M.R.O. 14-5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3349 Press ~~Mis.~~

168.169

Dated 12-12-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 168. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th November 1866, No. 8,029.

Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cuddalore, 22nd October 1866, No. 208 :—

1. I have long contemplated the appointment of a European or East Indian as the Superintendent of Salt at Merkanum, but no one whom I could consider sufficiently competent, or possessed of the needed qualifications, has offered himself, and consequently I have not moved in the matter.

2. Late events at Merkanum, as disclosed in the investigations held in the case of the salt servants of that station who were convicted by Mr. Hughesdon, my Head Assistant, have confirmed me in the resolve to nominate either European or East Indian in the important and responsible post of Superintendent ; and if, as I understand, Government are of opinion that the Deputy Collector in special charge of the salt should be a European, and not a Native, I think the same considerations and even weightier ones point with equal force to the necessity there exists that a European or East Indian be the local executive head of so large a depôt ; and I have now, accordingly, to submit to the Board my proposal that a Mr. Thompson, at present an Overseer in the Public Works Department, be appointed. Mr. Thompson draws 90 Rupees, besides travelling allowance in his present post, but he desires office in the Revenue Department. Colonel Foord bears high testimony to Thompson's efficiency and qualifications. He is thoroughly conversant with Tamil, which he can both read and write as any Native, and he is an excellent Accountant.

3. It is too late now for Thompson to pass the Salt Test Examination ; but he is quite willing to present himself in next year, or whenever required to do so ; and therefore, adverting to his other qualities, and to his being almost a European, and a man of unexceptionable character, I earnestly solicit the sanction of the Board for his employment as proposed. I require their sanction prior to his actual appointment, to prevent all further difficulty on the part of the Pay Department, Thompson not having as yet passed the prescribed test ; but I am sanguine that, in the public interests, sanction will at once be accorded. The present young man who is acting is a Brahmin, and though he has passed in the Salt test is too young, and, in my opinion, he is not the man for carrying on so important and responsible a trust. Moreover, he could not, on any emergency, hold his position, in my belief, with the Police, who are at all times somewhat too ready to lord it over the native revenue servants in a manner which they would not dare to attempt with one of European descent ; and, while appreciating the usefulness of the Police as a check, I consider it is very necessary that the head of the department, whom they are supposed to aid, should be practically the head, as well as ostensibly so.

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1. The Board believe that the Collector is in error in supposing that the Government desire the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department to be a European, rather than a Native, for the inevitable excessive exposure to the sun, involved in working the department efficiently, is too trying for the European constitution.

2. They, however, gather from Mr. Reade's letter, that his nominee is an East Indian, and a man well qualified for the office, and they therefore resolve to request the sanction of Government for the proposed appointment, on the condition that Mr. Thompson passes the test next year.

No. 169. ORDER THEREON, 12th December 1866, No. 3,349.

Separate Revenue, No. 9.
Salt.

1. Mr. Reade, as the Board point out, is mistaken in supposing that the Government wish or intend to reserve the office of Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department for Europeans or East Indians, to the exclusion of Natives. In fact Deputy Collectors in the department who are doing good service are Natives, and the selection of officers for these posts is influenced by the qualifications and not the nationality of the individual.

2. The main ground of Mr. Reade's recommendation of Mr. Thompson being thus based on an error, the Government will withhold their sanction until he informs them whether there is no passed officer of experience in the Revenue or Salt Department of the district possessing equal qualifications for the post. If there be no such officer available, Mr. Thompson can be appointed with propriety, otherwise his appointment would be injurious to the department, and unjust to the individual superseded.

3. With regard to the alleged domineering tendency of the Police, Mr. Reade, as Magistrate of the District, has the remedy in his own hands. There is no reason why a Native Superintendent of Salt, if he knows his duty and does it efficiently and honestly, should have more difficulty than a Native Tahsildar, in maintaining his position with the Police.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Mr. Reade is in error in sup-
-posing that it was intended to reserve
the post of Deputy Collector in the Salt
Dept for Europeans or East Indians
to the Exclusion of Natives. The
main ground of his recommenda-
tion of Mr Thompson being thus
based on a mistake, the
Government cannot sanction the ap-
-pointment, unless he

12th December 1866.

H

Gen Reade, a.a. the Ad. Genl Lorieto, is instructed that the Lieutenancy put with a view to reserve the offices of Deputy Clks in charge of the Late Depts. for Europeans or Eurasians & to the Exclusion of Natives - the functions of the Deputy Clks in the Depts are Ministerial and the Selection of officers for these posts is influenced by the qualifications that the Natives also

N. JP WDR

Ex. for Diddy Nara-singa Row in favour of the late Narrainsamy in Mellore - letter).

of the civil Service.

The main point of which Mr Reade recommendation of Mr Thompson being there based on an error in the fact will not hold them sanction until the information therein be verified as required in the Revenue Act of the Revenue of Salt Dist^t of the District possessing such qualifications for the post. If there be no such officer available, Mr Thompson can be transferred with his priority. Mr Reade his appointment until he qualifies to the Dept and appoint to the civil service to succeed.

With regard to the alleged dominancy tendency of the Mr Reade, as Magistrate of the District, has the remedy in his own hands. There is no reason why a native chief of talent if he learns his duty and does it efficiently and honestly, should have more difficulty than a native Collector, in maintaining his position with the police.

J. D.

14 Feb. The Board of Revenue Decr
& the Accountant Genl

Revenue 1866 Depart
Pro of Govt for December

A. 3349

Pro of the Madras Govt
Dy 12th December 1866.

Pro Bof Rev. dy 17 Jany 67
6 No 193.

Requesting the Collr of
South Arcot to report
if there are no licensed
or qualified Medl men in the
Revenue or Salt depts
to file up the appointment
of Meer Kaseem Salt Inspector
Cuddalore Chuppa

A. 1684 169