877, No. 5,297,
and of G.O., dated 21st November 1877, No. 3,289.
" " Collector of Malabar, with do.
" " Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

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1337/76

Prices of information furnished by the Collectors regarding the formation, &c., of Spontaneous Salt.

Districts.	Places where Spontaneous Salt forms.	Extent of the Swamps.	How the Salt produced is disposed of.	Whether it will be profitable to collect and store Spontaneous Salt at any of these places.	Estimated cost of such collection and Storage and Establishment.	If such collection and storage is not profitable how the Salt can best be destroyed or prevented from forming.	What Establishments are now maintained for these purposes and for guarding.	What staff would be required to prevent the Salt passing into consumption.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Ganjam ...	Itchapur	4 Miles	As a rule destroyed, as the salt produced is of inferior quality and it cannot be collected and stored with advantage.	.....	.....	To prevent the formation of salt the swamp is annually banded which stops the spring tides from spreading over the portion where salt is likely to be formed.	A sum of Rs. 297-1-2 was sanctioned this year and it was sufficient.	.....	The Collector states that the salt produced in the Ganjam swamps is similar to that collected as Pandraka in the Kistna District which is much liked by the Brinjaries on account of its leaving carriage wet, and that two garces of salts collected at Nowpada last year found a ready sale. He would like to try the experiment at Nowpada on a larger scale. .....
	Nowpada	5 Miles	About 2 garces of salt were collected last year, but a larger quantity was destroyed as unfit for consumption.	Spontaneous salt of good quality can be produced at a distance of 1 or 2 miles from the nearest platform of the gully, and the Salt Deputy Collector thinks it would be well to utilize the natural advantages for the production of salt.	Cost of collection and storage will be about Rupees 5-6-0 per garce, but as the swamp is large a large establishment, as an annual cost of Rupees 1,246, will be required for superintending collection and destroying the salt unfit for use.	.....	No special establishment is maintained at present.	.....	
Vizagapatam..	There are six tidal swamps in the district.	.....	The quantity of the salt produced being very small it is as a rule destroyed.	.....	.....	.....	Not given	The present strength of the Police guard is sufficient to prevent the salt passing into consumption, but a thorough revision of the scale is necessary to prevent illicit traffic in earth salt.	The Collector states that the formation of swamp salt is a trifling question in comparison with illicit traffic in salt earth as far as his district is concerned.
Godavery ...	Scattered over several villages.	3,000 or 4,000 acres.	Destroyed, as the salt is produced in very small quantities and made into salt by boiling.	As the quantity produced is very small it is not profitable to collect and stored in large Always collected and sold at the monopoly price.	.....	It can be destroyed by the village servants under the supervision of the Revenue Inspector. There is no necessity for incurring any expensive means.	Three Overseers on Rupees 15 each for five months in the year to superintend the destruction of salt.	Three Overseers on Rupees 30 with 3 Vettians on Rupees 7 usually employed to do the duty now done by the temporary Overseers. The present guard is sufficient.	Collector offers no remarks.
Kistna	Pandraka and some other swamps.	Pandraka salt as much manufactured as that produced at other stations, the only difference being that the pans are 20 or 30 acres in extent, while elsewhere they are much smaller.				By constant fresh water irrigation for a series of years drainage and irrigation channels from the Kistna would be the most effectual preventive.	Police guards at a cost of Rupees 1,899 a year are now employed.		Collector does not think that any swamp salt is removed except for the domestic use of the maker. Considering the inaccessibility of the swamps he does not think traffic is it possible.
Nellore... ...	Along the tidal creeks and backwaters but more especially at Kottapatam in Ongole Talaq and on the shores of the Pulicat lake.	Not given ...	It is destroyed ...	It is not advisable to collect, &c., as the cost of collection and storages would be quite out of proportion to the advantage to be gained, and the quality and quantity of the salt that can be produced would not also justify such a step.	In the best year 150 garce could be collected and stored on the shores of Pulicat lake at a cost of Rs. 30 per garce.	It is stated that the present establishment for preventing malpractices and smuggling should be maintained but the strength is not given.	It is now destroyed by the Sea Customs and Salt Department servants.	.....	The interruption caused by the new Buckingham canal has it is thought cut off the tidal rise of sea water at Kottapatam and the production of salt will probably cease hereafter. As regards the Pulicat lake means were devised for keeping the portion half dry by means of an embankment across the lake, which is stated to have been most successful in fulfilling the object in view.
Chinglepet ...	Covelong and Cheyaar	.....	Always destroyed, as the salt produced is very inferior. No salt was ever collected except on one occasion at Cheyaar.	.....	.....	Salt is now prevented from forming by letting out water into the canal during high tide and preventing it from returning by means of mounds thrown up along the side of the canal.	The present cost is about Rupees 250 a year.	.....	.....
South Arcot...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	There are no spontaneous salt swamps in the district. The quantity shown in the accounts of Fasli 1285 and 1286 was formed within the limits of the salt pans in pits excavated for salt works by the brine from the pans percolating into them.

