M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3008 Press ~~Mis.~~

232 - 33

Dated 22nd November 1889.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
22nd November 1869.

No. 232. Read the following letter from the Under-Secretary to the Government of India, (Financial Department,) to the Secretary to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, Nynee Tal, dated Simla, 30th October 1869, No. 4,238:—

THE Governor-General in Council has again had under his consideration the position of the Department of Inland Customs in relation to the local Governments and Administrations with which it is concerned. You were addressed on this subject in my letter, No. 1,035, dated 12th February last, and I am now directed to state, for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the conclusions which His Excellency in Council has formed.

2. The primary duty of the department is to collect the import duties on salt and the export duties on sugar crossing the Customs Frontier Line. Before 1857 nearly the whole of that line ran along the frontier of districts subject to the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces. The department was, therefore, necessarily administered by that Government to which it was strictly subordinate. Subsequently, owing partly to changes in territorial administration and partly to great extensions of the line, it has come to pass that the greater portion of the line now lies outside of the provinces subject to the Government of the North-Western Provinces.

3. The main line now extends from the Sutlej in the Punjab to a point in the Central Provinces not far from the Tributary Mehals of Cuttack, a distance of more than 1,800 miles, of which only about 300 lie in the North-Western Provinces. Further extensions of this line are under consideration. There is another line, 334 miles in length, on the frontier of the Berars. The amount of revenue collected in the North-Western Provinces is also far smaller than that which is collected on other parts of the Customs line.

4. Besides collecting the duties on these frontier lines, the Department of Inland Customs has a large internal branch, organized for the prevention of the illicit manufacture of salt and the regulation of saltpetre and kindred manufactures. A considerable portion of this branch is employed in Oudh. Recently the manufacture of salt has been set on foot in Oudh under its supervision. Arrangements have also been made for leasing the Sambhur Lake, lying in the territories of Jeypoor and Jodhpoor. The regulation of the manufacture and import of salt from this lake will be a duty requiring great care, and it must necessarily be entrusted to the Department of Inland Customs.

5. The Commissioner of that department is thus brought into official communication not only with the Government of the North-Western Provinces but also with that of the Punjab, with the Chief Commissioners of Oudh and of the Central Provinces, with the Resident at Hyderabad, and with the Political Agents in Rajpootana. No change has, however, been made in the position of the Government of the North-Western Provinces in respect of the department. That Government is still entrusted with its general administration, and thus deals with questions affecting interests far beyond its own jurisdiction.

6. The Governor-General in Council, while fully recognizing the energy and ability with which the Government of the North-Western Provinces has performed

this duty, is of opinion that, under the altered circumstances of the department, it is anomalous and, in some respects, inconvenient that it should continue to devolve upon a local Government. His Excellency in Council, therefore, thinks it necessary that the relation of the Government of the North-Western Provinces to the Inland Customs Department shall for the future be the same as that of the other local Governments and Administrations with which the department is concerned, and that the general supervision and control hitherto exercised by the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-Western Provinces should be assumed by the Governor-General in Council in the Financial Department.

All returns and reports which are made by the Commissioner to other local Governments and Administrations will be made to the Government of the North-Western Provinces, and all those which have hitherto been addressed to that Government with reference to its peculiar position as exercising a general control over the departments will be addressed to the Government of India in the Financial Department.

7. The Governor-General in Council is sensible that the work which he has thus assumed cannot be effectively carried out without the hearty co-operation of the different local Governments and Administrations; but he knows that that co-operation can always be relied on, and he looks forward with confidence to the continued improvement and development of this important branch of the Imperial revenues.

8. I am to request that His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor will be good enough to issue any further orders that may be necessary for completing these arrangements.

ORDERED that a copy of the above letter be furnished to all the local Governments and Administrations, and to Mr. Hume, the Commissioner of Inland Customs.

(Signed) G. H. M. BATTEN,
Under-Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1869, No. 3,008.

Separate Revenue, No. 16.
Customs.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

7

No. 3008.

Comm^d to the Board of Revenue.

22 Nov 69

In Settlt Bg & Rev Dep^t No 8

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November, 22nd.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 22nd November 1869, *No.* 3,008.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 232-233.

Inland Customs Department in North-We Provinces.—Letter from Government of India o its position in relation to the local Governmen and Administrations, communicated to the Boar of Revenue.