...HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board

No. 429. Read the following letter from W. ...ary to Government, Revenue Department,
of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secret...—
dated Chepauk, 10th June 1863, No. 3,390.

SIR, ...Memorandum called for in Govern-
ment.

I am directed by the Board of Revenue to submit the
ment Order, dated 18th May 1863, No. 867, Revenue Depart.

MEMORANDUM.

...nate or Assistant Collectors
...I of 1828:—

1. The relative position and powers of Collectors and Subordi... particular division of
in the Madras Presidency are defined thus in Section 3, Regulation V... ...nder his charge, all

"*III. First.*—A Subordinate or Assistant Collector in charge of a ...may be hereafter
" a District shall ex-officio have authority to exercise within the division u...
" the powers granted to Collectors by the Regulations now in force, or that ...iting under
" enacted, unless the contrary shall be expressly declared in any Regulation. force, or

" *Second.*—Collectors shall have authority to delegate, at their discretion in w... ...e of a
" their official signature, any of the powers granted to them by any Regulation now in ... of a
" that may be hereafter enacted, to any of their subordinates or assistants not in char...
" particular division of a District; or to any of their subordinates or assistants in charge
" particular division, beyond the limits of the division under his charge.

" *Third.*—The proceedings of Subordinate and Assistant Collectors acting under the preced-
" ing clauses shall be subject, in all cases, and in the fullest manner, to the superintendence,
" control, and revision of the Collector, who shall have power either to direct, generally, that
" the proceedings of any of his subordinates or assistants shall be regularly submitted to himself
" before the decision, order, or sentence is carried into execution, and to confirm, modify or
" annul them, or issue any further orders in the cases, as he may see fit; or in any particular
" case, to direct that the decision, order, or sentence of any of his subordinate or assistants shall
" not be carried into execution, and to pass such further orders as he may see fit."

2. The following Extract from the Board's Proceedings dated 28th October 1824, shows more fully the actual practice in support of which the above enactment was passed:—

" 5. The object of appointing Subordinate Collectors was two-fold; to aid the Collector,
" by relieving him from the direct personal superintendence of a portion of the province; and
" by placing young men in a situation which brings them in contact with the great body of
" the people, to afford them the opportunity of becoming familiar with their customs and pre-
" judicies, of acquiring an accurate practical knowledge of the details of revenue in all its
" branches, and of qualifying themselves for appointments of higher trust and importance.

" 6. With this view the Sub-Collectors are permitted to exercise, within the tract commit-
" ted to their charge, the same powers as are exercised by the Collector in the Talooks under his
" own immediate management, subject, of course, to a general control on his part, and to any
" instructions he may give in regard to the general principles of the settlement; and with the
" further reservation, that all points involving questions not before determined, or the appoint-
" ment, dismission, and punishment, of the principal native servants, shall be referred to his
" superior.

" 7. With these exceptions, the authority of the Subordinate Collector is complete. The
" settlement of the several villages within his range; the adjustment of disputes among the
" Ryots in respect to the occupation of land, the boundaries of fields, or the distribution of water;
" the issue of Puttahs; the investigation of claims to remission for crops destroyed by drought,
" inundation or blight; the repair of tanks and water-courses; the appointment and discharge
" of the inferior District servants; the superintendence of the extra sources of revenue, includ-
" ing Sayer, Moturpha, Abkarry, &c.: in a word, the full exercise of the authority, Revenue
" and Magisterial, vested in the Collector by the Regulations, and delegable by him to his subordi-
" nate Officers, is left entirely to the Sub-Collector in his own Talooks; and the Ryots although

"allowed to appeal to the Principal, are taught to look to him as the authority who is to
"inquire into their complaints, and grant them redress.

