M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press / Mis.
Dated Dec. 1859.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MR
14-8-23

Revenue Survey Superintendents Office,
Madras 29th November 1859.

No 765/180.

From Captain T.S.B. Priestley
Superintendent Revenue Survey
To H. Nevill Esqre
Director Revenue Settlement.

Sir,

No 907. In reply to your letter of the 20th ultimo, I have the honor to state that in order to carry out the desire of Government for the more rapid progress of Survey operations in the North I think the following arrangements should be made.—

2 That sanction be granted for the immediate extension of the Rajahmundry Survey party to the Scale marked E in my Report for 1856 in order that it may be on the enlarged footing by the commencement of 1860.—

3. I am in hopes that (with the exception of the full number of Surveyors, Draughtsmen and Computers) the increase may be effected by that time, as I am informed by Captain Orlebar that the difficulty of obtaining persons for Service in the Survey has been in a measure overcome.—

A

4. A supply of the Instruments &c required is also forthcoming so that no delay will occur on this head.—

5. In addition to the number of persons enumerated in the List E, I am inclined to advocate an increase to the extent noted in the margin, involving an extra outlay of about 10,000 Rupees per Annum, but shall be prepared to speak decidedly on my return from the North, where I purpose proceeding at once, to confer with Captains Crews and Staff.—

3 Hind Surveyors
2 do Deputy do
1 do Sectional do
10 Amins
10 Commutators I am inclined to the opinion that the Establishment of ½ the strength of that in List B.—
30 Rods & Instrumenters.

6. An Auxiliary party under an Assistant Superintendent, might also at the same time be set on foot, and brought gradually to its full strength the ½ half of that under the Deputy Superintendent.—

7. A Volunteer Establishment of half the strength sanctioned for a full party might be granted.—

8. With the present party increased as stated in Para 2 & 5 and the additional party of the strength noted above I think 1000 Square Miles will be completed during the working Season 1864.— Para 6

9. In a more favorable country the out-turn would be larger, but in Rajahmundry the greatest extent of irrigated land, the multitude of Canals and Channels, the several branches of the River Godavery, and the Sunkals or there present obstacles the consideration of which forbids my making a larger Estimate.—

10. I may also observe that I have deducted about 200 Square Miles from what would have otherwise been the Estimated out-turn, on account of the Reduction of the number of working days caused by the Native Establishment being unemployed on Sundays.

11 With regard to relaxing the degree of accuracy at present demanded (and obtained) in the field measurement I feel it my duty to deprecate any change.—

12. The advantage gained in time would only affect the work of plotting, and this gain would I think be obtained at too great a cost involving as I fear it would the loss of any thing like certainty as to the amount of error admitted.—

13. With the Agency necessarily employed in this Country, I am of opinion that unless rigorous accuracy be demanded, and every effort made to ensure it a Standard of moderate correctness even will not be attained but

but a door will be opened to fraud and collusion, of which most certainly prompt advantage will be taken.—

14. At present there is no possibility of mis-understanding, the measurements are either correct (in which case the plot closes) or the reverse, and to no one except a European Officer is a discretion allowed.—

15 By observing the rule, however it will be necessary to entrust the discretionary power to each draughtsman, who will never be at a loss to give excellent reasons for passing incorrect measurements if so inclined.—

16 This may perhaps be a fitting op-portunity of urging the necessity of granting to the European Survey Officers some powers of enquiry into cases of absence and obstruction on the part of Villagers (by which delay to the Survey is caused) and of inflicting a limited fine when necessary.—

17. The widely scattered positions of the persons employed in the Survey and the natural dislike of the Ryots to a process which while in progress causes them trouble and when complete will increase their land tax, render it impossible for the Deputy Director

Revenue

Revenue Settlement to enquire into and adjudicate on the greater part of the complaints against Villagers for delay.—

18 Unless such cases are at once disposed of, the Survey is in no way benefitted by the punishment of the Offender nor is the effect of an example much felt of long delayed.

19. I do not myself see what objection can be urged to granting these limited powers to my Deputies, who are Officers in the Army and of some standing and experience, when they are granted to persons in the Reenvenue and Settlement Department, on pay ranging from Rupees 100 to 150, one of these very persons moreover was formerly employed in a Subordinate position in the Survey.—

20. That some arrangement is absolutely required to effect a more speedy settlement of cases of delay, I have always been of opinion and when it was found that the Settlement Department was not capable of affording that assistance, which it was anticipated it would give to the Survey, I addressed you on the subject proposing as there seemed to be an insuperable objection to delegating to the European Officers of the Survey any authority

to

Letter dated 2d July /59 No 542

to take cognizance of delay or obstruction, that some native Officials in Survey employ, should be empowered to hold enquiries, but the plan did not meet with your concurrence -

21. I would therefore propose, that all European Deputy and Assistant Superintendent, should have authority to compel the attendance of Village Officers and Ryots when required for Survey purposes, and that they should be empowered to inflict a fine (recoverable in the usual manner) not exceeding Rupees 3 in cases of Non-attendance. -

22. For the Deputy Superintendents I would however advocate additional powers of enquiring into and deciding on cases of obstruction, with authority to fine up to Rupees 5. -

23. I ask for very limited powers for the Survey Officers, from the conviction that the fact of the possession of these powers (which could be promptly put in force) being generally known would go far towards putting a stop to the custom of disregarding any Summons from Survey Officers. -

24. Any important cases and such as appear to require a heavier punishment than can be inflicted by Officers on the Survey Department.

