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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2124 Press ~~Mis.~~

240-242

Dated 19 11 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 19*th November* 1864.

Read the following papers :—

No. 240. From the Honorable C. PELLY, Member of the Board of Revenue, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 17th September 1864, No. 1,746.

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter of the 16th instant, in which I suggested alterations in the Talook establishments, I have the honor to submit for the consideration and orders of Government, certain alterations in the revised scale of Huzur establishments, which are considered necessary prior to the final closing of the General Statement of Establishments.

2. In paragraph 9 of the Proceedings of Government, dated 11th April 1860, No. 555, the salary of the Serishtadar of the Collector's Huzur Cutcherry was fixed at Rupees 200 a month ; but it has been since represented by some Collectors that this remuneration is inadequate for the duties of the office, and that it should be raised at least to the grade of a first class Tahsildar. The opinions of Collectors on this subject, which were received before submitting my proposition for the revision of the Huzur and Talook establishments, were reviewed at length in section I. of paragraph 11 of my report to Government, dated 15th December 1859, No. 122. Experience has now shewn that it is desirable and expedient that the position of the Serishtadars should be raised, if not above, yet equal to the grade of a first class Tahsildar.

3. The Serishtadars are required to aid the Collectors in making annual settlements, and in disposing of all important revenue cases, and of all appeals against the decisions of Subordinate Officers and Tahsildars. They must be held responsible for the proper performance of business in the Vernacular correspondence Department, both Revenue and Magisterial ; the office is really a very important one, though the responsibilities attached to it under the old system are not the same ; persons of good qualifications, in whom the Collector can place great confidence, should be selected for the office ; the Collector must generally make his selection from his staff of Tahsildars where the required qualification for the post can be best found ; but if the pay of the Serishtadar is less than that of the first class Tahsildar, the Collector will often not be able to make his selection from those who are probably the best qualified for the office of Serishtadars. For the above reasons I am of opinion that the Huzur Serishtadars should not be placed on a footing below that of a first class Tahsildar in point of emoluments, and I accordingly beg to recommend that the pay of the Serishtadars may be raised from 200 to 250 Rupees a month.

4. I am also of opinion that the salary of the Sub-Division Serishtadars should be raised, as their duties are the same as the Collector's Huzur Serishtadar, though in a less degree. The present fixed pay of Rupees 100 a month is scarcely sufficient to secure the services of the best men, and I think it ought not to be less than the pay of the lowest class of Tahsildar. I would therefore propose that the remuneration be raised from Rupees 100 to Rupees 150.

5. While submitting their reports on the operations of the District Presses for 1863-64, Collectors of some Districts have brought to the notice of the Board the insufficiency of the establishment allowed for the Press Department in consequence of the heavy work thrown upon it, and desired that some extra assistance may be given to render it efficient. A few of the Collectors propose an increase to the salary of the Compositors.

6. In their Proceedings, dated 23rd June 1863, Government sanctioned two Apprentices on a salary of 7 Rupees each, to aid the Press Department to a certain extent. Notwithstanding this, the increased amount of work now executed for the various Public Departments, the additional labor thrown upon the Department by the publication of translations of the Board's Standing Circulars in the District Gazettes, the improvements which have been recently introduced in it, and the printing of the various forms of accounts necessary in connection with the reforms now being made in the system of Accounts, have much enhanced the work of the Department, so much so as to require the aid of extra men. The propositions of the Collectors are various, but from all that I can judge of the matter, I think an addition of not less than three extra hands will be required to make the Press Department really efficient, and this is the more necessary as

I have reason to believe that under the reforms in the Accounts, and other matters, the work of the Press Department will be considerably increased; I accordingly beg to propose that the salary of the Head Compositor be raised from 35 to 45 Rupees, and that three additional hands be allowed on the salaries noted in the margin.

		Rs.
1 Compositor	..	12
1 Do.	..	10
1 Pressman	..	8
Total	..	30

7. As the general list of Revenue Establishments is about to be closed and submitted to Government for the sanction of the Government of India, I have thought it proper, after full consideration of the requirements of the service, to bring the apparent defects in the revised establishments to the notice of Government, and to propose for their consideration, the several additions above alluded in this letter and in that which treats on the alterations in the Talook establishments, in order that the whole may be placed on a really satisfactory footing. I believe that with the additions I have now proposed, the Revenue Establishments will be complete and no proper ground left for complaint. The additions proposed in this letter will involve an increase of Rupees 2,510 a month, or Rupees 30,120 per annum, as shewn below. As soon as the orders of Government are passed on this and the other application, I shall lose no time in closing the general list of Establishments and submitting it to Government:—

