M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2173 — Press Mis.

268-269

Dated 14—9— 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Cpd

No. 268. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1867, No. 5,741.

Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 16th August 1867, No. 2,352:—

Dated 29th May and 2nd July 1867, Nos. 1,005 and 1,038.
Board's Proceedings, Nos. 4,074 and 4,571, dated 1st and 19th July 1867.

1. In continuation of my letters, as per margin, I have the honor further to enclose sixteen estimates, for clearing out salt channels and repairing a salt platform in the Madras District, which are under the charge of Mr. Fraser.

2. The names of the works and amounts estimated for to repair them are entered below, and the estimates have received the approval of the Collector, who informs me he will forward the Ayacut Statements of the channels as soon as received.

3. This completes the list of the estimates framed; and of those now submitted with this letter, the only one which was not set in progress at the beginning of the year, and is not required at present, is No. 16, for repairing the salt platform and buildings at Homes' Gardens, Sydapet.

The enclosed copy of a letter from the Executive Engineer, dated 25th July 1867, No. 79, will explain the necessity which exists for carrying out these repairs, and the causes which led to their being sanctioned.

			Rs.
1.	Deepening No. 1 Salt Channel at Pullidivaukum ...		1,270
2.	Do. „ 2 do. at do. ...		670
3.	Do. „ 3 do. at do. ...		6,440
4.	Do. „ 1 do. at Voyaloor ...		610
5.	Do. „ 2 do. at do. ...		1,920
6.	Do. „ 3 do. at do. ...		1,050
7.	Do. „ 5 do. at do. ...		810
8.	Do. „ 6 do. at do. ...		630
9.	Do. „ 8 do. at do. ...		500
10.	Do. „ 1 do. at Katoor. ...		830
11.	Do. „ 2 do. at do. ...		780
12.	Do. „ 3 do. at do. ...		660
13.	Do. „ 4 do. at do. ...		310
14.	Do. „ 5 do. at do. ...		190
15.	Do. the Salt Channel and the river Adyar at Homes' Garden...		1,010
16.	Excavating a fresh water tank, repairing the Salt Platform, the Salt Cutcherry and Guard-rooms, &c., at Homes' Garden...		1,400
		Total...	19,080

From W. FRASER, Esq., C. E., Executive Engineer, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, dated Mount Road, 25th July 1867, No. 79.

1. In reply to your Memorandum, No. 1,911, I have the honor to state that when I wrote my letter of the 12th instant, No. 73, all the salt channels alluded to were "nearly completed;" but having a few days previously ascertained that three of the channels would not be required for the manufacture of salt this year, I immediately ordered the work on those to be stopped.

2. A few words regarding the history of these estimates will put you in possession of the facts.

The Board of Revenue were desirous of greatly extending, almost doubling, the manufacture of salt this year. The reports of the Superintendents and others were favorable, to the effect that the area of cultivation could be doubled if only a number of old channels which had been in disuse for many years were re-opened, and other channels still in use, deepened. There were in all some fifty or sixty channels to be deepened or re-opened according to the wishes of the Superintendents; but on examining the ground myself, I reduced the number to forty-four, which they considered absolutely necessary for their operations this year. This took place at the latter end of January last, and on the 9th of February, after some correspondence on the subject, Colonel Boileau authorized the execution of the works on emergency.

3. The salt people were so anxious to get these channels opened speedily, for the purpose of preparing the ground for pans, that our whole efforts were directed to get the contractors to work, so as to open the channels sufficiently to let the salt water up to the places of intended manufacture, leaving the side slopes, &c., to be finished afterwards. In this we succeeded, and in every case had water up when they wanted it; but the preparation of the estimates was delayed.

4. The Salt Superintendents were enabled to carry out their intention of increased manufacture except in five cases: two on the Sadras Canal, where I learned their intention in time to stop the work altogether; and three on the north canal, namely, Nos. 4 and 9 in Attipoor, and No. 3 in Pullidivaukum, where they did not give up the hope of being able to manufacture until the channels were nearly completed. But, as before stated, these works were stopped when I ascertained that they would not be required for manufacture this year, though two of them (those in Attiput) were all but complete when the order was given. All the other channels are being made use of, and have enabled the manufacture to be greatly extended this year.

5. I would draw attention to the position we hold with reference to these Salt works, and what was, I am sure, in Colonel Boileau's mind when he sanctioned the execution of the works on emergency.

The revenue from these Salt works is very great, ranging, up to last year, from forty to fifty lacs of Rupees. This year the return will probably be sixty to seventy lacs.

It is essential that the pans should, early in the season, be placed in unobstructed connection with the backwater, so as to get an abundant supply. It is equally essential that ample means should be provided for boating away the salt as fast as it is manufactured. Both of these devolve upon us, and as we are rarely called upon to do anything until the last moment, almost every Salt work has to be done on emergency. This difficulty arises partly from the irregular manner in which the channels and pans have been laid out, and from the absence of any maps of them. These make it very difficult for any one but those on them daily to understand how the works lie, and the Superintendents hardly know themselves what they want until they almost begin work.

6. I have arranged with the Deputy Collector what we shall receive early intimation in future of what is likely to be wanted, but I doubt whether we shall be informed in time to have the estimates passed in the regular way before the work is commenced. You will gather from what I have written that our object, partly, is to take care that if any loss arises, the blame cannot be laid upon us. I have hitherto managed to accomplish this, whilst, at the same time, I have greatly reduced the works which were sometimes considered necessary. Trusting that this explanation will put you in possession of the facts of the case.

Enclosures Nos. 2 to 17.—Estimates.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th September 1867.

The estimates, amounting to Rupees 19,080, for clearing out channels and repairing a salt platform in the Madras District, will be submitted for the sanction of Government. Provision will be made for all of them except No. 16, in the list of Salt works to be executed during the current year now under revision.

No. 269. ORDER THEREON, 14th September 1867, No. 2,173.

Separate Revenue, No. 15.
Salt.

The estimates submitted with the above Proceedings are sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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