

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following letter from E. C. BUCK, Esq., C.S., Secretary to the Government of India, Revenue and Agricultural Department (Surveys), to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 15th October 1883, No. 449—10-50 S. :—

I am directed to acknowledge your No. 985-A, dated the 15th August last, forwarding the instructions of His Excellency the Governor in Council on certain matters connected with cadastral surveys. The Government of India is glad to observe that the importance of preserving boundary marks is so fully acknowledged, and that complete arrangements for maintaining maps are contemplated by the Government of Madras. With reference to the latter question, I am directed to express the Government of India's concurrence in the view taken that, where the village establishment of patwaris and curnams is not competent to undertake this latter duty, it is both desirable and necessary to employ a special staff for the purpose. But I am at the same time to inquire whether it may not be expected that in the course of time the staff of curnams, however incompetent they may now be, will become, under proper instruction and supervision, able to accomplish the duty of annually correcting the maps and inserting therein the changes which may have taken place during the year. This system has, it is believed, been adopted with success in the province of Burma and is under adoption in the temporary settled provinces of Northern India. The Government of India is aware that, until the education and character both of patwaris and their inspectors has been in every province much improved, there is little chance of the duty being properly performed without extraneous assistance, but the rapid improvement which has already taken place in the village staff in many parts of India justifies the Government of India in believing that the time may be confidently looked forward to when the duty of maintaining maps will, under an efficient system of inspection, be performed with sufficient accuracy by the ordinary revenue establishment. These remarks will, it is hoped, not lead the Government of Madras to conceive that the Government of India desires that the curnams should be utilized any more than they are now in the complete cadastral survey of a district. The remarks which have been recorded refer merely to the annual corrections which have to be made in the maps in order to keep them in accordance with the village records of the year.

ORDER—dated 7th November 1883, No. 1364, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue and Superintendent of Survey. With reference to the remarks

of the Government of India in connection with the possibility, at some future time, of employing the village curnams in correcting the survey maps and inserting therein such changes as may have taken place during the year, the Government observe that in regard to main features, such as the boundaries of villages and boundaries and areas of fields under cultivation at the time of survey, the original map forms a permanent record which does not require to be annually corrected.

On the other hand, when the survey was made, large areas of culturable but uncultivated waste were in many instances demarcated and mapped *en bloc*, portions of which are being annually taken up for cultivation, and, as this is done, it is essential that the extent taken up by each ryot should be demarcated and the area computed and plotted. Even if the curnams were capable of performing the mechanical part of this operation, they could not be safely trusted to do it without an amount of vigilant supervision which the taluk establishment is not capable of affording. In other ways, too, the features of the country are constantly being altered by new roads, railways, canals, and works of irrigation, and these alterations should undoubtedly find a place in the village maps; but, if the latter are to be maintained as a reliable record, the corrections must be made by professional experts. It is, of course, possible, as suggested by the Government of India, that in the course of time the education of the village accountants may have so progressed, and their character have so improved, as to admit of their being employed on these duties; but, owing to the hereditary nature of the office in Madras, this Government foresee considerable difficulties in the way of securing a constant supply of this class of men sufficiently trained for the purpose.

(True Extract.)

E. F. Webster

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

- „ Superintendent, Madras Survey.
- „ Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
- „ Public Works Department.
- „ Educational Department.

Endorsement No. 1364-A.

Copy to the Government of India, Department of Revenue and Agriculture.

(Signed) E. F. WEBSTER,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

150 Copies.

with 20.2/

M. No. 10278

Gobt. of {1883} Madras.
REVENUE.

No 3376 W of 26th Nov 83

20. S.C.

Recorded.

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Issued

Recd.

20/11/83

Encl.

G.O., 7th November 1883,
Nos. 1364, 1364-A.

No 3376 W of 26-11-83

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Survey Maps.

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Sub Director Supt

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