

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	197	Press Mis.
Dated	7-2	19. 1886

112-113

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th February 1866.*

No. 112. Read the following letter from the Registrar General of Assurances, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 2nd February 1866, No. 32.

I have the honor, in submitting the accompanying correspondence with the District Registrar of Tanjore, to recommend that Non-Official Deputy Registrars be appointed to Combaconum and Tanjore, and to request permission to insert an advertisement in the *Fort Saint George Gazette*, inviting applications for these posts from graduates of the Madras University, on the same conditions as were recently sanctioned by Government in the case of the Deputy Registrarship of Madura.

2. It will be observed, from the annexed Return, that there is a fair amount of work for a non-official Deputy Registrar at Combaconum and Tanjore, and that the commission on fees seems sufficient to induce competent persons to come forward for these posts.

3. This is hardly the case at present at Arandhangi. I do not, therefore, concur with the District Registrar in thinking that a Non-Official Deputy Registrar should be appointed to that station.

Return of registrations and fees in the Deputy Register Offices of Combaconum, Tanjore, and Arandhangi in the year 1865.

Months.	Combaconum.			Tanjore.			Arandhangi.		
	Regis- trations.	Fees.		Regis- trations.	Fees.		Regis- trations.	Fees.	
		RS.	A. P.		RS.	A. P.		RS.	A. P.
January.....	32	13	8 0	10	5	0 0	2	0	8 0
February.....	65	41	4 0	49	46	12 0	7	6	4 0
March.....	120	47	0 0	15	...	...	10	2	8 0
April.....	146	100	0 0	80	67	8 0	48	34	4 0
May.....	176	126	0 0	67	40	0 0	62	32	0 0
June.....	90	46	8 0	128	76	0 0	59	31	12 0
July.....	311	335	12 0	202	333	8 0	44	24	8 0
August.....	253	286	8 0	136	158	0 0	113	148	12 0
September...	379	486	12 0	119	180	4 0	127	121	0 0
October.....	266	624	12 0	43	151	0 0	178	202	0 0
November.....	268	1,042	0 0	257	374	8 0	183	483	0 0
December.....									
Total...	2,106	3,153	0 0	1,136	1,443	8 0	833	1,080	8 0

(Signed) R. M. MACDONALD,
Registrar General.

From the Registrar General of Assurances, Madras, to the District Registrar of Tanjore; dated Madras, 3rd January 1866, No. 33.

I have the the honor to request that you will inquire and report whether there is any truth in the allegations contained in the accompanying letter, signed "one of the parties," which appeared in the *Madras Times* of the 5th instant, regarding the mode in which business is transacted in the Office of the Deputy Registrar of Combaconum, and that you will state whether it is, in your opinion, advisable that a Non-Official, having no other duties to attend to, should be appointed to the office of Deputy Registrar of Combaconum.

(True Copy).

(Signed) R. M. MACDONALD,
Registrar General.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th February 1866.*

From the Officiating District Registrar, Tanjore, to the Registrar General of Assurances, Madras; dated Tanjore, 30th January 1866, No. 5.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, No. 53, I have the honor to state that I received the letter under acknowledgment, just at the time I was about to make a report regarding the defective mode in which business is transacted in the offices of the Deputy Registrars of the District in general.

2. I have already personally laid the matter before the Collector of the District, who has a perfect knowledge of the working of the various Departments. He is conscious that it is impossible for the Tahsildars to discharge the joint duties of Revenue and Registration Departments, without seriously neglecting the one or the other.

3. From what I have heard from the respectable inhabitants of Combaconum, Tanjore, and Arandhangi, I regret to have to submit that the statements set forth in the letter, signed "one of the parties," which appeared in the *Madras Times* of the 5th instant, are no exaggeration, and that they are not less applicable to the Deputy Registrar's Office at Tanjore. But it must be remembered that December was an exceptional month, being the last month in which the registration of old instruments was optional. The Hindoos, it is well known, generally take no action in any matter until the eleventh hour. They were slow for the first eleven months in the year, and in December they took extraordinary action in presenting their old instruments for registration. In Combaconum, in particular, there was a sudden rush of a very large number of old instruments in December, which appears to have unavoidably made the matter worse.

4. It will be observed that Tanjore and Combaconum are the largest and the most important Taluqs of this District. The Tahsildars are indeed busy and over-worked. Their Criminal file is heavy. When they are engaged in investigating a criminal case, it is impossible for them to attend to any other business; inasmuch as they have to take down notes of evidence as the inquiry proceeds. The registering parties are not unfrequently refused admittance into the Taluq Cutcherry for days, and sometimes till a late hour in the day. Even then they are often beckoned to go with their instruments to the miserably paid hungry clerks, whose malpractices I am indeed ashamed to touch upon. They have not only attracted the notice of the gentry, but aroused the indignation of the public; so much so that a respectable Native gentleman told me the other day that he would not for any thing in the world go to the Tanjore Taluq Cutcherry for registering his instruments, and asked me to have them registered in my office. I had no alternative, but to refer him to the Deputy Registrar's Office again with my endorsement. The Deputy Registrars of Tanjore and Combaconum can scarcely find time to devote their undivided attention, even for an hour, to inquire whether the alleged parties who appear at the office are the real parties to the instruments. This important inquiry is as a matter of course made by the clerks. This inquiry must be decidedly meagre. The clerks demand extra fees from the parties, and if they are not successful in squeezing it out, they have recourse to the stratagem of ill-treating the parties, or asking them to wait. In the last week, a Native gentleman came to my office, and presented a petition, stating that he had waited at the Tanjore Deputy Registrar's Office for 15 days, with money in his hands, requesting him to call at his house, to certify to a Power of Attorney to be executed by a Ghosha female of rank. I immediately took notice of the matter, and sent an order to the Deputy Registrar to attend to the case at once. This is not the only complaint I have received against the Tanjore Deputy Registrar. All the registering parties would not of course come forward to put themselves to the risk of complaining against the Tahsildar, and thereby incurring his displeasure.

5. Arandhangi is an important station, being adjacent to Madura. A large number of Natcottah Chetty merchants reside in that Sub-District, and the Deputy Registrar of that place (Firka Sub-Magistrate) is not at all equal to the duties of the office.

6. Under these circumstances, I deem it absolutely necessary that non-official members should be at once appointed to the Deputy Registrar's Offices of Combaconum, Tanjore, and Arandhangi for the present.

7. The *Times* paper received with your letter under reply is herewith returned, as requested.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
7th February 1866.*

No. 113. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1866, No. 197.

The Governor in Council sanctions the arrangement proposed in the foregoing letter, regarding the Deputy Registrarships of Combaconum and Tanjore.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Registrar General of Assurances.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Order thereon of 4th February 1861.

The Governor in Council
sanctions the arrangement proposed
in the foregoing letter regarding
the Deputy Registrarships of
Combaconu and Tanjore.

Registrar General of Assurances decd 12/2