

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	63	Press Mis.
¹⁰⁰⁻¹⁰¹ Dated	12-1-	19. 1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12th January 1865.

No. 100. Read the following letter from Major R. M. MACDONALD, Registrar General of Assurances, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 7th January 1865, No. 6.

I have the honor, in acknowledging the receipt of a copy of a telegram of the 31st ultimo, from the Home Secretary, Calcutta, to your address, to submit the following remarks, with reference to the establishment originally proposed for my office, and the reduction now ordered in its cost.

2. The extent of establishment required necessarily depends on the amount of detail in which the registers have to be kept. The law officers of this Presidency hold that, under Section 42 of Act XVI of 1864, abstracts of all instruments of every description, including not only deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations, but even wills, codicils, and instruments giving authority to adopt a son, should be entered in the books of the General Register Office, and that these abstracts should contain every material fact stated in the original instrument, and be so prepared as to enable any person, searching the books of the General Register Office, to acquire an accurate knowledge of the contents of such instruments. The rules and forms have been prepared in conformity with these views, and the effect of these arrangements will be that the books of the General Register Office will contain every thing which is contained in the books of the District and Deputy Registrars, with the exception of two columns headed "note of interlineations, erasures, and alterations," and "copy of instrument." I have already represented that, with regard to deeds, bonds, contracts, and other obligations, all this labor will be entirely thrown away, as these abstracts, if entered at all, must be entered in Book No. 4, which no one is permitted to inspect; and that, as regards wills, codicils, and instruments giving authority to adopt a son, no possible advantage will be derived by the public from these entries, as the Law Officers hold that they must also be entered in Book No. 4, while, on the other hand, Sections 56 and 59, read together, seem distinctly to imply that registers of deposits of wills, and registers of wills, shall be kept only in the offices of District Registrars, and not in those of the Registrar General. A telegram has, accordingly, been forwarded for the opinion of the Law Officers of Calcutta on these points; but, pending a reply, which has not yet been received, it seemed necessary to assume the correctness of the opinion of the Law Officers of Madras, and to organize the new establishment accordingly.

3. As there are 22 Registration Districts in the Madras Presidency, and as it was proposed to keep up, for each of these Districts, a set of books, exactly corresponding with those of the District Registrar, in all but two columns, it seemed to follow that, if he required one clerk to do his work, one would be required at the Presidency to do nearly the same work. The salary of the District Registrar's clerk has been fixed at Rupees 30. This was also taken as the minimum salary for the Registering clerks of the General Register office. It may, no doubt, be possible to find men capable of copying mechanically, for a somewhat lower salary than Rupees 30; but it must be remembered that the books which these clerks will have to keep are of more importance than ordinary letter books, and that each of them must be able to read and copy the rough writing which will come in from the Deputy Registrar offices, in at least one and sometimes in two vernacular languages, and to

prepare English Indexes from these Vernacular abstracts. I believe it will be found that persons possessing these qualifications can usually obtain salaries of fully this amount in the various public and private offices at Madras, and that, if it is intended that they shall remain in this office for some years, they must, as in all other offices,

6	on	Rs.
6	"	30.
6	"	35.
6	"	40.
4	"	50.

have some prospects of promotion held out to them. It was partly with this object in view that the salaries of the

Registering clerks were fixed at the rates noted in the margin. Some of the men required cannot, however, be got at all for Rupees 30. The books of the General Register office have to be kept in four Vernacular languages, as well as English, viz., Tamil, Telugu, Canarese and Malayalam. It is almost impossible at Madras to procure persons having a competent knowledge of Canarese and Malayalam for so low a salary as Rupees 30, and it is equally difficult to induce men to leave such distant Districts as those of Canara and Malabar for such low salaries. It was, therefore, my intention to reserve two or three of the higher posts for men acquainted with these languages; and it may be remarked, both with regard to these languages and Telugu and Tamil, that there must be men in the office capable of translating such circular orders as have to be issued for the guidance of the Deputy Registrars, and that Rupees 50 does not seem an unreasonable salary for a person who, in addition to the duties of a clerk, must perform those of a translator.

4. For correspondence, returns, and accounts, it was proposed to have four clerks, on the salaries noted in the margin.

Ra.
60.
40.
50.
20.

I have already stated that one or two of these men would be frequently absent from the Presidency. Their duties will

consist in examining the monthly Returns of Registration, in auditing the fee accounts, in copying and entering letters, pay abstracts, and indents, in recording such original registrations as may take place under Section 26, and preparing such papers as these occasional registrations will render necessary, in filing and keeping in order the correspondence, vouchers, and abstracts of registrations which will come in from 348 District and Deputy Register offices, in producing Registers and Indexes when called for by persons applying to search the books, in receiving and entering the prescribed fees, and in preparing such certified copies of entries in the Registers as may be applied for. It is believed that the salaries proposed are not higher than are paid in other offices for similar duties, and that when the office is in full operation, there will be ample employment for four men.

5. For the post of Manager, the salary proposed was Rupees 200. During my absence from the Presidency, this person was to be in sole charge of the General Register Office, and at all times to exercise a general supervision over the work of 26 clerks. A good general education, some experience, and respectability of character seemed all indispensable conditions for the person selected for this post. It was my intention that he should devote 22 days every month to examining the Registers of the 22 Districts, under which arrangement a monthly inspection of the books would be secured, and errors, arising from carelessness or ignorance on the part of new men, be at once detected. The other four days he was to devote to examining the books, returns, and records entrusted to the Correspondence clerks.

