M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 834 Press ~~Mis.~~

Go 161

Dated 13 — 8 — 19 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
13th May 1863.

Read the following:—

No. 160. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.

1. My attention has more than once been directed to the very anomalous and unsatisfactory state of the system (if indeed it can be so called) of weights and measures in this Presidency.

2. Latterly, I have been engaged in prosecuting some simple experiments for the purpose of determining the relation between the amount of produce upon different qualities of soil, and the assessment or rent of such land, and the difficulty which I have experienced, owing in great measure to the amount of calculation required to bring the numbers obtained by observation into a form admitting of direct comparison, has been so great as to justify the conclusion that, until some more simple and general system can be introduced, it will be utterly impossible to record in a satisfactory form any statistical information which would enable the Government or individuals to institute a comparison between the products of the different Districts of the territory, or to draw any sound, practical inference from the vast mass of facts brought officially under notice.

3. I have looked over the papers on this subject for the purpose of ascertaining whether any simple, practical suggestion could be gleaned from them, but I have not been able to discover any general scheme sufficiently simple to justify a recommendation that it should be adopted.

4. Under these circumstances, I think it would be advisable to bring this subject under the notice of the Supreme Government, with a suggestion that a Committee consisting of a properly qualified person from each Presidency should be appointed, to which all the papers bearing on the subject should be referred, with instruction to consider and report to the Government their opinion as to the system which it would be desirable to adopt. I do not, however, propose that this Committee should be permitted to enter upon the very broad question of the (theoretically) best system of weights and measures; it should be instructed to limit its enquiries and suggestions to the substitution for the present numerous and contradictory scales of weights and measures, of such a simple form as would, while it made the minimum alteration in the existing tables, and disturbed the present nomenclature as little as possible, make the Indian system universal throughout our territories, and place it in a simple relation with that now existing in England.

5. I propose to impose this limit upon the Committee, because I am aware that the introduction of a decimal system has been suggested. I believe that for purpose of computation and comparison this is theoretically the most perfect, but this perfection would be dearly purchased at the cost of the disturbance of every existing relation; indeed, I question very much the possibility of introducing a system so completely at variance with all those now existing in India. On the other hand, I do not wish to tie the Committee down to any particular standard or unit of weight, I see no good reason why the Rupee or Tola of 180 grains should be introduced into the system of weights, it may be hereafter desirable to harmonize our monetary system with that of England by making the Rupee a simple fraction of the pound sterling, and it would very much hamper this operation if the Government were called upon at the same time to modify its whole system of weights.

6. It would very much simplify the operations of the Committee if it could be furnished with returns of the weights and measures in use in the different districts. A return of these exists, I believe, for Madras, but I am not aware whether similar returns have been called for in Bombay and Bengal.

(Signed) W. T. DENISON.

MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE T. PYCROFT.

1. I have no objection to our addressing the Supreme Government on the subject of the Committee as proposed. I may however remark that a Committee was appointed by them some years ago, and that it resulted in the adoption of the present system—1 Indian Maund = 100 lbs. Troy = 40 Seers = 3,200 Tolas each of 180 grains Troy, which was ordered to be used in all *Government* transactions. It was not thought possible to prescribe any system for the regulation of transactions between individuals, but it was hoped that the Government system would by degrees be adopted.

2. My own view is that the best course would be to adopt in all Government transactions the English system of weights and measures. Practically, English weights are used on the Railways, although the Government of India, much against the remonstrances of the Railway Companies, insist on the Indian Maund and Seer being the nominal weights. English weights are also used in the Sea Custom Houses. They are not a whit more strange to the people of this part of India than are the Indian Maund and Seer.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

No. 161. From J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 13th May 1863, No. 834:—

SIR,

1. I am directed to submit, for the consideration of the Supreme Government, the great importance of steps being taken for the reform of the various systems of Weights and Measures in use in British India.

2. In this Presidency the Government in 1846 established a scale of weights and measures for exclusive adoption in the public accounts and in all transactions in which the Government were concerned. This system left "untouched the Provincial systems among the Natives," by whom it has been almost wholly disregarded in their private dealings. Since then the Government system has been affected by the use, under the orders of the Supreme Government, of the Indian Maund of 82⅔ lbs. Avoirdupois in the Salt, Railway and all other Public Departments.

3. The inconvenience resulting to the Government and the public from the complicated and varying systems now in use can scarcely be exaggerated, and the Government believe that the substitution for them of a simple, uniform system, would be acceptable to the people, and might be introduced without material difficulty.

