

13TH OCTOBER 1884, No. 2618, JUDICIAL.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Government Agent, Godávári district, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Cocanada, 29th July 1884, No. 22.

I have the honor to report on the administration of the Hill tracts for the year 1883-84.

2. It is necessarily brief as I joined the district after the year had closed, and have only to notice the points reported by the Special Assistant Agent.

3. The limits of the Agency tracts were definitely settled, and the appointment of the Special Assistant Agent made permanent under G.O., No. 1903, dated 20th July 1883.

4. *Public Health.*—Fever was very prevalent in cold weather, and small-pox broke out in the commencement of 1884 and continued bad for some months till the end of the year, and then gradually decreased.

5. *Season.*—The season was also unfavorable owing to extraordinary floods.

6. *Changes in the officers administering justice.*—Mr. Happell continued in charge of the district. Mr. Cumming and Mr. Atkinson were the Principal and Special Assistant Agents, respectively.

7. As a preliminary step to the proposals lately made to the Board to constitute the whole of the Agency tract a separate division under the Special Assistant Agent, Mr. Atkinson was given power to entertain complaints within the Agency tracts not comprised in his division, and he therefore made tours not only through the Bhadrá-chalam and Rékapalle taluks, but also through Rampa, Guditeru and Yernagudem. His report, which is sufficiently complete, forms an enclosure to this letter.

8. The Principal Assistant Agent made no tour, and the Acting Agent went thrice to the hills and spent in all three months there.

9. In his first trip he visited Kondamodalu, Sirivaka and some other villages in the Yernagudem taluk; in the second he went along the river to Pansavala in the Bhadrá-chalam taluk, visiting on his way Kunavaram, Murumum, Devarapilli, Bhadrá-chalam and Dummagudem. On his return he went into the interior from Waddi-gudem and entered the Rampa country. After visiting Boduluru, Kutruvade, Maredu-milli, Devarapalli and other places, he arrived at Chódavaram where he collected all the muttahdars and inquired into their complaints, most of which were boundary disputes. His third tour was almost confined to the border hill villages of Peddápúram and Rajahmundry taluks. He then visited Jaddanji and Purushottapatam, and at the latter place he inquired into the affairs of the Polavaram estate on which I have subsequently submitted a report to the Board of Revenue.

10. *Condition of the People.*—The people of the Bhadrá-chalam taluk are reported to be happy and contented, though distress was caused by the total loss of crops

Govt. of 1884 Madras.

JUDICIAL.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 13th October 1884, No. 2618.

14/10/84 2674W 30/10/84

OCTOBER.

Agency Report.

Reviewing the Godávári — for 1883-84.