		Rs.
Additions to the salary of 19 Collectors' Serishtadars at 50 Rupees each	...	950
Do. to do. of 16 Sub-Collectors' Serishtadars, including those of the two Principal Assistants of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, at 50 Rs. each		800
Do. to the Press Department for 19 Districts at 40 Rupees each, viz., 10 Rupees increase to the pay of the Head Compositor, and two extra Compositors at 12 and 10 Rupees, and one extra Pressman at 8 Rs.		760
Total	...	2,510
Per annum	...	30,120

No. 241. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st September 1864, No. 6,229:—

Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd July 1864, No. 208.

1. I sincerely regret to report the death, this day, of my Serishtadar Bar Venkat Row Pantulu.

2. Bar Venkat Row commenced his official career on the 25th November 1834; his death closes a faithful service of thirty years, and I beg to take this opportunity of requesting a re-consideration of the orders of Government* recently received as regards the position and duties of officers of the class of the public service to which he belonged.

3. The Board and the Government are of opinion that Serishtadars hold now a very different position to that they formerly held, and the nature of the duties is equally changed. I admit the change of position; I beg a consideration of the latter view that Serishtadars are in fact under the present arrangements simply ministerial; and fully aware that my individual opinion can have but little weight in this general question, I beg the favor, on public grounds, of the Board calling, should they think fit, for the opinion of the other officers now in charge of Districts or Divisions of Districts, and from their duties familiar with the requirements of the office under consideration, and the working of the new system.

4. If every Jummahbundy were made by a Native Deputy Collector, he would be capable, with his Clerks, of exercising the requisite supervision on the proceedings of the Talook authorities, and so far there would be no need of a Serishtadar at all. Or if there were no irrigation, and properly adjusted rates, the accounts might perhaps be sufficiently checked by a European Officer. But where irrigation from public sources is carried on to a large scale, and periodical

* Revenue Department, No. 1,030, dated 15th ultimo, communicated with the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th idem, No. 3,765.

adjustments of accounts are requisite with reference to the supply received, I have no hesitation in saying that no European Officer I have yet seen, has, by any possibility, the power to exercise the requisite check. He must depend on his Serishtadar; and the duties of the Serishtadar thus become something more than what is merely ministerial, and are much what they were before.

5. Take a Talook like Nellore with an irrigation revenue of three or four lacs varying annually with reference to supply. Is there any European Officer in the Presidency who would undertake personally to supervise the accounts? Take the village of Allura with a revenue of 20,000; how long would the European take, could he read them, to ascertain whether the accounts were satisfactory? the results what they should be, and the Clerks employed tocheck them had performed their duty efficiently.

6. In my opinion when a European makes a Jummahbundy there is in reality a Punchayet, consisting of the Collector or other Officer in immediate charge of the Talook, the Collector's Serishtadar, the Tahsildar, the village authorities and the Ryots; and it is essential to the due discharge of the public business that the Serishtadar, on whom so much depends, should hold as high a position as the Tahsildar. To set a Serishtadar to examine the accounts of an Officer drawing higher pay than himself is to set an inferior to report on his superior, and reverse the rules of discipline. This is especially noticeable in the Sub-division in this District, for instance, where the Serishtadar draws Rupees 100 and two of the Tahsildars Rupees 200; in Tanjore, where the Clerk on Rupees 100 supervises the Tahsildar on Rupees 250, &c.

7. Again, at the station during the rest of the year I think I but express the general opinion, when I assert that a vast amount of accounts are received and orders issued, for which a responsibility is required that is more than ministerial. Once the arrangements have been made as regards the occupation of the land or the letting of farms, the prescribed accounts and the Treasury Deputy Collector will come to the Collector's assistance. But till such arrangements have been duly discussed, and finally settled, it is to the Serishtadar the Collector must look for the general knowledge and general views required to check local errors; and as the Government decline to recognize length of service, I respectfully beg to recommend that the salary of a Serishtadar be paid at the same rate as the highest paid Tahsildar, whose proceedings and accounts he has to supervise and report upon. It would in every case be thus at least an equal that was called on to supervise and report; and the public service would gain by the abolition of a practice so subversive of a proper spirit and tone as the inferior put over his superior, and required to make reports that on the one hand may give him promotion, and on the other call for an independence and disregard of rank and official influence we have no right to expect.

