

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2921

Press
~~Mis.~~

136. 137

Dated 6 — 12 — 1918

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th December 1867.*

No. 136. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd October 1867, No. 6,308.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Tinnevely, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tenkasi, 18th September 1867, No. 506:—

1. I have the honor to forward, for instructions, a letter from the Resident of Travancore, regarding the proposed establishment of a Salt Depot at Shencotta, the principal town in a narrow strip of Travancore territory that runs into this district near Tenkasi, about seventy miles from the coast.

2. Under the provisions of the recent treaty, the selling price of salt at any inland depot in Travancore is to be that charged at the British pans, *plus* the cost of carriage; but at the same time it is just possible that, as the Travancore Circar can afford to forego merchants' profits, the whole salt trade of the western part of the Tenkasi talook will fall into the hands of the Circar. The sale of salt in Shencotta, in the ordinary way of trade, is now, I understand, about a lac of rupees per annum, and the salt is purchased at British pans, allowing fifty per cent. for merchants' profits and carriage for seventy miles; the Shencotta traders purchase annually 50,000 Rupees worth of salt at our salt pans. The establishment of the proposed depot will, however, affect our revenue by more than 50,000 Rupees, for not only will the whole of the Shencotta trade be diverted from our pans, but the villagers round Shencotta are likely to find it cheaper to buy Travancore salt than to import for themselves. But though our prospective loss of revenue is certain, I do not see how, if the Travancore Government choose to cart their own salt through British territory to sell at an inland depot of their own they can be prevented from doing so, it being a purely mercantile transaction.

* 7th and 21st December 1863.

3. In Mr. Clarke's Report* on the Travancore Customs, the exchange of part of the Shencotta territory for two British towns in Travancore is alluded to as finally settled. I have just been all round and about the Shencotta villages, some of which lie far apart entirely surrounded by British territory; their boundaries have been demarked, and their cession would seem to be easy enough. The difficulty of managing these outlying villages, and keeping up communication with them, is no doubt felt by the Travancore Circar. The villages I would propose in exchange (in addition to the two on the Western Coast) are on our extreme southern boundary, and are 100 miles nearer Trivandrum than those we should take over; they are on the main line of road from that city, and have all been demarked and surveyed. They are far from the Sub-Collector's head-quarters, and their cession to Travancore would be advantageous, both by rendering this district more compact, and disposing of a vexatious dispute on the southern boundary, which has occupied attention for years, and seems as far from settlement as ever.

From the British Resident of Travancore and Cochin, to the Collector of Tinnevely, dated Courtallam, 29th July 1867, No. 573.

1. I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of a letter, No. 2,781, of the 25th instant, from the Dewan of Travancore.

(1) The legality of the passage of salt on behalf
of the Travancore Govt. through British territory.
Torey

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th December 1867.*

2. There can, I presume, be no objection to the transit of the salt through a part of your district to the Shencotta talook of Travancore; but the question arises whether, at the selling price of salt has been assimilated in British India and these Native States, the price to be charged by the Circar at the Shencotta depot should not be made to include the land carriage to that place, or at least be enhanced by the cost of carriage of Tinnevely salt from the coast to that neighbourhood, so as to prevent the Travancore salt underselling that of British India.

3. I request you will favor me with information on the latter point, at your early convenience.

From T. MADAVA ROW, Dewan, to the British Resident of Travancore and Cochin, dated Trivandrum, 25th July 1867, No. 2,781-794.

1. I have the honor to inform you that the Circar contemplates establishing immediately a Salt Bankshall at Shencotta, to afford facility to the inhabitants of that district to purchase the commodity.

2. The salt will have to be carried from near Cape Comorin, and will, of course, have to pass through the Tinnevely District.

3. If I understand existing arrangements aright, I do not anticipate any objection on the part of the Tinnevely authorities to such transit of our salt; still, as I wish to ascertain the point beyond all doubt, I beg you will, if necessary, communicate with those authorities on the subject, and favor me with a reply at your early convenience.

1. Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board consider that the proposal to carry salt through British territory, without payment of duty, cannot properly be acceded to as being contrary to law, and that an intimation to this effect should be given to the Resident.

2. The proposed exchange of villages is very desirable in the Board's opinion, and might be carried out without difficulty.

