

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 360	Press ~~Mis.~~
363. 364	
Dated	18-2-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th February 1865.*

No. 363. Read the following letter from W. T. BLAIR, Esq., Officiating Inám Commissioner, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 23rd January 1865, No. 4 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Orders of Government, dated the 9th instant, No. 29, on my Budget Estimate for 1865-66.

2. In paragraph 12, I am directed to arrange for the early transfer of my office to Madras. While perfectly concurring with the Government that, so far as the nature of the work remaining to be done is concerned, there is no necessity for the office remaining in the Mofussil, I would venture to submit, for their consideration, the following circumstances in connection with a change of my head quarters at this stage of my work, which I have not yet had an opportunity of placing before them.

3. It is no doubt true that efficient English copyists are more easily procurable at Madras than here; but it is not of servants of this class that the office is now particularly in want. With regard to the higher grade of clerks fit for the responsible posts of Examiners, the advantage to be expected from the location of the office at Madras, would not be so decided. I have found that graduates of the College are quite willing to leave Madras on the high salaries I am now able to offer them. The difficulty hitherto experienced in filling up these posts has been from a scarcity of qualified persons even at Madras, and the impossibility of inducing them to accept employment in a Department every day approaching its termination. The most pressing work now on hand, however, is that of the Vernacular Accountants, as, until their work is quite completed, the Annual Report cannot be closed. They have a very heavy task before them for which, as the Government are aware, I have solicited extra aid; and I would submit that Vernacular Accountants trained to Cutcherry work will not be so easily procurable at the Presidency as here.

4. At Coimbatore I have the advantage of an office in the middle of the town, close to the residences of most of the servants, the work of the great majority of whom is regulated by task. They are thus enabled to attend in the mornings, in addition to the regular office hours, and when the pressure of business demands it, whole departments are called upon to work extra hours. This could not be expected of them at Madras, scattered as they would be over different quarters of a large town possibly miles away from the office.

5. I feel that I have incurred a great responsibility in promising to complete my work by the end of the calendar year; and I know that this cannot be done except by a great and sustained effort for the whole time by every grade of servant in the office. I cannot but feel that a transfer of the office to Madras would put it out of the power of the servants to perform the hard and unremitting work that will be required of them.

6. With regard to the saving of batta which Government allude to in paragraph 11, as an additional reason for the removal of the Central Office, I would solicit the indulgent attention of Government to the following observations: The Government are not perhaps aware that, with the exception of a few clerks taken from Madras, most of whom have long since left the Commission, the bulk of the establishment was recruited in the Northern Circars and subsequently added to from North Arcot, Coimbatore, Tanjore, and other Districts. At present out of 122 persons, the total number on the roll above the grade of peons, only 20 can be said to belong to Madras, the rest being from the Districts already mentioned. Their transfer to Madras, where they would be put to additional expense for house rent, conveyance-hire to office, and living generally, would not, I trust, under these circumstances, be deemed a sufficient ground for discontinuing their

* G. O. dated 15th November 1861, No. 553, Financial Department.

"batta." The correspondence quoted in the Orders* of Government passing batta and mileage to the establishment of the Commissioner will show that the former was considered as subsistence money to the servants while away from their homes, and I have already stated that Madras would be to five-sixths of my office as

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strange a place as any in the Presidency. I therefore hope that Government would not insist on depriving the Department of their batta at Madras, and that a few thousand Rupees would be no consideration to them when saved out of the allowances of a temporary establishment which has rendered good service, has still very heavy work to perform, and the future prospects of the members of which are avowedly uncertain.

7. The saving to Government from the stoppage of the Commissioner's travelling allowance, would in all probability be counterbalanced by the rent of a building for my office at Madras, and by such allowances as the Government might direct that I should revert to with reference to their original Orders* on the subject.

* G. O. dated 26th September 1860, No. 711, Revenue Department.

8. For all the foregoing reasons, I would suggest to Government that my office be allowed to remain where it is until the end of the present calendar year. Should they, however, still be of opinion that it should be moved to Madras, I beg to be informed whether Government can provide accommodation in any of their public buildings, or whether they would expect me to find it myself by renting a suitable house and charging the amount of rent in a contingent bill.

9. In conclusion, I beg to assure the Government that I would have readily acted in pursuance of their orders, had I not felt that, by so doing, my work would be seriously retarded. Nothing but my great anxiety to redeem my promise regarding the completion of my work within the present calendar year has induced me to trouble the Government with this communication.

No. 364.

ORDER THEREON, 18th February 1865, No. 360.

Miscellaneous.

Under the circumstances represented by the Acting Inám Commissioner, the Government consent to the retention of the Central Office at Coimbatore; but the travelling allowance and batta to the Commissioner and his Establishment must cease.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Inám Commissioner.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Civil Paymaster.
„ Accountant General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

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G.O. to 15th Feb 1865
1865

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I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

W. W. W. W.
Off. Indian Commissioner

Comptd. D. S.

