Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th November 1872.

No. 80. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 31st October 1872, No. 2,106 :—

READ Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 4th October 1872, No. 1,387, sanctioning the continuance of existing Census Establishment, and payment of Rupees 1,000 to Mrs. Gover.

The Board think that the payment of the money should be made to Mrs. Gover through the Secretary of State, and they accordingly request that an application may be made by Government to that effect. The payment should be debited to "Minor Departments."

Mrs. Gover's address is as follows :—

Care of WILLIAM GREATBATCH, Esq.,
Solicitor, 15, Foster's Terrace,
Kentish Town, N. W.,
London.

No. 81. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1872, No. 1,562.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED accordingly that the Secretary of State be requested to cause the payment to be made to Mrs. Gover.

2. Mrs. Gover will be advised to make application for payment at the India Office.

(True Extract)
(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 31st October 1872.— 2106

Read ~~letter from~~ Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, dated 4th October 1872, No 1387, sanctioning the continuance of the existing Cusos Establishment, and payment of Rs 1000. to Mrs Gover. —

The Board think that the payment of the money should be made to Mrs Gover; through the Secretary of State, and they accordingly request that an application may be made by Government to that effect. The payment should be debited to "minor departments."

Mrs Gover's address is as follows:

Care of William Greatbatch Esq^re
Solicitor 15 Fosters Terrace
Kentish Town. N W.
London

/True Extract

J Grole
Secretary

For the Chief Secretary to
Government
Revenue Department

C Humphreys
C/o Shikarpore

Revenue Department.

No. 1662.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15th November 1872.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Expressing opinion that sanctioned payment of Rs. 1000 to Mrs Gover should be made thro' the Secretary of State for India and requesting that an application may be made by Government to that effect.

} Mem. 31st Oct. 1872.

Ordered accordingly that the Secretary of State be requested to cause the payment to be made to Mrs. Gover.

2. Mrs. Gover will be advised to make application for payment at the India Office.

14 To the Board of Rev. dtd 18 Nov/72
6 " Accts General. —

Ex. Ltr. dtd

45/4

G.O. 4 October 1872. Revenue 1872. No. 3528.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 31st October 1872.

Despatched 31/—

Received 2nd Nov.

Expressing opinion that sanctioned payment of Rs. 1000 to Mrs Gover should be made thro' the Secretary of State for India, & requesting that an application may be made by Government to that effect.

Ordered accordingly that the Secretary of State be requested to cause the payment to be made to Mrs. Gover.

2. Mrs. Gover will be advised to make application for payment at the India Office.

G.O. No. 1662 - 15th Nov.

Fin. Sec. to Govt
18 Dec. 1872

Gov.t Office. Rev. Dep.t
Madras 18 Nov.r 1872.

Mrs Gover
Care of William Greatbatch Esq.re
Solicitor, 15 Foster's Terrace
Kentish Town N. W.
London

Madam,

I have the honor to enclose for your information copy of the Proc.g of the Madras Govt. dated 4 Octr 1872 No 1387, and to request that you will apply at the India Office for the payment of the equivalent of the sum of Rs 1000 which has been granted to you by Govt.

Sick

In Mrs Bowells case there was an expression of sympathy - this part is omitted in the present draft.

Sympathy was omitted especially as Govt. are leaving the dead.

1872/11

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th November 1872.

No. 82. Read the following petition from C. VEERARAGAVA IYENGAR, late Tahsildar of Sheally Taluq, Tanjore District, residing in New Town in the district of South Arcot, to His Excellency the Governor in Council of Fort St. George, Madras, dated Ooty, 17th September 1872 :—

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH,

THAT your petitioner finding that the order of your Lordship's Government, dated 10th February 1871, on your petitioner's appeal to the effect, "The Government approve petitioner's dismissal from the post of Tahsildar, but [illegible] cancelled so much of the Board's sentence as directs him to be declared unfit for employment under Government," is of very little use to your Lordship's petitioner as the difficulty of procuring appointment under Government has increased in these days, begs to present to your Lordship in Council the accompanying appeal petition against that portion of order aforesaid of your Lordship's Government, confirming the Board's Proceedings dated 26th April 1870, dismissing your Lordship's petitioner from the post of Tahsildar, to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, the Secretary of State for India.

