

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	347	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
¹⁴¹⁻¹⁴² Dated	7-2-	1868.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
7th February 1868.*

No. 141. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Department:—

Passing orders on the Board's Proceedings }
relative to the working of the establishment } (Here enter 28th January 1868, No. 115.)
for registration of Births and Deaths in the }
district.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1868, No. 347.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) F. BRANDT,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 115.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
28th January 1868.*

No. 146. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1867, No. 8247.

Read again the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, dated 1st February 1866, No. 113, recorded in the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th February 1866, No. 993.

In communicating the Resolution of the Government of India, sanctioning, experimentally for one year, an establishment of two clerks, at a monthly cost of Rupees 35, for the purpose of registering deaths in the several districts, Government requested the Board to submit the report called for by the Government of India, after the expiration of one year from the date of the employment of the establishment. On the receipt of this Order, the Collectors were requested, in the Board's Proceedings, dated 12th February 1866, No. 993, to furnish the required information.

2. As to the necessity of any extra establishment for abstracting Registers of Deaths in the Huzoor Cutcherry, the Board observe from the Collectors' replies that three* Collectors consider one clerk on 20 Rupees sufficient; that four† Collectors prefer one superior clerk on 25 Rupees or 30 Rupees to the two now allowed; while the other twelve Collectors are unanimous in considering two clerks essentially necessary.

		• Cuddapah.			
		Kurnool.			
		Tinnevely.			
		Rs.		Rs.	
† Kistna.....	25	Madura.....	30		
South Canara....	25	Malabar.....	20		

3. In April 1866, the Officiating President of the Sanitary Commission addressed a letter to the Board, bringing to their notice that the Registers of Deaths had not been received at all from some districts, and that from others they were received with much irregularity and delay. The Board, therefore, called upon the Collectors in their Proceedings, dated 11th May 1866, No. 3294, to furnish them with a Memorandum showing the dates on which the Village Registers were received in the Huzoor from the several taluqs for each month, and the dates on which the General Abstract for each month was despatched to the Civil Surgeon of the district.

4. From the replies received from the Collectors to this call, it appeared that in some of the districts the Collectors were tardy in the submission of their Returns, while in some others the Returns were greatly in arrears; and these circumstances led the Board to consider that a better system was needed, under which the Register could be prepared with greater regularity and expedition.

5. While the subject was thus engaging the Board's attention, the Order of Government, dated 15th January 1867, Revenue Department, No. 179A, was received, communicating, for the Board's observation, paragraphs 42 to 46 of the late Mr. Fischer's Memorandum regarding the preparation of Mortuary Returns. That gentleman stated that the Returns prepared by the Curnums could not be depended upon for accuracy, more especially in the Zemindaries, and suggested that the registration of deaths, as well as of marriages and births, should be made compulsory by law; that the Moonsiff of each village should be required to report each domestic occurrence, with the necessary particulars, on the same day on which it

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
28th January 1868.*

took place, to the nearest Magistrate, European or Native, within whose jurisdiction the Moonsiff resided; and that the Magistrate should collate all the reports received during the previous month, and submit the Returns called for by the Board. He also considered that the system which he advocated would cause an immense saving of paper. These paragraphs of the late Mr. Fischer's Memorandum were circulated to all Collectors in the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th February 1867, requesting them to submit their views upon the points discussed.

6. The replies of the Collectors to this call also have been received, and, though most of the Collectors are not disposed to adopt any of the suggestions made by Mr. Fischer, the Board observe that there is considerable truth in the statements made by that gentleman. The vast majority of the people are wholly ignorant of the use of statistics, and, in fact, regard the collation of them with suspicion. Even were it otherwise, however, it would be unreasonable to expect perfection in such a work as the registration of deaths in the very first year of its operation. On the whole, taking into account the extent of this Presidency, the number of the population to be operated on, the ignorance and indifference of the people, and the total absence of a trained establishment, or, at least, of any special establishment save the two clerks allowed for each Collector, the Board consider the introduction of registration has been fairly successful:

7. The chief remedy for the defects of the system suggested by the late Mr. Fischer, was the enactment of a law rendering the registration of deaths compulsory. Particularly in Zemindaries, where there are no Government establishments, and in large towns where the residents are not very amenable to authority exercised without proper legal support, a law no doubt is indispensable. The law should be so enacted as to require the owner of each house, or the nearest relative present at the time of death, to report it to an Officer to be named by the Collector (the Moonsiff in villages, and special Officers elsewhere) with certain stated papers, on penalty of fine or imprisonment without labor. The Board would propose the same plan in regard to the registration of births also, but would omit marriages as useless in this country. Such a law as above described will, in the Board's opinion, work well if judiciously introduced; and without it any really thorough registration is hopeless. There should also be a rule rendering the Registering Officer liable to punishment in case of producing false Returns, or oppressing and annoying the people under the pretext of obtaining information.

