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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 42	Press / Mis.
63-64	
Dated 19-1-	1865.

63-64 5/6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
19th January 1865.

No. 63. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 9th January 1865, No. 29.

Communicating the remarks passed on the Inam Commissioner's Budget Estimate for 1865-66. } (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 9th January 1865, Nos. 70 & 71.)

No. 64. ORDER THEREON, 19th January 1865, No. 42.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th January 1865.

No. 70. Read the following letter from W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Acting Inám Commissioner, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 31st October 1864, No. 72:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit the accompanying Budget on account of the Inám Commission for the official year 1865-66.

2. When I wrote to Government in March last, soliciting sanction for certain additional Establishments, I anxiously hoped that the work could be completed within the current official year. Though however the calculations I then made were based on data that were in the main correct, they have since been rendered somewhat erroneous by circumstances which could not be foreseen, and moreover, the Settlement in one District has been unexpectedly impeded so as to be prolonged considerably into the next official year.

3. I shall begin by a brief but comprehensive statement of the business of every description yet remaining to be done in connection with this Commission.

4. *Out-door or Settlement work.*—As I calculated in my last letter, the Settlement will all be over by the end of the current official year excepting in the District of Trichinopoly. In this District, two, out of five Talooks, were taken up and settled upon the basis of survey areas, and Tarams contained in certain rough lists furnished for the purpose by Mr. Puckle, the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement. In the course of introducing the new Settlement, that Officer found that the rough lists so furnished by him contained grave errors, such as Circar fields being set down as Inám and *vice versa*, and he therefore declined to furnish any such lists for the remaining three Talooks, until he had himself completed their Revenue Settlement, and found himself in a position to supply accurate and trustworthy data for this Department to proceed upon. Mr. Puckle suggested to this Department the alternative of having recourse to the data furnished by the Karnams' accounts, which the Deputy Collector considered to be notoriously incorrect. To have acted upon this alternative was of course out of the question, and I had no hesitation in deciding that accuracy was not to be sacrificed to speed; and I trust that in this opinion the Government will concur with me. Accordingly the Inám Settlement of the remaining Government Talooks was suspended, and the Deputy Collector has been otherwise employed for the last few months in the registration of Ináms in the Poliapuis of the District, and in similar minor work. Mr. Puckle having promised to furnish the necessary data from time to time as his progress enables him, the Inám Settlement of the Government Talooks will be resumed as they are received; but as the data for the last Talook will not be available according to Mr. Puckle's expectations much before June 1865, the Inám Settlement of the District cannot be completed much before August of that year.

5. As regards the settlement of Malabar, which has been entrusted to the Collector with the sanction of Government, that Officer in his latest report hopes that it will be completed by the end of the current official year, or that at any rate it will be so far advanced as to enable him to dispense with the extra Establishment now placed at his disposal from the funds of the Inám Commission.

6. *With regard to Office work.*—As it is not possible to convey a correct idea of the many matters remaining to be done under this head without going into some detail, I solicit the attention of Government to the following particulars, which I have thrown into distinct paragraphs for convenience of reference.

7. *First Review work.*—There are on hand at present for review the Registers of 1,200 whole Inám villages, and about 6,000 cases of minor Ináms; and about 1,000 more of the former and 12,000 of the latter may be expected from the Districts still under settlement, making in all a total of 20,000 cases to be reviewed by myself and my Assistants.

8. In addition to the above, there are between 5,000 and 6,000 cases relating to all the Districts already settled by the Commission, which though duly registered have been postponed and are lying over from various causes, such as doubt as to the proper mode of disposing of them,

a reference being required to other cases not then at hand, an intricate dispute requiring careful study or discussion, and a variety of similar reasons. Cases like these involving difficult point were usually, and I may add, naturally kept back to be considered and disposed of at leisure, instead of being allowed to impede the review of a much larger number of simpler cases.

9. For nearly similar reasons, whole classes of Ináms in several Districts are also lying over without final disposal pending, in some cases, information or opinions from the District authorities, and all involving difficult points for disposal.

10. In the way of references and replies from Tahsildars, in every part of the Presidency, which have to be disposed of, mostly involving the decision of important appeals or the correction of Title Deeds already issued, it is roughly computed that there are about 600 on hand, and certainly more than this number are still due from Tahsildars.

11. There are, besides, on this date, between 5,000 and 6,000 Appeal Petitions yet to be disposed of. These, though mostly received through the post, cannot be neglected on the ground that they were not presented personally, for owing to the head quarters of the Commission moving rapidly form one part of the Presidency to another, sufficient facilities were not always presented to aggrieved parties for making their complaints in person. This, by itself, is a work of no ordinary magnitude, and no doubt before the Commission actually closes several thousand more petitions will be added to the existing number.