No. 137.

ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1867, No. 2,921.

Separate Revenue, No. 6.
Salt.

1. The Government observe that salt is specially excepted from the Regulations for free coasting trade between British Indian ports, and also from the Trade Convention with the Travancore and Cochin Sirkars.

2. No salt can be licitly carried from one part of British India to another, unless the established duty on it has been paid either in the form of the Monopoly price or on importation by sea.

3. The importation of salt free of duty into the Madras Presidency from the Travancore territory cannot be permitted. But the Government will not object to arrange for the refund of the duty collected on all salt, the property of the Travancore Government, and carried on its account into the Shencotta talook of Travancore through the Tinnevely District, provided that the Travancore Govern-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th December 1867.*

ment are willing to add the cost of carriage from the coast to the Sirkar's selling price, as was stipulated under the Convention for the similar case of the Cochin Sirkar's inland salt depots. The Resident will report further on this point.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

.. the Resident in Travancore and Cochin.

the Accountant General

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

(1) The legality of the passage of salt on behalf of the Travancore Govt. through British territory.

Memo for orders.

Pro. B. O. R. dated 3rd October / 67 No 267
Letter from Resident of Travancore & Cochin
dated 18th Sept. / 67

In the above Pro. the Board submit for the orders of Govt. a proposal of the Dewan of Travancore to carry salt through British territory without payment of duty. The Dewan states that he is about to establish a Salt Depot at Shenkota, an outlying village of Travancore on the W. of the Ghats, & as the salt will be brought from Cape Comorin, it must pass through part of the Dindigul District. The Board are of opinion that such a proceeding would be contrary to Law.

In a letter from the Coll. of Dindigul recorded in the above Pro. that officer proposes the exchange of the Shenkota villages some of which are entirely surrounded by British territory for certain others, which, however, he does not specify. The Board consider the exchange desirable & feasible.

The Resident of Trav. & Cochin in the above letter suggests that as the Revenue survey is in progress in Dindigul, the boundaries of certain outlying villages (no names given) of Travancore should be traced with a view to an exchange of territory being made. He also proposes that the survey officers should trace the disputed boundary between Travancore & Dindigul in the S. Mr. Puckle states that the outlying villages of Shenkota have been demarcated & remarks that the " vexatious dispute on the S. boundary which has occupied attention for years," would be decided by the transfer above proposed.

The 3 points requiring the orders of Govt. are:
(1) The legality of the passage of salt on behalf of the Travancore Govt. through British territory.

= town free of duty.

(2) The exchange of the Shencota villages for an equivalent of British territory nearer the Travancore boundary.

(3) The settlement of the disputed S. boundary between Travancore & Unniyelly by the Survey Dept.

(1) In 1856 the Board reported that complaints were being made because goods passing between villages of the Shencota Taluq of Travancore or from places in that Taluq to Jankasi in Unniyelly were subjected to demands of duty. In their order thereon Govt. observed "It does not appear why goods passing between the Shencota Taluq & Unniyelly should be exempt from duty, & on this point the Bd. will report."

In 1858 the Bd. reported that before Poolariy (a Unniyelly village) was exchanged for Maliancolum (a Travancore village) the produce of 5 Shencota villages & of Poolariy passed into Unniyelly free of duty & vice versa, but that subsequently the position of the Chouki had been altered & duty levied. They represented that the villages of the 2 Taluqs, Jankasi & Shencota were much intermixed, that the people of the former held land in the latter & vice versa; & they recommended that duty should be levied only on Betel nuts, Piece goods & Tobacco.

This proposal Govt. sanctioned pending the final arrangement as to frontier duties.

In 1863-65 when the subject of abolishing fiscal restrictions upon the trade between British territory & Native States was under discussion, the opinion of the Bd. was called for as to the necessity of excepting Salt from the privilege of free admission into British India from Travancore & Cochin.

The Bd. in reply stated that as the Circars sell salt at their Inland Depots at the same price as on the Coast they were not of opinion that the right to import Salt free of duty should be recognised, so long as the Circars maintain Inland Depots on their present footing.

In Rev. Cons. of 24th June/56

no 627, 19th June/56

In Rev. Cons. of 2nd Feb/58.

E.O. no. 111. d. 27 Jan/58.

