

Government of Madras

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 349, 4th April 1917

Divisions

Directing that the Devakōttai division of the Rāmnād district be constituted an Indian Civil Service charge and that in lieu thereof the Kumbakōnam division of the Tanjore district be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service.

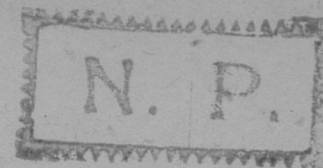
BACK PAPERS.

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ORIGINAL

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HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

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Directing that the Devakōttai division of the Rāmnād district be constituted an Indian Civil Service charge and that in lieu thereof the Kumbakōnam division of the Tanjore district be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service.

Read—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914.

ABSTRACT.—Agreeing with the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that no change need be made in the existing arrangements for the officering of divisional charges in the Rāmnād district.

II

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-1, Revenue, dated 29th March 1916.

It has been suggested to Government that, in the interests of general administration, the Devakōttai division of the Rāmnād district should be placed in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service. In its Reference No. 1653-Gt./14-2, dated 13th November 1914, disposed of in G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, the Board of Revenue discussed the suggestion to move the Indian Civil Service officer at Rāmnād from that place to Devakōttai. The Government agree with the Board in considering that, under present conditions, Rāmnād should continue to be in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service but desire to be favoured with the opinion of the Board whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Sattur division into a deputy collector's charge, thus relieving an Indian Civil Service officer for employment at Devakōttai. The Board of Revenue is requested to report on this point in consultation with the Collector of Rāmnād.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

III

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673-Gt./16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. S. BRODIE, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from A. R. LOFTUS-TOTTENHAM, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Collector of Rāmnād at Madura.

To—the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Dated—the 10th June 1916.

No.—R. Dis. 120/Rev.

In reply to Board's Reference No. 673-Gt./16-1, dated 7th April 1916, I have the honour to state that in my letter R. Dis. No. 277, Revenue, dated 30th September

1914, I have already strongly urged the desirability of appointing an officer of the Indian Civil Service to Devakōttai. I venture to adhere to the opinions there expressed.

2. In commenting on my letter the Board opined that the people of the Devakōttai division are not troublesome. Mr. Huggins, who knows that part of the country well, noted against this an expression of dissent, and added that the Chetties "are quite capable of fomenting riots as I know from personal experience."

3. I must respectfully endorse Mr. Huggins' view. I may remind the Board that there are turbulent Muhammadan elements in the division, as the Nambutalai riots showed, and that the only class in the district that have hitherto been brought under the Criminal Tribes Act—the Valayars—live in the Devakōttai division.

4. The fact that the division marches with Pudukkōttai State to some extent facilitates the commission of certain sorts of crime, and in no part of the district, or perhaps of the Presidency, could the criminal find prey so plentiful, so attractive and so easy as in the Chettinad.

5. I would venture to repeat that mere honesty is not sufficient, as the Board considers, to enable an officer to administer with success a division that is in some respects unique; in addition we need an independence and an immunity from the very suspicion of amenability to influence that a deputy collector, however incorruptible, by no means invariably enjoys.

6. But while I am thus strongly in favour of the posting of a Civilian to Devakōttai, which will be all the more necessary if Arantangi is to be added to the division (a step that I am inclined to consider impracticable) I should see with reluctance the Sivakasi division transferred to a Provincial officer. In Sivakasi the Revenue work is of course heavier than in any other division in the district, and at least balances the heavier income-tax work at Devakōttai.

7. Sivakasi is one of the few divisions in the Presidency to which it has been considered necessary to post a Special Police Force, and though there has been little serious friction between Shanars and other castes of recent years, Government evidently consider that there are still potentialities of trouble and I should hesitate to dissent from that view.

8. So far as criminal work is concerned the Sivakasi and Devakōttai divisions are about equally heavy. The Sivakasi division contains the only two municipalities in the district—Srivilliputtūr and Virudupatti. They need firm and tactful handling—especially the latter.

9. The wealthy Nadar rivals the wealthier Chetty in his love of and capacity for intrigue, and Sivakasi like Devakōttai needs an officer whose impartiality cannot be impugned. Nowhere in the district is faction more rampant than in the Srivilliputtūr and Sattur taluks, where murders have sometimes been committed in order to implicate members of a rival party.

10. On the whole, if it is impossible to give the district three Indian Civil Service divisional officers, I consider that Sivakasi, though quite unsuited for a deputy collector, is somewhat less so than Devakōttai.

11. The Board has observed that the district "must expect to have one deputy collector as a divisional officer". I would respectfully urge that the problem should not be treated as a purely mathematical one, or as though the Provincial Service were an infliction of which every Collector should cheerfully take his share, but that the needs of the various divisions should be considered and, if possible, provided for. My view is that all three divisions as a matter of fact need Indian Civil Service divisional officers. That there is considerable difficulty in finding an obviously suitable charge for a Provincial officer in the district is sufficiently evident from the present reference and the previous correspondence on the subject.

12. A bungalow for an Indian Civil Service divisional officer has lately been completed at Sivakasi.

13. I enclose a statement giving statistics of correspondence and other work in the two divisions. At present all the suits under the Estates Land Act from Devakōttai are transferred to the Special Deputy Collector but none from Sivakasi.

Reference—No. 673-Gt./16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

Submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 780-C/16-1, dated 29th March 1916.

2. The Board considers that the Collector has given good reasons for retaining the Civilian divisional officer in the Sattur (now Sivakasi) division. In view of the disturbances between Shanars and Maravars which have occurred in the past and of the ever present possibility of a recurrence of them, it seems to the Board undesirable to entrust the division to a deputy collector. If it is not possible to find a third Indian Civil Service divisional officer for the Ramnad district, the Board is of opinion that the existing arrangements may continue.

H. R. PATR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with a statement.

ENCLOSURE.

COMPARATIVE statement showing the business disposed of in Devakōttai and Sivakasi divisional offices during the last three years.

	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	Received.	Disposed of.	Received.	Disposed of.	Received.	Disposed of.
<i>Devakōttai division.</i>						
Magisterial—						
Criminal cases	84	74	100	89	109	94
Criminal appeals	83	80	91	87	81	79
Miscellaneous cases	26	24	65	60	62	54
Correspondence papers	1,738	1,732	1,905	1,892	2,080	2,052
Total, Magisterial	1,931	1,910	2,161	2,128	2,332	2,279
Revenue suits—						
Summary suits*	2,632	1,751	2,107	1,748	1,393	1,105
Regulation suits	41	37	16	12	13	10
Execution of decrees	943	864	1,239	865	1,096	1,007
Miscellaneous applications	3,621	3,099	4,042	3,743	2,868	2,127
Total, Revenue suits	7,237	5,751	7,404	6,368	5,370	4,249
Correspondence papers—						
Copy applications	8,620	8,346	7,978	7,460	7,704	7,449
Income-tax—						
Objection petitions	199	160	197	183	149	147
Revision petitions	58	45	99	77	82	82
Total, Income-tax	257	205	296	260	231	229
<i>Sivakasi division.</i>						
Magisterial—						
Criminal cases	99	99	104	104	121	121
Criminal appeals	103	103	83	83	73	73
Miscellaneous cases	49	49	63	63	40	40
Correspondence papers	2,506	2,506	2,214	2,214	2,481	2,481
Total, Magisterial	2,757	2,757	2,464	2,464	2,715	2,715
Revenue suits—						
Summary suits	352	235	455	253	447	299
Regulation suits	3	3	6	6	1	1
Execution of decrees	146	109	63	51	74	62
Miscellaneous applications	..	..	..	..	11	11
Total, Revenue suits	501	347	524	310	533	373
Correspondence papers—						
Copy applications, etc.	11,458	11,165	10,634	10,394	10,178	9,835
Income-tax—						
Objection petitions	42	42	47	47	41	41
Revision petitions	16	16	26	26	18	18
Total, Income-tax	58	58	73	73	59	59

* Including the suits transferred to the Special Deputy Collector.

	Number of assesses.	Amount of income-tax.
1913-14—		Rs.
Sattur	156	16,519
Devakōttai	410	70,172
1914-15—		
Sattur	159	15,942
Devakōttai	412	69,987
1915-16—		
Sivakasi	162	16,883
Devakōttai	429	73,695

IV

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916.

With reference to the correspondence ending with Reference No. 673-Gt./16-2, dated 18th July 1916, the Board of Revenue is requested to report whether it would recommend that an Indian Civil Service Officer should for the future be in charge of the Devakōttai division of the Rāmnād district instead of the Chandragiri division of the Chittoor district.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

V

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. S. BRODIE, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. E. COUCHMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

Read—the following papers:—

(i)

Memorandum—from Government, Revenue Department.
Dated—the 22nd August 1916.
No.—780-C/16-3.

(ii)

Reference—from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
Dated—the 4th September 1916.
No.—673-Gt./16-3.

(iii)

Letter—from H. L. BRAIDWOOD, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Chittoor.
To—the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
Dated—the 5th October 1916.
No.—3571-D. 6.

In reply to Board's Reference No. 673-Gt./16-3, dated the 4th September 1916, asking for my remarks on the proposal of Government to convert Chandragiri division into a Deputy Collector's division, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. I do not know exactly the circumstances under which Chandragiri was made an Indian Civil Service division at the re-arrangement of the districts under Sir William Meyer's scheme in 1911. Apparently, it succeeded the old Ranipet division, to which it corresponds except for its reduction by the exclusion of Walajah taluk.

Chandragiri division now comprises (1) Chandragiri taluk, (2) the Zamindari divisions of Kalahasti, Puttur and Tiruttani. It seems to me to be in several ways more important than the average Indian Civil Service division and there are in it several features which seem to demand the superior powers of work and control which are expected of an Indian Civil Service officer. I mention such of these as occur to me—

(1) In Chandragiri taluk, there are three important forest ranges containing valuable forests. The interests of the ryots in the neighbourhood of these forests can be better watched by an officer of superior status.

(2) There is one municipality, Tirupati, which requires close control owing to the existence of factions and the powerful indirect influence of the Mahant.

(3) There are three registered criminal tribes in the division, viz., the Jogis, the Vanganur Malas and the Gollakupam Donga Dasaris. An Indian Civil Service officer will be of more use in helping to supervise them especially when they are located in settlements, as the two latter are likely to be when funds are available.

