M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2858 Press ~~Mis.~~

379-380

Dated 22 — 11 — 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 379. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th November 1865, No. 7,259.

Read the following letter from the Officiating Inám Commissioner, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Coimbatore, 26th October 1865, No. 51 :—

1. I have the honor to submit the accompanying Budget Estimate, amounting to Rupees 51,476, being the proposed expenditure on account of office-work connected with the Inám Commission which will remain to be done under the superintendence of the Board of Revenue during the official year 1866-67.

2. In drawing up this Budget, I have proceeded upon the assumption that whatever may remain to be done at the end of the present official year should be completed within the next. It is obviously desirable that this should be done instead of allowing the work to be spread over a longer time to the great inconvenience of the public service.

3. I have carefully considered every item of expenditure proposed in the Budget, aided by the experience of the past, and am satisfied that on the whole it will be found not more than sufficient to accomplish everything within the next official year.

4. I shall now proceed to notice in detail the several items in the order in which they appear in the Budget Statement, giving such brief explanations as may seem called for.

5. Manager.—The reasons for which an addition of Rupees fifty is proposed to the salary of this officer are explained in a separate letter.

6. Examiners.—I have proposed that the salary of one of these should be raised to Rupees seventy-five to enable him to occupy a higher position than the others, in order that he may supply the place of the Manager whenever the latter may be absent from illness or other causes.

7. The work of the Examiners has not, from various causes beyond my control, progressed so rapidly as I could have wished. It has been very much interrupted in the current year by several of them being unavoidably called away from their legitimate work for the despatch of the current duties of the office. The same causes will continue to operate to a greater or less extent until the active operations of the Commission are brought to a close. I have therefore felt some hesitation in calculating with exact nicety the time that will be required by the Examiners, and have thought it prudent to provide for the full Staff of Examiners for the whole year.

8. Record-keeper's Department.—The establishment hitherto allowed under this head was practically very much below the actual requirements of the Department, and the want has been always made good by drawing upon the Clerks set apart for transcribing fair Registers. In the present Budget I have put it down at the proper strength, and it will not hereafter be necessary to supplement it to the sacrifice of other work.

9. English Clerks.—Since the original Registers have been transcribed they have undergone numerous corrections, none of which for want of time have

yet been transferred to the fair copies. A very large number of cases which the Copyists could not have access to, owing to their being in the Current Department at the time, and which were consequently omitted in the fair Registers have all now to be transcribed in their proper places. Though this is a desultory kind of work, and will involve much time and labor, still it is indispensable to the perfection of the Registers. When the Registers are thus rendered complete, they will have to be carefully paged and prefixed with an Alphabetical Index of the villages, without which the Registers will be useless for ready reference.

10. Considering the magnitude of clerical labor, all this is likely to call for, it is my opinion that the thirty-five Clerks I have provided for this purpose in the Budget are not more than sufficient for the task of completing the Registers in the manner I have described.

11. English Correspondence Clerks.—Although the Inám Commission, as a distinct Department, will have ceased to exist; still a good deal of correspondence with the Collectors will have to be kept up while the Registers are detained in the Board's office. For this purpose, as also for the preparation of Title Deeds for such cases as may be occasionally reported for confirmation, I have provided a few Clerks in the Budget.

12. Munshis and Gumashtas.—I cannot but apprehend that after the Commission is closed there will still remain a considerable number of Appeal Petitions and unanswered references to be disposed of. As the reports from the Tahsildars are all addressed direct to this office in the Vernacular, the services of a few Munshis and Gumashtas will be found absolutely necessary.

13. Stampers.—The work of printing the names of the villages and Talooks in the fair copies of the Registers is still much in arrears. The Government are aware, that I applied in May last for a Press for the purpose of facilitating this work; but as it has not yet been furnished from the Mint, much of the work must remain over to be executed during the next official year.

14. The Stampers will have also the additional duty of affixing to each page of Register the signature and Seal of some Officer, in attestation of the truthfulness of the duplicates, which will form in the different Collectorates the authentic Registers of the Inám titles for all purposes of reference.

15. Muchis.—More than one Muchi may not be required for the current duties of the office; but the others are intended to be employed as pasters in restoring the original Registers, which have been unavoidably subjected to much wear and tear, to a decent condition before they are deposited among the Records of the Board's office.

16. Attenders.—Of the eight, the proposed number, two will be attached to the Manager's Department, four to the Record-keeper, one to the Copyists' Department, and one to the Munshis.

17. The few other minor items of charge in the Budget call for no particular explanation.

Forwarded to the Board of Revenue for any remarks they may wish to offer, which should be submitted at an early date.

The Board will, if necessary, request Mr. Blair to come down to Madras to discuss the subject with them.

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

28th October 1865.

Received 31st October 1865.
Entered and returned 2nd November 1865.

Enclosure No. 1.

Abstract.—Estimate of Charges against Income, Revenue Department, Inám Commission, for the year ending 30th April 1867.

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1. The Board do not feel competent to express any opinion upon Mr. Blair's proposals until they have ascertained from him *precisely* what work remains to be completed.

2. In his letter to Government, under date 31st October 1864, No. 72, Mr. Blair reported that the whole of the out-door work of his Department would be finished in August of the present year—as the settlement of the Trichinopoly District would be completed by that month, and as that of the Malabar District, which was being carried out by the Collector, in communication with the Inám Commissioner, would be brought to a close at the end of the past official year. In his present report, Mr. Blair has not stated whether his anticipations, as regards either Districts, have been realized.