2. Your Lordship's petitioner most humbly begs your Lordship's Council to review the portion of the order appealed against by your petitioner, and restore him to the place of Tahsildar from which he was dismissed on insufficient grounds. In case of your Lordship being indisposed to favour your petitioner as prayed for, he begs your Lordship in Council to transmit the petition to His Grace the Duke of Argyll, the Secretary of State for India in Council.

Your petitioner, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.

Petitioner has come all the way to Ooty, and begs that any orders passed on his petition may be communicated to him.

No. 83. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1872, No. 1,563.

Miscellaneous.

PETITIONER is informed that his memorial has been transmitted as requested.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Petition Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

petr's dismissal from the post of Tahsildar: and prays that Govt may be pleased to review the decision of their order appealed against, and to restore petr to his former post of Tahsildar; but that if they be not disposed to do so, his appeal may be forwarded to the Secretary of State for India.

Endorsements on petn

No. 1563.

Petr is informed that his Memorial has been transmitted as requested.

15th Nov 72

To the Petition Drft dtd 16th Nov/72
& 29th Oct/72 & 12 Nov/72.

No 82-83

No. 3206

Government of Madras,

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 1906 of 1872.

From C. Veeraraga va Iyengar

Occupation. late Tahsildar

Village.

Talook. Sheally

District. Tanjore residing at Mayaveram in South Arcot

Dated 17th } September 1872
Received 22nd }

Recd 3rd Petr 2 Enclosures. 5

With Order

No 1563 — 15th Nov/72

Abstract.

Submits an appeal to the address of the Secretary of State for India against that portion of the Govt order dated 10th Feb. 1871, approving petrs

3

From F. C. CARR, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chetterpore, 12th June 1871, No. 694.

I HAVE the honour to reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,095, dated 20th May 1871.

2. With regard to petitions, the usual plan is, on my arrival in office to call up petitioners; they then present their petitions and give the substance of them orally, I then endorse the abstract order on it in English, tell the petitioner what the order is, and then if he requires a copy of it, he must apply for it separately on stamp paper; in cases however where the order is not a decision of the complaint, the original petition is returned with my endorsement upon it.

Petitions received by post are dealt with by me in a similar manner in office as regularly as more important work and travelling will allow; the abstract of the petition is written on it in English by the Moonshee, I write the order across it, and a notice is sent by post to petitioner to say that an order is passed on his tappal petition, giving the number, and that if he wants to see the order passed, he must get a copy on stamp paper, or else his endorsed petition is returned to him by post.

3. The issue of puttahs here is strictly in accordance with the Board's orders. New puttahs are not issued unless there are changes in the holdings. These are prepared by the Curnum of each village before the Jummabundy: they are then taken to the Talook Cutcherry by the Curnums with the accounts and are examined by the Talook Gumastah, they are then brought to me or the Settling Officer and are in my presence stamped with my name, and then remain in the Talook Cutcherry until the village is called up before me at the Jummabundy. The Revenue Inspector then holding the whole of the new and altered puttahs of the village, calls out to each ryot by name, and then and there, in my presence, delivers the puttah into his hands and tells him the total amount of his sist.

4. If the ryot is not present himself, it would be given to any representative duly sent by him, and in default of any one coming forward, it is given into the Curnum's or Karjee's hand (usually the former) with directions to deliver it to the ryot. It will thus be seen that if a ryot does not get his own puttah himself, he has no one to blame but himself. It is needless for me to add, that any complaint of the ryots relative to their holdings is heard then and there in presence of the villagers and village authorities.

5. In the case of puttahs which are transferred at other times of the year, they are sent up by the Tahsildar from time to time and signed here, and returned to the Tahsildar for delivery to the parties. Such transfers are of course comparatively rare, and are never effected unless both transferee and tranferer appear personally before the Tahsildar.

6. Even in the best organization there are some failures, owing to the gross ignorance of the people, and there listening to the lies of designing men, but our regular and open plan reduces such cases, I believe, to a minimum, in the present intelligence of the country.

7. I have applied to all other offices in the district for a report of their method, their replies (translated) will be sent to the Board as requested in the 2nd paragraph of the order.

From R. J. MELVILLE, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th July 1871, No. 677.

REVERRING to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to forward, herewith, copies or translations of the reports received from the Assistants, Tahsildars, and Deputy Tahsildars.

2. The practice in my own office is to receive petitions daily and to pass orders on them immediately, unless it seems necessary to refer them to subordinates for inquiry and report, in which case they are disposed of after the receipt of the report from subordinates. Should a reference be required to the office records the same is at once made, and petitions disposed of on the succeeding day.