P. S.—I would also request to be favored at an early date the Board's orders, as to whether a Tahsildar accepting the office of Serishtadar in the way of promotion would have to pass the prescribed examination when he wished to resume the charge of a Talook.

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1. The Board do not desire to dispute the assertion that circumstances have combined to throw on Tahsildars a very great increase of work, through the amalgamation of Talooks, the reduction of Establishments, and the requirements of the Penal and Criminal Procedure Codes, or that the appointment of Treasury Deputy Collectors has not afforded to Collectors, to the extent anticipated, that kind of assistance which was intended.

2. The Board readily admit that from these and other causes, the duties which now devolve on Huzur Serishtadars are of a more responsible nature than was intended when the old appointment of head Serishtadar was abolished and the grade of Deputy Collector created in combination with the elevation of Tahsildars to a higher position; but they cannot allow that the Huzur Serishtadar now occupies in the Districts the same relative position as he formerly did, nor do they consider it desirable that matters should be allowed to revert to their former state.

3. They however so far concur in opinion with Mr. Dykes, that they consider it expedient that Huzur Serishtadars should be placed on an equality with the highest grade of Tahsildar, and they resolve to recommend this arrangement for the favorable consideration of Government.

4. The question has, they are aware, been referred by the Honorable Mr. Pelly for consideration in his final revision of the several reforms in establishments.

5. On Mr. Dykes's postscript the Board have informed him that they do not consider it necessary under the rules that a Tahsildar promoted to be Huzur Serishtadar, should pass any test on reverting to the charge of a Talook.

6. They however consider it generally undesirable that such re-transfers should be made, and this consideration strengthens their desire to see the position of Huzur Serishtadar improved in the manner above proposed.

No. 242.

ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1864, No. 2,124.

Miscellaneous.

1. In the first paper above recorded, Mr. Pelly proposes a further revision of the Collectors' and Sub-Collectors' Huzur establishments, and in the second the Board of Revenue support one of Mr. Pelly's suggestions, viz., that the pay of the Collectors' Serishtadars be put on the same footing as that of a first class Tahsildar, viz., Rupees 250.

2. The Government concur with Mr. Pelly and the Board of Revenue in considering the present pay of the Serishtadars (Rupees 200) insufficient. The importance of the services of this Officer at the annual Settlement is very forcibly pointed out in the letter from the Collector of Nellore, submitted by the Board of Revenue with their Proceedings; and as Mr. Pelly remarks the Collector will often not be able to make the selection for the office from the best of his Tahsildars, if the pay of the Serishtadars is less than that of the first class Tahsildar. The orders issued by the Board before the revision of the establishments required that Head and Naib Serishtadars should have passed some period of their public service in the Districts as Tahsildars, and though the status of the Serishtadar has been altered under the new arrangements, yet his duties are in the main the same, and the Collector cannot derive much practical assistance from a Serishtadar who has not been a Tahsildar. Under these circumstances the Government grant authority for raising the pay of the Collector's Serishtadar from Rupees 200 to Rupees 250 per mensem. The Board should maintain their former orders about the appointment and dismissal of this Officer.

3. Mr. Pelly's proposal to raise the pay of the Sub-Collector's Serishtadar from Rupees 100 to Rupees 150, the pay of the Tahsildar of the lowest class is also sanctioned. The Sub-Collector has also to depend upon his Serishtadar for the details of the annual settlement, and it is necessary that his chief subordinate servant should be a person of integrity and education.

4. The third and last proposal of Mr. Pelly is to raise the pay of the Head Compositor attached to the Collectors' Printing offices and to increase their strength. The present and proposed cost of each of these offices is shown below:—

	Present cost.		Proposed cost.	
	RS.			RS.
1 Head Compositor...	35			
1 Compositor	25			45
2 Do. at 15 Rupees each	30			25
1 Do.	0			30
1 Pressman...	0			12
1 Do.	12			10
1 Ballman	8			12
1 Do.	8	2 Pressmen at 8		16
2 Apprentices at 7 Rupees each... ...	14			8
				7
				14
Total...	139	Total...		179

The Press Office has become an important branch of the Collector's establishment; and as pointed out by Mr. Pelly its work is increasing. The Head Compositor should, in addition to professional

attainments, be competent to manage the Office and conduct all the routine duties. The Government consider that 50 Rupees would be a proper salary for the office. The second Compositor's pay should also be raised, and the salaries of the other Compositors graduated. There are at present two Pressmen and two Ballmen; but Mr. Pelly's proposed scale allows three Pressmen and two Ballmen. The Government do not see the utility of this addition. Two sets of Pressmen and Ballmen should, they think, be sufficient. With these remarks the Government sanction the following revised Press Establishment for each District:—

