

Appendix to Chapter-III: I

Your Committee will next proceed to notice the reforms introduced into the rules established for securing the Company a revenue derivable from the monopoly of Salt, and for improving the condition of the natives employed in the manufacture of that article.

The Salt with which the inhabitants of the populous provinces of Bengal and Bahar are supplied, is obtained from the earth found impregnated with sea salt at the mouths of the Ganges, in the tracts contained between Ballasore and Chittagong. On the acquisition of the Dewanny, the inland trade in salt, beetle nut and tobacco, was vested in an exclusive company, for the benefit of the European servants; who enjoyed the profits of the concern, in lieu of salary. The regulations of the 3d September 1766, fixed the price at which salt should be sold, in lots to the natives, at two hundred rupees per hundred maund; and prohibited the sale of it, on these terms, to any but the natives. Other restrictions, calculated to secure the natives from the injurious effects of a monopoly, were likewise introduced; which lasted till the January following, when the society above-mentioned of trade, was abolished by orders from the court of directors; but, owing to the time necessary to terminate the contracts which had been entered into for the supply of salt, this society was not finally put an end to, till October 1768. The advantage to the government, had been a duty of 50 per cent. on the value of the salt manufactured, which, together with fifteen per cent. on beetle, was estimated to produce an annual
revenue

revenue of twelve or thirteen lacs of rupees. On the abolition of the society of trade, the manufacture appears to have been thrown open to the native merchants, who might employ the manufacturers; and to such of the zemindars as by their situations, possessed the convenience, and by their sunnuds the right, of making salt within their limits: but restrictions were still imposed, to prevent the opulent natives from entering into combinations for the purpose of monopolizing the sale of salt in the interior, and from oppressing the manufacturers.

In the year 1772 it was determined, 1st. "That the salt in every part of the province should be on the same footing:—2d. That the salt should be made for the company:—3. That the colluries or manufactories in each district, should be let in farm for five years." By the conditions of the farm, a certain quantity of salt was to be delivered at a stipulated price, which was then to be dealt out at a fixed price to the native conductors of the inland trade, who had agreed beforehand to aid the farmers by advance of money for the payment of the labourers or lower classes of manufacturers.

In July 1777, the practice of farming the mahauls or manufactories was continued; but the salt produced, was left to the farmer's disposal.

As the revenue accruing to the Company up to this time, from the manufacture of salt, did not appear equal to what might, under a more judicious management be derived from it, a new system was introduced in September 1780, "for the provision of salt by agency, under which all the salt of the provinces was to be manufactured for the company, and sold for ready money, at moderate fixed rates, to be ascertained and published at the beginning of every season by the governor general and council." The European agents employed in this department, were restricted by oath to their avowed allowances: but, exclusive of a salary, they were allowed a commission of ten per cent. on the profit which should accrue to the Company under their management; and by public advertisement, the manufacturers of salt were required to place themselves under their direction. This plan was strenuously opposed in Council; but the result appears to have justified the expectations formed by the governor general, Mr. HASTINGS, who proposed its introduction; for the net average amount of revenue brought to account in the first three years following the new mode of management, was sicca rupees 46,00,500. or £. S^r 464,060. and the same, for the three years preceding the arrival of Lord Cornwallis S^r R^r 45,03,900. or £. S^r 522,450.

The regulations introduced by Lord Cornwallis, do not alter the general plan of the monopoly as above introduced; but are calculated to remove all compulsion from the manufacturers, and to guard them from the impositions of the intermediate native agents, standing between the covenanted European servants of the company, and the labourers in the manufactory. Your Committee have the satisfaction of observing, that under these rules, the revenue derived from salt has largely increased, and that the net advantage to the Company, from this and improved sales, has risen to sicca rupees 11,725,700. or £. S^r 1,360,180. on an average of the last three years.

Colebrooke
plement, p
Regulations
on 10th Dec

Appendix to Chapter-III: II

SALT LANDS, Cedced, and Dewanny.

