

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	491	Press Mis.
	91-92	
Dated	11 3	19-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th March 1863.*

No. 91. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1863,
No. 1,159:—

Read the following letter from R. W. NORFOR, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 24th February 1863, No. 711 of Fasli 1272.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Order of the 21st February 1863, communicating Order of Government, 20th February 1863, No. 363, and directing me to report upon the expediency of commencing the issue of water-marked Stamps earlier than the 1st July next, the date contemplated for the issue.

In reply I have the honor to lay before the Board the reasons that led me to contemplate the issue on one day, and to select the 1st July as the commencing date of issue.

1. The issue is a very important one, and will be widely commented upon both in the Mofussil and at the Presidency. I therefore considered that to make it on various dates in different Districts, was not expedient; but that the hand of Government should be felt, in a simultaneous issue of the Stamps throughout the Presidency, and in the recalling on the same day of all previously in use.

2. I selected the 1st July because, as the first day of a new Fasli, it would be a marked day, and in respect of accounts, a convenient day for the purpose, also because some little time was needed before Government could be assured that the issue, begun would not be interrupted. There is now in store a little over a four months' supply of water-marked paper, a shipment equal to six months' stock has been advised of to be made by S. Steamer in December. Allowing January for the shipment, advice of it ought to be to hand immediately, but there is then the uncertainty of the passage, and the risk of loss, which should it occur, would necessitate the use again of the old country, and English Foolscap papers.

3. It has therefore seemed to me that whilst prepared for the issue on a certain date, the power should be reserved of deferring it, should any circumstance arise likely to cause interruption in the future use of the water-marks only. Any date of issue fulfilling these conditions, and with regard also to certain other points could not be selected much within the 1st July.

4. Independent of the above considerations, is that of the time necessary for preparing the Stamps for issue; each sheet of the water-marked paper is packed opened out, and there are three Stamps on each sheet of the greater part of it; the water-marked division line between the Stamps is too faint to be a guide to the Stampers in passing the sheets under the dies, and it has been found necessary to fold each sheet, at the divisions, into three, in order to avoid the risk of loss of paper and loss of time through wrong stamping. This folding process, is at present a necessary one, but it may not continue to be so, when a little time has familiarized the workmen with the paper, still the time occupied now is great, as I have not been able as yet to fold and count more than eleven reams a day, and the quantity to be folded is 783 reams. I was about applying to the Board for a temporary increase of hands that the stamping may not be delayed by the preliminary processes. The counting is very important, and I have as yet found very few ream packets in exact accordance with their marked contents, there being both excess and deficiency, but the excess greatly preponderates.

5. Further as respects the stamping, 15,000 Stamps a day can be turned out of the Stamp Office Presses with ordinary close work. The number of Judicial Stamps of all values to be made for three months' stock is 8,09,400, which at the above mentioned daily quantity would give 52 working days, but as the Stamp Office dies give a very clear impression, it has been found in most cases possible to stamp two sheets at a time, which I propose doing now, thus reducing the stamping days to 26. This again is without reckoning extra indents which are sure to come in. I have now two of rather large amount which will interrupt the water-mark stamping for nearly

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four days, and the same may be expected to recur for at least six days in each month; this will reduce the working days in a month, deducting Sundays to twenty days, and reckoning from the 1st March, the middle of April will be the probable time when the Stamps will all be ready for issue from the Stamp Office. Stock for the more distant Districts will be despatched first, but the whole of the Districts will not probably have received their supplies earlier than the first week in May. There will then be the counting in the Districts, and the distribution to the Vendors which would occupy all the month, and if the issue was begun on the 1st June, it would be only one month distant from the date proposed, and from the end of the Fasli.

6. I would with all respect submit that a complete issue of the new paper would for the attainment of the end in view, be preferable to a mixed one, as whilst any of the old papers are for the sale, the revenue and the public would be exposed to fraud from the same malpractices that are coming to light in the forgery cases now under investigation. The forgeries found are in the lower values, and in a gradual issue, these should be first provided for, but inasmuch as the lower values from the great bulk of the Stamps made, there would be but little time gained thereby, whilst the advantages of uniformity, in time, and in kind, would be lost.

