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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 557	Press / Mis.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th December 1867.

No. 47. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 9th December 1867, No. 2933.

Passing orders on the Budget Estimate of the Board of Revenue for 1868-69. (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 9th December 1867, Nos. 166 and 167).

No. 48. ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1867, No. 557.

To be recorded.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th December 1867.

No. 166. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th November 1867, No. 7,307:—

1. The Board resolve to submit to Government their Budget Estimate of Revenues and Receipts for 1868-69, with the following remarks:—

2. The annexed abstract exhibits in one view the estimates for the ensuing year compared with that of the current year, and the actuals of the penultimate year. As the year 1866-67 comprised only eleven months, the actual collections of April 1867 are separately entered in the abstract, in order to admit of fair comparison being made:—

	Actuals.			Estimates.	
	1866-67. From 1st May 1866 to 31st March 1867.	April 1867.	Total.	1867-68.	1868-69.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Land Revenue...	363,55,548	60,36,580	423,92,128	430,00,000	434,00,000
2. Abkarry	42,59,524	4,12,322	46,71,846	56,50,000	53,00,000
3. License Tax ...	.....	.....	.....	5,86,000	6,85,000
4. Sea Customs ...	18,26,750	1,84,095	20,10,845	19,38,500	21,50,000
5. Land Customs...	1,06,744	15,374	1,22,118	1,39,500	1,50,000
6. Salt	104,72,037	9,77,149	114,49,186	124,00,000	131,00,000
7. Stamps	28,32,359	2,22,488	30,54,847	40,50,000	41,25,000
Total...	558,52,962	78,48,008	637,00,970	677,64,000	689,10,000

3. Land Revenue.—The estimates of the Collectors of Districts under this head amount to Rupees 432,76,514. This sum is in excess of the current year's estimate by Rupees 2,76,000. The Collectors of Kistna, South Arcot, and Tinnevelly anticipate larger receipts from intended cultivation. The actual collections of these three districts in 1866-67 (twelve months) ranged as per margin, and the Board consider that the sums estimated by the Collectors are not beyond what are likely to be realized, taking into consideration the unfavorable nature of the season in 1866-67. The Collectors of Godavery and Madura have each reduced their estimates by three lacs, the former with reference to the current Land Revenue demand likely to be realized within the year, and the probable arrear collections, and the latter on the supposition that prices will fall, and re-act on the revenue. The actuals of these districts for twelve months of 1866-67 amounted to thirty-nine and twenty lacs respectively; and the Board are of opinion that the estimates for the ensuing year may safely be raised to thirty-nine and twenty-one lacs respectively. The estimates for the rest of the districts have been adopted with such slight alterations as will convert the amounts into even sums. The total estimate passed by the Board amounts to Rupees 434 lacs. An explanatory memorandum shewing the grounds on which the estimate has been adopted accompanies these Proceedings, as directed by

	Rs.
Kistna	34,35,000
South Arcot	28,86,000
Tinnevelly	30,95,000

Government in paragraph 3 of their Proceedings, dated 27th November 1866, No. 3,244.

4. ABKARRY.—Under this head the district estimates amount to Rs. 49,30,545 against Rupees 56,50,000 for the current year. In the Budget for the current year, the Board's estimates were based on the rents realized by the farms in the several districts at the sales in 1866, but in some districts the contractors have failed, and the farms were re-sold at a reduction. In Cuddapah, Bellary, Kurnool, and Tanjore, the estimates for the coming year shew a large decrease, and the Collectors do not anticipate large receipts on account of this item of revenue. The contracts for the farms of all the districts expire on the 30th June 1868, and the Board think there is fair reason for supposing that they will be re-sold at advanced rates. The circumstances of the year 1866 were quite exceptional, and, in the case of some contractors, permission to continue their farms at the existing rents for 1867-68 was considered sufficient compensation for the loss incurred by them. The Salem District Farm was sold for the year 1867-68, at an advance of Rupees 1,00,050. In 1861 the farms of eighteen districts were sold at an advance of Rupees 4,76,977, being an increase of thirty-two per cent. on the former rents. The Board have accordingly slightly raised the Collectors' estimates, and the total estimate passed by them stands at Rupees 53,00,000, or Rupees 3,50,000 less than the current year's Budget, and Rupees 6,28,154 above the actuals of twelve months in 1866-67.

5. LICENSE TAX.—The License tax was brought into operation from 1st May 1867. The estimates of Collectors under this head for 1868-69 amounted to Rupees 6,35,154. The Collectors of Nellore and Tinnevelly have omitted to estimate any sums under this head; but the Board have entered Rupees 35,000 for the former district, and Rupees 15,000 for the latter, making a total of Rupees 6,85,000 in round numbers. This estimate does not include the stoppages from the pay of Public Servants at the Presidency, as the Accountant General, who was requested to furnish a memorandum of the probable collections on that account, has not yet furnished this information. As the tax has been but recently introduced, no accurate estimate can be framed, but as the Collectors' figures are based on the late Income Tax Returns, the Board have adopted them in the Budget.

