Financial (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 623.

DATED 26th August 1895

INDEXED. 16/17

[Despatch Abstract.]

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT AND FINAL ACCOUNTS.-

Directing the discontinuance of the submission of the consolidated abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August; requesting the Accountant-General to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of Forest Surveys in the final accounts of August; and expecting heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	3278		96				

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 26th August 1895, No. 623.

AUGUST.

Consolidated Abstract and Final Accounts.

Directing the discontinuance of the submission of the consolidated abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August; requesting the Accountant-General to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of *Forest Surveys*, in the final accounts of August; and directing heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 19th March 1895, Nos. 256, 257, Financial.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on the Provincial accounts for 1893-94, and forwarding, with remarks, copy of the Proceedings to the Government of India.

G.O., dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial.

Read—the following letter from F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 5th June 1895, No. 87-I.B.E :—

I have the honour to observe that I gather from paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 256, Financial, dated the 19th March 1895, that the Government are desirous that the details given in the consolidated abstract should more closely correspond to those given in the budget. I have been through both and find that there are many details in the budget that are not to be found in the other. These cases fall naturally into three classes : Those in which it is more or less clear that details should be given ; secondly, doubtful cases ; and, thirdly, those in which so great detail is undesirable. I will commence upon the first-class of cases. My references are to the budget, but will not always be completely intelligible, unless reference is also made to the consolidated abstract.

I-A. Revenue, page 26. *Detailed Accounts D.E.F.*—I will introduce the details under local into the consolidated abstract.

Page 27.—*Detailed Account XXXII-A., Local Fund Act of* 1884.—I will introduce all the details.

Expenditure—Land Revenue, page 33, *Detailed Account No.* 3-*A.*—I propose to give the following details under establishments :—

Taluk Sheristadars and Head Accountants.
Clerks and servants.
Village establishments.

Stamps, page 45, *Detailed Account No.* 6-*B.*—I will give—

Presidency Town—
- Establishments.
- Discount on sale.
- Contingencies.

District charges—
- Discount.
- Contingencies.

Assessed taxes, page 49, *Detailed Account No.* 10-*A.*—I will give—

Madras—
- Salaries.
- Establishments.
- Allowances.
- Contingencies.

District charges—
- Salaries.
- Establishments.
- Allowances.
- Contingencies.

General Administration, page 68, *Detailed Account No.* 18-*K.*—I will give—

Establishments—
Collectors'.
District Boards'.
Taluk Boards'.
Panchayat offices.
Allowances.
Supplies and Services.
Contingencies.

Education, page 92, *Detailed Account No.* 22-*B.*—*Local.*—I will give the heads as in the budget.

Pages 96 *and* 97.—I will separate "Madras-i-Azam" and "other secondary schools."

Page 99, *Detailed Account No.* 22-*E.*—I will under "Local" give more details; at present the whole expenditure is lumped together in the consolidated abstract.

Page 104.—*Detailed Account No.* 22-*G.*—Similarly I will give more details under "Local."

Pages 110 *and* 112, *Medical—Detailed Account No.* 24-*B.*—I will separate the Presidency Hospitals.

Pages 115 *and* 118, *Detailed Accounts No.* 24-*B. and C.*—I will give further details under "Local."

Page 122, *Detailed Account No.* 25-*C.*—I will separate the Resident's charges from the minor ones.

Pages 125 *and* 126, *Scientific and other Minor Departments. Detailed Account No.* 26-*C and D.*—I will give further details under museum and observatories.

Page 132, *Territorial and Political Pensions.*—I will give the details by families as in detailed account *No.* 27-*A.*

Page 142, *Detailed Account No.* 32-*A., Miscellaneous.*—The donations will be distinguished.

Page 144, *Detailed Account No.* 32-*C.*—More details will be given under "Local".

Page 146, *Civil Works—Detailed Account No.* 45-*A.*—Agency and municipal works will be distinguished.

Page 147, *Detailed Account No.* 45-*B.*—More details will be given under "Local."

I now come to the second or doubtful class. My reasons for placing cases in this category are given against each case. Sometimes it is because the details seem out of proportion to their pecuniary or other importance; sometimes because the details are readily available from departmental compilations (and can be checked in their totals by my books); and sometimes because the labour imposed upon my office may be considered to be out of proportion to the importance of the details. In each of these cases and those of the third-class I request that I may be favoured with the views of Government.

II. Land Revenue, page 6, *Detailed Account No.* 1-*A.*—(*a*) I understand that formerly these details were both in the abstract and budget, but were struck out as the Board did not require them. They were reintroduced into the budget when it was amplified. It is now for decision whether the details should be cut out of the budget or given in the abstract.

(*b*) *Excise, page* 9, *Detailed Account No. V-A.*—The details under "Country spirits" are complicated, and if they are introduced into my books, will be the cause of very numerous transfer entries to bring the details upon my books into exact accord with departmental figures. On the other hand the amount involved is very large.

(*c*) *Registration, page* 14, *Detailed Account No. X-A.*—Here the detail in the budget seems very great, but the amount is considerable. Is any, and if so, what middle course practicable?

(*d*) *Law and Justice, page* 19, *Detailed Account No. XVI-B.*—The amount involved is somewhat considerable, but it may be troublesome to give the details correctly. Possibly Government does not particularly require them.

(*e*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 22, *Detailed Account No. XXI-B.*—The details given are not in the abstract. Perhaps the two principal heads "sale of febrifuge" and "sale of quinine" might be separately shown.

(*f*) *Expenditure, Land Revenue, page* 40, *Detailed Account No.* 3-*F.*—The amount seems very large, but I do not know whether there would be any difficulty in distinguishing the various kinds of village establishments. The other items are insignificant.

