M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

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## Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 820 Press / Mis.

Dated 24th June 1858.

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 30. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue; dated 3rd June 1859, No. 2036.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Malabar, dated 26th March 1859, No. 58, applying for an Indexer, &c., for his English Records.

(In Con. 31st March 1859, No. 1402.)

Resolved that the foregoing communication be submitted for the consideration and orders of Government.

2. In the above recorded letter the Acting Collector of Malabar brings to notice the inconvenience experienced by his predecessors and himself from the want of an Index to the English records of his office, and applies for an Indexer on 30 Rupees per month, whom he proposes to employ, in the first instance, on the records of the nine years from 1793 to 1801, the correspondence of that period being calculated to throw some light on the escheats of the Pychee Rajah, as well as on other questions connected with the early history of the District.

3. Mr. Grant also thinks it very desirable that an Assistant to the Record Keeper on 17 Rupees per month should be permanently entertained to obviate the constant accumulation of arrears in the Department and which its best endeavours cannot prevent owing to the heavy increase of business in late years, and that the salary (Rupees 35) of the present Record Keeper should also be raised.

4. With regard to the second part of Mr. Grant's application the Board are of opinion that it can be best considered when the Establishments generally are revised, but with reference to the temporary Indexer the Board recommend that the Acting Collector be authorized to employ one on 30 Rupees a month for 12 months, a report of his work to be submitted by Mr. Grant at the expiration of that period when the expediency of continuing his services may be considered.

5. With the prospect of a Survey of the Province at no distant period, the Board think it very necessary that these valuable Records should be made available for easy reference by the preparation of a good Index.

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No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1859, No. 820.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Revenue, the Government sanction the employment of an extra Indexer in the District of Malabar for the period of 12 months on a salary of Rupees 30 per mensem for the purpose specified in the foregoing proceedings. The Acting Collector will take care that the person employed is fully competent for the duty, and will ascertain from time to time by means of inspection both by himself and by his European Assistants, that the work is carefully and intelligently performed. In the absence of such care, the labor bestowed on indexes is often to a great extent thrown away and useless.

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

IN CON. 31ST MARCH 1859, No. 1402.

From P. GRANT, Esq., Acting Collector of MALABAR,

dated Calicut, 26th March 1859, No. 58.

The difficulty which I have lately experienced in obtaining certain information called for by the Commissioner of Inams from my English Records, has impressed me with the necessity of applying through the Board for the sanction of Government, to entertain an extra establishment to have them indexed.

2. The subject has engaged the attention of many of the former Collectors of the province, but their requisitions were not granted.

3. The subject of Inams and the Survey of Wynaad are now before Government. On both of them I believe there is a large amount of valuable information buried in our voluminous English Records, but without an Index to them it lies almost useless.

4. When the Wynaad Talook is being surveyed, it will be most important that we should be able to refer to all previous correspondence, which has passed in reference to that part of the country.

5. In 1806 the Pychee Rajah who had been in open rebellion against our Government was killed—all his estates escheated to Government. He was a junior member of the Cotteyam Rajah's family and connected with the Cooroombenaad Rajah. Much land which rightly belonged, I believe, to the Pychee Rajah, is now claimed by members of these two families.

6. From 1793 to the end of the century, Tippoo who had acquired Wynaad by conquest, was at constant war with the Pychee Rajah, who always maintained a position of rebellion and was sympathized with in the same by the Cotteyam and Coroombenaad Rajahs. During this period a correspondence was frequently kept up between the Court of Seringapatam and our Government on the subject, and this would I believe throw some light on the escheats of the Pychee Rajah which are now in a very unsatisfactory state.

7. I mention these cases to show how necessary it is that immediate attention should be directed to the Records, which if indexed would no doubt throw much light on many other subjects of interest in this District.

8. I think that a salary of Rupees 30 per mensem would secure the services of an intelligent person competent to fulfil the duties required. He should be retained for one year on the expiry of which period a report of the work done might be submitted.

9. From 1793 to 1801, a period of 8 years the Commissioner's Records extend—they consist of 120 volumes each containing 30 sections, for these we have no Index, and I would propose to have this want supplied in the first instance.

10. I enclose a letter from my English Record-keeper—it explains pretty clearly the present state of the Records. The Minute and Register Books referred to by him in para. 2 of his letter* I have looked into, they would assist but little in preparing Indexes, and cannot in the least be said to supply their places.

* Dated 19th instant.

11. Mr. Bates the late Head Accountant who is now with the Commissioner of the Mofussil Police, from his long tenure of office and his personal knowledge of the Records, was formerly enabled to assist in any reference to them, but his aid is now lost to the office—the present Record-keeper has a very considerable knowledge of the Records, but his current duties are so numerous that he is unable to do any thing in the way of Indexing them. Should any thing happen to him, the office will be left in a most crippled predicament, which I am anxious to adopt measures to prevent, and with this view request the Board's assistance.

12. In the last para. of his letter the Record-keeper draws attention to the low rate of remuneration allowed him, as compared with the salaries of those holding similar appointments in other Districts—Tanjore, Guntoor and Masulipatam alone excepted. I should indeed be glad to see his allowance raised, and also an Assistant appointed to aid in the duties of the office which, of late years, have become so heavy, that one man cannot fulfil them efficiently, and thus notwithstanding our best endeavours arrears are constantly accruing. An Assistant could not be had for a lower salary than Rupees 17 I believe, for any one with a fair knowledge of English and the vernacular is sure to find employment at a high rate of pay on the Railway.

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ENC. 1.

