M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 69 Press Mis.

131-132

Dated 12-1-1933

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 131. Read the following letter from the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras 19th December 1862, No. 1,418:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit for the consideration and orders of Government, the measures I would propose for revising the Village Revenue Establishments of the District of South Arcot, The late Collector, Mr. Wood, so long ago as June, 1860, forwarded a report on the state of the Village Establishments, but it was not until last August that I received from the Acting Collector Mr. Smith the necessary statements and a plan for remodelling the existing establishments.

2. I will in the first place notice Mr. Wood's report and then proceed to the consideration of the plan proposed in Mr. Smith, the Acting Collector's letter for the new establishment. The following is a summary of Mr. Wood's report.

From Collector of South Arcot, dated 13th June 1860, No. 86.

3. The village officers of South Arcot are the Monigar, Curnum and Notagar or Shroff; the lower class consits almost entirely of the Toties, the Nirgunti or Niranikam as he is called, is found only in a few villages.

4. The village establishment is not in an efficient state. The Maniakarens are too numerous for an efficient performance of their duties; their responsibility is divided, and the remuneration is insufficient. The Curnums have a larger amount of work than they can properly perform, as they frequently hold office in three or more villages, perhaps at a considerable distance apart, and this leads to the appointment of Gumáshtas, which the Collector considers another great evil of the present system, and so it is with the Shroffs; but the Collector is of opinion that these men might be dispensed with, those being treated with liberality who have a vested right in the office. The Toty Manium is frequently shared by ten or twelve relatives, who take it in turn to perform duty, and the consequence is that no one is employed sufficiently long enough to be thoroughly conversant with his office.

Paragraph 3.
Do. 4.
Do. 5.
Paragraph 6.
Paragraph 7.

5. The village offices are all considered hereditary. The system of remunerating the offices of the upper class is by a per centage on the revenue. The Monigar receives an invariable per centage of $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. and the Curnum a per centage varying from $6\frac{1}{4}$ to 3 per cent. according to the size of the village, but out of his per centage the Notagar receives $\frac{4}{15}$th as his share. All their Maniums and fees were resumed in the year 1807 by Mr. Ravenshaw, and the present rates settled. Mr. Wood notices the inconvenience of paying the Notagar or Shroff in the mode alluded to, and would rather give them a certain per centage of their own, if their services are to be retained. But their retention seems quite unnecessary.

Paragraph 8.
Do. 9.
Do. 7.

6. Mr. Wood is in favor of retaining the present system of remunerating by a per centage on the revenue of the village, the Maniakaren and Shroff, but he would remunerate the Curnum by a fixed salary, supplemented also by a per centage on the revenue.

Paragraph 10.

7. The lower class of village servants, the Vettians or Toties and the Nirgunties are, as they have always been, remunerated by Manium land and by grain fees paid by the villagers themselves. The Toties' fees, in which that of the Nirgunties is included, are $3\frac{1}{4}$ Marcals on every 100 Cullums of grain from wet land, and $\frac{7}{8}$th per cent. on 100 Cullums of dry land. The Toties' Manium which varied very much, was revised and fixed by Mr. Ravenshaw in 1807 at $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the amount of Ayacut land in the village, which was a little under $\frac{3}{4}$th per cent. on the

Paragraph 11.
Paragraph 12.

Paragraph 13. dry land, and a little above ¾th per cent. on the wet land. The Manium of the Toties (as stated in Mr. Wood's letter) amounts to 10,096 Cawnies assessed at ..... Rupees 44,388
Their Fees to..... ,, 24.210
Total... 65,598

The Maniums of the Nirgunties is only 42 Cawnies.
Assessed at..... Rupees 468
Their Fees..... ,, 2,335
Total.. 2,803

but these figures are not correct, as explained by Mr. Reade in his letter dated 26th November 1862, paragraphs 5 and 6; the correct figures will be seen in the table annexed below to paragraph 13 of this report. The whole of the emoluments of this class,

Paragraph 14. he considers, require revision. The Manium land is represented by Mr. Wood as frequently quite incapable of cultivation, in 1829 nearly 50 per cent. was left uncultivated, but, as since explained by Mr. Reade, the greater portion of this waste has been brought under cultivation, and for the most part all is cultivable, and not so much as 25 per cent. is left occasionally unsown (letter dated 26th November 1862, paragraphs 2, 3 and 4). The payment of the grain fees is most uncertain there being no means of compelling the Ryots to pay them with regularity.