	RS.
Head Compositor and Superintendent...	50
2nd Compositor...	30
3rd Do.	20
4th Do.	15
5th Do.	12
6th Do.	10
1 Pressman	12
1 Do.	8
1 Ballman	7
1 Do.	6
2 Apprentices at 7 Rupees each	14
Total...	184

15. With the increased establishment now granted the Collectors ought to be able to work their Presses without temporary servants; and the Board will, therefore, use sparingly the authority vested in them to sanction the employment of such hands.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Honorable C. Pelly.
„ the Board of Revenue.
„ the Civil Paymaster.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th June 1864.

No. 190. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd June 1864, No. 3,389.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated Krishnapatnam, 12th May 1864, No. 127:—

1. I have the honor to submit for the Board's consideration, and request that they will be pleased to forward, with such remarks as they may deem fit, the accompanying Memorial from my Sheristadar, Baru Venkatravu Puntulu.

2. The case brought forward is the case of a Sheristadar who has done good service, and according to present rules, has no prospect of further promotion.

3. In the re-organization of Revenue Establishment, it was, I believe, intended that the promotion sought should not be looked for in the Department in question, but in the higher grade of Deputy Collector.

4. But in the first starting of a new scheme, it is to be expected that individual cases will arise, were a rigid adherence to the terms laid down would be productive of consequences that the Board and the Government would wish to avoid, and special provision may be made to meet the claims of individuals with advantage to the public interests also.

5. Under any circumstances, it seems scarce desirable that an Officer who has spent thirty years of his life in the Account Department, should be suddenly called on to undertake the duties of a Deputy Collector. Under present circumstances, there is no chance of such a contingency, as all the Deputy Collectors in the Inám Department have to be provided for.

6. And I therefore trust that the Board will be pleased to support claims like the present, where under the former system, a direct acknowledgment would have been made, and under the new arrangements the provision intended is really not available.

7. Looking through the annual list of the Revenue Establishment, I find that there are ten Sheristadars whose period of service is twenty years and upwards; and of these, five including the present Memorialist, can point to a service of more than 25 years. There is therefore no large number to be provided for, supposing all otherwise worthy of consideration. And as regards the claims of Baru Venkatravu to the favourable consideration he seeks, it is not necessary, I should swell this correspondence by stating here what I have already recorded year by year as my opinion of his services. Opinions given at the time and to be found in the printed testimonials which accompany the enclosed Memorial, are more valuable than what I can say on an occasion like the present, when favourable notice is specially asked for. And in simply stating that Baru Venkatravu has been a most zealous and faithful servant of Government, I beg to call the attention of the Board to the characters given by those he has previously served under, and strongly recommend, as an exceptional case, he be allowed in due course the increased rate of 20 Pagodas, after every five years' service, to which he would have been entitled under the old arrangements.

ENCLOSURE. No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Memorial from Baru Venkataravu Puntulu, Sheristadar of Nellore.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Printed copy of Testimonials.

1. The Board are unable to support this recommendation. They doubt not that Baru Venkat Row has done the State good service, and has well earned his present position. But they see nothing in the case to warrant an application for a special personal allowance, and they are not prepared to advocate the abandonment of the system which was deliberately adopted on the revision of Establishments, and the creation of the Office of Deputy Collector.

2. The post of Hoozoor Sheristadar is no longer what it once was either in the nature of its duties or in the position of the office.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1864, No. 1,030.

Miscellaneous.

The Board's view of this case is correct.

(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2124. R. D.

6/7

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 19th November 1864.

Read the following papers.

From the Honble C. Pelly
Member of the Board of Revt
Submitting for confirmation
of his letter of the 16th instant, a
proposition to make certain
alterations in the Huzur Esta-
blishments.

Rec: of the Board of Revenue
Recommending for favor-
able consideration the placing
of Huzur Sheristadars on an
equality with the highest grade
of Tahsildar, as desired by the
Collector of Nellore.

