M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 428-429 Press / ~~Mis.~~

524 536

Dated 27 - 2 - 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 531. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th February 1862, No. 1,017 :—

Read the following Statement from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Chetterpore, 21st January 1862, showing the amount of arrears due to the undermentioned Yaumiadárs in that District :—

Number of the Certificate.	Names of the Pensioners.	Amount of Pensions, &c., per annum.	Date of Government authority.	Nature of the grant.	Period for which arrears are due.	Total amount of arrears.	Explanation of the cause of suspension of payment.	Remarks of the Board of Revenue.	Orders of Government.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		RS. A. P.				RS.			
11	Srí Condaswarasawmy.....	88 0 0	February 1804.	For the service of the Pagoda.	3 years.	264	On account of disputes among the worshippers.		
12	Raghunadhasawmy.....	6 5 4	Do.	For do.	Do.	19	Do.		
30	Marabeg.....	45 0 0	Do.	For the service of the Mosque.	2 do.	90	On account of disputes among the under sharers.		
	Japatsing.....	36 0 0	10th February 1838.	Compensation pension.	17 months.	51	Sickness.		

1. Ordered to the submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that sanction be granted for the payment of the arrears due to the two first parties, amounting to Rupees 283.

2. The Board authorize the disbursement of the arrears due to the other individuals, amounting to Rupees 141, and the continuance of their allowances.

3. The Board presume that the identity of the individual in the last case has been satisfactorily proved.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 535. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1862, No. 428.

Sanction is granted accordingly.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched :—

No. 536. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated 27th February 1862, No. 429.

SIR,

1. I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to submit the report called for in the Resolution of the Government of India, dated 19th July last, No. 9,581, on the expediency of consolidating and simplifying the Acts for direct taxation.

2. Upon the receipt of the Resolution in question and the papers which accompanied it, the Board of Revenue and the Income Tax Commissioners for the Town of Madras were called upon for any suggestions which they might think it expedient to make on the subject; and copies of their replies are appended.

From Board of Revenue, dated 24th January 1862, No. 605.
From Commissioners, dated 27th „ „ „ 2.

3. The Board of Revenue it will be seen are in favor, with some slight alteration, of the scheme as sketched in the Honorable Mr. Laing's Minute. The Commissioners differ, and would restrict the license duty to incomes under Rupees 500.

4. With some modifications, the recommendations of the latter body seem to this Government, the fairest and most appropriate: for while they concur generally with Mr. Laing in the principle of the measure which he proposes to introduce, they think that it requires to be much limited in its application, and amended in its details so as to render it at once effective as a source of Revenue, and as little oppressive as possible in its operation.

5. Mr. Laing's scheme, based as it is on the assumption that the attempts made to evade the Act have in most, or many instances been successful, and that the amount raised by the Income Tax is not sufficient in consequence, assumes the form of a more stringent system of direct taxation: it is therefore of the more importance that it should be strictly fair and just in principle and detail.

6. Without referring particularly to the risk of mistake on the part of the Assessors, who will, however, have not only to form their own opinion as to the income of each individual, but to group them into classes, the first objection against Mr. Laing's proposed scale of Licenses is the positive certainty that all who have incomes above the minimum of each class must be placed in a position more favorable than those whose incomes bring them just within such class. This is forcibly shown in paragraph 13 of the Commissioners' letter. It appears to this Government that the difficulty would be in a great measure obviated by adopting the course advocated by the Commissioners in paragraph 14, but taking Rupees 100 instead of Rupees 60 as a starting point and increasing the tax by 1 Rupee in each case till the maximum of the 2 per cent. tax is reached: as explained in the margin. This would make the two lowest classes in Mr. Laing's scale into nine; and though the trouble to the Assessor would probably be greater by this plan, the discontent of the masses would be lessened by the fact that the measure of the amount of injustice done would be probably less than a Rupee annually.

