M.R.O. 14 - 5,451 - 23-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1131 Press Mis.

Dated 12 - 5 - 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 219. Read the following letter from the Officiating Inám Commissioner, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Coimbatore, 1st May 1866, No. 31 :—

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, dated 27th February 1866, No. 525, on the subject of the Inám work that still remains to be done in all the Districts of the Presidency.

2. I have not yet received the reports from the Collectors of Godavery, Madras, Madura, and Salem ; but I do not consider it necessary to defer this report pending their receipt.

3. Subsequently to the reports made by the Collectors, a large number of the Ináms has been struck off the file and fully assessed by this Department, owing to the non-appearance of the parties within the time prescribed by the rules.

4. A statement of the Ináms still remaining unsettled in the different Districts is appended.

5. It will be observed that there are 191 Inám villages, and 3,201 minor Ináms to be settled in the whole Presidency, Malabar and Canara excepted, whose Inám Settlement has been wholly entrusted to the District authorities.

6. A large number of the Inám villages (92) belongs to the Chuttrums of the late Rajah of Tanjore. They were left unsettled, pending the decision of the general question, as to whether they were cognizable by this Department or not. The matter has been now finally decided, and as the Collector himself observes, there is no difficulty whatever in registering these villages. The area of each village and the institution to which it belongs has to be simply recorded.

7. The minor Ináms are all under attachment, and they consist mostly of unprofitable lands, or those for which there are no real owners ; and I have no doubt that nearly half of them will have to be simply fully assessed and incorporated with Government land, at the expiration of the period of attachment. All these Ináms, excepting those in Tinnevelly and Trichinopoly, the settlement of which Districts has been but recently brought to a close, should have been struck off the file and fully assessed long ago ; but I regret that the preliminary process of placing them under attachment for a period of one year was not carried out at the proper time, and the pressure of other work has been so heavy that I have only lately been able to rectify the omission. In the District of Godavery, however, I am given to understand that the Collector ordered all the unsettled Ináms to be placed under attachment soon after the Deputy Collector of this Department left his District. I have requested the Collector to furnish information on the subject, on the receipt of which I hope to be able to incorporate a large number of these cases with Government lands at once.

8. In the District of Tinnevelly a large number of the Ináms consists of lands held on Wavariyayet or favorable assessment. The holders, it would appear, prefer to have their lands treated as Aiyan, and consequently would not attend before the Deputy Collector. I have requested the Collector to incorporate them with Aiyan, after ascertaining the wishes of the parties.

9. Besides the Ináms shewn in the accompanying Statement, there is in the Districts of Godavery and Kistna, a certain class of special tenures, known as a Asalminaha gardens and Patiperadús. The orders of Government which directed

these tenures to be treated as Ináms having been received at the last stage of the settlement of those Districts, the enquiry into them was not completed, nor a correct list of cases left unsettled made out; but I have since been able to dispose of a large number of them through the assistance of the Collectors and their Tahsildars, and the number still remaining in the two Districts will not, I believe, exceed five or six hundred. These *special tenures not being bona fide* Ináms, it is entirely optional with the holders to have them treated as Ináms or not, and I have consequently requested the Collectors to issue a general Notification, informing the parties that any claim to have these tenures treated as Ináms will not be admitted after a certain date.

10. I have carefully considered the subject of these arrears, and it appears to me that the best mode of disposing of them is to leave them to the District authorities. The work that remains to be done is of a desultory character, the Ináms being scattered over a large number of villages in all parts of the Districts, the Inámdars are not, as a rule, residents of the villages in which the Ináms are situated, and the information required from the Collectors is not always readily available. Under these circumstances, I think that to employ any special agency for the disposal of these stray cases would be bad economy. The time of any Officers employed exclusively in such work, must necessarily be, to a great extent, wasted in travelling and in waiting for the attendance of the parties, which would not be the case if the task was undertaken by the local authorities. The cases will only come up gradually, and considering their small number, I do not think that the settlement of them by the District authorities would prove so onerous as at all materially to interfere with the transaction of other business. I would also observe, with reference to the remark in paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, that "difficult and complicated cases have been postponed for future enquiry," that so far as my knowledge of these cases extends, they are not of a more difficult character than ordinary.

11. I must also admit that besides leaving these cases for eventual settlement by the District authorities, I am largely availing myself of the assistance of the Collectors and Tahsildars in obtaining information on various points in connection with the cases already settled by the Deputy Collectors of this Department. There are now about 1,500 cases, besides a considerable number of petitions left unsettled, pending the receipt of information from the Collectors or Tahsildars. Petitions received from parties offering explanations of the delay which has led to their Ináms being fully assessed, are also referred to the Collectors under the recent Order of Government, dated 3rd January last, Petition Department; but all necessity for references to the Collectors will shortly cease as no petitions are to be admitted after the 30th June.

12. It has been my study, as well as that of Mr. Taylor, to avoid as much as possible encroaching upon the time of the Collectors and their subordinate Officers, but in such a large undertaking, involving an investigation into the titles of upwards of 3,80,000 cases, it has been found impossible to do so entirely. The number of cases left in arrear throughout the Presidency is only 3,392, or less than 1 per cent. of the whole number brought under settlement. Such a contingency

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
12th May 1866.

was fully foreseen at the very commencement of the Commission, and a provision was accordingly made in the rules that the work necessarily undisposed of by the officers of the Commission should be taken up by the District authorities.

No. 220. ORDER THEREON, 12th May 1866, No. 1,131.

Land Revenue

Referred to the Board of Revenue for their remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Officiating Inám Commissioner.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Dr. 1131.

Referred to the Board of
Revenue for their remarks

J.S.

[illegible] Board of Rev. Dec. 15 Inst.
& [illegible] Answer Accordingly

12th. Jany 1786.

Reg. No. 577-183 27.2.65

Regn. Bal. of Rec. D 1/6/66