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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

450

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

31. 3. 1876

196

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1876.*

No. 310. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st February 1876, No. 508:—

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1875, No. 2,601.

Read also the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Anikkaram Chuttrum, 25th January 1876, No. 261:—

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 17th September 1875, No. 2,601, I have the honor to report that a discount of $8\frac{3}{4}$ or 9 per cent. in addition to that usually allowed on wholesale transactions in spontaneous salt will, if granted, secure to purchasers the same profit in the sale by measure of this article as on like sales of manufactured salt. The $8\frac{3}{4}$ discount was arrived at by the following calculation of the Salt Deputy Collector, copy of whose letter I enclose. The 9 per cent. by Dr. Ratton.

2. A maund of spontaneous salt was sent for from each of the four platforms at Vedarniem and carefully weighed before the Deputy Collector, each weighing showed a different result, thus proving that, even in this species of salt, collections in different localities vary in weight. The same quantity was measured by mercals, and an average was struck at a little more than $3\frac{1}{4}$ mercals to 1 Indian maund or 400 mercals to a garce of 120 Indian maunds.

3. After this two specimens of manufactured salt from Negapatam and one from Vedarniem were similarly treated, and they gave an average of $3\frac{3}{4}$ mercals to 1 Indian maund or 435 mercals to a garce.

4. From the variations it will be observed that there exists a deficiency of 350 mercals or 105 Indian maunds in each heap of spontaneous salt of 10 garce (or 1,200 maunds) below that of manufactured salt. In other words, the decrease is $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. I may here add that,

* *Vide* paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings, No. 1,139, dated 3rd May 1875. according to Dr. Ratton's calculations* the decrease in question has been 9 per cent. Thus it will be seen that the calculations of both the officers nearly coincide.

5. To this discount ($8\frac{3}{4}$ or 9) I would add $1\frac{1}{4}$ or 1 per cent., thus making a total of 10 per cent. discount as originally recommended—*vide* my letter No. 27, dated 15th January 1875; and this I would do for the double reason that this salt being not yet in the market, merchants require an inducement to introduce it, and that it will be cheaper salt to Government than manufactured salt and its extensive use will be an additional profit to Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. G. RICKETTS, Esq., Salt Deputy Collector, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 25th October 1875, No. 125.

AGREEABLE to the instructions contained in your foot-note, No. 4,624, of the 5th instant, on the Board's Proceedings noted in the margin,
Dated 17th September 1875, No. 2,601.

I have the honor to report what reduction in the monopoly price is necessary to hold out as an inducement to traders to deal in spontaneous salt.

2. As the traders buy by weight and sell by measurement, and the relative weight of spontaneous salt is greater than the manufactured article, the only way in my opinion to arrive

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1876.*

at any data on which it is proposed to sell spontaneous salt at such reduced rate as shall be found calculated to secure to dealers the same profits as would accrue to them from transactions in the manufactured article, would be, to base our calculations on the relative weights of the different kinds of salt and then reduce them into measures of capacity.

3. Accordingly I sent to Vedarniem and procured four maunds of salt, one maund from each of the four platforms, and had them carefully weighed before me; each weighment showed a different result, thus proving that even in spontaneous salt some is lighter than other like salt.

4. I then measured the same quantity of salt by mercial, each maund separately, and struck an average of a very little more than three and one-third mercials to one Indian maund, or four hundred mercials to the garce of one hundred and twenty Indian maunds.

5. After this, two specimens of Negapatam and one of Vedarniem manufactured salt were treated in like manner, and gave three and five-eighth mercials to one Indian maund, or four hundred and thirty-five mercials to the garce of one hundred and twenty Indian maunds.

6. From the variations pointed out above, it will be observed that there is a decrease of three hundred and fifty mercials or one hundred and five Indian maunds in each heap of spontaneous salt of ten garce, and it is therefore clear, that unless some appreciable price reduction is made to bring it to a par with manufactured salt in the market, the traders will, in self-interest, abstain from purchasing a salt which would make them losers of Rupees 210 on each wholesale transaction.

