

Financial (189⁸) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 220

DATED 4-3-88

INDEXED.

45

[Despatch Abstract.]

Recording proceedings,
Rev Dept, stating that the ~~copy~~ will
be moved to obtain the sanction of
the secy of state for the retention, for
a further period of 2 years, of the
five Forest settlement officers at
present employed in this Presy.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

CURRENT No. 680 *Final*

Government {1898} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd. 1st Mar }
Regd. 2nd Mar } 1898.
Enclosures
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G.O., No. 88, 15th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

ORDER *no 220 24-3-98*

Recorded

Cmb
1/5/98

M.
3.3.98.

Forest Settlement-officers.

Ordering that the Government of India be moved to obtain the sanction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India for the retention, for a further period of two years, of the five — at present employed in this Presidency.

WITH ORDER

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Forest No. 44, dated 31st January 1898:—

Resolution—Forest No. 44, dated 31st January 1898.

The Board resolves to request Government that the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India may be obtained at an early date for the retention for a further period of two years of the services of the five Special Forest Settlement officers employed on forest settlement work in this Presidency.

2. The sanction accorded in despatch No. 46, dated 30th April 1896, expires on the 31st March next. The Secretary of State expressed a hope that the work would be completed by that time, but this calculation was presumably based on paragraph 3 of the Government of India despatch No. 75, dated 25th March 1896, which dealt with the employment of a fifth officer for the special purpose of disposing of the forest settlement work formerly entrusted to Revenue Divisional officers. From paragraph 4 of this despatch it will be seen that neither the Madras Government nor the Government of India anticipated that the work for the whole Presidency would be completed within the period of sanction which is about to expire. In paragraph 6 of its review on the Forest Administration Report for 1894-95, the Madras Government estimated that the forest settlement work would be brought to a close by the end of 1900, but in its review of the report for 1895-96 (*vide* paragraph 6 of Government Order, No. 370, dated 21st May 1897,) it stated that even this estimate was unduly sanguine, and from the figures now furnished it is clear that there is ample work for all five officers for at least two years more.

3. A statement showing the rate of progress made by the Forest Settlement officers since the last report is enclosed. It will be observed that during the 26 months ranging from 1st November 1895 (the date up to which the last report was reckoned) to 1st January 1898, 291 blocks with an aggregate area of 1,570 square miles were actually notified under section 16 and the settlement of 135 blocks comprising an area of 1,633 square miles was practically completed (*vide* columns 20 and 21) though the final notification has not yet been issued.

4. The annual outturn calculated from the above figures is compared below with the outturn according to previous reports:—

	Number of blocks gazetted.	Area.	Average size of block.	Annual average number of blocks gazetted.	Annual average area gazetted.
The year 1890-91	238	SQ. MLS. 830	SQ. MLS. 3.49	238	SQ. MLS. 830
One year and nine months from April 1891 to December 1892	329	3,288	10	188	1,879
Two years and eleven months from 1st January 1893 to 1st November 1895	414	3,279	7.92	142	1,124
Two years and two months from 1st November 1895 to 1st January 1898	291	1,570	5.39	134	725

This result is disappointing and shows that while the average size of the blocks settled was smaller than in the period immediately preceding, the annual average number of blocks gazetted was less, and this in spite of the appointment in 1896 of a fifth officer on special duty. It must, however, be remembered that the fifth officer

was not selected until July 1896, the necessary sanction having been received in May 1896. The appointment of Survey officers in the place of some of the Deputy Collectors who had formerly held charge of this special work involved some temporary delay in the progress of the settlement, for these officers had to undergo a short course of training in their new duties. The illness and subsequent death of a Deputy Collector (M.R.Ry. Raju Sastri), who had for some years done duty in this special line, also tended to retard progress, and the absence of some of the other officers on leave had a similar effect on the general outturn. It may with confidence be anticipated that the progress in future will not be so slow as in the period under report. As already pointed out, the settlement of 135 blocks covering in all 1,633 square miles had practically been completed on 1st January 1898, and if the final notifications regarding these blocks can be issued within the coming year, the rate of progress will be more than doubled without taking into account the new work upon which the Forest Settlement officers are now engaged. It may be added that since the opening of the current year 15 blocks of a total area of nearly 106 square miles have been finally gazetted as reserved forests. The final issue of the notification is, however, frequently delayed from a variety of causes over which the officers concerned have but little control, and it would be unwise to estimate the future outturn at more than 1,100 square miles per annum.

5. The statement appended to these Proceedings shows that, excluding the blocks on which reports have been submitted though the final notification had not issued, there remained with the Forest Settlement officers on 1st January 1898, 343 blocks covering an area of 2,329 square miles, while an additional area of 2,490 square miles will be proposed for reservation hereafter. The last quoted figure is a mere estimate and is liable to be changed by subsequent measurements, but it may be assumed that some 4,800 square miles of forest land remain for settlement. The Board considers that even four years would be a somewhat sanguine estimate for the period required to complete the settlement of so extensive an area, but resolves to request sanction for two years only, at the end of which time a further report will be submitted.

