M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1364 Press ~~Mis.~~

466-69
Dated 30-8-1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 30th August 1870.

Read the following :—

No. 466. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th July 1870, No. 4,725.

Read the following letter from the Collector of Madras, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd July 1870, No. 1.

I HAVE the honour to bring to the Board's notice the subjoined facts connected with the transfer of the duties regarding the Town of Madras.

2. Refunds in cases of useless and spoiled stamped papers are to be made by me as Collector of Madras. Provision has, I presume, been made in the Budgets of my predecessor for such refunds, and on these points reports will have been made to the Board.

3. It would cause great inconvenience to parties obtaining orders for refunds, if the amounts were paid at the Deputy-Collector's Treasury; I therefore beg to propose that a Permanent Advance Fund to the amount necessary may be sanctioned and placed at my disposal, the money to be kept and disbursed by the Cash-keeper of the Sea Customs Office, and entered in the monthly accounts of the Custom-house.

4. Regarding payments made to me on account of Income-tax, I propose to remit them to the Bank of Madras with the Custom-house Treasury remittance, which is sent daily, keeping accounts to show the sums paid and remitted on account of Income-tax.

5. Sundry payments of fees, fines, etc., made to me as Collector of Madras on account of Stamp Acts, etc., (some of which payments have already been made, and others probably will be,) I propose to treat in the same manner as payments on account of Income-tax referred to in paragraph 4.

6. In Section 21, Act VI. of 1867, it is provided that publication shall be made in the Official Gazette of the Madras District. Other Notifications and instructions on other points will also, I presume, be required by law to be published in the Official Gazette of the Madras District. No provision has, however, been made for a Gazette in the transfer of offices; I therefore propose that whenever it is necessary that anything should be published, that a Supplementary Gazette, called the *Gazette of the Madras District*, be published at the Government Press as part of the *Fort Saint George Gazette*.

7. I request the Board will be good enough to pass or procure the passing of the necessary orders on the points referred as soon as possible, as in some cases business may be delayed until these matters are arranged.

THE Board have had under their consideration the arrangements which seem necessary in consequence of the Town of Madras being constituted a separate Collectorate, and resolve to lay down the following rules for the conduct of business connected with the new district.

2. For purposes of account the Treasury of the Tahsildar of Madras and the Treasury of the Sea Customs Office will form branches of the Treasury of the Madras District, of which the Collector shall be the Treasury officer.

3. The cash balances of both the Branch Treasuries, (which will, in fact, occupy in respect of accounts the relative position of Talook Treasuries to a Huzoor

19. A copy of these Proceedings will also be submitted to Government for their information and approval.

No. 467. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th July 1870.

Read the following Docket from the Deputy-Accountant-General, dated Fort Saint George, 11th July 1870, No. 882.

STATES, with reference to paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th instant, that the instructions therein contained are opposed to the rulings of the Government of India, and that therefore they cannot be put into operation without the previous sanction of the Supreme Government.

IN this letter the Deputy-Accountant-General states that the instructions contained in paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Board's Proceedings, 6th July 1870, No. 4,725, are opposed to the rulings of the Government of India, and that therefore they cannot be put into operation without the previous sanction of the Supreme Government.

2. The Board, in the absence of all information in the above letter as to the grounds upon which the instructions in question are said to be inapplicable, presume that the objection has reference to the system of pre-audit, which is described for all disbursements connected with offices at the Presidency. If so, the Board have only to reiterate their opinion already expressed in their former Proceedings, that the constitution of the Sea Customs, Abkarry, and other departments into a distinct Collectorate alters the question and weakens the argument in favour of the pre-audit system.

