Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultations

14th September 1858

Part No 60 —

Order No 1249 14 September 1858

No. 60. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th August 1858, No. 3157.

Read letter from the Inspector General of Ordnance and
In Consultation 18*th August* 1858. Magazines, dated 28th June 1858, Account Department.

(Here enter No. 2009.)

Resolved that the above letter be submitted for the information of Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation 27th May last,
In Consultation 3rd July 1858. No. 695, Revenue Department.

2. It will be seen from it that the cost of each Salt-weighing machine on Major Bell's principle, is estimated at Rupees 187-9-11.

3. The Board have ascertained* that the weighing of Salt is practised only in seven of the 14 Maritime Districts. In the four noted in the margin, Salt for export by sea, is alone weighed. In Canara only, Salt imported by private Traders, is weighed for duty; while in Malabar, measuring has been wholly abandoned. In Madras from October 1857 to the present time 2,35,000 Indian Maunds have been disposed of by weight, but of this quantity 1,50,000 Indian Maunds were for export. The rest of the sales were by the heap.

Ganjam.
Rajahmundry.
Nellore.
Chingleput.

4. The Board recommended the simultaneous introduction of weighing in every District, because, as stated in para. 6 of their Proceedings dated 5th May last, they apprehended that a different course, would lead to a diversion of trade. They understand from the Collector of Madras, that many native dealers prefer measuring to weighing, no doubt in consequence of the present equivalent of 100 Maunds being in excess of the true weight, and partly perhaps in consequence of measurement affording greater facilities for obtaining more than they pay for. The Board append Extracts bearing on the point from letters of the Collectors of Madras† and Malabar‡.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

* *From Ganjam, 27th July in Consultation 4th August* 1858.
Do. Vizagapatam, 15th in Consultation 26th July 1858.
Do. Rajahmundry, 26th July in Consultation 3rd August 1858.
Do. Masulipatam, 10th in Consultation 16th July 1858.
Do. Guntoor, 16th in Consultation 22nd July 1858.
Do. Nellore, 9th in Consultation 13th July 1858.
Do. Chingleput, 9th in Consultation 19th July 1858.
Do. South Arcot, 8th in Consultation 12 July 1858.
Do. Tanjore, 17th in Consultation 21st July 1858.
Do. Madura, 12th in Consultation 17th July 1858.
Do. Tinnevelly, 15th in Consultation 21st July 1858.
Do. Canara, 10th in Consultation 19th July 1858.
Do. Malabar, 29th July in Consultation 5th August 1858.
Do. Madras, 16th in Consultation 19th July 1858.

† *Paras. 3 to 13 of letter, dated 5th in Consultation 14th December* 1857.

‡ *Para. 26 of Jummabundy Report for Fusly* 1266, *dated 10th Augt.* 1857 *in Cons. 18th March* 1858.

No. 61. ORDER THEREON, No. 1249; dated 14th September 1858.

1. With reference to para. 2 of Extract Minutes Consultation 27th May 1858, No. 695, the Board of Revenue report that the cost of each Salt-weighing machine on Major Bell's principle is estimated at Rupees 187-9-11; this information having been called for, in order that the Honorable Court on being furnished with it, might be enabled to institute a comparison between this kind of machine and that received from England, to which the preference has been unanimously accorded. They at the same time report that the weighing of salt is practised in seven only of the fourteen maritime districts, viz. Ganjam, Rajahmundry, Nellore, Chingleput, Canara, Malabar, and Madras; in the first four however only in respect to salt for export by sea; in Canara, only for salt imported by private traders; but in Malabar and Madras, in all transactions, since October 1856 in the case of the former, and October 1857 in the case of the latter collectorate. The Board further explain that they prefer simultaneous introduction of weighing in the districts in preference to gradual introduction of the practice, because they apprehend that a different course would lead to a diversion of trade; and in support of this

view, they append extracts from letters of the Collectors of Madras and Malabar, from which it is observed that the Collector of Madras feared competition with Covelong Salt, the native dealers preferring to take salt by measurement rather than by weight, in consequence of the extra quantity obtained by the former method, and that in Malabar, the inland exporters were resorting to Mangalore where weighing had not been introduced.

