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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

13th September 1878, No. 1,498.

Read the following paper:—

No. 105. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th September 1878, No. 2,505.

Read petition No. 1,626, from Messrs. Brito Brothers.

In the Notification* declaring the introduction of the Salt Excise Act into Malabar and Canara it was stated that the sale of salt by Government would cease on the 1st November 1877, and that when private trade was thoroughly established the Government stocks would be gradually sold by auction after due notice.

* *Fort St. George Gazette*, 12th June 1877, page 871.

2. In his letter recorded with Board's Proceedings, dated 16th July 1878, Mr. Comyn, the Acting Collector of South Canara, submitted proposals for the sale of 115,000 maunds of salt, remarking that there seemed no objection to this being done on the score of interference with private trade if due notice is given of the proposed Government sales. The matter was referred for the remarks of the Salt Commissioner, and it was eventually decided to call for tenders for the purchase of 125,680 maunds of salt on or before the 25th September 1878, a Notification to that effect being published at page 1130 of the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 13th August 1878.

3. In the petition above recorded, Messrs. Brito Brothers and others engaged in the salt trade in South Canara protest against the advertised sale on the ground that the trade has not yet been thoroughly established, that the quantity offered for sale is too large, and that due notice has not been given.

4. The Board are disposed to think that there is force in these representations, the notice being scarcely sufficient considering the distance at which private traders have to make their arrangements, and the quantity being so large as to endanger their transactions being paralyzed; they would therefore meet the petitioners' wishes to a certain extent by reducing the amount to be sold by nearly one-half. As it is desired that the stocks at Baindur, Manjeshwar, Kassergode, and Nileshwar should be cleared off and the depôts at these places closed and the guard discharged, it will not be convenient to make the reduction rateably throughout the stations at which sales are to be effected, but the full amounts might be sold at these four places and only one-third at the other stations. By this means the total amount to be sold will be reduced from 125,680 to 66,200 maunds, which represents three months' supply.

The sanction of Government will accordingly be requested to the publication of the following Notification in the next issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*:—

Notification.

In addition to the Notification published at page 1155 of the Gazette of the 14th August 1878, it is hereby notified that the quantities of salt for which tenders will be received is (approximately) as under :—

Depôts.	Bombay Salt.	Daman Salt.	Goa Salt.	Canara Salt.	Total.
	In. mds.	In. mds.	In. mds.	In. mds.	In. mds.
1. Nileshwar	...	...	2,650	4,918	7,568
2. Manjeshwar	2,761	...	7,000	...	9,761
3. Mangalore	13,330	...	3,000	...	16,330
4. Baindur	8,009	...	500	1,000	9,509
5. Kassergode	4,367	...	4,039	1,889	10,295
6. Mankal (Hunganakotay)	...	740	...	1,670	2,410
7. Malpe	36	...	404	1,670	2,110
8. Mulki	830	...	...	2,000	2,830
9. Baindur	...	...	...	8,357	8,357
Total ...	24,324	746	20,602	20,534	66,206

It is requested that the decision of Government may be intimated to the Board by telegram.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 166. ORDER THEREON, 13th September 1878, No. 1,498.

Separate Revenue, No. 17.
Salt.

His GRACE the Governor in Council approves the Board's proposal to modify the arrangements for the sale of Government Salt in South Canara in the circumstances stated, but the stocks at the four stations indicated in paragraph 1 * should not be entirely disposed of. In these cases, half the salt in store should be retained for a further opportunity.

* Baindur.
Manjeshwar.
Kassergode.
Nileshwar.

The quantity recommended at the other places to be made available is approved. The notification should be amended before publication.

2. The Commissioner, it is observed, has not been consulted. The Board will direct him to report whether he gave due consideration to the notification of June 1877, when making his proposals.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Govt. A. Instt.

No. 1,968.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th July 1878.

Read the following letter from W. H. COMYN, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 5th July 1878, No. 1,224 :—

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1878, No. 1,698, I have the honor, as promised in my letter, 3rd June last, No. 995, to submit proposals for the sale of a portion of the stock of Government salt now stored in the several depôts of the district.

2. In the notification published at page 371 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, of the 12th June 1877, Part I (*vide* also Board's Proceedings, 30th May 1877, No. 2,195), it is declared that from and after the 1st November 1877—the date of closing the Government sales—the supply of salt will be left to private trade, and when private trade is thoroughly established, the Government stores will be gradually sold by auction after due notice. The object of this announcement seems to have been to afford the trade full and free scope for development, and at the same time to provide against the possibility of a salt famine in case the trade should fail.

3. The first question then is whether private trade has become sufficiently established to make it expedient to reduce the Government stocks of salt. The interval of eight months which has elapsed since the introduction of the Excise Act in this district is perhaps too short a period to warrant a perfectly safe and definite answer being given. We have, however, the experience of one full fair season to guide us, and regard being had to the results hitherto obtained and to general considerations, there seems to be no reason to fear that the trade, already fairly started, will not become more thoroughly established as time goes on. The trade, though no doubt attended with risks, is on the whole a profitable one; the demand, though subject to fluctuations, is constant, and the sources of supply are [illegible]. With these conditions it is not likely that private enterprise will fail to supply the markets to the fullest extent necessary. At the same time the Government stores now held in the district are so large that it seems that they may be reduced without waiting for a further development of the trade, a sufficient quantity being reserved to meet unforeseen contingencies.

