

Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

18th May 1858

Back no 172

Order No 625 27th May
1858

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th May 1858.

No. 1. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1858, No. 1288.

Read the following replies to the Board's Circular No. 962, dated 30th March 1857, proposing a modification in the Rules regarding Salt Rowannahs.

From Ganjam dated 29th December in Consultation 27th January 1858.

- .. Rajahmundry dated 11th in Consultation 18th December 1857.
- .. Masulipatam dated 30th April in Consultation 7th May do.
- .. Guntoor dated 6th April 1857, in do. 1st April 1858.
- .. Nellore dated 11th in Consultation 16th December 1857.
- .. Chingleput dated 2d in do. 15th July 1857.
- .. do. do. 29th October in Consultation 4th December 1857.
- .. South Arcot dated 16th in Consultation 21st April 1857.
- .. do. do. 26th September in Consultation 17th October 1857.
- .. Tanjore dated 16th in Consultation 21st July 1857.
- .. Madura dated 24th June in Consultation 23 July 1857.
- .. Tinnevely dated 16th November in Consultation 10th December 1857.
- .. Canara dated 3d in Consultation 11th June 1857.
- .. Malabar dated 22d April in Consultation 7th May 1857.
- .. Madras dated 27th in Consultation 30th July 1857.

In the Circular to which the above recorded replies have been received, the Board proposed confining the use of Salt Rowannahs to a circle of 30 miles round each Salt Station, and allowing traders two days for traversing this distance, leaving a discretionary power with Collectors to extend this period to 3 or 4 days during the Monsoon when travelling is retarded. The object of this modification was to simplify the system of Rowannahs, in consequence of the abolition of the Land Custom Establishments, by whom they used to be inspected; and at the same time to guard against salt smuggling as far as was practicable.

2. It was not forgotten that the proposed limit of 30 miles would in certain instances include large towns, and the Collectors were required to state whether in such cases the transactions at the Cotaar could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in very small quantities and merely for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood, and a depot be established in the Town for Home and Inland sales.

3. The replies received shew much misapprehension about the proposed plan, it being supposed that local trade within the 30 miles would be interfered with. This the Board observe was in no way intended. Local trade was to be in all respects carried on freely as before and the only object of the new system was to protect salt while actually in transit to a certain distance from the pans.

4. The object of para. 6 of the Circular has also not been seen. It may entail expense and inconvenience on Government, as some Collectors urge, to transfer the local sale of salt from the pans to a newly formed Depot at an adjacent Town, but such a course could in no way be detrimental to trade or diminish sales.

5. The plan proposed by the Board was founded on the system in force at Bombay (see Act 27 of 1837), but the replies now received shew there is one peculiar difficulty to meet here. Besides the various places of manufacture, there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced and a cordon is equally necessary around them. Then the incidents of the boundary of another district being close to a Salt Pan and the vicinity of several large Towns, in all of which it might not be practicable to establish Depots have to be provided for.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th May 1858.

6. These difficulties satisfy the Board that the proposed plan of establishing circles of 30 miles round each place of manufacture cannot be effectively carried out. They therefore gave their attention to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry that the space within which Rowannahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast, but find that this arrangement would be open to several of the objections which interfered with the first scheme. They therefore see no course but to declare that salt must be covered by a Rowannah while in transit in any of the Maritime Districts, where its manufacture is carried on, but not in Inland districts. Collectors will thus have to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to traders to convey salt, either to the inland frontier of their district by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. As the Board do not consider that Rowannahs can be dispensed with altogether without risk to the salt revenue, they are led to propose this plan, which will at least obviate one of the disadvantages of the present system; viz., the granting Rowannahs ostensibly to very distant places with long dates, which are in reality used to convey away from the pans smuggled salt in several trips.

7. From the papers before them the Board observe, that in South Arcot brief chits or passes are given instead of formal Rowannahs to parties purchasing small parcels of salt under five mercials, the Board understand either for domestic use or retail sale in the villages round the pans. These chits are supplied from the Collector's office, duly numbered, to the different Salt Depots, and the Board consider that the practice might be advantageously followed in other districts.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES, Secretary.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 625; dated 12th May 1858.

