M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3006 Press ~~Mis.~~

325. 326

Dated 17 — 12 - ~~19~~ 1867

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3006

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 17th December 1867.

No. 325. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th November 1867, No. 7,665 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Melur, 25th July 1867, No. 203.

1. With reference to the Government Order of the 19th October last, communicated by the Board on the 24th idem, I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a letter received from the Sub-Collector, dated the 6th ultimo, No. 74.

2. It will be observed that the Sub-Collector tried his best to carry out the arrangement sanctioned by the Government for appointing two Sub-Magistrates for the upper and lower Pulneys on 70 Rupees each, but was not able to secure the services of a suitable Officer for the upper range.

3. The present Hill Sub-Magistrate, who has now been in charge of all the hill villages, has, during the greater part of the present year, been residing in the lower villages in his charge; consequently, he and the whole of his Office were attacked with jungle fever, and are still suffering so severely that none of them are yet fit for duty.

4. Having carefully considered the subject, and having gained some knowledge of the hills, I am of opinion that either the Sub-Collector's proposal of forming the upper ranges into a separate charge and of placing the lower villages in the charge of the nearest Sub-Magistrate on the plains should be adopted, or else one Sub-Magistrate on Rupees 150 should be placed for the present at Vilputty, and put in charge of both ranges.

5. I think that Kodikanul would ultimately be the best station for the Sub-Magistrate, but at present there is neither house nor office available for him.

6. The chief objection to the Sub-Collector's plan of placing the whole of the lower Pulney villages under the jurisdiction of the nearest Sub-Magistrate on the plains is the want of ghauts from the lower Pulneys. I have seen the Paulmullay ghaut, which is very bad, but I am informed that the Pulney and other ghauts are much worse.

7. I am aware that the present arrangements were proposed by Mr. Clarke, an Officer of much greater experience in this district than I am; but I think the difficulty of finding a man qualified for such a post on a salary of Rupees 70 per mensem must have been overlooked.

8. The number of cases is very small, and last year amounted, I believe, to about thirty. One Officer could, therefore, easily perform the work.

9. The present Sub-Magistrate's case is a hard one. He was formerly a Sub-Magistrate in Wynaad on Rupees 150 a month; but having lost his health there, he accepted the Sub-Magistracy of the Pulney Hills on the same salary, but he only joined the appointment a few months before his pay was cut down under the present arrangements to Rupees 70. As he has performed all the Magisterial duty on the hills, and the other moiety of his pay remains undrawn, I beg the Board's favorable consideration to the Sub-Collector's proposal that he should be allowed to draw his former allowance, viz., Rupees 150 per mensem. There is no doubt that the present plan of having two Sub-Magistrates, if only practicable, would have many advantages; but if the extra expenses of food and warm

9. A second letter from the Collector to Mr. Pelly, dated 18th April 1866, No. 673, was transferred to the Board by Mr. Pelly on the 30th of the same month. In this letter, Mr. Levinge passed remarks on a letter in which Mr. VansAgnew, the Sub-Collector, had protested to Mr. Pelly against the proposed transfer of the villages, and had also strongly objected to the choice of Kodikanul as the head-quarters of the Sub-Magistrate of the upper range. A petition from some of the villagers against the transfer was enclosed.

10. With regard to this letter the Collector observed that he dissented from everything urged by the Sub-Collector against the transfer.

11. The foregoing correspondence was reviewed by the Board in their Proceedings, dated 18th July 1866, No. 4,913, and it was observed that Mr. Pelly having had occasion to re-consider the matter had laid the question of transferring the villages before the Board, in order to obtain their opinion before finally disposing of the case.

12. The Board, after giving it their careful consideration, were of opinion that the proposed transfer was not expedient; but they considered that a change of some kind was necessary.

13. Acting chiefly on Mr. Clarke's opinion, which his experience of the Pulney Hills rendered especially valuable, the Board accordingly recommended that, in place of transferring all the villages to the Periacolum Talook, they should all be included in the Pulney Talook, two Sub-Magistrates being at the same time provided, instead of one as hitherto. It was proposed that one Sub-Magistrate with the powers of District Munsiff should have his head quarters at Tundigoondu, (the one village then belonging to Periacolum Talook,) with jurisdiction over the country belonging to it, and the village of Perioor, with the hamlets of both on the lower range of hills: the other Sub-Magistrate to have his head quarters at Poombary, with jurisdiction over the country belonging to Poombary, Vilputty, and Yeltur with their hamlets on the upper range of the hills, and also the hill villages belonging to the Zemindary of Ayacoody, and the Muttah of Neikaraputty; and that either Sub-Magistrate should be vested with such further jurisdiction over adjoining Zemindary estates, as the Collectors might assign them. The two Sub-Magistrates and the whole area of the hills to be included in the Pulney Talook.

14. The extra expense involved in the double establishment, amounted to Rupees 44 per mensem; but the pay of each Sub-Magistrate was fixed at Rupees 70 only, whereas the single Magistrate hitherto in charge had received Rupees 150.

