M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-6-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1437 Press Mis.

525-526

Dated 26-6-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 26th June 1865.

No. 545. 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, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 12th April 1865, No. 1,792:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to submit, for the consideration and orders of Government, a letter from the Collector of Malabar, dated 17th August 1864, the consideration of which I had postponed pending the orders of Government on the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th October 1864, No. 6,514, on the subject of a Revenue Survey of Malabar. These having been now noticed in the Order of Government, dated 30th January 1865, No. 146, I will at once bring Mr. Ballard's proposition for improving the condition of the village servants before Government.

From Collector, dated 17th Aug. 1864, No. 2,325.
To do. dated 28th February 1865, No. 1,775.
From do. dated 11th March 1865, No. 2,905.

2. The revision of the Village Establishments in Malabar was, by an Order of Government, dated 8th April 1862, No. 785, postponed until the revision of the Land Registers then in progress should have been completed. In his letter dated 13th August 1864, to the Board of Revenue, the Collector reported the failure of a scheme he had put in operation for placing the Land Registers on a satisfactory footing, and his present plan is now before Government.

See Proceedings of Government, dated 30th January 1865.

3. The request of the Collector in the letter which I now submit for the orders of Government is for sanction to double the pay of the under-paid village (or rather Amshom) Peons, raising it from 2½ Rupees to 5 Rupees per month. Any re-organization and combination of villages or Amshoms, Mr. Ballard, as Mr. Grant before him, deprecates, until at least the Land Registers are prepared, and that cannot now, it seems, be accomplished for several years, and the Board of Revenue have recommended that Mr. Ballard's scheme of Survey and Register had better be undertaken in connection with the regular Survey. Even when that is done it is questionable whether any but a very inconsiderable change can be made in the present Amshom arrangements. As the Collector has remarked in paragraph 6 of his letter, that any surplus that may be left after increasing the pay of the Amshom Peons may be appropriated for raising the pay of the Adhigarries and Menons also in a few of the Amshoms, I requested Mr. Ballard to state to what extent it might be necessary to raise their pay, so that I might be able to submit a complete report to Government on the subject; but the Collector replies that he is not at present prepared to propose any definite scheme in regard to these servants, as the surplus available for it would be very small, and that he considers the increase to the Peons as an urgent necessity. I will, therefore, confine myself to the actual question of increase of pay to the Amshom Peons.

4. Mr. Ballard's proposition will involve an increase of Rupees 26,262 per annum, and in order to meet this cost he proposes that a deduction of 10 per cent. should be made from the Revenue of the Northern Talooks. Whether the amount in question is deducted from the District demand or paid from general funds, the result is the same, viz., increased expenditure to the State. The question of extending at present the cess of 10 per cent. levied on the rice lands in the Southern Talooks, has been fully discussed, and decided in the negative by Government in their Order, dated 18th September 1862, No. 2,028. The question, they observed, was one not to be taken up independently of the Revenue Survey and the correction of the land taxes. There are, therefore, no funds available from cesses to meet the increased cost of Mr. Ballard's proposition; and if sanctioned the cost will be a charge on the general revenues.

5. The duties of the Amshom Peons, I believe, are more or less the same as those performed in other Ryotwar Districts, by the class of people designated in my Village Servants revision Report as Vettyans, to whom in my new scale of Village Establishment, I have provided an increased remuneration of only 3 Rupees a month. When Mr. Grant originally submitted his scheme for reducing the number of existing Amshoms, by amalgamation, he proposed only 4 Rupees for the pay of the Peons in the larger, or first and second class Amshoms clubbed; and 3½ Rupees for those in the 3rd class Amshoms. Mr. Ballard, however, now proposes a uniform rate of 5 Rupees, leaving the Amshoms as they are. He represents that increasing the pay of the Amshom Peons is the first and principal step towards putting the Amshom Establishment on a satisfactory footing. I admit that the present pay of the village Peons, viz., 2½ Rupees, is too low, but to double it, as proposed by Mr. Ballard, will entail a larger additional expenditure than appears to me absolutely necessary, more especially when the emoluments contemplated by the new scheme for village servants of a similar class in other Districts are taken into consideration. I am, therefore, of opinion that leaving the Amshoms as they are, 3½ Rupees, or at most 4 Rupees, will be an adequate pay for these men, which is 40 and 60 per cent. increase respectively on their present allowance.

