

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 229	Press ~~Mis.~~
105-106	
Dated	6 - 2 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th February 1865.*

No. 105. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th July 1864, No. 4,299.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated Bangalore, 2nd July 1864, No. 439-13 :—

1. In continuation of my letter No. 408-12 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the copy of a letter from Captain Barber, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, objecting to the remarks of the Director of Revenue Settlement, in paragraphs 48 and 49 of his last Annual Report, and requesting that he may be called on to substantiate the charges therein brought against Survey Officers.

2. I trust the Board may see fit to accede to this reasonable request, or cause the Director of Revenue Settlement to cancel the obnoxious paragraphs which being in a public and official document require, if not proved, to be retracted in an equally public manner.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Copy of a letter from the Deputy Superintendent No. 4, Revenue Survey, to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated Palamcottah, 25th June 1864, No. 228-45.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of the Annual Report for 1863, dated 29th April 1864, on the Revenue Settlement Parties, I have the honor to request, with reference to paragraph 48 general remarks, that Mr. Master, Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, may be called upon, to prove any case in which the officers of the Survey Department have laid their own shortcomings on the Settlement Department, or that undeserved blame has been received.

2. With reference to the next paragraph, that the Settlement Department is to a certain extent at the mercy of the lowest of the Survey servants, any one of whom may attribute his short day's work to imperfect demarcation, this I most distinctly deny; on the contrary it is a difficult matter to make the Ameens or lowest of the Survey servants report the absence of demarcation marks, the villager may have been ordered to place stones round his property, but has omitted to do so, and to prevent his neglect being brought to notice will bribe the Ameen to survey his field on pegs.

3. I do not believe that the Demarcation Department can return me any sketch that has been sent to them for correction, without acknowledging that the correction was necessary, at least I am certain they have not done it, the invariable reply being that necessary steps shall be taken to rectify the demarcation errors pointed out.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

1. The Board have already, in their Proceedings dated 8th July 1864, No. 4,256, communicated to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, the remarks of the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement on Captain Hessey's letter on the same subject as that from Captain Barber now forwarded, and they deem it unnecessary to make any further reference on the subject, or to prolong a correspondence which is not likely to promote the harmonious working of the Survey and the Settlement Departments.

2. The whole correspondence will be submitted for the consideration of Government with Mr. Master's report. Meanwhile, the Board will only repeat that they do not consider the passage in Mr. Master's report to warrant the strictures that have been passed on it by the officers of the Survey Department.

3. Mr. Master expressly disavows any intention to attribute to the officers of the Survey Department any desire to make unnecessary complaints, and merely points out what is evidently the case, that any one of the lowest subordinates in the Survey Department may at any time, and almost without possibility of detection, attribute his own shortcomings to imperfect demarcation,

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6th February 1865.*

so that it is not unreasonable to suppose that the defects of the demarcation under the Settlement Department, may occasionally have been made more of than was necessary, or have been brought more prominently forward than they otherwise would have been

4. The Board see nothing in this simple statement to give reasonable ground of offence to the officers of the Survey Department.

No. 106.

ORDER THEREON, 6th February 1865, No. 229.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 4,047.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th June 1864.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated Bangalore, 27th June 1864, No. 408-12:—

1. Although I must confess Mr. Master's comments in paragraph 43 of his Annual Report are far from flattering to the Survey Department in any respect, it was not my intention to have noticed them, in the first place because changes in the Department are I believe contemplated, and in the second, because no fact to the discredit of the Survey was brought forward.

2. In justice however to Captain Hessey I do not feel justified in keeping back a letter (copy enclosed) of remonstrance from him, and now do myself the honor of enclosing it.

3. Captain Hessey has entered so fully into the subject that observations from me would seem unnecessary. I will only point out that the Survey of the twenty-five villages in the Coimbatore District was undertaken with a view of assisting the Demarcation Department, and I must say it does not appear a graceful return for this act of assistance that the Survey is twitted with the incomplete performance of a part of the Demarcation Department duty which the Survey had never undertaken.

4. At the present moment Captain Hessey, in order to aid the Demarcation Department, is, as far as he can, looking after the demarcators in the Salem District. He now objects, and naturally, to be in any way concerned with the process of Demarcation.

5. The annual report on the Survey going through the Director of Revenue Settlement, the comments of this officer can meet with no reply except by addressing the Board as I at present do. I trust the Board will think fit to shield such zealous and deserving officers as those concerned from the imputations unjustly cast on them.

Communicated to Mr. Master for any remark he may wish to offer.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, with enclosure to be returned.

Copy to Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. B. Priestley, Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 4,256.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th July 1864.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, dated Madras, 2nd July 1864; No. 818-32:—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 30th ultimo, No. —, communicating for my remarks copy of a letter from the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, with enclosure from Captain Hesse, objecting to certain observations made in paragraph 48 of my Report on Settlement operations for 1863.

