

(1) Number of pages 18
(2) Date of repair 20-6-42
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<u>182</u>	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<u>27</u>	<u>1871</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

10

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1871.*

No. 375. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1870,
No. 6,701 :—

Read the following :—

Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 1st September 1870, No. 1,374,
Revenue Department :—

ABSTRACT.—*Establishment charges.*—Order of the Government of India on the
Statement for November 1869, communicated to the Board of Revenue.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 24th October
1870, No. 137, Revenue Department :—

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to the Board letter from Government of India,
requiring them to expedite the report called for in Government Order of 1st
September last, regarding discontinuance of the District Gazettes in the Madras
Presidency.

COMMUNICATED to the Collectors of Madras, Tinnevely, and to the Commis-
sioner of the Neilgherries.

2. The Government of India desire to know whether District Gazettes, which
are not allowed anywhere out of the Madras Presidency might not be dispensed
with.

3. They also remark that the charge in the Madras Presidency for printing
is disproportionately large.

4. With regard to the former subject, the Board would, in the first place, call
attention to the fact that the cost of District Gazettes is met from reductions of
establishments, the clerical work of which was much diminished by the publication
in the Gazettes of all Circular Orders such as have to be communicated to a large
number of officials. In the scheme of revised Revenue Establishments, settled by
the Honourable Mr. Pelly, and approved

* dated 21st April 1868, No. 2,507, communi-
cated with the Order of Madras Government,
dated 29th May 1868, No. 1,507.

of by the Government of India,* District
Presses were recognized and confirmed
as a necessary auxiliary to Collectorate

establishments for the performance of work, which, but for them, would have to be
done by a very large staff of Clerks. In several Acts of the Local Legislature, the
District Gazettes have been recognized as the legal medium of publishing a variety
of notices concerning the public, which are so required to be published by Law.
It will be, therefore, impossible to do away with the District Gazette without
amending several of those Acts.

5. Independently of these considerations, the District Gazette is most useful
as an authentic means of communication between the Government and the people,
and conveys to the latter a vast amount of information on a variety of subjects most
intimately connected with their interest, and their ignorance of which in former
days was the source of great oppression and extortion on the part of the lower
grades of revenue-servants.

6. In a financial point of view, the District Presses, of which District Gazettes
are an integral part, are self-supporting, and even leave a profit to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th January 1871.*

The value of work turned out by the District Presses during 1869-70 was Rs. 2,28,883 against actual charges amounting to Rs. 55,783, leaving a profit of Rs. 1,73,100.

7. Under these circumstances, the Board are of opinion that the abolition of District Gazettes in this Presidency would be a retrograde movement, very much to be deprecated. They are, however, capable of improvement, and the Board have

19th September 1870, No: 5,795:

lately laid before Government, in their Proceedings marginally noted, proposals which, if sanctioned, will considerably reduce their cost and, at the same time, increase their popularity and usefulness.

8. With regard to the second remark of the Government of India, noticed in paragraph 3 above, the Board have no data before them as to the general proportion of printing charges in this compared with other Presidencies. The subject of reducing printing as much as possible has but lately engaged the attention of Government, and the Board have taken steps, so far as they were concerned, to reduce the printing work of their office.

(True Copy.)

(Signed)

W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
FORT SAINT GEORGE,
27th January 1871.

No. 376.

No. 182.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

Miscellaneous.

SIR,—I am directed to reply to the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Financial Department, dated

31st May 1870, No. 561, in which the question of abolishing the District Gazettes, published in the Madras Presidency, was raised.

2. This reference was occasioned by a monthly increase of Rs. 20-3-2 in the cost of publishing the Neilgherry District Gazette, the monthly outlay being now Rs. 110 instead of Rs. 89-12-10. The Government of India also observe that the charge for printing in the Madras Presidency is "disproportionately large."

3. An account of the objects of, and results obtained by, the District Presses, embracing information regarding the District Gazettes, was submitted to the Government of India in a letter from this Government, dated 5th August 1862, No. 1,671; since then a great improvement has been effected. The Collectors' reports for 1869-70, which include the

	RS.
Actual cash collections on work executed by District Presses ...	29,202
Savings effected in Revenue Establishments consequent on establishment of Presses ...	46,925
Total value of work including valuation of that performed for Government ...	2,28,883
Aggregate expenditure ...	55,783

collections and expenditure on District Gazettes, show that if a fair valuation for the work performed by the Presses for Government be allowed, they were worked at net profit to Government of Rs. 1,73,100. Further particulars are given in the margin.

