

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 993	Press ~~Mis.~~
215. 216	
Dated	11-5-1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th May 1865.*

No. 215. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue :—

Submitting Board's views on the subject
of the proposed reduction of the num- } (Here enter 1st Dec. 1864, No. 7,733.)
ber of Treasuries.

No. 216. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1865, 993.

Land Revenue.

1. The Government concur with the Board of Revenue that any further consolidation of Treasuries is impossible. By the recent revision of Establish- ment the number of Talook Treasuries has been reduced from 238 to 156, and the Talooks are now so large that any further amalgamation of them or reduction of Treasuries is quite out of the question. The minor Treasuries at Sub-Magistrate stations, Salt Depôts, Customs Houses, &c., are really merely receiving houses, and the services of a Shroff, the only servant allowed in any case in connection with the cash transactions, are granted only where the receipts and disbursements are large.

2. The Government of India have doubtless been misled by these petty stations being entered in the Financial Returns, as if they were real Treasuries, but this, as the Board remark, is the consequence of a more correct system of account being now pursued. Formerly, the collections at these places did not appear in the Collector's accounts until they reached his Treasury, now, however, the whole collections of each month appear in the Collector's monthly account, and the sum not actually received into his Treasury appears as a cash balance in the station. This accounts also, in some measure, for the apparent increase in the cash balances, which are further swelled in appearance by the returns being closed just before the remittance of each month's surplus receipts.

3. The only two treasuries, regarding the retention of which any special mention is necessary, are those at the Office of the Collector of Madras at Sydapett, and at the Madras Sea Customs House. The latter is not a Treasury, but simply a receiving house, the receipts are sent every evening to the Madras Bank, except on the last day of the month when enough money is retained to pay the Establishment on the following day. The Government originally withdrew even the accommodation which the receipt of Customs dues at the Office afforded; but the inconvenience to the mercantile community was so great, that the arrangement was reverted to.

4. The Sydapett Treasury is as necessary as any other Treasury at a Collector's head quarters, the expediency of abolishing it has been very carefully considered, and decided in the negative; and the reasons which led to the latter decision continue in full force.

5. In fact the thorough revision which the whole of the Revenue Establishments of the Presidency have undergone, leaves no room for further reduction.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

The Financial Secy.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

amalgamation

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 1st December 1864.

Read the following Proceedings of Government, dated 7th September 1864, No. 1,625 :—

ABSTRACT.—Referring to the Board for report, in communication with the Accountant General, a Resolution of the Government of India, on the subject of reducing the number of Treasuries.

1. In the above Order, Government, with reference to the Resolution of the Government of India, desire the Board to report, in communication with the Accountant General, as to whether any reduction can be made in the number of Treasuries. As the Board find nothing on which to consult the Accountant General, they will submit their views on the subject.

2. In paragraph 8 of the Resolution, the Governor General in Council expresses an opinion that reduction in some Districts and Provinces may be eventually effected by the consolidation of petty Treasuries, as well as of those which render accounts direct to the Account Department; and allusion is made in the margin of that paragraph to the petty Treasuries being numerous in the Madras Presidency. There is apparently some misapprehension on this point, and it is desirable to remove it. The Board have reason to believe that the several stations entered in the monthly Cash Balance Reports furnished by Collectors to the Accountant General, are supposed to be regular Treasuries; but this is not really the case. Most of them, as the Sub-Magistrates' stations, Sea Custom Ports, Land Custom Chowkies, and Stamp Vendors' stations, which are entered in the Cash Balance Reports of the Collectors, have not regular Treasuries.

3. Under the old system of accounts, the collections made at these places on account of Government revenue, were never admitted into the Collectors' general accounts, unless they had actually reached the Huzur Treasury; and the cash balance remaining at the end of each month never appeared as a balance at credit in the public accounts. This system caused endless differences and confusion in the accounts, and was accordingly given up; and the whole month's collections are now included in the Huzur accounts, with reference to the monthly returns received from each station, in order to maintain due agreement between the several returns; but as the money collected in the latter part of each month cannot reach the Treasury within the same month, it is necessarily entered in the Cash Balance Report as the balance remaining at these places, though it will be received into the regular Treasury in the early part of the following month. This fact has led to these petty receiving or collecting offices being viewed as similar to the regular Treasuries in the Districts. No disbursements are allowed at them. Whatever money is collected into them is remitted once in five or ten days to the nearest Taluk Treasuries. There are neither special guards, nor any other separate establishment allowed for them.