From Mr. T. V. D'QUINTAL, English Record-keeper,

To P. GRANT, Esq., Acting Collector of MALABAR,

dated Calicut, 19th March 1859.

In obedience to the verbal instructions I have received from you, I beg leave to submit the following information regarding the state of the Records in this office.

2. The Commissioner's Records extend from 1793 to 1801—and are divided into four Departments, Revenue, Public, Political and Police—comprizing altogether about 120 volumes, each of which contains about 30 sections of Royal paper. No Index to these Records is forthcoming. Minute and Register Books are in existence, but these are in a very incomplete state, and do not appear to have been kept up regularly. Two of these books are herewith submitted for your inspection.—

3. Besides the Commissioner's Records there are the Chief and Factor's Correspondence Books from the year 1727 to 1800, to which also there is no Index.

4. From the year 1801 to 1803 Inward and Outward letters were indiscriminately pasted in books without reference to the various subjects to which they refer. From 1804 to 1826 they were divided into the several Departments noted marginally. The present practice of copying all Outward letters in separate books, has been in existence since 1827.

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|---|---|---|---|
| Revenue. | Tobacco. | Marahmut. | |
| Sea Customs. | Magisterial. | Account. | |
| Sayer. | Judicial. | Miscellaneous. | |
| Salt. | Stamp. | | |

5. In Mr. Vaughn's and Sheffield's Time Register books of letters received and despatched in the Departments noted in the margin were kept in this office, from the year 1821 to 1826, but have since been discontinued.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Tobacco. | Miscellaneous. | Revenue. | Cardamom. | Magisterial. | |
| Salt. | Sayer. | Judicial. | Stamp. | | |

6. There is no Index to any of the English Records in this office. The great inconvenience experienced from the want of it, was brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue by the former Collectors, Messrs. Clementson and Conolly, under dates the 4th February 1837, 23rd February 1842 and 22nd August 1851—the Board* however declined applying to Government for sanction to entertain the Extra Establishment required.

* Letter dated 17th March 1842.

7. The late Mr. Conolly, in his letter* to the Board of Revenue, stated that "the Record-keepers as "all other servants have such full and constant employ that nothing has "been done to have an Index made, and that he could not attain what is so "very necessary without extra aid."

* Dated 23rd February 1842.

8. If a person be exclusively engaged in the work, it will occupy no less than two years. I take this opportunity of bringing to your notice that besides Indexing there are some Records of the Commissioner's time still remaining to be arranged.

9. During the last 10 years, the correspondence in this office has increased to so great an extent, as to render it very difficult for a single individual to carry on the duties of the Record-keeper especially as the late orders of the Board of Revenue require the keeping of an Index of all letters to and from them—a work which of itself requires much time and attention.

10. Several of the Record-keepers in other Districts are provided with Assistants and are far better paid than that of Malabar, one of the most important provinces under the Madras Presidency. I would therefore with due deference solicit the favor of your taking such steps as you may deem expedient, with a view to ensure an Assistant, and a small increase to my present salary being allowed me, for which favor I shall ever retain a deep sense of gratitude.

| * CANARA. | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1 Record-keeper | 70 |
| CHINGLEPUT. | |
| Record-keepers on 50, 35, and 28 | |
| CUDDAPAH. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 40 |
| GANJAM. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 60 |
| GUNTOOR. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 35 |
| MADURA. | |
| 2 Rd.-keepers at 35 Rs. each. | 70 |

| MASULIPATAM. | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1 Record-keeper | 35 |
| NELLORE. | |
| 1 Rd.-keeper and Trans... | 85 |
| NORTH ARCOT. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 63 |
| COIMBATORE. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 28 |
| RAJAHMUNDRY. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 40 |
| SALEM. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 50 |

| SOUTH ARCOT. | Rs. |
|---|---|
| 1 Record-keeper | 70 |
| TANJORE. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 35 |
| TINNEVELLY. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 40 |
| VIZAGAPATAM. | |
| 1 Dpty. Accountant and Record-keeper | 50 |
| MALABAR. | |
| 1 Record-keeper | 35 |

(True Copy.)

(Signed,) P. GRANT,
Acting Collector.

Revenue Depart.t

No. 820

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 21st June 1859

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings

of the Board of Revenue

(Here enter 3d June 59 No 2036)

In accordance with the recommendation of the Board of Revenue the Government sanction the employment of an extra Sudeyer in the District of Malabar for the period of 12 months on a salary of Rupees 30 per mensem for the purpose specified in the foregoing proceedings. The acting Collector will take care that the person employed is fully competent for the duty and will ascertain from

Printed Copy of
1859 No 1402 despatched

From
The Actg Collector of
Malabar.

To the Secretary to the
Board of Revenue
Fort St George

Dated 20th March 1859.

Rec'd 31st "

Ans'd " "

No 58 A 103/59.
Enc 1

No
Submits the Mate of his
Establishment for the
Consideration of the Board
and applies for an Sudeyer
with Certain addition relations

Ent
In Book No 2030 of 1859.

Come 24 June 1859 No 820

from time to time by means of inspection both by himself and by his European assistants, that the work is carefully and intelligently performed. In the absence of such care, the labor bestowed ~~is~~ or ~~being~~ indexes is often to a great extent thrown away and useless.

[signature]

b Copies to the B C of Revs Dated 22d
/ — a — a — Account Genl ∩
/ — a — a Genl audr ∩

Revenue 1859 Depart.
Pro: of Govt. 24th June.

No. 820.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 21st June 59:

Employment of an extra Indexer in Malabar for a year on Rs 30 per month for English Records, sanctioned.

No. 30 & 31.