M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 18 — Press Mis.

33-34

Dated 5 — 1 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

18/5-1-67

No. 33. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th November 1866, No. 8,527 :—

Read the Returns shewing the occasions on which the Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Assistants, and Deputy Collectors, were absent from their head-quarters during the quarter ending 30th September 1866, and the reasons for, and duration of, such absence.

Miscellaneous No.	5,309, From Ganjam,	dated 16th October 1866.
,,	5,120, From Vizagapatam,	dated 4th ,, ,,
,,	5,196, From Godavery District,	dated 9th ,, ,,
,,	5,381, From Kistna District,	dated 22nd ,, ,,
,,	5,140, From Nellore,	dated 12th ,, ,,
,,	5,197, From Bellary,	dated 13th ,, ,,
,,	5,495, From Cuddapah,	dated 5th November ,,
,,	5,284, From Kurnool,	dated 16th October ,,
,,	5,320, From Madras,	dated 24th ,, ,,
,,	5,142, From North Arcot,	dated 11th ,, ,,
,,	5,121, From South Arcot,	dated 10th ,, ,,
,,	5,177, From Tanjore,	dated 10th Sept. ,,
,,	5,198, From Trichinopoly,	dated 12th October ,,
,,	5,262, From Madura,	dated 15th ,, ,,
,,	5,324, From Tinnevelly,	dated 22nd ,, ,,
,,	5,238, From Coimbatore,	dated 16th ,, ,,
,,	5,141, From Salem,	dated 12th ,, ,,
,,	5,400, ,,	dated 30th ,, ,,
,,	5,160, From South Canara,	dated 10th ,, ,,
,,	5,534, From Malabar,	dated 10th November ,,

Read also the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 24th November 1866, No. 238.

1. Adverting to your Official Memorandum of the 19th instant, No. 1,168, requesting me to explain Mr. Wright's prolonged detention in Cuddalore during the quarter ending 30th September last, and further asking up to what date it continued after the close of the quarter, I have the honor to state that, when engaged at Trikalore, with the Jummahbundy of the Yellavanasur Talook in last June, the cholera broke out, and it became necessary at once to disperse the people; simultaneously, two of Mr. Wright's household servants were seized and died, and three members of the family of one of his Deloyets also died; and accordingly, with my permission, Mr. Wright returned to Cuddalore with his family on the 29th June, and remained from that date until the end of the past quarter, and on the 9th October following, I required him to return to his talooks, after completing the work he then had on hand. Two reasons may thus be assigned for Mr. Wright's prolonged continuance in Cuddalore; first, because of the prevalence of cholera in the district, and the general character of the season; and secondly, because of my own temporary severe illness, which made it necessary that a Magistrate with full powers should be present in Cuddalore.

2. On the 5th instant, Mr. Wright was again called in from the district, owing to the sudden and dangerous illness of his eldest child, who died before he arrived; and, since then, I have permitted him to remain in Cuddalore, in anticipation of his taking leave.

3. The necessity for a resident Magistrate for the town of Cuddalore and its suburbs, has already been pressed on Government, and that necessity increases with time; and I purpose shortly again to bring the subject forward, as I am about to leave Cuddalore on my circuit tour, and, in my absence, there will be no Magistrate with full powers at head-quarters, unless I call in one of my Divisional Officers as heretofore, but which, of course, is to be avoided, if any other arrangement be practicable. Unless, however, some competent Officer be nominated, there will be no alternative.

4. The want of a resident Magistrate will full powers necessarily prevents my freedom of moving about the district, whether on my regular circuit, or at other times; so that I am sanguine Government may still be induced to re-consider the question of relieving me from Magisterial trials, which at any moment may prove so great a hindrance to my higher and more important functions, of the nature and multifarious character of which the Board of Revenue will be aware.

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1. Ordered that the above returns and letter be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 4th August 1866, No. 1,903, Revenue Department.

2. The Board see no need to remark on these Returns, as the matter of the Sub-Collector of Madura residing on the Pulnis has been disposed of; but they would submit to Government that the inquisitorial nature of the Returns is likely to cause considerable irritation, and that they are scarcely calculated to produce any good result commensurate with this evil. Their object also might be interpreted to check Revenue Officers from leaving head-quarters, a result which would be much to be deprecated. They should rather be encouraged to make frequent tours through their districts, bearing always in mind that duty must not be neglected.

3. The Board would be glad to see the Return discontinued.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1867, No. 18.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government agree with the Board that Officers should make tours through their districts as frequently as they can, and one of the objects in calling for a return of the occasions on which Officers are absent from their head-quarters, is to ascertain whether this is done.

2. Circumstances which have recently occurred satisfy the Government that it is their duty to ascertain where and how Officers in charge of districts and divisions of districts are employed, and they cannot admit that any Officer has just cause for irritation in being called upon to furnish information on this point.

3. The general character of the Returns now submitted is satisfactory; but the Government are not prepared to order them to be discontinued at present.

4. In regard to South Arcot, the Government have again to remark on the length of time during which the Officers in charge of the Sub-Collectorate and the Deputy Collector's Talooks have been absent from their divisions. Under the peculiar circumstances mentioned by the Collector, and with reference to paragraph 3 of his letter to the Board, they will, however, content themselves with observing that no excuse will be accepted in future for disobedience of the repeated orders which have been passed on this subject.

