M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2463 Press ~~Mis.~~

387.390

Dated 19— 10 —1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 387. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th April 1867, No. 2,384.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th March 1867, No. 109.

1. In their Proceedings of the 20th September last, No. 6,737, the Board approved of certain plans and estimates for the completion of the Bimlipatam salt pans, and forwarded the same for the sanction of Government, through the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

2. This is nearly six months since, but I have now got a letter* from that Officer, saying "the Government have in their "Order, No. 322, 1st February, called "on me for a report, which it is beyond "my power to supply, as to the purpose and necessity of the works. I think "it will be more satisfactory if the papers be sent by you, through the Board "of Revenue."

* Camp, Dowlaishweram, 13th March 1867, No. 323.

3. I beg, therefore, in transmitting the enclosures through the Board to Government, to summarize the correspondence regarding these works.

Board's Procs., 19th April 1866, No. 2,733. In the Salt Budget for 1866-67, the following new works were entered for Bimlipatam :—

		Rs.
No. 10.	Extension of pans	3,500
„ 11.	Tanadar's Cutcherry	1,000
„ 12.	Road and dam to connect platform with high road	10,000
„ 13.	Tank (for traders)	454

but the Board (paragraph 3) inquired whether Nos. 10, 11, and 13 might not be postponed for another year.

I submitted that they could not, whereupon the Board said that at all events the pans might be completed in their present position [it was proposed to extend them latterly] by coating with clay the floorings of such beds as were porous. Accordingly a revised estimate was sent in, which the Board sanctioned as stated in the first paragraph, on the 20th September last.

Board's Proceedings, 4th June 1866, No. 3,817.

The items are as under :—

	Rs.
Additional pans and deepening platform channel ...	2,550
Head sluice at mouth of supply channel	1,040
Temporary Salt Cutcherry	142
Compensation for land occupied	4,000
Claying porous salt pans	4,488
Total...	12,220

4. To reply specifically to the inquiries the Government in the Department of Public Works are stated to have made, I would respectfully observe that it is expected the Salt revenue will be raised by these works to the extent of one lac of rupees a year at least; and secondly, that as things are at present, the salt manu-

factured at Bimlipatam supplies the local demand for four and a half months only. We now make 30 heaps or 36,000 maunds; we shall be able to make 100 heaps or 1,20,000 maunds. As I have frequently pointed out, the carts bringing produce from all parts of the district to Bimlipatam for exportation would be employed by the owners in carrying back salt; at present they return empty.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Specification and Estimate.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 4.—Plans.

1. With reference to the foregoing letter, the Board observe that, on re-considering the estimates cited at the latter end of paragraph 3, they are of opinion that the expenditure of Rupees 4,488 for claying porous pans, and of Rupees 1,179 for forming new pans at Bimlipatam, are charges which should be borne by the salt manufacturers themselves, and not by the Government. In all other districts pans are laid out and prepared by the ryots, and the Board do not see why they should be exceptionally treated in the Vizagapatam Collectorate.

2. The Board request the Collector to be so good as to forward a fresh estimate, omitting the above estimates.

3. Upon receipt of the revised estimate with the Collector's remarks, they will be prepared to submit it to Government with their recommendation.

No. 388. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1867, No. 3,339.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 26th April 1867, No. 213.

1. On receipt of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,384, of 15th April instant, I deputed Mr. Plunkett, Acting Deputy Collector, to confer with the salt manufacturers of Bimlipatam.

2. They have agreed to form the new pans marked A. on either side of the platform (colored yellow in the plan), but they firmly decline to bear the expense of claying the porous pan (No. 4). They further state that the ground on either side of the platform is the *only* ground in the island which they would agree to form into pans, the rest of the island having so poor a soil, that the expense of removing the sand would be beyond their means.

3. The sum of Rupees 1,179-6-5, which the manufacturers now consent to bear, has been struck out of the estimates, which are herewith re-submitted.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 4.—Plans and Estimate.

1. The Board would be glad to know in the first place what it would cost to remove the sand.

2. They also desire the Collector will be so good as to ascertain and report, whether, if the removal of the sand is effected at the expense of Government, the manufacturers will undertake to floor the pans at their own charges.

3. In case the manufacturers decline to incur any expense on their part in constructing the pans, the Collector will report whether any other persons can be found willing to undertake the work.