Paragraph 15. 8. The Talaries having been transferred exclusively to the Police, it is stated to be absolutely necessary that the Toties be placed on an efficient footing, since the Revenue Department is now entirely dependent upon them. And Mr. Wood thinks that each Toty and Nirgunti actually employed should have their emoluments, whether derived from land or fees, brought up to a minimum of 24 Rupees a year, if not to 30 Rupees, which was the minimum allowed for the Talaries in the late revision of their emoluments.

Paragraph 16. 9. He suggests that the present Maniums of the Talaries may perhaps be made available for the Vettians, if the Inspector General of Police carries out his wishes to pay the Talaries in cash in lieu of land: but this is questionable.

Paragraph 17. 10. Mr. Wood mentions that in a few (178) villages the mode of remunerating the village servants differs from the general practice. In Cuddalore the Maniakaren has Inám land as well as 2¼ per cent. on the revenue, and in the other villages the officers have Maniums and commuted grain fees collected and paid by the Government officers. In the Sunkarapurum villages 10 per cent. of cultivated area of the village was set aside as the Manium of village officers, but that of the Curnum and Shroff was resumed by Mr. Ashton who placed these officers on the same footing as those in other parts of the District. When the Kolamalai villages were resumed in 1829, Tarufdars were employed on a monthly salary of Rupees 5 which arrangement continues to this day.

Paragraph 19. Memorandum of the Acting Sub-Collector, paragraph 1. 11. Accompanying Mr. Wood's report is a Memorandum from the Acting Sub-Collector Mr. Dalyell in which that gentleman expresses his sincere approval of the scheme proposed for re-modelling the Village Establishments; and in the amalgamation of villages that he proposes he

Paragraph 5. states his belief that in no instance have villages been grouped together which are inconveniently far apart. But he thinks there will be great difficulty in carrying out the reform in consequence of the prevalence of a sort of Mirasi right, and from the customs of employing Gumáshtas and dividing the

Paragraphs 6 and 8. village offices having been permitted to a large and pernicious extent. If the conditions that divisions of village offices and the plurality of offices in different villages, even though a clear hereditary right to two or three be shown, be strictly prohibited, is enforced, Mr. Dalyell is in favor of the office being

Paragraphs 9 to 13. made hereditary, as it adds considerably to the dignity of the office-holder in the eyes of the people. He advocates compensation to the Mirassidars, who would by the new arrangement be deprived of their Mirasi rights of office. He questions however the validity of these Mirasi privileges, but on the ground that they have to a certain extent been always recognized by the British Government and when the

office of Cavilgars was abolished in 1807 a compensation of 10 per cent. on their Maniums was given to the holders for their lives, he thinks in the present case a pension of 20 per cent. of the present Maniums or share of it would be ample compensation.

12. I may here, on this point, give the views of Mr. A. Hall formerly Collector of South Arcot and late Member of the Board of Revenue. He was of opinion that, even admitting that the Village officers have a Mirasi right or an hereditary claim upon the situations, there was nothing to preclude the Government from abolishing such officers; compensation, he thought, could not be legally claimed, though it would be just and good policy to grant it.

13. I now come to the scheme of revised establishment as proposed by the local authorities, and submitted by the Acting Collector Mr. H. G. Smith. The cost of

From Acting Collector, Mr. H. G. Smith, dated 16th Aug. 1862, No. 163. the Revenue Village Establishment of the District of South Arcot amounts to Rupees 2,85,777. The cost of the new establishment, as proposed by the Collector, would be 3,10,491 Rupees as shown below. The excess of charge would then be Rupees 24,714; but the Collector calculates the increase to be Rupees 72,756 for he omits (paragraph 6) to include the fees in his assets, probably because (see paragraph 17) no account of these grain fees is kept, and their value is based on an arbitrary calculation originally made by the Curnums in which no trust can be reposed, and because the payment of them by the Ryots is very much at their discretion, if not entirely optional. These fees will presently be more fully noticed.

