M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1757 Press ~~Mis.~~

313-314

Dated 25-9-~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th September 1863.

No. 313. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th September 1863, No. 5,572:—

Read the following letter from N. R. POGSON, Esq., Government Astronomer, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 8th August 1863.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request your attention to the subject of the District Rain Reports, which I have so long and earnestly desired to re-organize, but to which, owing to various circumstances, I have as yet paid but little official attention. The difficulties attending the peresent transition state of my Department have been so overwhelming that my time has been wholly absorbed thereby: the death of one most useful man and the resignation of others, has so reduced my small staff of Assistants that much of the daily routine has depended upon my own personal exertions, to carry on the most ordinary duties of my office; and as until the proposed changes in the Observatory have received the final sanction of the Supreme Government no fresh appointments can be made, I see no prospect of release from my present overburdened and trying condition at hand, and as an inevitable result, still less of my being able to carry out my views in regard to the above named important subject. Ultimately however, and at no very distant period either, I trust to have my own Department placed upon a more efficient footing than it has ever yet enjoyed, and to have the satisfaction not only of re-organizing the Rain Registration system specially under the Revenue Board's direction, but of stating a number of trustworthy and valuable Meteorological stations, in various parts of the Presidency, which shall contribute scientific results strictly reliable, for whatever purpose such information may hereafter be required. Meanwhile I beg leave to offer the few following remarks:—

1*st*.—You will greatly oblige and assist me by issuing a brief general Circular in regard to the use of the two new Forms A and B.

The monthly Form (A) should in all cases be printed, and strictly in accordance with that which accompanied your Miscellaneous Circular No. XXI, Board No. 1,639, dated 19th March 1863. The rain-fall should be entered in inches and decimals, distinctly, and uniformly to two places a hundreths of an inch *(never beyond)* at all stations at which the person in charge of the gauge is acquainted with decimal arithmetic. Elsewhere it will be better to record the number of measures only, and any fraction of a measure over to the nearest quarter of a measure only. Thus: 37¼ measures of Mr. Bayley's gauges written decimally will be 3·73. When less than one measure has been caught, as for instance ½, it should be duly entered 0·05; the ciphers in the unit and first decimal place always being inserted. The neglect of this precaution leads to endless mistakes, a single figure being frequently entered as 3, leaving it a matter only to be decided by adding up the column whether 3 inches, 0·30 or 0·03 was intended. Some divide the column for each Talook into three, as if Rupees, Annas and Pice were in question, but this is most objectionable and perfectly unnecessary if the ciphers and decimal points are properly expressed. The last column "PER CENTAGE OF AVERAGE" is in all cases to be left blank, to be filled in here when required.

2*nd*.—The glass measures recommended in paragraph 5 of letter published in the above named Circular No. XXI, were erroneously and inadvertently called *half pint* glasses. They are not so, but contain only eight ounces or half-a-pound's weight of rain water. Half pint glasses would contain ten ounces or one inch of rain of Mr. Bayley's gauges. The eight ounce glasses may of course be used, but the half pint ones would be far better and not more expensive. A supply of these, strong, with a good lip for pouring, a firm three inch foot, and the stem not more than two inches in diameter, about seven inches in height, and of the shape noted in the margin, should be obtained at the earliest possible date direct from some English manufacturer.

3rd.—The glass measure referred to in your Official Memorandum, No. 555 of the 4th August 1863, is not a half pint measure, but one of the ordinary eight ounce size. Its great diameter cause the divisions to be much too close for sub-division to fifths or 0·01 of an inch of rain, and unless held perfectly straight would give a very incorrect reading. It is herewith returned; but though condemned as decidedly objectionable, is vastly preferable to the tin measure issued with each gauge of Mr. Bayley's pattern.

4th.—The receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, Nos. 4,817 and 4,837, is herewith acknowledged, and the eight rain gauges forwarded with the latter shall be reported upon in the course of a few days.

1. Ordered that a Circular be issued to Collectors embodying the above instructions for the preparation of the Registers, and that application be made to Government for the necessary number of graduated measures to contain half a pint, or 10 ounces graduated as desired by Mr. Pogson, which must be obtained from England. The Board understand Mr. Pogson to condemn the eight ounce measure.

2. The Board's Proceedings dated 1st August 1863, No. 4,817, and paragraph 2 of Proceedings of the same date, No. 4,837, are superseded by this resolution.

No. 314. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1863, No. 1,757.

1. Application will be made to the Secretary of State for glass measures on the Board's reporting how many will be necessary at the outset and the probable annual requirements to supply breakages, &c.

2. The Government request Mr. Pogson to explain more fully his suggestion that the returns of rain-fall should be reduced in the Talooks to decimals. That system of notation is not understood by natives generally, and it must be remembered that the Tahsildars' offices consist mainly of ordinary Clerks with ample work of their own.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" Government Astronomer.
" Public Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Revenue Department

No. 1757.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 25th September 1863

Read the following Pro:

of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting letter from the Govt Astronomer requesting to issue a circular embodying certain instructions for the preparation of the Registers, and reporting upon certain glass measures that were sent to him before.

(Here enter 5th September 1863 No. 5572)

Application will be made to the Secretary of State for glass measures on the Board's reporting how many will be necessary at the outset and the probable annual requirements to supply breakages &c.

The Govt ~~desire that~~ request to explain more fully ~~proof of~~ Mr. Pogson's suggestion that the returns of rain

fall

fall should be reduced in the Talooks to decimals. That system of notation is not understood by natives generally. and it must be remembered that the Tahsildars' offices consist mainly of ordinary clerks with ample work of their own. The reduction of the observations to the decimal system would lead to errors and confusion. The returns should be in ounces and fractions; as the glasses appear to be graduated in that way and the reductions should be effected in the observatory at Madras.

14 Copies Ltr from B of Revt dated 28 Dec
1 — do — Govt Astronomer
5 do — Public Dept

Revenue 1863 Dcbr.
Pro: of Govt for Septr.

No 1757.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
D/ 25th Septr/63.
From Bo/ Rend/ 13 Janry/64.
No 171

Pro. No. 411 - 412
27 - 2 - 64

Application
made to Secretary of
State for glass mea-
sures of the kind recom-
mended by the Govt.
Astronomer.

No 313 & 314.