III. I now come to the class where further detail seems clearly undesirable.

(*a*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 23, *Detailed Account No. XXI-E.*—It can hardly be worthwhile to separate each kind of examination in our accounts.

(*b*) *XXV, Miscellaneous, page* 25—*Detailed Account No. XXV-B.*—This detail can if necessary be furnished at any time and is not of importance.

(*c*) *General Administration, page* 63—*Detailed Account No.* 18-*A.*—*Translators' Department.*—I see no use in posting separately the expenditure according to the various translators.

(*d*) *Medical, page* 113.—*Detailed Account No.* 24-*B.*—The expenditure on dispensaries is severally very small: the separation of it would be very troublesome.

(*e*) *Political, page* 121—*Detailed Account No.* 25-*A.*—There appears to be no sufficient reason for showing the details in the budget.

(*f*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 126—*Detailed Account No.* 26-*E.*—The separation in the accounts seems quite unnecessary.

The details mentioned as desirable in the first-class will throw a considerable amount of extra work upon my office, and I may find it necessary (particularly if further details are required) to ask for an addition to my establishment for the purpose.

If Government desire any of the changes to be introduced into the accounts of 1894–95, I request that I may receive an early intimation of such a wish pending a fuller reply.

Order—dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the Accountant-General should exercise his own discretion in regard to the details to be inserted in the consolidated abstracts. Every endeavour should, however, be made to bring the details in the Accountant-General's books into exact accord with departmental figures under all heads. At the same time the Government has no desire to increase the work in the Accountant-General's office to such an extent as to necessitate an addition to his establishment.

2. Diversities in the classification of details tend to confusion, chiefly in the accounts of officers of special departments, *e.g.*, the Government Epigraphist, Superintendent, Archæological Survey, &c. In this connection attention is drawn to the remarks in paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 19th March 1895, No. 257 (page 9).

3. The details under I, *Land Revenue* should be reclassified in the consolidated abstracts.

4. No further details under *Local Funds* were contemplated.

5. The consolidated abstract for March as now submitted does not contain the final figures of the year. The Accountant-General will be requested to report whether he can make arrangements for furnishing an abstract with this information in lieu of the present March abstract and to state the earliest date on which he can submit the same to Government. The September abstract should be continued.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following papers:—

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 7th August 1895, No. 143—I.B.E.

With reference to G.O., dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial, I have the honour to state that I have as yet received no requests for figures from special departments in accordance with the orders given in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 256, but to minimize the delay I am furnishing such departments with the figures this month.

2. I request that I may be informed as to the principles upon which Government desire the details under land revenue to be re-classified. If they have no present views upon the subject, I will arrange the changes in communication with the Board.

3. With reference to the Government's request for final figures, I would respectfully point out that it is absolutely impossible to furnish final figures before the accounts are finally closed in December, but I can and will render the statement of Provincial accounts more intelligible by incorporating (instead of showing separately) the corrective entries which have actually been made up to date of despatch. I have also hopes that the memorandum which shows further possible alterations will in future years be smaller.

From R. NATHAN, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts and Finance—Estimates and Accounts), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 9th August 1895, No. 3833-A.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 257, dated 19th March 1895, with which you forwarded a copy of the Proceedings of the Government of Madras of the same date, No. 256, reviewing the Provincial accounts of the year 1893–94.

2. In your second paragraph you invite the special attention of the Government of India to the inconvenience arising from the numerous adjustments permitted after the closure of the final accounts, and request that the wishes of the Madras Government in regard to the restriction of adjustments and transfer entries within the narrowest possible limit may be acceded to.

3. In reply I am to say that the Governor-General in Council desires to consult as far as possible the convenience of the Madras Government in this matter. I am to observe that it is essential that the final accounts of the Government of India, namely, the Finance and Revenue accounts, should be as correct and complete as it is practicable to make them, and therefore, that it is not possible to entertain a proposal to abstain from making further entries after the "March final" accounts are made up in August, and before the central accounts have been closed, with a view to render the local accounts prepared in August really final. It is, however, for consideration whether the local accounts cannot be rendered more complete before the date of their closing, in order that the number of subsequent entries may be reduced.

These entries arise chiefly in the following ways:—

(*a*) in settlement of outstandings in exchange accounts with other account officers, a process part of which arises upon, and therefore must follow, the "March final" account;

(*b*) in rectification of errors of classification, etc., discovered in the Accountant-General's Office when writing the Appropriation Report;

(*c*) in rectification of errors discovered in the Comptroller-General's office; and

(*d*) in annual adjustments, *e.g.*, of survey expenditure and others, which cannot be made up until the "March final" account is closed.

4. Adjustments and corrections of this nature are all essential for the purpose of the Finance and Revenue accounts of the Government of India and could not be omitted without seriously affecting their completeness and accuracy. The Government of India however believe that if more careful attention were given to the matter, some, at least, of these entries could be made before the local accounts are closed.

It is also considered that the Government of Madras are perhaps put to some unnecessary inconvenience by reason of the practice, which it is understood prevails in the Madras Accounts Office, in accordance with which the Accountant-General, after rendering his final accounts to the local Government, submits a memorandum showing the probable further adjustments, which again is followed by batches of entries which are not progressively consolidated. The result is that the Local Government are themselves obliged to make up the corrected account on the receipt of each batch of entries.

5. The Governor-General in Council accordingly proposes to instruct the Comptroller-General to issue stringent orders to all Account Offices, that any adjustments and corrections that can possibly be made before the "March final" accounts are closed, should be included in those accounts; and further that they should incorporate in a progressive account the corrections due to the Journal Entries which they subsequently communicate to the local Governments.