That woody unhospitable tract of country, which, for the sake of distinction, may be henceforth termed Noondeep, bordering the sea coast in a curve, stretching across the mouths of the Ganges, about 330 British miles from Jellasore West, on the frontiers of the Chuckleh of Midnapore in Orissa, to Islamabad, the port and capital of Chittagong, near the S. E. extremity of Bengal, and comprehending (inclusive of the Sunderbunds) an area at least of 7,000 square miles in isles or continent, already comprised in the general dimensions of the soubah, hath always been of considerable importance, as a strong natural barrier against foreign invasion, or as yielding the necessary article of salt for internal consumption. But it is only within the period of British administration, that its soil and growth of wood, both essential to the production of this valuable manufacture, have been turned to the proper financial account of the state, instead of enriching, with greater burthen on the people, two or three corrupt foudedars with a few favourite Mogul or other foreign merchants; who always, exclusively, under Mussulman government, possessed the entire trade of the country; while the larger body of Hindoo natives, employed in this and every other branch of commerce, were, as they still for the most part continue to be, mere carriers, brokers, shroffs or agent banians, receiving indefinite commission settled at discretion by themselves.

To acquiesce however entire in the political rectitude of the principle, on which a former source of partial individual benefit hath thus been converted to public utility, or rather restored to the requisite funds of national supply; it is to be remarked, that the sovereign is not only absolute proprietary lord of the earth and water from which the salt is extracted, as well as of all the fuel required in the operation; but, by mode of agency, is the sole immediately original superior of the works and molungian boilers, who are kept always in pay, receiving or entitled (besides an allowance of at least one rupee per month each, while so employed as usual in the six dry months occupation) to a further constant annual full subsistence in free productive lands, set apart for their maintenance, under the head of kharije jumma of the chakeran or servants, to be cultivated by themselves in the proper season of the year;—and that the manufactured produce of a soil thus possessed, assisted by labour so purchased, is as much the civil right and saleable property of the despotic master, as the natural yearly growth of these lands termed *Khas* and *Comar*, occurring every where daily throughout the country; which, becoming for a time untenanted, are cultivated by hire or contract, on the special account of the state. Nevertheless, a species of monopoly it must be called, where all territory, with its rude or cultivated production, appertains

pertains exclusively to the prince. Yet, as in its actual form, it leaves the most perfect freedom of interior traffic to all European and native inhabitants, excepting only British subjects, after the first immediate sale on the spot where produced; it differs widely from those pernicious institutions, under the same denomination, in other parts of the world, fraught with complete disadvantages to trade. At the same time, the policy of converting it into a source of revenue, seems not only warranted by the present insufficiency of public income, the extreme moderation of all other territorial burthens on the people, being greatly short of the sovereign's constitutional claim, with the expediency of thus levying the annual supplies in part from the intermediate agents of production, and partly from those employed on behalf of consumers; but is more than justified in the opinion of perhaps the ablest, most liberal, financier of the present age, and by the example of the greatest civilized existing nations. When in France (a dominion not more than double the extent and population of Bengal) the *gabelle*, which is an impost, or rather the exclusive right of selling salt throughout the kingdom, produces an annual revenue to the crown of 54 millions of livres, equivalent to two crore of rupees; and yet the king is neither territorial or saline proprietor of the rude materials required in the manufacture, more than rightfull arbitrary employer of the workmen, advancing with risk the original cost of labour, involving a certain maintenance for a number of industrious, though thus virtually the sole privileged merchant for vending in the retail of general farms throughout all the interior provinces, one of the great necessaries of life prepared at the hazardous expense of others for the market;—the virtue and political economy then of British administration in India, must at least be acknowledged in one instance, by resumption, with improvement, of a dormant or hitherto misapplied source of public supply, under the head of *Feroosh Nemuck*, or sales of native manufactured salt, involving at all times an impost of equal weight on the country, but only fully and properly realized to the exchequer since the year 1780. Anciently, and still in common, the quantity of this article made for, and consumed annually in Bengal, may be estimated on an average, at twenty lacks of maunds each of 80 lbs. weight, produced by the labour of 45,000 Molungees; who with superior agents, including all expenses paid in money, were entitled to an allowance of about 20 rupees, usually advanced by contracting merchants, besides what was deemed equivalent to 40 rupees more, furnished constantly in land, and returned to the state from the original standard price of delivery at Hooghly, fixed latterly at 60 rupees per M^{ts}, though afterwards for the benefit of a few Mogul monopolists, of which the principle had generally the title of Fakher-ul-Tejar, most exalted of merchants, enhanced throughout the different markets of the soubah at various rates, reducible on a medium to at least 2 rupees per M^{ts}. But since the annexation under the same viceroyalty, of the province of Behar (formerly supplied with salt, as the greater part of Upper Hindostan still continues to be, from the lake Sambkur in Ajimere) the total required for home consumption or foreign exports to Asham, Napaul, with other neighbouring inland states, hath increased 5 lacks of maunds. That surplus was at first imported from the Coromandel coast, in what is called Madras or bay salt, of baser quality and value, as produced by the simple operation of the sun on sea water, introduced into shallow pits prepared for the purpose near the shore. But on the establishment of the private society in 1765, and since again, on the institution of the present public plan, it was found expedient to prohibit this branch of Indian coasting trade, affecting alone the native inhabitants of the country. And now the whole quantity in yearly demand (being on a medium 28 lacks of maunds) is manufactured in the proportion of 1/3rd in the ceded and 2/3rd in the dewanny lands of Bengal, for the use probably of 10 millions of souls there, and one fourth of that number in Behar; imposing only a moderate charge for one of the comforts of life, at the utmost calculation of 6½ annas, or thirteen pence each individual per ann. allowing the gross sales, inclusive of all expenses, to be

