

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 738

Press
Mis.

30-31

Dated

4-4-18 by.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th April 1861.*

No. 30. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 27th March 1861 :—

Read the following letter from C. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 15th March 1861, No. 2,734.

SIR,

I am directed to request that the attention of the Board of Revenue may be called to the following Extract from observations on the Budget Estimate of the Bombay Presidency, and to express a hope that no delay will occur in the preparation and submission of the Board's report on the subject.

" In the Stamp Revenue an increase is anticipated of 80 per cent. on the Revenue of 1860-61, but the discount to Venders of Stamped papers in 1861-62, is estimated at an increase of 1,048 per cent. on the discount in 1860-61. The increase of Revenue will therefore be principally in the smaller Stamps, viz., those under 50 Rupees value which are sold by licensed Venders. Two questions arise, viz.:—*First*, Whether at Sudder stations Government should not reserve to the Collectorate the sale of Stamps of 25 Rupees and upwards instead of 50 Rupees and upwards. *Secondly*, Whether the rate of discount to licensed Venders should not be reduced. On the second point it may be observed that the licensed Venders are of two descriptions, viz.:—*Firstly*, Banks which buy Stamps to accommodate their constituents. *Secondly*, Podars who are content with a bare subsistence. To the first class the rate of discount is no object; for the second class the rate may be so regulated, always as to leave them a subsistence, not a handsome profit. Now the number of Venders will not increase proportionately with the sale of Stamps. Practically, the same Venders who sold, say, 3 lacs of the Bombay Stamped papers of 1860-61 will sell, say, 5½ lacs of the Stamped papers of 1861-62. If the discount be not reduced their profits will be enhanced, greatly beyond a bare subsistence. The rates of discount might therefore be revised, not merely for Bombay but in all India, and especially in Bengal where the Stamp Revenue is largest. Such a revision would cause a saving or rather prevent an unnecessary increase which would otherwise arise. The bi-colored adhesive Stamps, moreover, will be sold by the same Venders who sell Postage labels; the discount on these latter, as well as on the Stamps, may admit of reduction to a uniform decreased rate for both Stamps and Postage labels. In the Mufassal the additional one per cent. discount allowed to licensed Venders in the interior of Districts, may no longer be necessary. The specific rate of discount can best be determined by the Accountant General to the Government of India."

" We may take this opportunity of observing, that if Stamps be spoilt the law provides that they shall be replaced. This does not apply to adhesive Stamps but to Stamped papers. The number of these latter which are so replaced is very large, so much so as to burden heavily the Stamp Department. The Post Office is also burdened in carrying the spoilt papers which Collectors have to return to the Stamp Office at the Presidency. For these reasons it seems expedient that spoilt Stamped papers below 10 Rupees value be not replaced. In these cases the loss will fall on the purchaser whose fault it was that the paper became spoilt. In individual cases the loss would be small but the aggregate saving to Government might be considerable."

Referred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT, *Chief Secretary.*

No. 31.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1861, No. 738.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for early report.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Deputy Secretary to Government.



Revenue
1831 Department
of the Post for office
No 777

from
the Secretary to the
Govt of India
and of the 17934

date 15th March 1831
No 284
No 738.4: April
1831

Aligned that the ad-
dition of the Board of
Revenue may be shown
to the Exchequer from revenue
due on the Budget Estimate
relating to the Affairs of
Revenue.

From 13th Nov 25th 1831
No 1019. with No 73: 1831.
Referred
With an order

No 738.8

Referred to the
Board of Revenue for early
report.

For the Secy. *[Signature]*
L. E. Smith 1831

[Signature]
13th Nov 1831
L. E. Smith
L. E. Smith