4. The markets are supplied from two sources—imports and local manufacture. The import trade may be divided into two branches:

(1) Goa and Damaun salt which is imported on payment of duty and consumed chiefly in the district, and

(2) Bombay salt which is imported on prepayment of duty and chiefly for inland consumption above the ghauts.

5. The total quantity of salt of all descriptions* imported into the district [illegible] Bombay ... ... [illegible] Bombay, Other Ports ... ... [illegible] Goa ... ... 41,139 Bassein ... ... 10,316 Total ... 149,140 [illegible] Indian Maunds. The supply [illegible] thereof, was made from salt sent to [illegible] the demand for home and inland consumption, 177,000 Indian Maunds having been sold from the beginning of November up to the middle of June last, leaving a balance of 38,816 Indian Maunds for consumption during the monsoon months.

6. These sales, however, do not represent the [illegible] ordinary year. Our sale accounts show that 208,937 Indian Maunds were sold from Government stores during the corresponding period (1 June 1874–November 1874–May 1875). The figures of the two following years are proportionately less [illegible] those years, owing to large private imports, the Government sales do not afford any guide to the actual demand. The decreased demand of the two last years was no doubt chiefly due to the continuance of scarcity, amounting to famine, over the greater [illegible] in parts of the Mysore Province supplied with salt from this district, while as regards home consumption the demand may have been affected by the prevalence of high prices of food-grains and other articles of daily consumption, and possibly by the extended use of earth salt by the poorer classes owing to the increase in the price of the best article.

7. Owing to the above-mentioned causes the strength of the private import trade in salt under the excise system was not unduly taxed in its infancy; at the same time had the demand been equal to that of an ordinary year, there is no reason to think that the resources of private trade would not have been equal to meet it. As it is the trade has provided a surplus sufficient, not only for home consumption during the monsoon months, but to last for home and inland consumption until the next importations come in after the opening of the fair season. The trade therefore far from showing signs of languishing is sufficiently active to justify prediction of increased vitality and strength with riper years. It is hoped that the worst time of high prices of food-grains, &c., is over, and with the growth of prosperity among the people and the stringent repression of illicit manufacture, the demand for best salt will increase, and will, I see no reason to doubt, be met by an adequate supply.

8. It is not therefore *necessary* for the *purpose of supply** to supplement private trade by placing at its disposal stocks of Government salt. There does not however on the score of interference with private trade seem to be any objection to this being done. There is no doubt that if a portion of our stock of salt is put up to auction, it will be readily bought up by local merchants and importers; and in proportion to the quantity sold there will be a temporary diminution of importations which will however be resumed before the supply obtained from the Government sales is exhausted, or in other words as soon [illegible] There will be no undue interference with private trade if [illegible] the proposed Government sales, for the merchants and importers will then have time to decide whether they will import or purchase locally, and will make their arrangements accordingly. The effect of such sales will be merely a temporary change in the source of supply.

9. As said before there will always be a demand for both Bombay and Goa salt. The demand for the former will be constant and steady as this salt is used for inland consumption. The demand for Goa salt is more liable to fluctuation, being affected in proportion to the extent of local manufacture. During the past season the outturn of local manufacture, owing to late commencement and to unfavorable season, was not more than 28,000 Indian Maunds, or about two-fifths of the average yield.† Though the average will be probably reached in future seasons, there is not much proba-

* This is the rule. For exceptions, see paragraph 17.

† 66,706 Indian Maunds.

bility of any material extension of local manufacture, and Goa salt is therefore likely as heretofore to be largely consumed in the district and the trade in this salt to be permanent.

10. Judging from the experience already gained of the working of the trade in Bombay and Goa salt under the excise system, I should say that the trade in Goa salt is the healthier of the two; I mean as regards competition and consequent steadiness in price. The quantity of salt manufactured in Goa is practically unlimited and the article is cheap. The importers are many and the salt is imported into all the chief ports of the district. There is never therefore any likelihood of the trade degenerating into a private monopoly. The same can hardly be said as regards Bombay salt. The trade in this salt, so far as this district is concerned, is likely to remain in the hands of a few large capitalists, petty merchants not being able or willing to conform to the system obtaining at Bombay, whereby prepayment of duty on all salt before removal is compulsory, or to undertake the risks attending transit after expenditure of capital. There are thus but few importers of Bombay salt, and the importations are for the most part confined to the port of Mangalore.

11. Already there are not wanting indications of the tendency above alluded to. The enterprising firm of Beito Brothers are the only importers on a large scale, 61 per cent. of the total quantity having been imported by this firm alone, and they may now be said to hold the greater portion of the trade in Bombay salt (so far as this district is concerned) in their own hands. I do not know what arrangements are being made by other merchants for importing Bombay salt next season, but as far as I can at present judge there does not seem to be any immediate prospect of a healthy and effective, that is a *lasting*, competition springing up. As was done last season, Bombay salt may be again imported by other merchants in comparatively small quantities giving rise to a temporary competition, but these small stocks are soon exhausted, and the result is that large importers with capital and staying power are left in undisputed possession of the field. The price of Bombay salt has recently risen out of proportion to the increase in the price of Goa salt, and the cost of the article to inland consumers is likely to remain high, if not to be still further increased. The sale of a considerable quantity of the Government stock of Bombay salt after the monsoon, but in lots sufficiently small to meet the requirements and capabilities of the smaller merchants and ghaut people, will no doubt have the effect of temporarily reducing the price of the article, but the price will again rise should a healthy competition not spring up in the ordinary course of the trade.