His Excellency in Council trusts that these orders will materially lessen the difficulties at present experienced by the Government of Madras.

6. In your third paragraph you state that the Consolidated Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements (Article 1065 of the Civil Account Code) is the only source of information regarding actuals available to the Madras Government, and that it would be a great convenience if full details were incorporated in it as in the Civil Estimates. With reference to this proposal, I am to say that the Government of India doubt whether it is necessary, that the compilation of the monthly accounts rendered to the local Government should be in the same detail as in the Civil Estimates, and fear that the proposed elaboration would throw considerable additional work on the Account Office. If, however, the Government of Madras consider further details necessary, the Accountant-General will be instructed to comply with their wishes as far as may be possible. It is understood that the question is in course of settlement in direct communication between the Accountant-General and the Madras Government.

7. You request in the fourth paragraph of your letter that orders may be issued in view to the following transactions being embodied in the copies of the final accounts submitted to the Madras Government:—

(i) Receipts and charges of the Public Works and Railway Departments.

(ii) Adjustments on account of Forest surveys and interest on Provincial Loans and Advances.

8. With regard to the first of these proposals, I am to point out that the details of the Public Works transactions form no part of, and cannot under the existing process of accounting be incorporated in, the Accountant-General's accounts and should be obtained from the Examiners of Accounts in the Public Works Department who, it should be remarked, do not render their accounts to the Civil Accountant-General. It would be dangerous to authorize the Accountant-General to make up, as an account, a statement not compiled by the regular process of accounting.

9. With reference to the second proposal regarding adjustments on account of Forest surveys and Provincial Loans and Advances, I am to say that the Government of India consider that the Accountant-General should be able to make most of the annual adjustments (such, for instance, as those for the interest on the Provincial Advance and Loan Account and for the supply of Stamps and Stationery) by the 10th August, the date for closing the final accounts. The adjustment of the survey expenditure cannot, however, be made by that date, as the distribution among the several Provinces and the necessary adjustments must be deferred until the accounts of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, for March final have been made up, and the total survey charges to be brought on his books ascertained.

Copy forwarded to the Comptroller-General for information and such further action as may be necessary.

Copy also forwarded to the Accountant-General, Madras, for information and guidance.

ORDER—dated 26th August 1895, No. 623, Financial.

The Government did not intend that absolutely no corrective entries should be made after the submission of the "final accounts" of the 10th August, but desired that the accounts should be scrutinised by heads of departments and all errors rectified, as far as possible, before that date. The check by heads of departments of the "final accounts" after August will not answer the purpose. Heads of departments should work on the preliminary accounts and endeavour to carry out all corrections before the 1st August. The Accountant-General will in future bring to the notice of Government any cases in which adjustments, which could have been avoided by the observance of these orders have been necessitated, as well as instances in which adjustments brought to book subsequent to March could, with due care on the part of heads of departments, have been carried out before that date.

2. The details under I, *Land Revenue*, should be re-classified in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

3. Intermediate statements of corrective entries need not be furnished to Government between August and December. It will suffice if the *final accounts* submitted in December, under Imperial, Provincial and Local, contain the latest information available.

4. The consolidated abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August only, will not be of any use to Government, as it will not embody the latest figures of the year. Its submission to Government may therefore be discontinued. It will suffice if the Accountant-General takes steps to incorporate the latest figures in the column of actuals in the volume of the civil estimates submitted on the 15th January.

5. No details are required in the *monthly* accounts, as is apparently supposed by the Government of India in paragraph 6 of its letter read above.

6. The transactions of the Public Works Department are now reported to Government in full detail about the same time that the monthly accounts are received from the Accountant-General.

7. The Accountant-General will be requested to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of *Forest Surveys*, in the final accounts of August, and the Government expects heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
" the Public Works Department.
" all Heads of Departments under Chief Secretary.
" the Accountant-General.

Ed J. P. Oliver.

544 : 24-7-95
2587 : 19-3-95

G.O. ENT No. 1935

...il (189) DEPARTMENT.

THE ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL,

MADRAS,

To

TH... Ch... of Secy to Govt
Financial Dept

No. IBC / 143

Dated 8
Received 9th August 95
Regd 10th

No. CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE 23 AUG 95

Subject...

Stating that, to prevent delay, he is furnishing the Special departments with figures in accordance with para 5 of Govt Order no 256. Requesting to be informed as to the principles upon which the details under Land Rev are to be reclassified and pointing out the impossibility to furnish final figures before the accts are finally closed —

Cor.—4,000—18-5-95.

G.O. 2/2

CURRENT NO. 1935

Read-about the 5th proposal-

DEPARTMENT.

FORT ST. GEORGE,

Accountant-General's Office,

7 August 1895.

No. J.B.E. 143.

From F. C. Harrison Esquire,

Offg. ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To THE Chief Secretary to Government,

Financial Department.

SIR,

With reference to Government Order Financial No. 544, dated the 24th of July 1895, I have the honour to state that I have as yet received no requests for figures from special departments in accordance with the orders given in paragraph 5 of Government Order No. 256, but to minimize the delay I am furnishing such departments with the figures this month

2 I request that I may be informed as to the principles upon which Government desires

411

desires the details under Land Revenue to be reclassified. If they have no present views upon the subject, I will arrange the changes in communication with the Board.