5. The prolonged absence of the Collector of Coimbatore from his head-quarters, and his presence at Ootacamund, is referred partly to the residence of His Excellency the Governor at the latter place. The Government are not disposed to blame Mr. Grant for his conduct in this respect, for the recent arrival of the Governor, and the respect due to him, justified Mr. Grant in repairing to Ootacamund for the purpose of affording His Excellency information and assistance; but the Governor in Council desires it to be understood, that the residence of the Governor or his family at a hill station will not in future be held to necessitate the presence of the Collector at that station during the whole period of the Governor's residence, or for any prolonged period.

6. The Government rely on the Collectors of Tinnevelly and Madura to see that their subordinates do not take undue advantage of the vicinity of Courtallum and the Pulnies. Failure of health is no excuse for resorting to sanitaria within the district if duty has to be neglected in consequence. When necessary, the Officers in Hill districts can avail themselves of the leave to which they are entitled under the rules.

7. The Salt Deputy Collectors of the Southern Districts, with the exception of Tanjore, seem to move about much less freely than the nature of their duties requires.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

Memorandum

The Returns showing the period of absence of Covenanted Officers from their Head Quarters, submitted to Government with the Board's Proceedings dated 27th November 1866 No 8527, were returned from Government on the 10th January 1867, with this exception of the two undermentioned returns, which it is requested may be returned.

No 5141 From Salem dated 12th October 66
No 5400 From Do —— 30th Do ——

Rev: Board Office,
Madras, 12th January 1867

Registrar

To The Registrar of the Government Office concerned Department

Ex M
Cpd

Revenue Department

No. 18.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 6th January 1864.

Read the following Pro. of the Board of Revenue

Submitting Returns showing the occasions on which the Commanding Officers & Deputy Collectors of districts were absent from Head Quarters with the concurrence of the Boards opinion that on account of the ingenuous character of the Returns they would be glad to see it discontinued.—

Were entered 27th Novr 1863 No 3557

No 18

The Govt agree with the Board that officers should ~~be encouraged~~ to make tours through their districts as frequently as they can without neglecting more important other duties, & one of the objects in calling for a return of the occasions on which officers are absent from their Head Quarters, is to ascertain whether this is done.

Circumstances

I would omit the remaining sentence from the word "tours" to the end as a needless comment on the Boards opinion

which have recently occurred satisfy the Govt that it is their duty to ascertain when & how officers in charge of Districts & Divisions of Districts are employed, & they cannot admit that any officer has just cause of for irritation in being called upon to furnish information on this point.

The general character of the Returns now submitted is satisfactory; but the Govt are not prepared to order them to be discontinued at present.

The fact that the requisition under the Board's order has been complied with, and Returns rendered, is considered sufficient to prove that the officers in charge of Districts have not been guilty of any neglect of duty. But they have been guilty of a breach of the Rules & Orders issued for their guidance, in not having rendered the Returns at the periods prescribed. The Board are aware that the Returns could not be rendered at the periods prescribed, from the difficulty of obtaining the requisite information in the Districts; but they ought to have done what they could, & to have applied for time if they were unable to furnish the Returns within the prescribed period. The Board have also been guilty of a breach of their Rules & Orders, in not having reported to the Govt the circumstances which prevented the Returns from being rendered at the prescribed periods.

I think that the frequent occurrence of such neglect of duty as this, and the unsatisfactory nature of the Returns when rendered, call for the adoption of some measure of censure on the part of the Govt. I would therefore recommend that the Board be directed to address a letter to the Collectors of Districts, in which their neglect of duty in not having rendered the Returns at the periods prescribed, should be pointed out to them, and they should be informed that the Govt cannot allow the Returns to be any longer rendered at such irregular periods, and that unless they are rendered at the periods prescribed in future, the Govt will be under the necessity of withholding the Gratuities which are granted to the Collectors on the completion of the Returns.

The habitual absence of the Collectors from their Headquarters & the consequent inattention to the rendering of the Returns, is considered by the Govt as a breach of the Rules & Orders issued for their guidance, and as a neglect of duty. The Govt are of opinion that the Collectors should be informed that the Govt will not in future be satisfied with the presence of the Collectors at the Stations during the hours of business, but that they will be required to be present at their Offices during the whole of the working hours of the day, unless they shall have obtained leave of absence from the Govt, or from the Board of Revenue, for the purpose of visiting the Districts under their charge, or for some other sufficient reason.

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With para 3 of the Board's letter to the Govt dated the 24th ult, & this paragraph of his Excellency the Governor in Council's minute thereon, I entirely concur. I understood it to be the intention of the Govt in framing the Rules & Orders issued for the guidance of the Collectors, that they should be required to be present at their Offices during the whole of the working hours of the day, unless they should have obtained leave of absence from the Govt, or from the Board of Revenue, for the purpose of visiting the Districts under their charge, or for some other sufficient reason. I have also understood it to be the intention of the Govt that the Collectors should be informed that the Govt will not in future be satisfied with the presence of the Collectors at the Stations during the hours of business, but that they will be required to be present at their Offices during the whole of the working hours of the day, unless they shall

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The Salt Depts.
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Revenue 1867 Despts.
Pro of Govt for Jany

No: 18.

Pro of the Madras Govt
of 5th January 1867.

Pro No. 115—8 6-8-66

No 33-34.