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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Judicial DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	270	Press.
B.P. No.	~~270~~	Mis.
Dated	18. 2. 1868.	197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

B.S. 41

270

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,

18th February 1868.

No. 222. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 18th February 1868, No. 461.

Passing orders on the Village Service Fund. } (Vide Proceedings, Revenue Department, dated 18th February 1868, Nos. 383 & 384.)

No. 223. To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 18th February 1868, No. 270.

In continuation of my letter of this date, No. 269, I am directed by the Governor in Council to transmit, with reference to paragraphs 5 to 9 of your letter dated the 16th November last, No. 483, copy of the Proceedings of this Government in the Revenue Department, relative to the Village Service Local Fund.

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th February 1868.*

No. 383. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department:—

Communicating to Inspector General of Police letter from Government of India regarding the annual charge for the Madras Police, and referring to Revenue Department paragraphs 5 to 9 of the above letter relative to certain measures connected with the Village Police for diminishing the charges for the regular organized force.

(Here enter 4th December 1867, No. 1,983.)

No. 384. ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1868, No. 461.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government observe that the anticipation stated in paragraph 7 of the above letter to have existed, that the enactment of the Madras Acts IV. of 1864 for the levy of a cess in lieu of village service fees, and IV of 1866 to exempt enfranchised Village Service Inams from the operation of Regulation VI of 1831, would have the effect of diminishing, *pro tanto*, the charge for the regular organized Police by the proportion of the entire receipts under those Acts, which would be payable to the Village Police, was certainly never shared by this Government, and they are at a loss to understand how such an idea can have originated.

2. The object had in view by the legislation in question was to enable this Government to put the Village, Revenue, and Police Establishments generally on a more efficient and sounder footing, and to substitute money payments for their existing emoluments in land and fees in money and grain.

3. For this end it was proposed to enfranchise the Service Inams from the condition of service, charging the holders with a quit-rent in commutation, which would be credited to the Village Service Local Fund, and to relieve the ryots from the obligation of paying fees in cash or kind to the individual village servants in question, charging on them in lieu thereof a fixed cess proportioned to the assessment value of their holdings, the proceeds of which cess would be similarly credited to the local Village Service Fund. From this Fund would be disbursed the money allowances to the Village Establishments in lieu of all other emoluments.

4. It was in most cases necessary, in order to provide the necessary funds for the purpose, that both measures should be carried out in their entirety simultaneously, and this necessity, combined with the revision of the land assessment now going on, and with difficulties which arose in matters of detail, have caused unavoidable delay in the general adoption of the change of system, but the reform is still in progress, and will be gradually completed.

5. The effect of its adoption, partial or complete, can in no way be to relieve the Imperial finances from any portion of the charges now borne by them. The assets realized will merely be in substitution for emoluments now enjoyed in the form of landed Inams, or of fees paid by the people. That portion of the cost of the Village Establishment which is now provided for in the general Budget, must still be provided *by the State* in some form or other, inasmuch as it represents certain other emoluments assigned for the remuneration of village service, which were resumed very many years ago in some places, cash payments from the Treasury

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th February 1868.

being substituted for them. Full explanation on this point was furnished to the Supreme Government in letter No. 1,160, Revenue Department, dated 31st May 1865.

6. Thus the Village Service Fund will eventually consist of—

Quit-rent charged on enfranchised Service Inams.

Cess levied on ryots in lieu of fees due by them.

State contribution in lieu of village service emoluments resumed long ago, a corresponding disbursement having ever since been made in cash from the public treasury.

7. It is probable that as cultivation extends, and the proceeds of the cess in lieu of fees increase concurrently, the amount of this last item, viz., the charge on Imperial revenues, may be somewhat diminished, though but to a small extent, as the need for increasing the Village Establishment will probably also arise with the growth of population and the extension of the area needing to be administered and watched. But with this slight exception it must be perfectly evident that the State cannot justly look to the Village Service Fund for any relief from the burden of Imperial charges, the assets of the Fund being hypothecated to remunerate the village services on account of which they are raised, which services are not in any way re-placed or rendered less essentially necessary to the well-being of the great mass of the population than they have always hitherto been, by the organization of the regular Police force or of any other department of State administration.

8. It is probable that non-appreciation of this last fact has led to the mistaken notion under which the present reference has been made, and that it is supposed that the regular Police now perform duties which formerly devolved on the Village Establishments. The idea is entirely erroneous. The regular Police do not, and never can in any way take the place of the village watchers, and it would be a serious mistake if they should attempt to do so, nor has the possibility of such an incongruous arrangement been ever contemplated here. Even the idea that the village watch might be linked on to the regular Police, and controlled and supervised by the same superior officers, has long ago been abandoned as utterly impracticable, and certain to result not only in failure to perform the former work, but also in the eventual destruction of what, in its proper place, is a very useful institution, duly appreciated by the village community of which it forms an integral portion, and deserving as such to be treated with the utmost consideration, and, if necessary, improved by reform but certainly not by absorption. In fact with the disappearance of the Village Police must disappear also the funds raised for their remuneration, so that any idea of transferring them to the Imperial Treasury as a set off against the cost of the regular Police is simply delusive.

9. The foregoing remarks have reference to the Village Police properly so-called, and dispose of the third, fourth, and fifth items of the abstract statement in paragraph 8 of the letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, so far as they relate to that body. The fifth item, however, includes also certain revenue expected from the operation of the Towns' Improvement Act, and there can be no doubt that the contribution required by Law from Mofussil Municipalities towards the cost of Town Police is fully realized, and that the Supreme Government have no reason to complain in this respect.

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10. The first and second items do not relate to Village Police. The Government do not know on what data the estimate of amount proceeds, but whatever is realized from these sources goes into general revenues, and is, *pro tanto*, a reduction in the cost of the general Police, to the credit of which the items should be carried, in order to shew correctly the extent of the charge on ordinary revenue on account of the regular Police of the country, and with the same object the cost of all Salt and Treasury Guards, and similar special service, should be distinguished from that of the Police proper.

(True Extract.)

M. E. M.
Chief Secretary.

To the Judicial Department.
.. the Inspector General of Police.
.. the Board of Revenue.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

Judicial Department.

No. 270.

270/X

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,

Financial Department

Sir,

In continuation of
my letter of the date A. 20
I am directed by the Government
in Council to transmit
with reference to paragraph
5 to 9 of your letter dated
the 16th November last
488, copy of the Proceedings
of the Government in the
Revenue Department relating
to the village service
Fund.

Col. St. George
18 Feb. 1868

Received 1868 270.4

Received 1868 270.4

Proceedings of Govt. in
the Revenue Dept.
No. 461.

Dated 18 Feb. 1868.
Received 19.

No. 395-

Revenue, and on
the Village Service
Fund.

Wm. J. Smith

*Quaker B. L. Smith, 1868
March 1868 No. 4*

Quaker B. L. Smith, 1868. Department

No. ~~270~~ 270

To
The Secretary to the
Government of India
Public Department.

St. John.

Dated *18th Dec.* 1868

*Transmitted
copy of the report of the
Madras Local Board of
relatives to the Village
Service Board of India.*