

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	903	Press Mis.
191-32	Dated 20-6-1870.	19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
20th June 1870.*

No. 231. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department—Geographical, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 2nd June 1870, No. 194:—

ADVERTING to the Geographical Despatch from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, No. 24, dated 28th December 1869, copy of which was forwarded to you under endorsement, dated 9th February last, I am directed to forward the

* No. 627, dated 1st April 1870.

accompanying letter* from the Surveyor-General of India, and to request that

whenever alterations are made in local boundaries within the Madras Presidency the Surveyor-General of India be informed, and at the same time furnished with a Map showing the boundary as altered.

I am to add that, as great inconvenience is caused by frequent alterations of boundaries, care should be taken that such changes are only made when essentially necessary for administrative purposes.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From the Surveyor-General of India, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, dated Calcutta, 1st April 1870, No. 627.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the despatch from the Secretary of State for India as per margin, regarding the pressing necessity of obtaining correct delineations of district and other boundaries throughout India," and directing that "early information should be furnished when changes of boundaries take place."

2. For the purposes of the Geographical Department of the India Office, when changes affecting districts and divisions, or Commissionerships are made, (as in the case of the Berars,) the limits of the new districts are of necessity required to be accurately defined by actual admeasurements, so that the maps may be corrected with precision, and the results sent to England for the purpose of being incorporated in the sheets of the Atlas of India.

3. When this department is informed of such changes every effort is made to obtain the necessary information based on proper data; but I regret to say that such changes are so constant and so radical as to entirely upset the Survey Maps. The disposition to alter the territorial limits of districts and divisions, as well as of provinces or jurisdictions, is so innate with each new authority that nothing seems permanent, and at the present moment the transition state of India is such as to baffle all attempts of this department to produce and publish Maps which represent the actual state of things as they exist.

4. Much correspondence has taken place between this department and the several local Governments on this side of India, regarding the perpetual alteration of boundaries of zillahs or districts, as well as of the sub-divisions of districts. As a rule, such alterations are arbitrarily made by local officers on the maps, without any reference to surveyed lines, or the physical features of the country; consequently it is impossible for this department to adopt guess-work to supersede actual surveys, and unless some limit is placed on the system of revisions of territorial jurisdictions, or until more permanency can be obtained as to the settlement or re-distribution of zillah or district boundaries, it is quite impossible that the maps of the different Presidencies and jurisdictions can be rendered effective.

5. With particular respect to the Berars I have addressed the Commissioner, and enclose his views on the subject. From two districts originally embracing the whole of the assigned

No. 936, dated 26th March 1870

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territory, the change was made to four, and more recently to six districts and two Commissioner-ships, the separation of which does not appear to have been made by means of any definite measurement or survey of the lands, consequently, except where a natural boundary is found to exist, the lines drawn across the map by a local officer on such a small scale as four miles to the inch, cannot possibly be deemed either sufficient or practical for any purposes whatever.

6. In the Punjab the changes have been constant and numerous, and they are still going on. The utmost inconvenience and detriment to this department has been caused in consequence.

7. In Bengal, Behar, and Orissa, a Boundary Commissioner has been labouring for many years to adjust the civil and criminal boundaries and the sub-divisions, which are so protracted by the inquiries and different views of the numerous local officers that the work is still in a most backward state, notwithstanding the completion of all the surveys, and the absolute publication of the one-inch maps showing village boundaries, which ought to enable any administrator to arrange convenient and symmetrical jurisdictions with the utmost ease.

8. I am strongly of opinion that no alteration in territorial jurisdictions should be made without the express sanction and approval of the Supreme Government, and I most heartily concur in the views of the Secretary of State that some sort of General Order should be issued on the subject, with the view of the Geographical Department being furnished with such true and reliable information as may enable us to deal with a question of such difficulty and importance.

9. I therefore beg respectfully to urge the subject on the notice of the Government of India, and to recommend that a legislative enactment may be made, prohibiting further alterations of the limits of districts, sub-divisions, pergunnahs, tehseels, thannahs, or police circles, and other local territorial definitions, except on imperial grounds, and with the approval and consent of the Government of India.

10. Until something of this sort is done the object aimed at in the Secretary of State's despatch we can never hope to carry out.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Commissioner, West Berar, to the Surveyor-General of India, dated Akola, 26th March 1870, No. 936.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the 6th paragraph of your letter, No. 331, dated 25th February 1870. A copy of the despatch sent with that letter has been also received by me from Hyderabad.

2. The boundaries of the Berar districts, as traced on the Atlas sheets sent with my former letter, are not perfectly accurate. Some villages, for instance, have been wrongly included in the Akote talooqua by the line which divides Akola district on the east from Ellichpore; but this is an oversight, which only minute local knowledge will detect, and I have not yet noticed any other. Again, the whole boundary between the assigned districts and the Hyderabad territory is under process of rectification, in order to make a less crooked and twisting frontier; but the survey is not yet completed. Nor can I vouch for the precise correctness of the line drawn between Bassim and Yeotmahl districts, because it has only been laid down on the map through very rough country. But for the purpose of any general map these boundary lines are sufficiently approximate, though I hope to get them quite right in the revised map which I am correcting for you.

3. I regret that the preparation of this revised map, like all works requiring minute and attentive care, goes on slowly, but you may rely upon receiving ultimately trustworthy materials for your use.

4. I was quite prepared for your decision that the spelling, of the revised maps can only be altered on a plan sanctioned for all India. But I believe that the spelling which I am using in the *Gazetteer*, and which I would extend to the map, does follow the rules which Mr. W. W. Hunter

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has proposed to the Home Department; and I am reluctant to re-produce the flagrant mis-spelling which now disfigures the Berar Atlas sheets.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Department

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

No. 232.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1870, No. 903.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of
Revenue for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Ed. F. R. Bantleman.

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20 June 1870

Chief Secretary

Mr. Allen

The Revenue Department

No 903

Forwarded to the Board
of Revenue for information
and guidance.

20 June 1870

14 John Street, Deptford

Commenced to
No 903
206-44

Code of 1870: 300013

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated June, 20th.

Recd.

And

G. O., 20th June, 1870, No. 903.

JUNE.

Nos. 231-232.

Alterations in the Local Boundaries within
the Madras Presidency.—Letter from Govern-
ment of India regarding the Surveyor-General
being informed of the same whenever they are
made, communicated to Board of Revenue.