6. SEA CUSTOMS.—The estimate for the current year under this head amounted to Rupees 21,00,830, and the estimate is fixed by the Board at Rupees 21,50,000. The alterations made by the Board in the sums estimated by Collectors are immaterial, except in the case of Madras, where Rupees 30,000 has been added to the Collector's estimate in consideration of the depressed condition of trade during 1866-67 and 1867-68.

7. LAND CUSTOMS.—Under this head the Board have fixed the estimate at 1,50,000 Rupees, or about Rupees 10,500 in excess of the current year's estimate, to meet the probable collections from the enhanced duty on grain, under Act No. XVII of 1867.

8. SALT.—From the separate statement of the estimated receipts and sales of Salt in 1868-69, submitted with these Proceedings, under the Orders of Government, dated 31st March 1863, No. 599, it will be seen that the revenue of the Salt Department is estimated at Rupees 131,10,832. The Collectors' estimates have

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 9th December 1867.

been generally adopted with the change of the figures into round numbers. The total amount admitted in the Budget is Rupees 131,00,000, or seven lacs above the estimate of the current year, and Rupees 16½ lacs above the actuals of 1866-67. The largest increase in the estimates occurs in the Districts of Kistna and Madras. The Board consider it proper to remark here that the Salt revenue has been steadily progressing for some years, owing to the facilities for sales at moderate rates in the interior which are afforded by the railway, to the more efficient supervision of the department, and to the development of new works at the several salt pans, and that on this ground the estimate fixed by the Board for the ensuing year is not likely to be beyond the mark.

9. STAMPS.—The Collectors' estimates under this head amounted to Rupees 40,99,101, or to nearly the same amount as those of the current year, but the Board have altered them to round numbers, and have raised the estimate of the Superintendent of Stamps to Rupees 1,55,000, making on the whole a total of Rupees 41,25,000. In the present state of uncertainty in regard to the Stamp Law the Board have preferred not to make any further alteration in the estimates. If Act No. XXVI of 1867 is to continue in force, it will undoubtedly largely increase the receipts under this head of revenue.

	Fees for stamping Weights and Measures.	Sale proceeds of waste, &c., land.
	RS.	RS.
Ganjam	200	5,000
Vizagapatam	50	1,000
Godavery	600	1,000
Kistna	200	500
Nellore	700	...
Cuddapah	...	...
Bellary	400	...
Kurnool	...	1,000
Madras	5,000	...
North Arcot	...	250
South Arcot	2,000	100
Tanjore	800	...
Trichinopoly	100	...
Madura	3,000	500
Tinnevelly	1,000	800
Coimbatore	...	2,000
Salem	100	2,000
South Canara	...	500
Malabar	...	3,00,000
	14,150	3,14,650

10. As usual the sums estimated by Collectors on account of fees for stamping weights and measures, and those anticipated to be collected from the sale of waste lands, and the redemption of quit-rent on Inams, are entered in the margin, for inclusion in the Accountant General's Financial Budget.

No. 167. ORDER THEREON, 9th December 1867, No. 2,933.

General.

1. With their Proceedings above recorded, the Board of Revenue submit the Budget Estimate of Receipts for 1868-69.

2. LAND REVENUE.—The Board estimate under this head for Rupees 434,00,000 against Rupees 430,00,000, the estimate for the current year, and Rupees 423,92,128, the actual collections during the twelve months from 1st May 1866 to 30th April 1867. The Board's estimate, which exceeds the actual collections of the last year by more than 11,00,000, appears at first sight to be high, but the progress of the land revenue in the current year is remarkable, and the Budget Estimate is likely to be exceeded by several lacs. The collections within the first six months of 1866-67, *i. e.*, from April to September 1866, were Rupees 159,08,034, and those during the

same months of the current year amounted to Rupees 177,94,072, the increase being 18,86,038. From a statement procured from the Accountant General's Office, the Government observe, that this increase is spread over sixteen of the nineteen districts, and so can scarcely be the result of exceptional and temporary causes, but is apparently owing to the extension of cultivation brought about in ordinary course, by the revision of assessment, and the favorable character of the season in the several districts. The Government understand that the Accountant General anticipates in his regular estimate for the current year, an increase of 5,55,000 over the Budget Estimate for this item, or Rupees 435,55,000 in all. The estimate for the next year will be fixed at Rupees 435,00,000. The Board will be requested to explain the progress of the revenue during the first half of the then current year when submitting future annual Budgets of receipts.

3. ABKARRY.—The Board's estimate of Rupees 53,00,000 under this head against Rupees 46,71,846, the actual collections in the twelve months of 1866-67, and Rupees 56,50,000, the estimate for the current year, is approved. The decrease below the latter sum is anticipated by reason of the failure of the contractors in some of the districts, and the consequent probable check to competition at the next sale of the farms.