3. Refunds of Stamp-duty and refunds under the Income-tax Act must be made when applied for, and cannot be legally put off; so also payments on account of liquor delivered for the Abkarry Department cannot be deferred without prejudice to the parties concerned. It becomes, therefore, a matter of absolute necessity that the Collector should exercise the authority he is legally vested with over his own Treasury. Otherwise, business will be brought to a standstill. The Board therefore authorize the Collector of Madras, pending the settlement of the question raised by the Accountant-General to make use of his Taluk Treasury on the Mount Road for all disbursements connected with the administration of the Land Revenue, Abkarry, Stamp, Income-tax, and Registration Departments, subject to post-audit, leaving the Sea Customs Treasury on its present footing, and all disbursements connected with that branch of revenue liable to pre-audit as hitherto.

4. A copy of these Proceedings will be submitted to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings already quoted, with a request that early orders may be passed on the subject.

No. 468. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th August 1870.

Read the following letter from the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Fort Saint George, 26th July 1870, No. 926.

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 15th, and received the 25th instant, No. 4,896, I have the honour to point out that the authority granted by the Board to the Collector of Madras in the 3rd paragraph of their Proceedings is diametrically opposed to the orders of the Government of India, which require that all service charges, both fixed and contingent, of the Civil Department at the Presidency Town shall, after careful check and scrutiny, be disbursed by the Examiner of Claims. This rule is observed in Calcutta where the disbursements in the Customs, Abkarry, Income-tax, and Registration Departments are necessarily far heavier and more numerous than here, and I beg therefore that the Board will re-consider their instructions to the Collector.

THE Board resolve to submit the foregoing letter to Government, in continuation of their Proceedings, dated the 15th July 1870, No. 4,896.

2. They have nothing to add on this occasion, save that the Accountant-General's assumption, that the disbursements in Calcutta are necessarily greater than in Madras is not correct, so far as regards the most important part of them, viz., those appertaining to the Abkarry. The Board are not aware of the practice in Calcutta as regards refunds of stamps and Income-tax. If post-audit is not admitted, the Permanent Advance Fund must necessarily be very large. Of course, the establishments could be paid with equal conveniences on either system.

3. In their previous Proceedings, the Board have fully explained their reasons for their recommendations, and they still adhere to them.

4. They do not think it a logical consequence of the constitution of Madras into a separate Collectorate, that the pre-audit system should be rendered necessary thereby. The charges remain precisely the same in all essential respects as they were before the 1st July, when the Accountant-General saw no objection to dealing with them on the post-audit system. The objection now taken to it is, in fact, purely technical.

5. Whatever the decision of Government may be, the Board request that the Accountant-General may be authorized to pass all charges incurred up to date.

No. 469. ORDER THEREON, 30th August 1870, No. 1,364.

Miscellaneous.

THE Right Honourable the Governor in Council is of opinion that the pre-audit system should be adopted for the present experimentally at both the Treasuries under the control of the Collector of Madras. The Board of Revenue will accordingly be good enough to issue the necessary orders applying for sanction to increase the Permanent Advance Funds to such an extent as will obviate any possible inconvenience.

2. The Board will report at the close of the present Fusly year whether the system has worked satisfactorily.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Collector of Madras.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

or District Treasury,) will, as heretofore, continue to be remitted to the Bank of Madras daily or as often as the state of the balance on hand may require.

4. The monthly accounts of the Branch Treasuries will be prepared and rendered by the same agency as hitherto; but instead of being forwarded one to the Treasury officer at Sydapet, the other to the Accountant-General direct, they will be sent to the Sheristadar's Department attached to the Collector, where both the accounts will be thrown into one in the prescribed form of the District Treasury Accounts, and forwarded to the Accountant-General under the signature of the Collector.

5. There will also be one Return of Demand, Collection, and Balance of revenue for the entire district, and it must be prepared from materials similarly furnished by the officers in immediate charge of the Branch Treasuries.