See Mr. Reade's letter paragraph 8

	Present Emoluments.				Proposed Emoluments.
	Land Net.	Fees.	Cash.	Total.	Cash.
Maniakaren	2,491	148	61,174	63,813	89,892
Curnums	1,009	319	98,634	99,962	1,27,242
Shroff or Notagar	267	101	35,607	35,975	.....
Vettian (or Toty)	37,796	42,786	190	80,773	93,357
Nirgunti	552	4,687	15	5,254	.....
Total...	42,115	48,042	1,95,620	2,85,777	3,10,491*

Paragraph 4. 14. In the proposed revision, very small villages near together have been clubbed under one set of village officers. Villages which comprise a considerable number of hamlets, practically unmanageable by one set of village servants, have been sub-divided into two or more independent villages. But villages with large revenues which would not admit of division have been retained as they are. The result of this combination (paragraph 5) is a reduction in the present number of villages from 3,016 to 1,220 newly formed villages as in margin. Mr. Smith cannot give an opinion as to the future proper working or otherwise of this combination, but trusts it may be successful. Looking at the moderate size generally of the new villages, and judging from

	Number as combined.	Number as at present existing.
1st Class whose revenue is Rs. 5,000 above	49	98
2nd do. do. from Rs. 2000, to 5,000	579	1,480
3rd do. do. from ,, 250 to 2,000	549	1,434
4th do. do. up to ,, 250.	3	4
	1,220	3,016

* Note.—According to the abstract prepared in the Board's Office from the Collector's detailed Statement this amount should be 3,12,060 Rupees and not 3,10,491, viz:—

	Rs
Maniakarens	90,312
Curnums	1,27,860
Vetties	93,888
Total...	3,12,060

the opinion expressed by another Officer lately in the District, see paragraph 11 above, the grouping appears to have been made with care by the local authorities, and I would not disturb the proposed arrangement.

Paragraphs 6 and 7.

			Number of Villages.
1st Class whose revenue is above.....		Rs. 5,000	
2nd Do.	do.	from Rs. 2,000 to 5,000	49
3rd Do.	do.	from „ 250 to 2,000	579
4th Do.	do.	up to „ 250..	589
			3
		Total....	1,220

15. The villages are divided into four classes, for each village 1 Monigár and 1 Curnum is allowed as directed by Government and 4, 3, 2 and 1 Vettians for each village, according to its respective class.

16. It is proposed to do away with the Notagar or Shroff. And as Nirgunties for distributing the water to tanks are employed in but a very few villages, and as it is customary for the Vetty or the Ryots themselves to do this work, the Collector proposes that no separate establishment of Nirgunties be entertained. There are, it seems, by a Statement* sent by Mr. Reade, 241 villages in which 214 Nirgunties are employed at Government cost, exclusive of those that are paid by the Ryots in the shape of grain fees. But as a fair allowance of Toties has been made in the revision for these villages, and as the Collector is of opinion that a separate establishment of Nirgunties is not required, I have made no separate provision for them. Those now remunerated by the Ryots by private fees may be left untouched.

Paragraph 7.
Do. 20.

* Letter dated 26th November 1862, paragraph 7.

17. The Collector has taken, as his scale of remuneration to the Monigars and Curnums, the *maximum* scale of remuneration alluded to in my letter to Government 13th September 1860, No. 504. But not only was this scale not sanctioned generally by Government, but the circumstances of South Arcot would not justify its adoption, inasmuch as the present emoluments of the villages are not equal to the maximum rates, in which case only was the maximum intended originally to be given. Since then also other† scales of emoluments have been proposed for a general standard, and in submitting presently the rates I should propose, these have been taken into consideration. The cost of the reduced number of Monigars and Curnums, remunerated, as proposed by the Collector, at the maximum rate alluded to, would be 2,17,134 Rupees, but if remunerated at the minimum rate referred to in my letter of 13th September 1860 their cost would be only 1,72,176 Rupees. Mr. Smith thinks the lower remuneration to be quite inadequate, and hopes that the maximum scale may be sanctioned.

