M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1625 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 7—9— 1864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 7th September 1864.

No. 89. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department, Simla, under date the 6th August 1864, No. 1,780:—

RESOLUTION 1.—The attention of the Governor General in Council has been attracted to the increase which has of late years taken place in the expense of collecting and assessing the Land Revenue. The accompanying Statement will show how serious this increase has been.

2. The Governor General in Council is fully aware that the extension of settlement operations in Oudh, the North-Western Provinces, and the Central Provinces, and other parts of India, must for a time cause considerable increase of expenditure. Economy is, however, for this reason more urgently required in other directions, and particularly with respect to the permanent establishments for the collection of the revenue, in which a still larger increase is also apparent.

3. The Governor General in Council believes that some portions of this increase are due to the re-organization lately sanctioned on a more liberal scale of the European administrative agency in the Central Provinces, and the non-regulation Provinces of Bengal, and of a Forest Department all over India. Other portions of the increased expenditure now under notice may doubtless likewise be traced to schemes separately discussed and sanctioned on full consideration by the Government of India as good and necessary in themselves. Nevertheless it is not improbable that a careful scrutiny of existing establishments generally, may suggest important reductions. The Governor General in Council would therefore invite the Local Governments and Administrations early and earnestly to consider measures tending to bring the expenditure on Revenue Establishments within more reasonable limits.

4. The increase of expenditure is (with the exception of Madras) so large and so general, while the circumstances of the various Provinces are so widely different that the advance of expenditure has no doubt arisen from a great diversity of local causes, it is not, therefore, possible to indicate any general means for securing the desired reduction.

5. It may, however, be observed that in Districts under settlement much of the current work is necessarily thrown into the Settlement Department. The Governor General in Council would suggest for consideration the expediency in such cases, of employing a portion of the Collector's Staff, or at least of transferring it in part to the Settlement Department in lieu of entertaining, as is at present believed often to be the case, a full complement for either Department.

e. g., Partitions transfers of proprietary rights, a very large number of rent cases, disputes as to occupancy, proprietary right, or actual possession, cases of alluvion and diluvion, disputed boundaries, summary settlements, lapsed revenue free-holdings, &c., &c., &c.

6. It will be the duty of Commissioners and other responsible Officers entrusted with the supervision of settlement operations, to see that economy is observed in this respect, and also that temporary officials, such as Ameens and others are retained no longer than is absolutely necessary, and that the work, whether of survey or measurement, is not delayed by inquiries into disputes which can be with greater advantage decided when the season for working in the field is over.

7. The same principle should indeed be observed as to all temporary establishments; they should be invariably utilized to the fullest extent possible, and so far as is practicable, should be formed out of such portions of the permanent establishment as can be relieved of their regular duties in consequence of the employment of the temporary establishments, and such temporary establishments should moreover be kept within the smallest possible limits, and discharged as soon as their work is at an end. In like manner no revenue survey establishments which cannot be thoroughly utilized should be kept up, and care should be taken that all questions of principle or policy, connected with settlement operations, are promptly disposed of, so that these operations shall in no case be impeded.

8. As regards permanent establishments, the Governor General in Council is of opinion that reduction in some Districts and Provinces may be eventually effected by the consolidation of petty treasuries,* as well as of those which render accounts direct to the Account Department. It is to be remembered that by this measure economy is effected, not only as regards the establishments of the treasuries themselves, but also

* Especially numerous in the Presidencies of Bombay and Madras.

in the number of guards requisite. The details of this measure involve, however, so many and varied considerations, that His Excellency in Council will not at present do more than commend the subject particularly to the notice of the Local Governments and Administrations.

9. In those Provinces in which Government Revenue Establishments are maintained in the interior of districts, it may be possible to effect some economy by the consolidation of these or the reduction of their establishments, especially in cases where estates are large and chiefly owned by wealthy proprietors, and when, in consequence, the actual collection of the revenue is effected with comparative ease.

10. The Governor General in Council is aware that objections may be urged to this measure on administrative grounds, no doubt there is force in such objections; but the Governor General in Council is inclined to believe that they are not unfrequently exaggerated.

11. It is not intended by these remarks to limit attention to the possibility of reduction in the directions which they indicate, many others will doubtless suggest themselves to local authorities, and the Governor General in Council confidently reckons on the zealous co-operation of all the Officers of Government in reviewing existing revenue establishments, and in reporting every reduction that may appear practicable.

12. The Heads of Governments and Administrations in examining such proposals and the objections offered to them, will, of course, bear in mind the local circumstances of each District—establishments which may barely suffice for the necessities of one District, will naturally be often susceptible of reduction in the case of another. It will be expedient therefore, to require that every local Officer in submitting his opinion on the establishments subordinate to him, should give at full length the reasons upon which he bases his recommendations. The Governor General in Council takes this opportunity of again urging the necessity of the utmost caution in bringing forward proposals to enhance expenditure in all branches of the Government service, whether involving an increase to salaries or to the strength of establishments. It is the paramount duty of all Officers who find themselves under the necessity of making such proposals, not to do so without anxiously considering the possibility of an equivalent reduction of expenditure in some other direction.

Madras.
Bombay.
Bengal.
North-Western Provinces.
Straits Settlement.

1. ORDERED that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be communicated to the Local Governments noted in the margin.

2. Ordered also, that thirty copies of the Resolution be forwarded to the Foreign Department, whence the necessary communication will be made to the Government of the Punjab, and the other Administrations under the control of that Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. C. BAYLEY,
Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Government of Fort Saint George.

No. 90. ORDER THEREON, 7th September 1861, No. 1,625.

Land Revenue.

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report, in communication with the Accountant General, as to whether any reductions can be made in the number of Treasuries now maintained.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ Mr. C. Pelly, for information.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

the Officers of Government in reviewing existing revenue establishments, and in reporting every reduction that may appear practicable.

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(True Extract.)

Secy. to the Govt. of India.

The Government of Fort St. George.

Revue 1864 Septr
Pro: of Govt for Septr
No 2218

Extract from the Pro: of the Govt of India in the Home Deptt — dated 6th Augt 1864,
Received 22d " No 1,780.

Pro: Bd of Revue Dated 1st Decr/64 No 3143.

Inviting early and earnestly to consider measures tending to bring the expenditure on Revenue Establishments within more reasonable limits than at present —

No 89 890.

No 1625 - 7 Septr

With records.

No-1625

Referred to the Board of Revenue for report in communication with the Accountant General, as to whether any reductions, can be made in the numbers of Treasuries now maintained.

By Govt. St. George
Fort St. George
7th Septr 64

To The Bd of Revue Cusps & Salt
" Ag: Dir of Revue Settlement
" W. C. Kelly - for information