

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2087	Press
		<i>Ms.</i>
<i>412-15</i>	Dated 21-12-1890	N

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st December 1870.*

Read again G. O., dated 7th September 1870, No. 1,385.

Read also the following papers:—

No. 412. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th October 1870, No. 6,279.

From the Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 21st September 1870, No. 317.

With reference to paragraph 2 of the Accountant-General's letter to Government, communicated in Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1870, No. 3,462, I have the honour to state that I do not consider any reduction in the Treasury establishment of this district practicable.

2. I forward, herewith, a letter* from the Treasury Deputy Collector, in which he explains at full length how the work is distributed, and shows that the present strength of the establishment is hardly equal to the labour now devolving on it.

* Dated 16th June 1870, No. 281.

3. It is true that the shroffing work (and that alone and nothing more) in the Taluq Treasury at Negapatam has been transferred to the Branch Bank; but of the two Shroffs of that Treasury one has been detached to the office of Sea Custom Superintendent at Tranquebar. Tranquebar, as the Board are aware, is a Zillah station, and, there being no other public treasury there, all remittances from the various Courts and offices located at that station, as also from the Salt Depot and Encl. Custom Chowkies in that neighbourhood, are received into, and all payments to the several Courts and offices are made from, the Sea Custom Office. Thus the receipts in this office, including the customs collections, amount to Rupees 2,20,000, and the disbursements, including those out of cash drawn from the Taluq Treasury, to Rupees 2,25,000 per annum. It is evident, therefore, that such a large amount of cash business cannot by any possibility be transacted without the aid of a Shroff; and, as the Sea Custom Superintendent has none, the alternative lies between retaining the one detached from the Negapatam Treasury, or transferring the whole of this cash business to the Taluq Treasury at Mayaveram, eighteen miles distant from Tranquebar—a measure which must be attended with serious inconvenience to the public service.

4. With regard to the other Shroff of the Negapatam Taluq Cutcherry, he has quite enough to do with stamps, telegraph and postage labels, as well as the receipt and disbursements of cash on account of Military, Candian, and other Pensions, and the pay of the Taluq establishment. I need hardly add that at a station like Negapatam, which is the terminus of the Great Southern of India Railway and the seat of various public offices and Courts, the business connected with the receipts and issues of stamps of various descriptions must be necessarily very large.

5. With respect to the Hazur Treasury Establishment, it is true that the establishment of a branch of the Madras Bank at Negapatam has relieved it of the work of shroffing remittances from five of the nine Taluq Treasuries in this district; but it is at the same time to be observed that the annual receipts in cash and notes in the Hazur Treasury still amount to Rupees 43,19,460, and disbursements to Rupees 47,96,431.

6. Apart, however, from cash transactions, the Treasury Establishment has charge of the stock of stamps required to supply the wants, general and judicial, of two zillahs. As the Board are aware, no district in this Presidency, excepting perhaps Malabar, can stand a comparison with Tanjore as regards the stamp revenue, and under recent enactments the work of the Huzur Treasury in this district has enormously increased. It is entrusted besides with the custody and accounting for all stationery stores, and the payment of Military Pensioners, Family Certificate Holders, etc., numbering in all 800.

7. Considering thus the amount of detail work and responsibility devolving on the Huzur Treasurer and his establishment in Tanjore, I have no hesitation in stating that any reduction in the numerical strength or emoluments of this department is unsafe. I must here add that I have always felt the number of Goomastahs and Shroffs allowed for the Cash Department of the larger taluqs in this district to be utterly inadequate to the amount of work required of them, and it is really a wonder to me how such a small number of men with their small salaries manage to perform so much work, for it is hardly possible that two Shroffs, one on Rupees 15 and the other on Rupees 10 a month, can examine and shroff coins to the extent of ten lacs of Rupees, (which is the amount of collections of the Combaconum Taluq, including land revenue, abkarry, and stamps), much less that two Goomastahs can keep the requisite accounts and prepare the requisite returns with accuracy for receipts and disbursements to so large an extent.

Extract No. 1.

From the Deputy Collector in charge of Treasury, Tanjore, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated 16th June 1870, No. 281.

