M.R.O. 1—89,000—15-1-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1825 Press Mis 1867

Dated 28-6 19 87

594-95

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 594. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th May 1869, No. 3,162.

Read the following letters:—

From C. W. READE, Esq., Collector of South Arcot, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chengamah, 21st December 1868, No. 282.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 11th September last, No. 6,495, requesting the opinion of Collectors of districts adjoining foreign territory, as to whether any, and what special measures should be taken for laying down the line of demarcation along the boundary, I have the honor to state, that measures for accurately defining the present complex boundary of the French territory adjoining my district are imperatively called for. Besides disputes respecting tanks and channels, the water of which is shared by English and French villages, there have been long pending several boundary questions, the settlement of which is as remote as ever, simply for want of any recognised data by which to fix the boundary line, and the difficulties of dealing with cases of the kind would, of course, cease if there were some well-defined boundary marks. At present, English and French territory so intersect each other, that in parts it would be a most troublesome task to determine the proper frontier line, and equally laborious and very expensive would it be to construct or set up well-defined boundary marks; still the advantages of such a work would be incalculable, and the greater the evils and annoyances incidental to the present state of things, the greater the needs be for applying a remedy. At the same time the demarcation could, of course, only be undertaken in concert with the French Government, and possibly the actual difficulties to a settlement of the boundary line would only be appreciated and understood when operations commenced; but my belief is, that it is as much a desideratum with the French as with ourselves, and, if any project of the kind were really entertained, I would venture to suggest that opportunity be taken of re-adjusting the present boundary, so as to correct the existing intersections of territory now so frequent and forming one continuous boundary line around the French Settlement of Pondicherry. This arrangement would put an end to innumerable differences and squabbling so often arising, and it would likewise materially simplify our land customs organisation, and probably more than any other means, protect our Customs Revenue, by enabling us to establish a more perfect and readily-handled system for the prevention of smuggling; for the fact that neither territory lies on one side of a continuous boundary line has been heretofore the great provocative cause of annoyance and vexation, and naturally has tended to foster and encourage smuggling in all its varied forms and branches.

2. Endeavors have, I believe, been made more than once to bring about an exchange of territory so as to put a stop to the evils of which I speak; and in 1816 I think Commissioners were appointed on the part of both Governments, but nothing definitely was done beyond suggestions; but there was a sketch plan prepared at the time showing the proposed exchanges of land to be made, in order to ensure a continuous frontier line between the two territories, but no boundary stones or other marks were laid down to correspond with the map; and thus the latter has been useless as any authority by which to determine disputes involving questions of boundary between villages lying on the frontier.

3. If what was begun so many years back could, at this juncture, be brought to a practical termination, the boon to both French and English subjects affected would be very great; while the occasion for future disputings and discussions would for ever cease, and the entire customs administration be placed on a very different footing from what it is at the present time.

From the Collector and Special Agent, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 19th February 1869, No. 32.

With reference to your Official Memorandum, dated 1st instant, No. 82, I have the honor to forward copies of the papers noted in the margin, being the last of a series of correspondence which took place between the Government and the local authorities, relating to the proposed exchange of territory in rectification of the boundary at present dividing the Pondicherry Settlement from the South Arcot District.

From Chief Secretary, to Collector and Special Agent, dated 17th March 1854.
From Collector and Special Agent, to Chief Secretary to Government, dated 5th April 1854.

2. The Board will observe from the Memorandum which accompanies Mr. Maltby's letter, that the correspondence on this subject extends over a period of four years, or from 1816 to 1819, both inclusive, and as transcripts of these records were sent to the Madras Government, and the copying of them in my office will involve much time and labor, I would suggest that they be obtained from the Government Office. Should, however, the Board wish for separate copies, they can be prepared consistent with the current pressing work in the office.

3. The copy of the map which accompanied Mr. Maltby's letter is also herewith sent in a tin case, and I request that it may be returned when no longer required.

Enclosures Nos. 1 and 2.– Correspondence.

Enclosure No. 3.—Map

In their Proceedings, dated 11th September 1868, No. 6,495, the Board, having in view the proper demarcation and filling up the gaps in the Survey Maps, called on the Collectors whose districts adjoin any Foreign Territory to report whether any, and what special measures will be requisite for laying down the line of demarcation along such boundaries.

2. In reply, Mr. Reade draws attention to the ill-defined and inconvenient boundary between the French territory of Pondicherry, and suggests that the opportunity be taken of re-adjusting the present boundary so as to correct the intersections and form a continuous boundary line around the French Settlement. He dwells on the obvious advantages that would arise from such a rectification of the boundary.

3. On the other hand, it appears that in 1816 Commissioners were appointed on the part of both Governments who investigated the whole subject; but nothing could be done on their report. The matter has been frequently mooted since, without leading to any practical results, and the Board do not anticipate any practical results from re-opening the question now, even could it be done without some kind of convention between the two Governments.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th June 1869.

4. It will suffice to lay down the boundaries as now acknowledged, and when any dispute exists to deal with the case on its merits, so far as possible, or reserve it for future disposal. It would be inconvenient to encumber the Survey operation with semi-political conditions.

5. The Collector justly remarks that "the demarcation can, of course, only be undertaken in concert with the French Government," and for this he must take measures, noting carefully any difficulties that arise, and report the same for arrangement by higher authority.

No. 595. Order thereon, 28th June 1869, No. 1,825.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Govt. of India 1869

REVENUE.

THE 10TH OF FEBRUARY 1869.

Dated June 1864.

Read

G. O., 6th June 1864, No. 1,558.

TITLE.

TRANSMITTING PLANS.

Tanjore Collector, Pondicherry and Porto Novo District—Sends Plans of Boundaries for record.

Govt 17 March/64 No 14-1862
" 20 May/64 - 708 "

Rev. 1869. Dept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

No. 1560

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH MAY 1869, No. 3,162.

Encl.

Dated 12 [illegible]
Received 14 [illegible]

MAY.

No. 3,162.

Boundary—between French territory of Pon dicherry and South Arcot District, to be lai down in Survey map, as now acknowledged, an dispute that may exist, being dealt with on it merits, or reserved for future disposal.

No. 1626

RECORDED.

28th June 1869.

9 Nov 18/69 No 18-16