Income. Rs.	Tax. Rs.
100	2
150	3
200	4
250	5
300	6
350	7
400	8
450	9
500	10

7. The License system might indeed be extended to incomes of Rupees 1,000 annually, lessening the difference between the classes as shown in the margin,* but the Government agree with the Commissioners that the limit should for the present be Rupees 500 of annual income. The class of men who have incomes above Rupees 500 annually are in comparatively good circumstances and educated or at least intelligent. They are few enough

*Annual Income,	Tax,
625 Rs.	25 Rs.
750 „	30 „
875 „	35 „
1,000 „	40 „

NOTE.—In the town of Madras about three-fourths of the assessments are of incomes under Rupees 500.

to be dealt with by trustworthy Officers. The Commissioners state, it will be observed, that the returns of Income rendered by Europeans and the higher classes of Natives have been generally fair. There is no practical necessity, therefore, for the change as regards these classes, and the Government consider that they should be dealt with under Act XXXII of 1860.

8. As to the minor alterations proposed by Mr. Laing, this Government concur with him in thinking it advisable—

(1.) To repeal the clauses requiring 1 per cent. to be kept specially for Public Works.

(2.) To exempt (*a*) dividends paid out of India (*b*) all Incomes under 100 Rupees and (*c*) Agriculturists not engaged in general trade or having other income.

9. They do not think, however, that the proposal to give the first class payees some honorary distinction is either desirable or expedient.

10. They would advocate the proposal made by the Madras Commissioners that Special Assessments made at the Presidency should, as in the Provinces, be limited to Incomes exceeding 2,000 Rupees. There seems no reason for making any distinction between persons living within or outside a Presidency Town.

11. They do not think it necessary, however, to extend the provisions of Section 100, Case 2, as proposed in paragraph 18 of the Commissioner's letter; neither do they consider that the adoption of the course proposed in the first part of paragraph 19 would save much trouble. It would be very desirable if, as suggested in the second part of the same paragraph, the people could be required to pay their dues without waiting to have them demanded.

12. The proposal not to issue special notices provided forms of returns are easily procurable at convenient places, and the general notice is really made public, is worthy of adoption.

13. In the last paragraph of their letter the Commissioners advocate the appointment of a special Officer to answer all references about the Act and revise erroneous Assessments. This Government however think this unnecessary, as the Supreme Government issue rulings on important questions, and the Income Tax Commissioners and the Board of Revenue can always refer to Government in case of doubt. To have a general revising Officer would only lead to constant appeals. Moreover, the majority of appeals now are not from erroneous but from excessive Assessments, and such an Officer could not deal with these cases satisfactorily.

No. 1,017.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 13th February 1862.

Read the following Statement from G. S. FORBES, Esq., Collector of Ganjam, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Chepauk, dated Chetterpore, 21st January 1862, showing the amount of arrears due to the undermentioned Yeomiahdars in that District:—

Number of the Certificate.	Names of the Pensioners.	Amount of Pensions, &c., per annum.	Date of Government authority.	Nature of the grant.	Period for which arrears are due.	Total amount of arrears.	Explanation of the cause of suspension of payment.	Remarks of the Board of Revenue.	Orders of Government.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
		RS. A. P.				RS.			
11	Sri Condaswarasawmy.....	88 0 0	February 1804.	For the service of the Pagoda.	3 years.	264	On account of disputes among the worshippers.		
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	Japatsing.....	36 0 0	10th February 1838.	Compensation pension.	17 months.	51	Sickness.		

1. Ordered to the submitted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that sanction be granted for the payment of the arrears due to the two first parties, amounting to Rupees 283.

2. The Board authorize the disbursement of the arrears due to the other individuals, amounting to Rupees 141, and the continuance of their allowances.

3. The Board presume that the identity of the individual in the last case has been satisfactorily proved.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Hudleston

Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.
Copy to G. S. Forbes, Esq., Collector of Ganjam.
„ to W. J. Raynor, Esq., Acting Civil Paymaster.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev= 1862. Department.
Proc.s of Govt for February.

No. 486.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 13*th February* 1862.
Despatched. 19-2-62
Received. 20th.

No. 1,017.

Submitting for information a letter from the Collector of Ganjam and recommending that sanction be granted for the payment of arrears due to certain Yeomiahdars.

N. 428-27 Feb.
Withdrawn

No. 428.