7. From these calculations, the discount percentage is deduced at $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., to which I would recommend $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. be added, as an impetus to this trade and to overcome the prejudice which unfortunately exists against it, making in all 10 per cent.—exclusive of the usual discount on wholesales.

8. With reference to the collection of the salt the rate for picking has already been enhanced to Rupees 3 per garce—*vide* your letter, No. 5, of the 29th July 1875, which this year's experience (in the collection of 355 $\frac{3}{4}$ garce for local consumption at Vedarniem) has proved to be adequate to secure ready labor.

9. In regard to the feasibility and cost of a tramway, I have really no data to go upon, and would therefore suggest that the project be referred to the Public Works Department by whom the work should, I think, be carried out.

Dated 13th July 1875, No. 1,056.

10. The Government Order noted in the margin is herewith returned as requested.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. GOPALKRISTNAH PILLAY,
Head Sheristadar, for Collector.

WITH a view to the disposal of a large stock of spontaneous salt collected at Vedarniem, the Collector of Tanjore proposed in his letter recorded in the Proceedings read above, that swamp salt should be sold by measure instead of by weight. The Board negatived the proposal, on the ground that the whole question of sale by measure had been recently considered and an adverse decision arrived at, and they called upon the Collector to report what reduction of price it seemed necessary to hold out as an inducement to traders to take the salt.

2. The Collector in his letter above recorded reports that experiments made by the Salt Deputy Collector with spontaneous salt from four different platforms showed a deficiency in bulk of $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. as compared with manufactured salt, a result which accords very nearly with Dr. Ratton's calculations. He recommends the grant of a special discount of 10 per cent. on all sales of spontaneous salt over and above the usual discount of 5 per cent. to wholesale purchasers, and the Board strongly support his recommendation.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
31st March 1876.*

3. In the case of the swamp salt at Kolimangundu in Madura, a special discount of $15\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. or $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas in the Rupee has been allowed—*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd September 1875, recorded in G.O., dated 29th September 1875, No. 1,434.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 311.

ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1876, No. 450.

Separate Revenue, No. 25.

Salt.

THE Government sanction the special discount of 10 per cent. for the spontaneous salt at Vedarniem as recommended.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Ed. W. H. French.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th September 1875.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 27th August 1875, No. 4,132 :—

I HAVE the honor to report that the extension of the Negapatam and Vedar-niem Canal to the stored heaps of spontaneous salt at the edge of the great salt swamp has been completed and that arrangements are being entered into for the contract carriage of the 1,568 garce there stored to the Negapatam salt platform.

2. It is anticipated, however, as already reported, that because of its superior quality to manufactured salt, and consequent greater compactness and relative weight, it will find no local sale by measure. It seems an anomaly indeed that, because it is not bad enough, it should be driven out of the market by rules of sale which favor an inferior article. The anomaly is the more startling when it is considered how very much cheaper to Government and how unlimited in all but unfavorable seasons is the supply to be obtained from this vast swamp of twenty miles of ready-made salt. Now that we have spent money in extending the canal to tap this very swamp, the impolicy involved in the maintenance of rules which stand in the way of the full utilization of that canal seems the more apparent. Furthermore the existence of a railway terminus running rails into the very salt platform, which is immediately connected by canal with the vast salt swamp, seem to indicate the position to be as favorable as could well be desired. Nature, the canal, and the rail are all in our favor; only the sale rules are inimical.

3. Because we have framed sale rules by which the merchant makes a greater profit out of inferior salt, therefore all the natural and artificial advantages of the position are thrown away. Exceptional rules to meet the exceptional position will seemingly be wiser than hard and fast rules which admit of no modification under any circumstances.

4. I would venture, therefore, to suggest again that this spontaneous salt be sold by measure instead of by weight.

5. This is better, I think, than selling by weight with a price reduction calculated to bring it to a par with manufactured salt, for some spontaneous salt is lighter than other like salt. I only proposed a ten per cent. reduction in my letter of 15th January 1875, No. 27, because the sale by measure did not meet with favor. But I gather from the last clause of Board's Proceedings, No. 496, dated 2nd March 1875, that the whole matter is under consideration.

6. If a conclusion favorable to the sale of this salt can be arrived at soon, it will obviate the necessity of storing and wasting it on the Negapatam platform.