No. 389. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1867, No. 6,320.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th April 1867, No. 191.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 8th instant, No. 2,202, calling upon me to report why there is not a stock of salt equal to eight months'* supply at minor, and a large stock at well selected central stations.

* ? Eighteen.

2. In reply, I have to state, in the first place, that the Salt Cotaurs of this district never came up to this standard. Our average manufacture during the last ten years has been 2,04,721 maunds, our average sales 1,90,249 maunds, leaving a balance of 14,472 maunds, which is not equal even to one month's consumption.

Up to 1863, the Salt stations in this district were:—

1. Nellimukku, including Balacheruvu.
2. Karasa.
3. Konada; and
4. Kuppili.

3. In 1864, Konada was ordered to be closed on the ground of new pans having been sanctioned for Bimlipatam; but the tardiness with which the first estimates were passed, coupled with the dilatoriness in executing the work which was first intrusted to the Engineer Department, and subsequently to the Deputy Collectors in charge of the Salt Department, the pans are only partially ready even now, and not more than 30 heaps or 36,000 maunds can be turned out. Why at this present moment the estimates for completing these pans which were submitted so far back as August 1866 have not been admitted into the Budget, and when funds for these pans will be actually allotted, is altogether uncertain.

4. In the same way the Nellimukku *cum* Balacheruvu pans were closed in 1864-65, in the belief that Karasa was to be extended by opening pans at Nabobpett, adjacent thereto; and that new pans were to be opened at Pentacottah.

5. But the Board would not sanction the extension of the Karasa pans as was proposed by us; and for those of Pentacottah, the Government, under date the 13th September 1866, No. 2,940, observed that funds could not be spared, the reserve being exhausted.

Board's Proceedings, 7th June 1865, No. 3,050.

Thus we are reduced to—

1. Karasa, without Nabobpett, producing last year	47,240
2. Bimlipatam, producing	38,133
3. Kuppili	32,232

6. It must also be remembered that our old pans at Karasa and Kuppili have been undergoing re-modelling since 1865-66. This in itself so interfered with our manufacture that I was obliged to re-open Balacheruvu last season, where 19,591 additional maunds have been made. And seeing that funds for Pentacottah were not available, the Board, on my application, have allowed me to continue to manufacture at Balacheruvu until Pentacottah is ready.

Collector's letter, 11th April 1866, No. 311.

Board's Procs., 29th November 1866, No. 8,572.

7. Under the foregoing circumstances it will be observed that beyond providing for local consumption nothing more can be done until the pans at Bimlipatam are completed, and until those of Pentacottah are established.

Our outturn then it is hoped will be as follows:—

	Maunds.
At Pentacottah	1,20,000
Karasa	1,00,000
Bimlipatam	1,00,000
Kuppili	80,000
	4,00,000

Thus allowing a wide margin for increase in sales, stock, &c., &c.

8. In conclusion I would add that from the 12th April, salt, the manufacture of this season, has been available for sale at the pans.

From the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 13th June 1867, No. 391.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st May last, No. 3,346.

2. In paragraph 1, the Board refer me to their Proceedings, dated 15th April 1867, No. 2,384, in reference to the formation of new pans at Bimlipatam; but I find that in Proceedings, No. 3,339, bearing the same date (31st May) disposing of my predecessor's letter of the 26th April last, No. 213, further information is called for in reference to this matter which I shall shortly submit.

3. Referring to paragraph 2 of the Proceedings under acknowledgment, I beg to annex below the details shewing how the rate per garce (Rupees 22-4-10) was calculated:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
The cost of salt in Fusly 1275, including Revenue charges, was	22,514	14	11
Divide this by 1,009½, the number of garces of salt manufactured and received into store, the result will be	22	4	10

From the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 8th August 1867, No. 584.

1. Referring to the Board's Proceedings, dated 31st May last, No. 3,339, I have the honor to forward, herewith, two letters in original from the Acting Salt Deputy Collector, furnishing in detail the information called for by the Board in the above Proceedings.

2. I beg to enclose the proposals made by Mr. Plunkett to allow him Rupees 1,500 to make the field No. 4 practicable; to accept the tenders to occupy the same when ready; and to sanction the enhanced rate of Coodevarum, viz., Rupees 10½ per garce, for this field alone.