3. The same practice, it will be observed, is in force in all the offices, both Divisional and Talook, in regard to petitions.

4. As regards puttahs they are generally handed over to Curnums and head men of the villages at the annual settlement for distribution to the ryots, unless the ryot himself appears and claims his puttah, in which case it is given over to him in person.

5. I do not see in what way petitions could be disposed of with greater regularity or expedition than is done at present. The only petitions which remain on hand are those which have come by post, and no labels have been enclosed to pay for the postage of the endorsement. In some cases in which petitions are presented in person, and some inquiry is found necessary previous to disposing of them, the petitioner neglects to appear and apply for the endorsement. In both these cases the petitioner has no one but himself to blame for any delay caused by his own neglect.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. KELSALL, Esq., Acting Principal Assistant Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Nursipatam, 5th July 1871, No. 73.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, No. 2,095, dated 20th May 1871, I have the honour to forward, in original, reports from the Tahsildars of Golgondah and Survasiddi, and the Deputy Tahsildar of Ankapilli, and a translation of the Arzi of the Deputy Tahsildar of Biravilli.

2. They report that they receive petitions each day, and when possible dispose of them at once. When further inquiry is needed they are referred to the Police, or the Revenue Inspector, or Village Munsiffs, as the case may be. A register of petitions kept in each office enables the Tahsildar from time to time to see what petitions are still undisposed of. When final orders have been issued they are explained to the petitioner in person if he is present, or sent to his Village Munsiff for delivery. Occasionally they are retained in the Talook Cutcherry for delivery, but this is rarely done unless copyist fees or stamp paper are required. The most usual thing is for the petitioner to attend in person.

3. The practice in my own office is explained in the attached notice recently printed in the Gazette. Petitions are received daily, and after these have been disposed of I receive verbal applications from parties in attendance. These are of a very simple nature, such as to ask when copies which have been applied for will be ready, to ask if any reply has been received from the talook about a petition referred for report, and similar questions.

4. At the Jamabandi the puttahs are usually, as a matter of convenience, given to the Monigar and Curnum, and this is also necessary because a ryot never attends the Jamabandi unless he has any special grievance, and it would be impossible to deliver the puttah to him in person. They are perfectly satisfied that the puttah should be entrusted to the Village Officers for distribution. Of course if any ryot appeared and claimed his puttah it would be given to him, but such applications are very rare.

From M. VENKANNAH, Tahsildar, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Nursipatam, 27th June 1871, No. 600.

WITH reference to your Order, dated 22nd instant, No. 26, I beg to report that the time between 5 and 6 P.M. of every office day is generally fixed for receiving petitions of complaints of every description. Immediate answer is generally given to the petitions of revenue nature, if, from the materials on hand, such an answer is capable of being given in so short a time. If, from the facts of the case, any inquiry is necessary, the petition is either referred to the Revenue Inspector for report, or inquired into by myself according to the exigencies of each case.

2. When the revenue petition has to be rejected, the endorsement to that effect will be drawn out and signed either on that or the following day, and kept in readiness for delivery to the party concerned.

From M. VENKANNAH, Tahsildar, Golgondah Talook, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam District, dated Nursipatam, 3rd July 1871, No. 619.

REFERRING to the Revenue Circular, No. 8, dated 13th ultimo, published at page 100 of the District Gazette of the 24th idem, I beg to state that I have already sent in my report on the 27th June, No. 600, regarding the practice in my office as to the receipt and disposal of revenue petitions.

2. I now beg to report that puttahs are generally delivered to the Puttahdars attending at the annual Jamabundi in the presence of the Settlement Officer.

3. In cases where the regular Puttahdars fail to attend the Jamabandi their puttahs are given to the Curnums for distribution amoung the absentees

---

From A. RAMANNAH, Acting Sub-Magistrate, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector and Magistrate, Nursipatam, dated Ankapilli. 26th May 1871, No. 68.

WITH reference to your Circular, No. 26, dated 26th instant, I beg leave to inform you that the petitions are being received by me since I took charge at 5 o'clock P.M., and the parties thereof informed at the same time that their petitions are either referred to the respective Village Magistrates or the Police, or dismissed under Section 67 of the C. P. Code, or filed by me. In the latter case I used to tell the parties to attend this Court again when summonses are issued to them for trial. The above procedure is observed in the Magisterial branch.