Sicca Rupees 54,50,000

SERINJAMY, charges attending the completion and sale of the manufacture.	
(1 st .) DADNEY MOLUNCIAN, original complete advance of wages, now paid in money to about 60,000 salt manufacturers of all denominations, engaged for the dry season, from November to May following, at the rate of about 40 R ^s p ^r M ^{ts} , being near 3 R ^s each person p ^r month, for six months moderate labour	11,20,000
(2 ^d .) AKHERAJAT ARUNG, expense of transportation to the place of sale; weighmen, erection of storehouses, purchase of utensils requisite for the carrying on of the works, &c. with all contingent charges, on an average	4,50,000
(3 ^d .) RUSOON, or commission of 10 p ^r cent. to European superintendants, on the net produce supposed	3,80,000

TOTAL net annual sales of Salt, requiring always an advance for 18 months of 15 lacks of rupees capital to answer charges, before complete returns can be made to government; which, since the year 1781, hath resumed its right to the entire original profits accruing from the manufacture, and previously in part brought to public credit under the three following heads, proper to be continued in the same forms of account, and distinct agency, to serve as mutual checks, though now to be deducted in a lesser proportion from the whole clear produce, amounting to

55,00,000

MINIA:

Mr. J. Grant's
Analysis of the
Finances of Bengal.

MINHA :	
TEHSIL SOUBAHDARRY collection of Revenue to the year 1170, B.	
(1 st .) HASSIL KAHLARY, making part of the bundobust teahkhees of Meer Cossim, including the toomary, or original ground rent of all the salt lands - - - - -	2,25,000
(2 ^d .) MIHASOOL; Sayer duty on all the salt imported, manufactured and consumed in Bengal and Behar, &c. reckoned at 23 lacks of maunds at 2 ½ R ^s p ^r hundred maunds - - - - -	70,000
(3 ^d .) KEFFYET, or usual profit of the circar on the delivery of 8 ½ lacks of maunds, made in the district of Hejellee, and audited in the jumma at the standard valuation of Hooghley, after deducting a lack of rupees as the proportion of ground rent received as above - - - - -	2,50,000
TOTAL Revenue of Salt, accounted with the state to 1170 - R ^s 5,45,000	
TEHSIL DEWANNY, additional collections from 1172 to 1178, inclusive :	
(1 st & 2 ^d .) HASSIL NEMUCK, as established to the end of Mahomed Reza Khan's administration in 1771/2, being further kahlary and rowaneh duties, as already stated, exclusive of the mhasool 2 ½ p ^r cent. - - - - -	12,95,000
TOTAL net rated Collections, made on account of Salt, to 1187 A.B. } or 1780 A.D. though perhaps never fully realized, before the excellent } simplified institution of that year - - - - -	
(3 ^d .) BAKY KEFFYET—Balance of profit arising on the moderate original settling price of salt, before appropriated to partial individual benefit; but now, with great propriety and justice, resumed or incorporated with the public revenue - - - - -	S ^r R ^s 16,60,000