(4) The two ancient zamindaris of Kalahasti and Karvetnagar have split up into numerous estates, some large and some small. There is constant friction between the landholders and ryots in most of these estates. The numerous zamindars and proprietors would also probably much prefer to have dealings with a sub-collector than with a deputy collector.

(5) Faction disputes leading to violence are rather common in the division, e.g., there have been three big cases under section 109 during the past two years.

(6) There is an immense amount of suits work in the division. Though a Special Suits Deputy Collector has been working on and off for the last eighteen months, the sub-collector still has a lot of suits work to do. He has three suits clerks in addition to the usual full staff of a sub-collector's office.

(7) The mileage of roads and the extent of the division are both very large. Only a very active and energetic man can get over the country as much as is desirable as well as attending to the office work. Even now, villages off the main roads are very rarely visited by the Divisional officer.

(8) The Taluk Board work is very heavy and the disposal of it is even under the present regime hardly satisfactory. A non-official President capable of running it satisfactorily would be hard to find owing to the extensive touring required.

3. The ordinary revenue work is a little lighter than that of Madanapalli and is undoubtedly below the average of Indian Civil Service divisions. This is, of course, due to the fact that there is only one Government taluk and that a light one. The Magisterial work is slightly heavier than that of Madanapalli and is, I think, heavier than that of most Indian Civil Service divisions. The numbers of original and appeal cases were 144 and 73 and 114 and 70 in 1914 and 1915, respectively. The average annual number of original cases for disposal by Joint Magistrates in the four years 1911—1914 was 77.

4. The above considerations might be discounted as being more or less theoretical, but, in this case, I have also had the advantage of seeing the division in charge of deputy collectors for two periods of about seven and four months, since I have been in the district. The officers in charge were experienced deputy collectors and had, I believe, good reputations, but both of them were utterly unequal to the charge of the division and left heavy arrears of work on their departure. On the other hand, it must be admitted that one deputy collector who was in charge of the division for about eighteen months about 1912 seems to have got through the work very well. But I have heard that he was an exceptionally quick and capable man. In my opinion, an average sub-collector can just manage the division tolerably and only an exceptional deputy collector can cope with the work.

5. Among minor considerations pointing in the same direction, I may mention—

(1) that there is a sub-collector's official residence recently completed;

(2) that there is very good Shikar available in the division which would help to reconcile many sub-collectors to the somewhat solitary life they have to lead but would be of no interest to most deputy collectors.

6. For the above reasons, I am strongly of opinion that the division should not be handed over to a deputy collector.

Reference—No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

The letter from the Collector of Chittoor read above will be submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, dated 22nd August 1916.

2. On a consideration of the relative needs of the two divisions, the Board is of opinion that the need for a Divisional officer of the Indian Civil Service is greater in the case of Chandragiri than in the case of Devakōttai, and that a deputy collector should suffice for the Devakōttai division as hitherto.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

VI

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-4, Revenue, dated 1st December 1916.

With reference to the correspondence ending with Reference No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916, the Board of Revenue is requested to favour the Government with its opinion as to whether there is any Indian Civil Service division which is less in need of an Indian Civil Service officer than Devakōttai and, if so, whether a deputy collector can be posted to that division and an Indian Civil Service officer transferred to Devakōttai.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

VII

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673-Gt./16-5, dated 3rd February 1917.

The Hon'ble Sir ROBERT CLEGG, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. LL. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. E. COUGHMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

The Board begs to reply to the Memorandum of Government No. 780-C/16-4, Revenue, dated 1st December 1916. In the opinion of the majority of the Board, the following divisions, viz., Kumbakōnam, Ongole, Narasapur and Tindivanam, in that order, are less in need of an officer of the Indian Civil Service than Devakōttai; they consider that the Indian Civil Service Officer in charge of any one of these divisions might be set free to take charge of the Devakōttai division. The acting third and fourth Members are of opinion that if possible each district should have at least one Indian Civil Service divisional officer and consider that Kumbakōnam is the only division which might with advantage surrender its Indian Civil Service officer in favour of Devakōttai.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 4th April 1917.

The Governor in Council directs that the Devakōttai division of the Rāmnād district be constituted a charge of the Indian Civil Service, and that in lieu thereof the Kumbakōnam division of the Tanjore district be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service. Effect will be given to this change as soon as practicable.

(True Extract)

E. A. HARVEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of Ramnad.
" " Tanjore.
" Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
" Revenue Department.
" Home (Judicial) Department.
" Public Department.
" Public Works Department.
" Local and Municipal Department.
Copy to the Accountant-General.
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(Order only.)

NOTES CONNECTED WITH G.O. No. 349, HOME (MISCELLANEOUS), DATED 4TH APRIL 1917.

[SUBJECT.—*Devakottai division.*]

Previous papers :

G.O. 552, Public, 3rd August 1909.	G.O. 608, Public, 21st May 1912.
" 212 " 17th March 1910.	" 1880, Revenue, 24th June "
" 1078, Revenue, 4th April "	" 3586 " 8th December 1914.
" 1518 " 9th May "	" 1657, Public, 23rd "
" 2568 " 23rd August "	" 2822, Revenue, 15th December 1915.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Extracts from the notes relating to the posting of a Deputy Collector to the Devakottai division of the Ramnad district.

Devakottai is a very exceptional charge. There is any number of extremely wealthy Nattukkottai Chetties who buy up any officials they can

A. G. C[ARDEW]—19-2-16.

* * * * *

Representative Nattukkottai Chetties asked me to consider—when I was in Madura—whether it would not be practicable (as they thought it very desirable) to post an Indian Civil Service Sub-Collector (European) to the charge of this division. Would this be possible, if not now, later on?

P[RENTLAND]—22-2-16.

This might be made the subject of an official memorandum to the Board. Draft to me.

J. P. BEDFORD—22-2-16.

In submitting proposals for the formation of the new Ramnad district, Sir William Meyer recommended that Devakottai should form one of the divisions of the new district and that it should be placed in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. The main reason for placing an Indian Civil Service officer in that division was that the Nattukkottai Chetties at the place owing to lack of European supervision had things in their own way in a manner not altogether consistent with peace and order—paragraphs 239 and 249 of Sir William Meyer's report on the constitution of additional districts and divisions, etc., in the Madras Presidency. On account of the lack of the necessary railway communications, Government decided to post-pone the formation of the new district but they agreed with the Board of Revenue that, in order to give relief to the Ramnad division, the new Devakottai division should be constituted at once. The Income-tax Deputy Collector employed at that place was to be in charge of the division—paragraphs 1 and 2 of G.O. No. 552, Public, dated 3rd August 1909. It was not found possible to place a Civilian Divisional Officer at that place as such a course involved an addition to the Indian Civil Service cadre—vide remarks of the Honourable Member as Secretary at page 13 of Notes to G.O. No. 552, Public, dated 3rd August 1909. Subsequently in 1910, it was decided that the new Ramnad district should be constituted but that its headquarters should be at Madura tentatively until certain improvements were made in the railway communications affecting the component parts of the district—paragraphs 2 and 3 of G.O. No. 212, Public, dated 17th March 1910. The Government at the same time considered whether Devakottai

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Page 10 of Notes to G.O. 1518, Revenue, 9th May 1910.

Page 10 of Notes to G.O. 1518, Revenue, 9th May 1910. The Government at the same time considered whether Devakottai

or Ramnad should be the Indian Civil Service division. It was decided that so long as the Collector's headquarters were at Madura the Indian Civil Service officer should stay at Ramnad and not at Devakottai.

An additional reason for this decision was that there was no suitable house accommodation for a Civilian at Devakottai—paragraph 3 of Mr. Bryant's letter at page 3 of G.O. No. 1518, dated 9th May 1910.

In G.O. No. 756, Public, dated 30th June 1914, Government decided to fix Madura as the permanent headquarters of the Ramnad district and in that connection the question of constituting the Devakottai division into an Indian Civil Service charge by transferring the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad to that division was again considered. The Honourable

Member considered that the Chetti country was very much cut off, owing to the distance from the railway and that income-tax work was very important in that division and for these reasons a resident officer thoroughly independent of local influences was needed at the place. He was accordingly in favour of placing an Indian Civil Service officer at Devakottai (page 7 of Notes to G.O. Mis. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914), but he directed that the matter should be first referred to the Collector and the

Board for opinion—vide Official Memorandum No. 1917-C/14-1, dated 1st August 1914, at page 1 of current file in G.O. Mis. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914. The Board's reply is contained at pages 2-7 of current file in G.O. Mis. No. 1657, dated 23rd December 1914.

The Collector * was strongly of opinion that both Ramnad and Devakottai should be in charge of Indian Civil Service officers and if, however, that was impossible he was in favour of retaining the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad. His reasons for placing the Devakottai division in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer were as follow :—

(1) The Divisional Officer has to deal with the European lessees of Sivaganga and an Indian Civil Service manager of the Court of Wards and when the lease of the zamindari terminates in 1918 he will probably deal with an estate Collector—a civilian of some seniority.

(2) The division is inhabited by wealthy Nattukkottai Chetties who as a class are noted for their love of intrigue and its administration by a member of the Indian Civil Service whose emoluments, position and traditions place him above suspicion will be more efficient and inspire greater public confidence.

(3) It is generally supposed that a great deal of crime in the division is never reported. The Chetti landholder is high handed and oppressive in his dealings with his tenants. For these reasons a strong man is required for the division.

(4) Devakottai is a heavy division and income-tax work is particularly heavy. The division will become heavier still when Arantangi is added to it.

The Board, however, was unable to agree with the Collector that the Devakottai division should be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. It was of opinion that Ramnad should continue to be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer and that the idea of transferring that

officer to Devakottai may be definitely abandoned—paragraph 5 on page 5 of current file in G.O. Mis. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914. The counter reasons adduced by the Board against the Collector's proposal are as follow :—

(1) The Board considered that the reason adduced by the Collector that Sivaganga has a Civilian manager and that after the lease of the zamindari lapses in 1918 the Divisional Officer will probably have to deal with a Civilian Estate Collector was not a sufficient reason for entrusting the charge of the division to an Indian Civil Service officer.

(2) The people in the division are not particularly troublesome. It is true that Devakottai is the headquarters of the Nattukkottai Chetties but this caste is intriguing and litigious rather than lawless and any honest man can manage them.