1. In 1856 Messrs. Cammiade and Co., a trading firm of Madras, formed a design of transporting Salt from Madras, on a large scale, to the interior for sale, and with a view to facilitate their operations, they solicited help from Government in certain respects, one of which was that artificial obstacles should to a certain extent be removed by the relaxation of the Rowannah system. The Board of Revenue were accordingly requested to consider how this might be brought about, not only with a view to assist Messrs. Cammiade and Co., but also that the benefit arising from any measures recommended, might be extended to the trade generally. In reply the Board suggested that the currency of Rowannahs should be abolished at a greater distance than 30 miles from stations where the manufacture of Salt was carried on, and for a longer period than two days from the date of issue. The Government approved of the Board's plan, and requested them to take immediate steps to carry it into effect. In a subsequent order of Government dated 1st October of the same year (1856) the Board were desired to report what they had done in the matter. It was not until 11th May 1857 however, or nine months after the receipt of the orders of Government adopting their suggestions, that the Board reported that "they were engaged in giving effect to the orders for restricting the operation of passes to a limited area round each Cotaur, and were in communication with the Collectors on the subject," having issued a Circular order to those officers on 30th March 1857.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th May 1858.

2. In their Proceedings recorded at the head of this paper, the Board review, generally, the replies received from the Collectors of the districts noted in the margin*. They remark (para. 2) that in the Circular letter above referred to it was pointed out to Collectors that the proposed limit of 30 miles would, in certain instances, include large Towns, and they were required to state whether, in such cases, the transactions at the Government store could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in small quantities for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood; a Depot being established in the Town for home and inland sales.

3. The main object of the system advocated is, the Government observe, to free the Salt as much as possible from obstruction in transitu, while at the same time the interests of Government are protected by a system of checks round the place of manufacture. The replies received from the provinces however, as the Board remark, shew† much misapprehension of what is intended, first in considering that any interference with local Trade within the 30 mile circle was contemplated, and secondly in supposing that

† From Masulipatam.
" Rajahmundry.
" Nellore &c.

trade would be obstructed and sales diminished by the new plan. Nevertheless it is clear from the communications received from the districts that the Boards proposals, based on Sections V. and VI. of Act 27 of 1837 of the Bombay code, will be, to a certain extent, inapplicable to the circumstances of this Presidency. For besides the authorized places of manufacture, there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced, and a cordon will be necessary round them. The boundary of another district may likewise be close to a salt pan, and the cordon would have to be extended into such districts: Likewise in cases where there might be several large Towns in the vicinity of a pan, it would not be practicable to establish a Depot in them all. Seeing therefore the difficulties which would attend the adoption of their original plan, the Board gave their consideration to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry, that the space within which Rowannahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast; but finding that this arrangement would be "open to several of the objections which interfered with the first scheme," the Board recommend that it be notified, that Salt must be covered by a Rowannah while in transit in any of the Maritime districts, but not in Inland Districts, and that with a view to this end, Collectors be instructed to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to Traders to convey Salt either to the inland frontier of their District by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. By this plan the Board think that the abuse of obtaining Rowannahs for long dates, and employing them to convey smuggled Salt in several trips, will be put a stop to.

4. The Government concur with the Board that it would be unsafe to discontinue the use of Rowannahs altogether, and they are unable to see any way out of the difficulty but that proposed by the Board. The introduction of the measure is accordingly authorized; care must be

* Nellore and North Arcot skirt the Pulicat lake; between which and the sea is a strip of Chingleput.

† The breadth of Canara at the 14th degree of North Latitude is less than 30 miles; but Salt passing into Mysore would probably be examined at the frontier.

5. The introduction into all Districts, of the South Arcot system of brief "chits" or passes instead of formal Rowannahs for purchases of small quantities of Salt for retail sale in the villages round the pans, as recommended by the Board appears unobjectionable. The system already prevails, the Government believe, in Madras.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 18th May 1858.