3 With reference to the Government's request for final figures, I would respectfully point out that it is absolutely impossible to furnish final figures before the accounts are finally closed in December, but I can and will render the statement of Provincial Accounts more intelligible by incorporating (instead of showing separately) the corrective entries which have actually been made upto date of despatch. I have also hopes that the memorandum which shows further possible alterations will in future years be smaller.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant,

H. Harrison
Offg: Accountant General

G.O. 257 19·3·95 86.
256
513 : 11-7-95
456 : 18-1-95
1121 : 18-12-84
371 : 30-3-92
504/5 : 27-6-84
1391 : 8-8-78 &c.
1287 : 18-4-77
5414 : 24-7-95.

CURRENT No. 1997

Finance Chapter

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE.
Estimates and Accounts.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL.
THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, MADRAS.

No. 3833-A

Dated Simla, the 9th August 1895.
Rcd. 15/8/95
Encs: 7 Sets.

CHIEF SECRETARY'S OFFICE
15 AUG 95
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Orders on certain proposals of the Government of Madras regarding the submission by the Account Office of the monthly and final accounts in a complete form.

G.O. 524 & 24-7-95 taken at foot
1935 - Sent down to Madras on the 10/8/95

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 528 C. F.—9·8·95.—50.

Supply of figures between 1/6 & 4/1

CURRENT No. 1997

No. 3833-A.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

FINANCE AND COMMERCE DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE.
Estimates and Accounts.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Simla, the 9th August 1895.

SIR,

I AM directed to refer to your letter No. 257, dated 19th March 1895, with which you forwarded a copy of the proceedings of the Government of Madras of the same date, No. 256, reviewing the Provincial accounts of the year 1893-94.

2. In your second paragraph you invite the special attention of the Government of India to the inconvenience arising from the numerous adjustments permitted after the closure of the final accounts, and request that the wishes of the Madras Government in regard to the restriction of adjustments and transfer entries within the narrowest possible limit may be acceded to.

3. In reply I am to say that the Governor General in Council desires to consult as far as possible the convenience of the Madras Government in this matter. I am to observe that it is essential that the final accounts of the Government of India, namely the Finance and Revenue Accounts already alluded to, should be as correct and complete as it is practicable to make them, and therefore, that it is not possible to entertain a proposal to abstain from making further entries after the "March final" accounts are made up in August, and before the central accounts have been closed, with a view to render the local accounts prepared in August really final. It is, however, for consideration whether the local accounts cannot be rendered more complete before the date of their closing, in order that the number of subsequent entries may be reduced.

These entries arise chiefly in the following ways:—

(*a*) in settlement of outstandings in exchange accounts with other account officers, a process part of which arises upon, and therefore must follow, the "March final" account;

(*b*) in rectification of errors of classification, etc., discovered in the Accountant General's Office when writing the Appropriation Report;

(*c*) in rectification of errors discovered in the Comptroller General's Office; and

(*d*) in annual adjustments, *e.g.*, of survey expenditure and others, which cannot be made up until the "March final" account is closed.

4. Adjustments and corrections of this nature are all essential for the purpose of the Finance and Revenue Accounts of the Government of India and could not be omitted without seriously affecting their completeness and accuracy. The Government of India however believe that if more careful attention were given to the matter, some, at least, of these entries could be made before the local accounts are closed. It is also considered that the Government of Madras are perhaps put to some unnecessary inconvenience by reason of the practice, which it is understood prevails in the Madras Accounts Office, in accordance with which the Accountant General, after rendering his final accounts to the Local Government, submits a memorandum showing the probable further adjustments, which again is followed by batches of entries which are not progressively consolidated. The result is that the Local Government are themselves obliged to make up the corrected account on the receipt of each batch of entries.

5. The Governor General in Council accordingly proposes to instruct the Comptroller General to issue stringent orders to all Account Offices, that any

adjustments and corrections that can possibly be made before the "March final" accounts are closed, should be included in those accounts; and further that they should incorporate in a progressive account the corrections due to the Journal Entries which they subsequently communicate to the Local Governments.

His Excellency in Council trusts that these orders will materially lessen the difficulties at present experienced by the Government of Madras.

6. In your third paragraph you state that the Consolidated Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements (Article 1065 of the Civil Account Code) is the only source of information regarding actuals available to the Madras Government, and that it would be a great convenience if full details were incorporated in it as in the Civil Estimates. With reference to this proposal, I am to say that the Government of India doubt whether it is necessary, that the compilation of the monthly accounts rendered to the Local Government should be in the same detail as in the Civil Estimates, and fear that the proposed elaboration would throw considerable additional work on the Account Office. If, however, the Government of Madras consider further details necessary, the Accountant General will be instructed to comply with their wishes as far as may be possible. It is understood that the question is in course of settlement in direct communication between the Accountant General and the Madras Government.

7. You request in the fourth paragraph of your letter that orders may be issued in view to the following transactions being embodied in the copies of the final accounts submitted to the Madras Government:—

(i) Receipts and charges of the Public Works and Railway Departments.

(ii) Adjustments on account of Forest surveys and interest on Provincial Loans and Advances.

8. With regard to the first of these proposals, I am to point out that the details of the Public Works transactions form no part of, and cannot under the existing process of accounting be incorporated in, the Accountant General's accounts and should be obtained from the Examiners of Accounts in the Public Works Department who, it should be remarked do not render their accounts to the Civil Accountant General. It would be dangerous to authorize the Accountant General to make up, as an account, a statement not compiled by the regular process of accounting.

9. With reference to the second proposal regarding adjustments on account of Forest Surveys and Provincial Loans and Advances, I am to say that the Government of India consider that the Accountant General should be able to make most of the annual adjustments (such, for instance, as those for the interest on the Provincial Advance and Loan Account and for the supply of Stamps and Stationery) by the 10th August, the date for closing the final accounts. The adjustment of the survey expenditure cannot however be made by that date, as the distribution among the several Provinces and the necesssary adjustments must be deferred until the accounts of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, for March final have been made up, and the total survey charges to be brought on his books ascertained.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Chatham

Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Copy forwarded to the Comptroller General for information and such further action as may be necessary.