4. It is difficult to show separately the financial results of the District Gazettes, no separate accounts of the outlay incurred on them being kept. During 1869-70 their aggregate circulation was 14,562. The Government have recently directed that they should be issued fortnightly instead of weekly, a proportionate reduction being made in the rates of subscription; and this arrangement will tend to augment the profit to Government at present yielded by the District Presses.

5. Putting financial considerations aside, I am to represent that the District Gazettes, although not allowed anywhere out of the Madras Presidency, are considered by this Government to fulfil a most useful end. Their circulation chiefly lies among the village officers—a class of men sufficiently intelligent to derive benefit from those portions of the Gazettes which relate to their own duties, and well qualified from their position to make the rural population partakers of such generally interesting and important information as is contained in the same publications. A great deal of information is published in the Gazettes which it

would be either unjust or inexpedient to withhold from the people; but which could not otherwise be obtained by them, except at considerable cost; as for instance, newly introduced legislative enactments, circular orders of Government and the Board affecting the ryots, notifications of auction-sales on behalf of Government, etc.

6. In effect, the institution of District Gazettes enables the Government to communicate with the rural population, in order to dispel prevailing illusions, to explain political measures, and to bring home to the people information to which they would otherwise be strangers. The character of the Gazettes as a popular educating agency is doubtless susceptible of improvement, and this Government has very recently passed orders, with a view to the embodiment in them of useful matter in a more attractive form than is the case at present, which, it is hoped, will work an improvement in this respect.

7. I am further directed to call the attention of the Government of India to the fact that in several Acts of the Local Legislature the District Gazettes have been recognized as the legal medium of publishing a variety of notices concerning the public, which are so required to be published by Law.

8. For the reasons above stated, the Madras Government would regard the abolition or discouragement of District Gazettes in this Presidency as a retrograde movement, very much to be deprecated.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,

Secretary to Government.

No. 375
11th. G. O. No. 182

Financial 1871 Department.

[]

From Government of

Fort St. George.

Dated 27th January.

R.

No. 182.

Enclosures.

6 spare copies.

D. No.

L. No.

Progs.

D.

No.

Replying to Proceedings on the question of
abolishing the District Gazettes, published in the
Madras Presidency, and for the reasons stated,
deprecating the measure.

10th Dec 1870

70

Revenue Department
27th Jan 1871

No. 182.

To.

The Secretary to the
Government of India.
Financial Dept.

Sir,

I am directed to
reply to the endorsement
of the Offg. Under Secretary
to the Government of India
dated 17th Jan 1870 N. 360,
communicating a Resolution
of the Supreme Government
of India in N. 318 of 31st Dec 70 N. 561.
in which the question of
abolishing the District Gazettes
published in the Madras
Presidency was raised.

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occasioned by a monthly
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V. S.
N.

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= proportionately large"

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embracing information re-
garding the District Gazettes,
was submitted to the Gov^t
of India in a letter from
this Government dated 5.

August 1862 No 1671.
Since then a great improv-
= ment has been effected. The

Collector's re-
ports for 1869/70
which included the
collections and
expenditure on Dis-
trict Gazette
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fair valuation for
the work performed
by the Presses for
Government be

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Government of

Rt. 1,73,100.

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salaries are

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* Actual cash collection
on work executed by District
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Savings effected in Revenue
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Total value of work including
valuation of that performed
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Aggregate expenditure — 55,783.

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Professors

Letter.

4- Putting financial considerations aside, I am to represent that the District Gazettes, although not allowed anywhere out of the Madras Presidency, are considered by this Government to fulfil a most useful end, ~~as well as~~ ~~that were the advantages~~ ~~attaching to their publication~~ ~~generally known, their publication in other parts of India might perhaps be~~ ~~advantageous~~ Their circulation chiefly lies among the village officers - a class of men sufficiently

from those portions of the Gazette which relate to their own duties and well qualified from their position to make the rural population partakers of such generally interesting and important information as is contained in the same publications. A great deal of information is published in the Gazette which it would be either unjust or inexpedient to withhold from the people but which could not otherwise be obtained by them except at considerable cost: as for instance

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and the Board affecting
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auction sales on behalf
of Govt., &c.

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For the reasons
above stated, the Madras
Government would regard
the abolition or discouragement
of District Gazettees
in this Presidency as
a retrograde movement
very much to be deprecated.

It is now a
"Provincial"

No. 370

Journal of William
Adelphi of the
District Gazette

Chc

Adelphi