"8. With English correspondence the Sub-Collector has little to do, his official communi-
"cations to the Principal Collector being for the most part confined to his Annual Report on the
"settlement of the Talooks under his charge. On ordinary and trivial occasions, private com-
"munications are always encouraged, because better adapted to prevent publicity being given to
"matters on which orders are required, or doubts entertained, and better calculated to secure a
"free interchange of opinion, and a cheerful co-operation in the labors of the year.

"9. As connected with the general details of the system, it may be proper to explain,
"that all sums required for the repairs of tanks, or other disbursements, in the divisions under
"the Sub-Collector, are furnished upon his indent, from the Treasury at the Hoozoor station,
"whither all collections from the Talooks are forwarded direct by the Tahsildars; that the
"Subordinate Collectors are furnished, by their immediate superiors, with copies of all public
"letters from the Government, or the Board containing matter of interest; and that in order
"to preserve uniformity of system throughout the province, orders of a general nature, issued
"by the Principal, are sent to him for the purpose of being enforced in the villages within his
"range.

"19. In these remarks the Board have alluded only to Subordinate Collectors; it may be
"right, however, to add that, where the Assistant Collectors have had sufficient experience in
"the revenue line, it is discretionary with the Collector to put them in charge of a part of a
"District,* not exceeding two Talooks; but in these cases, the degree of power to be delegated,
"rests entirely with the Collector, whose knowledge of the individual must necessarily make him
"the best judge, to what extent his authority may be transferred with safety and advantage."

3. In regard to appointments and dismissals of servants, the Sub-Collector has complete authority in regard to all servants below the grade of Tahsildar, subject to the general powers of revision on appeal possessed by the Collector.

4. To the posts of Tahsildar of a Talook within his charge, and Serishtadar in the Sub-Collector's Office, the Sub-Collector nominates. The appointment of a Tahsildar needs the confirmation of the Board of Revenue. The Collector confirms in the case of the Sub-division Sherishtadar.

5. The Collector is forbidden to alter the charges of Sub, or Head Assistant Collectors, without the Board's sanction.

6. Sub-Collectors and Head Assistants are as a rule required to reside within the limits of their charge, but are at liberty to make an annual visit of a month or so to the Collector's station for purposes of discussion, consultation, &c., and on other occasions to go into the Collector's station for a few days at a time whenever duty or private business may require them to do so.

7. It is laid down as a rule that the Collector shall at least once in every five years make the annual revenue settlement of the Talooks forming the subordinate charges; the subordinate Officer taking the corresponding duty in an equal number of Talooks in the principal division.

8. It will be seen from the foregoing that the powers of the Sub-Collector are as complete as is consistent with the primary necessity of maintaining one chief authority in Revenue matters in each District.

9. The powers of the Head Assistant to the Collector are more restricted and are exercised under the more direct supervision of the Collector.

10. The Board are scrupulous in maintaining the independence of the Subordinate Officers within the prescribed limits, while they at the same time insist on due subordination. The object in view is in the first place to train the younger Officers for the more responsible duties which will in time devolve on them with the charge of a District; and secondly, to give to smaller divisions of a District the benefit of a resident Revenue Officer, with superior powers and in immediate charge, and to afford the Officer himself that incentive to zealous labour which a sense of personal responsibility will alone infuse.

* This is always done with Head Assistant and Officers officiating in that capacity.

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" letters from the Government, or the Board containing matter of interest; and that in order
" to preserve uniformity of system throughout the province, orders of a general nature, issued
" by the Principal, are sent to him for the purpose of being enforced in the villages within his
" range.