8. The work of tabulating the Returns as received, examining them, and preventing delay in their submission, which is manifestly heavy, needs care and regularity. The Revenue Establishments have been already reduced, by Mr. Pelly's revision, to the lowest number sufficient for the discharge of their own proper duties. Since the revision, the work has increased, and certainly no assistance beyond that of general supervision can be rendered by the Revenue Establishment. The reports received from the Collectors show that, notwithstanding the services of the extra establishment allowed for the purpose, considerable delay now occurs in the submission of the Death Returns; and it is clear

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
28th January 1868.*

that a permanent establishment should be entertained for the duty of registration.

1 Clerk...	Rs.	20
1 Do. ...	Rs.	15
		35
1 Clerk...	Rs.	30
1 Do. ...	Rs.	15
		45
For one District...		45
For 19 Districts..		855
Per annum...		10,260

The cost of the extra establishment now allowed is Rupees 35 per mensem, for each district, as noted in the margin. The Board would recommend that the 1st clerk's pay be raised from Rupees 20 to 30 per month, for less than which the services of a competent person cannot be obtained. The cost of the establishment would amount to only Rupees 10,260 per annum, for which the

sanction of Government is now requested. The proposed charge is, in the Board's opinion, very moderate, when it is considered that the area of this Presidency is 1,31,000 square miles; that it contains 54,620 villages, both Ryotwar and Zemindary; and that its population is 26 millions. This establishment would probably suffice also for the registration of births, and the Board beg to suggest that it be commenced at once.

9. Should the establishment as proposed by the Board be sanctioned by Government, it will be placed under the Collector, whose authority and influence are felt throughout the district, and whose requisitions will be respected by the Village Officers. He will, of course, avail himself of the services of his Treasury Deputy, but, in a matter of this nature, where the duty of registering deaths is not enforced by law, it is most important that advantage should be taken of the Collector's influence as the chief revenue authority of the District.

10. As at present prepared, the Returns for any given month really represent the occurrences of a part of it and a part of the preceding month. The gain of a few days in the submission of the Return thus apparently ensuing is of no real moment, and is in fact absorbed by subsequent delays. The Board would, therefore, direct Collectors to prepare the Returns, for the future, for the Calendar month in its integrity. These Returns should be despatched by Collectors direct to the Head of the Medical Department; as sending them, as at present, through the District Surgeon, involves delay without any commensurate advantage, for he can exercise no check on them, and they can be finally tabulated and revised at Madras quite as well. The District Return may also be published in the *District Gazette* for the information of the local Medical and Revenue Officers.

11. As the sanction accorded by Government in their Order, dated 7th August 1867, No. 961, Public Department, for the retention of the establishment for the registration of deaths will expire on the 31st December 1867, the Board solicit the early orders of Government on these Proceedings regarding the continuance of the establishment.

(A true Extract).

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,

Secretary.

No. 147.

ORDER THEREON, 28th January 1868, No. 115.

In the Proceedings above recorded, the Board of Revenue submit their opinion on the working of the establishment for registering deaths sanctioned by the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
23th January 1868.*

Government of India in their Resolution dated the 30th September 1865, No. 3766, experimentally for a year, subject to report of the amount of work done, and the necessity for two additional clerks in each of the nineteen districts.

2. The first Report and Mortuary Return furnished by the Board of Revenue, on the 2nd October last, were for the year 1865-66 (Fusly 1275), and were forwarded to the Government of India with letter dated the 11th October 1867, No. 1263.

3. The Board of Revenue state that the work of tabulating the Returns needs care and regularity; that the Revenue Establishments have been reduced to the lowest number sufficient for the discharge of their own proper duties; that, notwithstanding the services of the extra establishment, considerable delay occurs in the districts in the submission of the Mortuary Returns; and that it is clear that a permanent establishment should be exclusively entertained for the duty of registration. The Board recommend that the salary of the 1st clerk should be increased from Rupees 20 to Rupees 30, as the services of a competent person cannot be secured for a less sum. The cost of the establishment for each district would then stand as follows, viz:—

	RS.
1 Clerk	30
1 Do.	15
For one month.....	45
For 19 districts.....	855
Per annum.....	10,260

4. Considering the area of the Presidency, the number of villages, and the population, the Governor in Council concurs with the Board of Revenue in considering that the cost of the proposed permanent establishment for registration is moderate, and resolves to sanction the same, subject to the confirmation of the Government of India.

5. The registration of births will, as suggested by the Board of Revenue, be commenced at once.

6. The instructions issued to the Collectors to prepare the Returns for the future for the Calendar month in its integrity, and for their submission direct to the Inspector General, Medical Department, are approved.

7. The compulsory registration of births and deaths, and the imposition of the cost thereof as a municipal charge, will be considered when Act X of 1865 comes under revision.

(True Extract).

P. A. Ellis
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓

„ Inspector General, Medical Department.

„ Accountant General.

„ Legislative Department.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

W. 347
Comm. to the B. of R.
Rev. [Signature]
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.
10th Feb 1868.

5 Copies of this Report to be sent to the B. of R. on 15th Feb 1868.

