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Revenue Department

Journals & Consultations

13th Oct 1857.

Book No 17 p 20

Orders Relative to Certificates

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 13th October 1857.

No. 19 Read the following letter from H. RICKETTS, Esq., Commissioner for the revision of Civil salaries, &c.; to the Secretary to the Government of Madras; dated Ootacamund, 19th September 1857, No. 1230.

Sir,

Extract to Secretary to Government
S. R. P. dtd August 1856.
Secretary to Government each Sept. 1856.

I solicit the opinion of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council of the plan discussed in the correspondence annexed, for always keeping the establishment in the Revenue and Judicial Department in a state of complete efficiency in respect to number.

From H. RICKETTS, Esq., Commissioner for the revision of Civil salaries, &c.; to the Secretary to the Government of North West Provinces; dated Nynee Tal, 31st August 1856, No. 681.

Sir,

It appears to be expected both in Bengal, and the North West Provinces, that under all circumstances the business of the country must be carried on by the fixed number of servants. The consequence is, that the effects of an unhealthy season are infinitely increased by systematically impeding the work of the sick on the ground. Those who may escape the prevalent malady, by exertion, suffer more than more temporarily disabled by disease, for the effects of overwork are more seriously injurious than a few weeks suffering from fever or influenza.

For the efficient conduct of affairs a certain number of officers must be required, and that number should be kept up at all times, and under all circumstances; if Covenanted officers are not available, then by Uncovenanted.

Assistants who have not passed the first examination, should not be considered part of the strength of the establishment.

For the 32 Districts there are 54 Joint Magistrates and Deputy Collectors, 7 Assistants with special powers, and 17 Uncovenanted officers (including the two employed on settlements) although their real duties of course prevent are constantly acting as Magistrates and Collectors, and sometimes more so, as Judges.

Whatever the number of officers considered necessary, I would have that number; Uncovenanted officers are always available, and it is my belief that, if such a system was considered proper, good officers would be found readily to take the officiating offices with no salary whatever, provided good service was regarded as constituting a claim to succeed on a vacancy occurring. But there is no occasion for any arrangement of that sort. The deductions from the allowances of absentees are always more than sufficient to cover the expense of the substitutes.

The existing system is unfair by the Government, unfair by the service, and unfair by the people. It is true that the varied experience acquired by *acting in different districts has its* advantages, but there is a limit beyond which changes, if avoidable, and they are easily avoidable, should not go. The expense of repeated changes throws young men into embarrassments from which they with difficulty extricate themselves. The service performed under such circumstances is not likely to be good service.

I would nominate such a number of officers as experience might shew to be necessary auxiliary Deputy Magistrates and Deputy Collectors to be *employed when wanted*. They should be well paid. I would give the average allowance of Uncovenanted officers in these

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Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 13th October 1857.

means of keeping the Revenue and Judicial Departments complete and duly efficient; and to the general increase question His Lordship most fully subscribes.

3. But the Government are of opinion that there will be difficulties in practice which are not fully met in the correspondence which your letter encloses.

4. The arrangement which you propose would increase the expenses of the State, the subsidiary officers to be posted to each district are, it is observed, to be well paid, and although the augmentations thus created would be met by deductions from the salaries of those for whom they acted, the total emolument would be a wholly extra charge.

5. Further, it appears to the Government that confusion and inconvenience would arise from such an entire amalgamation as you propose, of the Covenanted and Uncovenanted services. At present certain offices are exclusively and invariably filled by Gentlemen of the Covenanted service, others are appropriated wholly to the Uncovenanted branch of the service, and some are open to both. Under the plan you propose it would happen, and perhaps not unfrequently, that a Covenanted office would be filled by an Uncovenanted servant, and as you admit that good service in a temporary vacancy should give claim to eventual confirmation, in course of time the Covenanted offices will be generally filled by Gentlemen of the Uncovenanted branch. His Lordship in Council does not consider it necessary on this occasion to enter into any argument on the advantages or disadvantages of a Covenanted service, the Government accept the fact as it is, and finding a Covenanted service established, they are of opinion that it should be maintained on established on its own merits, whereas, by the course now proposed it might be set aside by a measure designed for a different object.

6. The Government therefore [illegible] the Uncovenanted service [illegible] of Conveyancing officers, provided they discharge all the duties of Sheristadar and Magistrate, [illegible] Magistrate and Deputy Collector, [illegible] from your own knowledge of the qualifications and services of the officers in charge of a district would, you consider, afford no adequate guarantee for the efficient discharge of essential public duties.