† 30th April 1861.

	Maximum.	Minimum.
	Rs.	Rs.
Monigars.....	89,892	67,128
Curnums.....	1,27,242	1,05,048
	2,17,134	1,72,176
Difference.....44,958		

18. Mr. Smith is of opinion that 30 Rupees per annum is sufficient salary for the Vettians, and has accordingly adopted that rate for this class of servants. It is however doubtful whether this rate of pay is sufficient in the present time, and 36 Rupees has been generally fixed in other Districts for these servants, whose whole time will now be required for the Government work.

Paragraph 8.

19. The Collector notices the Ináms held by the village servants. They are of two kinds, viz., 1st, the Service Land Ináms, assessed at 39,669 Rupees, the whole of which (with the exception of 2,207 Rupees) are held by the Vettians. These the Collector recommends should be enfranchised at the rate allowed by Government, viz., at $\frac{5}{8}$th of the assessment, or 10 Annas in the Rupee, and be left in the possession of the owners. For the reasons given in a previous part of this report (see paragraph 11), I would support this proposition. There would then be a fund of Rupees 24,787 available for village service arising from these enfranchised Ináms, supposing they are all retained at the reduced rate; and from Mr. Reade's explanation, noticed before in paragraph 7, there seems good reason to conclude they will be retained; 2ndly, the other description of Inám is called Damasha Jaghir of Sunkarapooram, and Chickady villages, deducted from the puttahs of the Monigars and

Curnums or their relatives. It is of a fluctuating natures, its value however is stated to be 2,454 Rupees, and the Collector recommends its resumption, which will be proper, if the new plan of remuneration is sanctioned.

20. Mr. Smith thinks that my proposition as to the mode of making the remuneration of the Maniakaren by an annual deduction in his puttah would not answer, because in most instances the amount of the puttah would not be equal to the emoluments to which the Maniakaren would be entitled, and he prefers that this Officer as well as the Curnum and the Vettian should be paid periodically, half yearly, for the first half year, in presence of the Settlement Officer, and for the second half year, up to 30th June, before the Tahsildar. When the Maniakaren's puttah is insufficient to meet the amount of his remuneration, the balance would necessarily have to be made good to him by a deduction from the village beriz, or by a cash payment from the Treasury. As the Government is aware, I have always been in favor of the Maniakaren (wherever practicable) being remunerated by a deduction in his puttah, as he generally is supposed to be a large land owner, and I am also in favor of all payments to the Village officers being made by a deduction, at proper periods, from the village collections before transmission to the Tahsildar's Treasury. It tends to make the village servants more independent, and if duly watched by the Tahsildar, and the controlling Revenue Officers, is not likely to lead to more abuse, than if the whole body of village servants were summoned to the Talook Cutcherries to receive their salaries, and it saves much trouble in the Tahsildar's office, while it ensures greater punctuality in payment to those entitled to receive their emoluments at proper seasons. But whatever may be the method of paying the servants, the question of the amounts to be given is not affected thereby.

Paragraphs 9 and 10.