2. Under these circumstances the Government approve the Board's suggestion to introduce the practice of weighing Salt simultaneously in all the districts, and will be prepared to authorize the measure on the arrival in this country of the requisite number of weighing machines for the service of the Salt Department. In their Proceedings of the 5th May 1858, No. 1615, the Board reported 110 two Maund and 290 one Maund weighing machines to be the number required for the service of the entire Presidency, making provision for accidents, and including a few of each kind for sale to private traders; but the Government find from the distribution that this number provides only 3 machines of each kind for Guntoor, which they believe to be too few for the large transactions which sometimes take place in that district in the season. They therefore think it fit to assign 6 two Maund and 10 one Maund weighing machines to Guntoor, which will raise the total number for the entire Presidency to 113 and 297 machines respectively; the distribution being as follows:

	2 Md.	1 Md.
Ganjam, ...	6	7
Vizagapatam, ...	0	9
Rajahmundry, ...	8	2
Masulipatam, ...	5	20
Guntoor, ...	6	10
Nellore, ...	9	40
Chingleput, ...	4	10
South Arcot, ...	3	12
Tanjore, ...	4	52
Madura, ...	1	38
Tinnevelly, ...	9	9
Canara, ...	31	35
Malabar, ...	3	6
Madras, ...	6	25
	95	275
Reserve, and for private sale, say, ...	18	22
	113	297

3. Application will accordingly be made to the Honorable the Court of Directors for the above number of weighing machines; and they will be requested to consign those intended for Malabar and Canara, direct to the Collectors of those districts, at Calicut and Mangalore respectively, and to forward the rest to Madras.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Extract from a letter from the Collector of Madras to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 5th December 1857 No 190.

Rec'd 14th Dec 1857.

× × × ×

3 Incidentally I may remark that I trust that weighing will hereafter substituted for measuring in all our transactions and adopted at once in our retail sales. It is much more satisfactory and will obviate the unpleasant complaints made of short outturn by the wholesale dealers, though I am convinced that generally there is no foundation for such allegations.

4 Even when standing over the measurer he will vary the outturn at his pleasure, and defy detection, and on this account there has been a great outcry among the retail purchasers against the weighing, and I have no doubt that its introduction has been distasteful to the Government measurers, who are now unable to serve their friends and enrich themselves.

The

The former state that they do not now receive by weight as much as they did by measurement, and this certainly is the case

6 Mr. Cunniase lately complained in the same strain. He declared that his heaps taken wholesale turned out deficient, but on the other hand I urged that other wholesale merchants took heaps on the same line without remonstrance, and that those heaps which were supposed to be too greatly damaged to be sold wholesale, and therefore retained for retail by weight always resulted in the full quantity.

7 He rejoined that weight was not the question at issue but that what he required was the 421 Mercals declared by the Government to be equivalent to 120 Indian Maunds.

8. The reply of course was that of two equivalents it mattered not which was taken.

9 These facts sufficiently prove that the Boards Estimate of 400 Mercals to the 130 Maunds was about correct, and that the 21 Maunds added by the Government in 1855 was so much given away.

10 Certain retail purchasers have addressed the Board in Petition 3822 of 1857 against

against weighing, and begging that they might be allowed to purchase a whole heap and clear it in 5 days. I have endorsed the Petition and will forward it to the parties.

11 It is objectionable to accede to their second request, for it is expedient that we should possess some means of occasionally testing the contents of our heaps, and this is best done by selling for Home consumption by retail. This measure is the more necessary that we are to store in heaps of 20 Garee. Our Home sales are about 3 Garee daily, or nine 10 Garee heaps the month.

12 For these reasons I hope that weighing as specified in Courts Despatch 3rd July 1856, will be the Rule in future at these Golaurs and that it may be extended to the others as soon as Machines are available.

13 I expect soon some competition with Cooclong Salt in the local Market brought by canal when I shall be at a disadvantage, if the salt is weighed here and measured there, in consequence of the excess derived by the latter process.

Extract

Extract from a letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue dated 10th August 1857.

In Con 18th March 1858

× × × ×

26 In illustration of the exports for Inland consumption I beg to insert in the margin an Abstract shewing the places to which the salt was taken in 1266 compared with the previous year. It will be observed that the greatest falling off attaches to the exportation to Mysore owing it is believed that the inland exporters have resorted to Mangalore where weighment has not been introduced "as stated in my letter to the Board dated the 8th June last."