6. The same course will be observed in regard to all General Returns appertaining to the district.

7. The Talook Treasury on the Mount Road has been a Disbursing Treasury, but the Sea Customs Treasury has not been so. The Board consider that it will promote the convenience of the general public and of the mercantile community in particular to make both Disbursing Treasuries. This will enable the large number of parties daily obtaining from the Collector or Deputy-Collector orders for refunds of Stamp-duty, refunds of Income-tax, payments of Customs Drawback, and refunds of Customs-duty, to cash them on the spot.

8. All disbursements connected with the purchase of liquor and other purposes connected with the Abkarry as well as any others which the convenience of the merchants and others in the part of the Town where the Tahsildar's Office is situated may require, will similarly be made from the Tahsildar's Treasury under the orders of the Collector as the District Treasury officer.

9. The heavy and frequent disbursements in connection with the Town Abkarry as well as all other disbursements from the Tahsildar's Treasury have been heretofore subject to post-audit as appertaining to the late district of Madras. On the other hand, all Bills of Charges connected with the Sea Customs have been subject to pre-audit and paid by Cheques on the Bank of Madras.

10. Now that the Town and the Sea Customs for purposes of account form one district, it will be inconvenient as well as useless to have two systems of audit prevailing simultaneously. Viewed as a matter of account the pre-audit system has no doubt its advantages, but as regards the convenience and interests of the public, and especially that part of it which is engaged in mercantile pursuits, the Board are decidedly of opinion that the post-audit system has many still greater recommendations. The Collector of Madras like every other Collector in the Presidency should accordingly have the power of authorizing all disbursements connected with the administration of his district on his own responsibility without pre-audit.

11. The funds necessary for working the new district will be created by deducting from the sanctioned Budget of the late Madras District such portions as appertain to the departments now transferred, which, added to the Budget grants for the Sea Customs Department of Madras, will form the total Budget grant for the new district. The Collector of Chingleput will therefore lose no time in drawing up and forwarding to the Collector of Madras, through the Board, a

Statement of Budget grants appertaining to the transferred departments, and in amending his own Budget accordingly. In doing this it will be necessary to show the expenditure incurred under each head of grant in the three months of the current official year already expired and the balance left under each.

12. Mr. Hunter Blair brings to notice that an Official Gazette for the new district will be necessary to comply with the requisitions of certain laws which demand the publication of certain Notifications in the local Gazette, and suggests that a Supplementary Gazette called the *Gazette of the Madras District* be published at the Government Press as part of the *Fort Saint George Gazette.*

13. The Board are of opinion that the best and most convenient plan will be to have all such Notifications published as hitherto in the Gazette of the Chingleput District, which, to comply with the requirements of the law, will be in future styled the "*District Gazette of Chingleput and Madras.*" The necessity of adding to the work in the Government Press, as proposed by Mr. Blair, will thus be obviated, while the same facility of publicity to the Notifications will be secured to them as has hitherto obtained. Moreover, the intention of the law is that the publication shall be made in a well-established and regularly issued periodical and the occasional sheets which Mr. Blair proposes would not fulfil this condition.

14. The Collector of Chingleput will accordingly arrange for the alteration of the title of his Gazette for the publication therein of all Notifications connected with the Madras District, and for such number of copies of the Gazette as Mr. Hunter Blair may require being supplied for the use of his district. Any forms of accounts or returns which may be required for the Madras District must be obtained from the District Press of Chingleput, where an extra number of copies may be struck off for the purpose.

15. As regards the Stationery required for the new district the Collector of Chingleput will transfer to the Madras District the portion appertaining to the departments transferred. If Mr. Hunter Blair finds that he cannot provide Stationery for his new Huzoor Establishment out of savings from that of other departments under him, he will submit a supplemental indent for the sanction of the Board.

16. The Board learn that some office-furniture has been already supplied for Mr. Hunter Blair's new establishment out of the furniture of the abolished office of the Inam Commissioner. Any more that may be required for his district should be indented for at once, as the Board intend to provide the requisition of other offices out of the remaining stock. The Budget grants of the current year will not permit of new furniture being purchased.