12. Before submitting proposals for the sale of a portion of the Government stocks of salt, I will state the quantity and description of which these stocks consist. The total stock of Government salt in the several depots of the district amounts to 356,048 Indian Maunds distributed as follows:—

	IN. MDS.
Kundapur Taluq	*149,926
Udipi Taluq	27,452
Mangalore Taluq (including 27,141 Indian Maunds at the Inland Depot of Buntwal)	151,037
Kassergode Taluq	27,633
Total ...	356,048

And consisting of the following descriptions:—

	IN. MDS.
Bombay Salt	105,719
Goa do.	50,058
Damaun do.	2,220
Canara do. (local manufacture)	198,071
Total ...	356,048

* Of this quantity 141,339 Indian Maunds are stored at the three manufacturing divisions and the remaining 8,587 Indian Maunds at the ranges of Baindur.

13. The following statement shows the quantity of each kind of salt as above stored at each depot in the district :—

Depot.	Bombay Salt.	Damaun Salt.	Goa Salt.	Canara Salt.	Total.
	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.
1. Baindur	...	...	...	6,337	8,337
2. Hirriad	...	...	...	40,393	40,393
3. Angadi	...	...	...	51,368	51,368
4. Vaderhobli	...	...	...	49,778	49,778
5. Mulvant (temporarily) ...	...	2,220	...	...	2,220
6. Malpe	36	...	464	12,129	12,629
7. Mulki	4,996	...	...	13,154	17,150
8. Mangalore	75,019	...	31,727	...	106,746
9. Bantwal	18,540	...	3,209	5,392	27,141
10. Manjeshwar	2,701	...	7,069	...	9,770
11. Kasergode	4,367	...	4,639	1,889	10,995
12. Nileshwar	...	...	3,950	3,918	7,868
Total ...	105,719	2,220	50,058	198,071	356,068

Nos. 2, 3 and 4 are manufacturing stations.
Nos. 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 are coast sale depots.
No. 9 is an inland sale depot.

14. The Government sales during the five faslis preceding the introduction of the excise system were as follows :—

	Fasli 1282.	Fasli 1283.	Fasli 1284.	Fasli 1285.	Fasli 1286.
	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.	MDS.
Kundapur	29,736	27,281	32,787	23,066	18,187
Udipi	17,887	16,309	10,770	4,142	1,765
Mangalore	177,992	182,811	163,527	124,231	72,444
Buntwal	13,894	15,049	28,075	21,541	6,029
Kassergode	22,385	22,193	23,511	15,861	7,787
Total ...	261,894	263,646	258,670	188,841	106,162

As however there were large importations of foreign salt on payment of duty during the last two of the above faslis, the figures shown against those faslis do not exhibit the normal demand of the district both for home and inland consumption during that period. The average sales for the preceding three years will fairly represent the normal demand.

They were :—

Kundapur	29,936
Udipi	14,988
Mangalore	174,777
Buntwal	19,666
Kassergode	22,636
Making a total of ...	261,103 Indian Maunds

per annum or a monthly average of 21,783 Indian Maunds.

15. According to these figures the present stock of Government salt is equal to about 16 months' consumption. Of this quantity a stock equal to about 6 months' consumption (say 150,000 Indian Maunds) should be held in reserve to meet contingencies, and the remainder, 206,048 Indian Maunds, will be available for disposal. Of this balance a portion might be sold off during the present year and the remainder

at some future time. The best time for disposing of a portion of the stock this year will be after the close of the monsoon when the stocks of private salt will be running short and before they have been replenished by fresh importations. The sales might be continued towards the end of the year.

16. The following table may be useful as showing at a glance the stocks of private salt in the hands of the traders at the various ports in the middle of June, the quantity held by the manufacturers in the Cotaurs of the manufacturing divisions, and the Government sales during the monsoon months of 1875. (This year is chosen, as the sales of the subsequent year do not represent the demand owing to importations of salt on payment of duty) :—

Manufacturing Stations.	Ports.	Stocks of duty paid Foreign and Government salt.					Government sales during the monsoon months of 1875.	Remarks.
		Bombay	Goa	Damaun.	Canara.	Total		
	Baindur ...	...	700	...	...	700	245	
	Nellikatta ...	...	88	...	...	88	...	New port for salt.
	Gangoli ...	...	4,500	...	...	4,500	...	Do.
	Hangalatta ...	...	2,350	...	...	2,350	303	
	Malpe	...	100	...	...	600	319	
	Mulki	...	5,117	...	...	5,027	1,301	
	Mangalore ...	16,020	6,213	4,100	...	26,333	13,723	* Including sales at Bantwal.
	Manjeshwar ...	...	660	...	...	660	1,407	
	Kumbla	...	80	...	...	80	...	New port for sale.
	Kassergode ...	365	5,456	2,046	...	7,867	† 4,263	† Including 1,083 Indian Maunds sold at Nileshwar ...
		16,385	25,274	6,147	...	53,816	21,799	June 278
Hirriad ...	.....	...	...	...	3,121	3,121	545	July 322
Angadi ...	.....	...	...	...	16,711	16,711	420	August ... 171
Vaderhobli ...	.....	...	...	...	14,995	15,995	492	September ... 138
		...	...	...	28,827	28,827	1,279	1,089
	Grand Total ...	16,385	25,274	6,147	28,827	82,643	23,078	In addition to the quantity there are said to be stocks of salt with the merchants at Hosdroog near Nileshwar, about 200 Indian Maunds.