(3) The Board did not believe that crime was hushed up in Devakottai any more than it is by the Maravar headmen in the Ramnad division.

(4) The Board considered that Ramnad district must expect to have one Deputy Collector as Divisional Officer—the other two divisions Ramnad and Sattur are both Civilian divisions—and that the most suitable division in the district for such an officer is Devakottai.

The Government—the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart dissenting—accepted the Board's recommendation and the question was dropped. It is for orders whether the question should be reopened.

S.R.R.—15-3-16.

V.P.—16-3-16.

The question of moving the Indian Civil Service officer from Sattur to Devakottai has also been considered and abandoned—vide Mr. Davidson's note, dated 24th July 1914, as Revenue Secretary and the Honourable Member's note, dated 25th July 1914, at pages 6-8 of Notes to G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914.

S.R.—17-3-16.

The position is this :—

There are three divisions in the Ramnad district, two of which, viz., Ramnad and Sattur, are already Indian Civil Service charges. The third Devakottai is the one division in charge of a Deputy Collector. The Collector and the Board are very strongly of opinion that Ramnad should continue to be an Indian Civil Service charge—vide page 3 et seq. of current file in G.O. No. 1657, dated 23rd December 1914.

The Honourable Member is decidedly of opinion that there can be no question of converting Sattur into a Deputy Collector's charge—page 7 of Notes to the above Government Order. Both the Honourable Member and the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart would prefer to convert Devakottai into an Indian Civil Service charge—vide pages 7 and 11 of Notes to the above Government Order. If all the three divisions are not to be Indian Civil Service charges, Ramnad can be converted into a Deputy Collector's charge only if and when the headquarters of the district are moved to Ramnad. The Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart was strongly in favour of the move but he was outvoted—please see pages 11 to 13 of Notes to G.O. No. 1657, Revenue, dated 23rd December 1914.

T.S.R.—17-3-16.

The whole question has been recently threshed out. The notes give a history of the discussions to which I can add nothing as I do not know the district.

A. H. A. TODD—18-3-16.

The question has been discussed more than once. As far as I can see, the conclusions arrived at were : (1) that there were excellent reasons for having an Indian Civil Service officer at Devakottai, (2) that there were even stronger reasons for having Indian Civil Service officers at Ramnad and Sattur, (3) that to put an Indian Civil Service officer in charge of all three divisions would mean an undue weakening of the Indian Civil Service element elsewhere.

J. P. BEDFORD—20-3-16.

The point which has not been threshed out is whether the Indian Civil Service officer at Sattur might not be posted at Devakottai instead. I can see several advantages in this, and I think the Collector might be consulted through the Board on this point.

An Indian Civil Service officer is needed undoubtedly at Ramnad where the zamindar would otherwise exercise complete influence if there were nothing but an Indian Deputy Collector there.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—22-3-16.

P[ENTLAND]—23-3-16.

Draft to me.

J. P. BEDFORD—23-3-16.

A draft official memorandum to the Board of Revenue is submitted for approval.

S.R.—24-3-16.

T.S.R.—24-3-16.

A. H. A. TODD—27-3-16.

To the Honourable Member with draft. Would it be well to include the Inspector-General of Police in the officers to be consulted (by the Board of Revenue or by Government direct)? The Sattur division was put in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer, when I was Collector of Tinnevely in 1899-1900 in connection with the anti-shanar riots and the generally turbulent character of the people of that division, as evinced thereby. There are still, I think, one or two companies of Special Police in the division.

The Honourable Member will remember the recent file about mixed cotton, in which apprehensions were expressed of rioting taking place about these tracts.

J.P.B.—17-3-16.

It would certainly be necessary to consult the Inspector-General of Police through Judicial before any change was made. Perhaps we had better hear the Board of Revenue first.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—28-3-16.

J.P.B.—28-3-16.

Draft may issue.

J.P.B.—28-3-16.

[Official Memorandum to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 780-C/16-1, dated 29th March 1916—II.]

III

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) No. 673-G/16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

Please see the Collector's letter. In reply to the specific point raised in the Government memorandum whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Sattur (now Sivakasi) division into a Deputy Collector's charge, thus relieving an Indian Civil Service officer for employment at Devakottai, the Collector (Mr. Tottenham) states that he would see with reluctance the Sattur (Sivakasi) division transferred to a Provincial officer. He is also strongly in favour of the posting of a Civilian to Devakottai. He adds that, if it is impossible to give the district three Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers, Sattur (Sivakasi) though quite unsuited for a Deputy Collector is somewhat less so than Devakottai. The Board states that the Collector has given good reasons for retaining the Civilian Divisional Officer in the Sattur (Sivakasi) division, that it is undesirable to entrust it to a Deputy Collector and that if it is not possible to find a third Indian Civil Service Divisional Officer for the Ramnad district, the existing arrangement under which Devakottai is in charge of a Provincial Civil Service officer may continue.

2. In paragraph (6) of its Reference No. 1653 G./14-2, dated 13th November 1914, at page 6 of G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, the Board of Revenue considered that the Rāmnād district must expect to have one Deputy Collector as Divisional Officer. The Collector (Mr. Tottenham) states that the problem should not be treated as a mathematical one but that the needs of the various divisions should be considered and, if possible, provided for and that his view is that all the three divisions need Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers.

3. As it has been decided that the Rāmnād division should be under a Civilian Divisional Officer, so long as the headquarters of the Collector are at Madura, the only course left open would seem to be to continue the existing arrangement or to entrust all the three divisions in the district to officers of the Indian Civil Service. If it is decided to post an Indian Civil Service officer to Devakottai, either the sanctioned cadre of Indian Civil Service should be increased or there should be a reduction in the number of Indian Civil Service officers elsewhere.

S.R.G.—27-7-16.

The remarks of the *Public (x) Department* may, it is submitted, be invited on this point. The file may be sent also to the Judicial Department with reference to the Honourable Member's note, dated 28th March 1916: it will be seen from paragraphs 2 to 4 of Mr. Tottenham's letter that one of the arguments advanced in favour of the posting of an Indian Civil Service officer for the Devakottai division is that the Chetties are quite capable of fomenting riots, that there are turbulent Muhammadan elements in the division, that the only class in the district that have hitherto been brought under the Criminal Tribes Act—the Valayars—live in this division and finally that the situation of Pudukottai State adjoining this division to some extent facilitates the commission of certain sorts of crime—please see the statistics furnished.

S.A.—28-7-16.

S.R.R.—28-7-16.

V.P.—2-8-16.

For orders.

A. H. A. TODD—3-8-16.

Perhaps in the circumstances it will not be considered necessary to pursue the matter further. The Sattur (Sivakasi) division has seen what was perhaps the biggest riot in South India during the last fifty years, and it can hardly be doubted that the Inspector-General would endorse the Board's view.

J. P. BEDFORD—7-8-16.

I agree as to Sattur division. It might, however, be possible to find another Indian Civil Service officer by transfer from another district. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Tottenham that the Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers should be allotted on the needs of the locality. Still one would prefer to leave at least one in each district. The Board of Revenue may be asked whether it would recommend the transfer of one of the two Divisional Officers now in North Arcot (viz., from Tiruvannamalai) or in Chittoor (viz., from Chandragiri) to the Devakottai division of Rāmnād.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—10-8-16.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—10-8-16.

With reference to the Honourable Member's orders above, it is respectfully submitted that Tiruvannamalai has already been converted into a Deputy Collector's charge—vide G.O. No. 1030, Public, dated 21st August 1914.

R.V.—12-8-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—14-8-16.

Draft to me, referring to the other divisions.

J.P.B.—14-8-16.

A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval.

R.V.—15-8-16.

V.A.A.—15-8-16.

Public (x) (u.o.) for favour of acceptance of the draft.

J.P.B.—16-8-16.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that the draft official memorandum may be accepted in this department.

A.H.—17-8-16.

L. DAVIDSON—18-8-16.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders as to issue of official memorandum.

R.V.—19-8-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—19-8-16.
Issue.

J. P. BEDFORD—22-8-16.

[Official-memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916—IV.]

V

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

As a result of a consideration of the question of the expediency of converting the Devakottai division of the Rāmnād district into an Indian Civil Service charge, the Board of Revenue was, in Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916, asked to report whether it would recommend an Indian Civil Service officer for the Devakottai division instead of the Chandragiri division of the Chittoor district.

2. The Collector of Chittoor who was consulted by the Board is strongly against the placing of the Chandragiri division under a Deputy Collector for the following reasons:—

(1) In Chandragiri taluk there are three important forest ranges containing valuable forests and the interests of the ryots in the neighbourhood can be better watched by an officer of superior status.

(2) The Tirupati municipality requires close control owing to the existence of factions and the powerful indirect influence of the Mahant.

(3) There are three registered criminal tribes in the division—the Jogis, the Vanganur Malas and the Sollakuppam Donga Dasaris.

(4) The Zamindaris of Kalabasti and Karvetnagar have split up into several estates and there is constant friction between the landholders and ryots in most of these estates. Further the numerous zamindars and proprietors would prefer to have dealings with a Sub-Collector than with a Deputy Collector.

(5) Faction disputes leading to violence are rather common in the division.

(6) Work under the Estates Land Act is very heavy in the division to which three suit clerks have been added to the usual full staff of a Sub-Collector's office.

(7) The mileage of roads and the extent of the division are both very large, and only a very active and energetic man can get over the country as much as is desirable as well as attending to the office work.

(8) Taluk board work is very heavy, and a capable non-official president is hard to find.

(9) Two experienced Deputy Collectors who had been in charge of the division formerly—J. Ramayya Pantulu and V. Ramakrishnayya Pantulu—were utterly unequal to the charge and left heavy arrears on their departure. [One Deputy Collector, however, who was in charge of the division for 18 months—S. Raghavendra Rao—proved equal to the task, but he is spoken of as an exceptionally quick and capable officer.]

(10) An official residence for the Sub-Collector has been recently completed at Chandragiri.

3. The Board of Revenue is of opinion that the need for an Indian Civil Service officer is greater in the case of Chandragiri than of Devakottai and that the latter may continue with a Deputy Collector. In paragraph 159 of his report on the

constitution of additional districts, divisions and taluks in the Presidency, Sir William Meyer proposed a Civilian officer for Chandragiri on account "of the troublesome, religious centre of Tirupati."

