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Revenue Department

E. M. O. dated 27th Jan 1857

Back Nos 39-40

Order no 99 dated 26th Jan 1857

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 27th January 1857.

No. 39. Read the following letter from J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department dated Fort St. George, 24th December 1856 No. 4410.

Sir,

In conformity with the request contained in the Minutes of Consultation of Government under date the 15th October 1856 No. 1096, I am directed to submit the opinion of the Board on the several proposals and observations of the Commissioner for the revision of Civil Salaries and Establishments in regard to the Madras Sea Custom House.

2. The proposals are as follows:-

1st. That on a vacancy occurring, the salary of Collector of Customs at Madras should be fixed at 18,000 Rupees per annum.

2nd. That the office of Deputy Collector of Customs be abolished and an Assistant Covenanted or Uncovenanted appointed on a salary of 7200 Rupees per annum.

3rd. That the salaries of some of the subordinate officers of the establishment should be reduced; the decreased salary being brought on the books and a personal allowance granted to the incumbent till there shall be a vacancy.

3. It is shown that while in Calcutta with a Sea Custom Revenue amounting to nearly 1½ Crore of Rupees annually, the Covenanted executive Agency costs 56,000 Rupees per annum only; in Madras the Covenanted officers of the Sea Custom Department receive 58,800 Rupees per annum, and collect very little more than 7 Lacs.

4. From the Collector's letters noted in the margin and their enclosures which are submitted herewith it appears that in Calcutta besides a Covenanted Deputy Collector, there is a Superintendent of the Preventive service on 800 Rupees a month, and that the Establishment numbers 313 persons of whom the majority are Europeans and East Indians, independently of servants of the class of Peons. The Board are not aware how far any of the duties which here devolve on the Collector or his Deputy are in Calcutta performed by these superior Officers; but whatever may be the amount of assistance derived from them, it cannot be denied that the cost of the Covenanted agency at Madras, compared with that at Calcutta is very large in proportion to the Revenue, and ought on a revision of salaries to be reduced.

5. From this conviction the Board do not hesitate to assent to the substitution of an Assistant on a salary of 7,200 Rupees per annum for the present Deputy who receives about 18,000 Rupees and they are of opinion, that as frequent changes in the incumbent of an appointment of which the duties can only be learned on a single establishment should as much as possible be avoided, it is desirable that he should belong to the Uncovenanted Service.

6. As regards the Collector himself, the Board, while they admit that if the proportion to Revenue is alone to be considered, 18,000 Rupees per annum is not an inadequate salary, are yet apprehensive that it will be insufficient to induce Officers of the requisite ability to remain in it sufficiently long to acquire an aptitude in its peculiar duties. Cases are of constant occurrence in the Sea Custom House, which unless decided with judgment and firmness would involve considerable embarrassment if not loss to Government, and on this account the Board think it desirable that the Office of Collector should be filled by a person of standing and experience. The circumstance may be adduced as an argument for the appointment to it of an individual not in the Covenanted Service, and the Board are disposed to allow that there are reasons in favor of such a step; but it will not be easy they think, as matter stand at present, to secure the independence and weight and influence which are essential to the due performance of the duties out of the Covenanted Branch.

பாதுகாப்புப் பரிஷ-1

செப்பாபுலவர் பெயர் :

செ. ராஜா

செப்பாபுலவர்க்காக எடுத்தக் கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள் :

6/06

செப்பாபுலரு முடித்த நாள் :

8/06

செ. ராஜா

செப்பாபுலர்
முதல் மு. ந. பா. எ.
கையொப்பம்

செ. ராஜா

செப்பாபுலர்
2-ம்-மு. ந. பா. எ.
கையொப்பம்

செ. ராஜா

செப்பாபுலர்
உதவியாளர்
கையொப்பம்

Port Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 27th January 1857.

7. Taking into consideration all the circumstances bearing on the efficiency of the office, and the prospect of a rapid increase in the trade of the Port, the Board would recommend that the salary of the Collector may be put on the same footing as that of the Collector of a Ryotwar District.

