

Legislative (1895) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

Despatch
G.O., No 6

Dated 16th Sept. 1895

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

MADRAS ACT III. OF 1895.

Transmitting sixty copies of -- to the Right Honourable
the Secretary of State for India.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

[Printed under the authority of the Governor of Fort St. George in Council by the Superintendent of the Government Press, Madras.]

MADRAS ACT No. III of 1895.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNOR OF FORT ST. GEORGE
IN COUNCIL.

[Received the assent of His Excellency the Governor on the 8th April and of His Excellency the Governor-General on the 1st July 1895; the Governor-General's assent was first published in the Fort St. George Gazette of the 6th August 1895.]

*An Act to repeal Madras Regulation VI of 1831, and
for other purposes.*

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide more precisely for the succession to certain hereditary village offices in the Presidency of Madras; for the hearing and disposal of claims to such offices or the emoluments annexed thereto; for the appointment of persons to hold such offices and the control of the holders thereof; and for certain other purposes; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Hereditary Village Offices Act, 1895; and it shall come into force from such date as may be notified by Government.

(2) Section 5 applies to the whole of the Presidency of Madras; the rest of the Act applies to the whole of the said Presidency except the scheduled districts as defined in the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874.

2. (1) Madras Regulations II of 1806 and VI of 1831 are hereby repealed; and, on and after the commencement of this Act, no portion of Madras Regulation XXIX of 1802 shall continue to apply to any local area which is not a permanently-settled proprietary estate.

[PRICE, 1 anna.]

Amendment
of Act XXIV
of 1859.

(2) From the preamble of Act XXIV of 1859 (An Act for the better regulation of the Police within the territories subject to the Presidency of Fort St. George), the words "and improve the condition of the village police" shall be omitted; and, for the definition of the word "Police" in section 1 of the same Act, shall be substituted the following clause, namely:—

"The word 'Police' shall include all persons appointed under this Act."

Amendment
of Madras Act
II of 1894.

(3) In clause (c) of the definition of the word "Estate" in section 4 of the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, after the word "palaiyam", shall be inserted the words "or jaghir"; and, in sub-section (1) of section 15 of the same Act, between the words "among the" and the words "holders of the offices", shall be inserted the words "families of the last".

Classes of
village offices
to which Act
applies.

3. This Act shall apply to the following classes of village offices, provided that emoluments have been attached thereto:—

- (1) hereditary village offices in local areas to which the Madras Village Cess Act, 1893, has been, or may be, extended;
- (2) hereditary village offices to which the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, is extended;
- (3) other hereditary village offices in proprietary estates except (i) the offices forming Class (4) below and (ii), in proprietary estates wherein Madras Regulation XXIX of 1802 remains in force, the office of village accountant;
- (4) the hereditary offices of village artizans and village servants such as the following, namely:—
 - (i) the village carpenter,
 - (ii) the village blacksmith,
 - (iii) the village barber,
 - (iv) the village washerman,
 - (v) the village potter,
 - (vi) the village astrologer,
 - (vii) the village purohit or priest.

Definitions.

4. In this Act, unless there is something repugnant in the subject or context,—“Emoluments” means and includes—

- (i) lands;
- (ii) assignments of revenue payable in respect of lands;
- (iii) fees in money or agricultural produce;
- (iv) money-salaries and all other kinds of remuneration;

granted or continued in respect of, or annexed to, any office by the State.

“Proprietary estate” and “Proprietor” mean, respectively, an Estate and Proprietor as defined in the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, as amended by this Act.

“Village” means any local area now recognized as a village or hereafter declared by Government to be a village.

5. The emoluments of village offices, whether such offices be or be not hereditary, and, in the scheduled districts as defined in the Scheduled Districts Act, 1874, all such emoluments and other emoluments granted or continued in remuneration for the performance of duties connected with the collection of the revenue or the maintenance of order, shall not be liable to be transferred or encumbered in any manner whatsoever, and it shall not be lawful for any Court to attach or sell such emoluments or any portion thereof.