4. Orders are solicited. An Indian Civil Service officer is suggested for Devakottai in view of the fact that there is any number of Nattukkottai Chetties in the division who buy up any officials they can—vide the Honourable Member's note extracted at page 1 supra.

S.A.R.—18-11-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—18-11-16.

May the Board's view be accepted?

J. P. BEDFORD—23-11-16.

Must be accepted and the provision of a Sub-Collector for Devakottai dropped unless some other alternative can be suggested by the Board. I don't understand why Reference, dated 22nd August 1916, was issued to the Board at all, seeing that in my note, dated 10th August 1916, I had said that it was preferable to leave one Indian Civil Service division in each district and that I referred to North Arcot on the expressed understanding that there were two Indian Civil Service sub-divisions in that district. The list of divisions supplied in the Ready Reference File seems to be wrong, and should be corrected and brought up to date.

Please ask the Board whether there is any Indian Civil Service division which in its opinion requires an Indian Civil Service less than Devakottai and which it would recommend must be placed under a Deputy Collector in order to provide a Sub-Collector for Devakottai.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-11-16.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—27-11-16.

A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval. [An extract of the Honourable Member's note at A above has been sent to the Public Department for necessary action.]

S.A.R.—27-11-16.

V.A.A.—28-11-16.

Issue.

J.P.B.—30-11-16.

[Official Memorandum to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 780 C/16-4, dated 1st December 1916—VI.]

VII

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673-Gt./16-5, dated 3rd February 1917.

The Honourable Member and His Excellency have been of opinion that the Devakottai division in the Ramnad district should be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. It was found that it was not possible to take away an Indian Civil Service officer for the purpose from either the Sattur division or the Ramnad division. The Honourable Member then directed a reference to the Board of Revenue asking it whether there was any Indian Civil Service division which, in its opinion, required an Indian Civil Service officer less than Devakottai and which, it would recommend, might be placed under a Deputy Collector in order to provide a Sub-Collector for Devakottai (official memorandum, dated 1st December 1916). The majority of the Board now state in reply that, in their opinion, the marginally-noted divisions are, in the order given, less in need of an Indian Civil Service officer than Devakottai and that the Indian Civil Service officer of any of these divisions might be

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set free to take charge of the Devakottai division. Messrs. Todhunter and Couchman (the acting Third and Fourth Members) are said to be of opinion that, if possible, * each district should have at least one Indian Civil Service Divisional Officer and that *Kumbakonam* is the only division which might with advantage surrender its Indian Civil Service officer in favour of Devakottai.

A.R.K.—13-2-17. Submitted that this department may agree with the Board that the Kumbakonam division might be placed under a Deputy Collector and that the Indian Civil Service officer might be transferred to the Devakottai division. The file may, it is submitted, be sent to the Public Department where orders have to issue.

A.S.R.—12-2-17.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—12-2-17.

A. R. KNAPP—13-2-17.

PUBLIC (II) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that this department may agree to the Kumbakonam division being placed under a Deputy Collector as a compensation for the proposed conversion of the Devakottai division into a *Civilian division*.

2. If the proposal is approved, final orders should apparently issue in Home (Miscellaneous) who deal with constitution of districts and divisions. The precedents † quoted by Revenue at the end of their note were dealt with in the *old Public Department* which is now designated *Home (Miscellaneous)*.

A.H.—18-2-17.

Kumbakonam is no doubt free from the objections urged to other divisions, in that there would still be a Civilian officer at Negapatam, but it is not a division which I should myself have chosen to make over to the Provincial Service for good and all. It is a centre of Hindu faction and intrigue, and Deputy Collectors will find it difficult to steer clear of such intrigues and impossible to guard themselves against more or less plausible charges of partiality, intrigue, etc.

J. P. BEDFORD—19-2-17.

I admit the truth of Mr. Bedford's remarks, but in view of its remote and isolated position, and the great wealth of the Nattukkottai Chetti community, I think, on the whole, that the balance of advantage is in favour of putting an Indian Civil Service officer in charge of the Devakottai division instead of of Kumbakonam. After all, intrigue and faction are not confined to Kumbakonam or even to Tanjore, while the peculiar features of Devakottai, especially the danger of subservience to the Chetties, are to some extent unique. I would therefore accept the Board's proposal. The Deputy Collector in charge of Devakottai who happened to call on me yesterday, said that the division is the heaviest he has ever been in.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—20-2-17.

P[ENTLAND]—24-2-17.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—26-2-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

[It is submitted for orders whether, as pointed out in the office-note above, the order should not issue in Home (Miscellaneous)].

A.H.—6-3-17.

Home (u.o.), through Revenue Department, for favour of issue of orders.

J.P.B.—7-2-17.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Previous notes of this department are on pages 7-8 ante. The further notes may, it is submitted, be perused and the file passed on to Home (Miscellaneous) u.o. for issue of orders.

A.S.R.—8-3-17.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—8-3-17.

A. R. KNAPP—9-3-17.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

T.C.N.—17-3-17.

P.D.R.—20-3-17.

A draft which follows the usual lines has been prepared. It will be issued in Home (Miscellaneous), following precedent, if Public requires, and accepts it, after circulation to the Honourable Member (Home).

I venture to suggest, however, this being a case in point, that the redistribution-of-work-list be revised to include "*reconstitution of divisions*" amongst the subjects dealt with by either the Revenue Department or the present Public Department. The subject whenever it arises is never examined in this department, though formally it is one of the subjects dealt with in this department; in point of fact the present case has never been seen by this department until it was sent for a draft to be prepared. My submission is that ordinarily it will be preferable for one of the departments that deal with and pass orders on the case to issue the draft.

If the suggestion is accepted, the draft may issue in Public.

In that case circulation to the Honourable Member (Home) will not be required [it is not intended, I see, that the case should be seen by the Honourable Member (Judicial)].

E. A. HARVEY—21-3-17.

PUBLIC (II) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders whether the draft order in this particular case may issue in Home (Miscellaneous), as the item "*reconstitution of divisions*" is now on the list of subjects under *Home (Miscellaneous)*, the Home Secretary's suggestion to transfer this item from Home (Miscellaneous) to Public or Revenue being separately put up for orders.

A.H.—24-3-17.

Would Home kindly deal with this case and then return the file for consideration of the general question? Draft accepted in Public.

J. P. BEDFORD—26-3-17.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders whether the draft in the present case may issue in this department, an extract of the notes being sent u.o. to Public for consideration of the question raised above.

T.C.N.—30-3-17.

P.D.R.—31-3-17.

Draft may issue.

E.A.H.—2-4-17.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—4-4-17.

Issue.

E.A.H.—4-4-17.

[G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 4th April 1917.]

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Government of Madras

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 349, 4th April 1917

Divisions

Directing that the Devakottai division of the Ramnad district be constituted an Indian Civil Service charge and that in lieu thereof the Kumbakonam division of the Tanjore district be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service.

Read—the following papers :—

I

G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914.

ABSTRACT.—Agreeing with the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that no change need be made in the existing arrangements for the officering of divisional charges in the Ramnad district.

II

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-1, Revenue, dated 29th March 1916.

It has been suggested to Government that, in the interests of general administration, the Devakottai division of the Ramnad district should be placed in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service. In its Reference No. 1653-Gt./14-2, dated 13th November 1914, disposed of in G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, the Board of Revenue discussed the suggestion to move the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad from that place to Devakottai. The Government agree with the Board in considering that, under present conditions, Ramnad should continue to be in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service but desire to be favoured with the opinion of the Board whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Sattur division into a deputy collector's charge, thus relieving an Indian Civil Service officer for employment at Devakottai. The Board of Revenue is requested to report on this point in consultation with the Collector of Ramnad.

J. P. BRIDFORD,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

III

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue,) No. 673-Gt/16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. N. S. BRODIE, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.
The Hon'ble Mr. H. F. W. GILLMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

Read—the following paper :—

Letter—from A. R. LOFTUS-TOTTENHAM, Esq., M.A., I.C.S., Collector of Ramnad at Madura.

To—the Secretary, the Commissioners of Land Revenue.

Dated—the 10th June 1916.

No.—R. Dis. 20 Rev.

In reply to Board's Reference No. 673-Gt./16-1, dated 7th April 1916, I have the honour to state that in my letter R. Dis. No. 277, Revenue, dated 30th September 1914, I have already strongly urged the desirability of appointing an officer of the Indian Civil Service to Devakottai. I venture to adhere to the opinions there expressed.

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Government of Madras

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT

No. 845, dated 1st April 1917

Respecting the Devakottai division of the Revenue Department, the following is the opinion of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd December 1916.

Abstract—Agreeing with the suggestion of the Board of Revenue that no change need be made in the existing arrangements for the officiating of divisions in the Revenue Department.

Official Memorandum No. 500-513-1, Revenue, dated 23rd March 1916. It has been suggested to Government that in the interest of general administration the Devakottai division of the Revenue Department should be placed in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service. In the Revenue No. 1555-GT-14-2, dated 18th November 1914, proposed of in G.O. No. 1557, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, the Board of Revenue discussed the suggestion to move the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad from that place to Devakottai. The Government agreed with the Board in considering that, under present conditions, Ramnad should continue to be in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service but that to be assigned with the opinion of the Board whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Ramnad division into a deputy collector's charge. This suggestion is referred to the Board of Revenue for their opinion on this point in consultation with the Collector of Ramnad.

J. B. Pearson, Acting Secretary to Government.

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 623-610-2, dated 12th July 1916. The Hon'ble Mr. M. B. Ganesan, I.C.S., Commissioner of Land Revenue, has been directed to consider the suggestion of the Board of Revenue to move the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad from that place to Devakottai. The Government agreed with the Board in considering that, under present conditions, Ramnad should continue to be in charge of an officer of the Indian Civil Service but that to be assigned with the opinion of the Board whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Ramnad division into a deputy collector's charge. This suggestion is referred to the Board of Revenue for their opinion on this point in consultation with the Collector of Ramnad.

The following paper:—Letter from A. R. Lawrence, Fort St. George, dated 12th July 1916, to the Secretary to the Government of Land Revenue.

In reply to Board's Reference No. 578-GT-14-1, dated 23rd March 1916, I have the honor to state that in my letter No. 1557, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, I have already expressed my opinion on the suggestion to move the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad from that place to Devakottai. I am, therefore, unable to express any further opinion on this subject.