8. They have taken longer to reply to the reference on this subject than they would otherwise have done from their wish to consider whether the views of the Commissioner could not be met, and the necessary qualifications at the same time secured, by the measure often proposed of amalgamating the offices of the Collectors of Madras and of the Sea Customs; but a careful perusal of the correspondence which passed on the several occasions when the propriety of altering the salary or constitution of the former office has been discussed, and consideration of the present circumstances of the District have convinced them that it is desirable that it should enjoy the undivided attention of an experienced Collector. Its Revenue, which is more than 13 lacs, exceeds that of the majority of the Districts of the North Western Provinces, and is composed of items which require minute superintendence. Much time of the Collector is also taken up in a matter which has no direct relation to the Revenue, but is very important to the interests of the people of Madras, viz. the grant of Certificates of the registry of transfers of land. If such transfers are objected to, the Collector enquires into their validity and grants Certificates or withholds them, according to the impression made on his mind by the evidence. Great value is attached by the natives to these Certificates; and it may be supposed that much litigation and fraud is prevented by them when their grant is known to be preceded by careful examination. At the same time the ability to form a sound judgment on the questions which arise in the course of such investigations is not to be expected except from an officer of experience. The Board therefore think that a Collector is required by Madras, and that his time is fully occupied by his present duties, were it otherwise, it would be inconvenient that both Departments should be superintended by one person, in as much as the decisions to be passed in each, especially in that of Sea Customs ought to be prompt, and not subject to an appeal except to the Board. Evidently the convenience of the Mercantile community demands that the Collector of Sea Customs should be always found in the Custom House during office hours; and the Board very much doubt whether the duties of the Collector of Madras, even if they were less onerous than they are, could be efficiently performed by an officer unable to leave the Beach. But, however that may be, those duties are, as already stated, sufficient in their opinion to occupy the whole time and attention of an experienced officer.

9. Into the question of the reduction of the salaries of some of the subordinates on the Sea Customs Establishment they trust to be excused entering at present, because the subject of the propriety of altering and simplifying the arrangements of the Department which is intimately connected with it, is now under consideration and will necessarily take some time in disposal. When the latter task is performed they will lose no time in reviewing the Establishment with a view to reduction of expense if practicable.

Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

No. 40. *From H. FOEBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Port St. George; to H. RICKETTS, Esq., Commissioner for the Revision of Civil Salaries and Establishments throughout India; dated Port St. George, 26th January 1857, No. 99.*

SIR,

With reference to the suggestions contained in the part of your proposed report affecting the Officers of Customs, furnished to this Government with your letter dated 10th September last No. 477, I have the honor under the orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you enclosed copy of a communication received from the Board of Revenue on the subject so far as respects the salaries of the Sea Custom Department of this Presidency.

Port Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 27th January 1857.

2. The Board, you will observe, recommend that the salary of the Collector of Sea Customs at Madras should not be fixed at less than that of the Collector of a Ryotwar District, which at present is Rupees 28,000 per annum. The Board assent to your proposition to substitute an Assistant on a salary of Rupees 7,200 per annum for the present Deputy who receives 18,000 Rupees. They are further of opinion that this Assistant should be a member of the Uncovenanted Service.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council desires me to express his full concurrence in the view taken by the Board.

4. The question of reducing the Subordinate Establishment in the Department will receive consideration after the completion of the revision of accounts and simplification of the rules regarding the Custom Office now in progress.

99 Revenue Board office,
Fort St. George,
24 December 1856.
(A 4510)

Sir,

J. O. Sim Esq
Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

Sir,

J. O. Wardell Esq
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

Sir,

In conformity with the request contained in the Minutes of Council of Government under date the 15th October 1856 &c 1896, I am directed to submit the opinion of the Board in the several proposals and observations of the Commissioners for the revision of Civil Salaries and Establishments in regard to the Madras Sea Customs House.

The proposals are as follows:
1st That on a vacancy occurring, the salary of Collector of Customs at Madras should be fixed at 18000 Rupees per annum.
2nd That the office of Deputy Collector of Customs be abolished and an Assistant
Covenanted

Covenanted is to be a salary of 2000 Rs per annum
3. That the duties of the Officer in charge
of the Establishment should be
reduced, the necessary salary, length of
the term and a permanent allowance
granted to the incumbent till there shall
be a vacancy.

It is shown that while
in Calcutta with a Sea Custom Revenue
amounting to nearly 17 Crores of Rs per
annum, the Covenanted Revenue Agency
costs 2000 Rs per annum only in addition
to the Covenanted Officers of the Sea Custom
Department receive 5800 Rs per annum
and collect very little more than 7 Lacs.

From the Collector's letter
dated in the margin and the enclosure
which are submitted herewith it
appears that in Calcutta besides a
Covenanted Deputy Collector, there is
a Superintendent of the Port Revenue
and 500 Rs a month and that the latter
behaves towards the persons of whom
the property are purchased and must
behave independently of Government.

Sanjivani
22 May 1856
From the 22 July 1856
22 September 1856

The Hon. Mr. Secretary
Sanjivani
22 July 1856

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The class of men the Board are not
aware how far any of the duties which
have devolved on the Collector or his
Deputy are in Calcutta performed by
these superior officers, but whatever
may be the amount of assistance derived
from them, it cannot be denied that the
cost of the Covenanted Agency at Madras
compared with that at Calcutta is very
large in proportion to the Revenue, and
ought in a revision of salaries to be
reduced.