	Coorg by the Peram: badly Pass	Mysore from Cannanore and Tellicherry by the Perambady & Periah Pass & from Calicut by the Tambercherry Pass	Coimbatore by Palghaut	Neilgherry by the Carcoor & Koondiah Passes	Dwie by Sea	The French settlement of Mahé by Sea	Total
	Mds						
Sircles 1265	8826	78720	84588	112	16	2500	174354
" 1266	3247	38085	73300	100		3220	118062
Increase						720	720
Decrease	5579	40635	11288	12	16		57392

× × ×

(A true Extract)

Comp. C Burton

J. D. Sim
Secretary.

R D

No. 1249.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 18th September 1858.

Read the following
extract from the Pro: of the
Board of Revenue—
(Here enter 18th August 1858.)

1. With reference to para
2 of Ex: Mins: Cons: 27th May/58,
No. 695, the Board of Revenue report
that the cost of each salt weighing
machine on Major Bell's principle
is estimated at Rs. 187. 9. 11; this
information having been called
for, in order that the Bombay Govt
on being furnished with it, might
be enabled to institute a compa-
rison between this kind of machine
and that received from England, to
which the preference has been
unanimously accorded. They at the
same time report that the weighing
of salt is practised in seven only
of the fourteen maritime districts,
viz, Sunjam, Rajahmundry, Nellore,
Chingleput, Canara, Malabar, and

The Members proposed
for Guntoor is surely
too small - My town
times salt is much
at 4 taka R. worth
in the season MC

Encr
In Rc. Dy. Chief Sec. to Mad. Govt
Genl. Dept. Govt. Order dated 18th Augt
No. 3157.

Copy

R 1324/58.

To Comm. 3 No. 13 of Madras Letter
to Rc. Dy. Sec. to Govt. dated 5th inst.
& of Rec. 20 of Madras dated
10th Augt 1858 with Madras dated 1858.

Regd. & Registered
Encl.

Rep. Comm. Mr. Chief Sec.
Dy. Sec.

Madras; in the first four only in respect to Salt for export by sea; in Canara, only for salt imported by private traders, but in Malabar and Madras, in all transactions, since Oct/56 in the case of the former, and Oct/57 in the case of the latter Collectorate. The Board further explain that they prefer simultaneous introduction of weighing in the districts in preference to gradual introduction of the practice, because they apprehend that a different course would lead to a diversion of trade, and in support of this view, they append extracts from letters of the Cols of Madras and Malabar, from which it is observed that the Col of Madras feared competition with Coveling salt, in consequence of the native dealers preferring to take salt by measurement rather than by weight, in consequence of the extra quantity obtained by the former method, and that in Malabar, the inland exporters were resorting to Mangalore where weighing had not been introduced.

2. Under these circumstances the Govt approve the Board's suggestion to introduce the practice of weighing salt simultaneously in all the districts, and will be prepared to authorize the necessary increase in this country of the requisite number of weighing machines for the service of the Salt Dept. Application will now accordingly be made to the Bombay Govt for the despatch of 110 two maund weighing machines, and 290 one maund weighing machines, which the Board reported in their Proceedings of the 5th May/58, No 1615, to be the number for the entire Presidency, making provision for accidents, and including a few of each kind for sale to private traders; but the Govt find from the distinction that this number provides only 3 machines of each kind for Guntoor, which they believe to be too few for the large transactions which sometimes take place in that district in the season. They therefore think it fit to apprize 6 two maund and 10 one maund weighing machines to Guntoor, which will raise the total number for the entire Presidency to 113 + 297 machines respectively; the distribution being as follows.

	2 Md:	1 Md:
Sanjaun	6.	7
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Tanjore	4	52
Madura	1.	38
Tinnevelly	9.	9
Canara	31.	35
Malabar	3.	6
Madras	6.	25.
	95	275

Reserve, & for private
sale, say 18. 22

113. 297.

3. Applications will accordingly be made to the Honble the Court of Directors for the above number of weighing machines; and they will be requested those intended for Malabar and Canara, direct to the Collrs of those districts, & Calicut and Mangalore respectively, and to forward the rest to Madras.

2d Copies to the Bd of Rev. Dated 15th with 15 Encls

22. Sep. Rg

Copies in w Letter A C
of 2nd Sept 58 Ab

Revenue 1858 Sept.
Cons. 14th Sept:

No 1249.

C.

Extract Mins of Cons
Dt 14th Septr 58.

from Dt 22 Sept 58

17-2-04
4-3-04

94 & 69

No 60 & 61.

Approve of the Boards suggestion, to introduce the practice of weighing Salt simultaneously in all the Districts, and will authorize the measure on the arrival in this Country of the weighing Machines. The Honble Court to be applied to for the requisite number of Machines.

End