Sanction is granted accordingly.—

Fort St. George
27th Feby 1862

4 Copies to the Bd of Rev Circ.r 28
3 — Accts. Genl.
3 — Civil Paymasters

and this therefore of the more important that it should be strictly just & fair in principle & detail. It is evident that as yet but little attention has been made to the amount of ability of the different classes. The exchanges have been seldom appealed against but by the scheme proposed by Mr Lacy. The Assessors will have not only to form their own opinion as to the income of each individual but to group them into classes the limit of which shall embrace all persons whose income is more than 100 £ and less than 250 while the next class embraces all who have an income of 250 £ & less than 500 £. The lowest class will pay 2 £ per annum income tax the next class will pay 5 £. That is 2 per cent upon minimum of each class.

The great objection to this is the unfairness. It lays nothing of the risk of mistake on the part of the Assessors, which would not perhaps matter much as their scope is so wide then is the position certainly that all who have incomes above the minimum of each class must be placed on a more favourable position than the man whose income may have just within the Class so that in point of fact the poorest man in class 10 pays 2 per cent while he who has double the income of the former pays only one per cent, and he who earns near the upper limit of the class does not pay more than .83 per cent — The Income Tax as it theoretical fairness as an principle put all on an equality - the difficulty & cruelty of putting the system in the unpicturesque requisitions, & the cost which such a system would involve may justify the adoption of a system theoretically imperfect, but practically more easily worked & more economical but then every precaution should be taken to render this as perfect as circumstances will admit - now it seems to me that this might be done according to the scheme suggested by Mr Cunningham - I would not adopt them absolutely point for point but I would adopt the principle of laying a portion of the population but among the incomes of 100 £ & upwards Schedule A Income Tax

Income Tax. Income per
£ 2R. or 2 per cent
and should then proceed
by increasing 1R £
annual Tax. till I
reached the maximum
limited by the 2 per cent
Tax. Thus Income £
500 R. pays the Tax
R R
upon 100 would be 2
150 3
200 4
250 5
300 6
350 7
400 8
450 9
500 10

Then the 2 lowest Classes
of Mr Lang's Scale would
be made into 9 by this
the difference in trouble to
the Assessor in arranging the
classes would be great
but the discontent would
be lessened by the fact
that the measure of in-
equality injustice done
would be probably less
than a rupee annually.
With reference to Incomes
above 500. I should
prefer the continuance
of the Income Tax - for
the same reasons as
I have given above namely
on account of its fairness -
however this Income must
be calculated to Incomes of
1000 R. keeping as before
the difference between the

Class making these as
follows R
625 — annual Tax. 25
750 30
875 35
1000 40

Since this was written I have
seen the proposition from
Calcutta [redacted] but this has exist-
many ways modified
my opinion thought
will make some change
in the details of my plan

Jas Wilson

Income and Property
Tax
Sir Wilson Denison
I respectfully submits that
100 rupees is too small a
to begin the Income Tax upon

J Wilson

My dear Sir

Shey to send me on the
other side of this sheet the
information you required -

Yrs Sincerely

P. M. Ellis

Monday.

Income Tax

Total number of assessments in
Town of Madras
12,000.

assessments on incomes ranging from
500 Rs. to 1000 Rs. per annum. i.e
paying Income Tax from 20 Rs. to 40
Rs. per annum.-
1233 or about
1/10 of total assessments.

assessments on incomes ranging
from 1000 to 2000 Rs. per annum
i.e paying Income Tax from Rs. 40
to 80 Rs. per annum. 470. or about
1/28 of total assessments

Rs. Σ.

Before

The Govt. of
India desire the opi-
nion of this Govt. on
the expediency of con-
solidating and sim-
plifying all the Acts
for direct taxation with,
if necessary and pru-
dent, an extension
of the License Act to
all who earn more
than a certain rate
of income or wages
Before

- By Section 20 in form of a declaration
being sent with notice of the Assessment
Inspector sends. But as the Collector has
that an Commissioner decides that
the Assessee not exempt
a Certificate number of days than the Collector
is seen further attendance cannot be
be Continue in force. Etc

2 Non-residents Returns Minimum Assessment Rule

Mr Collector's Circulary advises
Inspectors as called to see
Provisional -
Etc

Before proceeding to England last year Mr. Laing recorded a Minute on this subject which forms the basis of this reference.