7. I may add that, if this spontaneous salt is made marketable, it is in contemplation to devise means by which the amount collected and annually available for sale may be very greatly increased. The amount now in store and waiting transport is 1,568 garce worth three lakhs of rupees of net profit to Government, and I anticipate being able to gather as much as six lakhs' worth per annum in all but unfavorable years. The item is, therefore, one of sufficient magnitude to call for an early decision.

Govt. of 1876 Tanjore.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Secy. Secy. Secy.

Dated March, 31st.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O. 31st March 1876, No. 450.

MARCH.

No. 310-311.

Spontaneous Salt at Tanjore in Tanjore District. — Sanctioning the grants of a special discount of 10 per cent. for purchases of —

8. A further reason for early decision lies in the consideration that, if the salt is made marketable, some little time will be necessary for the making of arrangements for improved collection in the coming dry season. The rough idea is to so cheapen the cost of carriage in collection as to enable us, without loss, to raise materially the hire for actual picking in order that that hire may be such a liberal one as to draw enough of laborers. At present the work of reaping spontaneous salt is not very popular. We have a difficulty in inducing the neighbouring farmers to supply us with 2,000 men. The extent of salt available is unlimited, and the time for reaping our harvest thereof is restricted to about a month. What we want is that, on news being given that our salt harvest is ready for the reaping, laborers should spontaneously flock, not only from the immediate neighbourhood, but also from further taluqs, so that we might rely on getting as many as four thousand men, and, if we got two or three thousand more, we could still use them to advantage.

9. Much of the time, as well as the cost of the present amount of labor, is frittered away in the long distances for which small basketsful of salt have to be slowly carried on men's heads through the mire to the dry land. A basketful of certainly not more than 40 lbs. has been carried as much as a thousand yards, and the laborer has thus had to wade heavily through two thousand yards of mire to deliver this small quantity and return. This is about fifty yards a-pound, and a style of carriage almost to be charged by the dram. Not only is money wasted in this laborious manner of carriage, but time also at a season when time is limited and valuable. If this time were saved, the same number of laborers could collect five or ten times as much as they now can; and, as this is the cheapest salt collected, the more we can gather of it the more profitable will it be to Government.

10. The rough idea then is to lay down annually, and annually take up and store away 1,000 or 2,000 yards of light tramway on a corderoy of rough palmyra logs laid closely side by side over the mire, and on this to run a few light trucks by cooly labor and to feed the line from both sides by small rough sleighs which would not sink into the slush. Wheel-traffic is out of the question.

11. But it will take time and labor to calculate carefully in all detail whether such an arrangement will pay and whether it can be improved on. There are likely to be delays, also, in Madras, references and sanctions. It is important, therefore, that we should have time before us by an early decision as to whether or not this wealth of salt can be made marketable. If the decision be favorable, then we have in the Salt Deputy Collector Mr. Ricketts an officer who, by reason of his having had an engineering training, is particularly well-fitted to work out the scheme both on paper and in introduction, overcoming the many little practical difficulties which are sure to crop up.

12. I submit, therefore, that it seems desirable that an early solution should be sought for the present difficulties in the way of making this swamp salt marketable.

13. I think Dr. Ratton was of opinion that this salt should supply Canara and Malabar.

THE Board are not prepared to accede to the recommendation that the Vedar-niem swamp salt should be sold by measure instead of by weight, the whole question having been recently considered and a decision adverse to such a step arrived at in Board's Proceedings, dated 2nd March 1875, No. 496. The Government having, however, in their Order of the 13th July 1875, No. 1,056, ruled that the minimum price fixed by Act XXIV. of 1869 is not applicable to spontaneous salt, and that it is open to Government to sell it at such reduced rate as shall be found calculated to secure to dealers the same profit as would accrue to them from transactions in the manufactured article, the Collector will report, as soon as possible, what reduction of price it is necessary to hold out as an inducement to traders to take the salt, explaining on what data his recommendation is based, whereupon the sanction of Government will be requested to the grant of such special discount as may be determined on.