4. LICENSE TAX.—The Board's estimate of Rupees 6,85,000 is raised to the round sum of Rupees 7,00,000. The Accountant General will make this estimate complete by adding the stoppages from the pay of public servants at the Presidency.

5. CUSTOMS.—The Board's estimate of Rupees 23,00,000 under this head against Rupees 21,32,963, the actual collections in the twelve months of 1866-67, and the estimate of Rupees 20,78,000 for the current year, may be raised. The actual collections during the first six months of the current year were Rupees 12,03,385 against Rupees 10,38,910, realized in the corresponding period of last year, and the Trade Returns for the later months shew much improvement. The estimate for the next year will, therefore, be fixed at Rupees 24,00,000.

	RS.
Sea Customs	21,50,000
Land do.	1,50,000
Total ...	23,00,000

	RS.
Sea Customs	22,50,000
Land do.	1,50,000
Total ...	24,00,000

6. SALT.—The Board's estimate under this head amounts to Rupees 131,00,000 against Rupees 114,49,186, the actual collections in twelve months of 1866-67, and Rupees 124,00,000, the estimate for the current year, and, as in the case of Land Revenue, appears at first sight high. The proper period of 1866-67 to be taken for comparison with the current or next year is from April 1866 to March 1867, instead of from March 1866 to April 1867, as the Board have done. The actual collections during the former period were Rupees 112,76,916, and of this the sum realized in the first six months was Rs. 46,21,315 against Rupees 49,64,398, in the corresponding period of the current year. The Government feel some doubt whether more than Rupees 120,00,000 will be collected this year out of the estimate of Rupees 124,00,000. But considering the increase of nearly eleven and a half lacs in 1866-67 over the revenue of 1865-66, notwithstanding the increase of price from Rupees 1-8-0 to Rupees 1-11-0 the maund in March 1866, the estimated addition of eleven lacs for next year to the probable collections of the current year is perhaps not over-sanguine, and is, it is observed, in accordance with the anticipations of the local officers.

		RS.
April 1866...		8,04,879
May 1866 to March 1867... ...		104,72,037
Total ...		112,76,916
1866-67		112,76,916
1865-66		101,27,596
Increase ...		11,49,320

The completion of the Vedarniem Canal, and the Errode Junction, ought to have a marked effect on the salt sales, and under all the circumstances of the case the Board's estimate is accepted. This rapid development of Salt revenue is the result, as has been frequently remarked, of the extension of the Railways, as well as of the new arrangements introduced into the Salt Department, and the constant attention given to its administration.

7. STAMPS.—The Board's estimate under this head is only Rupees 41,25,000, against Rupees 40,50,000, the estimate for the current year, and Rupees 30,54,847, the actual collections of twelve months in 1866-67. The Board observe that if Act XXVI of 1867 is to continue in force, it will undoubtedly largely increase the receipts under this head, but that in the present state of uncertainty in regard to the Stamp Law, they have thought it proper not to raise the estimate further. The Government, however, cannot suppose that the revision of the Stamp Act will be carried so far as almost to neutralize the larger revenue which is expected from this source. The collections during the first six months of the current year were Rupees 17,10,555 against Rupees 15,48,863, realized during the same period last year, thus shewing an increase of Rupees 1,61,692. The Courts, however, were adjourned during this first half-year, and the increase in the second half must be still larger. The Government are therefore of opinion that the estimate of Stamp Revenue may be safely fixed at Rupees 43,00,000.

8. The total estimated revenue under the above heads amounts to Rupees 693,00,000, as shewn in the following table :—

Items.	Actual of 1866-67 for 12 months.	Estimate for 1867-68.	Estimate for 1868-69.
	RS.	RS.	RS.
Land Revenue	423,92,128	430,00,000	435,00,000
Abkarry	46,71,846	56,50,000	53,00,000
License tax	.....	5,86,000	7,00,000
Customs	21,32,963	20,78,000	24,00,000
Salt	114,49,186	124,00,000	131,00,000
Stamps	30,54,847	40,50,000	43,00,000
Total ...	637,00,970	677,64,000	693,00,000

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9th December 1867.

	Rs.
Stamping Weights and Measures ...	14,150
Sale proceeds of waste and escheated lands and money paid in redemption of quit-rent on Inam	3,14,650

9. The Government accept the Board's estimates on account of the items noted in the margin.

10. The Budget, as revised, will be transmitted to the Accountant General, with a copy of the Board's Proceedings above recorded.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Accountant General, with Budget Estimate.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

4 Copies sent

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No 2933

9/9
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No 599

Passing orders on
the Budget Estimate
of the Board of Revenue
for 1858/59.
16 Dec 1857 No 587
Recorded.

47. 48.