Monthly Treasury Accounts.
Do. Cash Balance Report.
Monthly Demand, Collection, and Balance.
Do. Progress Statement of Collection and Charges in comparison with Budget-Estimates.
Demand, Collection, and Balance Return of Income-tax.

17. A supply of printed forms of the returns noted in the margin required for one year's use will be supplied immediately from the Board's Office.

18. A copy of these Proceedings will be sent to the Accountant-General, with a request that the necessary instructions may be issued immediately, authorizing the Collector of Madras to make disbursements from the Treasuries under his control.

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2. The Board will report at the close of the present Fusly year whether the system has worked satisfactorily.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Collector of Madras.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No 2101, 2123 & 2381.

For orders

These three papers relate the question whether the recent constitution of the Town as a separate Collectorate is to have the effect of requiring all payments made within it to fall under the pre-audit system instead of the post audit.

Under the old arrangements all payments made from the Treasury of the Tahsildar of the town, which was a branch of the Sydapet District Treasury, were made,

I would for the present adopt the pre-audit system with such a scale of permanent Advance Fund as the Collr deem necessary. Subject to revision at the close of the Fasly

[illegible]

A[illegible]

like all Mofussil payments, subject to post audit. Payments made from the Treasury of the Collector of Sea Customs were on the other hand made in the Presidency system of pre-audit.

On the ~~amalgamation~~ creation of the town ~~of the~~ into a separate District, the Bd of Rev directed in the first paper noted above that the Custom House Treasury should be put upon the same footing as a Mofussil Treasury, the Collector being authorized to make payments from it subject to post audit and being required to submit his monthly accounts of this Treasury as well as the branch Tahsildars Treasury to the Acct General in the same way as an up-country Collector. To this the Dy Cotr Acct General, in the second paper noted above, objected, as the Bd's instructions were considered opposed to the rulings of the Govt of India.* The Bd, however, adhered to their opinion, pointing out that refunds of Stamp duty, and Income Tax, could not be legally postponed, and that, similarly, payments on account of liquor, for the Abkary Dept, could not be deferred in justice to the parties concerned; they accordingly authorized the Colr to make all such payments from the Tahsildars treasury× for the present, and refused the question of making the

* Requiring all payments at the Presidency Towns to be made on the pre-audit system.

× where the post-audit system had always hitherto been in force.

Custom House a post-audit instead of a pre-audit treasury to Govt.

In the third paragraph above noted the Acct. General points out to the Board that their authority to the Collr. to make disbursement, even at the Talukdars treasury without pre-audit is diametrically opposed to the orders of the Govt of India, as the payments are Presidency payments. The Bd reply by stating that the payments are precisely the same as have hitherto been made on the post audit system, but observe that by granting large permanent advances the pre-audit system might be adopted

It is submitted that the payments to which the Board refer must be made at once and cannot await pre-audit, but in order to avoid a reference to the Govt of India and to maintain the Presidency practice at Calcutta & Bombay, perhaps the simplest mode of doing so will be through a permanent advance fund

Col. 8101, 8150, 8821

1071

No. 1364

30 Augt 1870.

1. The Rt Honble the Govr in Council ~~deems~~ is of opinion that ~~the adoption of~~ the pre-audit system at both the treasuries under the control of the Collector of Madras should be adopted, for the present, experimentally. The Board of Revenue will accordingly be good enough to issue the necessary orders ~~accordingly~~ applying for sanction to increase the Government advance

C. 10 Augt 70

funds to such an extent as will obviate any possible inconvenience.

2) The Board will report at the close of the present Fasli year whether the system has worked satisfactorily.

MD.

Sent from order

MD

In [illegible] to Bd. of Rev. Dec 30th [illegible] / C. [illegible] Dept
" To Acct. General : [illegible] / [illegible] Deptr
" To Collr. of Madura [illegible] / [illegible]

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