21. The Ináms it has been seen are confined almost entirely to the Vettians, who also enjoy grain fees. The other officers are mostly remunerated by ready money allowances. The cash payments amount to Rupees 1,95,620 granted many years since in lieu of resumed Ináms and fees, and are paid generally by a per centage noticed above in paragraph 5, and at other rates in a few villages mentioned by Mr. Smith in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of his letter. The Acting Collector Mr. Smith proposes that all these ready money allowances should be resumed, and a general cess of 10 per cent. levied on the assessment of Land Revenue and Inám land, which he estimates (but not correctly) would yield 2,80,557 Rupees; it has been elsewhere suggested that a general cess not exceeding 6¼ per cent. in lieu of all fees might be levied in every District; but this would in Mr. Smith's opinion be insufficient. His proposition I would however observe is not to levy a cess *in lieu of fees*, simply but to levy a cess on the Ryots *in lieu of the sum now paid from the Government revenues, i. e.* to make the Ryots pay in cash, what the Government have hitherto allowed by a deduction of the revenue, in compensation for lands and fees resumed by them. This proposition is manifestly unjust.* The proper course would have been (as subsequently pointed out by Mr. Reade) to have taken credit for the present ready money allowances as a set off against the contemplated cost of the new establishment, and to have proposed a moderate fee cess to make up the balance.

Paragraph 17.
Letter dated 26th November 1862, paragraphs 10, 11.

Paragraphs 11 to 16.

22. The grain fees, to which allusion has already been made are supposed to amount to 48,042 Rupees. With the exception of the fees paid to the Monigars, Curnums and Nottagars, in six villages transferred from (the late Chingleput now) Madras District, there are no fees paid to those classes of servants. The great bulk of the fees is the perquisite of the Vettians and Nirgunties, whether the Sotuntrum fees, 568 Rupees, in the villages transferred from Chingleput District are all available assets or not may admit of question, but it is quite clear from a letter of Mr. Ravenshaw's (formerly Collector of South Arcot) to the Board of Revenue that the other fees are payments made by the Ryots to those servants, in consideration of a direct remission made to them for this purpose, and are therefore properly available assets, notwithstanding that this payment is said "to be very much at the Ryot's discretion if not entirely optional." No

Paragraphs 7 and 13.

NOTE.—See my report on the Village establishment for Madras District dated 20th April 1862, No. 850.

From Collector of South Arcot dated 1st July 1806, paragraph 5.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Monigars.....	148	2	9
Curnums.....	318	10	0
Nottagars..	101	5	1
Total....	568	1	10
Vettians...	42,786	4	0
Nirgunties.....	4,687	7	2
Total.....	47,473	11	2
Total fees.....	48,041	13	0

account whatever is kept of the amount now paid in fees, but the sum mentioned is founded on a calculation made by the Curnums, which is not to be relied on; but there can be no question but that the payment of the fees, whatever may be their actual amount, is customary. If a general cess is levied these fees would be absorbed in the new cess.

23. Mr. Reade recommends a small cess of 3 per cent. which would suffice to cover the deficiency of the assets for the payment of the new establishment, but even 2½ per cent. would be enough for this purpose if the remuneration of the servants, as I would propose, is adopted. The cess would be leviable on the following items :—

See Mr. Reade's letter, paragraph 11.

	Rs.
Land Revenue, Fusli 1270	27,78,325
Amount of Service and Damaish Ináms	27,242
Assessed value of all Ináms	2,66,287
Total...	30,71,854

cess at 2½ per cent. would be 76,796 Rupees.

Paragraph 22.

24. The Collector deems it unnecessary to make any provision for the village servants of the Shrotrium, and other similar villages, who are now paid by the Shrotriumdars, &c., according to the local usage of each village. There are 88 such villages, and the value of the emoluments in land, fees, and commuted Sotuntrums, is estimated at 6,654 Rupees, I would not either interfere with these villages.

25. I cannot recommend the scheme as proposed by Mr. Smith for the sanction of Government, for it transfers the burden of a very expensive establishment hitherto borne by the Government from them to the Ryots, by appropriating the sum of about 1,95,000 now contributed by the former and taxing the latter with a sum of upwards of 2,80,000 Rupees in place of about 48,000 now contributed by the Ryots in fees. But I would take as an available asset the present contribution of Government, and the assets might be calculated as follows, viz : —

	Rs.
Estimated amount of Service Ináms enfranchised	24,787
Resumed Damaish Ináms	2,455
Government cash contributions	1,95,620
Total Government contributions	2,22,862
* Cess to be levied in lieu of present fees (supposed to amount to about 48,000 or excluding Nirgunti fees to about 43,355 Rupees) at 2½ per cent., on all Government and Inám lands	76,796
Total Assets...	2,99,658

* See above paragraph 23.