From the Acting Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Bimlipatam, 25th July 1867, No. 169.

1. As requested in your docket, No. 379, dated 11th ultimo, I have the honor now to furnish the further information respecting the Bimlipatam field No. 4, called for in Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st May 1867, No. 3,339.

2. . I will first reply as concisely as I can to the points on which information is required, and will then proceed to make such remarks as occur to me in connection with the subject.

3. The Board's questions are :—

First.—" What it would cost to remove the sand ?" *Answer*—The field is 700 yards long by 146 wide ; the mean depth of the sandy stratum may be taken at fifteen inches ; there are, therefore, 42,587½ cubic yards of sand to be cleared away ; the Executive Engineer, Vizagapatam Range, estimates the cost of clearing at from 1 anna 9 pies, to 2 annas per cubic yard, as the sand will have to be carried across the channel now surrounding the field, and the distance is so great. The total cost would thus be in round numbers Rupees 5,000, more or less.

Second.—" Whether if the removal of the sand is effected at the expense of Government, the manufacturers will undertake to floor the pans at their own charges ?" *Answer*—No ; the manufacturers refuse to have anything to do with the field under any circumstances.

Third.—In such a case, can no other persons " be found willing to undertake the work ?" The reply to this also is, I regret to be obliged to say, " No."

4. As you are aware, the fact of the field being available was notified in the District Gazette by beat of tom-tom in the villages surrounding Bimlipatam, through the Sub-Magistrate of the town, and by every possible means available. I have myself personally conferred with several of the ryots and other native merchants, and the result has been, I have received one application for the partial occupation of the field, which I beg to herewith submit.

5. The field No. 4 is divisible like the other fields in the division into ten pans, and the one applicant I refer to in the preceding paragraph, asks for six out of the ten pans, or for three-fifths of the field. If the Government will give him Rupees 600, *i. e.*, at 100 Rupees per pan, of which half the money is to be paid in advance on his furnishing tangible security, he promises to lay out the six pans for himself and work them in the usual manner. So far the application is fair, and if acceded to, will appropriate the larger portion of the field, leaving but two-fifths more to be otherwise disposed of, and I would recommend its being complied with ; but the Acting Salt Superintendent is of opinion that the applicant will not abide by his request, and will fail to do the work when put in possession, and called on to fulfil it. He is a man who has never had any experience or connection with salt manufacture before, knows nothing of its probable cost, and is a bankrupt merchant who has recently, I am informed, suffered heavy losses by shipwreck. The application may be a make-shift to raise the wind, and get possession of 300 Rupees ; but it is very fair, and as security is to be given for the advance, I see no objection to its being tried at all events.

6. If the Acting Salt Superintendent's fears are realized, and the one applicant fails, the whole field comes back upon us, and it becomes necessary to consider, therefore, how it is to be disposed of.

7. In the area of this field No. 4, there appears to have been before two drainage channels, which in order to the formation of the field were filled up ; not with firm soil and beaten down, but, so far as I can now ascertain, with leaves and rubbish, &c., and covered over with a thin coating of earth ; and as a matter of course, when experimental manufacture was tried in this part of the field some three or four years ago, the ground was porous, and absorbed all the water that wad let into it. Nothing strange certainly when there was no sub-soil but decomposed rubbish ; and the idea then arose apparently that the only mode of making the field serviceable was by clearing the sandy stratum with which the more northern and larger portion of the field is covered, and coating the entire field with a floor of clay.

8. In reply to the Board's first question in paragraph 3 above, it will be seen I have taken the mean depth of the sand to be removed at fifteen inches, and I may here explain that while in some places the sand is a yard or more thick, in others where the drainage channels formerly ran, and in the south of the field, there is no sand whatever to be cleared ; hence fifteen inches being assumed as the average depth for the whole area involved.

9. Year by year the sites of these channels have of course become hardened more and more, and I do not think, though of course not thoroughly impermeable now, they will be found to be so

absorbent or porous as they were found when formerly experimented upon. Under the sand is a firm good soil, and I beg therefore to give it as my opinion that the field under reference can be rendered serviceable, and fit for the manufacture of good salt with far less trouble, and at a considerably less cost than has been proposed.