Copy also forwarded to the Accountant-General, Madras, for information and guidance.

CURRENT No 2045

No. 3923 a

Government of India.

Finance and Commerce Department.

Simla, the 15th August 1895.

Erratum.

CHIEF SECRETARY 21. AUG. 1895 GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

In line 4, paragraph 3 of letter in this Department, No. 3833-A., dated the 9th August 1895, cancel the words "already alluded to".

Chatham

Offg. Under Secy to the Govt. of India

To

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of Madras,

Financial Department.

~~Ext~~ CURRENT No. 2045

Financial Deptt.

From

The Government of India,

Fin. & Com. Deptt.

No. A / 3923

Dated 15
Read 21st } Aug: /95.
Regd }

G.O. 623 dy 26-8-95.

abstract for back

Subject.

Cancelling the words "already alluded to" in line 4 para: 3 of letter, No 3833-A, dy the 9th aug: /95.

Ref 7pm 2/8 C.No 1997 15/8 Sent down to B.C. 15/8. R 21/8

Financial Department.

9B

Read again:-

G.O. dated 19th March 1895, No. 356-(P) 1/7

,, ,, 24th July 1895, No. 544-(A)

Read also C. Nos. 1935 & 1997--------(A)

ORDER 26 August 1895, No. 623.

The Govt. did not intend that absolutely no corrective entries should be made after the submission of the "final accounts" of the 10th August, but desired that the accounts should be scrutinised by heads of departments and all errors rectified, as far as possible, before that date. The check by heads of departments of the "final accounts" after August will not answer the purpose. Heads of departments should work on the Preliminary accounts and endeavour to carry out all corrections before the 1st August. The Accountant-General will in future bring to the notice of Govt. any cases in which adjustments which could have been avoided by the observance of these orders have been necessitated as well as instances in which adjustments brought to book subsequent to March could

With

Vide Paras 2 to 4 of C. No. 1997
& para 3. of C. No. 1935

HD 26/8/95

with due care on the part of heads of departments, have been carried out before that date.

Para 2 of C. No. 1935

2. The details under I Land Revenue should be re-classified in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

Para 5 of C. No. 1997

3. Intermediate statements of corrective entries need not be furnished to Govt. between August and December. It will suffice if the final accounts submitted in December, under Imperial, Provincial and Local, contain the latest information available.

e.g. G.O. 1124 Fml 18/12/94

4. The Consolidated Abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August only, will not be of any use to Govt, as it will not embody the latest figures of the year. Its submission to Govt. may therefore be discontinued. It will suffice if the Accountant-General takes steps to incorporate the latest figures in the column of actuals in the volume of the Civil estimates submitted on the 15th January.

5. No details are required in the monthly accounts, as is apparently supposed by the Govt. of India in para. 6 of its letter read above.

Paras 7 to 9 of C No. 1997

6. The transactions of the Public Works department are now reported

reported to Govt. in full detail about the same time that the monthly accounts are received from the Accountant-General.

Para 9 of C. No. 1997

7. The Accountant-General will be requested to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of Forest Surveys, in the final accounts of August, and the Govt. expects heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

CS. 20.8.95 — 22/8/95

TO

The Revenue Dept. 31
,, Public Works Dept. 41
All heads of depts. under C.S. 14/9/95
The Accountant-General. 6

CONSOLIDATED ABSTRACT and FINAL

ACCOUNTS.

H.M.
P.S.

26TH AUGUST 1895, No. 623, FINANCIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following papers :—

G.O., dated 19th March 1895, Nos. 256, 257, Financial.

ABSTRACT.—Passing orders on the Provincial accounts for 1893–94, and forwarding, with remarks, copy of the Proceedings to the Government of India.

G.O., dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial.

Read—the following letter from F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 5th June 1895, No. 87-I.B.E :—

I have the honour to observe that I gather from paragraph 6 of G.O., No. 256, Financial, dated the 19th March 1895, that the Government are desirous that the details given in the consolidated abstract should more closely correspond to those given in the budget. I have been through both and find that there are many details in the budget that are not to be found in the other. These cases fall naturally into three classes : Those in which it is more or less clear that details should be given; secondly, doubtful cases; and, thirdly, those in which so great detail is undesirable. I will commence upon the first-class of cases. My references are to the budget, but will not always be completely intelligible, unless reference is also made to the consolidated abstract.

I-A. Revenue, page 26. *Detailed Accounts D.E.F.*—I will introduce the details under local into the consolidated abstract.

Page 27.—*Detailed Account XXXII-A., Local Fund Act of* 1884.—I will introduce all the details.

Expenditure—Land Revenue, page 33, *Detailed Account No.* 3-*A.*—I propose to give the following details under establishments :—

Taluk Sheristadars and Head Accountants.
Clerks and servants.
Village establishments.

Stamps, page 45, *Detailed Account No.* 6-*B.*—I will give—

Presidency Town—
  Establishments.
  Discount on sale.
  Contingencies.
District charges—
  Discount.
  Contingencies.

Assessed taxes, page 49, *Detailed Account No.* 10-*A.*—I will give—

Madras—
  Salaries.
  Establishments.
  Allowances.
  Contingencies.
District charges—
  Salaries.
  Establishments.
  Allowances.
  Contingencies.

General Administration, page 68, *Detailed Account No.* 18-*K.*—I will give—

Establishments—
Collectors'.
District Boards'.
Taluk Boards'.
Panchayat offices.
Allowances.
Supplies and Services.
Contingencies.