Emoluments
attached by
the State to
certain offices
inalienable
and not
liable to
attachment.

6. (1) In any local area in which the Madras Village Cess Act, 1893, is in force the Board of Revenue may, subject to rules made in this behalf under section 20, group or amalgamate any two or more villages or portions thereof so as to form a single new village or divide any village into two or more villages and, thereupon, all hereditary village offices to which the said Act applies in the villages, portions of villages or village grouped, amalgamated or divided as aforesaid, shall cease to exist and new offices, which shall also be hereditary, shall be created for the new village or villages. In choosing persons to fill such new offices, the Collector shall select the persons whom he may consider the best qualified from among the families of the last holders of the offices which have been abolished.

Villages may
be grouped or
divided.

(2) If two or more village offices exist in any village in which the Madras Village Cess Act, 1893, is in force, the Board of Revenue may, subject to the approval of Government, direct that the number of such village offices shall be reduced and, thereupon, the Collector shall dispense with the services of the officers no longer required and shall retain those whom he may consider to be best qualified to discharge the duties of the remaining offices.

Effect of
grouping and
division upon
village offices.

Reduction of
village offices.

7. (1) The Collector may, of his own motion or on complaint and after enquiry, fine, suspend, dismiss or remove the holder of any of the offices forming Class (1) in section 3, and suspend, dismiss or remove the holder of any of the offices forming Class (3) in the said section, for misconduct or for neglect of duty or incapacity or for non-residence in the village or for any other

Power of Col-
lector over
village officers
in Govern-
ment villages
and propri-
etary estates.

sufficient cause and shall make a record of his reasons for so doing in writing and furnish a copy of the same to the village officer concerned.

Proviso.

Provided that, when a Village Munsif who is also the head of the village is suspended or removed under the Madras Village Courts Act, 1889, such suspension or removal shall involve his suspension or removal from the office of head of the village.

Power of Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar over village officers in Government villages.

(2) A Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar may, of his own motion or on complaint and after enquiry, fine the holder of any of the offices forming Class (1) in section 3 for any of the causes specified in sub-section (1) and in such amount as the Board of Revenue may, by general or special order, prescribe. The provisions of sub-section (1) in regard to the recording of reasons and the furnishing of copies shall apply to proceedings taken under this sub-section.

Power of proprietor over village officers in proprietary villages.

8. A proprietor may, of his own motion or on complaint and after enquiry, suspend, dismiss or remove the holder of any of the offices in his estate forming Class (3) in section 3, except the village accountant, the head of the village and the village watchman or police-officer, for misconduct or for neglect of duty or incapacity or for non-residence in the village or for any other sufficient cause and shall make a record of his reasons for so doing in writing and furnish a copy of the same to the village officer concerned.

Limitation of power of Collector over certain officers in proprietary estates.

9. The powers conferred on a Collector by sub-section (1) of section 7 over the holders of the village offices forming Class (3) in section 3, except the offices of village accountant, head of the village and village watchman or police-officer, shall not be exercised, unless, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Collector is satisfied that the proprietor concerned has neglected to exercise in an adequate manner the powers conferred on him by section 8.

Rules to be observed in making appointments to certain offices in Government villages.

10. When a vacancy occurs in any of the village offices forming Class (1) in section 3, the Collector shall fill up the vacancy in accordance with the provisions of the following sub-sections:—

General qualifications requisite in all cases.

- (1) No person shall be eligible for appointment who—
- (a) is not of the male sex;
 - (b) has not attained the age of majority;
 - (c) is not physically and mentally capable of discharging the duties of the office;

(d) has not qualified according to the educational test prescribed for the office in question by the Board of Revenue by rules made under section 20;

(e) has been convicted by a Criminal Court of any offence which, in the opinion of the Collector, disqualifies him for holding the office.

(2) The succession shall devolve on a single heir according to the general custom and rule of primogeniture governing succession to impartible zamindaris in Southern India.

