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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No: 1924	Press. / Mis.
Dated 27.11.1878	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

1924/1

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

27th November 1878, No. 1,924.

Read the following paper :—

No. 366. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1878, No. 2,920.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 4th September 1878, No. 2,459.

Read also the following letters :—

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 30th September 1878, No. 17-1,349.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,459, dated the 4th September 1878, I have the honor to enclose for their information copies of the letters marginally noted which have passed between the Collector of Malabar and myself.

To Collector, No. 1,274, dated 16th Sept. 1878.
From Collr., No. 1,600, dated 19th Sept. 1878.

2. Mr. Logan appears to agree with me that the fish-curers may be left to supply themselves with salt upon receipt of a drawback of Rupees 2-4-0 per maund (*i.e.*, full duty less 4 Annas per maund to meet expenses of establishment). I request therefore that the Board will allow the experiment to be tried in this shape. It will obviously be convenient, with reference to the future disposal of the Government stocks of salt in the Malabar District, that the supply of the salt itself should be left to the persons interested, the assistance afforded them by Government being confined to a remission of the duty. Under either system there is, of course, a certain danger to the revenue from the clandestine removal of the salt from the yard for other uses than fish-curing. But this danger is quite as great whether Government supply the salt at a fixed price, or whether they allow the fish-curers to supply themselves and give them a drawback. In the latter case the drawback may as well be paid on the receipt of the salt as Mr. Logan proposes; and salt should, I think, be received only on fixed days of the week, when the attendance of the Salt Deputy Collector or of some other responsible officer can be arranged for to see to the accuracy of the in-weighment. In any case it will be necessary to insist on the guaranty that 2,000 maunds will be taken; and to meet this guaranty in a shape convenient to the fish-curers the simplest plan will, I think, be to stop the whole duty until the sum of Rupees 500 is in hand, and then to allow full drawback until nine times that amount (Rupees 4,500) is paid. If, subsequently, more salt than 2,000 maunds is used, Rupees 2-4-0 will have to be paid by the Salt Deputy Collector on each maund brought within the enclosure. Sanction for this expenditure is requested as also for that specified in Mr. Logan's letter printed in the Board's Proceedings above referred to. I shall, however, request him to reconsider his proposal that the establishment shall be maintained all the year round. It seems to me that it may not be required for more than eight or nine months.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Madras, 16th September 1878, No. 1,274.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,459, dated 4th September 1878, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to favor me with your opinion as to whether it might not be possible to work the proposed fish-curing yard at Calicut on the system of the supply of salt by contractors and of the refund to them of duty on the salt used for fish-curing, which is described in the papers printed with G.O., dated 28th June 1878, No. 984, Revenue Department, circulated with the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,091, dated 29th July 1878. The

contractors might be bound to charge the fish-curers no more than (say) 14 Annas or a Rupee per maund, and out of their profits to pay the establishment to be maintained (and be appointed by Government) for (say) eight months in the year. This would, of course, not be quite so good a thing for the fish-curers as if Government paid all charges and defrayed their cost by charging 12 Annas a maund for the salt; but I incline to think that it would be a much better thing for the country generally, from the food-supply point of view, if enterprising contractors could be secured to supply salt on such terms, because they would be far more likely to push the business and extend fish-curing than any subordinate servants of Government would be if the management of the business were left in their hands. It is also, I think, a great desideratum in all such cases to get people to help themselves and not always be dependent on Government. If the business could be worked on these terms for a year or two, the contract might then be given to whomsoever would engage to supply the fish-curers with salt most cheaply. They would thus in a short time, without any dependence on Government, be put in the most favorable state which the condition of the salt trade would allow of, and have a reasonable certainty of a continued supply of salt on the same terms. Another way would be to allow two or three salt traders to sell within the enclosure, fixing a maximum, but no minimum, for their rates of sale, and allowing each as much drawback as he could earn by the sale of salt, less a percentage to go towards the pay of the establishment and other expenses.

(True Copy.)

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

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, dated Calicut, 19th September 1878, No. 1,600.

IN reply to your letter of the 16th instant, No. 1,274, I have the honor to state that the best plan will be to allow the fish salters (for the men are not simply fishermen) to supply the salt themselves, refund of duty less 4 Annas per maund being made as soon as the salt is brought into the yard. The operation *must* be watched by a Government official to prevent the salt being used otherwise than in salting fish. After we have gained some experience of the quantity of salt required to cure a certain quantity of fish, perhaps we may be able to arrange that for a certain quantity of cured fish produced so much duty should be refunded; but at present the arrangement would be impracticable.

(True Copy.)

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

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 1st October 1878, No. 30-1,349 :—

I HAVE been in communication with the Collector of South Canara upon the subject of establishing a fish-curing yard at Mangalore, and have now the honor, with his concurrence, to submit proposals upon the subject.