Source: J. Grant, Appendix to the Fifth Report. From the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the affairs of the East India Company, , PP.312-314

Appendix to Chapter-III: III

376

Appendix to Vth REPORT from The Select Committee on

[No. 4.]

FOUJEDARRY OF HEDGELEE.

ANALYSIS shewing the component parts of the Jummabundy Kool of this district, amounting in gross A. B. 1169, to Rupees 10,41,314, arising from the Mudhoory and Nemucky lands, in the following proportions, according to which, if not ostensibly, the ordinary Malgoozary was in fact, realized to the year 1172, and subsequently.

MUDHOORY.					Jumma Kool to 1172.	NEMUCKY.					Jumma Kool to 1172.
Ausil Jumma Toomary from 1135 to 1172 - -					4,34,382	The original Jumma of this portion, when incorporated with the Ausil Toomary of the Mudhoory lands, under the description of Nugdy, or money rental, amounted to more than - - - - -					43,565
Muscoorat deductions; viz.											
	* Jella- mootah.	Mhesa- dul.	Toom- luck.	Sujah.		But when separately realized, in the mode of manufacturing salt by contract purchase, termed Mobai, and future sales, literally expressed in Persian on the public records Ferrosh Nemuck, as hath been invariably the custom since the administration of Jaffier Khan; then, the revenue was to be calculated of course, according to the quantity of salt delivered, and the rate at which it was sold on account of the Nazim, to whose jageer the first profits usually appertained.					
1. Naucar - -	582	20	647	284							
2. Muscoodeny -	682	80	1,869	492	12,534						
3. Paikan - -	501	1,078	—	359							
4. Berybundy -	5,401	62	—	380							
5. Kheyrat - -	184	—	—	—							
Total - -	7,350	1,240	2,516	1,425		Thus, in 1169, and subsequently, the quantity of salt made and delivered throughout all the divisions of Hedjelee was M ^d 8,53,428, and which, at the estimated selling price at Hooghly then authoritatively fixed at 60 R ^s per M ^d , as settled with the zemindars or merchants, produced in gross - - - R ^s					5,12,056
TOTAL net Ausil Jumma - - -					4,21,848						
Abwabs to the year 1172 A. B.						Serinjammy, or charges of manufacture regularly to be deducted from this fund, instead of the Mudhoory; viz.					
	* Jella- mootah.	Mhesa- dul.	Toom- luck.	Sujah.							
1. Khasnovessy -	2,464	805	1,772	—							
2. Peel Khaneh -	3,956	1,761	2,978	370							
3. Zer Mathoot -	1,561	872	1,190	145	1,11,516						
4. Ahuck - -	3,019	1,609	2,069	188							
5. Chout - -	—	7,392	10,269	1,334							
6. Nuz Mansoor -	—	5,875	12,000	—							
7. Foujedarry Moab -	—	454	—	124							
8. Serif Sicca -	2,5607	13,435	8,166	2,092							
Total - -	30,611	32,208	38,444	4,253		In cash, as before stated - - - 1,72,302 Salt, the surplus of 8 lacks - - - 32,138					2,04,440
Total Ausil and Ezafa on the Mudhoory portion of Hedjelee to 1172 - - S ^a R ^s					5,33,364						
From which, was usually deducted, though in right, always to be refunded in course of the year, the ordinary advances made for the manufactory of salt, forming the capital serinjammy or contract purchase money settled with the zemindars at the rate of 22 R ^s per M ^d , and amounting in all, to 1,88,000 rupees, but deducting a part paid in salt, being the surplus beyond eight lacks of M ^d , or nearly 5,400 M ^d , valued rightfully at prime cost, or formerly, at the selling-estimated price, the sum really advanced in cash did not exceed 1,72,302 S ^a Rupees.											
* The net total Jumma Madhoory of 1169, was no more than 5,29,25 S ^a R ^s , after deducting at the rate of 9/6. per C ^s 20,464 R ^s batty or serinjammy charges. The particulars of Abwabs and Muscoorat, here inserted, are chiefly taken from M. R. Khan's statement of them, in his bundobust of 1172.											
The Berybundy charge, though included in the compromise of Muscoorat, involved probably the whole expense actually incurred yearly, being merely in repairing banks already formed. The divisions of Jellamootah to Duodumma, are both included under the former head.											
					of which						
						Jellamootah, &c. stood rated } 4,72,808 for M ^d - - - - - } Mhesadul entire - - - - - } 2,80,122 Toomluck entire - - - - - } 51,422 Sujahmootah - - - - - } 49,066					1,41,348
											1,21,311
											26,752
											18,205
Yet from this amount, in propriety, should also be deducted the ancient Jumma Nugdy or Kahlary rent, to shew the clear yearly advantage resulting from the more recent system of managing the salt lands; but as the whole of the public receipts depending on the rate of sale (in the time of Alverdi A. D. 1152, estimated as high as 150 R ^s per M ^d) came, into the same exchequer; and as there could be no political reason then, for any specification of the former rental thus absorbed; so now it is sufficient merely to state it, by way of memorandum.											

