

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 97

Press
~~Mis.~~

204. 205

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. 204. 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, 5th January 1865, No. 24/2:—

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter of the 12th ultimo, No. 1,457, I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that the recent calamity at Masulipatam has so impeded the arrangements preliminary to the introduction of the new settlement which were in progress, that I fear it will be impossible to carry out their wish that the settlement should be introduced this year. In my letter above quoted, I explained that even had no impediment occurred, the time at our disposal would barely have sufficed for the necessary processes. I now learn that notwithstanding the efforts which have been, and are being made, the accounts for the villages of the two Delta Talooks, for which the records are forthcoming, cannot be ready before the date which I had fixed as that within which the settlement Jamabundy should be completed, and that those for the remaining Talooks, will not be finished till much later. These accounts would, in the event of every thing having gone on well, have been ready before the commencement of the ordinary Jamabundy of the current Fusly, and it was my intention to introduce the new settlement simultaneously with it. For the preparation of these accounts the aid of the Curnams is absolutely necessary, but their services are not now available, as they are engaged on the Jama-bundy.

2. I have received specimens of the Registers recovered since the inundation, and after inspecting them, I am certainly not surprised that their re-arrangement, and the extraction from them of the particulars required for the settlement prove difficult and tedious processes. Many of these papers have been saturated with salt water for weeks, and though opened and dried with the greatest care, fall to pieces on being handled. For this reason it has been found necessary to draw up for each village a fresh account, in which the more important particulars for the several fields are at once entered as extracted from the decayed Registers, as the latter will hardly bear being opened and shut twice.

3. When I found that under any circumstances it would be impossible to introduce the settlement this year in more than a very few villages, I requested the Collector to favor me with his opinion, as to whether the attempt should be made, or whether it would be more advisable to defer the introduction altogether till next year; and in reply Mr. Thornhill states that he considers the adoption of the last named course highly desirable.

4. There are many villages in which, though the necessary records may be forthcoming, the face of the country has been so changed by the inundation, that a re-classification of the soil will be required. There are others in which the inhabitants have been left by the storm in so depressed a state, that the present year will be a peculiarly unsuitable time for the imposition of a new and increased assessment. There are others for which no records are forthcoming at all.

5. By deferring the introduction, leisure will be afforded for the examination of the villages in which the soil has been affected by the inundation, or for which the records have been lost and for re-classification where it may be requisite. The particulars may then be explained without hurry, to the ryots, who will have had time to recover from the depression under which so many of them are now laboring, and the inconvenience of having portions of the same Talook under the new, and portions under the old settlement will be avoided.

6. I am about to proceed to Kurnool for the purpose of initiating, in accordance with the orders of Government, the introduction of the new settlement in that District. On my return to Madras, it is my intention to take the earliest opportunity of visiting Masulipatam with the view of personally making, in communication with the Collector, such further arrangements as may be necessary.

No. 205.

ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1865, No. 97.

Land Revenue.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro 6. August 1/64 at 102-206.

Copy to Comd of 21 January/65
N-1- Land Revenue

Revenue 1865 Sept
Pro of Govt for India
From

The Offg Dir of
Revenue Settlement
To the Secy of Govt
Revenue Dept

Dated 5th
Jan 6th January
1865

N. 24
2 W. 97.

Recorded

21st. Jan. 1865

Reporting in continuation
of letter d/12. ult. No 1457 that
it will be impossible to
effect the introduction
of the New Sett. on the
Mamulpataam portion
of the Kirtua District
this year.

N. 204 & 205

4-115

10/1/65 L