2. In commenting on my letter the Board opined that the people of the Devakottai division are not troublesome. Mr. Huggins, who knows that part of the country well, noted against this an expression of dissent, and added that the Chetties "are quite capable of fomenting riots as I know from personal experience."

3. I must respectfully endorse Mr. Huggins' view. I may remind the Board that there are turbulent Muhammadan elements in the division, as the Nambutalai riots showed, and that the only class in the district that have hitherto been brought under the Criminal Tribes Act—the Valayars—live in the Devakottai division.

4. The fact that the division marches with Pudukkottai State to some extent facilitates the commission of certain sorts of crime, and in no part of the district, or perhaps of the Presidency, could the criminal find prey so plentiful, so attractive and so easy as in the Chettynad.

5. I would venture to repeat that mere honesty is not sufficient, as the Board considers, to enable an officer to administer with success a division that is in some respects unique; in addition we need an independence and an immunity from the very suspicion of amenability to influence that a deputy collector, however incorruptible, by no means invariably enjoys.

6. But while I am thus strongly in favour of the posting of a Civilian to Devakottai, which will be all the more necessary if Arantangi is to be added to the division (a step that I am inclined to consider impracticable) I should see with reluctance the Sivakasi division transferred to a Provincial officer. In Sivakasi the Revenue work is of course heavier than in any other division in the district, and at least balances the heavier income-tax work at Devakottai.

7. Sivakasi is one of the few divisions in the Presidency to which it has been considered necessary to post a Special Police Force, and though there has been little serious friction between Shanars and other castes of recent years, Government evidently consider that there are still potentialities of trouble and I should hesitate to dissent from that view.

8. So far as criminal work is concerned the Sivakasi and Devakottai divisions are about equally heavy. The Sivakasi division contains the only two municipalities in the district—Srivilliputtur and Virudupatti. They need firm and tactful handling—especially the latter.

9. The wealthy Nadar rivals the wealthier Chetty in his love of and capacity for intrigue, and Sivakasi like Devakottai needs an officer whose impartiality cannot be impugned. Nowhere in the district is faction more rampant than in the Srivilliputtur and Sattur taluks, where murders have sometimes been committed in order to implicate members of a rival party.

10. On the whole, if it is impossible to give the district three Indian Civil Service divisional officers, I consider that Sivakasi, though quite unsuited for a deputy collector, is somewhat less so than Devakottai.

11. The Board has observed that the district "must expect to have one deputy collector as a divisional officer". I would respectfully urge that the problem should not be treated as a purely mathematical one, or as though the Provincial Service were an infliction of which every Collector should cheerfully take his share, but that the needs of the various divisions should be considered and, if possible, provided for. My view is that all three divisions as a matter of fact need Indian Civil Service divisional officers. That there is considerable difficulty in finding an obviously suitable charge for a Provincial officer in the district is sufficiently evident from the present reference and the previous correspondence on the subject.

12. A bungalow for an Indian Civil Service divisional officer has lately been completed at Sivakasi.

13. I enclose a statement giving statistics of correspondence and other work in the two divisions. At present all the suits under the Estates Land Act from Devakottai are transferred to the Special Deputy Collector but none from Sivakasi.

Reference—No. 673-Gt/16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

Submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 780-C/16-1, dated 29th March 1916.

2. The Board considers that the Collector has given good reasons for retaining the Civilian divisional officer in the Sattur (now Sivakasi) division. In view of the disturbances between Shanars and Maravars which have occurred in the past and of the ever present possibility of a recurrence of them, it seems to the Board undesirable to entrust the division to a deputy collector. If it is not possible to find a third Indian Civil Service divisional officer for the Ramnad district, the Board is of opinion that the existing arrangements may continue.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with a statement.

ENCLOSURE.

COMPARATIVE statement showing the business disposed of in Devakottai and Sivakasi Divisional offices during the last three years.

	1913.		1914.		1915.	
	Received.	Disposed of.	Received.	Disposed of.	Received.	Disposed of.
Devakottai division.						
Magisterial—						
Criminal cases	84	74	100	89	109	94
Criminal appeals	83	80	91	87	81	79
Miscellaneous cases	26	24	65	60	62	54
Correspondence papers	1,738	1,732	1,905	1,892	2,080	2,052
Total, Magisterial	1,931	1,910	2,161	2,128	2,332	2,279
Revenue suits—						
Summary suits*	2,632	1,751	2,107	1,748	1,393	1,105
Regulation suits	41	37	16	12	13	10
Execution of decrees	943	864	1,239	865	1,096	1,007
Miscellaneous applications	3,621	3,099	4,042	3,743	2,868	2,127
Total, Revenue suits	7,237	5,751	7,404	6,368	5,370	4,249
Correspondence papers—						
Copy applications	8,620	8,346	7,978	7,460	7,704	7,449
Income-tax—						
Objection petitions	199	160	197	183	149	147
Revision petitions	58	45	99	77	82	82
Total, Income-tax	257	205	296	260	231	229
Sivakasi division.						
Magisterial—						
Criminal cases	99	99	104	104	121	121
Criminal appeals	103	103	83	83	73	73
Miscellaneous cases	49	49	63	63	40	40
Correspondence papers	2,506	2,506	2,214	2,214	2,481	2,481
Total, Magisterial	2,757	2,757	2,464	2,464	2,715	2,715
Revenue suits—						
Summary suits	352	235	455	253	447	299
Regulation suits	3	3	6	6	1	1
Execution of decrees	146	109	63	61	74	62
Miscellaneous applications	..	..	..	..	11	11
Total, Revenue suits	501	347	524	310	533	373
Correspondence papers—						
Copy applications, etc.	11,458	11,165	10,634	10,394	10,178	9,835
Income-tax—						
Objection petitions	42	42	47	47	41	41
Revision petitions	16	16	26	26	18	18
Total, Income-tax	58	58	73	73	59	59

* Including the suits transferred to the Special Deputy Collector.

1913-14—	Number of assesses.	Amount of income-tax.
Sattur	156	16,519
Devakottai	410	70,172
1914-15—		
Sattur	159	16,942
Devakottai	412	69,987
1915-16—		
Sivakasi	162	16,883
Devakottai	425	78,095

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916.
With reference to the correspondence ending with Reference No. 673-Gt./16-2, dated 18th July 1916, the Board of Revenue is requested to report whether it would recommend that an Indian Civil Service Officer should for the future be in charge of the Devakottai division of the Ramnad district instead of the Chandragiri division of the Chittoor district.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

The Hon'ble Mr. R. B. CLEGG, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.
The Hon'ble Mr. N. S. BRODIE, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.
The Hon'ble Mr. L. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.
The Hon'ble Mr. M. E. COUCHMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

Read—the following papers :—

(i)
Memorandum—from Government, Revenue Department.
Dated—the 22nd August 1916.
No.—780-C/16-3.

(ii)
Reference—from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
Dated—the 4th September 1916.
No.—673-Gt./16-3.

(iii)
Letter—from H. L. BRAIDWOOD, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Chittoor.
To—the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue.
Dated—the 5th October 1916.
No.—3571-D. 6.

In reply to Board's Reference No. 673-Gt./16-3, dated the 4th September 1916, asking for my remarks on the proposal of Government to convert Chandragiri division into a Deputy Collector's division, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. I do not know exactly the circumstances under which Chandragiri was made an Indian Civil Service division at the re-arrangement of the districts under Sir William Meyer's scheme in 1911. Apparently, it succeeded the old Ranipet division, to which it corresponds except for its reduction by the exclusion of Walajah taluk.

Chandragiri division now comprises (1) Chandragiri taluk, (2) the Zamindari divisions of Kalahasti, Puttur and Tiruttani. It seems to me to be in several ways more important than the average Indian Civil Service division and there are in it several features which seem to demand the superior powers of work and control which are expected of an Indian Civil Service officer. I mention such of these as occur to me—

(1) In Chandragiri taluk, there are three important forest ranges containing valuable forests. The interests of the ryots in the neighbourhood of these forests can be better watched by an officer of superior status.

(2) There is one municipality, Tirupati, which requires close control owing to the existence of factions and the powerful indirect influence of the Mahant.

Submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3 dated 22nd August 1916.

2. The Board considers that the Collector has given good reasons for retaining the Chandragiri division in the Ramnad district. In view of the fact that the division is a large one and that it is not possible to find a suitable officer to take charge of it, the Board recommends that the division should remain in the Ramnad district.