Education, page 92, *Detailed Account No.* 22-*B.*—*Local.*—I will give the heads as in the budget.

Pages 96 *and* 97.—I will separate "Madras-i-Azam" and "other secondary schools."

Page 99, *Detailed Account No.* 22-*E.*—I will under "Local" give more details; at present the whole expenditure is lumped together in the consolidated abstract.

Page 104.—*Detailed Account No.* 22-*G.*—Similarly I will give more details under "Local."

Pages 110 *and* 112, *Medical—Detailed Account No.* 24-*B.*—I will separate the Presidency Hospitals.

Pages 115 *and* 118, *Detailed Accounts No.* 24-*B. and C.*—I will give further details under "Local."

Page 122, *Detailed Account No.* 25-*C.*—I will separate the Resident's charges from the minor ones.

Pages 125 *and* 126, *Scientific and other Minor Departments. Detailed Account No.* 26-*C and D.*—I will give further details under museum and observatories.

Page 132, *Territorial and Political Pensions.*—I will give the details by families as in detailed account *No.* 27-*A.*

Page 142, *Detailed Account No.* 32-*A., Miscellaneous.*—The donations will be distinguished.

Page 144, *Detailed Account No.* 32-*C.*—More details will be given under "Local".

Page 146, *Civil Works—Detailed Account No.* 45-*A.*—Agency and municipal works will be distinguished.

Page 147, *Detailed Account No.* 45-*B.*—More details will be given under "Local."

I now come to the second or doubtful class. My reasons for placing cases in this category are given against each case. Sometimes it is because the details seem out of proportion to their pecuniary or other importance; sometimes because the details are readily available from departmental compilations (and can be checked in their totals by my books); and sometimes because the labour imposed upon my office may be considered to be out of proportion to the importance of the details. In each of these cases and those of the third-class I request that I may be favoured with the views of Government.

II. Land Revenue, page 6, *Detailed Account No.* 1-*A.*—(*a*) I understand that formerly these details were both in the abstract and budget, but were struck out as the Board did not require them. They were reintroduced into the budget when it was amplified. It is now for decision whether the details should be cut out of the budget or given in the abstract.

(*b*) *Excise, page* 9, *Detailed Account No. V-A.*—The details under "Country spirits" are complicated, and if they are introduced into my books, will be the cause of very numerous transfer entries to bring the details upon my books into exact accord with departmental figures. On the other hand the amount involved is very large.

(*c*) *Registration, page* 14, *Detailed Account No. X-A.*—Here the detail in the budget seems very great, but the amount is considerable. Is any, and if so, what middle course practicable?

(*d*) *Law and Justice, page* 19, *Detailed Account No. XVI-B.*—The amount involved is somewhat considerable, but it may be troublesome to give the details correctly. Possibly Government does not particularly require them.

(*e*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 22, *Detailed Account No. XXI-B.*—The details given are not in the abstract. Perhaps the two principal heads "sale of febrifuge" and "sale of quinine" might be separately shown.

(*f*) *Expenditure, Land Revenue, page* 40, *Detailed Account No.* 3-*F.*—The amount seems very large, but I do not know whether there would be any difficulty in distinguishing the various kinds of village establishments. The other items are insignificant.

III. I now come to the class where further detail seems clearly undesirable.

(*a*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 23, *Detailed Account No. XXI-E.*—It can hardly be worthwhile to separate each kind of examination in our accounts.

(*b*) *XXV, Miscellaneous, page* 25—*Detailed Account No. XXV-B.*—This detail can if necessary be furnished at any time and is not of importance.

(*c*) *General Administration, page* 63—*Detailed Account No.* 18-*A.*—*Translators' Department.*—I see no use in posting separately the expenditure according to the various translators.

(*d*) *Medical, page* 113.—*Detailed Account No.* 24-*B.*—The expenditure on dispensaries is severally very small: the separation of it would be very troublesome.

(*e*) *Political, page* 121—*Detailed Account No.* 25-*A.*—There appears to be no sufficient reason for showing the details in the budget.

(*f*) *Scientific and other Minor Departments, page* 126—*Detailed Account No.* 26-*E.*—The separation in the accounts seems quite unnecessary.

The details mentioned as desirable in the first-class will throw a considerable amount of extra work upon my office, and I may find it necessary (particularly if further details are required) to ask for an addition to my establishment for the purpose.

If Government desire any of the changes to be introduced into the accounts of 1894-95, I request that I may receive an early intimation of such a wish pending a fuller reply.

Order—dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that the Accountant-General should exercise his own discretion in regard to the details to be inserted in the consolidated abstracts. Every endeavour should, however, be made to bring the details in the Accountant-General's books into exact accord with departmental figures under all heads. At the same time the Government has no desire to increase the work in the Accountant-General's office to such an extent as to necessitate an addition to his establishment.

2. Diversities in the classification of details tend to confusion, chiefly in the accounts of officers of special departments, *e.g.*, the Government Epigraphist, Superintendent, Archæological Survey, &c. In this connection attention is drawn to the remarks in paragraph 4 of G.O., dated 19th March 1895, No. 257 (page 9).

3. The details under I, *Land Revenue* should be reclassified in the consolidated abstracts.

4. No further details under *Local Funds* were contemplated.

5. The consolidated abstract for March as now submitted does not contain the final figures of the year. The Accountant-General will be requested to report whether he can make arrangements for furnishing an abstract with this information in lieu of the present March abstract and to state the earliest date on which he can submit the same to Government. The September abstract should be continued.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. F. PRICE,
Chief Secretary.

READ—also the following papers:—

From F. C. HARRISON, Esq., Officiating Accountant-General to the Government of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Fort St. George, 7th August 1895, No. 143—I.B.E.