2. The fishermen and dealers in salt-fish here are very unenterprising and meet all proposals and questions with the reply that there is a ready sale for fresh fish, and that not enough is left for salting, and so on. It is well known, however, that a good deal of fish is salted in the district with salt-earth, and Mr. Comyn and I are of opinion that as the law is more strictly enforced and salt-earth therefore becomes dangerous to use, the people should at least be afforded an opportunity for the use of something better. Fortunately, a fish-curing yard can be tried here at very little expense, as an open space within the enclosure of the Salt Cotaurs here can be used for the purpose and can be watched by the same guard that guards the gollahs.

3. We propose, therefore, to erect an open shed for the work of curing and a closed one in which the fish in process of being cured can be kept during the night. The cost of these will not exceed Rupees 100.

4. The only establishment required will be a sweeper on Rupees 5 for eight months to help in weig hment, &c., and to keep the place clean.

1924
2

5. The weighment of fish and of salt will be seen to by the Assistant Superintendent of Salt and Sea Customs and will cost nothing.

6. The supply of salt we propose to leave to the salters, and to give them a drawback of Rupees 2-4-0 per maund, unless the Board are prepared to sanction a drawback of the full duty, which is what we should prefer to give at first so as to give the experiment every chance of success.

7. I request sanction to these proposals.

THE Collector of Malabar suggested the opening of a fish factory at Calicut on the merchants guaranteeing that they would use not less than 2,000 maunds of salt at 12 Annas per maund per annum. This amount of salt it was calculated would give a net profit of Rupees 500 over the cost price of the salt and pay the expenses of the establishment, &c., as marginally noted.

	RS.
One Clerk on Rupees 20	240
Two Peons on „ 7	168
Building and Contingencies	92
Total ...	500

Since this proposal was made the monopoly system has given way to excise on the West Coast, and the proposal being forwarded to the Salt Commissioner, that officer thinks that "to meet this guarantee in a shape convenient to the fish-curers the simplest plan will be to stop the whole duty until the sum of Rupees 500 is in hand, and then to allow full drawback until nine times that amount (Rupees 4,500) is paid." But to this arrangement there are two objections. It requires that Rupees 500 should be sunk at the outset, and this is the reverse of encouraging to the trade, also the whole burden would fall on the first-comers. If they continue their curing throughout the year they may recover their advance; if they do not they cannot, and subsequent curers will have an unfair advantage.

2. Under all the circumstances it seems best that no such advance to meet the cost of the establishment for a whole year should be demanded for the present. When curing yards are well established and the question of their multiplication arises, then it will be time enough to consider whether claimants for fresh yards in places more convenient to themselves should not be required to indemnify the Government against loss by the concession. At present the Board would prefer to trust to the Collector making the best selection of locality in his power, and propose that Government should bear the risks of loss arising out of less than 2,000 maunds of salt being used. The uncertainty attaching to the continuance of employment should act as a stimulant to the Clerk and Peons to do all in their power to meet, instead of hamper, the trade in petty matters of daily routine.

3. The Board would therefore give a drawback of Rupees 2-4-0 a maund to curers, and trust that as much as 2,000 maunds will be used in the year. If that amount is used the establishment and contingent charges (Rupees 500) will be paid for out of the 4 Annas a maund of duty not refunded as drawback.

4. As regards the method of supply of salt, the Board think the simplest and otherwise most desirable plan will be to follow the method reported in the papers embodied in G.O., No. 984, dated 28th June 1878, to be working well in Bengal. Under that plan the fish-curers are left to purchase their salt where they like and to convey it themselves to the curing yards, on entering which it is entitled to a drawback. The drawback now proposed is Rupees 2-4-0 out of the duty of Rupees 2-8-0. The difficulty in the way of weighment of the salt thus brought in being supervised and the payments made by a responsible official might be met by one day and hour in each week being fixed for the purpose, so that it would only be necessary for him to attend at those set times. Under this arrangement it will not be necessary to have any Government shed for the storage of salt, the parties storing their salt themselves; shelter may however be needed by officials, and an enclosed yard to enable the Police to prevent salt from being taken out must be constructed.

5. The Board see no advantage in binding salt merchants to sell within fixed maximum prices. On the contrary they would be averse to such interference with trade. The curers had best be left to make their own arrangements. Neither is it

desirable to hold out any special inducements to salt merchants to stimulate fish-curing. Increased sales to curers bringing with them an increase in the ordinary profits of sale will probably be a sufficient inducement to them to look favorably on fish-curers.

6. The Board do not wish to see any attempt made to influence the manner of curing, by dictating the amount of salt to be used per ton of fish. The curer, having paid for his salt, should be left free to exercise his own skill and judgment in best meeting the demands of the market for wholesome cured food, and it is presumed that his method of curing will vary with the fish cured as well as with the market demand.

7. The sanction of Government is sought for the allotment of Rupees 500 asked for in the Malabar Collector's letter, No. 234, dated 22nd August 1878; and, considering the season and the delay which has already taken place in references, early orders are requested.

