

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 96	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
202.203	
Dated	21-1-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st January 1865.*

No. 202. Read the following letter from R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 12th December 1864, No. 1,457-51 :—

SIR,

1. Referring to my letter of the 10th ultimo, No. 1,350, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that the absolute destruction of Settlement Records in the late storm, so far as the more important papers are concerned, has been very much less extensive than was at first supposed. The efforts made for the recovery of the Records, which in the first instance, were swept away by the flood and scattered in all directions, have been so far successful, that the classification registers for about three-fourths of the villages of the District have been brought to light. They are of course more or less injured, having remained for many days saturated with salt water and hidden under heaps of rubbish, but I have every reason to hope that many of them will be found sufficiently serviceable and legible to allow of the requisite particulars for the settlement being extracted from them. Great care is of course necessary in separating and drying the leaves of the books, which have been so long wet, and the confusion into which all the papers were thrown renders their re-arrangement a difficult and tedious process.

2. The Orders of Government sanctioning the new settlement for the Masulipatam portion of the District were passed on the 30th September, and reached me on the 8th October. On the 10th idem, detailed instructions for the preparation of the necessary accounts and for making the arrangements preliminary to the introduction of the settlement, were despatched, and by the 20th of the same month, an extra establishment had been entertained at Masulipatam, and the work was commenced. As the Government are aware, that work was brought to a sudden stop ten days afterwards. I had previously estimated that in the event of no impediment occurring, and by straining every nerve, the new settlement might be introduced for next Fusly throughout the four Talooks for which it has been sanctioned, though the time at our disposal would certainly not more than suffice for the accomplishment of this result. My calculations have been altogether upset by recent events, and the Government will no doubt be prepared for the delay in carrying out their orders, which is altogether unavoidable.

3. As regards those villages for which the accounts are missing, or for which, though recovered, they may be found illegible and useless, special arrangements will have to be made. Of the remainder, the number in which it may be practicable to introduce the settlement for next Fusly, will depend on the progress which may be made in the preparation of accounts during the next six weeks. I am not yet in a position to make a reliable estimate, but the work will be pushed on as fast as possible, and a further report shall be made as soon as the necessary data for it are forthcoming.

4. There are probably many villages in which, though the necessary accounts may be available, it will not be advisable, at present, to introduce the new settlement, involving as it will a considerable increase of assessment, owing to the depressed state in which the inhabitants have been left by the late storm. I will communicate with the Collector regarding such villages.

5. Nothing has been heard of the Settlement Office cash chest, containing Rupees 255-13-0 of public money, which with the other contents of the office disappeared on the 1st ultimo. A reward has been offered for its recovery ; but I am not sanguine that it will ever be brought to light. I have called for particulars of the items of which the balance consisted, and on their receipt, I will request authority to write off the amount in the accounts of the Department.

No. 203. ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1865, No. 96.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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which the balance consisted and on
their receipt, I will request authority
to write off the amount in the ac-
counts of the Department. —

I have the honor to be

Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

Wm. A. R. Mass

Offg. Director of Rev. Settlements

Comptroller

Dec. 1864. Olathe
Mo. 3200 lbs

Nov. 1864. 9/10/64
 Wm. of Georgetown
 of 3200 lbs
 1/2
 The City in New York
 to the very highest
 Portland

1862
Dec 13

21 Oct 1863
Ms 1459

[illegible]