

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1889	Press ~~Mis.~~
129-131. Dated	8-7-	12 1868

Not to be folded or roughly handled

MS

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
8th July 1868.*

Read the following:—

No. 129. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th February 1868,
No. 1,376.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue,
dated Chittoor, 19th December 1867, No. 347.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board, dated 13th ultimo, forwarding for report Order of Government, dated 6th idem, No. 2,619, in which the Government inquire whether the general distribution of the Revenue and Magisterial charges of the district cannot be improved.

2. The charges are at present distributed thus:—

Principal Division.

Chittoor Talook, Palmanair Talook, Punganur Zemindary.

Sub-Division.

Arcot Talook, Vellore Talook, Wandewash Talook, Polur Talook, Arni Jaghire.

Head Assistant's Division.

Wallajah Talook, Goriattum Talook, Kungundy Zemindary.

Zemindary Deputy Collector.

Chendragherry Talook, Kalastry Zemindary, Carvetinugger Zemindary.

3. Beginning with the Sub-division, I would not recommend any change in existing arrangements. The charge is perhaps a heavy one for a single Officer, but if the proposition which I make further on be accepted, the Sub-Collector would have the assistance of the Deputy Collector now in charge of the Zemindary tracts for general employment under his orders in the division.

4. The Board will recollect that the system of assessment on wet lands in the talooks south of the Palar differs from that which exists in the talooks north of that river; the former being a consolidated assessment, whilst the latter distinguishes between single and double crop land. Apart from this consideration, the Palar river has been so long recognized as the boundary between the principal and Sub-division, and between the Tamil and Telugu sections of the population, that any arrangement which would disturb this natural line of demarcation does not appear to me to recommend itself.

5. Deprecating, therefore, any change in the existing constitution of the Sub-division, I yet think the time has arrived when the charges of the Head Assistant and Deputy Collector in the Zemindary tracts might be re-arranged with much advantage to the interests of that part of the district.

6. The Deputy Collector has not, by his position, the weight and influence required in such a charge. The Magisterial work is beyond his efficient control, and the relations between the Government Officers and the Zemindars require a combination of tact and firmness, which depends for its real efficacy on the position of the Officer in whom these qualities are united. I therefore think that Arcot should hereafter be fixed on as the head-quarters of the Head Assistant, and that instead of his present charge consisting of the two large talooks of Wallajah and

Goriattum and the Kungundy Zemindary, he should have the Zemindaries of Carvetinugger and Kalastry and the Wallajah Talook in which Arconum is situated. The western portion of the Head Assistant's present charge, consisting of the Goriattum Talook and out-lying Zemindary of Kungundy, might then be managed by any one of the Covenanted Assistants who was fully qualified as a Revenue Officer and a Magistrate under the general control of the Collector.

7. The talook of Chendragherry, now attached to the Zemindary charge, would then be re-transferred to the Principal Division, and the Deputy Collector, with portion of his present establishment, be available for employment in the Sub-division under the immediate orders and control of the Sub-Collector.

8. The establishment now attached to the Office of Deputy Collector in the Zemindaries is given in the margin. This I would propose to re-distribute between the Assistant, who would have charge of the Goriattum Talook and the Kungundy Zemindary, and the Deputy Collector transferred to the Sub-division in the following proportions:—

1 Head Clerk...	RS.
1 Clerk	45
2 Clerks, on 15 Rupees each	30
1 Attender	8
3 Peons each at 7 Rupees	21
1 Sweeper and Massalji	6
	130

Assistant Establishment.

1 Clerk	RS.
1 Do.	30
1 Attender	20
2 Peons	8
1 Sweeper	14
	6
Total	78

Deputy Collector's Establishment.

1 Clerk	RS.
1 Do.	25
1 Peon	15
	7
Total	47

Grand Total... 125

9. The re-distribution thus effected at an actual economy, would, I feel assured, be a great administrative improvement upon present arrangements.

10. The Sub-Collector would probably find it desirable to locate the Deputy at Tiruvattur, or at one of the more out-lying stations in his division. At the same time, I would strongly recommend that full liberty of action be left to the Sub-Collector in respect to the arrangements he may make for employing the Deputy thus attached to him as a General Assistant.

