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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Reforms DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 214	Press.
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 17.1.1879	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

18th December 1878, No. 4,794 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Civil Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 207. Endorsement of the Acting Chief Secretary to Government in the Financial Department, dated Madras, 18th November 1878, No. 2,115.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1878, No. 2,913.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kudremookh, 7th October 1878, No. 1-1,361.

I HAVE the honor to furnish the report on the up-keep of the salt roads in the South Canara District called for in the Board's Proceedings marginally noted.

Nos. 2,511 and 2,657, 12th and 27th Sept. 1878.

2. I have conferred with the Collector on the subject, and we are in accord in recommending, with reference to the Board's wish, that the principle of throwing the up-keep of works in excise districts upon the manufacturers should be enforced gradually—

1*st*,—that the bridges mentioned in my former letter should be put into good repair at the estimated cost of Rupees 1,160, which I request sanction therefore to meet from savings in the Petty Construction and Repair Budget of the current year ;

2*ndly*,—that the usual road repairs should be carried out this year from the grant already made in the budget ; and

3*rdly*,—that the grant for this latter object in 1879-80 should be reduced to one half of its present amount and should thereafter be discontinued, and the manufacturers be left themselves to make such arrangements as they may think necessary for the transit of their salt from the place of storage to the nearest point on the ordinary high roads of the country.

3. These recommendations apply only to the roads numbered 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the list given in Mr. Comyn's letter recorded in the Board's Proceedings first above quoted, which are the only ones in the neighbourhood of the salt factories, and which, if our proposals are approved, will be left to the manufacturers to keep up from (say) the end of 1879, at which period they will be in as good a state of repair as their nature admits of. This is not, as the amount of the annual maintenance allowance hitherto allotted to them will show, such as in most cases to admit of wheeled traffic throughout the length of all of them, for the wooden bridges over the streams they cross are as a rule only fitted for passengers and pack animals. Such as they are, however, these roads have answered all purposes, and if our proposals are accepted and the roads and bridges now put into good order, we consider that the manufacturers will have as fair a start as can possibly be given them under the circumstances. Very possibly they will grumble and will fail to maintain the roads in the condition in which they will be handed over. But if the Board accept the principle of leaving excise manufacturers to undertake all works required for facilitating the manufacture and sale of salt, the importance of which must be gauged by a consideration of the expenditure on channels, &c., in such a district as Chingleput, this risk cannot be

avoided, nor will the manufacturers' neglect in my opinion really tend to throw any considerable obstacles in the way of their disposal of their salt; for, as the Board are no doubt aware, there is easy water communication between all the South Canara manufacturing stations and the towns of Kundapur and Basrur, where the traders in salt chiefly resort.

4. The roads numbered 1, 7, 8 and 9 in Mr. Comyn's list before referred to are short branches connecting certain Government godahs with the neighbouring villages and high roads, and may be abandoned as soon as the Government stocks of salt are disposed of. I think therefore that no expenditure on them will be required after the close of the current year.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with copy of Board's Proceedings, dated 27th September 1878, No. 2,657.

2. The Board concur in thinking that manufacturers of salt on the excise system should be left to bear the cost of all works in connection with manufacture, storage and sale of salt, and approve the proposals in paragraph 2.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th September 1878, No. 2,511.

From W. H. COMYN, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Mangalore, 26th July 1878, No. 1,281.

WITH reference to the Board's Circular Order No. LXXXV of 1865, I have the honor to report that the existing nine salt roads in this district were kept in good repair during the past official year 1877-78, with the average maintenance allowance of Rupees 2-2 per mile.

2. The annexed statement shows the mileage, allotment, and expenditure incurred on each road—

Name of Road.	Mileage.			Allotment.	Expenditure.
	Ms.	F.	Y.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Road from the high road to salt depôt at Baindur ...	0	6	1	2·2	20
2. Road from Nerlakatte to Yelur *viâ* Chalammakky and Hemmady.	8	5	0	180	180
3. Road from Hunsemakky to Basrur	6	0	0	100	100
4. Road from Basrur to Koteshwar *viâ* Merdi and Arebet ...	4	1	0	90	90
5. Road from Arebet to Kundapur high road *viâ* Devarguia ..	1	3	0	30	30
6. Road from Arebet Kotars to river	0	3	0	6	6
7. Road from river to Mabukal Kotars and thence to Bramawar high road.	0	7	0	20	20
8. Road from ferry to Mabukal Kotars and thence to Udipi and Brahmawar high road *viâ* Kannoshwar Devastan.	2	5	0	54	54
9. Road from high road to the salt depôt at Malpe	0	0	100	5	5
Total ...	25	0	100	505	505

3. It will thus be seen that the amount allotted for the several roads was fully utilised.

4. The excise system having been introduced in this district, the Local Fund Board were moved to take into consideration the desirability of bridging the salt roads with reference to the Revenue Board's Proceedings, dated 26th June 1877, Miscellaneous No. 9,181. That Board has however passed a resolution to the effect that they are not prepared to undertake the bridging of these roads. In the mean time the temporary wooden bridges erected over the several streams are decaying, and the Salt Deputy Collector is about to submit estimates for their renewal.