4. Each District has one Sudder or Huzur Treasury which is at the Collector's head-quarter's station, and into it the entire collections of the District are received. Besides this Huzur Treasury, there are Treasuries at each of the Taluk Kusbah stations in charge of the Tahsildar of the Taluk, and also at some of the Sub-Magistrates' stations in Zemindary tracts where large collections are made on account of water tax and other items. These Sub-Magistrates' Treasuries have no establishment beyond one Shroff on Rupees 10 per month; and while the cost is trifling, the convenience of having these petty Treasuries is considerable. The Taluk Treasuries have been reduced in number by the amalgamation of Taluks in the late revision from 238 to 156. The newly formed Taluks are already very extensive, and comprise many hundreds of villages, many of which are so far removed from the Taluk Kusbah stations that the remittances from them to the Taluk Treasuries have to halt at several intermediate places, where they are necessarily exposed to the danger of being plundered. It should be remembered that these village remittances are everywhere conveyed by the village servants, few in number, and unaccompanied by any armed escort; and that, by further increasing the distances over which the remittances will have to travel if the Treasuries are consolidated, the chances of being exposed to danger on the road will become more numerous.

amalgamation

5. The Board observe, also, that by any further consolidation of the Taluk Treasuries, there is not likely to be any saving on the Revenue Establishment of the Taluk; for there is no separate Establishment for the Treasury except a single Shroff on Rupees 15 in ordinary Taluks, or two such servants on Rupees 15 and 10 respectively in some of the large Taluks. The duties of these Shroffs consist in counting the money received into the Treasury, rejecting counterfeit coins, and making all disbursements from it. The payments are numerous, and have to be made to all the Public Departments in the Taluk, such as the Public Works, Judicial, Medical, Educational, and Ecclesiastical, &c., Departments. The accounts of all receipts and disbursements which are kept in the Taluk, including those sent to the Huzur Treasury, are prepared by the Taluk Gumastahs, in addition to their other important general duties. The number of these Gumastahs allowed for each Taluk is very limited, and they cannot be further reduced under any circumstances. The only saving therefore which can be effected by the consolidation of Treasuries, is in the establishment of Shroffs; and if in one Taluk these servants are dispensed with, and the expenditure thereby slightly reduced, it will be necessary to incur an equal, if not larger additional expenditure in the adjoining Taluk Treasury, in which the business will be correspondingly increased.

6. In the Salt Department, the number of divisions and sale depôts in each District has been greatly reduced, partly by amalgamation, and partly by abolition. Each of the divisions and sale depôts, as newly constituted, has a Treasury or cash chest, but they are not all provided with a separate Treasury Establishment. Only those divisions and depôts in which the sales of salt exceed 20,000 Indian Maunds a year are allowed a Shroff, on a monthly salary of Rupees 15 or 10, according as the sales exceed or fall short of one lac of Indian Maunds; and besides this Shroff there is no other Treasury Establishment. The work of preparing all the accounts of the division devolves, as in the case of the Taluks, on the Division Gumastahs, in addition to their other heavy and responsible duties in connection with the manufacture and sale of salt, and the salaries cannot, therefore, tend to produce any material saving, while much inconvenience will doubtless result from the measure, in consequence of the numerous and frequent payments which will have to be made to the manufacturers. Similarly, in the Sea and Land Customs Departments, a single Shroff is allowed for the Treasury, but only at certain ports and chowkies where the collections are large, and where consequently the services of a single servant of this class were necessary. In the majority of these cases, the Treasuries are situated so far apart from each other, that the abolition of any one of them cannot be accomplished without serious inconvenience, and much confusion in the public accounts. With reference to a call made by the Inspector General of Police in India, which was communicated to the Board with the Order of Government in the Judicial Department, dated 15th December 1863, a Statement was submitted to Government with the Board's letter, dated 26th March 1864, showing the number of Treasuries of all kinds in this Presidency, with information on some other points. The Board, however, deem it proper to repeat here that the number of Treasuries, which may be properly so-called, is only 251 in the whole Presidency, as particularized below:—

Sudder Treasuries in nineteen Districts...	19
Branch Treasuries at Ramnad in Madura, and Cannanore in Malabar...	2
Taluk Treasuries ...	156
Sub-Magistrate's station in Zemindary tracts at which there are large receipts and disbursements ...	4
Sea Custom ports for which Shroffs are allowed, the receipts being large	5
Salt Division Treasuries in which receipts and disbursements are large, and for which a Shroff is allowed...	59
Land Custom Treasuries do. do. ...	6
Total ...	251

7. In regard to the other points noticed in the Resolution of the Government of India, the Board are not called upon to offer any remarks, but they deem it not out of place to record a few observations regarding the Revenue Establishments, both permanent and temporary, of the Collectories of this Presidency, as the subject of establishments is under consideration.

