M.R.O. 14-5,450-22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 924	Press / Mis.
Dated 20-4-	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 20th April 1866.

No. 298. Read the following letter from the Collector of South Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Perambay, 16th March 1866, No. 6:—

1. In the "Fort Saint George Gazette" of the 13th March 1866, I observe the transfer to Trichinopoly of Mahomed Esuff Saib, the Deputy Collector in charge of the Salt Department in this District.

2. It is not of course for me to object to the arrangements by Government for disposing of the services of its servants, but I am necessarily not uninterested in a change which, I fear, may prove injurious to the public revenue, especially at this juncture, when the salt manufacture is at its height, and when it is proposed to re-place an experienced and thoroughly qualified officer by one who is an inexperienced, and who is only just emerging from boyhood. I allude to Mr. Thomas, who is only about eighteen years of age, and is thus suddenly called on to control a large Department, with a revenue of upwards of six lacs of Rupees.

3. Besides this, I would observe that extensive changes in the platforms and pans of the various depôts are on the eve of taking place, and with all the details of which Mahomed Esuff is perfectly *au fait*, and these will require considerable oversight and watching, so that I can but feel regret at the removal of the Salt Deputy Collector at this particular time; and as I shall myself be employed on the settlement duty for the next two months, and my time will thus be fully engaged, I would, with all deference, urge on the Government the importance of continuing Mahomed Esuff Saib in charge of the Department, if not permanently, at all events until the close of the present manufacturing season, for I cannot avoid the fear that otherwise the Salt revenue may suffer.

4. The revenue has of late greatly increased, and is steadily increasing, and in justice I can but attribute this progressive improvement over past years, in great measure, to the tact and energy exercised by the Deputy Collector over the interests of the Department immediately subject to him, and it becomes a question whether those interests may not be affected by his sudden removal, and then committed into the hands of one so very young and inexperienced as Mr. Thomas.

5. I desire to add, that in what I have said of Mr. Thomas I do not wish to be understood as detracting from his merits, because I have always found him a very willing, active, and able assistant, in all matters which have been entrusted to him, and my belief that he is not fitted to hold so important a charge with so large a revenue can surely not be viewed as any reflection on him as a public officer. Young men must learn their work before they are qualified to manage a separate and extensive Department, and in former days it will be recollected that no Covenanted Officer ever was permitted to superintend the details of the Salt revenue, except under the immediate orders of the Collector, so that I trust Government may be induced, at least, to postpone the transfer of the present Deputy Collector until the season now going on is brought to a close.

6. I have desired Mahomed Esuff to continue at his post, and not to resign charge of his Department pending the result of this reference, and to which I solicit the early orders of Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th April 1866.

No. 209. ORDER THEREON, 20th April 1866, No. 924.

Miscellaneous.

The Government will permit Deputy Collector Mahomed Eusaf to remain in the South Arcot District until the end of July, and during this period Mr. Thomas should accompany him in his visits to the depôts, and thus be initiated in his future duties.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Collector of South Arcot.
,, the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 924.

The pt. will permit Dep. Coll. Mahomed Eusaf to remain in the S. Arcot District until the end of July & during this period Mr. Thomas should accompany him in his visits to the depots & thus be initiated in his future duties.

N.

20th April 1866.

To the Collector of South Arcot &c. &c. &c.
To the Board of Revenue &c. &c. &c.
To the Accountant General &c. &c. &c.