Primogeniture to be observed.

(3) Where the next heir is not qualified under sub-section (1), the Collector shall appoint the person next in order of succession who is so qualified, and, in the absence of any such person in the line of succession, may appoint any person duly qualified under sub-section (1).

In certain cases person other than direct heir may be appointed.

(4) Where an office has become vacant by the dismissal or suspension of the last holder, the Collector may direct that, until the death or return to duty of such last holder, the duties of the office shall be performed by some person duly qualified under sub-section (1) who is not an undivided member of the family of the dismissed or suspended officer; provided that, when the officer who has been dismissed dies, or if the officer who has been suspended dies while under suspension, the vacancy caused by such death shall be filled up in accordance with the provisions of sub-sections (2) and (3).

Temporary disqualification of heir in certain cases.

(5) When the person who would otherwise be entitled to succeed to an office is a minor, the Collector shall register the minor as the heir of the last holder and appoint some other person qualified under sub-section (1) to discharge the duties of the office until the person registered as heir, on attaining majority or within three years thereafter, is qualified under sub-section (1) to discharge the duties of the office himself, when he shall be appointed thereto. If the person registered as heir under this sub-section dies, or if he remains disqualified under sub-section (1) for three years after attaining majority, the Collector shall fill up the vacancy as provided in sub-sections (2) and (3).

Procedure to be adopted where heir is a minor.

Method of filling up vacancy caused by resignation, dismissal, removal or suspension.

- (6) If a vacancy is caused by the resignation, dismissal, removal or suspension of the holder of an office and the Collector does not give the direction referred to in sub-section (4), he shall fill up the vacancy in accordance with the provisions of this section as if it had been caused by the death of the said holder; provided that, upon the expiry of the period of suspension of an officer who has been suspended, or if, for any reason, an officer who has been dismissed, removed or suspended is permitted to resume the office from which he has been dismissed, removed or suspended, the person appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the said suspension, dismissal or removal shall cease to hold office.

Rules to be observed in making appointments to certain offices in proprietary estates.

11. When a vacancy occurs in a proprietary estate in any of the offices forming Class (3) in section 3, the proprietor shall fill up the vacancy in accordance with the provisions of the following sub-sections:—

General qualifications requisite in all cases.

- (1) No person shall be eligible for appointment who—
 - (a) is not of the male sex;
 - (b) has not attained the age of majority;
 - (c) is not physically and mentally capable of discharging the duties of the office.
- (2) The succession shall devolve in accordance with the law or custom applicable to the office in question at the date on which this Act comes into force.
- (3) Where the next heir is not qualified under sub-section (1), the proprietor shall appoint the person next in order of succession who is so qualified, and, in the absence of any such person in the line of succession, may appoint any person duly qualified under sub-section (1).

Law or custom of succession to be observed.

In certain cases person other than direct heir may be appointed.

Procedure to be adopted where heir is a minor.

- (4) When the person who would otherwise be entitled to succeed to an office is a minor, the proprietor shall register the minor as the heir of the last holder and appoint some other person qualified under sub-section (1) to perform the duties of the office until the person registered as heir is qualified under sub-section (1) to discharge the duties of the office himself, when he shall be appointed thereto. If the person registered as heir under this sub-section dies, or if, on attaining majority,

he proves to be disqualified under clause (c) of sub-section (1), the proprietor shall fill up the vacancy as provided in sub-sections (2) and (3).

12. The succession to village offices forming Class (4) in section 3 shall devolve in accordance with the law or custom applicable thereto at the date on which this Act comes into force.

In case of village artisans, law or custom of succession to be observed.

13. (1) Any person may sue before the Collector for any of the village offices specified in section 3 or for recovery of the emoluments of any such office, on the ground that he is entitled under sub-section (2) or (3) of section 10 of the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, or under sub-section (2) or (3) of section 10 or sub-section (2) or (3) of section 11 or section 12 of this Act, as the case may be, to hold such office and enjoy such emoluments; or, being a minor, may sue before the Collector to be registered as heir of the last holder of any such office.