With reference to G.O., dated 24th July 1895, No. 544, Financial, I have the honour to state that I have as yet received no requests for figures from special departments in accordance with the orders given in paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 256, but to minimize the delay I am furnishing such departments with the figures this month.

2. I request that I may be informed as to the principles upon which Government desire the details under land revenue to be re-classified. If they have no present views upon the subject, I will arrange the changes in communication with the Board.

3. With reference to the Government's request for final figures, I would respectfully point out that it is absolutely impossible to furnish final figures before the accounts are finally closed in December, but I can and will render the statement of Provincial accounts more intelligible by incorporating (instead of showing separately) the corrective entries which have actually been made up to date of despatch. I have also hopes that the memorandum which shows further possible alterations will in future years be smaller.

From R. NATHAN, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Finance and Commerce Department (Accounts and Finance—Estimates and Accounts), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, the 9th August 1895, No. 3833-A.

I am directed to refer to your letter No. 257, dated 19th March 1895, with which you forwarded a copy of the Proceedings of the Government of Madras of the same date, No. 256, reviewing the Provincial accounts of the year 1893–94.

2. In your second paragraph you invite the special attention of the Government of India to the inconvenience arising from the numerous adjustments permitted after the closure of the final accounts, and request that the wishes of the Madras Government in regard to the restriction of adjustments and transfer entries within the narrowest possible limit may be acceded to.

3. In reply I am to say that the Governor-General in Council desires to consult as far as possible the convenience of the Madras Government in this matter. I am to observe that it is essential that the final accounts of the Government of India, namely, the Finance and Revenue accounts, should be as correct and complete as it is practicable to make them, and therefore, that it is not possible to entertain a proposal to abstain from making further entries after the "March final" accounts are made up in August, and before the central accounts have been closed, with a view to render the local accounts prepared in August really final. It is, however, for consideration whether the local accounts cannot be rendered more complete before the date of their closing, in order that the number of subsequent entries may be reduced.

These entries arise chiefly in the following ways:—

(*a*) in settlement of outstandings in exchange accounts with other account officers, a process part of which arises upon, and therefore must follow, the "March final" account;

(*b*) in rectification of errors of classification, etc., discovered in the Accountant-General's Office when writing the Appropriation Report;

(*c*) in rectification of errors discovered in the Comptroller-General's office; and

(*d*) in annual adjustments, *e.g.*, of survey expenditure and others, which cannot be made up until the "March final" account is closed.

4. Adjustments and corrections of this nature are all essential for the purpose of the Finance and Revenue accounts of the Government of India and could not be omitted without seriously affecting their completeness and accuracy. The Government of India however believe that if more careful attention were given to the matter, some, at least, of these entries could be made before the local accounts are closed.

It is also considered that the Government of Madras are perhaps put to some unnecessary inconvenience by reason of the practice, which it is understood prevails in the Madras Accounts Office, in accordance with which the Accountant-General, after rendering his final accounts to the local Government, submits a memorandum showing the probable further adjustments, which again is followed by batches of entries which are not progressively consolidated. The result is that the Local Government are themselves obliged to make up the corrected account on the receipt of each batch of entries.

5. The Governor-General in Council accordingly proposes to instruct the Comptroller-General to issue stringent orders to all Account Offices, that any adjustments and corrections that can possibly be made before the "March final" accounts are closed, should be included in those accounts; and further that they should incorporate in a progressive account the corrections due to the Journal Entries which they subsequently communicate to the local Governments.

His Excellency in Council trusts that these orders will materially lessen the difficulties at present experienced by the Government of Madras.

6. In your third paragraph you state that the Consolidated Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements (Article 1065 of the Civil Account Code) is the only source of information regarding actuals available to the Madras Government, and that it would be a great convenience if full details were incorporated in it as in the Civil Estimates. With reference to this proposal, I am to say that the Government of India doubt whether it is necessary, that the compilation of the monthly accounts rendered to the local Government should be in the same detail as in the Civil Estimates, and fear that the proposed elaboration would throw considerable additional work on the Account Office. If, however, the Government of Madras consider further details necessary, the Accountant-General will be instructed to comply with their wishes as far as may be possible. It is understood that the question is in course of settlement in direct communication between the Accountant-General and the Madras Government.

7. You request in the fourth paragraph of your letter that orders may be issued in view to the following transactions being embodied in the copies of the final accounts submitted to the Madras Government:—

(i) Receipts and charges of the Public Works and Railway Departments.

(ii) Adjustments on account of Forest surveys and interest on Provincial Loans and Advances.

8. With regard to the first of these proposals, I am to point out that the details of the Public Works transactions form no part of, and cannot under the existing process of accounting be incorporated in, the Accountant-General's accounts and should be obtained from the Examiners of Accounts in the Public Works Department who, it should be remarked, do not render their accounts to the Civil Accountant-General. It would be dangerous to authorize the Accountant-General to make up, as an account, a statement not compiled by the regular process of accounting.

9. With reference to the second proposal regarding adjustments on account of Forest surveys and Provincial Loans and Advances, I am to say that the Government of India consider that the Accountant-General should be able to make most of the annual adjustments (such, for instance, as those for the interest on the Provincial Advance and Loan Account and for the supply of Stamps and Stationery) by the 10th August, the date for closing the final accounts. The adjustment of the survey expenditure cannot, however, be made by that date, as the distribution among the several Provinces and the necessary adjustments must be deferred until the accounts of the Comptroller, India Treasuries, for March final have been made up, and the total survey charges to be brought on his books ascertained.

Copy forwarded to the Comptroller-General for information and such further action as may be necessary.