26. Adopting the number of villages proposed by the local authorities, viz., 1,220, for which an establishment of Maniakarens, Curnums and Vettians has to be provided, and excluding Shroffs, and Nirgunti, as not required, I would recommend the following establishment for the District of South Arcot, costing 2,92,296 Rupees :—

	Rs.
1,220 Maniakarens	72,096
1,220 Curnums	1,10,256
3,054 Vettians	1,09,944
Total...	2,92,296

The amount is 18,195 Rupees less than the sum proposed by Mr. Smith, while it allows a larger remuneration of 3 Rupees instead of 2½ Rupees, to the Vettians. It is precisely on the scale proposed† for North Arcot. Compared with the present scale of allowances, and with Mr. Smith's proposition, at corrected in this office, it is as below :—

NOTE.—The difference would really be 19,764 according to the Statement prepared from the Collectors' detailed accounts in the Board's Office.

† See Mr. Pelly's letter to Government, dated 11th July 1862, No. 1,833.

	As per present Establishment.		As per Mr. Smith's scale.		As per North Acot scale now recommended.	
	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.	No.	Amount.
Maniakarens...	...	63,813	1,220	90,312	1,220	72,096
Curnums...	...	99,962	1,220	1,27,860	1,220	1,10,256
Vettians...	...	80,773	3,132	93,888	3,054	1,09,944
Shroff or Notagar..	...	35,975	...	...	...	...
Nirgunti...	...	5,254	...	...	...	...
Total...	...	2,85,777	5,572	3,12,060	5,494	2,92,296

27. The number and cost for each class of villages is shown in the following Table :—

Maniakarens.

Village Revenue.	Number of Villages.	Rate per Annum.	Amount.
Up to Rupees... 1000	146	36	5,256
Do. 1,500	208	48	9,984
Do. 3,000	566	60	33,960
Do. 5,000	246	72	17,712
Do. 7,000 and upwards.	54	96	5,184
	1,220		72,096

Curnums.

Village Revenue.	No. of Villages.	Rate.	Amount.
Up to Rupees... 1000	146	60	8,760
Do. 1,500	208	72	14,976
Do. 2,000	222	84	18,646
Do. 3,000	344	96	33,024
Do. 4,000	172	108	18,576
Do. 5,000	74	120	8,880
Do. 6,000	32	132	4,224
Do. ... ... Above 9,000	22	144	3,168
	1,220		1,10,256

Vettians.

Village Revenue.	Number of Villages.	Number of men for each.	Total Number of men.	Rate. of Pay.	Amount of Pay.
Up to... 500	30	1	30	36	1,080
Do. 2,000	546	2	1,092	36	39,312
Do. ... and upwards. 10,000	644	3	1,932	36	69,552
	1,220		3,054		1,09,944

28. The estimated amounts of funds available to meet this cost, including the fee cess as 2½ per cent. (and which cess will take a larger amount from the Ryots generally than they are said now to contribute in fees), is, as shown in paragraph 25... 2,99,658
So that deducting cost... 2,92,296

There is an estimated surplus of funds to the amount of... 7,362

29. In this report I have taken no account of the Police Taliaries who have been transferred to the Police Department.

No. 132. ORDER THEREON, 12th January 1863, No. 69.

Ordered to lie over.

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

Rev=1862 Dept.
Pro: of Govt for January/63.
No. 3515.

From,

The Honble C. Pelly
Member of the
Bd of Rev.

To

J. D. Sim Esqr.
Secretary to Govt.
Rev. & Dept.

Dated 19th December 1862

Dep. 20th

Received 20th

No. 1118

Encl: 3 Nos.

Submitting his
views for providing the
Village Establishments of
the Coast Districts

No 131 & 132.

No 60
ordered to lie
over.
Letter dated
2 Jany 1863