Provisions relating to suits for offices, for recovery of emoluments and for registry as heir.

Provisos:—

- (i) No suit shall be entertained for a mere declaratory decree.
- (ii) When one of the facts in issue in a suit is whether the emoluments of the office consist of land or of an assignment of revenue payable in respect of land, the Collector shall decide the claim on the assumption that only the said assignment constitutes the emoluments; but such decision shall not bar the right of the claimant to institute a suit in a Civil Court for recovery of the land itself.

No suit for declaratory decree.

Procedure in case of dispute as to nature of emoluments.

(2) If, at any time before the completion of the trial of a suit preferred under this section for any office or for the recovery of the emoluments of any office, it appears to the Collector that the claimant is not eligible for appointment under sub-section (1) of section 10 of the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, or under sub-section (1) of section 10 or sub-section (1) of section 11 of this Act, as the case may be, he shall pass an order rejecting the plaint.

Rejection of plaint when claimant is ineligible for appointment.

14. (1) No suit preferred before a Collector under the last preceding section shall be entertained which is not preferred within three years from the date of the cause of action arising, whether such date be before or after the commencement of this Act.

Limitation of time within which suits may be brought.

Provided that, in the case of a person who, by reason of minority, was disqualified for holding office, the right to sue

Limitation in case of minority.

for such office or for the recovery of the emoluments thereof shall accrue from the date of his attaining majority.

(2) No application for the execution of a decree or order passed under this Act shall be entertained, if made after the expiration of one year from the date of such decree or order.

(3) Decrees or orders passed under Madras Regulation VI of 1831 may be executed under the provisions of this Act; provided that no application for the execution of such decree or order shall be entertained, if made either after the expiration of three years from the date of such decree or order or after the expiration of one year from the commencement of this Act.

(4) In cases in which the decree or order sought to be executed was appealed against, the periods of limitation prescribed in sub-sections (2) and (3) shall commence from the termination of the appeal.

15. The District Collector may transfer to his own file any suit on the file of any Revenue officer in charge of a division of the district or from the file of one such officer to that of another or to the file of an Assistant or Deputy Collector not in charge of a division, for disposal.

16. (1) The trial of suits under this Act shall be regulated by rules made by the Board of Revenue under section 20 and by the following provisions:—

(i) A date shall be fixed for the hearing of the suit and the same shall be notified to the parties who shall be entitled to be heard in person or by agent;

(ii) The parties shall be entitled to produce witnesses and to demand that any person whose evidence they require shall be summoned as a witness or that any person shall be summoned to produce a document, and the officer trying the suit shall comply with such demand, unless, for reasons to be recorded, he considers it unnecessary to do so;

(iii) The officer trying the suit shall record, in his own hand and in English, a memorandum containing the material averments of the parties, the material portions of the evidence, his decision and the reasons therefor.

(2) Every person to whom a summons is issued under this section shall be legally bound to obey the same.

Limitation of time within which execution of decree or order may be applied for.

Execution of decrees and orders passed under Regulation VI of 1831.

Limitation when appeal preferred.

Power of District Collector in regard to transfers of suits.

Procedure to be observed in trying suits.

Date of hearing to be fixed and parties to be heard.

Witnesses may be produced or summoned.

Record of proceedings.

Obligation to obey summons.

17. Decrees and orders passed in suits under this Act may provide for payment of costs according to such scale and subject to such rules as may be prescribed by the Board of Revenue under section 20 and shall be executed in accordance with rules to be made by the Board of Revenue under the said section.

Decrees may provide for costs and shall be executed according to rules made by Board of Revenue.

