

REPORT

ON A VISIT TO

SOME SALT WORKINGS IN THE SHWEBO AND SAGAING DISTRICTS, UPPER BURMA.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

IN April last I was deputed to visit the salt workings in the Shwebo and Sagaing Districts. At present the majority of the salt consumed in Burma is imported, so that if it could be produced in the country, the revenue derived from a tax on such would be considerable, besides providing occupation for the inhabitants and keeping money in the country. Salt works have been established in the Amherst and Arakan Districts and have proved to be a complete success. Mr. E. G. Robertson, Superintendent of Excise (Salt), was prominent in starting these experimental plants. He also visited the areas to which this report refers and has issued a report thereon to which I am indebted for the analyses contained therein. Mr. Robertson advanced the theory of a salt stratum in these districts and with a view to reporting on this, I was requested by the Burma Government to visit these salt workings. The places are situated close to the Mu Valley branch, Burma Railways, between Sagaing and Shwebo, so far easily accessible. I was fortunate to have with me Mr. Robertson, whom I wish to thank for the trouble he took in showing me round and for making the necessary arrangements. With his intimate knowledge of Burmese it was possible to obtain all available local knowledge, which is very essential for such a problem as this.