17. From the above statement it will be seen that the stock of private salt in the district including the outturn of local manufacture is largely in excess of the quantity required for consumption during the monsoon months. The only places where supplies are at present deficient are Manjeshwar and Nileshwar in the Kassergode Taluq. In the former place the stocks are only 660 Indian Maunds against a consumption of 1,407 Indian Maunds during the monsoon months of 1875, but the sales of *July and August* that year were only 572 Indian Maunds. Should the supply at Manjeshwar run short before the end of the monsoon, the deficiency can be met from the stocks in the hands of the merchants at Mangalore, of which place Manjeshwar is within easy distance. It appears however that the stock at Hosdroog near Nileshwar is not sufficient to meet local demands. I .... only hear of a stock of about 200 Indian Maunds with the merchants at Hosdroog. The sales in the months June—September inclusive of 1875 at the Gover
to 1,083 Indian Maunds, of which 303 Indian Maunds were sold in July and August of that year. From last reports I had that the price of salt at Hosdroog is higher than in any other station of the district, Goa salt selling at the rate of 16 seers for the rupee. I have called for a report as to whether the retail merchants in that part of the country are well supplied with salt, and also whether there is reason to believe that the people are consuming in lieu of the licit article, illicit salt, for the manufacture of which the neighbourhood affords peculiar facilities, and of which they probably have old stocks on hand. Illicit manufacture is being repressed, but it is not possible to say how long clandestine supplies, if there be any, will last, or whether there may not be an actual scarcity of salt in the southernmost part of the district before fresh importations can arrive.

18. I think therefore that a portion of the Government stores at Nileshwar should be disposed of first, say in the first week of September, up to which time I do not anticipate any difficulty, as at a pinch supplies can be obtained from Kassergode where the private stocks are plentiful and low prices prevail. Similarly a portion of the Government stores at Manjeshwar should be sold off as soon as the sales at Nileshwar are completed, or in the second week of September. It will be observed that the stocks of salt at Naikinkatta and Kumbla are very small, but it must be remembered that these are new ports for salt, and the deficiency is not likely to be felt as there are sufficient supplies in the neighbourhood. The price of salt at Naikinkatta is not higher than at Baindur where supplies are abundant, while that at Kumbla is comparatively low, pointing no doubt to the existence of private stocks of illicit salt.

19. I would next sell off a large quantity of Government Bombay salt at Mangalore and Buntwal. The best time for disposing of this salt would be about the middle of September when the ghaut traders begin to come down for supplies. A quantity of Goa salt at these depôts might be disposed of at the same time. A further quantity of Bombay salt at Buntwal might be sold later in the season when the ghaut people came down with coffee, taking salt back on the return journey. In fact it would be advisable, if possible, to sell off all the stock at Buntwal and abolish the Cutcherry there altogether. This might, however, be done next year. After the sales at these places are completed, I would dispose of a portion of the stock at Kassergode. The stocks of salt at the northern ports of Malki, Malpe, Mabakal, Hangarkatta and Baindur might be reserved for sales to be continued in October and, lastly, a considerable portion of the stock of Canara salt in the Canara or the manufacturing stations should be sold in November.

20. Though Bombay salt is generally preferred above the ghaut Canara salt is consumed in the districts of Mysore adjoining the Kanara Ghauts. The demand will, it is anticipated, be greatly increased by the opening of the Mysore railway, and there will always be a ready market for Government salt stored at the manufacturing stations, but it is only fair to the manufacturers under the excise system that they should be given the opportunity of supplying the ghaut and inland trade in that part of the country and so reap the fruits of their industry. There is sufficient competition among them to prevent the prices rising to any unusual extent, and the speedy disposal of their stocks of salt will do much to counterbalance the discouragement they have felt in consequence of the reimposition of the assessment on salt pans, and of the change of system—a circumstance which is always unpalatable to persons untried with the operation of South Canara ports. The manufacturers are for the most part poor and look to a speedy return for the money they have laid out. They are beginning to dispose of the produce of the pans, but at the close of the monsoon will have a large quantity left on their hands which will be available for home and inland consumption. I would not therefore advocate any sale of Government salt at the manufacturing stations until December, by which time the manufacturers will have disposed of their stocks.

21. The Salt Commissioner in a recent letter to me recommended the sale of a [illegible] the manufacturing stations, and it is no doubt [illegible] of so as to make room for storage of the salt to be manufactured next season. Owing to causes already explained the outturn of the pans this year fell far short of the average. Nevertheless considerable difficulty was experienced in providing sufficient storage room, and it became necessary to erect temporary Cutcherries. It is probable that on a further trial of the revised system the outturn of the pans will be equal to the average under the monopoly, and greater storage room will be required. It is therefore necessary to reduce the Government stocks at these stations as far as possible.

22. I think that about one-third of our total stocks of salt, or 115,000 Indian Maunds, should be disposed of during the current year, and I would distribute the sales as follows:—

Baindur	1,000 maunds of Canara Salt.		
Harnad	12,000	do.	
Angali	15,000	do.	
Vaderhobli	20,000	do.	
Mabakal (Hangarkatta)	5,000	do.	
Malpe	5,000	do.	
Malki	6,000	do.	
Mangalore	25,000 maunds, *i.e.*,	15,000 Bombay and 10,000 Goa salt.	
Buntwal	15,000 „	„ 12,000 „	1,000 Goa, and 2,000 Canara salt.
Manjeshwar	4,000 „	„ 2,000	Bombay and 2,000 Goa.
Kassergode	4,000 „	„ 1,000	„ and 3,000 „
Nileshwar	3,000 „	„ 1,500	Goa and 1,500 Canara.
Total	1,15,000 „	(30,000 Bombay, 17,500 Goa, and 67,500	

The sales would range over a period of four months, *i.e.*, from September to December 1878.