Accepting the generally admitted fact that the returns made under the Income Tax Act, of the profits of + lands - trades ++ and professions are as a rule untrue and useless - and that the assessing officers are in consequences obliged to surcharge generally - or in other words to assess arbitrarily almost at

+ Schedules I & II of the Income Tax Act. 32 of 1860.

the Presidency should as in the Provinces be limited to incomes exceeding 2,000 Rupees - This seems desirable - there is no reason why a person in Madras should be treated W. dly - ed differently from one outside it. -

VII. The proposal in para 18 of the Commissioners' report would be a convenience no

no doubt - but it seems to go rather too far. Every person with more than 10 servants on 8/4 Rupees monthly would be an Income Tax Collector!

VIII. The proposal in para 19 to levy the Income Tax.

Yours

Sgd

Yours faithfully
Gul. Lees to effect
to extent possible
to do these work
&c

+ Mr Kelly & Mr Clarke. Mr Hall dissents & is President of the Income Tax Commission joins in their proposition.

scales. The Income Tax Commissioners differ and would restrict the license duty to incomes under 500 Rs.

+ The Boards' arguments are general and much the same as Mr Laing's.

The Commissioners arguments will be found in paras 6 to 13 of their report.

It seems to me that the Comrs. position is right in the main - viz that small incomes should be taxed by the license and that larger ones as they do are

under the Income
Tax Act.

The Comrs state
that 3/4th of those
assessed in Madras
Town have incomes
under 500 Rs. total
that their Contributions
to the Returning
amount only to
15 per cent of the total
Collections. They are
chiefly Small dealers.
Who keep no accounts
and are comparatively illiterate. Their
Profits of such a
Class can be estimated accurately
enough for their Contributions to
Returns. The tax, 1½
2 per cent. is light
enough & com-

render error of little
practical moment.
and that they &
the State will be
Sufferers by their
removal from the
Income Tax & the
Licence list.

The line may
I think be drawn
some what higher.
Say 1000 Rs. This
would include
I should suppose
all the classes to
whom the preparation of returns is
to formidable
a matter. But
perhaps the Comrs
limit would be
the safest for
a Commencement.

To attempt to

carry the licenses by steam for then is I think a mistake. The class of men who then come within its scope are comparatively well-to-do, & educated or at least intelligent. They are few except & be practically dealt with by Inspectors & other officers. Hitherto our errors have been these. We prescribed for a Parish & struck 3/4ths of the people out. We underestimated Gt Swamps & the multitude of returns. Why go beyond the evil in prescribing the remedy? A glance at Mr Laing's scale of licenses as worked out by the Bd will shew how unequal the tax will be. A man with an income of £1250 per annum will pay £50. or 4 per cent. While one with 2400£ will pay no more. Whereas at the same rate he ought to pay £96. or nearly double.

The Comrs it will be seen state that the returns of income rendered by Europeans & the higher classes of Natives have been generally been fair. There is no practical necessity therefore for the change as regards these classes. Mr Laing

says that seen
in England returns
of Income under
Hale Duties /1842/
are notoriously un-
-true - but he does
not say that the
substitution of a
Licence Duty has
been adopted as a
remedy.
And the Question &
Mr Laing's Schemes
is, I think to be found
in the fact, that
it will do price us
of all the advan-
-tages of this - the
first - the imposition of
such taxation on
incomes & profits
in the way of Ex-
perience fairly.
We shall be as
much five years
behind than we are

now.
Mr Laing. It will
be all. Persons with
Rs
Incomes above 2000
the option of being
assessed or re-
-turns - Under the
present Act, if
a person makes
no return, the
Coll: assesses him
at his discretion - & that
assessment is
final - Mr Laing's
Scheme in these
cases operates as
a check on the
Coll's discretionary
power - Under it
the Coll must
put a man into
one or other of the
prescribed classes
& here as now he
has full scope. It

is not clear how a Court is to be guided in his assessment. No European can form any satisfactory estimate of a Native's income by his mode of life. and our prosecutors generally are not beyond the stage of semi-civilization in which arbitrary taxation is submitted to without a cry.

In order that the Punjab it may be otherwise said Mr Lainge's data are drawn mainly from that Province.

The questions for decision are

1. Whether first rate accepts Mr Laing's estimate or that of the Court

2. That of the Court

of Madras &

3. Where the line between Licence & Income Tax is to be drawn.

There are some other points on which I beg orders:

I. Mr Laing's proposal to repeal the clause reserving 1 per cent of the higher Income Tax for Public Works. Also as he says such as exists have proved a "sham".