ACCORDING to the preceding statement then, in the first Dewanny settlement of the Company, the bundobust of all the mudhoory and nemucky lands of the several divisions of Hedjelee, should have been rated at a net malgoozary of S^a R^s 8,40,980, or taking the jumma kool of Cassim Aly in 1169, at R^s 8,36,874. Nevertheless M. R. Khan, in 1172, states it only 5,75,149 R^s. He had, indeed, the example of his predecessor Nundomar the year before, in reducing it to 6,65,320; but in this instance at least, he could assign a more justifiable reason for an apparent greater defalcation; and his statement in facts, seems accurately just. On the 1st of September 1172 A. B. rather before the commencement of the Velayty year of Orissa, observed in the district now under consideration, the society of Salt was instituted; and the whole nemucky portion of territory, with all its valuable production, was transferred exclusively to their agents. In this, however, the honourable Company were no losers. A duty of 35 R^s per M^d the first year, and of 50 per cent. the second, levied on the quantity of salt manufactured, amounted to an ample compensation for the customary towfeer of the zombahdar, now rightfully devolving by convention to the British government. At the same time, it is to be remarked, that the nab dewan's settlement, as it could only virtually have extended to the mudhoory lands, so it comprehends almost precisely the full genuine rental of that division, together with the ancient jumma nugdy of the nemucky portion; which equitably was to be accounted for, when the regular profits of the mobai were privately alienated, or not immediately forthcoming to the