6. It is observed that no reply has yet been received to the 3d para. of Extract Minutes Consultation dated 21 June 1857, referring for the opinion of the Honorable Company's Solicitor the rules drafted under the orders of Government (in para. 5 of Extract Minutes Consultation 11th August 1856 No. 819) for the sale and import of Salt on deposit of security for the purchase money and customs duty respectively, in lieu of immediate cash payments. The attention of Mr. Boyson will now be called to the order, and that officer will be good enough to submit his reply without delay.

7. The Government must also remark that the Board, in their proceedings, have not referred to any former correspondence on the subject of these Rowanahs.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 1255.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th April 1858.

Read the following replies to the Board's Circular No. 962, dated 30th March 1857, proposing a modification in the Rules regarding Salt Rowanahs.

From Ganjam dated 29th December in Consultation 27th January 1858.

Rajahmundry dated 11th in Consultation 18th December 1857.

Masulipatam dated 30th April in Consultation 7th May do.

Guntour dated 6th April 1857, in do. 1st April 1858.

Nellore dated 11th in Consultation 16th December 1857.

Chingleput dated 20th do. 15th July 1857.

do. do. 29th October in Consultation 4th December 1857.

South Arcot dated 16th in Consultation 21st April 1857.

do. do. 26th September in Consultation 17th October 1857.

Tanjore dated 1st in Consultation 21st July 1857.

Madrass dated 21st June in Consultation 2d July 1857.

Tinnevely dated 16th November in Consultation 10th December 1857.

Canara dated 3d in Consultation 11th June 1857.

Mahabar dated 22d April in Consultation 7th May 1857.

Madrass dated 27th in Consultation 30th July 1857.

In the Circular to which the above recorded replies have been received, the Board proposed confining the use of Salt Rowanahs to a circle of 30 miles round each Salt station, and allowing traders two days for traversing this distance, leaving a discretionary power with Collectors to extend this period to 3 or 4 days during the Monsoon when travelling is difficult. The object of this modification was to simplify the system of Rowanahs, in consequence of the abolition of the Land Custom establishments, by whom they used to be inspected; and at the same time to guard against salt smuggling as far as was practicable.

2. It was not forgotten that the proposed limit of 30 miles would in certain instances include large towns, and the Collectors were required to state whether in such cases the transactions at the Cotanah could not be restricted to sales for export by sea, and by retail in very small quantities and merely for consumption in the immediate neighbourhood, and a depot be established in the Town for Home and Inland sales.

3. The replies received shew much misapprehension about the proposed plan, it being supposed that local trade within the 30 miles would be interfered with. This the Board observe was in no way intended. Local trade was to be in all respects carried on freely as before and the only object of the new system was to protect salt while actually in transit to a certain distance from the pans.

4. The object of para. 6 of the Circular has also not been seen. It may entail expense and inconvenience on Government, as some Collectors urge, to transfer the local sale of salt from the pans to a newly formed Depot at an adjacent Town, but such a course could in no way be detrimental to trade or diminish sales.

5. The plan proposed by the Board was founded on the system in force at Bombay (see Act 27 of 1837), but the replies now received shew there is one peculiar difficulty to meet here. Besides the various places of manufacture there are marshes where spontaneous salt is produced and a cordon is usually necessary around them. These the incidents of the boundary of another district being close to a salt Pan and the vicinity of several large Towns, in all of which it might not be practicable to establish Depots have to be provided for.

6. These difficulties satisfy the Board that the proposed plan of establishing circles of 30 miles round each place of manufacture cannot be effectively carried out. They therefore gave their attention to a proposal of the Collector of Rajahmundry that the space within which Rowanahs are to be required, should be thirty miles inland from all parts of the coast, but find that this arrangement would be open to several of the objections which interfered with the first scheme. They therefore see no course but to de-

clear that salt must be covered by a Rowanah while in transit in any of the Maritime districts, where its manufacture is carried on, but not in Inland districts. Collectors will thus have to frame tables of the number of days to be allowed to traders to convey salt, either to the inland frontier of their district by the various roads which exist, or to any town in a neighbouring Maritime district where they may wish to take it for sale. As the Board do not consider that Rowanahs can be dispensed with altogether without risk to the salt revenue, they are led to propose this plan, which will at least obviate one of the disadvantages of the present system; viz., the granting Rowanahs ostensibly to very distant places with long dates, which are in reality used to convey away from the pans smuggled salt in several trips.