Advancing to your memorandum No. 745, dated 23rd ultimo, calling for a report with reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 26th idem, I have the honour to state that the establishment of the branch of the Madras Bank at Negapatam has, to some extent, reduced the bulk of cash work in the Negapatam Taluq, in consequence of which the services of one of the two Shroffs* employed there could have been dispensed with; but money transactions at the Tranquebar Sea Customs Office being heavy, one of the Shroffs on Rupees 10 was attached to that office under instructions contained in your order, dated 12th October 1868, No. 339, made on a letter from the Sub-Collector No. 193, dated 9th idem. The receipts in that Customs Office are Rupees 2,20,000 while the disbursements amount to Rupees 2,25,000 for a year, making in both Rupees 4,45,000, besides the Sea Customs transactions. There are located three Courts, viz., Civil and Sessions Court, Prince of Wales Court, and District Magistrate's Court, at the station, and large sums of money on account of snuff deposits and pawns* batta are constantly remitted to, and payments received from that sub-treasury. The collections from the Salt Division Office there, as well as those of Nondar, Kovvandaagudy, and Valangudy Frontier Land Custom Chowkies are all paid into that Treasury. There is a Zillah Jail at the station; it is a Police and Sub-Magistrate's division, and Schools, Marine, Post Office, Sub-Registry Office, and Dispensary exist there. There are Missionaries, British Consular Agent and Pensioners drawing funds from that Treasury. Stamp collections are received there; in fact, it is such an important station, that it is totally impossible for the two Shroffs employed in the Sea Custom Office to conduct the numerous duties appertaining to money transactions, and the necessity to obtain the sanction of the Government for the retention of the Shroff there is, therefore, manifest.

2. The other Shroff remains at the Negapatam Taluq Cutcherry, where payment of salaries of the Taluq establishment, as well as pensions of Superannuation, Candian, and Military Pensioners, drawn from the Bank in a lump sum is made. A Permanent Advance Fund is maintained in the taluq, and the work connected with stamps, telegraph and postage labels is extensive. The Shroff there has more than sufficient to do, and he cannot but be retained. You will thus find that no reduction can possibly be made in regard to the two Shroffs attached to the Negapatam Taluq.

1. Cash-keeper	Rs. 135
1. Accountant	25
1. Do.	20
1. Do.	15
1. Head Shroff	30
1. Sub. do.	25
3. Shroffs at 15 Rupees each	45
1. Goomastah	10
1. Do.	8
2. Do. at Rupees 7	14
Total	337

3. In respect to the Huzur Treasury Department, the strength of the establishment is detailed in the margin.

4. The duties performed by each member of the department are enumerated below.

5. The Cash-keeper heads the department. He superintends the examination of remittances, and has charge of the cash for disbursements; he is responsible for the correctness of payment

made by him on authority; he has Currency Notes for issue; he is the custodian of Stamps, judicial and non-judicial, Bills of Exchange, Bills of Lading, Foreign Bills, Adhesive Stamps, Telegraph Stamps, and Postage Labels; he supplies Stamps to taluqs on indents passed by the Deputy Collector, and sells Stamps to the licensed vendors at the head-quarters; he has charge of Permanent Advance Fund and Stationery articles and Promissory Notes lodged by public servants and contractors as security; he makes payments to Military pensioners, heirs, details on furlough, and holders of family certificates, who at this station number 800; he has got to keep several books and accounts, and is a very responsible officer.

6. Of the three Accountants attached to the Treasury two prepare the daily chitta for the cash receipts and disbursements and accounts connected with Stamps and Postage Labels, and furnish the necessary information to the English Account Department for preparation of the monthly general returns to be submitted to the Superintendent of Stamps. They also write the accounts of the Permanent Advance Fund, and prepare the Saderward and Contingent Accounts, and keep register of Promissory Notes deposited. The third prepares lists of Military Pensioners, etc., and writes accounts of payments made to them; he also keeps accounts of the Stationery and Civil Stores, and a register of Currency Notes for issues and receipts.

7. The Head Shroff gives out and receives money and Currency Notes, and is answerable for the quality of coins received into the Treasury. He keeps a rough chitta and superintends the issue of judicial and non-judicial Stamps, and keeps a memorandum of the same. He is assisted by the second Shroff, whose time is thus wholly occupied in the work.