the sovereign. In like manner, it will be found invariably, that wherever the local residence of European interference or of their agency, with the revenues, and a narrow simple detail of zemindary management, afforded an easy opportunity to the Company's servants of acquiring a competent knowledge of the actual collections, the jumabundy of 1172, so far from being reduced below the former proper standard, was rather increased, to the great oppression of the ryots, if not even imposing an unnecessary burden on the higher landholders, who were not possessed of the means to purchase indulgences. But when the deputy minister of the finances appears on the present occasion, to have relapsed to the original system of speculation, as in the deceptive liquidation of balances, by stating and admitting remissions at the close of two succeeding years, under the head of "Deficiency in the salt manufacture of Hedjeelee, on account of the exclusive trade of the lately instituted society," to the amount of 2,93,153 R^s annually," as if credit had been given in the bundobust for any part of the produce of the nemucky lands, or that the mudhoor was to be made answerable for the secret, in some measure fraudulent, emulments of the zemindars, in making, within the territory set apart for kalidazees, about four lacks of maunds above the quantity of salt usually delivered to government, and which hitherto enjoyed, because undiscovered, they were now, by a new arrangement, to be deprived of from this time forward. The mobai income seems to have been altogether embezzled or lost to the exchequer, until the year 1178 A. D. when the whole ordinary revenue of the foujedary was brought back to near its original rightful standard, by a duty of 30 per cent. henceforth directed to be levied on the transport of salt from the churs to the markets for sale, carried thither at the risk of a profit of private merchants, who still, from the fewness of their numbers, did and must ever, in Bengal, form a corps of monopolists. That this impost fell short of the expected returns, on a basis of twenty-eight lacks of maunds, as the quantity annually consumed or sold, is no proof of an exaggerated calculation; on the contrary, its moderation was before, as it hath been since, sufficiently established on grounds of experimental certainty; and the deficiency may, in this instance, as in every other, be attributed, when not to European influence, to the neglect, chicanery, or corruption of native administration. In 1184, and subsequently, the entire rental of Hedjeelee, on a medium of the three preceding years receipts, according to the accounts then made up, was stated at rupees 7,13,684, of which 4,11,995 nemucky, and 3,01,689 mudhoory. But the former portion of the jumma, included for charges of the manufacture in serinjummy, salt 22,021 R^s, and in cash advanced from the other division, to be replaced, though not so done, agreeable to ancient usage, rupees 1,07,233. Besides this, from the latter share of the average bundobust, were further actually deducted 1,31,174 R^s, for expense of a mofussil management, having only a neat malgoozary for the arable lands, of 1,70,515; and which, together with the mobai profits, thus improperly swelled by the amount of a borrowed capital, constituted a total clear income of no more than 5,60,488 R^s. At the same time, it is to be observed, that the native aumeens, still here checked in their accounts by the formally independent canongoes of Orissa, found sources the year immediately before, for a territorial revenue, exclusive of plateka, and the whole of the salt product of 6,09,299 rupees, over and above a babzee zemeen or chakeran allotments, comprizing 3,17,553 begas of productive ground, without estimating the similar fraudulent alienations that would probably have been discovered in the pergunnah of Teomluck, if their inquiries, or our information, had extended to the ascertainment of the fact. Notwithstanding all this, however, in 1187, the jumabundy kool of the foujedary continuing to be rated at the medium standard of 1184, a separation of the mudhoory and nemucky funds took place, in the above stated proportions, and the amount of the latter finally withdrawn or deducted from the annual rent-roll of the soubah, was in future to make part, or be absorbed, together with the established duty of 30 per cent. being in all, equivalent to a selling price of only 90 rupees p^{er} Mds. in the larger expected advantages to be derived from a reform in the institution of salt, at this time adopted; extending the system of mobai, to all the other districts of Bengal producing that necessary article of internal consumption, and calculated to bring the whole of a reasonable profit on the first sales, into the needy public exchequer, instead of sharing it, in a very unequal proportion of the actual gain, with a few private monopolists. A dispute arose between the comptroller appointed to the newly modelled administration of this important branch of the collections, and the committee of revenue also recently formed to superintend at the Presidency the finances generally of all the British dominions immediately dependent on Fort William, touching the propriety of admitting or liquidating in their respective yearly accounts, the defalcation that must otherwise necessarily appear, in consequence of the late dismembersments from the yearly amount of territorial income. On the part of the former, who, indeed, was more especially interested in the issue, as entitled to a commission alone on the net profit resulting from the innovation, it was suggested that kahlary or ground rent only (according to my information, to be valued as before stated, at 43,565 R^s) could be properly due or forthcoming to the exchequer from the salt lands; and that the remainder, claimed from the produce of the manufacture, in lieu of the bundobust deductions, made on the separation of the two departments nemucky and mudhoory, was not admissible, as chiefly arising from new and temporary sources, created by the establishment of a particular system, which perished when it was changed. On the other side, a compensation for the customary receipts of the khalsa in the usual form, was insisted on, as conformable to the first medium settlement of 1184; and the propriety of the demand was supported on the following arguments: "that from the time the salt districts were under Mr. Lushington, to that period, the consolidated amount arising from land collections and salt produce, had constantly been inserted into the public accounts, as the amount jumma of those districts, and in Mr. Lushington's accounts was rated at 8,36,874. 2. 15. rupees; that in fixing the sum, Mr. Lushington had made an estimate of the salt produced in the Hedjeelee districts, and rated the amount of it, at 60 rupees per Mds.; that according to this valuation, the sum on account of salt was 5,12,014. 8. 2. and the mudhoor or land collections amounted to 3,24,859. 10. 13. making the sum total stated above, as the revenue of the districts; that the zemindars delivered salt in part payment of their revenue, and they were credited at the rate of 60 rupees for every hundred maunds