10. Remove the sand where it exists, plough up the field, let in some water and then have it trodden down, repeat this operation if necessary, the firm soil now found under the sand will thus be spread and coated over the entire field, which will thus become serviceable. Rupees 1,500 will be enough to carry out this work; and if the Board will be pleased to put this amount at my disposal at an early date, and I am permitted to remain in charge of the department, I will undertake to have the field made serviceable, *i. e.*, fit for manufacture during the season of 1868.

11. Having made the field serviceable however, I wish I could as assuredly and readily guarantee to find people to come forward to undertake the manufacture. Four years have now elapsed since the division was now opened; there are about thirteen ryots and fields; Nos. 1 and 2 are but partly occupied as yet; No. 3 is just being laid out. A great deal of this is no doubt owing to mismanagement; but the very fact of the people's indifference to avail themselves of this field No. 4 will shew that no interest is taken in the trade. I have conferred with the present ryots and with several merchants, but have not been able as yet to find one man willing or anxious to undertake the manufacture of salt. They have no Mirasi or hereditary right in the pans as in the districts more south, and if a man fails to abide by his Pattiat Muchilika and you proceed to punish him in accordance with the terms thereof, he strikes work, withdraws his coolies, and having been paid for all he has delivered, goes away quite unconcernedly to some other and perhaps more lucrative employment. His pans may remain unoccupied; you may give them to whoever you please; he cares nothing because everything was done at the expense of Government; not one pie did he invest in it to make him feel any interest in or be anxious about the loss. The trade of the port is so large, and there are more methods and ways of a man's employing himself, or his capital I imagine, than there are men or capital to be employed.

12. The field No. 4, it will be moreover seen,* is four times as far from the platform than the field No. 1 is; the cost of conveying the salt to the platform will be proportionately greater, and by the time a man from No. 1 field has made three trips, the man from No. 4 will have made but one; and if the Board will be pleased to sanction Rupees 10½ Coodivarum for this field No. 4, I will venture to promise to find men to occupy it. The present rate is Rupees 9, and the additional Rupees 1½ will be but a fair compensation for the extra cost of carriage, and will no doubt tend to invite people to come forward more willingly to the work.

* From the Sketch Map of the division enclosed.

13. If the applicant referred to in the 5th paragraph above proves true, all I have subsequently written will have to be applied to but two-fifths of the field; but I beg, whatever orders may be passed on this letter, those orders may be given soon, as the people are anxious to commence with the fields marked A., and referred to in paragraph 2 of Mr. Carmichael's letter, recorded in the Board's Proceedings under answer. Labor is scarce, and if I am to have the field No. 4 ready for the next season's manufacture, I should like too to commence work as early as possible.

14. The delay in my reply is owing to the various attempts made to ascertain if really no one could be found willing to undertake the work, as I was not inclined to make such a statement without using every possible endeavour to satisfy myself that it is indeed so.

P. S.—The terms "field" and "pan," are used in this letter in the sense defined in paragraph 6 of the Salt Manual, and the sketch and estimates connected with the subject are herewith returned.

From the Acting Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 5th August 1867, No. 176.

1. In reply to your docket No. 548, dated 29th ultimo, I have the honor to forward a statement made before the Acting Salt Superintendent of Bimlipatam by the Comity merchant who has applied for six of the ten pans in the Bimlipatam field No. 4.

2. From the statement it will be seen that the merchant is willing, should he fail to abide by the terms of his application,* to hold himself liable to pay a penalty of ten per cent. on the amount advanced to him, and that he proposes to pledge a garden said to be valued at 1,000 Rupees as security for the advance of 300 Rupees he has asked for.

* Herewith re-transmitted.

3. The Acting Superintendent has also sent in this day another application from one Chili Raji Nayudu for the seventh pan in the said field on the same terms as the former applicant, namely, a grant from Government for forming the pan of Rupees 100, half of which is to be paid in advance.

4. Under the foregoing circumstances, I have the honor to recommend the acceptance of both applications.

5. I expect the fact of my having suggested an increase of Rupees 1-8-0 in the Coodevarum for the field in question has got abroad, and perhaps now I may be receiving applications for the remaining three pans also; but, under any circumstances, if the sum of Rupees 1,500, applied for in my letter, No. 169, of the 25th ultimo, is placed at my disposal, I will be able to have the field made serviceable. This is 1,500 Rupees against an estimated cost for clearing sand of Rupees 5,000, and for claying porous pans of Rupees 4,488; total Rupees 9,488: and if the increase in Coodevarum I have proposed is sanctioned, I hope also to be able to find people to work the field.

