M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 23	Press / Mis.
43-44	
Dated	7—1—1937

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th January 1863.

No. 43. Read the following letter from the Honorable E. DRUMMOND, Secretary to the Government of India (Financial Department), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, Council Chamber, the 5th December 1862, No. 1,132A :—

SIR,

1. I am directed to acknowledge receipt of your letters, Nos. 914 and 1,840, dated 28th April and 29th August 1862, forwarding Schedules of two successive revisions of Income Tax establishments in the Madras Presidency.

2. In reply, I am to state that His Excellency the Governor General in Council is pleased to confirm the reductions which have been effected, but with a remark that further reductions may be strongly pressed on the Government of Madras, as the present expenditure still seems excessive.

3. Your letter of 29th August 1862, expresses the intention of Government to abolish the appointment of Special Commissioner, who is also the Sitting Commissioner of Income Tax, after the greater part of the assessments for the current year, 1862-63, shall have been made.

4. As the assessments, if not finished already, have now been well nigh completed, I am to request that the appointment may be abolished.

5. By the large diminution of appeals from assessments, which the changes in the Income Tax Act must have caused, the Secretariat expenses of the Income Tax Commission, estimated for this year at Rupees 8,451, may also, it appears to this Government, be reduced simultaneously with the abolition of the office of Special Commissioner. The duties connected with the assessment of the Income Tax may henceforth merge in the ordinary duties of the Board of Revenue and its Secretariat, and those of collecting the Tax may, in like manner, merge in the ordinary duties of the Collector of Madras, at a much smaller expense for office aid than is provided in the grant of Rupees 8,451 for the Secretariat of the Income Tax Commission, and of Rupees 6,120 for the Income Tax Collector.

6. I am also to enquire whether the employment of an Assessor and his establishment on pay throughout the year is at all necessary. By the changes in the Act, the fresh assessments each year must be confined practically to those not previously assessed, in a much less degree to those who apply for a revision of the previous assessment, and in a still less degree, or exceptionally to those whom the Income Tax Department may believe to have given incorrect returns. By the revision of assessment just effected, this last class of re-assessments may not occur again. Under these circumstances, the fresh assessments henceforth can occupy but very little time each year, and I am to request that you will move the Government of Madras to consider the expediency of abolishing the appointment and the Office establishment of the Assessor of Income Tax, Madras, and of conducting fresh assessments in future by allowing a fixed sum down, on completion of the assessments, in lieu of a monthly salary.

7. Referring to the District establishments for the collection of the Income Tax, His Excellency the Governor General in Council observes that the last revision gives generally one Clerk on Rupees 70 (or in one case on Rupees 100) to each of the nineteen Districts, and, generally, one Peon to each Gumashta or Clerk, besides 14 Peons for the Sub-Magistrates in the Zemindary in Vizagapatam, and Extra Clerks or Gumashtas in three Districts for special reasons. But as a large proportion of the tax-payers have been exempted from the impost, by the release of incomes below 500 Rupees a year, I am directed to request that His Excellency the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, may be moved to re-consider whether the need for additional help to the ordinary establishment is so general as to require Clerks on Rupees 70 and upwards in each District, and I am to urge the employment, as much as possible, of the ordinary Mofussil establishments for the collection of Revenue.

Copy of the above, and of the letters to which it is a reply, forwarded to the—

Auditor General of India.
Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, Fort Saint George.
Civil Paymaster, Ditto.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th January 1863.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 7th January 1863, No. 23.

1. Forwarded to the Board of Revenue and Income Tax Commissioners for early report on the paragraphs respectively affecting their Departments.

2. The Board and Commissioners will confer and jointly report on the proposal contained in the latter part of paragraph 5.

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

Pro. 28 Augt/62 N 386-86
- 29 Augt " " 403.

Revd 1863 Dispatches
Pro. of Govt for Jany:
N:-15.

From the Secty: to
the Govt: of India —

Dated 5th Novr: 1862.
Received 5th January 1863.

N:-1132 A.

From Board of Revt: 20 Jany 63
C N:174. 5 Feby 63.

A N° 248.
From N Morison. Esqr: Secy: to the
Income Tax Commrs: dd 31 Augt 63
C N: 2080. in Pro.

Confirming the reduction
effected by this Govt: on the
Income Tax Establishments
of this Presidency and
suggesting certain further
reductions in the same
establishments.

N° 23-7 Jany

With an order

N-23 & 44.

N-23.

Forwarded to the Bd: of
Revt: & Income Tax Comrs:
Early
for a Report - on the points
respectively affecting their
Dept:

The Bd: & Comrs: will
confer & jointly report
on the proposal contained
in the latter part of para
5

Jt
Jt

Jt: Secy: to Govt:
7th January 1863

14 Offices Letter B of Revenue Dept: dd:
13th ult: to Bd: of I.T. Comrs: