be allowed an allowance of Rs. 60, to

Revenue Department.
23rd March 71.

No. 536.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 187 .

Read the f

Conservator of Forests.

Submitting Colonel Morgan's application for double travelling allowance for Overseer Grant and requests sanction for the same.

(M.E. 20th February 1871 No. 2644.)

The Government sanction the grant of double travelling allowance to Forest Overseer Grant so long as he has the supervision of the Cavery fuel operations in addition to his ordinary duties.

13 To the Conservator of Forests with reference to Dept 24
6 — Accountant General

Go 537
23-3-71

No. 2,316.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th April 1869.

Read the following letter from J. H. BLAIR, Esq., Honorary Secretary, Government Farm, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 19th March 1869, No. 133:—

I DEEM it right to forward to the Board a demi-official letter from the Superintendent, Government Farm, and another from the Mint Master remarking thereon, as the case referred to appears important.

2. The half mercal was made and stamped at the Mint, but was supposed to be wrong as it did not correspond with measures which had always been used at the Farm; it was, therefore, sent to the Sydapet Tahsildar for testing and comparison, and the results are shown in the Superintendent's letter.

3. As it is probable that the erroneous system of testing practised at Sydapet is in force at other Talook Cutcherries, I think it advisable to bring the matter to the Board's notice.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., Superintendent, Government Farm, to the Honorary Secretary, Government Farm, dated 10th March 1869.

I SENT our half mercal and measure to the Tahsildar to be tested. He has just returned them adjusted. He states that the half mercal was between 3 and 4 ollocks too much, and that the measure also contained too much. He has taken 1½ inches off our half mercal. Since they returned I have again tested them and find that even now they will not correspond, the measure filled four times contains nearly 2 ollocks more of grain than the half mercal. I returned them to the official, who stamped and tested them, and requested him to test them with water; he did so, and found the adjusted half mercal only contained 29 ollocks instead of 32. He attempted to clear himself by stating that he was instructed to make the standard measure equal in volume to 43¾ pollams of grain, and that he had adjusted our measure in accordance with these instructions. I pointed out to him the absurdity of pretending to adjust measures with such an uncertain standard, scarcely two samples of grain weighing alike, and the impossibility of filling a measure to weigh the same weight each time. On returning home I sent to the bazaar for three different samples of grain. A measure of each of these samples contained—

43½ pollams.
39¼ do.
39¼ do.

2. You will at once see that a measure adjusted by such means will be right or wrong, according to the sample of grain the adjuster selects; but this is not all, the weight of the grain will vary according as it is filled into the measure. I filled a measure to-day three times with the same grain and found the weights as follows—

43½ pollams.
42½ do.
42 do.

3. You would scarcely credit how the mode of filling the measure influences the weight. If water was employed these errors could not arise, the specific gravity of water varies so little; there can be no dodge or error in filling a measure with water. If a standard measure was supplied to each official he could test much more accurately with water than with any grain. The testing measures employed by the official here are very inferior, only one of the half dozen he produced would hold water, the remainder leaked.

4. This error of 3½ ollocks in our half mercal may appear a trifling matter; however, when multiplied by the number of times this measure is used the matter assumes some importance. For every mercal of grain we sell we give 7 ollocks over. Madden states that this half mercal measure has been employed here for upwards of four years. How many Rupees have we lost? Again,