23. The best mode of disposing of this salt would, in my opinion, be by public auction after due notice. The alternative method would be by inviting tenders. Tenders might perhaps be invited for large quantities, say seven-eighths of the whole quantity to be disposed of at each depôt, and the remaining one-eighth might be sold in small lots by public auction, but I doubt if tenders would be made for such large quantities. If any, the tenders would be but few, only large capitalists being likely to come forward, and, owing to want of competition, only low prices would be realized. If tenders are to be invited at all they must be for specified quantities, and if the whole quantity to be disposed of is to be divided into lots and tenders invited for these lots, there will be confusion in disposing of them, while the simplest plan in this case would be to put up such lots to public auction. The notification referred to in paragraph 2 of this letter contemplates sale by public auction, and I think it is advisable to adhere to the terms of this notification as closely as possible. At auction sales fair prices are likely to be realized, and they have the advantage of publicity. As regards price, I would suggest a minimum of 3 Annas a maund for Goa and Canara salt (or it may be advisable to reduce the minimum to 2 Annas for the latter) and 6 Annas for Bombay salt, exclusive of the duty at the present rate of Rupees 2-8-0 per maund. The prices fixed by Government are 5 Annas for Canara and 8 Annas for Goa and Bombay salt, but the merchants import these articles at a cheaper rate. I beg to submit, for approval, a draft notification (Enclosure No. 1) regarding the proposed sales.

24. With reference to paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th June 1878, No. 1,698, I beg to state that I do not anticipate any appreciable further rise in the retail price of salt during the next two months. As is usual at the commencement of the monsoon the price of salt in common with that of other articles of consumption has risen, but I do not think that it will run up much higher. I beg to enclose a statement (Enclosure No. 2) showing the wholesale and retail prices of salt at the several ports both before and subsequent to the introduction of the excise. From this statement it will be seen that there was a slight rise in the price at some of the ports on the introduction of the excise, and that in January there was a general rise due to the enhancement of the rate of duty. Prices remained pretty steady with a few fluctuations from January to May when there was a slight rise (owing to the people of the interior of the district laying in stocks for consumption during the monsoon), and this was still further increased at some of the ports, though only to a slight extent in June. The prices at present ruling in Mangalore are very much the same as they were last month. These are the prices on the coast, the retail price of salt in the interior of the district is of course higher. I would certainly recommend the immediate advertisement of the sales proposed above, for, should there be any tendency of retail prices to run up, this advertisement would have the effect of checking it. When the merchants know that they will have an opportunity of purchasing Government salt at tolerably cheap rates, they will endeavor to

dispose of their present stocks as speedily as possible, and will reduce the price in order to effect a ready sale. The speedy advertisement of the sales of Government salt is also advisable on other grounds, viz., in order that merchants and importers may receive early information of the fact, and that there may be no undue interference with private trade. The sales should be advertised as widely as possible, especially in this district and Malabar and in the bordering districts of Mysore and in Coorg.

Enclosure No. 1.

Notice is hereby given that the under mentioned quantities and descriptions of salt forming of the stock in the Government Stores in the South Canara District will be sold by public auction at the places on or about the dates below specified. (The exact dates on which the several portions sales will take place will be notified hereafter) :—

IN 1878.

1.	Nileshwar Salt Depôt	1,500 Goa salt 1,500 Canara ,,	}	First and second weeks of September 1878.
	Manjeshwar do.	2,000 Bombay ,, 2,000 Goa ,,	}	
2.	Mangalore do.	15,000 Bombay ,, 10,000 Goa ,,	}	Third and fourth weeks of September 1878.
	Buntwal do.	12,000 Bombay ,, 1,000 Goa ,, 2,000 Canara ,,	}	
3.	Kasaragode do.	1,000 Bombay ,, 3,000 Goa ,,	}	Second week of October 1878.
4.	Mahmkal (Hangarkatta) Salt Depôt...	5,000 Canara ,,	}	Third and fourth weeks of October 1878.
	Malpe Salt Depôt	5,000 do. ,,		
	Manki do.	6,000 do. ,,		
5.	Barcoor do.	1,150 do. ,,		First week of December 1878.
6.	Bramal do.	12,000 do. ,,	}	Second and third weeks of December 1878.
	Attgali do.	15,000 do. ,,		
	Vodderahlli do.	30,000 do. ,,		

2. The salt will be put up in convenient lots of from 10 to 1,000 Indian Maunds each at the discretion of the officer conducting the sales.

3. The sales will be conducted by the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department in person at the several depots. The upset price will be 3 Annas for Goa, 2 Annas for Canara, and 6 Annas for Bombay salt, exclusive of the excise duty at Rupees 2-8-0 per Indian Maund.

4. All salt (subject to the exception noted below) to be paid for in full (inclusive of excise duty at the rate of Rupees 2-8-0 per Indian Maund) immediately after the close of the sale and removed from the Government Stores without delay, or as soon as possible.

5. In the case of large purchases a period of one month to three months as specified below will be allowed for the payment of the purchase amount and for the removal of the salt on condition of the purchasers making a deposit of 10 per cent of the purchase amount immediately on the close of the sale and furnishing within a fortnight tangible security for the full purchase amount inclusive of excise duty, viz :—

maunds up to 1,000 maunds	...	One month.
,, 1,000 ,, ,, 3,000 ,,	...	Six weeks.
,, 3,000 ,, ,, 5,000 ,,	...	Two months.
,, 5,000 ,, and upwards ...	...	Three months.