6. Mr. Ballard remarks, that whilst we cannot extend any fresh cess to the Northern Talooks at present, it is clearly anomalous that a portion of the proceeds of the cess on the South should be abstracted for the North, whilst the wants of the South are so crying. In this I concur, as it is not fair that the 10 per cent. cess collected in the Southern Talooks should bear the whole cost of the Establishment in the Northern Talooks, which pay no separate cess and in which no cess can be made, because the land assessment there is heavier than in the South. Each Talook should bear some proportion of the burden. I would, therefore, beg to recommend that pending the survey revision of the Land Revenue an annual deduction should be made from the gross demand in the Northern Talooks to be placed to the credit of the Village Service Fund.

7. It appears from the Collector's letter that the 10 per cent. cess collected in the Southern Talooks now amounts to Rupees 90,069. The whole of this is however credited to the general revenues, as it is included in the assessment, and a disbursement of Rupees 84,495 is made on account of the Establishment from general funds, thus leaving a balance of Rupees 5,574, which at present improperly goes to the credit of the State. Under the Orders of the Government of India, to form a separate Village Service Fund for the payment of the Village Establishments, the 10 per cent. cess will eventually have to be deducted from the assessment in the Southern Talooks, the Board have in their letter, dated 20th June 1864, applied for the orders of Government to carry this into effect, and when sanction is received, and a separate fund established, a sum of Rupees 5,574 will be clearly available, and may be devoted to the purpose of the Village Establishment. But the North and the South should be treated alike, and a general per-centage of 10 per cent. from both Divisions should be deducted and credited to the Village Service Fund. The sum at present credited to the general revenue is really an addition to the wet land Revenue of 10 per cent. in the South, but it appears as an item of general Revenue, from the whole of which the cost of Village Establishment to the extent of 10 per cent. is, or may be deducted; and to form a Village Service Fund it would be proper to make a similar deduction from the *wet* Revenues in the Northern Talooks to place the two Divisions in an equality in respect of providing for a Village Service Fund.

NOTE.—In my letter to Government, dated 13th August 1862, No. 1,380, in Proceedings Madras Government, dated 11th September 1862, No. 2,038, it was stated at Rupees 84,494 only.

8. The total Land Revenue of the Malabar District in its two Divisions of North and South was in Fusly 1272 as follows:—

	RS.
Northern, 3 Talooks and Cochin	3,76,728
Southern, 6 Talooks	14,34,501
Total Land Revenue ...	18,11,229

But as the fund for the Village service falls only on the rice assessed lands the Revenue of these must be alone taken into account, it is in the

	RS.
Northern, 3 Talooks and Cochin	2,05,399
Southern, 6 Talooks	10,28,832
Total Rice Land Revenue ...	12,34,231

Ten per cent. of this is 1,23,423 Rupees, which is the sum that should be properly credited to the Village Service Fund, and I request that the Collector may be authorized to set aside this 10 per cent. on the revenue of the rice lands for payment of the village servants.

9. The cost of the present Amshom Establishment is Rupees 84,330 viz.:—

No.	RS.
432 Adhigarries	27,222
428 Menons or Curnums	30,816
876 Peons	26,292

10. It is proposed at present to increase the pay of the Peons only, and the following Memorandum shews that the increased cost will come within the amount of the available fund to be raised as proposed, even if Mr. Ballard's proposition of 5 Rupees per month for each Peon is allowed. There are 876 Amshom Peons.

MEMORANDUM.

Estimated amount of fund at the rate of 10 per cent. on the assessment of the Rice lands, Rupees 1,23,423.

	RS.
Present cost of whole Village Establishment	84,330
Cost if Peons pay is raised to 3½ Rupees	94,830
Do. do. to 4 „	1,00,086
Do. do. to 5 „	1,10,598

11. But I am of opinion that 4 Rupees a month is as much as need be given to these Village servants in Malabar, and money will be required for the improvement by and bye of the position of the other Village servants, and for the present I am disposed to recommend only 3½ Rupees for each Peon per month, until the Collector can submit a scheme complete in all its parts for the revised Village Establishment. If the cost of the Establishment is raised in accordance with this recommendation to 94,830 Rupees there will be a reserved fund of 28,593 Rupees for further improvement of the Establishment, including the Adhigarries and Curnums, which it is expedient to keep in hand until a complete revision is decided on.

RS.	
1,23,423	Amount of fund.
94,830	Proposed Establishment.
28,593	Reserve.