It will be observed that the performance of these duties involves a knowledge of five languages, English, Telugu, Tamil, Canarese and Malayalam. It seemed further desirable that, in the event of Registration papers coming in from the Districts, or Sub-Districts, incorrectly prepared, or of the abstracts of instruments failing to contain the information required by the rules, the Manager should be a person capable of detecting errors which might escape the notice of a Registering clerk. Both for this and other reasons, it seemed advisable that he should be a person not entirely ignorant of law.

6. I was unable to find any person possessing all the qualifications which I have described, but Terumalacharri, who was selected out of a large number of applicants, and was a graduate of the Madras University; he was holding the post of Tamil, Telugu and Canarese Translator on the Appellate Side of the High Court, on a salary of Rupees 110; he had passed the Special Test required for a District Moonsiff, and was able to produce certificates of attendance on various courses of Law lectures. I believe, therefore, that Rupees 200 was not an extravagant remuneration for a man of his qualifications and prospects in the public service.

7. I have endeavoured to show that the establishment, asked for, was not proposed without due consideration. As, however, the orders of the Government of India seem imperative, I shall now proceed to state the arrangements which seem necessary to give effect to them.

CORRESPONDENCE RETURNS, AND ACCOUNTS.

1 Head Clerk.....	Rs. 60
1 Clerk.....	20
REGISTERING CLERKS.	
2 Clerks on Rupees 40.....	80
3 Do. do. 25.....	75
2 Do. do. 20.....	40
PEONS, &c.	
1 Head Peon.....	8
2 Peons at 7 Rs.....	14
1 Sweeper.....	3
Total..	300

8. The Statement in the margin provides for an establishment costing Rupees 300 per mensem, the amount named in the telegram. It will be observed that for this sum there can be no Manager, and that practically there can be very little supervision exercised over the Registers by any one except myself, as the Head Clerk's time will be mainly occupied in

doing his own work. The Registering clerks are reduced in number from 22 to 7, which would give each man, on an average, rather more than three Districts. In practice, however, there is some difficulty in dividing the work quite equally. The Collectors of Malabar and Canara have, at my request, sent two men, for whom I am compelled to reserve the two best situations available, although they are inferior in general education to all the other clerks in the office. One of these men knows Malayalam, and can, therefore, have charge of the books of Calicut and Tellicherry; but he knows Tamil too imperfectly to be able to do any other Registration work. The other man knows Canarese, but possesses only a smattering of Telugu. He can, therefore, only keep the books of South Canara. There would thus remain 18 Districts to be divided among five clerks. With a view, however, of equalizing the work, I propose as long as the two men, above referred to, are unable to take their fair share of Registration work, to employ the junior corresponding clerk as a Registering clerk, and to divide his work between the Malayalam and Canarese men. This will give 6 clerks for the 18 Districts, or 3 for each District. The possibility of these men keeping up the 33 books which will be allotted to each of them must depend on the extent to which registration will be resorted to, and to the construction which may eventually be placed on those Sections of the Registration Act, to

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
12th January 1865.*

which reference has been made in the early part of this letter. It will be observed that, under these arrangements, it will be impossible for me to take a single clerk with me on my tours, as there will be no one whose services can be withdrawn from the office.

9. With regard to the other charges, it will be observed that I have omitted two attenders on Rupees 7, and have reduced the sweepers pay from Rupees 3-8-0 to Rupees 3. Such items as contingencies and house rent are, I presume, not affected by the telegram, which appears to refer only to the cost of Office establishment.

10. Nearly the whole of my office was entertained, with the sanction of Government, between the 15th and 27th ultimo. On the 4th instant, all those men who are not required under the new arrangements were dismissed. Of the number who have thus lost their situations, the following were already in the service of Government.

Name.	In what appointment.	On what salary.
M. A. Terumalacharri, B. A.....	Translator on the Appellate side of the High Court.....	110
V. Narasimhacharri, B. A.....	Clerk in the Revenue Board office.....	35
C. Chelvapilli Nayadu.....	Minute writer in the Vepery Police Court	21
G. Ramachendriah.....	Clerk in the Commissary General's office.	30

I understand that Terumalacharri has been restored to his former post, and that C. Chelvapilli Nayadu has been informed that he cannot be re-employed as his place has been filled up. It must rest with Government to decide whether his case is one for their interference. The other two men did not permanently resign their former posts, but took leave of absence. I do not, therefore, apprehend that they will find any difficulty in reverting to their original situations.

No. 101. ORDER THEREON, 12th January 1865, No. 63.

The Governor in Council sanctions the revised scale of establishment proposed by Major Macdonald, a copy of whose letter will be forwarded to the Government of India.

2. Under the circumstances, the Governor in Council resolves to direct that the Magistrate of the Vepery Police Court will restore C. Chelvapilli Nayadu to the appointment which he resigned, on being employed in the Registrar General's Office.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Registrar General of Assurances.
" Accountant General.
" Civil Paymaster.
" Magistrate of the Vepery Police Court.

Ed. J. H. Burns.

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

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*Registrar General of Assurances.
Accountant General.
Civil Paymaster.
Magistrate of the Vepery Police Court.*

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[Signature]

Aug 24 1865

19-4-1

Journal 1865 & 1866

No 63

Proceedings of Govt

No 382

No 1502/68

Sailed 12 January 1865

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