18. (1) If, before or during the hearing of a suit under this Act or of an appeal against a decree or order passed in a suit under this Act, or if, in the execution of any such decree, any question of law or usage having the force of law, or of the construction of a document which construction may affect the merits, arises, and the officer trying the suit or appeal or executing the decree entertains reasonable doubt on such question, he may, either of his own motion or on the application of any of the parties, draw up a statement of the facts of the case and the point on which doubt is entertained and refer such statement for the decision of the Board of Revenue and shall stay further proceedings until the said decision is communicated to him.

In certain cases, Collector may refer question of law to Board of Revenue.

(2) The Board of Revenue shall, if any of the parties so request, hear him or his agent and shall decide the point referred and transmit a copy of its judgment to the officer by whom the reference was made, and the said officer shall, on receipt thereof, proceed to dispose of the case in conformity with the decision of the said Board, and the correctness of the decision of the said Board shall not be contested in any appeal made under this Act.

Procedure to be followed in case of such reference.

Decision of Board of Revenue not to be contested.

19. All suits brought and appeals made under Madras Regulation VI of 1831 shall, after the commencement of this Act, be heard and disposed of as if they had been preferred under this Act.

Disposal of suits and appeals pending at commencement of this Act.

20. The Board of Revenue may, with the approval of Government and after previous publication, make rules not inconsistent with this Act or with the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, in regard to the following matters:—

Board of Revenue may make rules on certain subjects.

- (i) the division, grouping and amalgamation of villages;
- (ii) the holding of enquiries under sections 6, 7 and 8 and the hearing of appeals under section 23;
- (iii) the educational qualifications required of the holders of the village offices forming Class (1) in section 3;

- (iv) the procedure to be followed in disposing of suits and appeals from decrees or orders passed in suits and the registers to be maintained in connection therewith;
- (v) the execution of decrees and orders passed in suits and the taxation of costs;
- (vi) the salaries and other allowances to be assigned to the holders of the village offices forming Class (1) in section 3 and the method of their payment;
- (vii) the duties of the holders of the village offices forming Classes (1) and (3) in section 3, and the descriptions and forms of the accounts and registers to be kept by them;
- (viii) the custody, production and transfer of the accounts and other records kept by the holders of the village offices forming Classes (1) and (3) in section 3;
- (ix) the publication of administration reports under the Madras Village Cess Act, 1893, the Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service Act, 1894, and this Act;
- (x) any other matters calculated to enhance the efficiency of the village service.

21. No Civil Court shall have authority to take into consideration or decide any claim to succeed to any of the offices specified in section 3 or any question as to the rate or amount of the emoluments of any such office or, except as provided in proviso (ii) to sub-section (1) of section 13, any claim to recover the emoluments of any such office.

Provided that, if, in any suit instituted under this Act, the defendant has pleaded before the Collector that a Revenue Court has no jurisdiction to entertain the suit, on the ground that no emoluments, as defined in this Act, appertain to the office in respect of which the suit is brought, and if, on appeal preferred from the decree in such suit, the appellate authority has decided adversely to such plea, the defendant may, within six months from the date of the appellate decree, institute a suit in a Civil Court to set aside such appellate decree on the said ground and on that ground only.

22. Nothing herein contained shall affect the provisions of section 52 of Madras Act II of 1864 or the provisions of Madras Act IV of 1866 or, except as provided in sub-section (1) of section 6, shall be deemed to create or confer an hereditary right to any village office.

Jurisdiction of Civil Courts barred.

Proviso empowering Civil Courts to set aside the decisions of Revenue Courts on the question of jurisdiction.

Nothing in this Act to prevent recovery of emoluments as arrears of revenue or to affect office which is not now hereditary.

23. (1) From every order passed by a Collector under section 6 or 7, and from every decree or order passed by a Collector in a suit preferred under section 13, an appeal shall lie, within one month, to the District Collector, or, if the said order or decree was passed by the District Collector, an appeal shall lie, within three months, to the Board of Revenue. The decision, on appeal, of the District Collector or the Board of Revenue, as the case may be, shall be final.

