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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 89	Press ~~Mis.~~
173.174	
Dated 11— 1—	1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th January 1867.

No. 173. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th December 1866, No. 9,036.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 20th September 1866, No. 6,723.

Read also the following papers:—

From the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pudukudy, Tenkaray Talook, 24th November 1866, No. 528.

1. With reference to Proceedings of Government, No. 2,718, dated 9th October 1866, I have the honor to inform you that I lately attempted to visit the Manjankolam Salt Pans, but could get no nearer than Arasady, (ten miles from Manjankolam,) owing to the impassable nature of the country after rain.

2. The Manjankolam Pans are three miles from the Sippikolam Custom House, at the mouth of the Vypar river. There are now 230 heaps, or deducting wastage at ten per cent., about 10,000 tons of salt to move; the bandy hire from the salt pans to the Custom House at Sippakolam is 1 Anna a maund, or 7 Rupees 8 Annas a garce; boat hire to the anchorage, 2 Rupees 8 Annas; freight to Tuticorin, 7 Rupees 8 Annas; unlading, 2 Rupees 8 Annas; use of rice bags, 1 Rupee; total, 21 Rupees a garce, or 43,470 Rupees for 2,070 garce; on arrival at Tuticorin the salt need not be stored, but may be sold on the jetty at once.

3. Transporting this salt by land to the Arasady Platform, (three miles short of Tuticorin,) would be a more tedious process, but would cost rather less; a bandy carries 10 maunds, and at 2 Annas a mile for ten miles costs 1 Rupee 4 Annas, or 15 Rupees a garce; use of rice bags 1 Rupee; thatching in heaps, 2 Rupees 8 Annas; sundries, 8 Annas; total 19 Rupees, or 39,330 Rupees for 2,070 garce.

4. If a good road is made, as proposed in the Government Proceedings, from Manjankolam to Arasady, a bandy would carry 12 maunds, and the charge would be thus reduced by 2½ Rupees a garce, or by 5,175 Rupees on 2,070 garce. A metalled road, however, cannot be made in that part of the country under 3,000 Rupees a mile, and the roadway alone would thus cost 30,000 Rupees; the most serious obstacle to traffic now existing is a small river, with a deep muddy bottom, which must be bridged (probably on screw-piles) to render the road complete; and this would be a work of time: during the interval the salt would waste daily, and the present wastage, ascertained to be seven per cent., would be doubled before the road is completed.

5. If the salt be moved on Government account by land or sea, or by both routes simultaneously, taking the road as we find it, the establishment will have to be retained for a year and a half longer, at a cost of 2,250 Rupees; the wastage (now seven per cent.) will be at least ten per cent., which on 230 heaps represents 46,575 Rupees.

6. The cost of moving the salt on Government account (taking the mean cost of the land and sea routes at 20 Rupees a garce),

	Rs.
Supposing each heap to contain only 9 garce, will be...	41,400
Value of difference between 9 and 10 garce for 230 heaps... ...	46,575
Cost of establishment and sundries	2,600
Total ...	90,575

to this must be added 23,287 Rupees, the five per cent. discount allowed to wholesale purchasers, wherever the salt may be sold, and the total cost of moving the salt and selling it on Government account will thus be 1,13,862 Rupees.

7. Ramasamy Pillay offered to take the salt at a discount of twenty-five per cent. to free the Government from all charge, from the date of acceptance of his tender; to purchase by the heap, and to assume that each heap contained 10 garce; this is equivalent to a reduction of 1,16,437 Rupees on the gross value of the salt in store.

8. Mr. Barter of Tuticorin now offers* more favorable terms; he will permanently deposit 10,000 Rupees as security; will adjust his account for every 5,000 Rupees of salt moved; will move the salt within twenty months, or forfeit the value of the quantity left on the platform; will buy on the assumption that each heap contains 10 garce; and will free the Government from cost of establishment in consideration of a discount of twenty-four per cent.; this is equivalent to a reduction of 1,11,780 Rupees, and I recommend that Mr. Barter's tender be accepted.

* Tender enclosed.

9. I think the Government would be well freed from the direct supervision of moving this salt even if the terms offered were not actually advantageous, for I am by no means sure that my estimate would not be exceeded, as I have made no allowance for the hazards of the sea voyage, or for damage by weather while carting.

10. There are thirty-six heaps of salt at another abandoned salt pan (Culasegarapatnam). The sale there is less than a heap a month, and the establishment must thus be retained for three years; if the disposal of salt at Manjankolam by contract is found to work well, some similar arrangement might be made for Culasegarapatnam.

11. I have recently received a tender (terms not stated) for the purchase of 150 heaps. all the salt at Arasady; but as this salt was manufactured this year, and its present sale would be ruinous to the Contractor for Manjankolam, I have declined selling except in the usual manner.