7. From the papers before them the Board observe, that in South Arcot brief chits or passes are given instead of formal Rowanahs to parties purchasing small parcels of salt under five mercials, the Board understand either for domestic use or retail sale in the villages round the pans. These chits are supplied from the Collector's office, duly numbered, to the different salt Depôts, and the Board consider that the practice might be advantageously followed in other districts.

(A true Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary

To

H. FORBES, Esq.

Acting Secretary to Government, R. D.

*Relating to the
proposed for confining
the use of salt Rowanahs
made & issued of 30 m
chits round each salt
station and submit the
the replies of the Depôts
on the question -*

Recd. No. 628. 13th May 1858.

*Order 14th June 1858
Recd. 16th June 1858
20 mercials
No 1288*

*Extract from the Report
of the Board of Revenue*

*Revenue 1858-59
No. 628. 13th May 1858
No. 1288*

22 April 1857

C.V. 625 2/12 R.D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 12th May 1858.

It

1/6

W.M.

Read Extract from the Proceedings of
the Board of Revenue dated 14
April 1858 No 1288.

In 1856 Messrs Cammidge & Co; a
trading firm of Madras, formed a
design of transporting salt from
Madras on a large scale to the
Govt dated 23 May 1856 wherein for sale and with a view
to the Govt & Co. Eng. to facilitate their operations they
for Railways d/22 May/58. Proc. B. of R. No 1545
d/21 May 1856. solicited help from Govt in certain
respects one of which was that
artificial obstacles should be
removed or at least be removed
by the relaxation
of the Ramanah system. The Board
of Revenue were accordingly re-
quested to consider how they may
be brought about, at only with

L. M. C. 26 June 1856 No 658

a new ~~of~~ ^{to} assist the Commisade, but also
 that the benefit arising from any
 measures ~~which might be adopted~~
 might be extended to the Trade generally
 In reply the Board ~~recommended~~ ^{suggested} that
 the currency of Lawaahs should be
 abolished at a greater distance than
 30 miles from stations where the manu-
 facture of salt was carried on, and
 for a longer period than two days from
 the date of issue. The Govt approved
 of the Board's plan, and requested
 them to take immediate steps to carry
 it into effect. In a subsequent
 order of Govt dated 1st October of
 the same year /1856/ the Board were
 desired to report what they had
 done in the matter. It was submitted
 A day 1857 however, a since month
 after the receipt of the order of Govt
 adopting their suggestions, that the
 Board reported that they were engaged
 in giving effect to the orders for
 restricting the operation of papers
 to a limited area round each
 Cothar, and were in communication
 with the Collectors on the subject,

L. Prof. N. P. R. No 2460
 dated 4 Aug/56
 Ex. Min. Cus.
 11 August/56 No 849
 No 1050. N. D.

Lanyam
 Rajamundry
 Masulipatam
 Elitum
 Kottur
 Chingleput
 North Arcot
 Canara
 Malabar
 Tanjore
 Madras
 Tinnevely
 Coimbatore

I have issued a circular order
 to those officers on 20 March 1857
 In their proceedings under
 at the head of this paper, the
 Board view generally, the papers
 received from the Collectors of
 the districts noted in the margin
 they remark p. 2 that in the
 Circular letter above referred to
 it was pointed out to Collectors
 that the proposed limit of 30
 miles would, in certain instances,
 include large towns, and they
 were required to take the then
 in such cases, the transaction
 at the Govt shore could not
 be restricted to sales for export
 by sea, and by which to reach
 quantities for consumption in the
 immediate neighbourhood, a
 depot being established in the
 town house and inland sale
 The main object of the system
 advocated is the Govt observe,
 to free the Trade as much
 as possible from restriction

in transit, while at the same time
the interests of Govt are protected
by a system of checks round the
place of manufacture. The replies
received from the Revenue, however,
as the Board remark, show a
much misapprehension of what
is intended, first in considering
that any interference with local
trade within the 30 mile circle
was contemplated, and secondly
in supposing that trade would be
retrenched and sales diminished
by the new plan. Now the less it is
clear from the communications
received from the districts that
the Board's proposals, based on
§§ V and VI of Act 27 of 1837
of the Bombay Code, will be, & a
certain extent, inapplicable to the circumstances
of the Presidency.
For besides the authorized places
of manufacture, there are marshes
where spontaneous salt is produced,
and a custom will be necessary round
them. The boundary round the dis-
trict may likewise be close & a salt