II.
Mr. J. Grant's
View of the Revenues
of Bengal.

Foujedary of
Hedjeelee.

maunds they delivered, and their deficiencies were charged, at the same rate; and finally, that hence it appeared, the revenue arising from salt, was as much an article of the jumma, as that arising from the lands; for that the total of the two articles, was what formed the actual jumma of those districts." If I entertained any doubts of the authenticity of the accounts from which I have drawn the statements already exhibited on the subject of the Hedjee revenue, I should here confidently avail myself of the corroborating testimony of Mr. Lushington, one of the ablest and best instructed servants of the Company employed in the management of their finances; for though he was erroneously supposed to be the regulator himself, of the estimated selling price of Hooghly at 60 rupees per Mds. this article, with the rest of his calculations, will be found exactly correspondent to the particulars of mine, assigned to Cossim Aly's administration in 1169, with the difference, that I have deducted, the serinjanny charges of manufacturing the salt rather from the gross produce of its own sale, than lessen the proper income of the mudhoory, by appropriating so much of it in the form of a borrowed fund, to procure what might be considered an extraneous or relative financial advantage. But it may be sufficient in this place to observe, that both parties adhering to their respective opinions, a double entry in their accounts (taking in the contested profits of the mobai and rowanch duties of 30 per cent.) hath swelled the amount of, and operated as a deception in, the general yearly statement of the resources of government; and that the true considerations of right and policy involved in the question, seem to have been entirely overlooked. These, undoubtedly required a preservation of the old forms, through whatever channel the sum of the absorbed collections were henceforth made to appear; and it is a maxim in every well regulated system of finance, never to relinquish a claim in form, to an established prior impost, though lost in fact, in the magnitude of a greater future exaction on the same or like foundation; at least, until experienced advantage recommends the permanency of the latter. Hitherto, though the temporary benefits of the new mode cannot be controverted; yet their extent and continuance, are points of much speculative doubt, on grounds of apparent solid reasoning.