8. In respect to the concluding part of paragraph 3 of the Resolution inviting the local Governments to consider measures tending to bring the expenditure on Revenue Establishments within more reasonable limits, the Board beg to state that the establishments of the Collectories of this Presidency have been, in the recent revision, so carefully scrutinized, and reduced to the narrowest possible limits consistently with efficiency, that there is scarcely room for any further reduction. First, as regards the Land Revenue Establishments; these have been considerably reduced by the amalgamation of Taluks, and thus diminishing their number as already stated. The establishments on the new scale were fixed with reference to the actual requirements of each Taluk after careful consideration, and salaries at uniform rates were introduced. The same principle was followed in revising the Huzur or Collector's office establishment, and those of his subordinates, Covenanted and Uncovenanted, and the establishments thus carefully revised will admit of no further reduction.

9. As to the other branches of revenue, no establishments are maintained for the collection of Abkarry Revenue, except in the Town of Madras, where alone it is under the direct management of Government. For the other departments, as Salt, Sea and Land Customs, and Taluk Tappa, establishments have been recently organized in lieu of the old establishments, though, in some cases, on a more liberal footing. The new scheme in each of these cases was fully discussed, and was, after mature consideration, approved by the Government of India.

10. The temporary establishments have, as the Government are aware, been, during the last two or three years, brought under the most careful scrutiny and check. They come annually under review in estimates submitted by the Collectors for the establishments required by them for the ensuing year, and these estimates, before being sent up to Government for sanction, are carefully reviewed, and any establishments that appear unnecessary are recommended to be disallowed. In every case in which a recommendation is made by the Board for the continuance or entertainment of a temporary establishment, they first obtain full explanation from the Collector, and satisfy themselves as to the actual necessity of the case. By such careful and systematic check and control, the temporary establishments have been greatly reduced, and they have been altogether dispensed with in several Districts. They exist now in only a few Districts, and are employed on special work which will bring a return to Government far in excess of the cost of the establishment. In some Districts, in which large tracts of waste land were applied for under the rules recently published for their sale, small temporary establishments are employed for surveying the lands; but the cost of the survey is recovered from the purchasers of the lands. The only large temporary establishment now maintained, is under the head of Land Revenue, in the District of Malabar, for conducting the business connected with the sale of the Jenm, or proprietary right in estates which have escheated to the State. The sale of this right does not of course affect the right of the State to the annual assessment on the lands, which will be received as usual. The Government have already received about nine lacs of

	Rupees.
1 Serishtadar for twelve months...	2,400
2 Head Gumastahs do. do. ...	1,680
12 Inspectors do. do. ...	5,400
18 Gumastahs do. do. ...	8,780
3 Attenders do. do. ...	168
18 Peons do. do. ...	1,296
2 Inspectors do. do. ...	2,400
2 Batta do. do. ...	1,200
Do. to arbitrators ...	2,000
Total...	20,324

Rupees from this extraordinary source up to the end of the past official year, and it is estimated to yield a further sum of about 15 lacs of Rupees. The continuance of an establishment for this purpose, which on an average costs about Rupees 20,000 annually, including batta, is therefore indispensably necessary.

amalgamation

11. In the Salt Department, large temporary establishments were formerly maintained in almost every Maritime District, in consequence of the utter inadequacy of the permanent establishment sanctioned for that Department. In the new scale recently sanctioned, the requirements were altogether dispensed with. The same is the case with the Sea Customs Department, and, except a small establishment in Malabar, costing Rupees 750 annually, to check smuggling at certain ports, no temporary establishment is now maintained in any District. The sanction of the Government of India for the new scale of the Taluk Tappal establishments has been but recently received, and simultaneously with its introduction, the temporary establishments in that Department also will be discontinued. Thus it will be seen that the temporary establishments in the Collectorates of this Presidency have been brought within the narrowest limits, and the few still in existence, such as those for copying and arranging records, &c., will be discontinued as soon as the work is completed.

(A true Extract)

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

Secretary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Submitting Board's views on the subject of the proposed reduction of the number of Treasuries.

Dated 1st December 1864.

Bo. P. 3-08-02

No. 7,733.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

No. 3/43.

Rev.

1864.

Department.

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

Revenue Department.

993.

No. 7,733.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 11th May 1865.

Read the following

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(Here enter No. of the Prop. No. 7,733)

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14 To the Board of Revenue Dec 15 1864
2 The General Secy N

Revenue 1865 Sept.
Pro of Govt. for May

P. 993.

Pro of the Madras Govt.
17th May/65.

Financial Dept. 23 June/65

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Pro of the Madras Govt. in mind
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Reviewing the Pro
of Board on the subject
of reduction of Expenditure.

215-216.