Recd enter 21st Septr 64 No 629

Recd enter 1st Septr 1864 No 540

In the first paper
above recorded, Mr Pelly
proposes further revision of
the Collectors' and Sub Collectors'
Huzur establishments, and
in the second the Board of
Revenue support one of
Mr Pelly's suggestions viz,
that

It almost seems to me that we
are paying the Tahsildars too much
and the Sheristadar too little -
looking not to the Sheristadar's responsibility to
the officers, & to the fact that the
native, to live in the mode of life
he would on necessary the same pay
as the European practically
have at least
four times the
amount to set aside as saving

that the pay of the Collecto-
-rs Cherishtadars be put on the
same footing as that of a
first class Tahsildar,
Viz. Rs. 250.

2. The Government
concur with Mr. Pelly and
the Board of Revenue in con-
-sidering the present pay of
the Cherishtadars (Rs. 200) in-
-sufficient. The importance
of the services of this Officer
at the annual Settlement
is very forcibly pointed out in
the letter from the Collector of
Nellore, submitted by the
Board of Revenue with their
Proceedings, and as Mr. Pelly
remarks the Collector will
often not be able to make
the selection for the Office
from the best of his Tahsil-
-s if

the pay of the Cherishtadars
is less than that of the first
class Tahsildar. The orders
issued by the Board before the
revision of the establishments
required that Head and Naib
Cherishtadars should have
elapsed some period of their
Public Service in the Dist.
as Tahsildars, and though the
status of the ~~Head~~ Cherishtadar
has been altered under the
new arrangements, yet
his duties are in the main
the same, and the Collector
cannot derive much
practical assistance from a
Cherishtadar who has not
been a Tahsildar. Under
these circumstances the Govt.
grant authority for raising
the pay of the Collectors'
Cherishtadar from Rs. 200
Rs. 250 per mensem. The

Board

Board should maintain their former orders about the appointment and dismissal of this officer -

3. Mr Pelly's proposal to raise the pay of the Sub Collectors' Sheristadar from Rs. 100 to Rs. 150, the pay of the Tahsildar of the lowest class is also sanctioned - The Sub Collector has also to depend upon his Sheristadar for the details of the annual settlement, and it is necessary that his chief subordinate servant should be a person of integrity and education.

4. The third and last proposal of Mr. Pelly is to raise

8/17

raise the pay of the Head Compositor attached to the Collectors' Printing Offices and to increase their strength - The present and proposed cost of each of these Offices is shown below:

below;

	Present Cost Rs		Proposed Cost Rs
1 Head Compositor	35.		45.
1 Compositor	25.		25
2 Do @15 Rs each	30		30.
1 Do	"		12
1 Do	"		10
1 Pressman	12		12
1 Do	8	2 Pressmen @8	16.
1 Ballman	8		8
1 Do	7		7
2 Apprentices at 7 Rs each	14		14.
	Rs 139.		Rs 179.

The Press Office has become an important branch of the Collector's establishment; and as pointed out by Mr Pelly its work is increasing. The Head Compositor should in addition to professional attainments be competent to manage the office and conduct all the routine duties ~~the charge of all details~~. The Government consider that 50 Rs would be a proper salary for the Office. The second Compositor's pay would also be raised and the salaries of the other compositors graduated. There are at present two Pressmen and two Ballmen; but Mr Pelly's proposed scale allows three Pressmen and

and two Ballmen - The
Government do not see the
utility of this addition - Two
sets of Prefsmen and Ball-
-men should they think, be
sufficient - With these re-
-marks the Government sanc-
-tion the following revised
Prefs establishment for each
District.

	Rs.
Head Compositor and Superintendent	50.
2d do	30.
3d do	20.
4th do	15.
5th do	12.
6th do	10.
1 Prefsman	12.
1 — Do	8.
1 Ballman	7
1 — Do	6.
4 Apprentices at 7 Rs each	14.
Total Rs	184.

With the increased esta-
-blishment now granted
the

the Collectors ought to
be able to work their
Prefses without temporary
servants, and the Board
will therefore use spar-
-ingly the authority vested
in them to sanction the
employment of such
hands.

4 Copies to the Hon'ble C. [illegible] Dept 22 Nov
14 Board of C[illegible]
3 Asst Paymasters
3 Accountt Genl's

Rec'd 24 Sept 1864
Bm. 11-4-60. № 3-5-
23-6-63 - 369-70
10-11-64 № 2059

Revenue 1864. Sept.
Pro: of Govt for 1 Oct.

V: 2124.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dt 19. November 1864.

From the Chief Assistant
Civil Paymaster 13. March 65
C. A. 725
Pro. Financial Dy. 13 July 65.
C. 1926.

Passing orders on the revised Scale of Mr Petty relative to the Kurzgur establishments

V. 240 to 242.