2. As regards the collection of the salt, the Board await more detailed information as regards the rate of wages which it will be requisite to offer in order to secure laborers and in regard to the feasibility and cost of a tramway.

3. With reference to the remarks at paragraph 9 in regard to the distance to be travelled and the loss of time occasioned thereby, the Board observe that labor might be economized by passing the baskets along a line of coolies from the place of collection to that of storage.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Tanjore, with copy of G.O., dated 13th July 1875, No. 1,056.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

1875.
 Board of Revenue,
 MADRAS.
 PROCEEDINGS, 17th SEPTEMBER 1875, No. 2,601.
 Received
 Dec 31-1875
 No. 2,601.
 SEPTEMBER.
 Swamp Salt—collected at Vedarniem in
 Tanjore District.—Collector's recommendation
 in favor of sale of — by measure instead of by
 weight rejected with remarks.—Report called
 for on certain points in connection with the
 collection of the salt and on the reduction of
 price necessary to induce traders to take it.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 21st February 1876.
 Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1875, No. 2,601.
 Read also the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to
 C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated
 Anikkaram Chuttrum, 25th January 1876, No. 261 :—

With reference to paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue,
 dated the 17th September 1875, No. 2,601, I have the honor to report that a
 discount of $8\frac{3}{4}$ or 9 per cent. in addition to that usually allowed on wholesale
 transactions in spontaneous salt will, if granted, secure to purchasers the same
 profit in the sale by measure of this article as on like sales of manufactured salt.
 The $8\frac{3}{4}$ discount was arrived at by the following calculation of the Salt Deputy
 Collector, copy of whose letter I enclose. The 9 per cent. by Dr. Ratton.

2. A maund of spontaneous salt was sent for from each of the four platforms
 at Vedarniem and carefully weighed before the Deputy Collector, each weigh-
 ment showed a different result, thus proving that, even in this species of salt,
 collections in different localities vary in weight. The same quantity was measured
 by mercals, and an average was struck at a little more than $3\frac{1}{2}$ mercals to 1 Indian
 maund or 400 mercals to a garce of 120 Indian maunds.

3. After this two specimens of manufactured salt from Negapatam and one
 from Vedarniem were similarly treated, and they gave an average of $3\frac{3}{4}$ mercals
 to 1 Indian maund or 435 mercals to a garce.

4. From the variations it will be observed that there exists a deficiency of
 350 mercals or 105 Indian maunds in each heap of spontaneous salt of 10 garce
 (or 1,200 maunds) below that of manufactured salt. In other words, the decrease
 is $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. I may here add that,

Vide paragraph 10 of Board's Proceedings, according to Dr. Ratton's calculations
 No. 1,139, dated 3rd May 1875. the decrease in question has been 9 per
 cent. Thus it will be seen that the calculations of both the officers nearly
 coincide.

5. To this discount ($8\frac{3}{4}$ or 9) I would add $1\frac{1}{4}$ or 1 per cent., thus making a
 total of 10 per cent. discount as originally recommended—vide my letter No. 27,
 dated 15th January 1875; and this I would do for the double reason that this salt
 being not yet in the market, merchants require an inducement to introduce it, and
 that it will be cheaper salt to Government than manufactured salt and its extensive
 use will be an additional profit to Government.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From E. G. RICKETTS, Esq., Salt Deputy Collector, to H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of
 Tanjore, dated Negapatam, 25th October 1875, No. 125.

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 the Board's Proceedings noted in the margin,
 Dated 17th September 1875, No. 2,601. I have the honor to report what reduction in the

monopoly price is necessary to hold out as an inducement to traders to deal in spontaneous salt.

2. As the traders buy by weight and sell by measurement, and the relative weight of
 spontaneous salt is greater than the manufactured article, the only way in my opinion to arrive

x Copy of
 letter from
 Board of
 Revenue

at any data on which it is proposed to sell spontaneous salt at such reduced rate as shall be found calculated to secure to dealers the same profits as would accrue to them from transactions in the manufactured article, would be, to base our calculations on the relative weights of the different kinds of salt and then reduce them into measures of capacity.