4. The Government would, with this object, suggest the appointment of a Committee, consisting of a properly qualified person from each Presidency, to consider and report on the system which in their opinion it would be desirable to adopt for all India. The Government would instruct the Committee to limit their inquiries and suggestions to the substitution for the present numerous and contradictory scales of weights and measures of such a simple form as would, while it reduced the alteration in the existing scales to a minimum and disturbed the present nomenclature as little as possible, make the Indian system universal throughout British India, and place it in a simple relation with that now existing in England. Without a restriction of this nature the Committee might enter on the very broad question of the theoretically best system, and the result might be the suggestion of a scheme which, however perfect in theory, would be attended with such disturbance of existing relations as to render its adoption impracticable. On the other hand, the Government would not confine the Committee to any particular standard or unit of weight.

5. In the event of the Supreme Government being indisposed to take up the question at present as one of Imperial concern, this Government propose to appoint a Committee to consider the subject in relation to this Presidency alone.

6. I am directed to submit copies of Minutes on the subject of the above letter recorded by His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Mr. Pycroft.

Minute

My attention has more than once been directed to this very anomalous & unsatisfactory state of the legislation (if indeed it can be so called) governing Weights and Measures in the Presidency.

Lately I have been engaged in prosecuting some enquiries & experiments for the purpose of determining the relation between the amount of produce upon different qualities of soil, and the appropriate rent to be levied, and the difficulty which I have experienced in trying on great measures the ordinary calculation required to bring the numbers thus obtained by observation into a form admitting of direct comparison, has led me to think it desirable to call attention to the subject, with a view to some more simple and general system being introduced. At present it will be utterly impossible to record in a satisfactory form any statistical information which would enable the Govt or individuals to institute a comparison between the produce of different districts of the country, or to draw

any sound practical infe-
=rence from the vast Mah
of facts brought officially
under notice -
I have looked over the Papers
on this subject for the pur-
=pose of ascertaining whether
any simple practical
suggestion could be gleaned
from them, but I have not
been able to discover any
general scheme sufficiently
simple to justify a recom-
=mendation that it should
be adopted.
Under these circumstances
I think it would be advisable
~~to bring the~~ to bring the
subject under the notice
of the Supreme Govt with a
suggestion that a Commis-
=sion
consisting of properly
qualified persons from
each Presidency should
be appointed to consider
all the papers bearing on
the subject should be re-
=ferred with instruction
to consider & report to
the Govt their opinion as
to the system which it would
be desirable to adopt -
I do not however propose
that this committee should
be permitted to enter upon
this very broad question of the

(theoretically) best system of
weights & measures. It
should be instructed to limit
its enquiries & suggestions
to the substitution for the
present numerous and
contradictory scales of
weights & measures, of such
a simple form as would
while it made the mini-
=mum alteration in the
existing Tables, and de-
=crease the present numer-
=ous as little as possible,
~~basis~~ make the Indian
system universal throughout
our territories, and place
it on a simple relation
with that now existing in
England -
I propose this limit upon
the ~~committee~~ because
the committee because
I am aware that the in-
=troduction of a decimal
system has been suggested.
I believe that for purposes
of computation and com-
=parison, this is theoretically
the most perfect - but
the perpetual ~~and~~ at the
daily purchase and sale
of the ordinary articles of every
existing relation - united
to the impossibility of ~~the~~ ~~Govt~~
Government ~~to~~ compulsorily
introducing a system so completely
at variance with all those

now existing in India
on the other hand I do not
wish to see the Committee
down to any particular
standard or unity of weight.
I see no good reason why the
Rupee or Tola of 180 grains
should be subdivided into
the system of weights - it may
be hereafter desirable to harmo-
nize our monetary system
with that of England by making
the Rupee a multiple fraction
of the Pound Sterling, and
would very much hamper
the operation of the Gov^t
were called upon at the same
time to modify its whole
system of weights - -
I should very much simplify
the explanations of the Commis-
sion and render furnished
with returns of the weights
& measures in use in the
different districts - and
return of those existing before
for Madras, but I am not
aware whether similar
returns have been called
from Bombay & Bengal.

W Williams

4

I have no objection to your addressing the Secretary of State on the subject of the Committee as proposed - I may however remark that the Committee was appointed by the Government of India and that it resulted in the adoption of the present system — 1 Indian Pound = 100 th Troy = 40 Tolas = 3200 Tolas each of 180 grains Troy — which was ordered to be used in all Government transactions - It was not thought possible to prescribe any system for the Legislature of transactions between individuals, but it was hoped that the Government system would by degrees be adopted —

My own view is that the best course would be to adopt - in all Government transactions the English system of weights and measures Practically the English weights are used on the Railways, although the Govt of India, under the control of the Indian Railway Company, insist on the Indian Pound & Seer being the nominal weights - Pound & Seer being the nominal weights - English weights are also used in the Sea Customs - Bombay - They are not a little more cheap to the people than the Indian Pound & Seer and the people of this part of India

JPP

Rec.d 18th April

Re. 834.

