M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 865	Press Mis.
103-104	
Dated 28-5- 1860.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MRO 5/9/23

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of May 1860.

No. 103. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th May 1860, No. 2,325 :—

1. The attention of the Board has lately been much occupied with the consideration of measures for improving the Salt administration of this Presidency.

2. There can be no doubt that this source has not hitherto received that careful continuous attention which its importance demands. This it appears to the Board may be in a great measure attributed to the impossibility of a Collector with his other numerous and onerous duties, devoting sufficient time to the control of the Departments, or personally attending to it. An attempt has been recently made to remedy this defect, by the appointment of Deputy Collectors to the special charge of the Salt Revenue.

3. The Board regard this as an administrative improvement of great importance. An Officer of ability and trustworthiness is thus secured for the immediate executive charge of this cource of Revenue in each District, and it may safely be concluded that the detail management of this Department is thus efficiently provided for.

4. It seems to the Board, however, that another measure is wanting to ensure thorough efficiency, and that is the appointment of an Officer to the general executive control of the whole Department.

5. The Board apprehend that the Collectors will be unable to direct and supervise the proceedings of their Deputies, or in fact to take care that these Officers are really doing their duties in a zealous and careful manner. The Salt Pans are situated at intervals of many miles along the line of coast, and at some Districts at considerable distances from the head station of the Collectors and in isolated localities. The Collectors, therefore, cannot leave their other duties to visit such spots with any frequency. The Department, however, is one in which personal supervision and energetic action are peculiarly requisite for efficient administration. A Board resident in Madras cannot, it is obvious, properly superintend such a Department; they can consider questions involving general principles and requiring deliberative consideration, and can generally guard the interests of the State; but they are necessarily dependent on the reports of the local Officers for information, and executive control is beyond their means.

6. The appointment of a separate Officer as Inspector General of the Department would, the Board think, exactly meet the object in view. Passing constantly from District. to District, he would *see* that business was properly conducted, would rectify errors without delay, and suggest improvements. The experience gained in one District would be applied in others, a wholesome spirit of emulation would be infused into the Department, and the Deputy Collectors would themselves feel the benefit of having an immediate superior by whom their zeal and ability would be witnessed. The Board and Government, on the other hand, would be able with greater confidence to act on the suggestions of an Officer whose whole time was devoted to this particular subject, and whose practical experience would be great and varied.

7. At present it must be admitted, that the Board have no means of ensuring the prompt and thorough execution of orders, and it may even be apprehended that the energy lately infused into the Department may gradually be relaxed and matters revert to their former condition.

8. The Board would, therefore, strongly recommend the appointment of an Inspector General, on a salary of Rupees 2,500 per mensem, and the usual travelling allowances of Officers of that grade, and a moderate Establishment which would cost Rupees 150 more. He will be under the direct orders of the Board, and be strictly an Inspecting Executive Officer. The ordinary routine control will necessarily remain with the Collector, but every branch of the Department will come under the Inspector's examination when he visits each District.

9. The Board think that advantage might well be taken of such an Officer as Inspector of the Customs' Department, which is under little practical control at present, and which certainly needs it greatly. This arrangement would involve no additional outlay, and would not interfere with that general control which, by Act X of 1860, the Supreme Government have reserved to themselves.

of the Salt in each District

10. The new office would altogether cost from 34,000 to 35,000 Rupees annually. The Revenue from Salt and Sea Customs in Fusly 1268, amounted to 73¼ lacs so that the charge would be less than ½ per cent. In Bombay, the Salt and Customs are under a Commissioner, and in Bengal, each Salt Agency is under an Officer receiving, the Board understand, emoluments as high as they now propose for the Inspector of the whole Presidency.

	Rs.
Salt	58,96,654
Sea Customs....	14,53,445
	73,50,099

11. In the foregoing recommendation, the 1st Member does not entirely coincide. He is of opinion that the interposition of another Officer between the Collector and his Deputies, and between the Collector and the Board, is not desirable.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM, *Secretary.*

No. 104. ORDER THEREON, 28th May 1860, No. 865.

1. In this letter the Board of Revenue recommend the appointment of an Inspector General of the Salt Revenue, to have the general executive control of the whole Department. The Board regard the appointment of a Deputy Collector to the special charge of the Salt in each District to be an administrative improvement of great importance; but, considering the extent of the Districts, and the multifarious and engrossing duties of the Collectors, they are of opinion that in order to secure the full advantage of that measure, it is necessary to have an Officer specially controlling the whole Department. They point out that the entire cost of the proposed Inspector General and his Establishment would be less than one-half per cent. on the Salt and Sea Customs Revenue; both which they propose to place under him.

2. The Government fully concur in the sentiments expressed by the Board. Circumstances constantly occur to show that the Salt Revenue has not hitherto been under efficient administration. The appointment of the Deputy Collectors to the special charge of it is likely to have the best effects, if those Officers are well selected and perform their duty vigorously and actively; but in order to ensure that it is necessary that they too should be under efficient control.

3. But the Government are not prepared to advocate the immediate appointment of an Inspector General. They have just ordered that a Member of the Board of Revenue Mr. T. Clarke, shall proceed on a tour to make a detailed inspection of the Salt and Sea Customs Departments; and they prefer to adhere to that measure for the present. Besides its immediate objects of correcting evils, suggesting improvements, and stimulating the servants of the Department, it will have the great advantage of putting the Board in possession of accurate and authentic information on local matters, which must be of great aid to them in the future effective exercise of the supervision which is the special object of their office.

Proceedings, 14th May 1860, No. 771.

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

Rev. Dept.

No. 865

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 28th May 1860.

Read the following Ro. of the Board of Revs.

Proposing the appointment of a separate officer as Inspector General of the Salt Dept. on a salary of Rs. 2500 as calculated still further to ensure the efficiency of the Dept., and that the same officer may be entrusted with the Superintendence of the Customs Department which is under little practical control at present.

(Here enter 12th May 1860 No. 2325)

In this letter the Board of Revenue recommend the appointment of an Inspector General of the salt revenue, to have the general executive control of the whole Department. The Bd. regard the appointment of a Deputy Collector to the special charge of the salt in each District

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Regs 4th May 60 No 771-

4 Copies to the Board of Rev:
Oct 5 C 29

And authentic in-
formation on local
matters, which must
be of great service.

J. W. A.

Copy in a Letter to England
Dy 16th July 1860 No 78.

Revenue 1860 Departt.
Pro: of Govt. 31st May

No 866.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 28th May 1860.

Observing that the Govt. are not prepared to advocate the immediate appointment of an Inspector Genl. of the Salt & Revenue-

No 1038 & 104.