3. Accordingly I sent to Vedarniem and procured four maunds of salt, one maund from each of the four platforms, and had them carefully weighed before me; each weighment showed a different result, thus proving that even in spontaneous salt some is lighter than other like salt.

4. I then measured the same quantity of salt by merca, each maund separately, and struck an average of a very little more than three and one-third mercas to one Indian maund, or four hundred mercas to the garce of one hundred and twenty Indian maunds.

5. After this, two specimens of Negapatam and one of Vedarniem manufactured salt were treated in like manner, and gave three and five-eighth mercas to one Indian maund, or four hundred and thirty-five mercas to the garce of one hundred and twenty Indian maunds.

6. From the variations pointed out above, it will be observed that there is a decrease of three hundred and fifty mercas or one hundred and five Indian maunds in each heap of spontaneous salt of ten garce, and it is therefore clear, that unless some appreciable price reduction is made to bring it to a par with manufactured salt in the market, the traders will, in self-interest, abstain from purchasing a salt which would make them losers of Rupees 210 on each wholesale transaction.

7. From these calculations, the discount percentage is deduced at $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., to which I would recommend $1\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. be added, as an impetus to this trade and to overcome the prejudice which unfortunately exists against it, making in all 10 per cent.—exclusive of the usual discount on wholesales.

8. With reference to the collection of the salt the rate for picking has already been enhanced to Rupees 3 per garce—*vide* your letter, No. 3,643, of the 29th July 1875, which this year's experience (in the collection of 355 $\frac{1}{4}$ garce for local consumption at Vedarniem) has proved to be adequate to secure ready labor.

9. In regard to the feasibility and cost of a tramway, I have really no data to go upon, and would therefore suggest that the project be referred to the Public Works Department by whom the work should, I think, be carried out.

Dated 13th July 1875, No. 1,056.

10. The Government Order noted in the margin is herewith returned as requested.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) T. GOPALKRISTNAH PILLAY,
Head Sheristadar, for Collector.

With a view to the disposal of a large stock of spontaneous salt collected at Vedarniem, the Collector of Tanjore proposed in his letter recorded in the Proceedings read above, that swamp salt should be sold by measure instead of by weight. The Board negatived the proposal, on the ground that the whole question of sale by measure had been recently considered and an adverse decision arrived at, and they called upon the Collector to report what reduction of price it seemed necessary to hold out as an inducement to traders to take the salt.

2. The Collector in his letter above recorded reports that experiments made by the Salt Deputy Collector with spontaneous salt from four different platforms showed a deficiency in bulk of $8\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. as compared with manufactured salt, a result which accords very nearly with Dr. Ratton's calculations. He recommends the grant of a special discount of 10 per cent. on all sales of spontaneous salt over and above the usual discount of 5 per cent. to wholesale purchasers, and the Board strongly support his recommendation.

3. In the case of the swamp salt at Kolimangundu in Madura, a special discount of $15\frac{5}{8}$ per cent. or $2\frac{1}{2}$ Annas in the Rupee has been allowed—*vide* Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd September 1875, recorded in G.O., dated 29th September 1875, No. 1,434.

(True Copies and Extract.)


Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with copy of
Board's Proceedings, dated 17th September 1875, No. 2,601.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

2039 of 14th March 1876
 9th March — 121-22
 13th July — 147-48

209777
 Passed 1876. De fide

BOARD of REVENUE
 MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 21ST FEBRUARY 1876, No. 508.

Order of 14th March 1876
 Encl.

Received

7th March 1876

FEBRUARY.

No. 508.

Spontaneous Salt—collected at Vedarnien
 in Tanjore District.—Supporting Collector's re-
 commendation for grant of a special discount to
 purchasers of —

Rs 450. 21 March 1876
 With order

2039

Rs 450

The Government sanction the
 special discount of 10 per cent for
 the spontaneous salt at Vedarnien
 — from 1st January 1876

14th March 1876
 14th March 1876

31st March 1876

note The Govt. have no objection to the
 discount of 10 per cent being granted
 to the spontaneous salt at Vedarnien
 but no increase in the price of the salt
 has been recommended by the Collector.

2039 of 14th March 1876
 9th March — 121-22
 13th July — 147-48

2039 of 14th March 1876