12. Generally, as yet, no lists have been furnished to the Collectors, of Ináms which have been decided by this Department to be resumed for various reasons, such as want of heirs, expiration of terms, default of service, or voluntary relinquishment by Inámdars. It would be superfluous to say much on the importance of this work; for unless it is performed, the decisions of the Inám Commission in several thousands of cases would remain inoperative for years to come. Such lists were indeed opened at an early period of the Commission, but the pressure of current work prevented their being continued, and the whole yet remains to be done carefully and will involve considerable labor.

13. There remains a very important work still to be begun and accomplished by the Vernacular Department, viz., the preparation of final Abstract Statements of the Inám Settlement of every Talook and District of the Presidency. The rough accounts hitherto kept in the Office, and continued from month to month for the preparation of the periodical Progress Reports to Government, cannot be now relied upon, as numerous subsequent corrections have been made, which must all be duly taken into account before correctness can be insured. Moreover, the information furnished by them is not in sufficient detail to serve the purpose for which the general abstracts are to be compiled. The magnitude of the Accountant's labor which these abstracts will require may be easily conceived, when it is remembered that the number of cases they embrace will be more than 3,50,000, spread over upwards of 250 Talooks throughout the whole Presidency, and that the various descriptions into which the Ináms will be divided in the abstracts will be numerous even after a comprehensive classification.

14. There are still two more subjects closely connected with the Office work which require particular notice. The first of these is the transcription of fair Registers. The Government will observe that at the date of my last report, I estimated the number of cases to be copied, inclusive of those for the unfinished Districts, at 1,50,000, and the number of pages on which they could be written at 31,200, five cases being allowed to a page, with reference to the ordinary simple cases, and I then calculated that the work would thus take a year and a quarter for twenty-five Clerks, and hoped that by being able to add to the number of Copyists from other Departments of the Office, the work might be accomplished within a year. But these calculations have been falsified by a circumstance which could not possibly have been foreseen. Most of the cases received from the Districts, as well as those reviewed in the Office, since the date of my report, are whole village Ináms, chiefly of the large Zemindaries of Ramnad and Sivagunga and the District of Tanjore, and the Registers contain so much writing in consequence of various difficulties connected with their Settlement and the large number of shares in which the villages are held, that hardly one case is transcribed on a page. I have now had the pages remaining to

be copied actually counted, and the result is, for the reason already explained, that the number of pages for transcription instead of being taken at 31,200, ought to have been taken at 54,760. This unexpected increase of work necessarily vitiates my estimate of the time required for the transcription of fair Registers, and prolongs the time actually required for that work to upwards of eight months of the next official year.

15. The work of examination of the fair Registers is at once the most important and the most tedious part of the office work yet to be accomplished. A steady and decided progress has been, and is being made in this, and yet it is impossible, on account of its nature, to bring it to a close within as short a period as could be wished. The circumstance which has increased the quantity of copying work, as explained in the preceding paragraph, must of course operate equally to augment the Examiner's work. In my last report, I calculated that the Examiner's work as then estimated could not be completed with a complement of ten Examiners in less than two and a half years, that is, within a year and a half after the close of the current official year. The work as now more correctly estimated cannot with the same staff be completed before the end of the official year 1866-67.

16. Both in connection with the copying and Examiner's work, I am anxious to draw particular attention to a fact to which I did not give sufficient prominence in my last letter. Both the Copyists and the Examiners have to deal with original Registers written very roughly and hurriedly, and for the most part by the Deputy Collectors themselves in very indifferent and oftentimes illegible hand-writing. It is not like copying from Registers already fair written as is the case with public correspondence generally. The Copyist loses considerable time in deciphering the original, and has often to refer to his immediate superiors in cases of doubt. So also with the Examiners. It must be obvious that work under such difficulties cannot be pushed on at a greater speed than would be consistent with accuracy.

17. There is a subject which though perhaps more closely connected with the final report still deserves special notice, not only as being very important in itself but as a part of the closing work of the Commission, likely to tax the time and labor of the office to no light extent. I allude to the necessity of a compilation from the records of the Inám Commission being made and passed through the Press for the purposes of future reference. The Inám Commission in the course of its operations, has directly and indirectly affected so many matters, both small and great, intimately connected with the Revenue administration of the country, that it is most important that every Revenue Officer should be furnished at the close of the Commission with a Manual containing a clear and well digested statement of the mode in which the multifarious tenures of each District have been practically dealt with by this Commission. At present there are very few out of the Department who are well informed as to what the Inám Commission has done in each District, and the inconveniences resulting from this circumstance are already manifesting themselves.

18. The above sketch of work remaining to be done would be incomplete without some allusion to the general report, the preparation of which in however simplified and condensed a form would alone occupy some months.