2. Having, in penning the paragraph in question, most studiously avoided casting any imputations against the Survey officers, it is with no little surprise that I have perused Captain Hesse's letter. That gentleman in his own name, and in that of Mr. Beaumont, protests against the charges of dishonesty and neglect of duty which he alleges I have brought against the District Survey officers. I in my turn take leave to protest against the forced construction which Captain Hesse has thought fit to attach to my remarks, a construction which not only, they were never intended by me to bear, but which I feel sure the Board will agree with me, the language employed cannot fairly be considered as justifying. The impartial reader will not fail to see that my remarks had reference to the anomalies inseparable from the present system of working, and the present relative positions of the two Departments, while I at the same time pointed out how easily a Survey subordinate might cover his own shortcomings at the expense of the Settlement Department. That Colonel Priestley did not understand my remarks in the sense applied to them by his Deputy is clear from the first paragraph of his letter, in which he states, that until moved thereto by Captain Hesse, it was not his intention to have noticed them. Had he read the passage as involving charges against his officers, of dishonesty and neglect of duty, it is not likely he would have been content to remain silent. The Board are requested to shield the Survey officers from the unjust imputations which I am said to have cast upon them. May I also crave their protection against the unwarranted attacks made upon me by the Survey officers.

3. Referring to paragraph 10 *et seq.* of Captain Hesse's letter, I fully admit that the arrangement made, was for the Demarcation Department to place mounds of earth over the pegs driven in by the Ameens, but it must have been intended that the sites of the Khandam marks, should be indicated by pegs as well as those of the fields. In paragraph 3 of his letter to Mr. Stuart, Captain Hesse stated that the villages would be divided by the Ameens, and in paragraph 5, that the Ameens would pay every attention to the Demarcation Rules, while in paragraph 4 of his letter to my address of the 25th January last, when Acting Superintendent, he wrote regarding this very matter—"It is to be regretted that Mr. Wynch should have omitted to comply with the directions respecting the division of the villages into Khandams. There is the more excuse for him however, that he had reason to believe from the systematic disregard of the rule by the Salem demarcators, that the rule had been rescinded."

4. I have only one more remark to make in reference to this matter, and to paragraph 3 of Colonel Priestley's letter. It was at his particular request that I reluctantly allowed the twenty-five villages to be handed over for survey, undemarcated, solely to prevent the necessity of the Survey party remaining idle, as is clearly shown in my letter to the Superintendent of the 13th June 1861, No. 996 (copy enclosed). The Demarcation party had then only just arrived in Coimbatore, and naturally was not in a position to provide a tract ready demarcated, nor was it bound to do so. It was for the assistance of the Survey Department that the deviation from the course usually adopted was, as a temporary measure, sanctioned.

5. In regard to the omission alluded to in paragraph 14 of Captain Hesse's letter, it is hardly necessary for me to state that any failure to give the Survey Department credit for the full quantity of Survey areas furnished by it can only have been accidental. I am now making inquiries as to how the omission occurred, and will shortly address you requesting that the necessary correction may be made in the Statement given in the Annual Report, but I will not on that account delay the despatch of this letter.

6. The original enclosure to Colonel Priestley's letter is herewith returned.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 30th June 1864.

Despatched

Received

No. 4,047.

Communicating letter from the Superintendent Revenue Survey on the subject of the comments made in paragraph 48 of Mr. Master's annual report regarding Demarcation.

Communicating letter from the Superintendent Revenue Survey on the subject of the comments made in paragraph 48 of Mr. Master's annual report regarding Demarcation.
No. 4,047.
1864
Department.
Rev: 196/65.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement, to Major F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated Madras, 13th June 1861, No. 993.

1. In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, No. 573, and enclosures, I have the honor to observe that as the course proposed to Mr. Schnarre by Captain Hesse, viz., that the fields should be measured before being demarcated, involved an important departure from the rules, and amounted in fact to the virtual transfer of the demarcation from the Settlement to the Survey Department, I am not surprised that the former officer hesitated to adopt it without the prior sanction of superior authority, notwithstanding that he seems in the first instance to have consented to the arrangement, when in personal communication with Captain Hesse.

2. The proposal made in your report for 1859 that the demarcation should be permanently transferred to your Department, having been fully discussed at the time, and it having been determined that the operation should continue to be performed under the superintendence of this Department, I think that a departure from the authorized course can only be justified by very exceptional circumstances, and then only as a temporary arrangement. In addition to other objections it seems very undesirable, if it can possibly be avoided, for the measurements of boundaries to be made before the erection of the masonry pillars. Great inconvenience as you are aware resulted from this very cause in Rajahmundry at the commencement of the Survey there in 1858.

3. I am nevertheless fully alive to the importance of work being speedily found for the Coimbatore Survey party, and as I feel that the evil consequences which would arise from their being kept idle outweigh those which may attend a temporary deviation from the sanctioned rules, I have instructed Mr. Stuart to carry out, as a temporary measure, the arrangement agreed upon between Captain Hesse and Mr. Schnarre, but I hope it may not be necessary to continue it long. At the same time I beg you will be good enough to give directions, in the event of the field measurements being in any case found not to have been made in accordance with the marks subsequently put up; in other words, in the event of mistakes made by the Ameens in assigning limits to the fields being subsequently discovered, that such fields be at once re-measured.

