M.R.O. 14–5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2844 Press ~~Mis.~~

485. 486

Dated 20- 10- 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 485. From the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Madras, 27th September 1866, No. 6,953:—

1. I am directed by the Board of Revenue to reply to Government Order, dated 18th May 1866, No. 1,179, Revenue Department, communicating to the Board a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, calling for a report on certain suggested changes in the form of the Annual Trade Returns.

2. In paragraph 1 of the Proceedings of the Government of India, dated 25th October 1865, No. 3,138, Financial Department, prescribing certain Monthly Trade Returns to be made to the Supreme Government, it was stated that it was not "intended to dispense with the Annual Returns to the Home Government, or to "abridge the detail in them, or to interfere with their compilation *under the orders* "*of the local Governments.*"

3. The Board accordingly obtained permission to adopt, for the Annual Returns to the Home Government, the new forms prescribed for the Monthly Return to be made by the Board to the Supreme Government, to obviate the necessity of re-casting the District details monthly into two distinct sets of forms; one for the submission monthly to the Supreme Government; one to form part, and to be the basis for the whole of the Annual Returns to the Home Government.—(See Government Order, dated 27th April 1866, No. 1,005, Revenue Department.)

4. It was considered that there could be no objection to this change, as the forms for the Monthly Returns sent hence to Calcutta are the same as those adopted by the Home Board of Trade.

5. The result of these several changes has been as follows:—

Formerly, there were received *four* Monthly Trade Returns from each Coast District, which were posted up as received into a set of Annual Returns in the same form for each District, from which a General Return also in the same forms for the whole Presidency of Import, Exports, Re-Exports, and Tonnage, shewing quantities, values, and duty, with a few brief comparative abstracts were prepared.

Now, there are received *nine* Monthly Statements from each District, from which eighteen Monthly Returns are prepared and sent to Calcutta, and the Board had intended, under the Government sanction above quoted, to post up fifteen of these Monthly Returns with an additional Tonnage Statement to form the Annual Returns to the Home Government, in lieu of the fifty-two Returns hitherto sent in.

6. It should be explained that there are twelve Coast Districts from which Returns are received, and thus—

$12 \times 4 =$	48 District Returns.
	4 General do.
Total...	52

7. When applying for the Government sanction, the Board pointed out that if the old forms were retained in addition to the new ones, the establishment for their preparation must be considerably increased. The Government will observe that, even under the present sanction, 108 District Monthly Returns have to be re-cast into eighteen General Monthly Returns for Calcutta, and of these, fifteen

would have to be posted up for the Annual Home Returns; so that the work has been already greatly increased.

8. From the present letter from the Government of India, it would however appear that the old forms of Returns are to be retained *in addition* to the new, and the Board beg to state distinctly, that if it be resolved to retain the Annual District Returns in the old form, or in a modified form, the work cannot be done with the present establishment.

9. The Government will understand that the preparation of the Annual Returns cannot be postponed till the end of the year, when it might be possible to pick out the items from the Returns for the twelve months. Such an arrangement would involve excessive delay, which cannot be permitted, and consequently the Returns must be posted up monthly.

10. Consequently, if the old forms are to be retained in addition to the new, it will be necessary every month to *re-cast* the (12 × 9) 108 District Monthly Returns into the eighteen Monthly Returns for Calcutta, and also into the (12 × 4) 48 District Returns, which were hitherto simply *compiled* for the year by posting up the four Monthly Returns from each District.

11. The Board need scarcely remark on the great amount of additional labo. that this will entail; but this is not all. The letter from the Supreme Government suggests a modification in the form of the Annual Returns, which, as the Board understand it, would increase their number from four to seven, with four more Statements for check or proof which would be filed as record, and that the Comparative Abstracts would be cast in the form of the Statistical Returns Nos. 1 to 16 of Appendix A. of the Financial Resolution of 25th October 1865.

12. Not having seen these forms last referred to, the Board cannot form any opinion as to the effect of adopting them in lieu of the abstracts in the present Annual Trade Returns; but on the first part of the proposal, they observe that the effect would be that the 108 Monthly District Returns would have to be re-cast into the eighteen Monthly Returns for Calcutta, and also into the (12 × (7 + 4 =) 11) 132 forms to be posted up to form the Annual District Returns, and from which the eleven General Returns would have to be compiled. The present establishment is insufficient for the performance of this heavy additional work.

13. But the Board are not certain that the Supreme Government *do* contemplate retaining the District Annual Returns, and if not, then they admit that the proposed modification in the Annual Returns would be a great relief to the establishment, though they doubt whether it would be an improvement in the form.

14. It is objected at paragraph 6 of the letter from the Supreme Government that the present form fails to shew *in one view* the trade in each article *and* with each country; but the Board observe that this information *is* obtainable from the table, though perhaps not very readily by those not familiar with the form, and that the Comparative Abstracts at the commencement of the volume shew at a glance the trade in each article with each country, although not the whole trade in each article.

15. But it appears to the Board that the modified form Part I. is by no means an improvement in the present form, as it is deficient in details which are now given. For instance, to take the example given in the letter from

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

the Supreme Government, the suggested form would give the total trade in Metals, but not the details of the trade in Copper, Iron, Brass, Lead, Pewter, Quicksilver, Spelter, Steel, Tin, and Zinc, which the present form supplies; or if these details are to be shewn in the suggested form, they must be entered anew under each country, and still the form will not admit of the total trade in any one kind of metal being shewn.

16. The Board would recommend that the old forms of Annual *General* Trade Statements be retained, and printed together with Comparative Abstracts for five years instead of for only two years as at present, and that the Annual District Returns be no longer required.

17. They certainly cannot be prepared without an increase of establishment.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
20th October 1866.

No. 2,844.

No. 486.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

SIR,

Separate Revenue, No. 15.
Customs.

* Dated 27th September 1866.

1. With reference to your letter dated 30th April 1866, No. 85, I am directed to transmit herewith copy of a letter* from the Board of Revenue, containing their remarks on the suggestions made by the Government of India to alter the present form of Annual Return of the external commerce of each Presidency.

2. The Board have entered so fully into the subject, that I am directed simply to express the entire concurrence of the Government in their remarks. The introduction of any forms for the Annual Return, which do not correspond with the forms recently prescribed for the Monthly Trade Returns, will inevitably entail much labor, and the employment of additional establishment as pointed out by the Board.

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

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Persia & Persian Gulf

47.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2844

20th Oct. 1866

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
Financial Dept.

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Revenue 1866 Depte
Pro of Govt for Octr

No. 2844.

To
The Government
of India F.D.
d/ 20th Octr 1866.

Annual Trade
Returns forwarded to
Government of India
with an intimation that
any change in their
present form will entail
much labor.—

No. 485 & 486.