Copy also forwarded to the Accountant-General, Madras, for information and guidance.

ORDER—dated 26th August 1895, No. 623, Financial.

The Government did not intend that absolutely no corrective entries should be made after the submission of the "final accounts" of the 10th August, but desired that the accounts should be scrutinised by heads of departments and all errors rectified, as far as possible, before that date. The check by heads of departments of the "final accounts" after August will not answer the purpose. Heads of departments should work on the preliminary accounts and endeavour to carry out all corrections before the 1st August. The Accountant-General will in future bring to the notice of Government any cases in which adjustments which could have been avoided by the observance of these orders have been necessitated as well as instances in which adjustments brought to book subsequent to March could, with due care on the part of heads of departments, have been carried out before that date.

2. The details under I, *Land Revenue*, should be re-classified in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

3. Intermediate statements of corrective entries need not be furnished to Government between August and December. It will suffice if the *final accounts* submitted in December, under Imperial, Provincial and Local, contain the latest information available.

4. The consolidated abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August only, will not be of any use to Government, as it will not embody the latest figures of the year. Its submission to Government may therefore be discontinued. It will suffice if the Accountant-General takes steps to incorporate the latest figures in the column of actuals in the volume of the civil estimates submitted on the 15th January.

5. No details are required in the *monthly* accounts, as is apparently supposed by the Government of India in paragraph 6 of its letter read above.

6. The transactions of the Public Works Department are now reported to Government in full detail about the same time that the monthly accounts are received from the Accountant-General.

7. The Accountant-General will be requested to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of *Forest Surveys*, in the final accounts of August, and the Government expects heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ all Heads of Departments under Chief Secretary.
„ the Accountant-General.

Exd. J- P. Oliver.

Govt. of {1895} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 26th August 1895, No. 623.

AUGUST.

Consolidated Abstract and Final Accounts.

Directing the discontinuance of the submission of the consolidated abstract containing the March final accounts corrected up to 10th August; requesting the Accountant-General to endeavour to include all adjustments, with the exception of that on account of *Forest Surveys*, in the final accounts of August; and expecting heads of departments to co-operate in the matter by avoiding the necessity for corrections after that date.

[G. 34]
200—24-10-94.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

List showing the distribution of the Proceedings of Government dated 26 August 1895 No. 623

	Revenue Department	31
	Public Works Department	41
	~~Military Department~~	
	~~Local and Municipal Department~~	
Judicial.	Honorable the Chief Justice with C.L.	31
	Inspector-General of Police	30
	Do. of Prisons	30
	Do. of Registration	25
	Chief Presidency Magistrate	3
	Commissioner of Police	3
	Judges of the Madras Court of Small Causes	3
	Advocate-General	1
	Government Solicitor	1
	Administrator-General	1
	Sheriff of Madras	1
	Government Pleader	1
	Registrar of Joint Stock Companies	1
Public.	Surgeon-General	6
	Meteorological Reporter	1
	President, Board of Examiners	1
	Private Secretary to the Right Honorable the Governor	1
	Government Astronomer	1
	Superintendent, Government Central Museum	1
	Chemical Examiner	1
	~~Superintendent of Stationery~~	3
	Protector of Emigrants	1
	Superintendent, Government Press	1
	Tamil Translator to Government	1
	Telugu do. to do.	1
	Malayalum do. to do.	1
	Canarese do. to do.	1
	Hindustani do. to do.	1
	British Consular Agent, Pondicherry	1
	Superintendent, Archæological Survey	1
	Government Epigraphist	6
Political.	Resident in Travancore and Cochin	1
	Paymaster, Carnatic Stipends	1
	Political Agent, Pudukota	1
	Do. Sandur	1
	Do. Banganapalli	1
	Government Agent, Tanjore	1
	Special Agent, South Arcot	1
Ecclesiastical.	The Right Reverend the Bishop of Madras	3
	Venerable Archdeacon of Madras	1
	Senior Chaplain of the Church of Scotland	1
Marine.	Presidency Port Officer	20
	Chairman, Harbour Trust Board	1

Desp 14/9/95

Financial.	Accountant-General	6
	Commissioner of Paper Currency	1
	Superintendent of Stationery	1
Educational.	Director of Public Instruction	1
	Commissioner for Government Examinations	1

The District Magistrate of	Anantapur	
	North Arcot (Chittoor)	
	South Arcot (Cuddalore)	
	Bellary	
	South Canara (Mangalore)	
	Chingleput (Saidapet)	
	Coimbatore	
	Cuddapah	
	Ganjam (Chatrapur)	
	Gódávari (Cocanada)	
	Kistna (Masulipatam)	
	Kurnool	
	Madura	
	Malabar (Calicut)	
	Nilgiris (Ootacamund)	
	Nellore	
	Salem	
	Tanjore	
	Tinnevelly	
	Trichinopoly	
	Vizagapatam	

District and Sessions Judge of	North Arcot (Chittoor)	
	South Arcot (Cuddalore)	
	Bellary	
	South Canara (Mangalore)	
	Chingleput	
	Coimbatore	
	Cuddapah	
	Ganjam (Berhampore)	
	Gódávari (Rajahmundry)	
	Kistna (Masulipatam)	
	Kurnool	
	Madura	
	North Malabar (Tellicherry)	
	South Malabar (Calicut)	
	Nellore	
	Nilgiris (Ootacamund)	
	Salem	
	Tanjore (Tanjore)	
	Tinnevelly (Palamcottah)	
	Trichinopoly	
	Vizagapatam	

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Order of Government

Letter of Government.

Statement with ditto.

Papers not filed up, being meant for despatch in original.

N.B.—

A = Print in full.
B = Not to be printed.
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