Received 22nd August 1878

Recorded 19th August 1878

Read the report of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th August 1878, No. 1937, submitting the proceedings noted on the margin, regarding the formation, collection, and storage of spontaneous salt, and the measures to be taken to prevent the illicit manufacture of salt from such sources.

1. Accepted.

2. Authorize him to make the necessary arrangements.

(Signed) [illegible]

Secretary to Government.

Public Works Department.

Proceedings, 19th August 1878, No. 1937.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 19th July 1878, No. 1937.

From the Board of Revenue, Madras.

JULY.

No. 1,937.

Extract of the Standing orders Spontaneous Salt to generate, cost of collection, best means of destruction, &c. — Forwarding to Commissioner of Salt Revenue, for any suggestions he may have to offer, reports from Collectors converted as to the — together with the samples received from them.

Ans. 19/7/78 to Board of Revenue

Encl. 1

Last up

Prices of information furnished by the Collectors regarding the formation, &c., of Spontaneous Salt—(*Continued*).

Districts.	Places where Spontaneous Salt forms.	Extent of the Swamps.	How the Salt produced is disposed of.	Whether it will be profitable to collect and store Spontaneous Salt at any of these places.	Estimated cost of such collection and Storage and Establishment.	If such collection and storage is not profitable how the Salt can best be destroyed or prevented from forming.	What Establishments are now maintained for these purposes and for guarding	What staff would be required to prevent the Salt passing into consumption.	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Tanjore ...	Vedarniem ...	Thirty miles long and 4 or 5 miles broad (20×2 or 3 miles according to late Collector's letter).	It is collected and sold.	Collection and storage is recommended (*vide* late Collector's letter of 12th March 1878.) The salt is required for export and for sale to the people in Tritrapundi Taluq.	.....	It is next to impossible to prevent formation of this salt as the extent of land covered by the swamps is so vast.	.....	A large establishment consisting of 1 Sub-Inspector, 4 Head Constables, and 45 Constables would be required for six months in the year to prevent its illicit collection and use.	With reference to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings, 20th December 1877, No. 5,207, the late Collector states that crushing is not desirable, because (1) the expense would be very great, (2) crushed salt does not store well, (3) wastage would be increased, (4) the salt would not keep beyond a limited time and therefore would have to be destroyed, (5) it would not bear carriage, and (6) would gather more dirt. Extension of collection of the Vedarniem swamp salt and sale at a discount are strongly recommended. Collector agrees with the Salt Deputy Collector in thinking that it is preferable to prevent the formation of salt in all the swamps except the Panchakali swamps. From Dr. Ratton's report it appears that this swamp could supply the Calcutta market with 300,000 Indian maunds of salt annually.
	Numerous salt swamps all along the coast, but the salt was collected and stored only at the Pambarai and Kolamandu swamps.	.....	It was collected but great difficulty was experienced in getting rid of it even after the grant of liberal discounts.	From past experience it is clear that it will not be profitable to collect and store the salt, and the best course will be to prevent its formation.	.....	The best way to prevent formation is by digging large shafts down to the sub-soil and by draining the brine before it marks 25° Beaume into them and covering them up with mud. If notwithstanding this any salt should be generated by evaporation it must be destroyed by being well turned up with mud and if necessary by being trampled by herds of buffaloes.	No fixed establishment is maintained at present, but a few Canakgars are appointed for watching the swamps in Mitturagunathapatam Division as occasion arises.	It is difficult to estimate the charges incidental to the proposal as they will vary according to circumstances. They will have therefore to be determined each year.	
Madura ...	Panchakali swamp in the island of Paumben.	The largest swamps noted by Dr. Ratton to be 1,500×1,500 yards or 697,500 square yards.	The salt that is collected here finds a ready sale.	As the salt is good there is a demand for it; it is worthwhile to [illegible] storage.	Establishment consisting of an Assistant Superintendent and a [illegible] Rs. 420 is recommended. Definite proposals as to collection and storage on a larger scale to be made hereafter if the experiment proves successful.	.....	.....	.....	.....
	Other swamps...	.....	.....	It is more advantageous to prevent the formation of salt in these swamps.	.....	Prevention can be effected by draining off the brine in time as was done last year.	.....	.....	.....
Tinnevelly ...	Twenty-four swamp are named.	.....	Destroyed or prevented from forming.	As the quantity of salt that can be produced is small it would not be worthwhile to collect and sell the same.	.....	The various methods of destruction or preventing the formation of salt are— (1). The swamps are dried up by separating them by embankments and then the salt is broken up and mixed with mud and thorns are spread over the bed to keep men off. (2). When the swamps are small they are dried up by baling off the water. (3). By letting the sea water into the swamps at high tides, which by weakening the brine prevents the formation of salt. (4). By letting in fresh water. (5). By filling up salt pits with earth.	Police guard employed for guarding swamps in 1877, cost Rs. 1,029, and other expenses during the same period amounted to Rupees 200.	To exercise a more efficient control additional guards and a staff of revenue servants should be organized at a cost of Rupees 1,000 a year.	.....