H. M. PATER,
Secretary to Government.

1932		1931		1930		1929		1928		1927		1926		1925		1924		1923		1922		1921		1920		1919		1918		1917		1916		1915		1914		1913		1912		1911		1910		1909		1908		1907		1906		1905		1904		1903		1902		1901		1900		1899		1898		1897		1896		1895		1894		1893		1892		1891		1890		1889		1888		1887		1886		1885		1884		1883		1882		1881		1880		1879		1878		1877		1876		1875		1874		1873		1872		1871		1870		1869		1868		1867		1866		1865		1864		1863		1862		1861		1860		1859		1858		1857		1856		1855		1854		1853		1852		1851		1850		1849		1848		1847		1846		1845		1844		1843		1842		1841		1840		1839		1838		1837		1836		1835		1834		1833		1832		1831		1830		1829		1828		1827		1826		1825		1824		1823		1822		1821		1820		1819		1818		1817		1816		1815		1814		1813		1812		1811		1810		1809		1808		1807		1806		1805		1804		1803		1802		1801		1800		1799		1798		1797		1796		1795		1794		1793		1792		1791		1790		1789		1788		1787		1786		1785		1784		1783		1782		1781		1780		1779		1778		1777		1776		1775		1774		1773		1772		1771		1770		1769		1768		1767		1766		1765		1764		1763		1762		1761		1760		1759		1758		1757		1756		1755		1754		1753		1752		1751		1750		1749		1748		1747		1746		1745		1744		1743		1742		1741		1740		1739		1738		1737		1736		1735		1734		1733		1732		1731		1730		1729		1728		1727		1726		1725		1724		1723		1722		1721		1720		1719		1718		1717		1716		1715		1714		1713		1712		1711		1710		1709		1708		1707		1706		1705		1704		1703		1702		1701		1700		1699		1698		1697		1696		1695		1694		1693		1692		1691		1690		1689		1688		1687		1686		1685		1684		1683		1682		1681		1680		1679		1678		1677		1676		1675		1674		1673		1672		1671		1670		1669		1668		1667		1666		1665		1664		1663		1662		1661		1660		1659		1658		1657		1656		1655		1654		1653		1652		1651		1650		1649		1648		1647		1646		1645		1644		1643		1642		1641		1640		1639		1638		1637		1636		1635		1634		1633		1632		1631		1630		1629		1628		1627		1626		1625		1624		1623		1622		1621		1620		1619		1618		1617		1616		1615		1614		1613		1612		1611		1610		1609		1608		1607		1606		1605		1604		1603		1602		1601		1600		1599		1598		1597		1596		1595		1594		1593		1592		1591		1590		1589		1588		1587		1586		1585		1584		1583		1582		1581		1580		1579		1578		1577		1576		1575		1574		1573		1572		1571		1570		1569		1568		1567		1566		1565		1564		1563		1562		1561		1560		1559		1558		1557		1556		1555		1554		1553		1552		1551		1550		1549		1548		1547		1546		1545		1544		1543		1542		1541		1540		1539		1538		1537		1536		1535		1534		1533		1532		1531		1530		1529		1528		1527		1526		1525		1524		1523		1522		1521		1520		1519		1518		1517		1516		1515		1514		1513		1512		1511		1510		1509		1508		1507		1506		1505		1504		1503		1502		1501		1500		1499		1498		1497		1496		1495		1494		1493		1492		1491		1490		1489		1488		1487		1486		1485		1484		1483		1482		1481		1480		1479		1478		1477		1476		1475		1474		1473		1472		1471		1470		1469		1468		1467		1466		1465		1464		1463		1462		1461		1460		1459		1458		1457		1456		1455		1454		1453		1452		1451		1450		1449		1448		1447		1446		1445		1444		1443		1442		1441		1440		1439		1438		1437		1436		1435		1434		1433		1432		1431		1430		1429		1428		1427		1426		1425		1424		1423		1422		1421		1420		1419		1418		1417		1416		1415		1414		1413		1412		1411		1410		1409		1408		1407		1406		1405		1404		1403		1402		1401		1400		1399		1398		1397		1396		1395		1394		1393		1392		1391		1390		1389		1388		1387		1386		1385		1384		1383		1382		1381		1380		1379		1378		1377		1376		1375		1374		1373		1372		1371		1370		1369		1368		1367		1366		1365		1364		1363		1362		1361		1360		1359		1358		1357		1356		1355		1354		1353		1352		1351		1350		1349		1348		1347		1346		1345		1344		1343		1342		1341		1340		1339		1338		1337		1336		1335		1334		1333		1332		1331		1330		1329		1328		1327		1326		1325		1324		1323		1322		1321		1320		1319		1318		1317		1316		1315		1314		1313		1312		1311		1310		1309		1308		1307		1306		1305		1304		1303		1302		1301		1300		1299		1298		1297		1296		1295		1294		1293		1292		1291		1290		1289		1288		1287		1286		1285		1284		1283		1282		1281		1280		1279		1278		1277		1276		1275		1274		1273		1272		1271		1270		1269		1268		1267		1266		1265		1264		1263		1262		1261		1260		1259		1258		1257		1256		1255		1254		1253		1252		1251		1250		1249		1248		1247		1246		1245		1244		1243		1242		1241		1240		1239		1238		1237		1236		1235		1234		1233		1232		1231		1230		1229		1228		1227		1226		1225		1224		1223		1222		1221		1220		1219		1218		1217		1216		1215		1214		1213		1212		1211		1210		1209		1208		1207		1206		1205		1204		1203		1202		1201		1200		1199		1198		1197		1196		1195		1194		1193		1192		1191		1190		1189		1188		1187		1186		1185		1184		1183		1182		1181		1180		1179		1178		1177		1176		1175		1174		1173		1172		1171		1170		1169		1168		1167		1166		1165		1164		1163		1162		1161		1160		1159		1158		1157		1156		1155		1154		1153		1152		1151		1150		1149		1148		1147		1146		1145		1144		1143		1142		1141		1140		1139		1138		1137		1136		1135		1134		1133		1132		1131		1130		1129		1128		1127		1126		1125		1124		1123		1122		1121		1120		1119		1118		1117		1116		1115		1114		1113		1112		1111		1110		1109		1108		1107		1106		1105		1104		1103		1102		1101		1100		10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(3) There are three registered criminal tribes in the division, viz., the Jogis, the Vanganur Malas and the Gollakuppam Donga Dasaris. An Indian Civil Service officer will be of more use in helping to supervise them especially when they are located in settlements, as the two latter are likely to be when funds are available.

(4) The two ancient zamindaris of Kalahasti and Karvetnagar have split up into numerous estates, some large and some small. There is constant friction between the landholders and ryots in most of these estates. The numerous zamindars and proprietors would also probably much prefer to have dealings with a sub-collector than with a deputy collector.

(5) Faction disputes leading to violence are rather common in the division, e.g., there have been three big cases under section 109 during the past two years.

(6) There is an immense amount of suits work in the division. Though a Special Suits Deputy Collector has been working on and off for the last eighteen months, the sub-collector still has a lot of suits work to do. He has three suits clerks in addition to the usual full staff of a sub-collector's office.

(7) The mileage of roads and the extent of the division are both very large. Only a very active and energetic man can get over the country as much as is desirable as well as attending to the office work. Even now, villages off the main roads are very rarely visited by the Divisional officer.

(8) The Taluk Board work is very heavy and the disposal of it is even under the present regime hardly satisfactory. A non-official President capable of running it satisfactorily would be hard to find owing to the extensive touring required.

3. The ordinary revenue work is a little lighter than that of Madanapalli and is undoubtedly below the average of Indian Civil Service divisions. This is, of course, due to the fact that there is only one Government taluk and that a light one. The Magisterial work is slightly heavier than that of Madanapalli and is, I think, heavier than that of most Indian Civil Service divisions. The numbers of original and appeal cases were 144 and 73 and 114 and 70 in 1914 and 1915, respectively. The average annual number of original cases for disposal by Joint Magistrates in the four years 1911-1914 was 77.

4. The above considerations might be discounted as being more or less theoretical, but, in this case, I have also had the advantage of seeing the division in charge of Deputy Collectors for two periods of about seven and four months, since I have been in the district. The officers in charge were experienced Deputy Collectors and had, I believe, good reputations, but both of them were utterly unequal to the charge of the division and left heavy arrears of work on their departure. On the other hand, it must be admitted that one deputy collector who was in charge of the division for about eighteen months about 1912 seems to have got through the work very well. But I have heard that he was an exceptionally quick and capable man. In my opinion, an average sub-collector can just manage the division tolerably and only an exceptional deputy collector can cope with the work.

5. Among minor considerations pointing in the same direction, I may mention—

- (1) that there is a sub-collector's official residence recently completed;
- (2) that there is very good Shikar available in the division which would help to reconcile many sub-collectors to the somewhat solitary life they have to lead but would be of no interest to most deputy collectors.

6. For the above reasons, I am strongly of opinion that the division should not be handed over to a deputy collector.

Reference—No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

The letter from the Collector of Chittoor read above will be submitted to Government with reference to their Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, dated 22nd August 1916.

2. On a consideration of the relative needs of the two divisions, the Board is of opinion that the need for a Divisional officer of the Indian Civil Service is greater in the case of Chandragiri than in the case of Devakottai, and that a deputy collector should suffice for the Devakottai division as hitherto.

H. R. PATE,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

VI

Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-4, Revenue, dated 1st December 1916.

With reference to the correspondence ending with Reference No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916, the Board of Revenue is requested to favour the Government with its opinion as to whether there is any Indian Civil Service division which is less in need of an Indian Civil Service officer than Devakottai and, if so, whether a deputy collector can be posted to that division and an Indian Civil Service officer transferred to Devakottai.

J. P. BEDFORD,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

VII

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673-Gt./16-5, dated 3rd February 1917.

The Hon'ble Sir ROBERT CLEGG, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. LL. E. BUCKLEY, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Revenue Settlement, Survey, Land Records and Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Mr. C. G. TODHUNTER, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Salt, Abkari and Separate Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. E. COUCHMAN, I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue and Forests.

The Board begs to reply to the Memorandum of Government No. 780-G/16-4, Revenue, dated 1st December 1916. In the opinion of the majority of the Board, the following divisions, viz., Kumbakonam, Ongole, Narasapur and Tindivanam, in that order, are less in need of an officer of the Indian Civil Service, than Devakottai; they consider that the Indian Civil Service Officer in charge of any one of these divisions might be set free to take charge of the Devakottai division. The acting third and fourth Members are of opinion that if possible each district should have at least one Indian Civil Service divisional officer and consider that Kumbakonam is the only division which might with advantage surrender its Indian Civil Service officer in favour of Devakottai.

H. R. PATR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Order—No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 4th April 1917.

The Governor in Council directs that the Devakottai division of the Rāmnād district be constituted a charge of the Indian Civil Service, and that in lieu thereof the Kumbakonam division of the Tanjore district be transferred to the Provincial Civil Service. Effect will be given to this change as soon as practicable.

(True Extract.)

R. RAMACHANDRAN PAO,
Secretary to Government.

E. A. Harey

- To the Collector of Rāmnād.
- " Tanjore.
- " Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
- " Revenue Department.
- " Home (Judicial) Department.
- " Public Department.
- " Public Works Department.
- " Local and Municipal Department.
- Copy to the Accountant-General.
- Editors' Table.

(Order only).

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in the railway communications affecting the component parts of the district—paragraphs 2 and 3 of G.O. No. 212, Public, dated 17th March 1910. The Government at the same time considered whether Devakottai or Ramnad should be the Indian Civil Service division. It was decided that so long as the Collector's headquarters were at Madura the Indian Civil Service officer should stay at Ramnad and not at Devakottai. An additional reason for this decision was that there was no suitable house accommodation for a civilian at Devakottai—paragraph 3 of Mr. Bryant's letter at page 3 of G.O. No. 1518, dated 9th May 1910.