5. No new salt roads were opened in this district during the past year.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. With reference to paragraph 4 the opinion of the Commissioner of Salt Revenue as to the maintenance of these roads will be requested; as far as the Board can ascertain by reference to budgets, the nine roads specified have always been provided for in the salt budgets; the 2nd, 4th, 5th, and 7th appeared in the Petty Construction and Repair Budget for 1871-72, and the others in subsequent budgets. On the principle suggested in the Board's Proceedings, recorded in G.O., Public Works Department, dated 5th November 1877, No. 1,450 W, and accepted by the Government of India in their letter recorded in G.O., dated 11th March 1878, No. 1,240 W, the charges on account of these roads should continue to be defrayed from the salt budget under ordinary circumstances; but it is a question whether in districts in which the excise system has been introduced their upkeep should not be left to the manufacturers who are chiefly interested in their maintenance and to the local bodies charged with the duty of providing such conveniences for the public in general. This appears to have been the view of the Salt Commission from paragraph 523 of their report, but until manufacture under the new system has been thoroughly established it will probably be necessary for Government to bear the cost of keeping up the approaches; the desirability of bridging the roads at a heavy outlay is however matter for consideration, and Mr. Bliss is requested to report on the point.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th September 1878, No. 2,657.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Commissioner of Salt Revenue, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 12th September 1878, No. 1,211.

IN his Petty Construction and Repair Budget for 1879-80, the South Canara Salt Deputy Collector has entered certain allotments for the repair of some bridges in the Salt Divisions and of some roads leading to the kottars in which is stored salt manufactured under the excise system.

2. The bridges connect the pans themselves, which the Board are aware are very much scattered about, with the kottars, and are used by the Superintendents and by the Police for inspection and patrol purposes, and by the salt manufacturers to bring salt in. I have provided for the purchase of boats for use by the Superintendents and the Police. There are none now in these divisions, though they are much required. When they are provided, the servants of Government will be independent of the bridges, which are rather expensive works to keep in order. I do not see why Government funds should be used to facilitate the storage of excise manufactured salt, and I have therefore struck the allotments out and have informed the Salt Deputy Collector that if the manufacturers require the bridges they must repair them at their own expense.

3. I trust the Board will approve of this. The sum at stake in this particular instance is only Rupees 1,160, but the principle is of great importance. If we keep up in excise divisions bridges at Government expense, it seems to me that we must keep up canals and all other sorts of works also, which cost in the aggregate a very large sum of money annually. But one of the objects of the proposed introduction of the excise system is to save such expenses. I think therefore that the principle should be declared and acted on at once.

4. I propose also to leave the manufacturers to keep up the roads which lead from the high roads of the country to Salt Kottars (in excise districts) and which are not now required for revenue purposes.

5. I have also struck out of the South Canara Budget a branch road leading to the Baindur Depôt, which will be closed as soon as the stock of Government salt stored in it is cleared off.

THE principle advocated by Mr. Bliss appears to be in accordance with the views of the Salt Commission, and is approved by the Board; but they think that it will be necessary to introduce the change gradually after due notice, and that it is not advisable at the outset of the experiment to impose heavy burdens on the manufacturers, although eventually they may fairly be required to undertake the upkeep of communications in the maintenance of which they are chiefly interested. The Board have already referred this point for the consideration of the Commissioner in their Proceedings, dated 12th September, No. 2,511, and they will await his further remarks before deciding whether provision should be made for the works referred to in the ensuing year's budget.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

FORWARDED to the Public Works Department in continuation of G.O., dated 23rd September 1878, No. 1,699, for issue of the requisite orders.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 207-A. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 27th November 1878, No. 2,896.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd November 1878, Mis.No. 11,921.

Read Government Order, Revenue Department, dated 8th November 1878, No. 2,676; communicating Order, Public Works Department, recording with remarks Financial Orders communicating Board's Annual Report on the salt roads in South Canara for 1877-78.

THE Salt Commissioner's report was submitted to Government with Board's Proceedings, dated 1st November 1878, No. 2,913.

COMMUNICATED to the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 208. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1878, No. 4,794 W.

THE Government concur generally in the opinion expressed by the Board.

2. As regards works connected with the manufacture and storage of salt, the excise licensees must themselves attend to their up-keep.

3. As regards works connected with the sale of salt, so far as relates to approaches required for the convenience of the general public, and therefore for the advantage of the public revenue, the Governor in Council is not of opinion that the change from monopoly to excise should be held to altogether bar the principle upon which the State has hitherto helped to maintain them; but the form which such contributions on account of approaches to salt depôts required by salt *traders* should hereafter assume, may be reconsidered with advantage.

(True Extract.)

E A Ford Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
14 Spare Copies

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PUBLIC WORKS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CENTRAL OFFICE

Ord. of 17 January 79 No. 214

Copy of letter of 11th January 1879 (Ref. 237.C.C.)

THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT

Ref. 237.C.C.

No. 214

Communicated to the Board of Works and the Commissioner of Public Works

17 January 79

Ord. 214