1st. I have myself elsewhere, in a calculation which I rather wish may be found under-rated, reduced the actual profits of the Company, on comparison of what they were before entitled to, or might have realized on salt, by virtue of existing regulations, to 16 lacks of rupees. If we assume the selling price in Aliverdy's administration, being at the rate of 150 rupees per Mds. as the standard of former income, the difference will be considerably less; but if we take into the account, the greater advantage bestowed through the favour of government on private merchants, and now only resumed in its proper behalf, the supposed gain of the modern plan would probably dwindle to nothing, and then the seeming possibility of levying, in the form of a simple duty, the full equivalent of a monopoly sale may, some time or other, induce the adoption of the former in preference to the latter mode, which though essentially the same, would, from a mere nominal distinction, convey a very different idea to prejudiced popular imagination.—2^{dly}. The prohibition of the trade in this article, from our settlements in the East, is a small relative disadvantage; but the concession in favour of the French must be deemed highly impolitic and dangerous, only to be warranted on the plea of evident necessity. As well might merchants of Great Britain residing in France, claim exemption from the *gabelle*, as that French factors settled in Bengal, for carrying on their commerce to Europe, should pretend to interfere, in an internal financial regulation of the Soubahs; and when the servants of the English company, in fact masters of the country, by a false interested construction of the most extensive imperial firman privileges ever granted to foreigners, attempted to obtain such an unconstitutional indulgence, subversive of the law of nations, their conduct was justly reprobated by their superiors; nor did the French presume in 1765, even to animadvert on the exclusive right transferred to the society then established.—3^{dly}. The uncertainty on every occasion, of insuring an intelligent, faithful and vigilant administration on which the larger profits of the present universal mobai management must in a great measure depend; might be used as a strong argument against the probability of its duration. Natural difficulties opposing the constant local inspection of European agents, the depravity of natives necessarily employed in paying the molungees or superintending their operations in detail, and above all the non-existence of custom-house checks, to prevent the clandestine traffic of extra salt procured from the neighbouring province of Cuttack, or collusively pilloined from the Bengal kahliaries in the jungles, thence transported to market under cover of Howanick dustucks, granted by the comptroller of the manufacture from the places of original delivery, are amongst many of the supposed defects, inherent in the constitution of the actual system tending to its decline. But on the other hand, the more recent order for a public sale, will prove a most powerful corrective of almost every abuse, if a genuine standard of the prime cost quantity of yearly produce made and sold could once be ascertained, to direct the proceedings of the department intrusted with inspection and controul in the general administration of the finances; and this it may be presumed the medium result of the first five years (beginning from May 1781) offers for all the essential purposes of an audit. In that time, thirty-three lacks of maunds appear to have been annually manufactured at an expense with kahly rent, but exclusive of European agency, of seventeen lacks of rupees, being at the rate of 51½ R^s p^r Mds. and excepting a surplus fund of three lacks, which should always be kept up to answer contingencies, were entirely disposed of, in an equal period for sixty-two and a half lacks of rupees, at the average rate of about 191 R^s for many hundred maunds. While this standard, with a liberal allowance for unforeseen casualties, is adhered to, perhaps there can be no ground for finding fault with, or entering into a minute investigation of executive management, and with more certainty the plan itself so beneficially conducted, will not be condemned when considered as originating under the pressing exigencies of an eastern despotic government and that in the whole scope of its operation, either in principle or virtual effect, it is comparatively less burthensome to the people, more equal in the distribution, of a lighter impost, simpler in its details, and in every respect, infinitely less exceptionable as a scheme

of finance, than the simpler institution of the gabelle so long established in one of the greatest, most refined, and politic states of modern Europe.

To conclude:--Whatever ought to have been the rule, or may in future be adopted, for the amount, receipt, or liquidation of the revenue forthcoming from the nemucky portion of Hedjeelee, the income of the mudhoory as arising from territorial sources totally distinct, and altogether separated from the salt lands since the commencement of the Vilayty year 1189, though then put under the same European superintendents, should have suffered no diminution; but rather an apparent increase by stoppage of the annual funds of rent before borrowed from the one, to make good the necessary advances in carrying on the manufacture, which alone rendered the other division of the district, in the least productive; yet this, is so far from being the case, that in 1190, A. D. the gross jumna to the share of arable ground entire is stated only at R^s 3,49,431, and being incumbered with mofussil serinjummy charges of 1,67,280 R^s, yielded no more than 1,82,151 Rupees, net malgoozary, which compared with the original clear rental to 1172, leaving a recoverable defalcation of three and a half lacks of rupees annually, from the mudhoory territory, making part of the foujedarry of Hedjeelee, as before described, in extent or value.

II.
Mr. J. Grant's
View of the Revenues
of Bengal.
Foujedarry of
Hedjeelee.

Source: J. Grant, *Appendix to the Fifth Report from the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the affairs of the East India Company*, PP.376-379