In G.O. No. 756, Public, dated 30th June 1914, Government decided to fix Madura as the permanent headquarters of the Ramnad District and in that connection the question of constituting the Devakottai division into an Indian Civil Service charge by transferring the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad to that division was again considered. The Honourable

Member considered that the Chetti country was very much cut off, owing to the distance from the railway and that income-tax work was very important in that division and for these reasons a resident officer thoroughly independent of local influences was needed at the place. He was accordingly in favour of placing an Indian Civil Service officer at Devakottai (page 7 of Notes to G.O. Mis. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914), but he directed that the matter should be first referred to the Collector and the

Board for opinion—vide Official Memorandum No. 1917-C/14-1, dated 1st August 1914, at page 1 of current file in G.O. Mis. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914. The Board's reply is contained at pages 2-7 of current file in G.O. Mis. No. 1657, dated 23rd December 1914.

The Collector * was strongly of opinion that both Ramnad and Devakottai should be in charge of Indian Civil Service officers and if, however, that was impossible he was in favour of retaining the Indian Civil Service officer at Ramnad. His reasons for placing the Devakottai division in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer were as follow:—

(1) The Divisional Officer has to deal with the European lessees of Sivaganga and an Indian Civil Service manager of the Court of Wards and when the lease of the zamindari terminates in 1918 he will probably deal with an estate Collector—a civilian of some seniority.

(2) The division is inhabited by wealthy Nattukkottai Chetties who as a class are noted for their love of intrigue and its administration by a member of the Indian Civil Service whose emoluments, position and traditions place him above suspicion will be more efficient and inspire greater public confidence.

(3) It is generally supposed that a great deal of crime in the division is never reported. The Chetti landholder is high handed and oppressive in his dealings with his tenants. For these reasons a strong man is required for the division.

(4) Devakottai is a heavy division and income-tax work is particularly heavy. The division will become heavier still when Arantangi is added to it.

The Board, however, was unable to agree with the Collector that the Devakottai division should be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. It was of opinion that Ramnad should continue to be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer and that the idea of transferring that officer to Devakottai may be definitely abandoned—paragraph 5 of page 5 of current file in G.O. Mis., No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914. The counter reasons adduced by the Board against the Collector's proposal are as follow:—

Paragraph 5 at page 5 of current file in G.O. 1657, 23rd December 1914.

Paragraph 5 at page 5 of current file in G.O. 1657, 23rd December 1914.

(1) The Board considered that the reason adduced by the Collector that Sivaganga has a Civilian manager and that after the lease of the zamindari lapses in 1918 the Divisional Officer will probably have to deal with a Civilian Estate Collector was not a sufficient reason for entrusting the charge of the division to an Indian Civil Service officer.

(2) The people in the division are not particularly troublesome. It is true that Devakottai is the headquarters of the Nattukkottai Chetties but this caste is intriguing and litigious rather than lawless and any honest man can manage them.

(3) The Board did not believe that crime was hushed up in Devakottai any more than it is by the Maravar headmen in the Ramnad division.

(4) The Board considered that Ramnad district must expect to have one Deputy Collector as Divisional Officer—the other two divisions Ramnad and Sattur are both Civilian divisions—and that the most suitable division in the district for such an officer is Devakottai.

The Government—the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart dissenting—accepted the Board's recommendation and the question was dropped. It is for orders whether the question should be reopened.

Pages 11-13 of Notes to G.O. 1657, 23rd December 1914.

S.R.R.—15-3-16.

V.P.—16-3-16.

The question of moving the Indian Civil Service officer from Sattur to Devakottai has also been considered and abandoned—vide Mr. Davidson's note, dated 24th July 1914, as Revenue Secretary and the Honourable Member's note, dated 25th July 1914, at pages 6-8 of Notes to G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914.

S.R.—17-3-16.

The position is this:—

There are three divisions in the Ramnad District, two of which, viz., Ramnad and Sattur, are already Indian Civil Service charges. The third Devakottai is the one division in charge of a Deputy Collector. The Collector and the Board are very strongly of opinion that Ramnad should continue to be an Indian Civil Service charge—vide page 3 et seq. of current file in G.O. No. 1657, dated 23rd December 1914.

The Honourable Member is decidedly of opinion that there can be no question of

That is not at all the meaning of what I wrote at the place referred to.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—24-3-16.

converting Sattur into a Deputy Collector's charge—page 7 of Notes to the above Government Order. Both the Honourable Member and the Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart would prefer to convert Devakottai into an Indian Civil Service charge—vide pages 7 and 11 of Notes to the above Government Order. If all the three divisions are not to be Indian Civil Service charges, Ramnad can be converted into a Deputy Collector's charge only if and when the headquarters of the district are moved to Ramnad. The Hon'ble Sir Harold Stuart was strongly in favour of the move but he was outvoted—please see pages 11 to 13 of Notes to G.O. No. 1657, Revenue, dated 23rd December 1914.

T.S.R.—17-3-16.

Note No. 349.

The whole question has been recently threshed out. The notes give a history of the discussions which I can add nothing as I do not know the district.

A. H. A. Todd—18-3-16.

The question has been discussed more than once. As far as I can see, the conclusions arrived at were: (1) that there were excellent reasons for having an Indian Civil Service officer at Devakottai, (2) that there were even stronger reasons for having Indian Civil Service officers at Ramnad and Sattur, (3) that to put an Indian Civil Service officer in charge of all three divisions would mean an undue weakening of the Indian Civil Service element elsewhere.

J. P. Bedford—20-3-16.

The point which has not been threshed out is whether the Indian Civil Service officer at Sattur might not be posted at Devakottai instead. I can see several advantages in this, and I think the Collector might be consulted through the Board on this point.

An Indian Civil Service officer is needed undoubtedly at Ramnad where the zamindar would otherwise exercise complete influence if there were nothing but an Indian Deputy Collector there.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—22-3-16.

P[ENTLAND]—23-3-16.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—25-3-16.

A draft official memorandum to the Board of Revenue is submitted for approval.

S.R.—24-3-16.

T.S.R.—24-3-16.

A. H. A. Todd—27-3-16.

To the Honourable Member with draft. Would it be well to include the Inspector-General of Police in the officers to be consulted (by the Board of Revenue or by Government direct)? The Sattur division was put in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer when I was Collector of Tinnevely in 1899-1900 in connection with the anti-shamir riots and the generally turbulent character of the people of that division, as evinced thereby. There are still, I think, one or two companies of Special Police in the division.

The Honourable Member will remember the recent file about mixed cotton, in which apprehensions were expressed of rioting taking place about these tracts:

J. P. Bedford—17-3-16.

It would certainly be necessary to consult the Inspector-General of Police through Judicial before any change was made. Perhaps we had better hear the Board of Revenue first.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—28-3-16.

J.P.B.—28-3-16.

Draft may issue.

J.P.B.—28-3-16.

[Official Memorandum to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 780-C/16-1, dated 29th March 1916.]

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) No. 673-G/16-2, dated 18th July 1916.

Please see the Collector's letter at pages 3-5 of current file. In reply to the specific point raised in the Government memorandum whether it would be feasible and desirable to convert the Sattur (now Sivakasi) division into a Deputy Collector's charge, thus relieving an Indian Civil Service officer for employment at Devakottai, the Collector (Mr. A. B. P. Tottenham) states that he would see with reluctance the Sattur (Sivakasi) division transferred to a Provincial officer. He is also strongly in favour of the posting of a Civilian to Devakottai. He adds that, if it is impossible to give the district three Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers, Sattur (Sivakasi) though quite unsuited for a Deputy Collector is somewhat less so than Devakottai. The

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Board states that the Collector has given good reasons for retaining the Civilian Divisional Officer in the Sattur (Sivakasi) division, that it is undesirable to entrust it to a Deputy Collector and that if it is not possible to find a third Indian Civil Service Divisional Officer for the Rāmnād district, the existing arrangement under which Devakottai is in charge of a Provincial Civil Service officer may continue.

2. In paragraph (6) of its Reference No. 1653 G./14-2, dated 13th November 1914, at page 6 of G.O. No. 1657, Public, dated 23rd December 1914, the Board of Revenue considered that the Rāmnād district must expect to have one Deputy Collector as Divisional Officer. The Collector (Mr. Tottenham) states that the problem should not be treated as a mathematical one but that the needs of the various divisions should be considered and, if possible, provided for and that his view is that all the three divisions need Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers.

3. As it has been decided that the Rāmnād division should be under a Civilian Divisional Officer, so long as the headquarters of the Collector are at Madura, the only course left open would seem to be to continue the existing arrangement or to entrust all the three divisions in the district to officers of the Indian Civil Service. If it is decided to post an Indian Civil Service officer to Devakottai, either the sanctioned cadre of Indian Civil Service should be increased or there should be a reduction in the number of Indian Civil Service officers elsewhere.

S.R.G.—27-7-16.

The remarks of the Public (x) Department may, it is submitted, be invited on this point. The file may be sent also to the Judicial Department with reference to the Honourable Member's note, dated 28th March 1916: it will be seen from paragraphs 2 to 4 of Mr. Tottenham's letter that one of the arguments advanced in favour of the posting of an Indian Civil Service officer for the Devakottai division is that the Chetties are quite capable of fomenting riots, that there are turbulent Muhammadan elements in the division, that the only class in the district that have hitherto been brought under the Criminal Tribes Act—the Valayars—live in this division and finally that the situation of Pudukottai State adjoining this division to some extent facilitates the commission of certain sorts of crime—please see the statistics on page

S.A.—28-7-16.

S.R.R.—28-7-16.

V.P.—2-8-16.

For orders.

A. H. A. Todd—3-8-16.

Perhaps in the circumstances it will not be considered necessary to pursue the matter further. The Sattur (Sivakasi) division has seen what was perhaps the biggest riot in South India during the last fifty years, and it can hardly be doubted that the Inspector-General would endorse the Board's view.

J.P.B.—7-8-16.

I agree as to Sattur division. It might, however, be possible to find another Indian Civil Service officer by transfer from another district. I am inclined to agree with Mr. Tottenham that the Indian Civil Service Divisional Officers should be allotted on the needs of the locality. Still one would prefer to leave at least one in each district. The Board of Revenue may be asked whether it would recommend the transfer of one of the two Divisional Officers now in North Arcot (viz., from Tiruvannamalai) or in Chittoor (viz., from Chandragiri) to the Devakottai division of Rāmnād.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—10-8-16.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—10-8-16.

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Note 349

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With reference to the Honourable Member's orders above, it is respectfully submitted that Tiruvannamalai has already been converted into a Deputy Collector's charge—vide G.O. No. 1030, Public, dated 21st August 1914.
R.V.—12-8-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—14-8-16.—
Draft to me, referring to the other divisions.