8. The third Shroff prepares detailed Statement of coins received into and paid out daily, and examines every evening the balance of cash in all details under the directions of the Head Shroff.

9. The fourth and fifth Shroffs examine the Taluq remittances; one of them issues Postage Labels, Bills of Exchange, and such like stamps, and keeps an abstract of the same. The other takes out Stamps under the directions of the Head Shroff.

10. The duty of Gollaba needs no particular notice.

11. The duties connected with Stamps are increasing every day; the denominations of the General and Court Fees Stamps have, under the present law, risen to no less than four hundred, besides the various other descriptions of stamps and labels numbering 100. The revenue derived from stamps and labels amounts to Rupees 3,00,000 for a year, and it is believed that no district in the Presidency will stand in contrast with this in respect of the stamp sales. The counting out stamps is a more difficult work than counting money.

12. The establishment of the Branch Bank at Negapatam has not tended to reduce the work of the Huzur Treasury in any of its details; all that it has saved is the examination of remittances of five taluqs which are now forwarded to the Bank. Remittances from the other four

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st December 1870.*

talucs are, however, received in the Huzur Treasury, in which the annual receipts and disbursements, together in cash and notes, amount to Rupees 91,15,891-1-3. This will show that the work in the Treasury is by no means light, that the transactions taking place there shall not be less than that carried on in most other Huzur Treasuries.

13. I have also to remark that, in consideration of the magnitude of work in the Huzur Treasury, some Na. Curums had been deputed to assist until before the system of that class of assistants was lately abolished.

14. You are aware from proved experience that Tanjore, in respect to revenue and charges and other general work, is the heaviest district, and under the circumstances, I trust you will observe that any reduction either in the strength or emolument of the existing establishment is only impracticable.

Submitted to Government, with reference to paragraph 3 of their Order, dated 16th May 1870, No. 717.

2. The Board concur in the Collector's opinion that no reduction is feasible in the strength of the Huzur Treasury Establishment, in consequence of the opening of the Branch Bank at Negapatam.

3. The second Shroff of the Negapatam Taluq should not have been transferred to Tranquebar without previous sanction, with reference to the instructions of the Honourable Mr. Pelly, dated 15th January 1867, No. 2,011.

4. The necessity for the services of a Shroff at Tranquebar is, however, fully explained by the Collector, and the Board accordingly recommend the transfer of the second Shroff of Negapatam to the Taluq of Mayaveram, of which Tranquebar is a Sub-Treasury.

5. Under this arrangement, three Shroffs will appear on the Taluq Establishment of Mayaveram, and one on that of Negapatam.

No. 413. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th October 1870, No. 6,321.

From the Acting Collector of Tinnevely, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 28th September 1870, No. 484 —

With reference to paragraph 3 of the Board's Proceedings, dated 18th ultimo, No. 5,231, I have the honour to report that the surplus of the Ottapedaram Taluq, together with that of the Salt Divisions nearest Tuticorin, is now invariably remitted to the Branch Bank direct, and goes together with the Sea Customs collections at Tuticorin to make up the Government reserve; but the transfer to the Bank's account of such surpluses appears to require the sanction of the Accountant-General. I have now arranged for the remittance to the Bank direct of the surplus of the Sivillipattur and Sattur Taluqs as well; but the diversion of these remittances will not, in my opinion, tend materially to reduce the work in the Huzur establishment.

Submitted to Government with reference to their Order, dated 7th September 1870, No. 1,385.

2. The Board presume that the Accountant-General has no objection to the arrangements reported in this letter for the transfer direct to the Branch Bank of the surplus revenues of certain taluqs nearest Tuticorin.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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3. Under these arrangements, Taluqs, Salt and Customs Stations with a revenue of about 26 lacs will still remit their surplus treasure direct to the Huzur, and the Board repeat their concurrence in the Collector's opinion that no reduction of Treasury establishment is feasible.

No. 552.

REFERRED to the Accountant-General for his remarks. He will be furnished with copy of the Proceedings of Government, dated 7th September 1870, No. 1,385.
FORT SAINT GEORGE, (Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
10th November 1870. Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 414. From the Accountant-General, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort Saint George, 17th November 1870, No. 247.