II. Mr Laing's proposal to exempt dividends paid out of India.

III. Mr Laing's exemptions viz:

1 All incomes under 1000 Rupees.—

2 Agriculturists not engaged in general trade or having other Income.—

paras 71. to 73.

paras 74 to 82.

Page 13.

I would not favorably entertain any proposal to abandon

The

IV. The proposal to give his I class payees some honorary distinction. This seems scarcely a desirable system.

V. The additional classes proposed by the Bd. These seem desirable as the incomes are small, and irregularities of taxation will be more felt. The Commissioners' Scale is still more gradual but they carry the minimum down to 60 Rs or 6 Rs. monthly which seems too low — being little more than mere subsistence. —

VI. That special assessors at

Para 66.

Bds letter para 7.

Comrs. letter para 14

do. do.

at random, Mr. Laing proposed to commute the Income Tax on such property into fixed payments by classes under a system of licenses — and to restrict the Income Tax Act to salaries, funded property and the like. —

Mr. Laing proposed to have 10 classes of licenses. —

The first class was to comprise incomes above 25,000 Rs. annually and the amount of license fee was to be settled by special composition with the

the payer or by assessment under the Income Tax Act. The other nine classes of licenses ranged from 2 Rs. to 1000 Rs. rated so as to produce about 2 per cent on Incomes below 500 Rs. and 4 per cent on Incomes above that sum. Persons with Incomes above 2000 Rs. may elect to be assessed under the Income Tax Act.

Licence	Annual sum
2 Rs.	100 Rs.
5 "	250 "
10	500
25	625
50	1,250
100	2,500
250	6,250
500	12,500
1000	25000.

The Board of Revenue are in favor of this arrangement with a slight alteration in the lower scale

Govt. allowed 25 rs.

Govt. letter para 14.

I think this a good rule

Dr. para 19. cl 2.

on houses from the Tenants, who will have power to deduct it from the rent will save no trouble, for the tax on unoccupied houses will still have to be remitted.

IX The proposal not to issue special notes, Printed forms of returns are easily procurable at convenient places and the generale notice is really made public, this seems desirable

X. The suggestion to require the people to pay their dues without waiting to have them demanded. I fear this is desirable rather than practicable

there

there is only one Officer in Madras for the receipt and what would be gained in the reduction of collecting Officers would probably be lost in opening fresh places of receipt

XI The appointment of Special Officer to answer all the purposes about the Act and carried in nine out applications. The Supreme Govt. now upon Important questions and more seems scarcely necessary. The Income Tax Commissioners and Board of Revenue can always refer to Govt and do not see what more is necessary now that the Act has been in operation for a year and a half. To have a general revising Officer would only lead to appeals from half the payers and there is no security to Government that his decisions would be correct. The universal appeal now is not from erroneous but from excessive assessment and such an Officer would not deal

Re Release of Deeds of Reconveyance

Form is enclosed & need not be altered by Govt

See Rule regarding Fees

Circ. Letter para 2.

Re Liability of Natives

deal with these
cases satisfactorily.

I. D.S.

For Early
reply.

4 Copies
Dispd 18

No. 429.

To

The Financial Secretary
to the Government of
India.

Sir,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to submit the report called for in the Resolution of the Government of India dated 19 July last No. 983 on the expediency of consolidating and simplifying the Acts for direct taxation.

Upon the receipt of the Resolution in question and the papers which accompanied it, the Board of Revenue and the Income Tax Commissioners for the town of Madras were called upon for any suggestions which they might think it expedient to make on the subject; and

From B. of R. d/ 24 Jan/62. No. 303
From Commissioners d/ 27 Jan/62.
No 2.

copies of their replies are appended.

The Board of Revenue it will be seen are in favor, with some slight alteration, of the scheme as sketched in the Hon'ble Mr Laing's minute. The Commissioners differ, and would retain the license duty, & income under Rs. 500 - with some modifications, the recommendations of the latter body seem to this Govt, as far as they, the most correct and most appropriate: for while they concur generally with Mr Laing in the principle of the measure which he proposes to introduce, they think that it requires to be much limited in its application, and amended in its details so as to render it at once effective as a source of Revenue,

and as little oppressive as possible in its operation.