19. With the mass of work thus remaining to be accomplished, it is simply impossible to hope to close the Commission within the next five months that remain of the current official year. I have anxiously considered the subject, and have carefully discussed every item of work with my Assistants, and it is my belief that the shortest time within which the Commission can be satisfactorily wound up will not be earlier than the end of December 1865. The Budget herewith submitted has been accordingly calculated to that date, and I shall now proceed to notice briefly some of its chief provisions.

Deputy Collector.

20. For reasons already given in paragraph 4, I propose to retain in the Commission one Deputy Collector to conclude the Settlement of Trichinopoly up to December 1865, and two more I would nominally retain for the first two months of that official year, lest accidental

circumstances should occur to prevent their closing the Tinnevelly Settlement exactly by the end of March 1865.

Central Office.

Establishment.

21. Considering the quantity of Office work to be done, the necessity of my having the three Assistants as at present, must be obvious.

22. The Central Office Establishment will have to be continued in its present entire strength, inclusive of the addition sanctioned under the dates noted marginally.* The only change that is proposed, and which is very necessary to secure to the Commission the continuance of the services of the present experienced staff of Examiners, is to equalize the pay of all of them. As the labor and responsibility attaching to the duty are the same to each individual, I trust the Government will agree with me in the fairness of this proposition, especially at this concluding stage of the Commission.

* 6th May 1864, No. 781, Revenue Department.
13th July 1864, No. 367, Financial Department.

Vernacular Clerks.

23. As the present staff of Gumastahs will be insufficient to get through the final Abstract Statements within the time, I have proposed in the Budget list, an addition of fifteen Vernacular Clerks for nine months of the official year, as specified in the margin.†

		Rs.
† 1	Clerk'at	35
2	do.	30
4	do.	25
8	do.	20

Examiners.

24. The work of the fair Register Examiners will be, as shewn in paragraph 15, the only one which will continue beyond the close of the Commission in December 1865. If it were possible to do so, I would gladly bring this branch of work also to a close at the same time by entertaining a large number of additional Examiners, but the nature of the work requires peculiar qualifications and some previous training, and it is very difficult to secure a sufficient number of competent persons for this duty. I cannot therefore very confidently promise to expedite the examination work, but as it is important that as much progress should be made as possible, I have proposed in the Budget list a further addition of ten Examiners and Readers with the intention of securing as many young men of education as I can meet with for that duty.

25. The Manager and the whole staff of Examiners with their Readers and four Clerks for contingencies inclusive of the proposed additional number, supposing them to be entertained with the Record-keeper, and a portion of his Establishment, will be left under the charge of an Assistant to complete the work either independently or under the directions of the Board of Revenue, as Government may be pleased to direct. The Government will accordingly observe that this portion of the Establishment has been provided for for the three months beyond December 1865.

26. In conclusion, I trust that the Government will pardon me for this lengthy report, which I would have avoided did I not feel that the Government would, after the rather confident tone of my last report, naturally expect from me a full exposition of the grounds which have necessitated another Budget on account of the Inám Commission.

No. 71.

Miscellaneous.

ORDER THEREON, 9th January 1865, No. 29.

1. With this letter the Acting Inám Commissioner submits his Budget Estimate for 1865-66.

2. The Government were led both by Mr. Taylor and by Mr. Blair, in the papers noted in the margin,* to expect that the work of the Commission would certainly be brought to a close by the 30th April 1865, and they regret to find that this expectation and the assurances to the same effect which they have conveyed to the Supreme Government, will be disappointed.

* From Mr. Taylor, dated 2nd November 1863, No. 63.
From Mr. Blair, „ 19th March 1864, „ 20.

3. In such operations as those of the Inám Commission, it is no doubt difficult to fix precisely the period within which the work can be brought to a close; but this knowledge ought to have deterred the Commissioners from so confidently assuring the Government, necessarily dependent on their calculations, that the work would be completed this year at the latest.

4. From Mr. Blair's letter, above recorded, it appears that the out-door or Settlement work will be all over by the end of the current official year, as anticipated, except in the Trichinopoly District, where it is suspended in several Talooks until the Deputy Director of Revenue Settlement, who conducts the Settlement of the District, is in a position to supply correct areas and rates of assessment. Mr. Puckle does not expect that the required data for the last Talook can be given much before June 1865, and Mr. Blair is of opinion that the Inám Settlement of the District cannot be completed much before August of that year. This delay is evidently unavoidable.

5. The work in the Commissioner's Office, as explained in paragraphs 6 to 18, is very much heavier than the Government were led to believe, and the continuance of the Central Establishment during the greater part of 1865-66, is obviously necessary. Mr. Blair states that the Commission cannot be satisfactorily wound up earlier than the end of 1865, and that the work of the fair Register Examiners will have to be continued beyond that period. He has prepared his Budget accordingly, providing for himself and a portion of the Establishment for nine months, and for the rest for the whole year.