3. As regarded the office work, of his Department, Mr. Blair reported in the same letter that the following duties would have to be got through during the present official year:—

First.—The review of about 20,000 cases by himself and his Assistants.

Second.—The disposal of from 5,000 to 6,000 cases relating to Districts already settled, which, from their intricate and complicated nature, were likely to require careful study, or discussion, and the disposal of which had therefore been from time to time deferred.

Third.—The disposal of whole classes of Ináms in certain Districts, which involved difficult points, and regarding which information or opinion was required from the District officers.

Fourth.—The disposal of about 1,200 Appeals from, and references to, the Tahsildars in every part of the Presidency, mostly involving the decision of important Appeals, or the correction of Title Deeds already issued.

Fifth.—The disposal of about 6,000 Appeal Petitions.

4. The Board desire to know in the first place, whether all these cases have been disposed of, and they resolve to request Mr. Blair to furnish them with an Abstract Statement shewing how many cases of each of the five classes noted have been disposed of since the date of his report to Government; how many still remain for disposal; and what number are likely to remain undisposed of by the date on which Mr. Blair proposes to transfer his office to the Board of Revenue.

5. The remaining work which Mr. Blair expected to complete before the end of the current official year was,

First.—The preparation and supply to Collectors of Lists of Ináms which the Department had decided on resuming for various reasons.

Second.—The preparation of the final Abstract Register embracing more than 3,50,000 cases—this Register not having been commenced at the date of Mr. Blair's report.

Third.—The transcription of the fair Registers, which Mr. Blair estimated would be completed in the eighth month of the present year.

6. The Board presume that as regards the fair Register, at any rate, Mr. Blair's calculations have been found to be erroneous, as they observe that in his present Budget he proposes thirty-five Clerks and eight Stampers, at a cost of Rupees 12,396, for the purpose of completing these Registers. They resolve, therefore, to request him to inform them, whether such is the case, and whether his anticipations in regard to the Lists of resumed Ináms and the Abstract Registers are equally unfulfilled, and if so, to what extent.

7. The examination of the fair Registers, after they had been completely written up, was the only work which Mr. Blair expected would not be finished at the end of the current official year; and it was the completion of this work alone that the Government contemplated in their Order, dated 9th January 1865, No. 20, as devolving upon the Board of Revenue. It will be observed, however, that out of a proposed establishment, at an annual cost of Rupees 51,476, only so much of it as is represented by Rupees 26,640, or a little more than one-half, is entertained for this latter purpose. It may be inferred, therefore, that Mr. Blair contemplates transferring to the Board so much of the very important work referred to in the preceding paragraphs as may remain unfinished, when he proposes to break up the Commission, and so to throw on the Board much executive duty which hitherto has been performed by the Head of the Inám Department.

8. From Mr. Blair's remarks, in paragraphs 11 and 12 of his letter, the Board fear that at any rate a few of the cases referred to in paragraph 3 above remain yet to be disposed of. If such is the case, the Board are of opinion that it would be most inexpedient to transfer the duty of dealing with such very important matters from the hands in which it is now placed. And even should the Board be incorrect in this supposition, and should all the more important cases and questions have been already decided by Mr. Blair himself, the Board much doubt whether it would be possible for them, in addition to their present duties, to supervise in an efficient manner a quantity of minute official detail; to carry on a correspondence with the Collectors on cases which have been partially settled by another authority; and to correspond direct with the numerous Tahsildars in the Vernacular on similar cases. It must be remembered that the Manager would be the only person under the Board to take the place of the Commissioner and his numerous Assistants and Deputy Collectors in disposing of such matters, and, independent of their doubts as to the capacity of their office to supervise this work, the Board feel satisfied that the only person who can properly see to the completion of the fair Registers is the responsible Officer who has hitherto been at the head of the Department. The supervision of the mere final examination of the fair Registers would have been comparatively a simple matter; but

their preparation is a duty which the Board think properly devolves upon the Commissioner whose labors cannot be fairly viewed as closed until every Inámdar has been supplied with a Title Deed, and until every Inám case have been disposed of and entered in the fair Registers.

9. The Board will not, however, make any further remarks on the subject until they receive a reply from Mr. Blair to these Proceedings. In order to expedite matters, and to prevent any important points connected with the several Districts being overlooked, a copy of these Proceedings will be forwarded to all Collectors, with the request that they will at once report to the Board whether any such questions remain pending in their Districts, and whether the whole work of the Inám Department is completed, with the exception of the supply of the fair Registers.

No. 380. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1865, No. 2,858.

Land Revenue.

The Government will await the Board's further Proceedings in the matter.

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

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To W. T. Blair, Esq., Officiating Inam Commissioner.
" All Collectors.

Copy to W. Hudleston, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, R.D.

Exd R. H. Lee

9 January/66 No. 70-71

Rev. 1865. Department.

Proc. of Govt for Mon

No. 3254.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 13th November 1865.
Despatched 14 Dec
Received 14th

No. 7,259.

Requesting the Inam Commissioner to state precisely what work connected with the Inam Commission remains to be done during 1866-67; expressing doubts of the Board being able to undertake its supervision; and desiring Collectors to report what work belonging to the Inam Department remains to be completed in their Districts.

No 2858-22 Nov

Write Order