From this connection the
Board do not hesitate to consent to the
substitution of an Assistant in a salary
of 2000 Rs per annum for the present
Deputy who receives about 18000 Rs per
annum and they are of opinion that as frequent
changes in the Incumbent of an appoint-
ment of which the duties can only
be learned in a single Establishment
should as much as possible be
avoided, it is desirable that he should
belong to the Covenanted Service.
As regards the Collector
himself, the Board while they admit
that

the protection to Revenue is a large
to be constantly done it is an un-
known as money to salary are yet
a large sum that it will be every
found to make officers of the
superior ability to remain in it say
possibly long to require a stipend
in the Revenue duties. Various of
important accounts in the Sea Customs
House, which involve connected with
payment and such Revenue will involve
considerable enhancement if not
less to Government, and on this account
the Board think it desirable that
the office of Collector should be
filled by a person of standing and
importance. The circumstances may
be regarded as an argument for the
employment of an individual
not in the Commissioned Service, and the
Board are disposed to allow that
there are reasons in favor of such a
step, but it will not be easy they
think to make it stand at present
to secure the independence and weight
and influence which are essential
to

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to the due performance of the duties
out of the Commissioned Branch.

7. Taking into consideration
all the circumstances bearing on the
efficiency of the Office, and the pros-
pect of a rapid increase in the trade
of the Port, the Board would recom-
mend that the salary of the Collector
may be put on the same footing as
that of the Collector of a Ryotwari
District.

8. They have taken longer
to reply to the reference on this subject
than they would otherwise have done
from their wish to consider whether
the views of the Commissioner could
not be met, and the necessary qual-
ifications at the same time secured,
by the measure of the proposed of
amalgamating the offices of the
Collector of Madras and of the
Sea Customs, but a careful perusal
of the correspondence which passed
on the several occasions when the
propriety of altering the salary or
constitution of the former office
has

of the propriety to remove it along
to the connected House of Representatives
as not an independent body, are yet
of the opinion that it will be more
desirable to remove it from the
responsibility to remain as it is
presently being to require an aptitude
in the peculiar duties of the office of
constant attendance in the Sea Customs
House which will be decided with
judgment and prudence could involve
considerable embarrassment if not
loss to Government on this account
the Board think it desirable that
the office of Collector should be
filled by a person of standing and
experience. The circumstance may
be adduced as an argument for the
appointment of an individual
not in the connected service, and the
Board are disposed to allow that
there are reasons in favor of such a
step, but it will not be easy they
think, as matters stand at present
to secure the independence and weight
and influence which are essential
to

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to the due performance of the duties
out of the connected service.

7 Taking into consideration
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efficiency of the Office, and the pros-
pect of a rapid increase in the trade
of the Port, the Board would recom-
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may be put on the same footing as
that of the Collector of a Ryotwar
District.

8 They have to now longer
to reply to the reference on this subject
than they would otherwise have done
from them wish to consider whether
the views of the Commissioner could
not be met, and the necessary qual-
ifications at the same time secured
by the measure of the proposed
amalgamating the offices of the
Collector of duties and of the
Sea Customs, but a careful perusal
of the correspondence which passed
on the several occasions when the
propriety of altering the salary or
constitution of the former office
has

8/79

Plummers Port Caperda
Dorothy Lang: 154.

1131

To
The Secretary
to the Board of Trade
To The Secretary
to Government
Sept 29 New York
Printed by J. Parsons
Nov 20 New York

John W. Brown

fracturing the opinion
of the Board on the ground
for a partial and a temporary
of the same measure for the
renewal of said salaries
and established in the
report to the Board
the same time.

1894

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9

For order.
Rev. Mr. 1550.

Dec 24, 1856.

Monument with the
word - taken by J. B. P.

J. B. P.

The B. P. appears to have
taken a very correct
view of this subject - It
should however be in

Agley

H. Nichols Esq.

Compensation for the revision
of Civil, Criminal & Code.
to the House through the Committee

With reference
to the suggestions con-
tained in the part
of your proposals relat-
ing to the office of
Recorder, furnished to
this Government with
your letter dated 16th
September last, 1877,
I have the honor
under the orders of the
Right Honorable the
Governor in Council
to transmit to you
a copy of a memo-

2 simplifications
the duties regarding
the custom office
now in progress.

[Signature]

For K. George
26th January 1857

[Signature]
26th Jan 1857

21st Dec 1856

30th Jan 1857

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Revenue 1857 Department
to Com 27th January.

No 99.

To the Commissioner for the
Revision of Civil Salaries
and Establishment throughout
India.

26th January 1857.

Concurring with the Bd
that the Salary of the Collr. of
Sea Fisheries at Madras should
not be fixed at less than that
of the Collr. of a Ryotwar Dist
which at present is Rs 28000 per
annum & that an encumbrance
of Rs 7200
per annum be deducted from
the present Rs 10000 who received
10000 Rs & observing that the
question of reducing the sub-
ordinate Estab^t in the Dept
will require consideration
after the completion of the
revision of accounts & sim-
plification of the rules re-
garding the Custom Office
now in progress.

No 99 & 40.