8. In his second letter, Mr. Bliss submits similar proposals for the establishment of a fish-curing yard at Mangalore. The Board recommend the grant of a drawback of Rupees 2-4-0 here also, and request sadction for the expenditnre indicated in paragraph 3 and 4.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 367. ORDER THEREON, 27th November 1878, No. 1,924.

Separate Revenue, No. 23.
Salt.

THE Board's plan is the simpler and has the approval of Government. Arrangements should be immediately made for giving it a trial.

2. The Board's recommendations in regard to the drawback, temporary establishments and other incidental charges are approved and sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

1924
3

1924/11

No. 2,920.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st November 1878.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 4th September 1878, No. 2,459.

Read also the following letters:—

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 30th September 1878, No. 17-1,349.

REFERRING to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,459, dated the 4th September 1878, I have the honor to enclose for their information copies of the letters marginally noted which have passed between the Collector of Malabar and myself.

To Collector, No. 1,274, dated 16th Sept. 1878.
From Collr., No. 1,600, dated 19th Sept. 1878.

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desirable to hold out any special inducements to salt merchants to stimulate fish-curing. Increased sales to curers bringing with them an increase in the ordinary profits of sale will probably be a sufficient inducement to them to look favorably on fish-curers.

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8. In his second letter, Mr. Bliss submits similar proposals for the establishment of a fish-curing yard at Mangalore. The Board recommend the grant of a drawback of Rupees 2-4-0 here also, and request sanction for the expenditure indicated in paragraphs 3 and 4.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 4th September 1878, No. 2,459.

" Commissioner of Salt Revenue.

Exd. G. Freeman.

Revenue Dept.
1878.
Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

To

THE SECRETARY to GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated November 1st.

Printed 11th.

Entered

PROCEEDINGS, 1st NOVEMBER 1878, No. 2,920.

Supply of Salt for fish-curing purposes at Calicut and Mangalore.—Stating Board's views with reference to proposals of Commissioner of Salt Revenue regarding —, and requesting sanction of Government for the expenditure proposed in connection therewith.

SECOND 1924: 2/November 1878.

NOVEMBER.
No. 2,920.

Exd. G. Freeman.

1921/6

No. 2,459.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 4th September 1878.

Read the following letter from W. LOGAN, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calicut, 22nd August 1878, No. 234:—

ADVERTING to the latter part of the Board's Proceedings printed with G.O., No. 393, of the 13th March last, touching the proposed* opening of a fresh experimental fish factory at Calicut, I have the honor to state that several of the fish merchants of the place have willingly accepted the condition proposed by me, viz., of annually consuming not less than 2,000 maunds of salt at the reduced price of Annas 12 per maund, and have, in furtherance of their desire, constructed curing sheds on a plan which I laid down for their guidance.

* *Vide* concluding paragraph of my letter to Board under date 23rd February 1877, No. 44.

2. What is now required for commencing operations is the allotment of funds for defraying the charges† detailed in my afore-mentioned letter, and I request that the necessary sanction may be obtained for the purpose. The shed to be erected at Government cost for storing salt in the curing yard at an estimated cost of Rupees 76-3-0 has to be proceeded with [illegible] orders [illegible].

	Rs.
† One Clerk, at Rs. 20	240
Two Peons, at Rs. 7 each	168
Building and Contingencies	92
Total ...	500

REFERRED for the remarks of the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to whom charge of the Salt Department has been transferred.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, with copies of G.O., dated 13th March 1878, No. 393, and of letter from Malabar Collector, dated 23rd February 1877, No. 441, with statement.

Copy to the Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 5052

1878

From Mad: Board of Revenue

Dated 1 November 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

Approved with the
Sanction of Govt
Salem
Dated 11-11-78
Sd. Saunders Esq
Secretary to Govt

1878.

Board of Revenue

MADRAS.

To

THE COMMISSIONER OF
SALT REVENUE.

&c., &c., &c.,

Dated Sept. 4th.

Printed 10th.

Recd. Rev: 5052/78

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH SEPTEMBER 1878, No. 2,459

SEPTEMBER.

No. 2,459.

Fish Factory.—Referring for the remarks of Commissioner of Salt Revenue letter from Collector of Malabar requesting sanction for funds required for opening a fresh experimental — at Calicut.

Rev: 27 Nov 78 Ln. Ltr 366.

G.O.R. No. 23
Encl.

1934/9 R. D.

No 1924

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 27th November 1878

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 1st November 1878 No. 2920.

The Board's plan is the simplest and has the entire approval of Government. Arrangements should be immediately made for giving it a trial.

2. The Board's recommendations in regard to the drawback temporary Establishments and other incidental charges are approved and sanctioned.

List for orders
to the Board of Rev. dr. 27 Nov. 1878
b. the Accountant General dr. 3 Dec.

No 5052

FOR ORDERS

Requesting sanction for expenditure proposed for supply of Salt-for Cook-carving Operations at Calicut and Bangalore.

R.C. 22nd Nov/78. R. 25/11/78
C. 20 Nov/78. R 22-11-78

Gn 505.2

GO

Fish curing factories in
Calicut and Mangalore -

do -
do