REFERRING to the endorsement of the Acting Under Secretary on the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 6,321, dated 26th October last, I have the honour to state that, when the Branch Bank was first opened at Tuticorin, the Collector was instructed to make arrangements for remitting to it the surplus collections of all the adjacent taluqs, and his attention was again called to those instructions on the 21st September last.

No. 415. ORDER THEREON, 21st December 1870, No. 2,087.

Miscellaneous.

ON consideration of the reasons urged by the Collectors of Tanjore and Tinnevely and supported by the Board of Revenue, the Government will not require an immediate reduction in the Treasury establishments of those districts. But the Board will request those officers to report again, after a further experience of twelve months, whether the number of the Shroffs in the Huzur Treasury establishments cannot be reduced. The transfer of the surplus collections of several taluqs to the Branch Banks direct cannot but tend to reduce work.

2. The transfer of the second Shroff of Negapatam taluq to the Sub-Treasury of the Mayaveram Taluq at Tranquebar is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue,
" the Accountant-General,
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
Under date the 24th. 1877

Read again L.
dated 14th Sept 1870, No. 1385

Read also the following
papers:-

Res. Board of Revenue

(H.E. 24 Oct 1870, No. 6279)

Ditto

(" 25 " No. 6321)

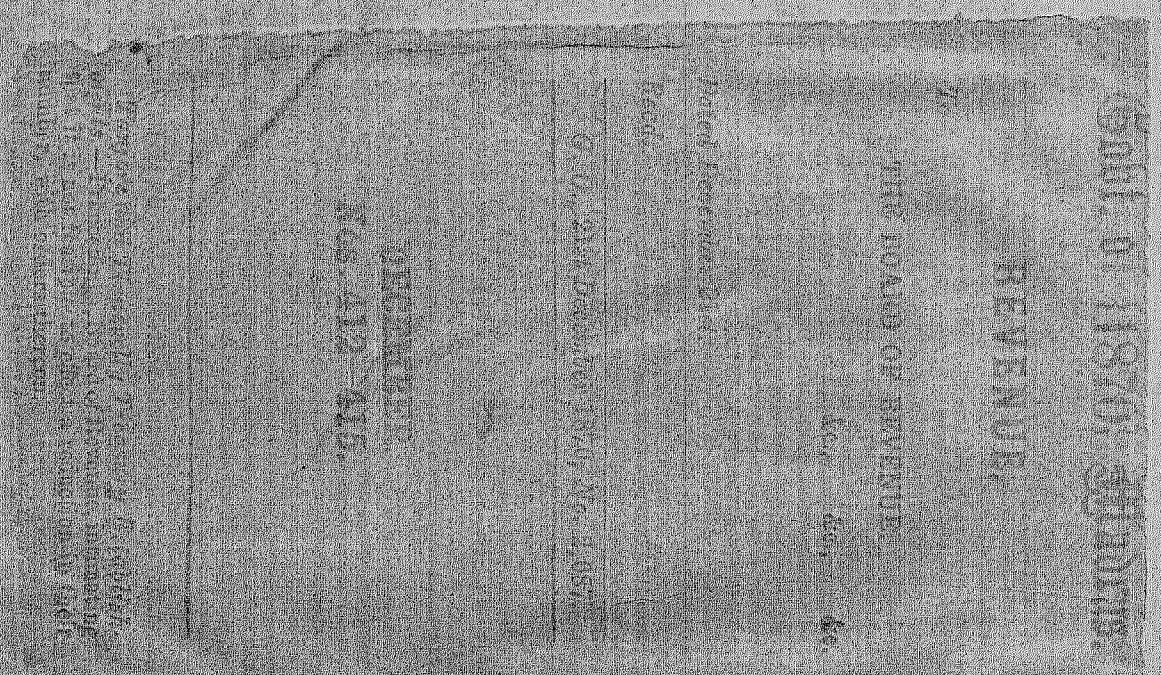
Accountant General

(" 17 Nov " No. 247)

B. A. N.

J. D. S.

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L.A.

14 To the Bd. of Revenue. Sept 22^o

to Accountant General

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By A.P.

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