6. Any purchaser failing to give the required security within a fortnight from the date of the close of the sale will forfeit his deposit amount, and on his failing to pay the full purchase amount and to remove the salt within the period allowed will be liable to pay interest at 12 per cent. per annum on the purchase amount that may be outstanding in addition to such godown rent as the Collector (or Commissioner) may deem fit to charge for the period during which the salt may remain in store.

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Collector.

Enclosure No. 2.

Statement showing the Prices of different Descriptions of Salt before the introduction of Excise Duty and the present Prices prevailing in the Market since the introduction of the same from 1st November 1877 to May 1878, and Stock of Salt with Traders.

Prices current in per Maund of Excise

November 1877

Ports.	Wholesale per Measure								Retail per Seer.							
	Bombay.		Canara.		Goa.		Mangalore Canara.		Bombay.		Canara.		Goa.		Mangalore Canara.	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Bombay	3	0							0	3						
Canara			2	0							0	2				
Goa					2	0							0	2		
Mangalore Canara							2	0							0	2

Prices current in per Maund of Excise

May 1878

Ports.	Wholesale per Measure								Retail per Seer.							
	Bombay.		Canara.		Goa.		Mangalore Canara.		Bombay.		Canara.		Goa.		Mangalore Canara.	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Bombay	5	0							0	5						
Canara			4	0							0	4				
Goa					4	0							0	4		
Mangalore Canara							4	0							0	4

Statement showing the Prices current in per Maund of Excise at the Ports in the District of South Canara from 1st November 1877 to May 1878, and Stock of Salt with Traders.

Ports.	November 1877				May 1878			
	Wholesale per Measure		Retail per Seer.		Wholesale per Measure		Retail per Seer.	
	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.	Rs.	A.
Bombay	3	0	0	3	5	0	0	5
Canara	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4
Goa	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4
Mangalore Canara	2	0	0	2	4	0	0	4

Duties levied on Salt
Rs. A. P.
Bombay ... per Maund 2 8 0
Kasaragode ... do. 2 8 0
Malpe ... do. 2 8 0
Mangalore ... do. 2 8 0
Bramal ... do. 2 8 0

Statement showing the Price of different Descriptions of Salt, &c.—(*Continued*)

Prices prevailing in the Market three Months since introduction of Excise.—(*Continued*)

Ports.	December 1877.								January 1878.							
	Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.				Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.			
	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Daman.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Daman.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Baindur		2 8 0		2 3 0		0 1 3		0 1 4	0 1 4			2 8 0		0 1 6		0 1 6
2. Nalkinkatta		2 0 0				0 1 6				3 0 0				0 1 6		
3. Gangoli		2 4 0				0 1 2			0 1 4	2 15 0				0 1 3		0 1 3
4. Hungarkatta per Mana		2 0 0		2 0 0		0 0 11			0 0 11	2 11 0				0 1 2		
5. Malpe do.		2 0 0				0 0 11				2 11 0				0 1 2		
6. Mulki do.		2 2 0		2 2 0		0 0 11			0 0 11	2 12 0		2 12 0		0 1 2		0 1 2
7. Mangalore	2 8 0	2 8 0	2 8 0		0 1 4	0 1 3	0 1 4			2 2 0			0 1 6	0 1 6	0 1 6	
8. Manjeshwar		2 3 0				0 1 0				2 0 0				0 1 0		
9. Kumbla		2 3 0				0 1 0				2 0 0				0 1 0		
10. Kasergode	2 8 0	2 4 0			0 1 4	0 0 11				2 2 0			0 1 6	0 1 6		

Statement showing the Price of different Descriptions of Salt, &c.—(*Continued*).

Prices prevailing in the Market three Months since introduction of Excise.—(*Continued*).

Ports.	February 1878.								March 1878.							
	Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.				Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.			
	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Daman.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.
	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Baindur		3 0 0		3 0 0		0 1 6		0 1 3		3 0 0		3 0 0		0 1 6		0 1 6
2. Nalkinkatta						0 1 6				3 0 0				0 1 6		
3. Gangoli		2 15 0				0 1 3		0 1 2		2 12 0				0 1 3		0 1 3
4. Hungarkatta per Mana						0 1 2				2 12 0		2 12 0		0 1 3		
5. Malpe do.						0 1 2				2 12 0				0 1 2		
6. Mulki do.		2 12 0				0 1 2		0 1 2		2 12 0				0 1 2		
7. Mangalore						0 1 5				3 0 0		2 15 0		0 1 6		0 1 6
8. Manjeshwar						0 1 4				3 0 0				0 1 4		
9. Kumbla						0 1 0				2 9 0				0 1 2		
10. Kasergode						0 1 5				2 11 0				0 1 2		

Statement showing the Price of different Descriptions of Salt, &c.—(*Continued*).

Prices prevailing in the Market every Month since introduction of Excise.—(*Continued*).

Ports.	April 1878.								May 1878.							
	Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.				Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.			
	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
1. Bombay	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
2. Mahim																
3. Sewree																
4. Uran																
5. Panwell																
6. Kalyan																
7. Bassein																
8. Dahanu																
9. Tarapore																
10. Nagothna																
11. Rewas																
12. Alibag																
13. Mandvi																
14. Mangalore																
15. Honawar																
16. Bhatkal																
17. Coondapoor																
18. Mangalore																
19. Cannanore																
20. Tellicherry																
21. Calicut																
22. Beypore																
23. Cochin																
24. Alleppy																
25. Quilon																
26. Anjengo																
27. Tuticorin																
28. Manapad																
29. Kayalpatam																
30. Tondy																
31. Pamben																
32. Ramnad																
33. Shanmalaya																
34. Negapatam																
35. Porto Novo																
36. Cuddalore																
37. Pondicherry																
38. Madras																
39. Pulicat																
40. Nellore																
41. Kistna																
42. Coconada																
43. Vizagapatam																
44. Ganjam																
45. Chittagong																

Statement showing the Price of different Descriptions of Salt, &c.—(*Continued*).

