Revenue Department

G. 62 in 706

Dt 27th May 1859

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 18th to 27th May 1859.

No. 47. Read the following letter from H. NEWILL, Esq., Director of Revenue Settlement to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government Fort Saint George, dated; 11th May 1859, No. 381.

1. I have from time to time had occasion to point out the inconvenience which has arisen in the Survey and Settlement Departments, from the Heads of the same, having no power without a previous reference to Government to adjust their large Establishments, to the varying circumstances which are met with, in the operations of the several parties. Some of the more important changes which it appeared necessary to make have been placed before Government, and received prompt sanction, but there are many other arrangements, which, both Captain Priestly, and myself could have made with great advantage to the facility and expedition of the work, which I have been deterred from placing before Government as they were of a mere temporary nature and it did not seem suitable to be making constant references for sanction, which in some cases would arrive too late for adoption with any useful effect.

2. I have now however so repeatedly seen, the great loss of work, which has arisen from the inability to apply the funds, which might be made available out of the sanctioned amount, for these great undertakings that it is my duty to place the matter before the Government, with the view to some better arrangement being made for turning the money to the best account. Upon the full application of the sums at command, depends the successful rate of work, and whatever remains unexpended, because it cannot be usefully drawn in strict accordance with the sanctioned Estimate, is the index of the work that is lost to the seasons operations.

3. Two or three cases will illustrate my meaning. An irrigation channel is laid out in one are two Villages in the interval between the Demarcation and the Survey, which cuts up the fields, and destroys many of the fields, or even Village boundary marks so as to render it necessary to depute one or two servants to revise the demarcation, according to the altered state of things. My deputy has no alternative but, to recall two of his men from their current field work, and send them to this revision, thereby considerably detracting from the tale of field work for the month, while at the same time he has for the month, a surplus of, it may be, one or two hundered Rupees, out of salaries vacant or partially drawn. By appropriating this surplus fund for the employment of extra, hands, several hundred acres of work might be added to the out turn in lieu of a deficiency.

4. Again for the classification and demarcation, it is impossible to balance the numbers of servants for each, within the exact moiety of an Estimate, so as to admit of the adjustment of different rates of progress which must sometimes occur.

5. In the Survey Department Captain Priestly finds that in some places a larger number of Detail Surveyors for Topographical details are required than in others, while his office work may be more slack, at some times, than others, so as to admit of an adjustment.

6. Again, the employment of about half a dozen extra peons or coolies to carry the tappal with the returns of work direct to the Deputies quarters, would have saved a delay in some cases of as much as 10 days, when the work was going on in South Arcot and in Trichinopoly without any direct intercommunication of the District Tappals, between Talooks of the two Districts.

7. These and other instances, are such as require to be dealt with on the spot, and to which a formal sanction by Government of the detail on the ordinary course cannot be applied with the requisite promptness and certainty, to say nothing of the expenditure of time in attention to such references.

8. The Government are aware that the sums sanctioned for the Survey parties in Bengal, and North West Provinces, are allowed to be distributed by the controlling heads, according to their discretion, and as circumstances seem to require. The same liberty of action was also I hear allowed in the Bombay Survey and Settlement.

9. I do not however ask for this unlimited discretion nor do I suppose it could be granted under the orders of the Government of India dated 5th March 1858, conveying the sanction for the Establishments. But I would respectfully solicit that while the scale of salaries of the sanctioned Estimate are retained as a standard, until altered under the sanction of Government, it shall be

Salary

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 18th to 27th May 1859.

left open to the heads of the Survey and Settlement Departments, to regulate the number of servants of each grade, according to the various circumstances, which are constantly transpiring instead of adhering to the numbers given in the Estimate.

10. This course is now adopted in the Ordnance Survey in England after the many years of experience there obtained, and it is not unreasonable that the same should be extended to Establishments in this country, which as yet are only experimental. The Ordnance Survey Reports shew that sums are annually granted by Parliament for the work, that the officer's salaries are duly regulated according to a scale, and the maximum rate of pay is fixed for Civil Assistant Surveyors, laborers &c., which cannot be exceeded without the sanction of the Secretary of State, while the regulation of the number of hands under each grades and the general distribution of the grant within the prescribed limits is left entirely to the Survey Department.

No. 706. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1859, No. 706.

The Governor in Council recognizes the justice of the representation in this letter; and agreeably to the recommendation in para. 9, he empowers the Director of Revenue Settlement, and the Superintendent of Survey, to make such temporary changes in their establishments, respectively, as they find necessary, provided that the fixed rates of salary shall not be exceeded in any case, and that the total expenditure of a Survey or Settlement party shall never exceed the sanction.

2. A quarterly return will be submitted by the Director for the information of Government, showing all changes made in both departments under this order, and the reasons of them.

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

R. D.

№ 706

Proceedings of the Madras Government -
Under date the 25th May 1859 -
Read the following
letter from the Director of
Revenue Settlement -

(Here enter 11th May 1859 № 381)

The Governor in Council
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9 Offs. Dir. of Rev. Secd. Dy Secs.
3 " Us of R. —— " 26 11
1 " Cir. Audr —— " 5

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26/3/60 292/12

Copy in a letter to Ed
dy 8th March 1860 No 22

From Dy Rem Sett. 4/1/8 April 58 @ 1958.
for the quarter ending 31 March 58 - Lodged
Ctr 2170/60 - for the quarter ending 30 June 58
Lodged

From Dy 6th Dec/60 Ctr 2893

147-69 R
1859
865-69+
75-70+

14-9-99 Rent
16-1-98
25-9-14 No 47 & 48.

Revenue 1859 Deptt.
Cons 27th May

No 706.

Fro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 25th May 59.

~~From the Director of Rev~~
Settlement Dy 7 May 60
Ctr 96 & encls 4 June 60
" 110 111
From do Dy 1st September 60 Ctr
1858 in Fro: 19th September 60 821 646

Director of Revenue Settlement & Superintendent of Survey to make such temporary changes in their Establishments respectively as they find necessary, provided that the fixed rates of Salary as well as the total expenditure of a survey or settlement party shall not exceed in any case. Quarterly return to be submitted showing all changes made in both Depts and reasons for them.