Enclosure No. 3.—Estimate.

Enclosures Nos. 4 to 6.—Plans.

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1. The first of these letters is an explanation of the reason why there was so small a stock of salt in the district of Vizagapatam at the end of February.

2. The Collector states that the Salt works are too few and two limited to do more than supply the current demand, and animadverts on the length of time during which the commencement of new pans at Pentacottah, and the enlargement of the works at Bimlipatam, have been postponed.

3. The Board observe that a sufficient sum has been provided for the latter project in the revised list of Salt works submitted to Government on the 10th September. They regret that, although the Pentacottah pans have been entered in their Budget lists for three successive years, funds have not been provided for them by Government. They hope, however, that at both Bimlipatam and Pentacottah the manufacturers are busily engaged on such parts of the work as have been assigned to them, or as they have undertaken to perform.

4. The second and third letters relate to the price per garce to be charged for export salt, and to the enlargement of the Bimlipatam pans.

5. The consideration of the export price will be deferred till the works are sufficiently advanced, and salt can be spared.

6. The Deputy Collector's proposals with regard to field No. 4, are approved. Engagements may be made with Mamidpaha Chinnaya and Chili Raji Nayudu for the construction of seven pans at Rupees 100 a pan, and half the sum may be advanced on good and tangible security. The Collector is also authorized to make such advances as may be required, not exceeding Rupees 1,500, to the Deputy Collector; but the Board remark that in the Deputy Collector's letter of 25th July, he seems to imply that the whole of this sum will only be required if he is obliged to render the whole of the field fit for salt-making.

7. The Board are of opinion that the necessity of offering additional Coodivarum to the manufacturers in field No. 4 has been clearly shewn, and these Proceedings will accordingly be submitted to Government, with the request that they will sanction Coodivarum at the rate of Rupees 10½ for that field only.

No. 390. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1867, No. 2,463.

Separate Revenue, No. 19.
Salt.

The exceptional rate of Rupees 10½ Kudivarum for the produce of Salt field No. 4 at Bimlipatam is sanctioned, as recommended by the Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rev. 1867. Department.

No. 2733.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 4th October 1867.

No. 6,320.

Defe[rring] the consideration of the price to be charge[d] for export Salt in Vizagapatam District till the [wor]ks are sufficientiy advanced and salt ca[n] be spared, approving of Deputy Collector's p[ro]posals for formation of pans at Bimlipatam fi[ve] No. 4, and requesting Government to sanctio[n] Coodivaram at the rate of Rupees 10½ for th[at] field only.

submitted to Government, with the request that they will sanction Coodivarum at the rate of Rupees 10½ for that field only.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with copies of Board's Proceedings, dated 15th April and 31st May 1867,
Nos. 2,334 and 3,339.

" the Collector of Vizagapatam,
with six original enclosures.

Copy to the Accountant General.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

2. From the statement it will be seen that the merchant is willing, should he fail to abide by the terms of his application, * to hold himself liable to pay a penalty of 10 per cent. on the amount advanced to him, and that he proposes to pledge a garden said to be valued at 1,000 rupees as security for the advance of 300 rupees he has asked for.

* Herewith retransmitted.

3. The Acting Superintendent has also sent in this day another application from one Chili Raji Nayudu for the seventh pan in the said field on the same terms as the former applicant, namely, a grant from Government for forming the pan of Rupees 100, half of which is to be paid in advance.

4. Under the foregoing circumstances, I have the honour to recommend the acceptance of both applications.

5. I expect the fact of my having suggested an increase of Rupees 1-8-0 in the Coodevarum for the field in question has got abroad, and perhaps now I may be receiving applications for the remaining three pans also; but, under any circumstances, if the sum of Rupees 1,500, applied for in my letter, No. 169, of the 25th ultimo, is placed at my disposal, I will be able to have the field made serviceable. This is 1,500 rupees against an estimated cost for clearing sand of Rupees 5,000, and for claying porous pans of Rupees 4,488; total Rupees 9,488: and if the increase in Coodevarum I have proposed is sanctioned, I hope also to be able to find people to work the field.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Estimate.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 4 to 6.—Plans.

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