Provided that, in respect of the offices of head of the village and village accountant, a second appeal shall lie, within three months, to the Board of Revenue, against the decision on appeal of the District Collector in suits preferred under section 13 and in cases of dismissal of a village officer under section 7.

(2) From every order passed by a Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar under sub-section (2) of section 7, and from every order passed by a proprietor under section 8, an appeal shall lie, within one month, to the Collector whose decision shall be final.

24. If the officer to whom an appeal is presented under this Act in the capacity of District Collector or Collector happens to be the officer who passed the decision which is appealed against in another capacity, he shall report the fact to the Board of Revenue or to the District Collector, as the case may be, and the appeal shall be disposed of by the said Board or District Collector and the order passed on appeal shall be final.

25. The provisions of sections 5 and 12 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1877, so far as they relate to suits, appeals and applications, shall *mutatis mutandis*, apply to suits, appeals, or applications for the execution of decrees or orders, instituted, preferred or made under this Act.

26. The Government may declare that the powers of punishing village officers which are vested in the Collector by this Act and by the Madras Proprietary Estates Village Service Act, 1894, shall be exercised in any specified local area by the District Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police in respect of all, or any of, the village watchmen or police-officers in that local area. From every order fining, suspending, dismissing or removing a village watchman or police-officer passed by a District Superintendent or Assistant Superintendent of Police by virtue of a declaration made under this section, an appeal shall lie, within one month, to the District Magistrate, whose decision shall be final.

Appeal against order or decree of Collector.

Second appeal in certain cases.

Appeal against order of Tahsildar, Deputy Tahsildar or proprietor.

Disposal of appeal by officer who passed original order.

Certain provisions of Limitation Act to apply.

Power of Government to place village watchman under police authorities.

dated 25-9-95
with a packet }

10
Legislative Dept.

No 6 of 1895 16-9-95

To

The Right Honble the Secretary of
State for India,

My Lord
Right Honble Sir

We have the honour
to transmit sixty copies of the Act
specified in the margin*, which has
been passed by the Madras Legislative
Council, and assented to by His Excel-
lency the Governor, and by His Excellency
the Governor-General.

2. The papers connected with
this act were forwarded with our letters
noted on the margin.

* No III of 1895 - The Madras Hereditary
Village Officers Act, 1895 - (An act to repeal
Madras Regulation VI of 1831, and for
other purposes).

+ No. 12 dated 7th Nov 1893

No. 1 dated 2nd Jan 1894.

No. 1 dated 21st Feb 1895

I presume the mistakes
which I noted in the
Sept 1895. Gazette copy of the act
has been corrected.

Note. Sixty copies are sent in accordance
with G.O. 988 Fial of 14-11-1894.

* done already.

CRV
3/9.

CRV
8/9

Transmission of ^{copies of} Act III of 1895
to the Secy of State

CS N

RECEIVED
SEP 16 1895

Review should be
please 10 copies
CRV 11/19
16th

SEPTEMBER 1895, No. 6, LEGISLATIVE.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

LETTER—to

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

MY LORD,

We have the honour to transmit sixty copies of the Act specified in the margin,* which has been passed by the Madras Legislative Council, and assented to by His Excellency the Governor, and by His Excellency the Governor-General.

† No. 12, dated 7th November 1893.
" 1 " 2nd January 1894.
" 1 " 21st February 1895.

2. The papers connected with this Act were forwarded with our letters noted on the margin†.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's most obedient, humble servants,

OOTACAMUND,
16th September 1895.

(Signed) Wenlock
" H. W. Bliss
" J. Gross.

Exd. A. Raitt.

GOVT. OF FORT ST. GEORGE

LEGISLATIVE (1895) DEPT.

LETTER to the Right Honourable
the Secretary of State for
India.

Dated 16th September,

No. 6 of 1895.

*Transmitting sixty copies of Madras Act III of
1895 (The Madras Hereditary Village Offices
Act, 1895).*

First copy sent to Press.

Returned for signature.

Despatched in print.

REAV AGAIN G/O, No.
129

USED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

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