6. Under the circumstances stated by the Officiating Commissioner his Budget for 1865-66 is accepted with the following modification. Mr. Blair proposes to employ one of the Special Assistants for the whole year, to have charge of that portion of the office which is to be retained to complete the work of examining the fair Registers. The Government consider this unnecessary. The Office will, as suggested by Mr. Blair in paragraph 25, be transferred to the Board of Revenue at the end of December 1865, and the Manager (an experienced officer on Rupees 200 per mensem) can under the orders of the Board efficiently supervise the work of the Examiners. The Deputy Collector at Trichinopoly will, it is expected, complete his work by August 1865; but provision is made for him till December following, four months' expenditure may therefore be struck out. After the Commissioner is relieved of his duties a Jamadar on Rupees 15 and six Peons will be unnecessary; the Establishment of the Peons noted in the margin will be sufficient. The provision made for contingencies in the Commissioner's office may safely be reduced from Rupees 3,000 to 1,500, the actual expenditure in 1863-64 was only Rupees 833.

		Rs.
1	Head Peon	9
3	Peons on 7 Rupees each	21

7. The provision under "Additional Establishment," amounting to Rupees 35,400, against Rupees 19,472, the estimate for 1864-65, is very large. The increase is owing mainly to the addition of ten Examiners and Readers and of 15 Vernacular Clerks to the temporary Establishment sanctioned in the Proceedings of Government, dated 6th May 1864, No. 781, as also to the increase of the pay of the Examiners already employed. Under the circumstances stated in paragraphs 15, 16, and 22 to 24 of Mr. Blair's letter, the Government will not reduce this part of his Estimate. They aim to exercise strict supervision over the subordinate servants, so as to ensure the performance of an amount of work commensurate in quality and quantity with the large expenditure proposed.

8. The several items passed in this Order are shewn in the following table:—

	Actual		Estimated	
	For 1862-63.	For 1863-64.	For 1864-65.	For 1865-66.
Commissioner.	29,500	9,656	30,000	22,500
Assistants to Commissioner and Deputy Collectors.	42,984	37,206	34,350	16,200
Fixed Establishment.	57,176	54,517	51,926	35,860
Temporary Establishment... ...	701	4,468	19,472	35,400
Fixed tentage and travelling allowance.	17,153	14,810	13,014	5,000
Extra do.	2,911	2,903	2,000	1,000
Contingencies and other items. ...	5,073	6,351	5,000	6,040
	1,55,498	1,29,911	1,55,762	1,22,000

9. Mr. Blair states in paragraph 12 that generally no lists have yet been furnished to the Collectors, of Inâms which have been decided by his Department to be assessed to the Revenue for various reasons. As he remarks this is an important work and should be completed at the earliest possible period, indeed its postponement for so long a period is very unsatisfactory.

10. The preparation of a compilation, such as that suggested in paragraph 17 of Mr. Blair's letter is desirable. But the Government would wish to see some specimen pages of it before it is sent to Press.

11. The Government consider that the time has now arrived for the removal of the Central Office from Coimbatore to Madras. The Inâm Settlement of Malabar has been placed under the Collector of the District, and, if the Commissioner's presence should at any time be required either at Trichinopoly or Tinnevelly, the only Districts now under settlement, he can proceed thither with a small portion of his Establishment from Madras. The bulk of work now remaining to be disposed of in the Central Office appertains to the Presidency at large and not only to the Southern Districts. And such work as the preparation, transcription and examination of the Registers, &c., can be better performed at Madras, where skilled agency is procurable than at Coimbatore. Moreover, retention of the office at Coimbatore involves extra expense on account of batta.

12. Mr. Blair will accordingly arrange for the early transfer of his office to Madras.

13. Including the expenses likely to be incurred in 1865-66, the total cost of the Commission will amount, in round numbers, to Rupees 10,00,000, while the annual revenue realized through it will amount to about 8* lacs so that the pecuniary gain resulting from the measure is large, independent of the political and social benefit arising from the final settlement of claims long subject to question, the removal of much mistrust and anxiety among a large and influential portion of the community, and the release of five million acres of land from disabilities which necessarily lessened their value and imposed obstacles in the way of their improvement.

* Total amount of quit-rent up to November 1864, exclusive of Village Service Inâms, was Rupees 6,71,000.

14. With these remarks the Government resolve to transmit the Budget to the Accountant General.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Inâm Commissioner.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Accountant General.
„ the Civil Paymaster.
„ the Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Rec. 13th July 64- 44-45
16. Mar 64- 37-39

List of 24 Jan 65.

Fcit 1863 Depth

Proceedings of Gostini
Revenue Depth
No 29

Dated 9th Jany 63
Rec'd 16th Jany 63

No 23

Forwarding the remarks
passed on the Steam
Communications Bud
-get Estimate for
1863/66 -

19th January 1865 No. 42.
Recorded

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