11. Under the arrangement thus proposed for the Board's consideration, it would be absolutely necessary that there should be, besides the Covenanted Assistant, who would thereby be placed in charge of the Goriattum Talook and Kungundy Zemindary, a Second Assistant fully qualified as a Revenue Officer and Magistrate on the personal staff of the Collector to take his place at head-quarters

when absent in the district, and to aid him generally in the Principal division augmented, as it would be by the accession (under the proposed arrangement) of the Chendragherry Talook.

12. The Board will recollect that in consequence of frequent representations regarding the unhealthiness of Venkatagirikota (the station of the Sub-Magistrate in the southern part of the Palmanair Talook), the transfer of the Office and Establishment to Kistnapuram, a village three miles north of it, was sanctioned as an experiment, the results of which were in due course to be reported. This report I have hitherto been unable to submit, because so far as the experiment goes, the latter place does not appear to have any advantage over the former in respect of superior salubrity, and there is no other situation in that part of the talook which might be selected with better chance of success.

13. At the time this Sub-Magistracy was established, the Palmanair Talook was then the scene of much violent crime; but since the organization of the new Police, that part of the district is as quiet and well ordered as any of the other talooks in it. I have given the question my fullest consideration, and have come to the conclusion that a second Sub-Magistrate is no longer required in the Palmanair Talook. The talook itself is of small extent, and could be most easily managed by a Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate of the most ordinary abilities. In Alagasingari Naidu, the present Tahsildar, who is a man of modern school and a promising Officer, this small talook has all that it requires in the interests of its Revenue and Magisterial administration. I would, therefore, recommend that the office of

* 1 Sub-Magistrate	RS.	Sub-Magistrate of the Venkatagirikota
1 Gumastah	50	division should be abolished, and that the
1 Attender	15	cost of the establishment,* or at least a
2 Peons, at 6 Rs. each	7	portion of it, should be made available
1 Sweeper and Massalji	12	for strengthening the Talook Establish-
	5	ment at its head-quarters, by additions
	89	

which I am ready to name, should the Board see fit to accept my general proposition.

14. There are no public buildings worth calling by the name either at Venkatagirikota or Kistnapuram, and as the establishment never can, owing to the insalubrity of that part of the talook, be efficiently organized, the abolition of the office would be attended with no loss of administrative strength.

15. With the economy thus effected, the re-arrangements which I have proposed in the charges of the Head Assistant and Deputy Collector could be carried out without any additional cost to the State.

16. The only difficulty which suggests itself in making this proposal is, that valuable public buildings fall into disuse with the transfer of the Head Assistant's station from Ranipet to Arconum, and that it will entail the necessity of providing new office (and I should think private) accommodation at the latter place.

17. This is probably a necessity which, under the changes produced by Railway communication and other causes, must sooner or later thrust itself upon the acceptance of Government. As the importance of Arconum is established by its position, and there are other pressing considerations dependent on the arrangement, I think no fitter time than the present could be found for coming to some definite conclusions on the subject.

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From the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 31st December 1867, No. 354.

In continuation of my letter of the 19th instant, No.—, I have the honor to forward, for the consideration of the Board, copies of two letters* from the Acting Sub-Collector and the Assistant Collector in charge of the Head Assistant Collector's Office, having reference to the proposed re-distribution of the Revenue and Magisterial charges of the district.

From the Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 20th December 1867, No. 608.

1. In reply to your docket, No. 956, dated 16th instant, enclosing Government Order on the question of re-distribution of charges in this district, I have the honor to state that, for the reasons agreed upon by us in our late personal discussion on the matter, I am of opinion that no change is desirable as far as the Sub-division is concerned.

2. Mr. Gibson, who materially assisted me in the disposal of Magisterial work, is now removed, and I suppose will not come back again. But with the heavy work, both Magisterial and Revenue attaching to the office, and the prospects of a heavier Jammahbundy than usual before us, I think it would be advisable to depute an Assistant or Deputy Collector to do duty under the Sub-Collector. He might be stationed at Tiruvattur, in Arcot Talook, and would then be within an easy distance of Wandewash and the southern portion of Arcot Talook, where the want of resident Magistrate is now much felt.

3. If this arrangement be not approved of, I would suggest the advisability of locating a Sub-Magistrate and Deputy Tahsildar at Tiruvattur, thereby relieving the Arcot Tahsildar of a portion of the work he now has to perform, and the people of this part of the talook from the inconvenience and expense of travelling long distances in order to present their complaints, both Revenue and Magisterial, before him at Arcot, which is situated at the extreme north of the talook.

