M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2813. Press Mis.

227. 228

Dated 19th October 1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 227. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd September 1869, No. 7,058 :—

Read the following letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort Saint George, 22nd April 1868, No. 320.

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Order of Government, dated 8th instant, No. 956, Revenue Department, I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to inform me how the Board would propose to effect the special examination of all Deposit Accounts in the districts. The annual Check Registers which show the balance of each item of deposit at the end of the official year, is now due by Treasury Officers.

In the foregoing letter the Accountant-General inquires, how the Board would propose to effect the special examination of all Deposit Accounts in the districts, with reference to paragraph 3 of the Order of Government, dated 8th April 1868, Revenue Department, No. 956.

2. The Board have given their careful attention to the subject, and they are of opinion that, before any examination can be effective, the Registers of deposits kept in the Collectors' offices of the several districts should be put in proper order. The Registers, as at present maintained, appear to be in great confusion, as far as the Board can judge from the quarterly Returns of Deposits received from the Collectors, as well as from a perusal of some of the annual Check Registers submitted by them to the Accountant-General. The Board think that, under the present state of things, anything like an effective check cannot be exercised over these Registers.

3. In the first place, the classification of items is neither perfect nor correct. A few instances of this will be given. There are three Check Registers kept, one for Revenue, one for Judicial, and one for Miscellaneous Deposits. The collections from Minor Estates are shown in some districts in the Revenue, and in some in the Miscellaneous Register. In Bellary, fines levied by certain Sub-Magistrates to be paid to prosecutors, the amounts to be credited to Police Superannuation Pension Fund, Compensation Bills of the Railway Department, and the sale proceeds of stolen cattle are entered under "Revenue," though they all properly belong to "Miscellaneous." In Tanjore also, Magisterial fines, and the sale proceeds of unclaimed property are entered under "Revenue." In Trichinopoly, excess collections to be repaid to ryots are shown under "Miscellaneous," though the item properly belongs to "Revenue." In most of the districts, the classification of items is incorrectly made.

4. In the resolution of the Government of India, dated 31st March 1865, No. 1,506, which was communicated to all Collectors with the Board's Proceedings dated 30th June 1865, No. 3,672, it is ruled that in order to reduce the numbers of deposits on the Registers of the several Revenue Treasuries, collections made from the estates of Minors under the Court of Wards, and, generally, when numerous deposits are made on one account, all of them are to be recorded in one personal Ledger; but a perusal of the Check Registers for 1867-68, and of the extracts from the Registers of Deposits furnished monthly by Collectors to the Accountant-General,

clearly shows that the rule has been entirely lost sight of, and that the deposits received at different periods on one and the same account, are treated as so many different and unconnected items, the Registers being thus encumbered with numerous entries, without giving any clue to the aggregate transactions under each head.

5. With a view to simplifying the Registers of Deposits and rendering them susceptible of easy check, the Board would propose that in the case of Revenue Deposits a separate Ledger be opened in every Collector's office for the items noted in the margin, as well as for any of a similar recurring nature which may obtain; an alphabetical reference being prefixed to each head. In the corresponding Check Registers, only the aggregate amount received and paid on account of each of those heads in each month should be shown, as for instance "A. Transactions of Minor Estates" as in Ledger. Such entries should be carefully scrutinized by the Treasury Deputy Collector himself with vouchers and monthly accounts received, obtaining such information from the Huzoor Sheristadar as may be necessary.

A. Transactions of Minor Estates.
B. Deposits made on account of Abkarry, etc., Rents.
C. Deposits made by purchasers of property attached for arrears of Revenue.
D. Excess collections over the demand.
E. Estates under attachment of the Courts.
F. Estates attached by Revenue Officers for arrears of Revenue.
G. Undisbursed portion of the passed bills of the Survey, Post Office, Demarcation, Police, and every other department.

6. In the Ledger, one folio should be allotted for each of these heads, and all the detail should be entered both in the Dr. and Cr. sides. Only in respect of "A. Transactions of the Minor Estates," if there should be more than one estate, a separate folio will be allotted for each Minor Estate with the letter A. prefixed, that the transactions of each estate may be kept distinct. Below the entries of each month in the Ledger, the Treasury Deputy Collector as well as the Collector should affix their initials. A specimen form filled up with fictitious entries will be sent to the Accountant-General, that he may circulate it to Collectors with the necessary instructions, if he approves of it.