To Lieut. Col. Lucadou -

I am directed by Mr Secretary Lefroy to request that you will be so obliging as to furnish this Department with a Return of the Quantity of Land sold by Government in each of the Districts under your Command, during the year 1862, distinguishing the Quantity sold for Cash, and that sold for Military Services, and also the Quantity sold at Public Auction, and that disposed of by Private Sale, the Price per Acre obtained for each description, and the Amount of Purchase Money received for the same, and the Quantity of Land sold by Private Sale to Officers in consideration of their Services, and the Price per Acre at which it was sold, and the Amount of Purchase Money received for the same.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney 15th April 1863

Lieut. Col. Lucadou
Commanding Royal Engineers
Sydney

Rec.d 18th April
Re. 834.

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
Colonial Secretary's Office
Sydney 15th April 1863

Lieut. Col. Lucadou
Commanding Royal Engineers
Sydney

With a Pamphlet of Mr Bayley -

Rec.d 19th April 1841 No. 14 - 15
- 15th June " " 19 - 20 Pd
- 22d " " " 45 - 46 Rd
- 2d July 1860 - 9 - 10 - R.
- 1st October 57 " 23 - 24 R

Copy in a Letter to England
Dated 20th June No. 50 of 1863

Rec.d 18 63 Dft 15th
Rec.d of Govt for May.
No. 580.

Minute by the Hon.
the President -

Dated
Received 11th March 1863.

Col. L. No. 834. 13th May

Recording views on the very anomalous and unsatisfactory state of the Systems of Weights and measures in this Colony and suggesting the appointment of a Committee to report on the subject -

No
Minute by the Hon. Mr Pyeroft

Copy Letter to the Govt
Sydney 13th May
Re 834.

No 160 & 160A

11th March 63 R18th

"left" un touched
the Provincial Systems
among the Natives",
by which it has been
almost wholly dis-
-regarded in their
private dealings.
Since then the Pistol
by Sterns has
been affected by
the rule, under the
orders of the Sub. Pst.
of the Sundarbans
of 82 ½ tolas avoirdupois in the Salt
and Ry Revenue Dept.

The inconvenience
resulting to the Pst.
and the public from
the complicated de-
-fary ing by Sterns
rim in use can
scarcely be exag-
-gerated - and the
first he has that
the substitution for
them of a simple
uniform system
would be accep-
-table to the people
and might be
introduced without
material difficulty.

The Pst. would
in the other direct
suffer to the amount
yielded by a Com.
consisting of a
Resident Assistant
person from Each
Presidency?
consideration of the first
by Sterns be first
in their opinion yet
would be desirable
to adopt for sale
Sundries. The Pst

would restrict the
Commee of the Coin-
-Legislature limit
their enquiries &
suggestions to the
substitution for the
present numerous
and contradictory
Scales of weights &
measures of such
a simple form as
would - while it
reduced the alteration
in the existing Scales
to a minimum
and disturbed
the present nomen-
clature as little
as possible - make
the Indian System
universal throughout
all British Indian
and place it in a
simple relation with
that now existing
in England - Without

a restriction of this
nature the Commee
might enter on the
very broad question
of the theoretically
best System and
the result might be
the suggestion of an
Scheme which however
ideally perfect would
therefore be at
variance with such
existing relations as
to render its adoption
impracticable - On
the other hand, the
Govt would not con-
-fine the Commee to
any particular
standard or unit
of weight -

In the event

of the Supreme
Court being in di-
-spute to take whe
the question at issue
as one of Constitu
Concern, this Govt. has
seen to advise
a Committee to con
sider the subject and
relation of the Presi
dency alone.

Sir

I am directed
by the Secretary
of State to transmit
herewith Copies
of Minutes on the
subject of the
above letter recorded
by His Ex: the Govr and the Govr the
and communicated
in by the Secretary
of State for Canada

I &c

By Govt.

Govt House St George
13th May 1853

Copy in a Letter to England
D/20th June No 56 of 1863

30. 6. 163

Revenue 1863 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. for May
No 834.

To
The Secretary to the
Govt. of India.
D/ 13th May 1863.
From D: dated C No 1680 dated
25 June 1864 In Pro:

Minutes by His Excellency
the Govr and the Hon: Mr Pycroft
suggesting the appointment
of a committee to report on
the very anomalous and
unsatisfactory state of the
system of weights and
measures that prevails
in this Residency, forwarded
to Government of India.

No 160 to 161A to 161.