E.O. 1st Feb/64 no 172

Pro. M.L. 23rd April/64. R.D.
* The Inland Depots were at villages belonging to the Circars but near the frontier.

E.O. 23rd April/64. no 706.

para 40 § 11

— § VII
Vide E.O. 16th Feb/65
no. 635
para. 5.

para. 75. § 2

E.O. 16th Feb/65. no 635
para. 21.

Among the articles of the Treaty finally made with the Cochin & Travancore Circars were the following:—

I Cochin

All goods the produce or manufacture of the Cochin State and all goods exported from any port or place in Cochin which are exempt from, or have paid duty on import into these territories will be admitted into British India by sea, land, or back water free of custom duty, Salt etc. excepted.

The monopoly price of Salt in Cochin will be the same as in British India, an addition on account of carriage etc. being made to that price when the Salt is sold at Inland Depot.

II. Travancore.

The British Govt. to grant free entry into Br. India to all goods the manufacture or produce of Trav. except Salt etc.

Govt. observed in their final order: Govt. are not aware whether Travancore has any inland Choukies near the British or Cochin frontier, if it has the selling price of such Depots will of course be regulated in such a way as to place British Indian Trav. & Cochin Salt on the same relative footing.

The Coll. of Unniyelly states that the Shencota traders purchase annually 50,000 rupees worth of Salt at our pans, & as he anticipates that the neighbouring villages will find it cheaper to buy Travancore salt than to import ours, the prospective loss of revenue is certainly considerable, but the carting Salt through British territory to sell at an inland depot of their own, seems a purely mercantile transaction, & one which cannot be well prohibited.

The Board do not give any reasons for considering the proceeding illegal.

Note by Govt. The reasons doubtless are

that Salt (W. is exempted from the grain carting Tax & other British ports) being exempted from the Inland Convention is in the position of foreign Salt & liable to duty accordingly.

Then put a draft order

to the Govt. Secy. R.D.

(2) on the assumption of the Travancore District by the Madras Govt. in 1801 Mr. Lushington found the Taluk of Shencotah in possession of the Rajah of Travancore. In 1806 Col. Munro reported to Govt. as follows:— Shencotah forms one of the most ancient possessions of Travancore, & has been held by the Rajahs from a remote period of time. In 1752 they were temporarily dispossessed but for upwards of 20 years immediately preceding 1801 they held peaceable possession under a regular Muchilka from the Nabob of the Carnatic.

Early in the century proposals were made to exchange Shencotah for other territory or an abatement of the subsidies, but the Rajahs of Travancore in every instance uniformly expressed their great disinclination to part with it.

In 1845 the subject was again brought forward in consequence of some disputes as to the boundary, but the Resident deprecating the surrender of Shencotah as opposed to the decided wishes of the Rajah, the matter was allowed to drop.

In L. O. 27th Jan'y. /58 Govt. being of opinion that arrangements might be made for giving both territories a better defined frontier, by the exchange of villages which though belonging to one Govt. were situated within the boundaries of the other directed the B. to submit a scheme. In reply the B. reported that "the Sirkar of opinion was of opinion that the views of Govt. to give the adjoining territories a better frontier had been already carried out as far as was practicable, & that it was not expedient to make any other alterations.

The question as to the exchange of Shencotah for land in Travancore then dropped; but was again mooted in /62, in connexion with the British ports etc. on the E. Side of Travancore & Cochin to which we now turn.

In L. M. C. of 25th Sept. /4
Letter of Resident para. 132

no. 111. para. 9.

In Rev. Cons. of 23rd Nov
/58.

* Shortton's Gazetteer
"Shencotah is close
to Quilon.
Angengo is south
of Quilon & north
of Jirandam."

President's Annual Report
D. 15th Feb. /55.

The British possessions in Travancore & Cochin consist of the ports of Tangacherry & Angengo & certain farms or patoms.

Angengo originally belonged to the Travancore Sirkar, but was made over to the English for commercial purposes & a factory established in 1684 which was relinquished in 1813. Up to 1805 a sum of money was paid by the Bombay Govt. to the Sirkar, but in that year the settlement was transferred to Madras.

Both Angengo & Tangacherry (about the acquisition of which port there is nothing in the papers on hand) are rented to the Sirkar.

