M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1683 Press ~~Mis.~~

23—24

Dated 13 — 12 — 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of December 1859.

No. 23. Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 30th November 1859, No. 50.

With reference to the Government Gazette of the 25th instant, No. 3380, abolishing the Commandant, (who was also Joint Magistrate,) of the Hills, I deem it my duty to lay before Government, with all deference, copy of a letter just despatched to the Revenue Board. I have no wish to interfere with any arrangement Government may deem best for the management of the Hills, but I venture to refer to my letter of 5th December 1857, No. 73, and to suggest, that a Special Assistant for the Nílgiris, would compass all the objects Government would have in view, without taking away the Sub-Collector from this large district below; where the services of such an officer at Caroor are really required, especially on any occasional absence of the Collector on leave or sickness. Such an officer as I suggest on the Hills, is now on the spot, and just relieved, (Mr. Nesbitt;) of sufficient standing and experience I believe, though a stranger to me, and if I am rightly informed, the appointment would be a very great boon to *him* in his present state of health. I had such an Assistant in Lord Dalhousie's time, and any extra expense to Government would nearly be met by the abolition, if necessary, of the 1st class Deputy Collector allotted to this district, and the office establishment of the Commandant.

Also 28th May 1857, *No.* 25.

No. 24. ORDER THEREON, 13th December 1859, No. 1683.

The Collector will be referred to the order of Government of November 29th published at page 1011 of the Official Gazette, appointing Mr. Nesbitt to be his Assistant to reside on the Nílgiri hills.

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

No. 4780.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 22d November 1859.

Read letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 13th October 1859, No. 190, suggesting, with reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 3874, that a Special Assistant Collector should be located on the hills instead of the Sub Collector.

(In Con. 18th October 1859, No. 5195.)

The Board are disposed to think that the Sub Collector might with advantage be located on the hills, the Carur charge being provided for by means of the Head Assistant and Deputy Collectors.

2. The transfer to Coimbatore of the Malabar portion of the hills plateau will increase the charge and work of the officer stationed there, and with so large an European community the services of an experienced Magistrate and Justice of the Peace cannot fail to be very valuable, if not absolutely indispensable.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary.

To

E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Coimbatore Collr's Office

No. 221

29th November 1859.

From,

E. B. Thomas Esqre

Collector of Coimbatore.

To,

W Huddleston Esqre

Acting Secretary to the Board

of Revenue.

Sir,

I In Proceedings of the 22nd November

1859 No 4780, the Board are disposed to "

recommend the transfer of the Coimbatore Sub

Collector to the Neilgherries. The Board will

of course suggest what they deem best - but I

may, with all deference, be permitted perhaps

to point out a few difficulties in the way of

that arrangement - an Officer of standing and

experience, in the Sub Judge's, is already on the

Hills, who is also ordered by Government

to take up all cases of Justice of the Peace "

occurring at Ootacamund itself. I cannot

at Coonoor the Commissariat Officer is also a Justice of Peace & Asst Surgn.

aware whether the Board mean the Sub Collector only to take the Police and Revenue of the Hills in which case there would be hardly work for an Officer of the responsibility and pay of a Sub Collector and Joint Magestrate / or whether he is also to take all the responsibility / which has hitherto rested in the Collector of the District / of the grants of land, case of Forests, Settlement of land, and water disputes, and other important duties connected with the Wooleyhennies; if so it will need some judgement and much previous information: and it would be necessary that all the voluminous correspondence of 20 years and more, should be separated from the whole English Records / with which it is mixed up according to its dates,

* in concert with Dr Cleghorn.

and made over to the Sub Collector - a difficult matter -

2 He will also then need an adequate Establishment, as his own proper Establishment can hardly be spared if all the work of the Sub Collector's Division, Taloots, is left to be done below - From its importance, the Hill correspondence has always been in charge of the Head Clerk, who could not possibly be spared - and I fear the only result, as regards this part of the work, would be, an endless reference for letters and information, to Coimbatore - where the Hill duties will still continue in fact to be done - The proposed addition from Malabar, is a merely nominal one, in as a

rather than work - the tract of the Nundoos
proposed to be violated to Coimbatore, being
a part of the Shoondah mountains containing
a few Toolar Inches only - The Head
Assistant Collector has already 3 large
Talúks - the 2nd Assistant only a short time
at work 1/2 - I really do not see how I could
throw on them properly any of the 4 Talúks
of the Sub Collectorate, and Coimbatore
has been, and ought not to be, left without
an European Officer - I would suggest, with
deference to the Board, that the Hill
Correspondence and land grants &c.
should at least be left in the Collector's
Office, where they can be best settled -

2

and perhaps 9 years experience (and consi-
derable trouble long taken) to become
familiar with the localities and peculiarities
of the Hills), may enable me to deal with
these matters better than an entirely new
Officer -

4 The official correspondence connected
with the Hills alone is nearly as heavy as all
the rest of the District - and while any
subordinate Officer the Government deem
best, can reside and conduct on the spot,
all the details of Revenue and Police on
the Hills, I think, for many reasons the
Chief control should be in the hand of
the Chief Officer of the District, wherever
he may be -

5 If the Board should still see

fit to recommend the Hills being made
over entirely to the Sub Collector, I respectfully
request that Copy of this letter may also
accompany their recommendation to
Government - as I feel conscious of never
having abused the privilege of access to the
Hills, but have been on them less than
perhaps their duty would require, I
write the more freely on this matter with
so large a District and so few Subordinates
as I have hitherto often had, I could not be
often up - If I had had always a full
complement of Subordinates and not 3 Deputy
Collectors, I could of course have given
more time to the Ryotwary, without
neglecting the District below - tho' I am

not conscious of neglecting either - I think
it would be far better to reduce the 1st Class
Deputy Collectors allowed, but not yet
appointed for this District, leaving only
2 Deputy Collectors, than remove the Sub
Collector from his Charge - wherever Government
may see fit to appoint, will of course have
charge of the local Treasury at Coimbatore,
one of responsibility only; as the actual duty
involved how long been efficiently done by
the Tahsildar -

I have &c
(Signed) E B Thomas -
Collector -

True Copy
E. B. Thomas
Collector -

Deputy Collector allotted to
this District, & the Office Establish.t
of the Commandant.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Servant.

C. B. Stevens
Collector.

To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
For A Saint
George

8th Jany 1858. No 25-26.

1859 Pol Dept
Proc Govt 10 December
No 2257

From

The Collector of
Coimbatore

To The Chief Secretary
to Government

Dated 30th Nov
Rec'd Dec 3 1859
No 1683. 13th December
No 50

Forwards copy of
letter to Bd objecting
to the transfer of the
Coimbatore Subcollr
to the Neilgherri Hills.
and suggests that
Mr Nisbett may be
appointed as Speci-
al Assistant to
the latter station.
With an order

No 1683

The Collector will be
referred to the Order of Government
of November 29th published at
page 1011 of the Official Gazette,
appointing Mr Nesbitt to be
his Assistant to reside on the
Nilgiri hills.

Fort St Geo
13 Dec 1859

List —
1 Copy to the Collr of Coimbatore. Dis Pt 14