Mr Laing's scheme based as it is on the assumption that the attempts made to evade the tax have in most instances been successful, and that the amount paid by the income tax is insufficient in consequence, assumes the form of a more stringent system of direct taxation: it is therefore of the more importance that it should be strictly fair and just in principle and detail.

Without referring particularly to the risk of mistake on the part of the Assessors, who will, however, have not only to form their own opinion as to the income of each individual, but to group them into their classes,

The first objection against Mr Zanigo's proposed scale of Licenses is the positive certainty that all who have incomes above the minimum of each class must be placed in a more favourable position than those who incomes bring them just within such class. This is forcibly shewn in para 13 of the Commissioners' letter. It appears to this Government that the difficulty would be in a great measure obviated by adopting the course advocated by the Commissioners in para 14, but taking Rs 100 instead of Rs 60 as a starting point and increasing the tax by 1 Rupee each case till the maximum of the 2 per-cent tax is reached: as explained in the margin. This would make the ten lowest classes in Mr Zanigo's scale run to

Income	Tax.
100	2
150	3
200	4
250	5
300	6
350	7
400	8
450	9
500	10

by the Commissioners

Good

The License system might indeed be extended to incomes of Rs 1,000 annually leaving the difference between the classes as shown in the margin, but

but for the present leaving the difference between the classes as shown in the margin but

Annual Income	Tax
625 Rupees	25 Rs
750 do	30 "
875 do	35 "
1000 do	40 "

but for the present

Note. In the town of Madras only 2/4 of the assessments are of incomes under Rs 500.

mine; and though the trouble of the Assessors would probably be greater by this plan, the discontent of the ~~[illegible]~~ masses would be lessened by the fact that the measure of the amount of injustice done would be probably less than a rupee annually.

The Government also agree with the Commissioners that the limit should be fixed at ~~to exempt the lowest~~ those who have incomes above Rs 500 annually are, in comparative ease, ~~[illegible]~~ circumstances, well-to-do, and educated or at least intelligent. They are few enough to be practically dealt with by trustworthy Officers. The Commissioners state it will

be observed that the returns of income rendered by Europeans and the higher classes of natives have been generally fair. There is no practical necessity for the change therefore as regards these classes. and they shd be dealt with under Act XXXII of 1853.

As to the minor alterations proposed by Mr Laing, the Govt concur with him in thinking it advisable

(1) to repeal the clauses requiring 1 per cent to be kept specially for Public Works.

(2) to exempt (a) dividends paid out of Funds (b) all incomes under 100 rupees and (c) agriculturists not engaged in general trade or having other income.

they do not think that the proposal

the first contains Cl. 1

under Act XXXII of 1853 the keeping of the two classes under the Licensing Act

do not

is either

do not think it necessary however to extend the provisions of Sech 100. Case 2. as proposed in para 18 of the Commissioners letter. neither do they consider that the adoption of the course proposed in the first

2d

part of para 19 w[ill] cause much trouble. It would be very desirable if, as suggested in the second part of the same paragraph, the people could be required to pay their dues without waiting to have them demanded, ~~and the Govt would be glad if the proposal could be carried into effect.~~

The proposal not to issue special notices, but to provide forms of returns which are easily procurable at convenient places, and the general notice is really made public is worthy of adoption.

In the last para of their letter the Commissioners advocate the appointment of a special officer to answer all references about the Act and revise erroneous assessments. This Govt think however that this unnecessary, as the Supreme Govt now issue rulings on important questions, ~~more often lately necessary~~ and the Income Tax Commissioners & the Bd of Revenue can always refer to Govt in cases of doubt. To have a general revising officer would only lead to constant appeals to ~~from both the Income Tax~~ Moreover the majority of appeals now are not from erroneous but from excessive assessments, and such

an Officer could
not deal with
these cases satis-
factorily -

C/Sk
8.30 a.m.
25 Feb/62.

Fort St. George
27th Feby/62

Revenue 1862 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt: for February.

No. 429.

To
The Secretary to the
Govt: of India
Financial Deptt.
Dy 27 February 1862.

Submitting to Supreme
Government report on the ex-
pediency of Consolidating and
Simplifying the Acts for
direct taxation.

No 536.