The farms belonging to the British Govt. in the Cochin territory are 17 in number. Those in Travancore are 4 only containing 12 plots of gardens. The Travancore Dewan accounts for the acquisition of the latter in the following way. Many years ago the Travancore Sirkar purchased from the Dutch all their lands in the Shertally Taluk of Trav. but allowed certain Dutch subjects to remain in occupation of the 4 plots which now form Govt. farms. In 1796 when the Company acquired the town of Cochin from the Dutch they began collecting the Revenue of the said plots, and ^{they} ^{part} ^{of} ^{the} ^{Dutch} ^{Settle-} ^{ment.} It does not appear that the Sirkar ever made the least objection to the above proceeding.

In 1800 the Resident proposed to the Coll. of Malabar to effect an exchange or purchase by the Sirkars of the 12 farms held by Govt. Subjects in the Shertally District of Travancore & of the 17 do. in Cochin.

Mr Conolly approved of the proceeding, preferred exchange to sale & proposed to give the Govt. farms in Cochin for an isolated tract the property of that State, situated in the Palghat Taluk & called Ikkemangalam.

The Cochin Sirkar objected to an outright transfer, but expressed their willingness to undertake the management of the Govt. farms in Cochin as Govt. managed Ikkemangalam.

The Travancore Sirkar agreed to lease from the Govt. its farms in Shertally, provided the Police and other duty was vested in them.

Mr. Conolly then referred the whole matter to the B.O.B. informing General Cullen that inquiries had led him to believe that the tenants of the farms had strong objections to the exchange.

The B.O. informed the Coll. that if he should agree with the President that the transfer whether by exchange or sale was advisable "on grounds of public expediency" they would consider the subject.

General Cullen then addressed Govt. and requested that the farms might be made over to the Circars either as Lessees with power to work the Police or as purchasers outright. He stated that Mr. Conolly advocated exchange but "Irasancore has no land to exchange & Cochim is unwilling."

This was transferred to the B.O. who concurred in Mr. Conolly's objections to the sale of the farms, & pointed out that as Mr. Conolly said "there were many spots as regards Cochim which might be advantageously annexed to the Malabar borders" & that the same was true as regards Irasancore & the borders of the Travancore District.

Govt. thereupon declined to accede to Genl. Cullen's proposal.

No further notice appears to have been taken of the subject till in 1860 Govt. observed that much correspondence had from time to time passed on the subject of the exchanges of property between the 2 Circars of the British Govt. whereby the inconveniences now arising from small detached tracts & places belonging to one Govt. being isolated in the territories of the other might be obviated & they resolved to call the President Mr. Maltby's attention to the subject that he might lay his views before Govt.

In Sept. /62 Mr. Fisher the then resident reported that he had been in communication with the Coll. of Malabar who was of opinion that the farms might with advantage to both Govts. be exchanged for lands in the Shencottah hills of Travancore, & that the Dewan agreed that "mutual advantage would result from the exchange of the farms for their equivalent on the Travancore side."

Pro. B.O.B. 24th June /5

1st June /53. No 28.

Pro. B.O.B. 17th Oct. /53
No. 471

E.O. 16th Nov /60 No 1,504

Pro. M.L. 9th Oct /62
No 2,175

* I suppose Salug is in the Shencottah tract lies east of the border of Travancore north of the border.

Govt. thereupon authorized the Resident to communicate with the Coll. of Travancore with a view to arrangements being submitted for an exchange of territory.

In July /64 Mr. Ballard submitted to the B.O. a report on the correspondence which had taken place between the Resident & himself as to the value of the detached tracts. It appears that his final proposals which showed only the approximate real value of the survey property were objected to by the President Mr. Hewitt who thought it desirable that further steps should be taken to ascertain the particulars requisite for the submission of the proposal to Govt. with a correct description of the resources present & prospective, including a plan & survey.

The B.O. in forwarding the correspondence for orders, expressed their opinion that a careful survey was a necessary preliminary to any further action.

In passing up orders thereon Govt. observed that they did not consider it necessary that the farms should be surveyed by Capt. Deseys Dept. but that all that was needed was a fairly correct measurement & valuation of the land. They directed the Coll. to depute one of his Deputies to superintend operations in communication with the Resident.