From the Assistant Collector in charge, to the Collector of North Arcot, dated Ranipet, 20th December 1867, No. 502.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of Government Order, No. 97, which touches upon the contemplated re-distribution of the Revenue and Magisterial charges of the division. With reference both to the existing distribution of my charges, and to the proposed re-arrangement, I cannot conceive a plan less advisable than to remove the head-quarters from Ranipet to Arconum.

1. With reference to the present arrangement of my talooks, the only necessity for creating such a change would arise from the requirements of Arconum itself. The location of the Head Assistant's Cutcherry at the extreme eastern out-post of his division, would only find justification in the importance of that out-post in a Magisterial or Revenue point of view. I am prepared to shew that Arconum is an utterly insignificant place, and absolutely unimportant in both points of view. Arconum exists as a great and important town only in the imagination of the traveller who finds his train or his refreshment at that station. It has no cultivation and ryots. The houses are, with few exceptions, the property of servants of the Railway, with whom I can have nothing to do, or of petty shop-keepers, who have also been called into existence by the Railway. There is little or no crime there. Four Magisterial cases represent all of it for the last year now almost at a close. Finally, it has no roads to make it important from the amount of traffic passing through it. All these facts shew how unnecessary it would be to carry out the arrangement. That it would be unadvisable is apparent in the great importance of Ranipet, and the immense amount of money that would be thrown away in giving up the Government buildings here to build new ones at Arconum. Ranipet is in the very centre of the Head Assistant's charge. All the most important tanks of the

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important talook of Wallajah are within easy distance and commanded by excellent roads, passing through the Head Assistant's Cutcherry almost. There are three daily trains running at different times, which can take the Officer to Arconum, if required, in one hour: while the Telegraph is always available for an emergency. Finally, the importance of Ranipet, from its proximity to Arcot and Wallajah in a Magisterial point of view, cannot be exaggerated. The presence of the Sub-Collector at Vellore has, of course, nothing to do with the detection of crime in the Head Assistant's Division. I think I have sufficiently clearly entered my objections in the above remarks. It merely remains for me to remark with all due deference that the word important, as applied to the station of Arconum, is a misnomer; unless it is limited by express limitation to a Railway importance. The whole system of Railway hitherto carried out in this Presidency has sufficiently served to shew how the importance of a town is tested by the number of its cultivating inhabitants, and not in any way materially affected by the presence of a line of railroad, or even of four lines of railroad.

2. With regard to the proposed making over of the Zemindary tracts in lieu of Goriattum and Kungundy, the same arguments apply equally with equal force. The only exception is, that in the latter case, Ranipet will become placed at the south-west corner of the division instead of being the centre as formerly. This inconvenience can be overlooked, if we consider that we have the railroad on one side, and the excellent road from Sholinghur on the other, both taking us up immediately into the Zemindaries. All the other arguments as to the absolute insignificance of Arconum, the importance of Ranipet both Magisterial and Revenue-wise; and as to the convenience of the latter, both in the way of buildings and bazaars, are valid in both cases.

3. I have only to add, that I am not alone in the force of my opinion. Mr. Wilkinson has discussed the matter with me on former occasions, and he is equally of opinion as to the inadvisability of locating the Head Assistant's Cutcherry at Arconum under any arrangement of the division.

1. The Collector's proposal in the first letter above recorded, to place the Deputy Collector in the position of a General Personal Assistant, does not commend itself to the Board, and is altogether opposed to the intentions of Government in creating the grade of Deputy Collector and Magistrate. At the same time the Board are disposed to urge upon Government the desirability of giving the Sub-Collector the assistance of a junior Covenanted Officer.

2. The Board would locate the Deputy at Goriattum, and give him that talook and the Kungundy Zemindary. He might also have the Magisterial charge of Palmanair, *pro tanto* relieving the Collector. But before submitting their report to Government, the Board request the Collector to give his opinion as to the charge proposed to be assigned to the Deputy Collector in these Proceedings.

No. 130. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd June 1868, No. 4,076.
Read again letter from the Collector of North Arcot, dated 19th December 1867, No. 347, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th February 1868, No. 1,376.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of North Arcot, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chendragherry, 13th March 1868, No. 79.

1. In paragraph 2 of the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 25th ultimo, No. 1,376, I am asked to give my opinion as to the charge proposed to be assigned to the Deputy Collector in modification of the arrangements suggested in my letter therein embodied.

