M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 916 Press ~~Mis.~~

27-28

Dated 2-6- 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 27. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 3rd May 1860, No. 27 :—

I have considered in Council your Excellency's letter of the 10th February last, No. 6, which reports the progress of the operations of the Survey Department from June to October 1859.

2. The explanations furnished by Mr. Newill, the Director of Revenue Settlements, in his letter of the 15th September 1859, remove to a great extent the unfavourable impressions which were in the first instance entertained as to the progress of the work under his charge. At the same time, I think it right to point out to you that the information supplied by these papers is exceedingly defective, and that I am not in a position to determine whether the expense incurred is proportionate to the work performed, or commensurate with the advantages which are expected to be derived from it.

3. Mere periodical statements of the areas surveyed and classified, however necessary to enable you to judge of the progress made by the respective establishments, are of little use in showing the approach which is being made to the ultimate objects of the work in hand. It is not stated whether any Táluq or Village Maps have yet been completed; if they have, copies should be furnished to me, with explanatory remarks. Nor is any information afforded with regard to the Assessment Department, either as to the principles on which the new Assessments are based, the extent of the modifications which have been introduced, or of the results in a financial point of view. Before the Assessment Department commenced its operations, much correspondence took place between Mr. Newill, the Board of Revenue, and your Government, but whether the plan as then proposed has been actually carried into execution, has yet to be explained.

4. In paragraph 12 of Mr. Newill's letter of the 15th September 1859, he speaks of "serious impediment to the work on account of the great want of village servants for assistance "in the measurements." The establishments for Survey, Demarcation, and Assessment were, it is believed, fixed on a liberal scale, and were to be independent of extraneous assistance, except that of the village Officers to point out the boundaries. It does not appear what these Officers have to do with measurements, or why the Survey should be impeded for want of assistance not authorized when the establishment was formed.

5. Some expectation was held out of the village Karanams being trained to make measurements sufficient to fill in the larger blocks made by the professional Surveyors; but in this case they would be paid for their work, and it should be stated if this plan of employing the Karanams in the Survey has been carried into practice, and to what extent.

6. On these several points I desire to be furnished with your opinion, after consulting the Board of Revenue, to whom, so far as appears from your letter, the papers under notice have not been communicated, although it would appear to be their special duty to give their views on all questions affecting the mode of procedure and value of the Survey and Assessment operations. I desire that in all future similar cases this course may be adopted by your Government.

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1860, No. 916.

This Despatch will be referred to the Board of Revenue who will report on the several points noticed by the Secretary of State, after conferring with Mr. Newill.

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

Revenue Department.

No. 916.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 2nd June 1860

Read the following despatch
from the Right Honorable the
Secretary of State for India.

With reference to the report
on the progress of the operations
of the Survey Department from
June to Oct. 1859, calls for information
on several points connected
with it and the Settlement despatch.

(Here under 3d May 1860 No 27)

His Despatch
will be referred to the Board
of Revenue who will report
on the several points noticed
by the Secretary of State,
after conferring with Mr.
Newill.

List

Board of Revenue 55 10
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Revenue 1860 Departt
Proc: of Govt for June -

No 916.

Proc: of the Madras Govt

D/ 2d June 1860.

From the Director of Rev
Settlement: dated
6th June 60 - No 1166
Form Pr. of Instr/ 4th Aug: /60
No 1633 -

Board of Revenue
to report on the several
points noticed by the
Secretary of State with
reference to the report of
the progress of operations
of the Survey Dept. from
June to October 1859.

No 27 & 28

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