Ports.	Prices prevailing in June 1878.								Stock of Salt with Traders in middle of June.				
	Wholesale per Maund.				Retail per Seer.				Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Total.
	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.	Bombay.	Goa.	Damaun.	Canara.					
	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78
1. Bombay	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	IN MDS.	IN MDS.	IN MDS.	IN MDS.	IN MDS.
2. Mahim										709			709
3. Sewree										86			86
4. Uran										58			58
5. Panwell										1,350			1,350
6. Kalyan										2,958			2,958
7. Bassein										666			666
8. Dahanu										3,027			3,027
9. Tarapore										3,027			3,027
10. Nagothna										3,027			3,027
11. Rewas										3,027			3,027
12. Alibag										3,027			3,027
13. Mandvi										3,027			3,027
14. Mangalore										3,027			3,027
15. Honawar										3,027			3,027
16. Bhatkal										3,027			3,027
17. Coondapoor										3,027			3,027
18. Mangalore										3,027			3,027
19. Cannanore										3,027			3,027
20. Tellicherry										3,027			3,027
21. Calicut										3,027			3,027
22. Beypore										3,027			3,027
23. Cochin										3,027			3,027
24. Alleppy										3,027			3,027
25. Quilon										3,027			3,027
26. Anjengo										3,027			3,027
27. Tuticorin										3,027			3,027
28. Manapad										3,027			3,027
29. Kayalpatam										3,027			3,027
30. Tondy										3,027			3,027
31. Pamben										3,027			3,027
32. Ramnad										3,027			3,027
33. Shanmalaya										3,027			3,027
34. Negapatam										3,027			3,027
35. Porto Novo										3,027			3,027
36. Cuddalore										3,027			3,027
37. Pondicherry										3,027			3,027
38. Madras										3,027			3,027
39. Pulicat										3,027			3,027
40. Nellore										3,027			3,027
41. Kistna										3,027			3,027
42. Coconada										3,027			3,027
43. Vizagapatam										3,027			3,027
44. Ganjam										3,027			3,027
45. Chittagong										3,027			3,027
Prices at Mangalore July 1	3 9 0	3 15 0	3 4 0	..	0 1 6	0 1 4	0 1 8	..	..	..	..	..	..
	3 10 0	3 1 0	3 6 0	..									
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,265	22,074	6,497	..	38,836

(Signed) W. H. COMYN,
Collector.

Mangalore,
6th July 1878.

14

REFERRED for the remarks of the Commissioner of Salt Revenue.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Commissioner of Salt Revenue.
Copy to the Collector of South Canara.

Encl. W. H. French.

MADRAS:
GOVT. OF MADRAS PRESS.
1878.

Government Salt Department, Madras, 1st July 1878, No. 1008.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Salt Customs, Opium and Abkari, dated 11th June 1878, No. 1008.

Read the following Proceedings of the Collector of South Canara, dated 15th May 1878, No. 1008.

Ordered—

That the Board's Proceedings dated 11th June 1878, No. 1008, be forwarded to the Commissioner of Salt Revenue, for remarks, and that a copy of the Collector's Proceedings dated 15th May 1878, No. 1008, be forwarded to the Collector of South Canara, for information.

By order of the Board,

[illegible]
Secretary.

Revenue Despatch
No. 2005.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 11th June 1878
Relative to the letter from
Messrs Binny & Co.

In the letter noted in the margin Messrs Binny & Co. state that they have been informed that the Government would cancel the lease of the Tuticorin salt monopoly and that they therefore request that the Government will grant them a lease of the Tuticorin salt monopoly for a further period of five years from the 1st January 1879.

2. In the letter recorded with Board's Proceedings dated 15th May 1878 the Collector of Salems submitted proposals for the sale of 40,000 maunds of salt manufactured at the Periakulam salt works in this District during the year 1878-79 with a view to the Government deciding whether they should sell by auction or by contract.

Port St. Canara
Letter dated
June 12th
Received
July 3rd
1878

decided to call for tenders for
the purchase of 125,680 pounds
of tobacco, or before the 20th day
1870, a notification to that effect
having published at page 1100
of the Tobacco Gazette of
the 13th August 1870.

In the period above
mentioned there were sold
and offers exposed in the sale
rooms in Southtown pursuant
to the advertised rule
in the manner that the tenders
have not been strongly extra-
neous, that the quantity
offered for sale is too large,
and that due notice has
not been given.

The Board on
the other hand is
of opinion that there is room
for improvement in these
matters, the notice being
insufficient to enable buyers
to ascertain beforehand what
quantity of tobacco they would
be required to purchase, and the period
being too long as the interval
between the sales, they consider there-
fore that the following new rules

order to a certain extent by reducing the
amount to be sold by nearly one half
as it is desired that the wholesale buyers
throughout the country and foreign
should be placed on the same footing
there shall be a uniform rule
to be made the reduction taken by through-
out the Province in which orders are
to be effected, and the full amount
might be sold at these four places
and only one-third at the other stations.
By this means the total amount to be
sold will be reduced from 125,680 to
66,000 pounds which represents three
months supply.