4. The subject of paragraph 3 of your letter is under my consideration with the view of some better arrangement than that existing being made.

(True Copy)

(Signed) R. E. MASTER,
Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, with reference to his letter dated 27th June 1864, No. 408-12.

2. The Board regret that Captain Hesse should have taken so much umbrage at the passage in question in the Director's Report. They do not consider that its language warrants the construction he has put on it.

3. Mr. Master expressly guarded himself against the supposition of intending to impute to the Survey Department "unreasonable complaints."

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. B. Priestley, Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Copy to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director Revenue Settlement.

Ed. J. Wright.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

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2. The proposal made in your report for 1859 that the demarcation should be permanently transferred to your Department, having been fully discussed at the time, and it having been determined that the operation should continue to be performed under the superintendence of this Department, I think that a departure from the authorized course can only be justified by very exceptional circumstances, and then only as a temporary arrangement. In addition to other objections it seems very undesirable, if it can possibly be avoided, for the measurements of boundaries to be made before the erection of the masonry pillars. Great inconvenience as you are aware resulted from this very cause in Rajahmundry at the commencement of the Survey there in 1858.

3. I am nevertheless fully alive to the importance of work being speedily found for the Coimbatore Survey party, and as I feel that the evil consequences which would arise from their being kept idle outweigh those which may attend a temporary deviation from the sanctioned rules, I have instructed Mr. Stuart to carry out, as a temporary measure, the arrangement agreed upon between Captain Hesse and Mr. Schnarre, but I hope it may not be necessary to continue it long. At the same time I beg you will be good enough to give directions, in the event of the field measurements being in any case found not to have been made in accordance with the marks subsequently put up; in other words, in the event of mistakes made by the Ameens in assigning limits to the fields being subsequently discovered, that such fields be at once re-measured.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary.

To Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. B. Priestley, Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Copy to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director Revenue Settlement.

Ed. J. Wright.

Communicating to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, with remarks, letter from the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement protesting against the forced construction placed by Captain Hessey on certain remarks made in the Report on the Settlement operations for 1863.

No. 4,256.

Dated 8th July 1864.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

No.

1864.

Department.

Read in the presence of the Board of Revenue on 11th July 1864.

Rev. 19/6/65.

No. 4,299.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 11th July 1864.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, dated Bangalore, 2nd July 1864, No. 439-13:—

1. In continuation of my letter No. 403-12 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honor to submit the copy of a letter from Captain Barber, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, objecting to the remarks of the Director of Revenue Settlement, in paragraphs 43 and 49 of his last Annual Report, and requesting that he may be called on to substantiate the charges therein brought against Survey officers.

2. I trust the Board may see fit to accede to this reasonable request, or cause the Director of Revenue Settlement to cancel the obnoxious paragraphs which being in a public and official document require, if not proved, to be retracted in an equally public manner.

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2. With reference to the next paragraph that the Settlement Department is to a certain extent at the mercy of the lowest of the Survey servants any one of whom may attribute his short day's work to imperfect demarcation, this I most distinctly deny; on the contrary it is a difficult matter to make the Ameens or lowest of the Survey servants report the absence of Demarcation marks, the villager may have been ordered to place stones round his property, but has omitted to do so, and to prevent his neglect being brought to notice will bribe the Ameen to survey his field on pegs.

3. I do not believe that the Demarcation Department can return me any sketch that has been sent to them for correction, without acknowledging that the correction was necessary, at least I am certain they have not done it, the invariable reply being that necessary steps shall be taken to rectify the Demarcation errors pointed out.

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(Signed) F. J. B. PRIESTLEY, Lieutenant-Colonel,
Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

1. The Board have already, in their Proceedings dated 8th July 1864, No. 4,256, communicated to the Superintendent of Revenue Survey, the remarks of the Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement on Captain Hessey's letter on the same subject as that from Captain Barber now forwarded, and they deem it unnecessary to make any further reference on the subject or to prolong a correspondence which is not likely to promote the harmonious working of the Survey and the Settlement Departments.

2. The whole correspondence will be submitted for the consideration of Government with Mr. Master's report. Meanwhile the Board will only repeat that they do not consider the passage in Mr. Master's report to warrant the strictures that have been passed on it by the officers of the Survey Department.

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4. The Board see nothing in this simple statement to give reasonable ground of offence to the officers of the Survey Department.

(True Copies and Extract.)

R. E. Master
Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.,

with copy of Board's Proceedings, 30th June and 8th July 1864, Nos. 4,017 and 4,256.

Copy to Lieutenant-Colonel F. J. B. Priestley, Superintendent Revenue Survey.

„ to R. E. Master, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.

Exd. J. Wright.

No. 4,259.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 196.

Dated 11th July 1864.

Recd 15th July 1864
23rd Aug. 1866
E. D.

Submitting with observations letter from the Superintendent of Revenue Survey forwarded by copy of a letter from Captain Barber, Deputy Superintendent of Revenue Survey, objecting to certain charges brought by the Director of Revenue Settlement against the Survey Officers.

RECORDED.

18-229.

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