

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	871	Press
-38-		Mis.
Dated	4-6-	1863.
		19

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
4th June 1863.

No. 38. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Fort Saint George, 4th June 1863, No. 871.

I am directed by the Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will lay the enclosed draft of a Bill before His Excellency the Governor General, and with reference to Section 43 of the Act 24 and 25 Victoria Chapter 67, solicit His Excellency's permission for the Bill being brought under the consideration of the Governor's Council for the purpose of making Laws and Regulations.

2. In this Presidency the Village Officers are by immemorial usage entitled to certain fees which with Inam lands from the legal emoluments of their offices.

3. The fees are mostly paid in kind are due at various periods of the year, and differ in amount and value in every District. At the original settlement of the Land Revenue a varying percentage of the gross produce of the land was usually first set aside for this and several Municipal purposes, and the remainder divided in differing proportions between Government and the landholder. To a certain extent therefore these fees are joint contributions of the State and the landholders. In addition to these other fees have by prescription been paid by the people from their own resources.

4. The collection of these fees, though recognized by law, is as may be supposed a troublesome, difficult matter. The more influential ryots withhold them on various pleas; the poorer ryots are liable to exactions; the time of the Village Officers is diverted from their duties to the collection of their emoluments, and the time of the superior Officers taken up with the settlement of frequently occurring disputes. It is besides objectionable in principle that Officers having public duties, often of an invidious character, to perform, should be dependent for their remuneration on the very persons against whom they may have to act.

5. The enclosed Bill is intended merely to place it in the power of Government, wherever circumstances render the course expedient, to abolish these fees, and to substitute for them a rate on the land not exceeding in any case $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. of the assessment. The actual rate levied in any District will of course be settled after careful consideration of its circumstances and the value of the fees payable by the landholders.

6. The above maximum has been fixed after much deliberation. In some cases the people now pay more; but their payments are for various purposes and could not all be diverted to the single purpose of paying the Village Officers.

7. The Bill applies only to those village Officers who perform duties of a public nature and leaves untouched the relations of the people with the village artizans whose services are really of a private, municipal character.

8. The proposed cess like the fees,* for which it will be substituted, is withdrawn from the cognizance of the Civil Courts, but the acts of the Revenue Officers will be open to appeal to Board of Revenue.

9. I am directed to request the favor of an early reply.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Fxd. T. McMootry.

Indica
Revenue Department

14/7/71
No. 871

The Secretary to the
Government of India
Home Dept.

Sir,

of a C/P
of a Bill
of a Bill

J.P.

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Curann or Village
accountant -
Sahay or Village
watcher -
Uda

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Yrs

Yr

For M George
& Son 1863

Ref. H. N.

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11/4/57

W. J. P. G. L.
Village fees

A^o 14/2 L.
8/11 J.

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Judicial 1863 April
At 3/11.
To the Secretary to the
Government of India
Dated 14th June 1863.

This had better
be in Legation
at 15/11/63

S. D. S.

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with copy
Bolt