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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.****Public DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 447	~~Press~~ Mis.
Dated 10.6	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Registration Department
D 401094 (a)

From

G. Hammett Esquire
Inspector General of Registration

To

J. F. Price Esquire,
Magistrate of the Chinghai Circuit
Dated Yotacamund 4 May 1902

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter 401662 dated the 24th and despatched on the 28th ultimo, and to inform you that, in view of the desirability it may be to place Registrars and Sub Registrars on benches of Magistrates, where they would personally exercise no influence, it seems to me that it would be open to your objection to entrust these officials, who are under no immediate European supervision, with the powers of a Magistrate.

2. I have, for some time past, observed letters and articles in newspapers, evidently written by, or at the instance of, members of the Registration Department, advocating

what

what you now propose, and I have during my tour in the several districts consulted old native officials on the point. The general opinion of these men is, that it would be a most suicidal step, as it would place in the hands of young, inexperienced and vain men, who already look down upon the general run of Sub. Magistrates, a power of oppression in addition to what they already possess. I may mention in this connection that, while on tour in one of the Southern districts in October last, I was informed privately by private persons that certain ex-officio Sub Magistrates exacted illegal fees and that it would be as soon if the Registration of documents were taken out of their hands. I desired them to put in a written statement to enable me to take the necessary action against the Sub Magistrates, but they declined, saying that to do so would be to find themselves shut out as lock up within twenty-four hours.

3. One of the reasons for transferring the registration work from the District, the party, Tahsildars and Shauktadars, exercising magisterial power, to special Re-

-gistrars

-gistrars is that registration does not add to the business of the District. Therefore, to invest or arm a sub Registrar with magisterial powers would be to return to the very position from which we were doing our best to escape.

4. The work, moreover, of a Sub Registrar is not so light as you have been led to suppose. He has as much to do as he can do, and I am striving to make him do it as he ought to.

5. As an old servant of the Government I may be pardoned if I say that my opinion in the districts leads me to the conclusion, that if taluk officials could be compelled to work systematically from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. they would get through far more work than they now do, they attend to their duties at uncertain hours and working by lamp light till late in the evening, to the annoyance and inconvenience of the establishments and persons attending the establishments on business.

I have &c
(Signed) J. H. Munnell
Inspector General of Revenue

True copy

S. V. Daniel
Assistant Registrar for District

In a letter from the
Magistrate of the Chingleput
Dt to the Chief Secretary
to Government, J. H. D. O.
Madras, dated 12th May 1882
No 212.

Registrar General's
letter J. No 1094/84

No. 212

Chingleput District,
Magistrate's
COLLECTOR'S OFFICE,
SAIDAPET, 12th May 1882.

FROM

J. H. Price Esquire,

Magistrate
COLLECTOR OF THE

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT.

TO

C. G. Master Esquire,

Chief SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Judicial Department, MADRAS.

SIR,

Adverting to para 3, G. O. Judicial
Department, No 299 a, dated 30th March last,
I have the honor to submit a copy of a
letter received from the Registrar General.

2. It will be seen from this, that
Mr. Hammett very strongly objects to Sub-
Registrars of Assurances being appointed.
3. Class Magistrates in order to assist the
regular Magisterial staff.

3. I cannot say that I agree with the
Registrar General, but as he disapproves so
decidedly of the proposal made, I have no
wish to push it any further. The measure
is one which will very probably be brought
into effect hereafter as it is to me, with the
experience which I have as a Magistrate and
Revenue Officer and I believe to other Revenue
Officers, showing every day more and more
evident

evident that one cannot get proper work out of Tahsildars and Taluq Sheristadars when they have so much Magisterial work on their hands, as is now the case.

4. Some relief will have to be given. If one could get Benches of Magistrates, nothing more would be required, but one cannot, except at the Head Quarters of European Officers and any large towns like Conjeeveram.

5. I do not see how Sub Registrars, who would have to try only nuisance cases and petty assaults, put before them by the Police, could, in such matters, exercise powers of oppression. They come from the same class as Tahsildars and Taluq Sheristadars, but, to judge from what Mr. Hammett says, they would appear to have been badly selected. I can hardly think that they are worse than their fellows.

6. I am not acquainted, in detail, with what Sub Registrars of the present day have to do. When the work was with my subordinates and I used to inspect, I did not find any places where there was more than a couple of hours or so work per diem. I have never, when visiting Taluq Cutcherries here, seen a Sub Registrar at all busily occupied: they seemed to me to have next to nothing to do.

7. Mr. Hammett's remarks, in the concluding portion of his letter, seem to be based on experiences in Districts other than this;

As I take care that office hours are observed here, under my particular orders, no bills for oil, except that allowed for lights to seal money bags, and for the Police guards, both of which are cut down to the smallest possible limits, are ever passed except at the Jannabandi time, and then, only under my special sanction & counter-signature. Working after dark is, except under extraordinary circumstances, strictly prohibited in all offices of the District, and I am quite certain that the orders are adhered to here at the Tahsildar's office, and at Chingleput. No bills for oil have, for the last two or three years, been sent in from other Taluqs except, as I have stated before, under special sanction.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,
Hedrickh
District Magistrate

THE COLLECTOR OF THE
CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT

THE SECRETARY
TO GOVERNMENT,

MADRAS.

vcl } 188

ENCLOSURES.

No.

1882
full Dept
(Mag. T. power.)

From
The Magistrate of the
Chinghsien District

To
The Chief Secretary to
Government, Just. Dept.
Madras.

Dated 12th }
Despatch 10th } May 1882
R/21 No 212

Enclosure 1
COMB. ST. No. 1692

Submitting letter from
the Registrar General &
strongly objecting to Sub Regis-
trars of assurances being
appointed 3^d class Magistrates
in order to assist the regular
Magisterial Staff.

10th June 1882 No 447

Respectfully

3/7

10. 11. 1882