6. Provision has been made in the budget estimates for 1898-99 for the cost of the five special officers and their establishments.

7. The Board ventures to request that the Government of India and the Secretary of State may be assured that no effort will be spared to push on the work as expeditiously as possible. The Board watches the progress of the Settlement officers' work by means of weekly, monthly and quarterly returns, and a quarterly review of progress is regularly submitted to Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. C. C. CARR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Districts.	Blocks remaining to be notified under section 16 on 1st November 1896.			Added by notification under section 4.			Notified under section 16.						
	Number.	Area in square miles.	1	From 1st November 1895 to 30th June 1897.		From July 1897 to 1st January 1898.		Total of columns 2 to 7.		From 1st November 1895 to 30th June 1896.		From 1st July 1896 to 30th June 1897.	
				Number.	Area in square miles.	Number.	Area in square miles.	Number.	Area in square miles.	Number.	Area in square miles.	Number.	Area in square miles.
	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Ganjām *	52	446		(a) 1 (b) 22	(b) 6 — 21	..	..	33	431	..	..	5	21
Vizagapatam *	7	235		(b) 11	(b) 2	11	8	29	245	3	20	1	49
Gólavari ..	22	477		(b) 2	(a) 1 (b) 55	3	21	23	442	10	248	2	30
Kistna ..	54	151		(b) 32 — 12	(a) 63 (b) 10	17	39	91	231	9	20	12	25
Kurnool ..	35	495		(a) 5 (b) 1	(a) 89 (b) 133	1	50	34	498	3	7	8	59
Bellary ..	20	50		(a) 3 (b) 7	(a) 27 (b) 6	2	3	23	68	4	7	2	12
Anantapur ..	21	97		(a) 2 (b) 4	(a) 23 (b) 4	(b) 1	(b) 1	15	78	1	2	..	..
Cuddapah ..	33	679		(a) 11 + 2	(a) 163 (b) 49	7	40	53	833	7	25	10	30
Nellore ..	31	208		(b) 22 — 5	(a) 54 (b) 4	..	..	49	258	8	104	12	21
Chingleput *	19	15		(b) 13 — 9	(a) 13 (b) 17	29	13	52	28	2	3	1	3
North Arcot ..	29	124		(b) 10 — 4	(a) 44 (b) 3	1	..	36	159	8	38	6	9
South Arcot ..	71	339		(b) 9 — 29	(b) 14 — 27	(b) 1	(b) 1	50	325	15	44	11	140
Salem ..	44	183		(b) 10 — 9	(a) 62 (b) 25	(b) 7	(b) 28	38	164	11	63	..	..
Trichinopoly ..	1	2		(b) 46	(b) 79	..	..	47	81	..	..	..	..
Tanjore ..	..	..		1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..
South Canara *	47	387		(a) 15 (b) 5	(a) 128 (b) 35	1	2	63	454	4	16	5	3
Malabar *	31	384		(a) 2 (b) 5	(a) 2 (b) 3	..	..	38	383	4	7	4	1
Coimbatore ..	24	795		(b) 7 — 6	(a) 31 (b) 79	..	..	25	743	1	1	6	205
Madura ..	55	97		(b) 9	(a) 3 (b) 6	..	..	46	94	20	20	11	20
Tinnevely ..	19	16		(b) 12 — 9	(a) 10 (b) 8	2	1	23	17	..	..	7	8
Total ..	615	5,180		(a) 221 (b) 1 + 132	(a) 787 (b) 353 + 172	74	177 (b) 32	769	5,532	110	625	103	631

NOTE.—The districts marked * were excluded from the table on page 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 53, dated 5th February 1896, as the settlement works therein had not then been entrusted to the Special Settlement officers.

[illegible]

NOTE.—The districts marked * were excluded from the table on page 3 of Board's Proceedings, No. 53, dated 5th February 1896, as the settlement work therein had not then been entrusted to the Special Settlement officers.

(a) Includes five blocks of about 6 square miles pending with Divisional officers.

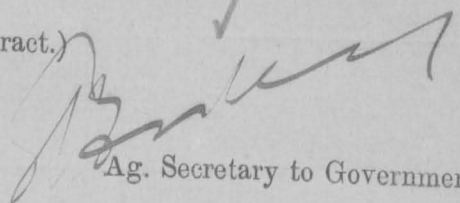
(b) Includes five blocks of about 165 square miles pending with Divisional officers, the settlement of which is completed but whose notifications could not be sent in owing to appeals in them still remaining undisposed of.

ORDER—No. 88, Revenue, dated 15th February 1898.

Forest No. 20.

The Government of India will be moved to obtain the sanction of the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the retention for a further period of two years of the five Forest Settlement-officers at present employed in this Presidency.

(True Extract.)


 Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
 „ the Financial Department.
 „ the Accountant-General.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

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