From E. BARTER, Esq., to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 16th November 1866, No. 1,999.

I beg to submit the following proposition to the Government through you, for the purchase of the whole of the salt now lying at the Manjankolam Salt Pans:—

1st.—Upon my terms being accepted, I agree to assume the expense of a necessary establishment at the salt pans.

2nd.—I agree to pay Rupees 10,000 as security, paying a further Rupees 5,000 so soon as the value of salt removed amounts to Rupees 5,000; and if all the salt is not removed in twenty months, I then agree to pay at once the value of the salt not removed.

3rd.—Twenty-four per cent. discount on usual price of salt to be made me by the Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 11th January 1867.

From the Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Pudukudi, Tenkaray Talook, 10th December 1866, No. 570.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of a communication received from Mr. Cocq of Tuticorin, regarding the disposal of the Manjankolam salt, referred to in my letters, Nos. 361 and 524, dated 29th August and 24th November 1866, respectively. As I hear that the heavy rains have done much damage at Manjankolam, I have sent the Deputy Collector to make a personal examination and report.

From C. H. R. COCQ, Esq., Tuticorin, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 4th December 1866.

1. I am informed that the Native Collector in charge of the Salt pans in this district has recommended the sale to a Cotton broker called Ramasamy Pillay of a very large quantity of salt at twenty-five per cent. below the present rates, but that the matter has been referred to the Calcutta Government, and I have the honor to bring this report to your notice.

2. It is also said that, on the completion of the bargain, the Native Collector will receive a valuable consideration; but of this there is of course no proof.

3. Should the higher authorities sanction the disposal of the salt in question, I would venture to suggest that to prevent any doubt of fair play, the sale should be advertised, when it would be attended by very many of the merchants of the district, and I myself should feel disposed to make a tender.

Telegram from C. RAMASAMY PILLAY, Cotton Broker, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 17th December 1866.

I beg to inform that few days ago I gave a durkhast for the salt in the salt pans of Munjankolam, Tinnevelly District, agreeing to buy it at twenty-five per cent. discount in the price; this has been referred to the Board, and was sanctioned. Now I hear some one has offered to take up the bargain at one Rupee lower to mine; if so, I agree to buy it at twenty-two per cent. discount, subject to all terms the other party has agreed to.

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1. Ordered that the foregoing papers be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 9th October 1866, No. 2,718, Revenue Department, and with the Board's recommendation that the Collector be directed to call for tenders for the purchase of the Manjankolam Salt, or to notify that it will be sold by auction to the highest bidder above the upset price.

2. The terms formerly recommended by the Board were a discount of twenty-five per cent., payment to be adjusted after each removal of five heaps, the heaps to be taken in order as stored, and the whole to be removed, and the account adjusted within two years' time; the purchaser to make a deposit of Rupees 5,000, and to pay the cost of guards and establishment. These were nearly the terms of Ramasamy Pillay's offer, under which each heap was to be taken as it stood as representing ten garce of salt, and the result would have been a reduction of Rupees 1,16,437 on the gross value of the salt in store.

3. Mr. Barter's offer, submitted by the Collector in his letter of 24th November, is to deposit Rupees 10,000 as security, to adjust the account for every 5,000 Rupees' worth of salt removed, to clear the whole stock in twenty months, or forfeit the value of the quantity left on the platform, to buy on the assumption that each heap contains ten garce, and to free the Government from all cost of establishment, in consideration of a discount of twenty-four per cent., equivalent to a reduction of Rupees 1,11,780.

4. Ramasamy Pillay now telegraphs his readiness to agree to Mr. Barter's terms for a discount of twenty-two per cent.

5. Mr. Cocq requests that the sale may be open to public competition.

6. The Board recommend that the upset conditions be those offered by Mr. Barter, the discount being reduced to twenty-two per cent., and the most favorable offer being accepted.

7. Mr. Puckle estimates the cost of repairing the roads and moving the salt on Government account, (as suggested in the Government Order above quoted,) and selling at the usual discount of five per cent. at Rupees 1,13,862, assuming that the contents of each heap to be moved are only nine garce. The salt is unsaleable on the usual terms, and considerable wastage must have already occurred. The bulk of the salt has been in store for four years, and none of it less than two years, and it is reported that the late heavy rains have done much damage to it.

No. 174. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1867, No. 89.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.
Salt.

The Board will instruct the Collector to invite tenders by public advertisement; the salt to be offered in lots of ten heaps, as they stand.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 89. 3'

The Bd. will instruct the Coll. to invite tenders by public advertisement for the salt offered in lots of 10 heaps, as they stand.

(Sd.) J. D.
11th. Jany 67.

Copies to the Bd of Rev. Dated 11th