Madakhatam
Rajamundry
Sollu

6 + 2 pan, and the custom would have
the extended into districts
likewise in cases where there might
be small large towns in the
vicinity of a Pan, it would not
be practicable to establish a
Dept in them all. Seeing
therefore the difficulties which
would attend the adoption
of their original plan, the
Board have their consideration
to a proposal of the Collector
of Rajamundry, that the space
within which Rawanahs are to be
assigned, should be thirty miles
inland from all parts of
the Coast, but finding that
this arrangement would be open to
several of the objections which
interfered with the first plan
the Board recommended that it be
stipulated, that salt must be
carried by a Rawanah, which is
transit in any of the neighboring
districts, but not in the district
itself, and that with

well he grows a little
The Govt concurred with the
Board that it would be unsafe
to discontinue the use of arsenic
together, and they are unable to
see any way out of the difficulty
which has been proposed by the Board.
The introduction of the new
one is exceedingly satisfactory; and
the introduction of the new
of the local authorities, the local
"Agency" of the Government which

to Mr. Brown, that no
reply has yet been received
to the 3rd party letter of

2nd June 1859, referring to the opinion
of the Hon. Comptroller's Office: the
rules drafted under the order of
Gov. in Para 5 of L.C. 11 Aug 56
to 829 for the sale and import of
salt on deposit of security for the
purchase money and customs duty
respectively, in lieu of immediate
cash payments. The attention of
Mr. Boyson will now be called to
the order, and that officer will
be good enough to submit his reply
without delay.

7. The Govt must also remark
that the Board, in their proceedings,
not referred to
have completely ignored the existence

of any previous correspondence on the
subject of these Rawanahs.

R. G.

MR 8/20

1/1 Copy to Mr. S. G. Govt. 14
with 30 Encls. 14
1-1 Hon. Comptroller V

Cons. 7 Oct/56 - No 8
- 12 Aug/56 - 57, 58
- 1st July - 24 Oct 57

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142

Revenue 1858 Defunct
Dy. to Cons. 18th May

No 625
Abstract Mins. of Cons.

Dated 12th May/58
(Hon. Court of Solicitor 14 March
1859 - C. No. 462, Cont.)
Rules for the sale and import of
salt on deposit of security &c.

Deciding that it is not
proposed that salt which is consumed by
a Roman Catholic in his household
may of the Maritime Districts, but
not in the Districts under
viewing that the salt is not
time of brief photo or paper
of Roman Catholic purchases of
small quantities of salt for retail
sale in the Districts, and the
provisions are unobjectionable.

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21 April 1857

2nd June 1859, referring to the opinion
of the Hon. Comptroller's Office: the
rules drafted under the order of
Gov. in Para 5 of L.C. 11 Aug 56
to 829 for the sale and import of
salt on deposit of security for the
purchase money and customs duty
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subject of these Rawanahs.

R. G.

MR 1/20

1/1 Copy to Mr. S. G. Govt. 14
with 30 Encls. 14
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Cons. 7 Oct/56 - No 8
- 12 Aug/56 - 57, 58
- 1st July - 24 Oct 57

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142

Revenue 1858 Defunct
Dy. to Cons. 18th May

No 625
Abstract Mins. of Cons.

Dated 12th May/58
(Hon. Court of Solicitor 14 March
1859 - L.C. 462, Cont.)
Rules for the sale and import of
salt on deposit of security &c.

Deciding that it is not
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a Roman Catholic in his household
may of the Maritime Districts, but
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viewing that the salt is not
time of brief photo or paper
of Roman Catholic purchases of
small quantities of salt for retail
sale in the Districts, and the
provisions are unobjectionable.

1/1+2

21 April 1857