No. 352. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th September 1870, No. 5,697:—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Collector of the Kistna District, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Masulipatam, 20th August 1870, No. 3,831.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of a letter from the Acting Joint Magistrate, dated 8th August 1870, No. 32, pointing out the urgent necessity of appointing a Town Sub-Magistrate for Guntoor. Mr. Wilson appointed the Taluq Sheristadar of Guntoor to be Town Sub-Magistrate to meet the urgent necessity, and his successors have allowed the same state of things to continue; but Mr. Horsbrugh points out how this arrangement leaves the Sheristadar no time for the discharge of his own proper revenue-duties, and that the accounts are therefore neglected. It is no wonder that this should be the case when the Town Sub-Magistrate's file in seven months contains more than 450 cases. I would therefore very strongly second the Acting Joint Magistrate's proposal that if funds can be provided, a Town Sub-Magistrate should be appointed for Guntoor. In Masulipatam also the want of a Town Sub-Magistrate is greatly felt. The Taluq Sub-Magistrate's time is very much occupied with the trial of criminal cases to the serious detriment of his revenue-work, but I have not felt myself at liberty to transfer these duties to the Taluq Sheristadar. I beg that the Board will be pleased to submit to Government the wants of these important towns, as the present arrangements are prejudicial to revenue interests. If it is found impossible to allot funds for the appointment of a Town Sub-Magistrate for Guntoor, I would suggest the appointment of an extra Assistant to this district, who might be located at Guntoor, and work under the Sub-Collector's supervision, having magisterial charge of the Town.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Acting Joint Magistrate, to the Officiating Magistrate, Kistna District, dated Bapatla, 8th August 1870, No. 32.

I HAVE the honour to intimate to you my grave doubts as to the legality of the present arrangement by which the Taluq Sheristadar of Guntoor is trying all cases occurring within the limits of Guntoor Town, both those on complaint direct and those placed before him by the Police.

2. I am unable to point out to you the exact orders bearing on the subject, but I am quite sure that when these Sheristadars were invested with powers of a 2nd-class Sub-Magistrate, it was never contemplated either by the Government or the Board of Revenue that they were to have an independent magisterial charge; they were only to take up cases occasionally when referred to them by the Taluq Sub-Magistrate during a great press of business, or they were to give rewards for prisoners brought in during the Tahsildar's absence from head-quarters.

3. In Guntoor, the very opposite practice prevails; my predecessor, Mr. Wilson, on the recommendation of the present Taluq Sub-Magistrate, directed the then Sheristadar to open a separate file of his own as Town Sub-Magistrate, and to receive and dispose of all cases from Guntoor Town. On a change of Sheristadar taking place, you issued an order to continue as his predecessor had done.

4. In a large town like Guntoor there are sure to be plenty of thefts, assaults, etc.; but since the introduction of the Municipal Act and a long string of bye-laws, offences are of course more numerous, and the result is that there are already 451 cases on the file of the Town Sub-

Magistrate, while on that of the Taluq Sub-Magistrate there are 40 and not one preliminary inquiry. It is true that many of the former are petty cases with only a couple of witnesses, but still they take up time and attention, and in most of them, being Municipal cases, it is very desirable that the locality should be personally inspected by the Sub-Magistrate; thus his time lies cut up, and he is unable, through no fault of his own, to pay that attention and scrutiny in his legitimate duties of accounts, etc., which is so strongly insisted on by the Board, and regarding an absence of which, I believe your Treasury Deputy-Collector has matter of complaint against this very office.

5. I think that, excepting this district, every large town in which the Municipal Act is in force, has a Town Sub-Magistrate, and I beg to propose that one be appointed to Guntoor. I know there will be a difficulty on the score of funds, but I think the evil of alienating the Sheristadar from his proper work is so great that I am averse to acquiescing in it any longer, and I trust that you will represent the case to the Board of Revenue and to Government, with a view to its speedy settlement.

It would be useless to apply to the Supreme Government for the proposed increase in the establishment of Sub-Magistrates.

2. The Taluq Sheristadar of Guntoor must be relegated to his proper duties. Mr. Wilson acted irregularly in making him do the work of a Town Sub-Magistrate.

3. In both the taluqs referred to by the Collector, the Board believe the work can be done by the Tahsildars with ordinary assistance from their Sheristadars. Perhaps, however, it may be desirable to extend the ranges of the Deputy-Tahsildars.

4. Mr. Boswell's application for an extra Assistant will be submitted for the consideration of Government.

No. 353. ORDER THEREON, 31st October 1870, No. 1,673.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government concur in the views expressed by the Board of Revenue. They will request the Officiating Collector to report upon the feasibility of extending the ranges of the Deputy-Tahsildars.

2. The Officiating Collector's application for an extra Assistant will be borne in mind.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

No.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated October, 31st.
Recd.

G. O., 31st *October* 1870, No. 1,673.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 352-353.

Sub-Magistrates in Kistna District.—Proceedings Board of Revenue on Collector's application for an increase to the Staff, with orders thereon.

Revenue Department

No. 1673.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 31st October 1870.

Read the following. Proc. of the Board of Revenue.

Informing Coll. of Kistna that it would be useless to apply to Supreme Govt to increase staff of Sub Mgrs in District, & submitting Coll's application for an extra Assistant.

N.L. 13 Septr. 1870. No. 5697.

The Govt concur in the views expressed by the Board of Revenue. They will request the Offg. Coll. to report upon the feasibility of extending the ranges of the Deputy Tahsildars.

2. The Offg. Collector's application for an extra Assistant will be borne in mind

A.D.C.

Asst Secy to Govt

Copied

Compared & dispatched this date.

A.

To the Bd of Revl Board's Proc. dated

M.R.O. 1—32,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1673 Press Mis.

352-53.

Dated 31. 10. 1870 19-

Not to be folded or roughly handled