Department, should be referred to the Deputy Director Revenue Settlement, to whom also at the end of each month an abstract Statement of Complaints, and the result of enquiry on them should be sent.

25. Then I think advisable in order to keep him informed of the disposition of the district of which he will have the general control, as far as arranging for the progress of Survey operations not being unnecessarily impeded. -

26. As bearing on the subject I beg to state that the number of days lost by the Non-attendance of Villagers in the districts of Trichinopoly, Rajahmundry and Masulipatam, were respectively 1410, 460 and 1501. In all 3401 days representing at an average of 50 Acres per diem an area of 150,050 Acres or the work of an entire party of 40 Ameens for four Months -

Trichinopoly 10 Months
Rajahmundry 9 " -
Masulipatam 8 " -

234.5 Square Miles
at 21 working days per Month -

27. The subject of the influence of the Emancipation on the Survey and its more rapid progress compared with that of the latter Revenue Department demands some observations which I propose treating of a separate Communication. -

The

28. The constant demand for special sanction and the refusal of the Civil Auditor to pass Abstracts and charges newspenly incurred by myself and my Deputies, is a constant source of uncertainty, and has a bad effect on the Department generally.

29. It contributes still to keep up the belief that the establishment is merely a special and temporary one, and this belief is the chief cause of the difficulty experienced in obtaining the services of a sufficient number of eligible men to permit an immediate increase in the Northern parties.—

30 Another clog to an efficiency, is the necessity for obtaining the sanction of Government to alterations in the rates of pay from those originally sanctioned.—

31. In the Wynaad for instance it will be necessary to give most ranks a higher rate of pay than the highest sanctioned, whereas I understand that the permission accorded by Government merely allows of a larger proportion on rates not exceeding the highest sanctioned.—

32. To obviate the inconvenience pointed out I should wish that discretion be granted to me to sanction such changes in the numbers, ranks and rates of pay of persons employed

employed in the Department as may seem from time to time advisable always provided that the sanctioned amount for any one Establishment shall not be exceeded.—

33. I think also that the power to sanction the purchase of books &c required for the Survey the rent of an office for each Deputy Superintendent during a part of the year, the repair of tents &c, might be conceded to me and also that for a party on the enlarged scale the amount for monthly contingent charges be raised from Rupees 100 to 150. marked E

34. All expenditure for which an Estimate is required such as building sheds, and large repairs or purchases to an amount that cannot be included in the monthly contingent bill to receive your sanction as at present.—

35. With the large extent of ground already demarcated and ready for Survey it is perhaps useless to advance any proposition for an increase to the general size of fields to be measured and mapped.—

36 I will therefore only repeat what I have already personally brought to your notice that such a measure will be followed by a corresponding increase in the amount of

work

work performed by this Department.-

I have the honor to be Sir

/Signed/ F. I. B. Priestley Captn

Superintendent Revenue Survey

/True Copy/

F Hewitt

Director of Revenue Settlement

Dd F Hall

Detail of proposed increase to strength given in List E. (p. 372

LIII Selections Government Records.

3 Head Surveyors	at 50		150.
2 Deputy do	40		80.
1 Detail do.	25		25
10 Ameens	12		120.
10 Tomastahs	8		80
1/5th of Office Establishment i.e. of 390+475=865 or			173 Rs.
30 Peons & Measurers for the 6 Surveyors.			150
			778
			12
			9336
Measurement Allowance			1536
Total Rupees			10872

A proportionate increase to the number of temporary measurers and to the monthly advance for the supply of hired labor (at present Rupees 300) will be necessary.-

113. I should wish to increase the pay of half the Ameens to 14 and the other half to 12. 100

Extra Computers are required to the extent of 1/3 100

Extra Draughtsmen do do 150

350

12

4200

To meet this I would reduce measurement allowance to 12 annas per 100 acres by 3744

which a gain is obtained of. 456 deficit which can be covered by various incidental reductions-

These arrangements and the rates of pay are however much better left to the Officers in local charge.-

/Signed/ F. I. P.

(True Copy)

F Hewitt

Director of Revenue Settlement.

Compd

F Hall

R 472/66.