J. P. BEDFORD—14-8-16.—
A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval.
R.V.—15-8-16.

V.A.A.—15-8-16.
Public (x) (u.o.) for favour of acceptance of the draft.
J.P.B.—16-8-16.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.
Submitted that the draft official memorandum may be accepted in this department.
A.H.—17-8-16.

L. DAVIDSON—18-8-16.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Submitted for orders as to issue of official memorandum.
R.V.—19-8-16.

Issue.

V.A.A.—19-8-16.

J. P. BEDFORD—22-8-16.
[Official-memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916.]
Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673/16-4, dated 3rd November 1916.

As a result of a consideration of the question of the expediency of converting the Devakottai division of the Rāmnād district into an Indian Civil Service charge, the Board of Revenue was, in Official Memorandum No. 780-C/16-3, Revenue, dated 22nd August 1916, asked to report whether it would recommend an Indian Civil Service officer for the Devakottai division instead of the Chandragiri division of the Chittoor district.

2. The Collector of Chittoor who was consulted by the Board is strongly against the placing of the Chandragiri division under a Deputy Collector for the following reasons:—

(1) In Chandragiri taluk there are three important forest ranges containing valuable forests and the interests of the ryots in the neighbourhood can be better watched by an officer of superior status.

(2) The Tirupati municipality requires close control owing to the existence of factions and the powerful indirect influence of the Mahant.

(3) There are three registered criminal tribes in the division—the Jogis, the Vanganur Malas and the Sollakuppam Donga Dasaris.

(4) The Zamindaris of Kalahasti and Karvetnagar have split up into several estates and there is constant friction between the landholders and ryots in most of these estates. Further the numerous zamindars and proprietors would prefer to have dealings with a Sub-Collector than with a Deputy Collector.

(5) Faction disputes leading to violence are rather common in the division.

(6) Work under the Estates Land Act is very heavy in the division to which three suit clerks have been added to the usual full staff of a Sub-Collector's office.

(7) The mileage of roads and the extent of the division are both very large, and only a very active and energetic man can get over the country as much as is desirable as well as attending to the office work.

(8) Taluk Board work is very heavy, and a capable non-official president is hard to find.

(9) Two experienced Deputy Collectors who had been in charge of the division formerly—J. Ramayya Pantulu and V. Ramakrishnayya Pantulu—were utterly unequal to the charge and left heavy arrears on their departure. [One Deputy Collector, however, who was in charge of the division for 18 months—S. Raghavendra Rao—proved equal to the task, but he is spoken of as an exceptionally quick and capable officer.]

(10) An official residence for the Sub-Collector has been recently completed at Chandragiri.

3. The Board of Revenue is of opinion that the need for an Indian Civil Service officer is greater in the case of Chandragiri than of Devakottai and that the latter may continue with a Deputy Collector. In paragraph 159 of his report on the constitution of additional districts, divisions and taluks in the Presidency, Sir William Meyer proposed a Civilian officer for Chandragiri on account "of the troublesome, religious centre of Tirupati."

4. Orders are solicited. An Indian Civil Service officer is suggested for Devakottai in view of the fact that there is any number of Nattukkottai Chetties in the division who buy up any officials they can—vide the Honourable Member's note extracted at page 1 supra.

S.A.R.—18-11-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—18-11-16.

May the Board's view be accepted?

J. P. BEDFORD—23-11-16.

Must be accepted and the provision of a Sub-Collector for Devakottai dropped unless some other alternative can be suggested by the Board. I don't understand why Reference, dated 22nd August 1916, was issued to the Board at all, seeing that in my note, dated 10th August 1916, I had said that it was preferable to leave one Indian Civil Service division in each district and that I referred to North Arcot on the expressed understanding that there were two Indian Civil Service sub-divisions in that district. The list of divisions supplied in the Ready Reference File seems to be wrong, and should be corrected and brought up to date.

Please ask the Board whether there is any Indian Civil Service division which in its opinion requires an Indian Civil Service less than Devakottai and which it would recommend must be placed under a Deputy Collector in order to provide a Sub-Collector for Devakottai.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—25-11-16.

Draft to me.

J.P.B.—27-11-16.

A draft official memorandum is submitted for approval. [An extract of the Honourable Member's note at A above has been sent to the Public Department for necessary action.]

S.A.R.—27-11-16.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—28-11-16.
Issue.

J.P.B.—30-11-16.

[Official Memorandum to the Board of Revenue, (Land Revenue), No. 780 C/16-4, dated 1st December 1916.]

Reference from the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 673-Gt./16-5, dated 3rd February 1917.

The Honourable Member and His Excellency have been of opinion that the Devakottai division in the Ramnad district should be in charge of an Indian Civil Service officer. It was found that it was not possible to take away an Indian Civil Service officer for the purpose from either the Sattur division or the Ramnad division.

The Honourable Member then directed a reference to the Board of Revenue asking it whether there was any Indian Civil Service division which, in its opinion, required an Indian Civil Service officer less than Devakottai and which, it would recommend, might be placed under a Deputy Collector in order to provide a Sub-Collector for Devakottai (official memorandum, dated 1st December 1916). The majority of the Board now state in reply (pages 18-19, current file) that, in their opinion, the

* Kumbakonam, Ongole, Narasapur and Tindivanam. marginally-noted divisions* are, in the order given, less in need of an Indian Civil Service officer than Devakottai

and that the Indian Civil Service officer of any of these divisions might be set free to take charge of the Devakottai division. Messrs. Todhunter and Couchman

† Honourable Member also noted to the same effect on 10th August 1916 (page 14 ante.) (the acting Third and Fourth Members) are said to be of opinion that, if possible, †

Indian Civil Service Divisional Officer and that Kumbakonam is the only division which might with advantage surrender its Indian Civil Service officer in favour of Devakottai. each district should have at least one

A.R.K.—13-2-17.

Submitted that this department may agree with the Board that the Kumbakonam division might be placed under a Deputy Collector and that the Indian Civil Service officer might be transferred to the Devakottai division. The file may, it is submitted, be sent to the Public Department where orders have to issue.

A.S.R.—12-2-17.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—12-2-17.

A. R. KNAPP—13-2-17.

PUBLIC (II) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted that this department may agree to the Kumbakonam division being placed under a Deputy Collector as a compensation for the proposed conversion of the Devakottai division into a *Civilian division*.

2. If the proposal is approved, final orders should apparently issue in Home (Miscellaneous) who deal with constitution of districts and divisions. The precedents † quoted by Revenue at the end of

† G.Os. 608, Public, 21st May 1912, 1030, Public, 21st August 1914.

their note on page 22 supra were dealt with in the old *Public Department* which is now designated *Home (Miscellaneous)*.

A.H.—18-2-17.

Kumbakonam is no doubt free from the objections urged to other divisions, in that there would still be a Civilian officer at Negapatam, but it is not a division which I should myself have chosen to make over to the Provincial Service for good and all. It is a centre of Hindu faction and intrigue, and Deputy Collectors will find it difficult to steer clear of such intrigues and impossible to guard themselves against more or less plausible charges of partiality, intrigue, etc.

J. P. BEDFORD—19-2-17.

I admit the truth of Mr. Bedford's remarks, but in view of its remote and isolated position, and the great wealth of the Nattukkottai Chetti community, I think, on the whole, that the balance of advantage is in favour of putting an Indian Civil Service officer in charge of the Devakottai division instead of of Kumbakonam. After all, intrigue and faction are not confined to Kumbakonam or even to Tanjore, while the peculiar features of Devakottai, especially the danger of subservience to the Chetties, are to some extent unique. I would therefore accept the Board's proposal. The Deputy Collector in charge of Devakottai who happened to call on me yesterday, said that the division is the heaviest he has ever been in.

A. G. C[ARDEW]—20-2-17.

P[ENTLAND]—24-2-17.

Draft to me.

J. P. BEDFORD—26-2-17.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

[It is submitted for orders whether, as pointed out in the office-note on *the previous page* (page 23) *(?)* the order should not issue in Home (Miscellaneous)].

A.H.—6-3-17.

Home (u.o.) for favour of issue of orders.

through Res. Dept.

J. P. BEDFORD—7-2-17.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
Previous notes of this department are on pages 21-22 ante. The further notes may, it is submitted, be perused and the file passed on to Home (Miscellaneous) u.o. for issue of orders.

A.S.R.—8-3-17.

V. A. ANANTARAMA AYYAR—8-3-17.

A. R. KNAPP—9-3-17.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

A draft order is submitted for approval.

T.C.N.—17-3-17.

P.D.R.—20-3-17.

A draft which follows the usual lines has been prepared. It will be issued in Home (Miscellaneous), following precedent, if Public requires, and accepts it, after circulation to the Honourable Member (Home).

I venture to suggest, however, this being a case in point, that the redistribution-of-work-list be revised to include "reconstitution of divisions" amongst the subjects dealt with by either the Revenue Department or the present Public Department. The subject whenever it arises, never examined in this department, though formally it is one of the subjects dealt with in this department; in point of fact the present case has never been seen by this department until it was sent for a draft to be prepared. My submission is that ordinarily it will be preferable for one of the departments that deal with and pass orders on the case to issue the draft.

If the suggestion is accepted, the draft may issue in Public.

In that case circulation to the Honourable Member (Home) will not be required [it is not intended, I see, that the case should be seen by the Honourable Member (Judicial)].

E. A. HARVEY—21-3-17.

PUBLIC (II) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders whether the draft order in this particular case may issue in Home (Miscellaneous), as the item "reconstitution of divisions" is now on the list of subjects under Home (Miscellaneous) the Home Secretary's suggestion to transfer this item from Home (Miscellaneous) to Public or Revenue being separately put up for orders.

A.H.—24-3-17.

Would Home kindly deal with this case and then return the file for consideration of the general question? Draft accepted in Public.

J.P.B.—26-3-17.

HOME (MISCELLANEOUS) DEPARTMENT.

Submitted for orders whether the draft in the present case may issue in this department, an extract of the notes being sent u.o. to Public for consideration of the question raised above.

T.C.N.—30-3-17.

P.D.R.—31-3-17.

Draft may issue.

E.A.H.—2-4-17.

H. F. W. G[ILLMAN]—4-4-17.

Issue.

E.A.H.—4-4-17.

[G.O. No. 349, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 4th April 1917.]

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