No further report has been received & the question referred in 1862 is still pending.

Mr. Puckle does not, apparently refer in his letter to the above transfer but proposes to give in exchange 2 villages on the W. coast & others "on or near extreme S. boundary."

There are two petitions from inhabitants of Angingyo objecting to the proposed transfer which were endorsed - "The writers will be informed that their representations will be duly considered in the event of a proposition for any transfer."

(3) On the restoration of the Duffi land in the Shencotta Taluk to Travancore in 152-53 it was found necessary to rectify the boundary line between the Travancore State & Tinnevely. The Resident proposed that this should be done by an experienced Surveyor. His proposition was agreed to & it was resolved that the whole boundary from Aram buli gate to Cape Comorin should be surveyed & that in deciding all disputes the Survey map of Lieut. Connor should be followed. In Sept. 155 the Resident reported the completion of the Shencotta portion. The survey was performed by the Civil Surveyor in communication with the Coll. & Engineer. Boundary stones were afterwards placed down, the expense of fixing them being borne equally by both Govts. There is nothing to show that any part of the boundary but that of the Shencotta Taluk was surveyed & demarcated.

Q.O. 14th Oct. 153, No 1159

Q.O. No 60. 14th July 157

W. H. by Mr. Sec.

For

2677

I don't like the idea of handing over any British territory to a foreign state. Even to rectify a boundary but there can be no harm in having the detail survey & valuation made & I have put a draft from Mr. Newill to the Resident accordingly.

There is no question raised in the letter as to interchange with Cochin Sirkar.

W. H.

- The salt will have to be carried from near Cape Comorin, and will, of course, have to pass through the Tinnevely District.
- If I understand existing arrangements aright, I do not anticipate any objection on the part of the Tinnevely authorities to such transit of our salt; still, as I wish to ascertain the point beyond all doubt, I beg you will, if necessary, communicate with those authorities on the subject, and favour me with a reply at your early convenience.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) H. NEWILL,
Resident.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

- Submitted for the orders of Government.
- The Board consider that the proposal to carry salt through British territory, without payment of duty, cannot properly be acceded to as being contrary to law, and that an intimation to this effect should be given to the Resident.
- The proposed exchange of villages is very desirable in the Board's opinion, and might be carried out without difficulty.

(True Copies and Extract.)

H. Newill

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. J. Wright.

The first observation that salt is exported from the Travancore Coast through Tinnevely to the British Indian ports - & also from the Dutch Convention to the Dutch ports - is importation from the Travancore territory cannot be permitted. It can be easily carried from one part of British India to another & it has not paid the established duty either in the form of the monopoly price or in importation by sea.

Copy to the Resident Travancore
Cochin.

Submitting, for orders of Government, letter from Collector of Tinnevely forwarding proposal of Travancore to establish a Salt Depot at Shencotta; objecting to allow salt to be carried to that place through British territory, free of duty; and recommending Collector's proposal to exchange part of Shencotta for certain villages in British Travancore.

No. 6,308.

Dated 3rd October 1867.
Received 1867.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 2677.

Rev. 1867. Department.
No of Govt for Dec 2

Cochin Sirkar.

Revenue Department

W. 2921.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 6th November 1867.

Read the following
Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Submitting for orders of
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free of duty; and recommending Col-
lector's proposal to exchange part
of Shencotta for certain villages in
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(Here enter 3rd October 1867)
No. 6308

The Government ob-
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Cochin Sirkars.

No salt can be
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of British India to another,
unless the established duty
or it has been paid either
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The importation of
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cannot be permitted. But
the Government will not ob-
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taluk of Travancore thro'
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add the cost of carriage
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tributors' selling price - as
was stipulated under the
convention for the similar
case of the Cochin sirkar
inland salt depots. The
Resident will report fur-
ther on this point.

L.A.

14 Copies to the Secy Secy Dept
3 " " Resident of Travancore & Cochin
6 " " The Accountant General

Ed. Hall

Revenue 1864 Deficit
No of County on Dec 31

Dec 29 21.

No of the various Govt
of 6 December 1867.

From the end of November 13 Jan 1868
Dec 21 68.

Dec 17 1868/73.

Dec 13 61 37