" 10. In these remarks the Board have alluded only to Subordinate Collectors; it may be
" right, however, to add that, where the Assistant Collectors have had sufficient experience in
" the revenue line, it is discretionary with the Collector to put them in charge of a part of a
" District,* not exceeding two Talooks; but in these cases, the degree of power to be delegated,
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M.R.O. 14—16,000—27-9-21.



| | Average standing in the service. | No. of Taluks. | No. of Villages. | Area. | Population. | Land Revenue including Abkarry, Income Tax, Trades duty and Stamps |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Years. | | | Sq. M | No. | Rs. |
| Sub-Collectors ... | | | | | | |
| Average... | 10½ | 3 | 772 | 1,893 | 2,40,648 | 9,19,750 |
| Head Asst. Collr.. | | | | | | |
| Average... | 7 | 2 | 486 | 1,432 | 2,14,892 | 4,35,791 |

11. The average extent of these subordinate charges is shown in the margin.

12. Within their respective charges, the administration of the Revenue Department in conformity with the law, and according to approved rules and principles, is entirely entrusted to the Division Officers. The principal Collector does not interfere except on appeal, or where established rules or principles are violated.

13. The Collector can require from his subordinates reports on the administration of their charges, and it is his duty to see that the charge is not neglected; but he cannot dictate a course of proceeding unless for the maintenance of rules approved by superior authority.

14. The freest intercourse and discussion on District matters are encouraged; and it may safely be assumed that in most matters affecting the well being of the District, the local Officers will be of one mind. Where any difference of opinion exists regarding proposed innovations, the matter should be referred for the decision of the Board.

15. The practical working of the system above sketched is very successful. Appeals to the Board are quite the exception. Harmonious action is the rule, and efficient Revenue administration is the result. The Officers of each grade take a lively personal interest in their work, in the material development of their individual charges, and in the well being of the resident population. The Ryotwary system of revenue brings them into very intimate relations with the people. They learn to understand and respect their feelings and rights, and a corresponding sentiment of confidence is engendered on the part of the people. It need scarcely be said that this early training is of incalculable advantage to the individual Officer when he is called on to assume more extended duties.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

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Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 430. From J. D, SIM, Esq, Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated 29th June 1863, No. 1,139.

SIR,

1. As requested in Mr. Under Secretary Wyllie's Endorsement, dated 30th April 1863, No. 2,727, I am directed to forward the accompanying Memorandum* drawn up by the Board of Revenue containing information as to the system of Revenue Administration by Collectors, &c., in the Madras Presidency.

* From Board of Revenue, 10th June 1863, No. 3,390, with Memorandum.

2. I am to add that much of the success of the Madras system is owing to the Collectors being Officers of standing and experience.

"settlement of the Taluks under his charge. On ordinary and trivial occasions, private com-
"munications are always encouraged, because better adapted to prevent publicity being given to
"matters on which orders are required, or doubts entertained, and better calculated to secure a
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| | Average standing in the service | No. of Taluks | No. of Villages | Area | Population | Land Revenue [illegible] |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sub Collectors | Years. | | | Sq. M. | No. | R. |
| Average... | 10½ | 3 | 772 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |
| Head Asst. Collr. | | | | | | |
| Average... | 7 | 2 | 186 | [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] |

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Secretary.

Frd. J. Wright.

No. 1139.

To The Secretary to the Govt. of India,
Home Department.

Sir,

In reply to Under Secretary Wyllie's Endorsement dated 30th Ultimo No. 2929, I am directed to forward the accompanying Memorandum prepared by the Board of Revenue, exhibiting in detail the system of Revenue Administration by Collectors in the Madras Presidency.

I am to add that much of the success of the Ryotwary system depends on the Collectors being officers of standing and experience.

Fort St. George
23rd June 1863.

1863 Department
No. [illegible]
From The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
To The Secretary to Government [illegible]
Dated 10th June 1863.
[illegible]
No. 3,390.
Submitting the memorandum called for in Government Order dated 15th May 1863, No. 867, respecting the system of Revenue Administration in the Madras Presidency.

Revenue 1863 Sept 11.
Rec.d Govt for Inns.

No 11, 39.

To
The Secretary to the
Govt. of India.
Dt 29 June 1863.

Forwarding to
Government of India
Memo: on the System
of Revenue Administ:
in Lower Bengal &
Madras
Presidency).

No 29 & 30