Ordered that the Letter be despatched.

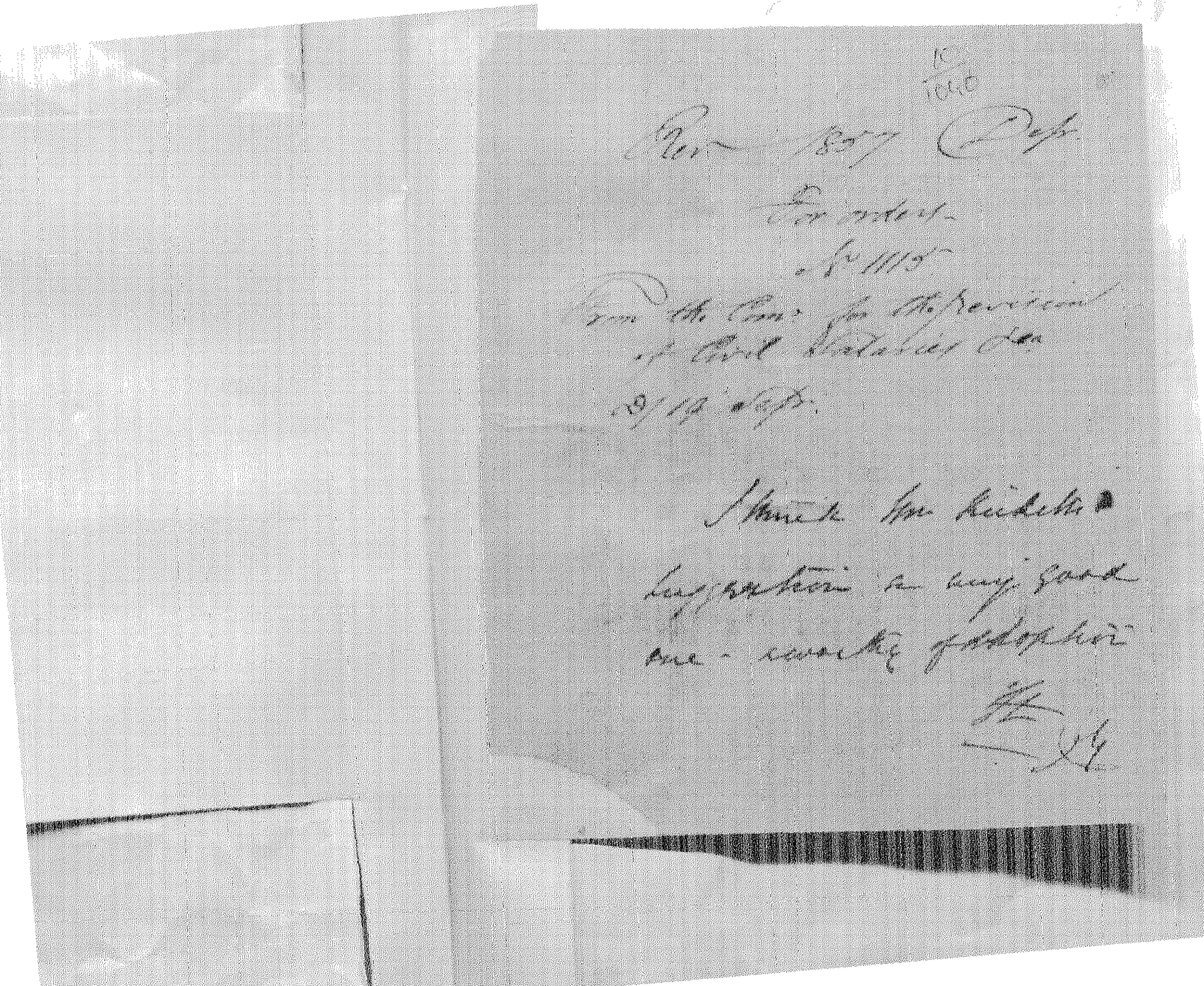
No. 183. From H. [illegible], Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George;
to H. [illegible], Esq., Commissioner for the revision of Civil salaries and Establishments throughout India; dated 13th October 1857, No. 1040.

Sir,

I am directed to reply to your letter of the 19th Ultimo.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council does not fail to perceive the advantages which the public service would derive from the Govern[illegible] but having always at its disposal the

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