No. 546. **Miscellaneous.**

ORDER THEREON, 26th June 1865, No. 1,437.

1. The Government admit the insufficiency of the present rate of pay for the Amshom Peons, viz., Rupees 2½ monthly, and they consider that Mr. Pelly's proposed increase to Rupees 3½ is reasonable, but they see no reason whatever to anticipate

that the Supreme Government will grant 10 per cent. out of the Land Revenue of the Northern Talooks to supplement the deficient assets, nor are they satisfied that any such arrangement is necessary to provide funds for the increase.

2. The amount of the 10 per cent. cess levied in the Southern Talooks is now Rupees 90,069, and the cost of the Establishment at present is Rupees 84,495, leaving a surplus of Rupees 5,574 which is absorbed in the general revenues, but is clearly available for the purpose for which the cess is levied.

3. The additional charge involved in the proposed increase of pay is Rupees 10,500, or Rupees 4,926 more than the available assets.

4. But it appears that for some years past the surplus proceeds of the cess beyond the cost of the Establishment have been absorbed in the general revenues, and a refund of this amount or a contribution equal to the income which it would produce if capitalized, might reasonably be asked from the Supreme Government in order to effect the very moderate improvement which is proposed, more especially as the contribution will be gradually reduced as the income from the cess increases with the extension of cultivation in the Southern Talooks.

5. The Collector should submit a full statement of the amount of the surplus cess which has been so absorbed, and of the interest on it which may be claimed from the earliest absorption as part of the capital at the present time on which interest may now be asked as a contribution to supplement the insufficient assets.

6. The rate of interest may be taken at 5 per cent.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Honorable C. Polly.
,, the Collector of Malabar.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin,

No. 4,995.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th August 1864.

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Maliapuram, 19th July 1864, No. 172:—

1. The insufficiency of the pay of the Amshom servants in Malabar has been often complained of; and the rise in prices of late years has rendered it particularly felt.

2. I believe that it would tend materially to increased efficiency in all grades if the pay was raised, but I think I have only to mention that the pay of the Amshom Peons is Rupees 2 and Rupees 2¼ a month, to put the question as regards these servants beyond a doubt, and render farther argument as to the urgent call for increase of their remuneration unnecessary.

3. I do not think that there is so urgent a call for raising the pay of the Adigaris. I do think the step a judicious and desirable one, but I believe it may for the present be postponed till we are in a position to provide funds as I shall propose farther on.

4. If the Menons are to be employed in preparing the A Register, and Survey Sketches, it is absolutely necessary that their remuneration be increased; but I would propose paying them extra allowances in connection with that special work from a specific allotment from imperial funds. This subject will be very shortly reported on. The permanent increase of Menon's allowances will be considered farther on.

5. The Amshom Peons remain; and they are the servants, as above-said, whose wants are most pressing. I propose to raise their pay to Rupees 5 per mensem. As they are generally employed near their own residences, and at any rate in their own neighbourhood, I think this for the present sufficient to secure the willing service of useful men.

The cost throughout the District of Amshom Peons,	
At present rates, is...	Rupees 26,298
At the rate I propose, would be	,, 52,560
Increase of cost....	Rupees 26,262

I would propose for this as follows.

6. The Board are aware that 10 per cent. on the wet assessment is now levied in some of the Taluks of South Malabar expressedly for the payment of the Amshom servants.

The returns from this cess amount to Rupees 90,069.

The cess does not extend to the Northern Taluks, but the Amshom servants in those Taluks are paid from it. The total payment is Rupees 84,495. The small balance (Rupees 5,574) that remains is credited to the general revenues.

7. The question of extending or not this cess to the Northern Taluks has been fully discussed, and decided in the negative. The incidence of wet assessments in the North is as far as we can judge relatively heavier than in the South; and the levy of any fresh cess, calculated on the uneven wet assessments prevailing, is to be deprecated.

8. But whilst we cannot extend the cess at present it is clearly anomalous that a portion of the proceeds of the cess on the South should be abstracted for the North, whilst the wants of the South are so crying.

9. I propose therefore that from the present wet assessments of the Taluks noted, which do not now pay the 10 per cent., Amshom service cess, but whose assessments are certainly higher already than those of the Southern Taluks who do, an allowance of 10 per cent. should be made and credited, with the total amount of the cess in the South, to the Amshom Service Fund.

