No. 27. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th December 1871, No. 4,986:—

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st November 1871, No. 343.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated 1st instant, No. 4,569, I have the honour to state that the District Postal Establishments maintained in the Revenue Department (as per statement which accompanied Mr. Arbuthnott's letter to the Board, dated 21st April 1871, No. 109,) with the exception of those named in the margin, are already under the supervision of the Postal Department and are worked by them, the Revenue Department only distributing their pay and filling up vacancies as they occur. I see no objection to placing these persons also under their supervision.

1 Gumastah. 2 Peons.	Madura.
1 Gumastah. 1 Peon.	Ooselomputty.
1 Gumastah. 1 Peon.	Vadasandur.

2. The Huzur Gumastah who prepares the Pay Abstracts of the Postal Establishments and attends to other work connected therewith, will be retained in the Collector's Office under the Board's Proceedings, dated 29th September 1871, No. 4,183, until such time as the Postmaster-General can arrange for debiting his department with the expenditure incurred in the Revenue Department.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to their Order, dated 17th October 1871.

2. The Board support the Collector's recommendation that the District Post should be placed altogether under the Postmaster-General on the understanding that all charges are debited in future to his department.

3. The Collector will, however, still be responsible for the efficient delivery of letters in the villages.

No. 28. ORDER THEREON, 5th January 1872, No. 15.

Miscellaneous.

THE transfer of the Madura District Tappal Department to the Postmaster-General is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Postmaster-General.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. T. O'Connor.

Revenue 1871.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS 11TH DECEMBER 1871, No. 4,986.

Encl.

Received. 16.

DECEMBER.

No. 4,986.

District Postal establishments—of Madura.—Recommendation of Collector for transfer of whole of, to Imperial Postal Department, supported.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Governme[illegible] India, in the Foreign Department (General),—

No. 2154G, dated Simla, the 23rd October 1871.

READ—

A docket from the Financial Department No. 3730, dated the 19th of September 1871, forwarding, for consideration, papers connected with a proposal to write off as "irrecoverable" certain outstanding balances due by contractors to the Berar Forest Department.

OBSERVATIONS.—His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council observes that the Resident at Hyderabad has sought permission to write off as "irrecoverable" the following debts due to the Berar Forest Department.

		Rs.	As.	P.
1.	Contractor Kolooram	2,469	7	0
2.	„ Bapoojie Dewajie	15,130	2	2
	Total	17,599	9	2

2. As the Deputy Conservator of Forests has reported that these defaulters are not in a position to pay even a sufficient portion of their debts to warrant action being taken against them in the Civil Courts, His Excellency in Council is of opinion that there is no alternative but to sanction the writing off of the amount, as recommended by the Department of Agriculture, Revenue and Commerce.

3. But His Excellency in Council cannot consider a system satisfactory, which renders possible the occurrence of such heavy irrecoverable balances, and would therefore urge the necessity for an improved system of forest collections. His Excellency thinks that it would be far better to be content with a smaller revenue than attempt to take a large one with the probable contingency of its proving in the end non-realisable.

4. No information is to be gathered from the correspondence now under consideration as to the proportion which the balances due by these two contractors bear to the total amount of their contracts and the amount they have paid. His Excellency in Council in this Department will await explanation on this point.

ORDER.—Ordered, that a copy of the foregoing observations be forwarded to the Financial Department for the issue of further orders, with reference to the docket from that Department, No. 3730, dated 19th September 1871. Original papers returned as requested.

O. S. G. P.—o. 7052 A. R. & C.—9-12-71.—105.

No. 576.

FROM

J. GEOGHEGAN, ESQ.,

Offg. Secretary to Government of India,

TO

THE Secy to the Government of Madras

Revenue Department.

Dept. of Agriculture, Revenue, and Commerce.

Forests.

Fort William, the 12 December 1871.

SIR,

I AM directed to forward herewith copy of a Resolution of the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 2154G, dated 23rd October last, and to invite special attention to paragraph 3 thereof, in which the necessity for an improved system of Forest collections has been suggested.

2. The Government of India does not desire to insist on any special system of collecting the Government revenue on minor Forest produce under all circumstances; but the Conservators and Civil Officers in the Madras Presidency to whom its collection is entrusted, should be held responsible that due care is taken to employ such agents only as are known to be trustworthy, in all cases where the revenue is not collected departmentally, or through the regular revenue authorities. Care should also be taken that leases or contracts, affecting large tracts of country, are not given to petty traders or other persons of insufficient means. Such individuals are often well suited from their local knowledge to carry on a petty arrangement in their own neighbourhood, or near their own villages, but will fail entirely if entrusted with the management of a large work entailing administrative ability and the employment of well-paid and respectable agents. With these remarks I am to commend this subject to the

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

1871.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
REVENUE AND COMMERCE.

FORESTS.

TO

THE

Dated 12th December 1871. No.

Received 18th

SUBJECT.

Improved system of Forest collections.

O. S. G. P.—No. 7051 A. R. & C.—9-12-71.—100.