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2. In reply, I have the honor to observe that, provided the assistance of a junior Covenanted Officer be given to the Sub-Collector, and this I consider an essential condition in any scheme of re-distribution, the arrangement which the Board propose is highly commendable, and will, if carried out, fulfil all the purposes contemplated in the change. As suggested, the Magisterial jurisdiction of the Palmanair Talook might very properly be added to the general charge of the Goriattum Talook and Kungundy Zemindary, to be assigned to the Deputy Collector. The charge, as thus constituted, is within easy command by rail and road, and with the establishment which is already attached to his office, the Deputy Collector should be able to manage it with satisfaction to himself and benefit to the people.

3. I am not prepared to admit all that is said in Mr. Lee Warner's letter of the insignificance of Arconum, and its unsuitableness as the head-quarters of the charge which it is proposed to assign to the Head Assistant. Arconum has many wealthy villages around it, and judging from its rapid growth, it will, I believe, become in a few years a place of considerable importance.

4. Meanwhile, I do not think that any diversity of opinion on this point should be permitted to interfere with the proposed re-distribution of the Head Assistant's and Deputy Collector's charges, as, owing to the want of public and private accommodation at Arconum, the head-quarters of the former Officer could not be well transferred from Ranipet for some time to come.

5. Keeping in view the desirableness of having hereafter the head-quarters more centrally placed as respects the Zemindaries than they will be at Ranipet, there is yet no question that any arrangement, which brings those estates under the management of a Covenanted Officer of standing and experience, must be highly advantageous both in its administrative and moral results.

6. I therefore earnestly trust that no minor considerations may be allowed to retard the adoption of the Board's proposition in regard to the re-distribution of these two charges.

1. Resolved that the foregoing papers be submitted for the orders of Government, with reference to Government Order, dated 6th November 1867, No. 2,619.

2. In that Order the Board were directed to report, in communication with the Collector of North Arcot, whether the general distribution of the Revenue and Magisterial charges in the district cannot be improved, inasmuch as the Collector, Sub-Collector, and Head Assistant, are now concentrated within a very limited range in the centre of the district, having Chittoor, Vellore, and Ranipet, as the extreme points, while the important station of Arconum, where four lines of railroad converge near the eastern frontier of the district, has not even a resident Sub-Magistrate. It was further remarked that, as an Officer has recently been appointed to the charge of the Central Jail at Vellore, and as the Cavalry Corps is about to move from Ranipet, the time is favorable for carrying out any re-distribution that may be deemed desirable, and which may possibly involve a change of charge for the Deputy Collector.

3. From the Collector's letters above recorded, it will be seen that a second reference had to be made to that Officer by the Board, in consequence of his first proposals not having met with the Board's entire approval.

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4. The following table shews in one view the present distribution of the charges, the changes at first proposed by the Collector, and those upon which he and the Board have ultimately agreed:—

Officers.	Present Charges.	Re-distribution proposed by the Collector in his first letter.	Re-distribution agreed upon by the Collector and the Board.	Head-quarters.	
				Present.	Proposed.
Collector	Chittoor Talook Palmanair Talook Punganur Zemindary	Chittoor Talook Palmanair Talook Punganur Zemindary Chendragherry Talook Goriattum Talook Kungundy Zemindary	Chittoor Talook Palmanair Talook (Revenue) Punganur Zemindary Chendragherry Talook	Chittoor.	Chittoor.
Covenanted Assistant under general control of Collector.					
Sub-Collector	Arcot Talook Vellore Talook Wandewash Talook Polur Talook Jaghire of Arni Wallajah Talook	Arcot Talook Vellore Talook Wandewash Talook Polur Talook Jaghire of Arni Wallajah Talook	Arcot Talook Vellore Talook Wandewash Talook Polur Talook Jaghire of Arni Wallajah Talook	Vellore.	Vellore.
Head Assistant	Goriattum Talook Kungundy Zemindary Chendragherry Talook Kalastry Zemindary Carvettinger Zemindary	Kalastry Zemindary Carvettinger Zemindary	Kalastry Zemindary Carvettinger Zemindary	Ranipet for the present.	Arconum ultimately.
Deputy Collector	Chendragherry Talook Kalastry Zemindary Carvettinger Zemindary		Goriattum Talook Kungundy Zemindary Magisterial charge of Palmanair Talook.	Nagari.	Goriattum.