7. In regard to future shipments, it will be seen that the supply for three months, now preparing, will represent only the ordinary reserve stock of Collectors; it must be followed by a further issue for three months immediately the expected paper arrives, and there will then remain only a four months' stock of paper to last until January next. It seems therefore imperative that a further supply for six months should now be ordered, and that during the year 1864, this Department should receive a supply of paper equal to two years' consumption, being one year of ordinary issues, and one year reserve stock. I think that this reserve is the lowest that ought to be held, considering the many chances that may interfere with the arrivals of regular supplies.

8. The reserve once made up, regular shipments for yearly consumption could continue to be made at intervals of six months.

9. The paper taken to the extent of 300 reams is not a new indent, but part of a three months' supply previously sanctioned until the arrival of the water-marked, of which only one month's supply had been previously taken; the quantity is not more than will probably be needed before the new issue is complete, extra indents are frequently coming in, and I have now two for execution comprising over 60,000 Stamps or 61 reams nearly; the Office stock at the time of receipt was 25 reams only.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the information of Government with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Superintendent. Under the circumstances detailed by Mr. Norfor, the Board concur in opinion with him that the 1st July next may with advantage be selected for bringing the water-marked paper into currency, and withdrawing all Stamps on other material.

2. The Board request that an indent for a further supply of water-marked paper for six months, to be shipped at once, may be forwarded to the Home Government, and that arrangements may be made for ensuring the supply of a two years' stock (one for issue and one for reserve) within 1864, after which the annual despatch of the amount required for twelve months' demand will suffice.

(A True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 92.

ORDER THEREON, 11th March 1863, No. 491.

1. The Government do not see any very great advantage in the course proposed by the Superintendent. The object is to substitute Stamps on paper which cannot be imitated or procured in the market for those on common paper which have been successfully forged. The sooner therefore that the new paper is brought into use the better. The Superintendent should

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11th March 1863.*

forthwith commence stamping certain denominations of stamped paper and as soon as a sufficient quantity is ready, issue them to the Collectors, recalling those now in store and in the possession of Vendors. As soon as a further supply of paper is received he can follow the same course with the other denominations.

2. Application will be made at once to the Secretary of State for further supplies of the water-marked paper to the extent recommended by the Board in the last paragraph of their Proceedings.

(Signed.) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

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of a 2 years stock for issue
and one for reserve) within 1864
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be sufficient.

(A true Copy & Extract)

Instructions
Secretary

no
J. H. Pine Esq.
Secretary to Government.
Revenue Department.

Revenue Department

No 491.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
under date the 11th March 1863.

Read the fol-
-lowing Proceedings
of the Board of Revenue

Submitting with
remarks a letter from
the Superintendent of
Stamps relative to the is-
-sue of watermarked pa-
-per earlier than 1st July next.

(Here enter 26th
February 1863.)

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No 20 February 63 No 279-280

Copy in a Letter to England
11th March 1863

Rev = 1863 No 491
No. of Govt. for 1863
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue

Dated 25th
Desp 25 } February 1863
Recd 27th

S.O No 491. 11th March
1863

Submitting with remarks
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of Stamps relative to the issue
of watermarked paper
earlier than 1st July next.

No 491.

26 March 63. R 11

MD

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JH

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Secretary

Secretary of State for
further supplies of the
watermarked ^{paper} to the
extent recommended by the
Board in the last para-
graph of their proceedings.

J. H.

11. B. of Rev. Capt. 12"

Boat on a ledge to top
 11th March 1824 of 1845.
 From 2nd 22 27. 10 May 1871.

Revenue 1862 2 1/2
 No. of good for all on

No. 491.

No. of the 18th March 1871.

No. 11th March 1871.

No. of the 18th March 1871
 No. 11th March 1871
 No. 27-38.

No. 1 492.

Approval of the Light
 of lamps that the 1st of
 1868 may be selected for
 improving the water number
 paper into currency, with
 under the same.

Perfect
 number
 to be considered
 as a good one
 sent by the
 steamers