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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1622	Press
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 18-9-1871	195.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

7. Her Majesty's Government regard the conduct of these operations and the success with which they have been attended with unmixed satisfaction, and they heartily adopt the strong, but merited, expressions of praise in which your Excellency in Council, in your careful review of Mr. Blair's report, have spoken of it, as well as of the officers to whom this difficult task has been successi-

consequently devolved the first arrangements, and through whose judgment the Inamdars were brought to understand the advantages they were to receive; to Mr. Blair, who succeeded him, and whose elaborate but clear report is before me; and to Mr. Robinson, by whom, in addition to his onerous duties as a Member of the Board of Revenue, the winding up of the operations has been performed with remarkable celerity, belongs the credit of bringing these laborious and delicate proceedings to a successful issue.

8. It has likewise gratified Her Majesty's Government very much to read the terms in which Mr. Blair speaks of the valuable assistance given by the special Assistants, and most of the Deputy-Collectors in the conduct of the operations, and those in which the services of Chentsal Row and A. Kristnaswamy Iyer are mentioned by Mr. Robinson.

9. I think it right to add that I concur in the grave doubts expressed by your Government in your order of the 11th of October, as to the expediency of adopting Mr. Robinson's proposals for dispensing with the fair registers of the Inams in any case.

No. 229. ORDER THEREON, 18th September 1871, No. 1,622.

Laud Revenue.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue and to the Acting Third Member in charge of the Inam Department.

2. Copies will also be furnished to Messrs. G. N. Taylor and W. T. Blair, who are now in England.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

„ the Acting Third Member in charge of the Inam Department.

„ G. N. Taylor, Esq.

„ W. T. Blair, Esq.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th September 1871.*

No. 228. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, (Revenue,) to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office, London, 10th August 1871, No. 22:—

I HAVE considered in Council the despatch from your Excellency in Council

on the operations of the late Inam Commission (60 copies of which had been sent some months before), with other documents, bringing the results down to the last report by Mr. Robinson, together with the orders of your Government thereon.

2. This is a most valuable report on a subject of the highest importance to the welfare of your Presidency, and I have perused it with much interest.

3. The despatch of the late Court of Directors dated September 1st, 1858, No. 8, under which the settlement of this question was originally undertaken enjoined a more liberal treatment of the Inamdars than had before been deemed expedient, either in India or by the Home authorities. It pointed out that the long delay in settling this much vexed and irritating question, for which the Government was responsible, and not the holders of the Inams, rendered such a mode of treatment of these claims necessary, and removed them from the rigid rule of actual right. The interpretation of the instructions of the Court, in a still wider sense, by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and the rules framed by him, on which these operations were founded, received the general sanction of Secretary Sir Charles Wood in 1860. The result is now before me. A question which affected the interests of an influential class of the community has been settled to the contentment of the Inamdars, to the security of the revenue of the Government, and to the relief of the revenue administration of the country, which is thus rid of perpetually recurring, difficult, and invidious cases of legal rights, the decision of which is now transferred to the judicial tribunals.

4. In order to give a notion of the interests involved, you have pointed out that the property thus settled affects more or less directly 2,500,000 persons. From the statements in Mr. Blair's report, joined to those subsequently given by Mr. Robinson, it appears that 396,815 Inams, covering 6,205,608 acres, have been dealt with. To the former, quit-rent of 85,977*l.* payable to Government, 121,540*l.* a-year (including the resumptions) has been added; and in only 6,588 cases, involving a temporary loss of quit-rent to the amount of 3,588*l.*, were the terms of the Government rejected. The total cost of the settlement has been little more than a year's income of the additional revenue, 133,800*l.*

5. The only portion of the scheme which has been almost nugatory has been the redemption of the quit-rent, which has been claimed to the amount of 666 Rs. only; and this circumstance your Excellency in Council attributes to the high rate of interest obtainable throughout your Presidency; but it is probable that another cogent motive arises from the feeling not uncommon among small holders of land in India, that the annual payment of quit-rent offers a safer title than a single deed, which may be mislaid or lost.

6. Such financial results are matters of just congratulation, when the greater object in view, that of solving an administrative problem of some difficulty, has been fully achieved.

India Office,
London, 10th August 1871.

Revenue,

No. 22

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor
in Council, Fort St. George.

MY LORD,

Para. 1. I have considered in Council the Despatch from your Excellency in Council, numbered 2, and dated the 13th of March, transmitting the Report of Mr. W. T. Blair, on the operations of the late Inam Commission (60 copies of which had been sent some months before), with other documents, bringing the results down to the last report by Mr. Robinson, together with the orders of your Government thereon.

2. This is a most valuable report on a subject of the highest importance to the welfare of your Presidency, and I have perused it with much interest.

3. The Despatch of the late Court of Directors, dated September 1st, 1858, No. 8, under which the settlement of this question was originally undertaken, enjoined a more liberal treatment of the Inamdars than had before been deemed expedient, either in India or by the Home Authorities. It pointed out that the long delay in settling this much vexed and irritating question, for which the Government was responsible, and not the holders of the Inams, rendered such a mode of treatment of these claims necessary, and removed them from the rigid rule of actual right. The interpretation of the instructions of the Court, in a still wider sense, by Sir Charles Trevelyan, and the rules framed by him, on which these operations were founded, received the general sanction of Secretary Sir Charles Wood in 1860. The result is now before me. A question which affected the interests of an influential class of the community has been settled to the contentment of the Inamdars, to the security of the revenue of the Government, and to the relief of the revenue administration of the country, which is thus rid of perpetually recurring, difficult, and invidious cases of legal rights, the decision of which is now transferred to the judicial tribunals.

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7. Her Majesty's Government regard the conduct of these operations and the success with which they have been attended with unmixed satisfaction, and they heartily adopt the strong, but merited, expressions of praise in which your Excellency in Council, in your careful review of Mr. Blair's report, have spoken of it, as well as of the officers to whom this difficult task has been successively confided. To Mr. George Noble Taylor, who was the first to undertake it, on whom, consequently, devolved the first arrangements, and through whose tact and judgment the Inamdars were brought to understand the advantages they were to receive; to Mr. Blair, who succeeded him, and whose elaborate but clear report is before me; and to Mr. Robinson, by whom, in addition to his onerous duties as a member of the Board of Revenue, the winding up of the operations has been performed with remarkable celerity, belongs the credit of bringing these laborious and delicate proceedings to a successful issue.

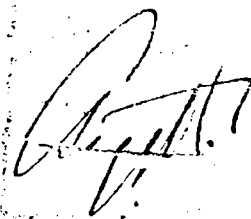
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9. I think it right to add, that I concur in the grave doubts expressed by your Government in your order of the 11th of October, as to the expediency of adopting Mr. Robinson's proposals for dispensing with the fair registers of the Inams in any case.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant,



100-22-229

10/3

Revenue
10. Aug 1871

The
Letter to Fort St George

No 22

No 1622-18 September 1871

With order

Communicated to the
Bd of Revenue and to the
AG 3rd Member in charge
of the main Dept.

2- Copies will also be
furnished to Messrs
J. H. Taylor & Co. J.
Blair, who are
now in England

L.H.
18 Sept 71

Reviewing Despatch
transmitting Report of Mr. W. J.
Blair on the operations of the
late Inam Commission, &c

4 To the Board of Revenue
to the Board of Revenue
to the Board of Revenue
to the Board of Revenue

1
No. of 1871 Madras.

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

2
10th September 1871.

1871

10th September 1871.

10th September 1871.

10th September 1871.

10th September 1871.