15. These arrangements were sanctioned by Government in their Proceedings, dated 19th October 1866, No. 2,840, and the final notification of the transfer of the village of Tundigoody from the Periacolum to the Pulney Talook was made in accordance with Order of Government, dated 18th December 1866, No. 3,418, the Collector having fixed the 1st of January 1867 as the date of the transfer.

16. It is with reference to the Government Order of 19th October, sanctioning the above arrangement, that the Collector has now addressed the Board.

17. It appears from his letter and that of the Sub-Collector, which is enclosed, that the arrangement as sanctioned has not been carried out, owing, it is stated, to the difficulty of getting an efficient Officer to undertake the charge of the upper range on a salary of Rupees 70 per mensem. The one Sub-Magistrate in charge at

the time the new arrangement was sanctioned, has since remained in charge of all the villages, but has been chiefly resident in the lower range, and has, it appears, together with his whole Office, suffered greatly from jungle fever, so much so, as to be incapacitated from work.

18. The Collector suggests, under these circumstances, that either (as proposed by the Sub-Collector) the upper range villages should be formed into a separate charge, the lower villages being placed under the nearest Sub-Magistrate on the plains, or that the old system be reverted to, *i. e.*, one Sub-Magistrate on Rupees 150 located at Vilputty, or at Kodikanul, so soon as office accommodation can be there provided.

19. With regard to the suggestion that the lower range should be left to the care of the nearest Sub-Magistrate on the plains, the Board would observe that the lower hill districts, including within them the Zemindary and villages belonging to Kanivady and Velur Mootahs, need as much supervision as the upper villages, and even more. If Government forests are to be at all protected, the lower ranges cannot be left without proper supervision: they also contain larger villages than the upper ranges, and are less accessible to the protection of the law, especially the Zemindary villages.

20. With reference to the prevalence of jungle fever, the Board know of an instance of an East Indian Missionary and his family, who resided at Perioor on the lower hills for four years, and the natives live there without much fever in some of the villages.

21. The Board cannot support the Collector's recommendation that the Sub-Magistrate of the upper range should be eventually located at Kodikanul, which consists of about a dozen houses belonging to Europeans and their Native dependants. It was never contemplated, when recommending the employment of Native Officers for the Hills, that the interests of the few European families resident there during the hot months should be the principal point considered. The greater part of the upper hill villages are seven miles from Kodikanul, and the Board do not see that the residence of the Sub-Magistrate at that place will tend to their benefit or convenience.

22. With regard to the Collector's remarks on the badness of the ghauts, and the consequent difficulty of communication, it is to be observed that the Paulmul- ay ghaut does not afford communication between the lower Pulneys and the plains, ut is the route from one range to the other. There used to be a fair ghaut to inecado from Periacolum, and another to Tundigoondu from Devadanamputty, d there are several ghauts on the eastern side, all of which might be improved.

23. The Board can see no great difficulty in the execution of the orders of Board and Government, although it is probable that it will require much firm- ss and determination on the part of the local officers to carry them into execu- n, and to secure the residence of the Officers on the Hills.

24. As regards the case of the present Sub-Magistrate, the Board agree with Collector in considering it a hard one, and they resolve to recommend to vernment that, as an exceptional case, he may be permitted to draw his former e of pay (Rupees 150) for the period during which he has performed the entire rk of the upper and lower ranges.

25. The Board observe that in their Proceedings of July 18th, 1866, No. 4,913, submitting the proposed arrangements for Government sanction, it was distinctly laid down that the Sub-Magistrate of the lower range was to have his head quarters at Tundigoondu, but it does not appear from the Collector's letter that this has been carried out. Indeed the Collector does not state in what village the Sub-Magistrate has been residing, and has suffered so severely from fever.

26. Should it be found impracticable or inexpedient to carry out the plan sanctioned by Government, the Board do not see why any Officer should be kept on the Hills. The villagers could resort to the Talook Officers nearest to them, and Government thus be saved the expense to which they are now put.

27. Resolved that a copy of these Proceedings be submitted for the orders of Government.

No. 326. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1867, No. 3,006.

Miscellaneous.

The Government sanction the disbursement of pay, at the rate of Rupees 150 monthly, to the Sub-Magistrate for the time he has performed the double duty, on the understanding that the amount is available from the sanctioned provision for the two charges.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rec'd 12 Octr 65 Nos 256 & 257
" 19 Octr / 66 " 475 & 476
" 10 Augt / 66 " 255 & 256
" 18 Decr / 66 " 321 to 322

Rev. 1867. Department,
Proc of Govt for Decr

No 3273.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 25th November 1867.
Desp. 29 Do
Rec'd 2d Decr

No. 7,665.

Passing remarks on suggestion made by Collector of Madura for making certain arrangements in the charges of the upper and lower range villages on the Pulney Hills, and recommending to Government that the present Sub-Magistrate be permitted to draw his former rate of pay viz. Rupees 150 for the period during which he has performed the entire work of the upper and lower ranges.

Nos 325-326

No 3006. 17 Decr

Letter

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