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5. No change is proposed in the Collector's charge except the re-transfer to it of the Chendragherry Talook, which at present constitutes a part of the Deputy Collector's charge. This transfer becomes necessary in consequence of the material changes proposed in the charges of the Head Assistant and the Deputy Collector; and if the Collector is always provided with an experienced Covenanted Assistant, competent to exercise full Magisterial powers at head-quarters, there will be no difficulty in the administration of his charge, especially as the Board propose relieving him of the Magisterial charge of the Palmanair Talook.

6. The Board agree with the Collector that the Sub-division should be allowed to stand as at present. The charge is certainly heavy; but for the reasons stated in paragraph 4 of the Collector's first letter, its dismemberment appears undesirable. The Board consider that a junior Covenanted Assistant might, with great advantage, be attached to the Sub-Collector, as he would relieve that Officer of much minor work, attention to which cannot but interfere with the efficient discharge of more important duties. It would be well if some station more central than Vellore could be fixed for the Sub-Collector's head-quarters, but this change would involve considerable expense to Government, and is not absolutely necessary for the efficient management of the division.

7. Mr. Robinson's proposal to place the Deputy Collector in the position of a General Personal Assistant to the Sub-Collector did not commend itself to the Board, being altogether inconsistent with the intentions of Government in creating the grade of Deputy Collector and Magistrate.

8. For the reasons stated in paragraph 6 of the Collector's first letter, the change of charge for the Head Assistant is very desirable, and Arconum should be his head-quarters, as the convergence of four lines of rail practically invest it with all, and more than all, the advantages that a geographically central position would enjoy. His removal there will, however, involve the expense of a new office, and as the demands on Government for Talook Cutcheries and Jails are likely to be very heavy, the construction of the necessary office at Arconum might perhaps be deferred with advantage for some time, the Collector in the meanwhile selecting and reserving a suitable site for such building. Until accommodation is provided at Arconum, the Head Assistant should remain at Ranipet where he is at present; but there is no reason why the change regarding his charge should not be at once carried out.

9. The Chendragherry Talook and the Zemindaries of Calastry and Carvetinugger, which now form the charge of the Deputy Collector, have, under the proposed distribution, been assigned, the first to the Collector, and the remaining two to the Head Assistant. In lieu of these three, it is proposed to place the Goriattum Talook and the Kungundy Zemindary, which now constitute a part of the Head Assistant's charge, under the Deputy Collector, who will also have Magisterial charge of the Palmanair Talook, as incidentally mentioned in paragraph 5 above. Under this arrangement, it will be necessary to build an office for the Deputy Collector at Goriattum; but this expense appears to be inevitable, under any circumstances, if the improvement of the administration of the district is to be promoted by a re-distribution of charges.

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10. As regards the abolition of the Venkatagirikota Sub-Magistracy, recommended by the Collector in paragraphs 12 to 14, the Board consider the present time unfavorable for such a measure, and will request him to bring the question again before them after the present distress has passed away. The Sub-Magistrate is now stationed at Kistnapuram by way of experiment; but as the Board consider it inexpedient to have the Magisterial administration feeble at Venkatagirikota during the critical period through which the district is passing, the Collector will be directed to re-transfer the Sub-Magistrate to that station without loss of time.

No. 131. ORDER THEREON, 8th July 1868, No. 1,889.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government sanction the re-distribution of the district charges recommended by the Board.

2. The Collector will take the necessary steps to procure plans and estimates for the offices required at Arconum and Goriattum.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.
„ the Accountant General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

I would accept the proposals
of the Board of Rev: but without
the condition as to a County
apartment, which they specify in
para 5 at the close.

It would be a very arrangement
to go to visit the H. A. Co.
alone to arrange. and the
N. paper shows that there would be
no real inconvenience in separating
their office - several until
public accommodation has been
provided.

I don't think the Gov. should
in any way concern itself about
private accounts for the H. A. Co. W.D.
1 July

W. 1889. 8^r

The J. H. Sanction
to the Discretion of the
District Charges. Recd:
= rendered by the J. H.

The J. H. will
take the necessary steps
to procure plans &
estimates for the
Office required at
Arcadia & for a time

L. H.
8th July / 68

14. Letter to J. H. Sanction
21. Mr. D. H. Sanction
6. Mr. D. H. Sanction

N 2172

P. 8th July / 68

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