The attention of Government will
accordingly be requested to the publi-
cation of the following notification

on the next issue of the Fort St George Gazette.

Notification

In modification of the Notification published at page 1150 of the Fort St George Gazette of the 13th August 1878 it is hereby notified that the quantities of salt for which tenders will be received at the undermentioned Sheds are as under:—

Depôts	Bombay Salt Shds	Bamany Salt Shds	Sea Salt Shds	Bamany Salt Shds	Total Shds
1 Pitchavaram	--	--	3650	3918	7568
2 Porayaram	2761	--	7209	--	9970
3 Kirangadoo	18330	--	5000	--	18330
4 Kodikarai	3000	--	800	1000	4580
5 Kaveripak	2036	--	4089	1889	10295
6 Madakal (Negapatam)	--	700	--	1670	2410
7 Kuralpe	30	--	400	1670	2110
8 Kallipe	830	--	--	2000	2830
9 Kovandi	--	--	--	8387	8387
Total	24,824	700	20,602	20,534	66,200

It is requested that the decision of Government be communicated to the Board by telegram.

True Extract

A. Turnbull
Asst Secretary

The Secretary to Govt PWD Public Letter and copy of Board's Proc of 14th inst

1685
29-8-75

1

COURT FEE
ONE RUPEE

the Cap perfectly in hand and from [illegible]
shall make no [illegible]
of the present [illegible]
of the Commissioners [illegible]
conformable to the manner and [illegible]
and to all the merchants Coy [illegible]
in their notifications published in the last
Georges Gazette dated 5th January 1808 giving
room to open the aforesaid trade which [illegible]
thereon after declaring to be a free trade from
the 1st December 1808 in the year under [illegible]
time aforesaid stated that Government should
still not be guided whether the trade or Monopoly
established and the stocks will be sold [illegible]
quantities only after due notice [illegible]
on the accounts of the Year 1808 [illegible]
have imported and stored large quantities which
shall surpass the demand of the Country for
many months when large quantities should again
follow and if the sanguine stocks have been sold
abroad at the places of production by heavy sacrifices
losses. The trade was thrown open only from
the November and the dealers had scarcely
commenced disposal and trouble on the
way of building Houses for the storage of
Salt. The merchants that will be entitled there

Commencement from a number to establish the
large trade when the season was over for the
year. After three months there was a change
in debt in December what was granted for
three months and then upon a demand
a period change in advance upon the amount
the trade for about 2 months thus the merchants
had hardly 3 months time left to them which
cannot be said a sufficient to enable
the trade after when full arrangements are made
every facilities be completed and all the
Depots are opened for the thorough execution
of the trade the merchants are therefore
by a peculiar notification to complete the payment
as early and able as the state and circumstances
shall allow as much as possible which shall
crush the merchants in the pale of their plans
are ruined and in exporting the large quantities
which have already been shipped. The [illegible]
completion of such payments is only about a lac
and half of maunds and [illegible]
to sell 135600 maunds. If this is the case when
one the merchants to dispose of their quantities
they shall not be able to do any business for
some years to come. If their plans are crushed
for ever time the interest alone is sufficient
to pain them. It is manifest that neither [illegible]
of Government to check the [illegible]

No entry in
Sale Bk
261403
so the 1225000
Wt 14 ordnt
6 months 1805
Page 14
of Cowle Wood
Index

only as to inform and for the exercise of
actual Government and does not enable
It is the duty of Government to protect the
interest of the merchant who puts his
the business with so large a capital as the salt
duly entails like the case of Brits Merchants
It does understanding that no exclusive
shall be granted as shall be requisite for the
establishing and encouraging of the trade and
it cannot in fairness be said to monopolise which
were so much protected and exclusively
sufficient for the encouragement of them. We
therefore pray that we have been compelled to
petition here our rights against the heavy
and unjust [illegible]
which shall not only [illegible] the Honble Court
subject all the merchants to heavy and [illegible]
Honable losses. The whole complaint of us not
only referred directly to the spirit of Govt
orders contained in Govt Gazette [illegible]
but is likewise in direct opposition to the
wish expressed for the extermination of free
Trade as far as in view of the Honble
now in Government stores. Arrangements for
the export of salt will be retarded and the
system sometime with producers which now
established on the beginning of this year should
[illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] the Board may [illegible]
Commissioner to cancell the [illegible]
[illegible] to sale to the [illegible]
[illegible] on the place on the [illegible]
Com[illegible] to the [illegible]
[illegible] to receive [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] shall [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible]

26th August 1850

Manager

Ceylon 1850

Pulo. Caradive

Signature of inhabitants

Signature of Native Headmen

Signature & Residence

Proceedings of the Madras Government under date the 18th September 1878

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th September 1878 No. 2585.

1. The Board the Revenue Council offer the Board's proposals to provide the arrangements for the sale of Govt. salt in the Southern Districts in the Correspondence stated and the details of the four statements enclosed.

2. Paragraph 4 should not be entirely disposed of. The

* Coimbatore.
* Nagapatnam.
Madura.
Tinnevelly.

those cases shall the inhabitants
alone should be entrusted
for a further opportunity
the quantity recommended
at the other places to be made
available is observed. The
objection should be remov-
ed before publication.

2. The Commissioners
if is observed has not been
consulted. The Board will
direct him to report whether
he proves these considerations
to the satisfaction of Govern-
ment or whether anything further
is necessary.

Govt. Order no. 1
13-8-78.