M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1108 Press Mis.

197-98.

Dated 22-7-1870 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 197. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1870, No. 4,708:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Sub-Collector, in charge of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 7th June 1870, No. 1,971.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Board, that when I had occasion to go into the Treasury-room on the 17th April last to give out Stamps for supply to the talooks, I found that several of the bundles in the box had been attacked by white-ants. I had the Stamps immediately taken out, carefully examined, and cleared of the insects. The annexed statement shows the description, number and value of Stamps damaged and rendered unfit for use. It will be observed from this statement that a large number had to be destroyed. Notwithstanding the precautionary measures taken by me to prevent similar accidents by getting the boxes tarred, I am by no means sanguine that the Stamps will be safe from similar inroads by white-ants. When I examined the Treasury on the 13th April on taking charge of the district from Mr. Boswell, the Stamps were all in good condition. Judging in how short a period they made their way into the box, I apprehend that unless immediate measures are adopted for the improvement of the Treasury-room, there will be great risk for the future.

2. Mr. Boswell brought the shortcomings of this building to the notice of the Board, but his proposal to make the necessary improvements and additions to the Cutcherry were laid aside for want of funds, and there does not appear any probability of the Treasury being improved, until the whole Cutcherry building is repaired. Meantime, much inconvenience is felt. The recent rules, authorizing the receipt of copper without limit, has greatly diminished the space available in the cash-room. Under the new Stamp Act the number which should be retained in store has greatly increased. It is desirable that these Stamps should be secured in almirahs with pigeon-holes; but the chief difficulty is to find room for them. I would therefore urge upon the Board the expediency of adopting speedy measures for the improvement of the building. The Accountants and Shroffs are all huddled up in stifling passages and corners, while the building itself, both roof and walls, is hopelessly overrun with white-ants. I may add that the stationery is obliged to be kept in an even more dangerous place than that set apart for the Stamps.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 22nd July 1870.

Statement showing the number of damaged Stamp-papers, etc., in the Kistna District Treasury.

Value of Stamps.	Number of Stamp-papers in Store.	Number damaged by ants.	Number damaged in Stock.	Remarks.
Red and Blue Stamp-papers.				
16 Rupees	40	2*	...	* Slightly.
15 Do.	40	1*	...	* Do.
4 Annas	6,000	64*	...	* 60 badly and 4 slightly.
8 Do.	10,945	55	1	
2 Do.	9,000	567	...	
1 Anna	3,500	61*	...	* Do. 1 do.
Black and Blue Stamp-papers.				
8 Rupees	250	...	1	
2 Do.	500	...	1	
2 Annas	7,000	75	...	
8 Do.	3,000	2	...	
Total destroyed by ants...	.....	827	3	

	Rs.	A.	P.
Total value of Stamps destroyed by ants...	175	9	0
Do. do. in stock...	10	8	0
Total...	186	1	0

(Signed) B. HORSBRUGH,
Acting Sub-Collector, in charge.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. The best mode of protecting the Stamps from white-ants will be to line the boxes with tin. The Collector will have an estimate of the cost prepared, and submit it for sanction.

No. 198. ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1870, No. 1,108.

Separate Revenue, No. 13.
Stamps.

THE Board of Revenue are requested to obtain and submit for the sanction of Government an estimate for such repairs or improvements to the Treasury of the Collector's Office at Masulipatam as will obviate the inconveniences brought to notice by the Acting Sub-Collector in charge.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Lxd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated July, 22nd. Encl.

Recd.

G. O., 22nd July 1870, No. 1,108.

JULY.
Nos. 197-198.

Stamps destroyed by white-ants in Collector's Office at Masulipatam, Kistna District. —Board of Revenue requested to submit for sanction an estimate for repairing or improving the Treasury building.