Cherakel. Koteyom. Kurumbranad.	Wynad. Cochin.

10. If this is done, we should have

Proceeds of 10 per cent. cess on wet assessment of Southern Taluks ... Rupees 90,069
10 per cent allowed on wet assessment of Northern Taluks and Cochin.... " 22,362

Or a total of Rupees 1,12,431

Of course there may be slight differences in the amount in different years. The tendency will be to increase.

11. The present pay of the Adigaris and Menons amounts to Rupees 58,197. If pay to Peons at Rupees 5 per head per mensem be added, it gives Rupees 1,10,757.

A balance would be left at the credit of the Fund of Rupees 1,674, which would be profitably employed in increasing the Adigaris and Menons' pay in a few of the Amshoms where the duties are most arduous.

12. Thus our immediate wants would be provided for.

These allowances should be carried to the credit of the Amshom Service Fund till the wet assessments of the District are revised, and re-settled, when a uniform cess according to law would be levied.

13. But the revision and settlement of the garden assessments is of much more urgent importance than that of the wet assessments. I have a good deal of material collected, and hope to be permitted to enter on this important work ere long. When the garden assessments are fixed, a cess for Amshom service should be levied on them. This will allow of the pay of the Adigaris and Menons generally being put on a more satisfactory footing; and of the entertainment, where necessary, of an increased number of Peons for registration of births and deaths, and general duties connected with the Revenue and Police administration.

Dated 5th and 7th instant, Nos. 161 and 163.

14. I beg that my letters on the registration of births and deaths may be considered in connection with this subject.

15. I trust I may receive a favorable expression of the views of the Board on this subject at an early date.

The re-organization of the Village Establishments in Malabar, specially entrusted to Mr. Pelly was, it is observed, postponed until the revision of the Land Registers had been completed (see Government Order, 8th April 1862, No. 785). If Mr. Ballard is now in a position to submit his propositions for the revision of those Establishments, he should lose no time in communicating direct with Mr. Pelly on the subject in reference to the instructions he may have received from that gentleman.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To G. A. Ballard, Esq., Collector of Malabar.

Exd. J. Wright.

Stating that if Mr. Ballard is now in a position to submit his propositions for the revision of the Village Establishments he should lose no time in communicating direct with Mr. Pelly.

No. 4,998.

Dated 6th August 1864.

No.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

1864. Department.

4/7/65

6

Revenue Department.

No. 1437

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 26th June 1865.

Read the following letter from the Honble L. Pelly, Member of the Board of Revenue

Submitting for the orders of Govt a letter from the Collr of Malabar for improving the condition of the Village servants in Malabar

(Vide Rule to 12 April 65 No 1792)

The Government admit the necessity of the present rate of pay for the Amshoms Peons, viz Rupees 2½ monthly and they consider that Mr Pelly's proposal increase to Rs 3½ is reasonable but they see no reason why - ever to anticipate that the Supreme Government will grant 10 per cent out of the Land Revenue of the Northern talukas to

to supplement the de-
ficiency and are they
satisfied that any such
arrangement is necessary
to provide funds for the
increase.

The amount of
the 10 per cent cess levied
in the Southern talukas
is now Rupees 90,069-
and the cost of the
establishment at pre-
sent is Rupees 84,495
leaving a surplus of
Rupees 5574 which is
absorbed in the general
revenues but is clearly
available for the pur-
pose for which the cess
is levied.

The additional
charge involved in the
proposed increase Rs
pay is Rs. 10,500. or
Rs 4,926 more than the
available assets.

But it appears
that for some years
past the surplus pro-
-ceeds of the cess be-
-yond the cost of the
establishment have
been absorbed in the
general revenues
and a refund of the
amount or a contri-
-bution equal to the
income which it would
produce if capitalized
might reasonably be
asked from the Supreme
Govt in order to effect
the very moderate im-
-provement which is
proposed - more es-
-pecially as the con-
-tribution will be
gradually reduced as
the income from the
cess increases with
the extension of cul-
-tivation in the Southern
talukas -

The

The Collector
should submit a full
statement of the amount
of the surplus ceno which
has been so absorbed
and of the interest in
it which may be
claimed prior thereto
absorption as part
of the capital and the
present time on which
interest may now be
added in consideration
to supplement
the principal and
the rate of interest
may be taken at 5
per cent.

4 Rs Honorable Col Bell Secy Govt
1 " Collector of Malabar
14 " Board of Revenue