7. In the case of Abstracts for Salt and Abkarry, etc., contingencies, the Board would not allow the full amount to be charged in the accounts, and the undisbursed portion carried to deposit. In the Check Register of the Madras District, there is an item in June 1858 of undisbursed Salt Kudiwaram, amounting to Rupees 7,796, and in September 1867 Rupees 1,506. There is no necessity for keeping these amounts in deposit, and the Board have prescribed the proper system of treating such payments in their Proceedings of the 26th May 1868, No. 3,747, which have been already communicated to the Accountant-General.

8. Again, undisbursed portions of Budget grants are written off as a charge at the end of the official year in some districts, and the amount carried to the account of deposit to be disbursed from time to time in the following years. In the Madras District, compensation due for lands taken up for Madras Water Works, for which a provision of Rupees 30,000 was made in the Public Works Budget for 1867-68, was charged in the Engineer's Accounts of 1867-68 after drawing the amount from the Collector on cheque, though nothing was disbursed before the end of the year. The amount was afterwards remitted by the Executive Engineer, Madras Water Works, on 27th March 1868, to be retained in deposit, and it is

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
19*th October* 1869.

accordingly entered in the annual Check Register for 1867-68 as item No. 87 deposit. Even at the end of the official year 1868-69 there is still a sum of about Rupees 20,000, or two-thirds unspent. This appears to be objectionable and quite opposed to the Budget principle. When a similar course was wrongly followed in the Godavery District, Government, in the Public Works Department, objected to it and had the money returned to the Treasury, as will be seen from the correspondence noted in the margin.

Letter from the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 23rd July 1864, No. 531-3,373 C.
Government Order, Public Works Department, dated 20th August 1864, No. 2,396.
Government Order, Public Works Department, dated 10th February 1865, No. 392.
From Collector, Godavery District, to the Board of Revenue, dated 31st July 1865, No. 161.
Board's Proceedings, dated 4th September 1865, No. 5,447.
Government Order, Public Works Department, dated 9th October 1865, No. 2,981.

9. These remarks relate more especially to Revenue Deposits, but the Board believe that they are equally applicable to Judicial and Miscellaneous Deposits, and are of opinion that in the case of these deposits also, items which frequently occur should be classified in Ledgers.

10. It is for the Accountant-General to consider the suggestions now made, and to issue the necessary instructions to Collectors. The Board believe that the issue of instructions such as they have proposed, combined with a careful and patient examination of the Check Registers by some subordinate in the Accountant-General's office who is equal to the duty, will introduce order into the District Treasuries within a few months.

11. If the Deposit Registers kept in the several districts are put on a proper footing, it will be very easy to check them, and as an Assistant to the Accountant-General occasionally goes over the districts and inspects the Treasury Accounts, the Board do not think that any special examination of the Deposit Accounts will be necessary.

No. 228. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1869, No. 2,813.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED to be recorded.

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Rs 2½ Stamps affixed 375-400
" 1½ " " - 300-1-
" 8 Half " " - 125-25
" 13 Cash " - 237-38
" 8 " " - 225-27

Revenue 1869. Original

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

P/- 3338

PROCEEDINGS, 23RD SEPTEMBER 1869, No. 7,058.

Encl.

Dep. 29 September

Received 30 "

Collr. Arrack Sales Godavery

SEPTEMBER.

No. 7,058.

Registers of deposits—in Collectors' Offices —Certain suggestions made for simplifying and rendering them susceptible of easy check and Accountant General requested to consider these suggestions and to issue necessary instructions to Collectors.

Recorded 8-28/3. W.M.

Examined

Entered

13 Cash Rs 225

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October, 19*th*.

Recd.

G. O., 19*th October* 1869, *No.* 2,813.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 227-228.

Deposit Accounts in District Treasuries—Board's Proceedings relating to their special examination, recorded.