2. Whenever petitions are received on account of Inam transfer connected with the revenue branch, which will be but scarce, I beg to notice that the parties will be told that orders will be issued to the Merassidars to make alterations accordingly in the accounts.

From C. KRISHNA ROW, Tahsildar, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Srirampuram, 28th June 1871, No. 90.

WITH reference to your Order, No. 26, dated 22nd instant, I beg leave to inform you that I am taking petitions every office day at about 4 o'clock in the evening, and that after hearing them the petitioners are informed the procedure that is to be taken for their inquiry and disposal. They are disposed of as follows:—

2. I refer the durkhasts and transfers of lands to the Village authorities for report, and the Arzis regarding petty disputes of land and water to the Revenue Inspectors, retaining the more important Arzis for my inquiry. They are disposed of on the receipt of their reports, or after the completion of the inquiry.

3. In criminal charges I inquire the complainants on oath and file them in the register. If they are cases to be tried by the Village Magistrates, or cases to be inquired by the Police, I will refer them respectively to the respective officers.

4. Endorsements to the petitioners and copies to the parties are prepared and given to them in the next day's office at about 2 o'clock.

4. At the Jamabandi time the puttahs are distributed to the ryots in the presence of the Principal Assistant Collector by one of the Clerks of his establishment, and in case of any one of them are absent such puttahs are given to the head men of the villages for their distribution in the village.

From J. LEEWARNER, Esq., Acting Senior Assistant Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Parvatipore, 28th June 1871, No. 113.

WITH regard to the Board of Revenue's endorsement on Thamal Vijayaraghavachari's petition in Proceedings, No. 2,095, I have the honour to state that I receive petitions of all kinds whenever they are presented to me or transmitted by post, and I dispose of them, as far as I know, in accordance with the rules of Magisterial or revenue practice according to the head under which they may fall. Every petition received is entered in some register or other, and it is disposed of as quickly as possible. After a case has been disposed of on the report of a Sub-Magistrate or Deputy-Tahsildar, I have known instances in which the final order disposing of the case has been lying unclaimed in my office and uncommunicated because the party, probably one of the Board's petitioner's stamp, neither appeared by a gent or in person, nor sent stamps for postage, nor took any single step towards getting an answer to it; but it is obvious that such subjects of complaint can only be removed by the parties themselves. Not having very heavy petition work I am enabled to be in advance even of Vijayaraghavachari's suggestions, for I have all petitions read as soon as they are presented.

2. I have the honour to forward some reports received from my subordinates. Mr. Thomas, the Collector of South Canara, to avoid such statements as those made in the petition referred for report, has systematized the taking in of petitions in his office as well as any one can, but even he will not pretend always to get the parties up to attend to take their answers, and that is the whole thigg.

From E. C. JOHNSON, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 26th June 1871, No. 11.

WITH reference to the Board of Revenue's Proceedings, No. 2,095 of May 20th, I have the honour to report on the practice with reference to the receipt and disposal of petitions in this office.

2. All petitions received by tappal are opened and read immediately on my arrival at Cutcherry, and are either forthwith endorsed, or set aside for such inquiry into records or otherwise as may be necessary, endorsement being in all cases given as soon as the necessary information is obtained. When stamps have been provided the endorsement is forthwith forwarded by tappal to the petitioner, in other cases the endorsed petition is recorded until the petitioner applies for it.

3. Before closing the Cutcherry petitions are called for, and the practice with those then received is similar to the above. Such as require no inquiry are endorsed at once, and endorsements previously given and recorded as abovementioned are furnished to such as may apply.

4. There being no ryotwary in the talooks under my charge I need say noting on the subject of puttahs.

5. I enclose reports from the Deputy Tahsildars of Srungavarapucota and Vizagapatam.

TRANSLATION.

TRANSLATION of an Arzi from the Deputy Tahsildar of Biravilli, to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector, dated 26th June 1871, No. 44.

IN answer to your Circular Order, No 26, dated 22nd instant, I beg to inform you that I hold office every day from 11 A.M. to 6 P.M. As soon as I open the office I commence the trial of the cases that are ready. I call petitions every day at 4 P.M. If any of them appear to me as triable by the Village Magistrate I refer them accordingly. With regard to the other petitions that appear to be triable by me I generally take depositions then and there, and issue processes if the complaint appears to me as admissible; but if there be any urgent work I order the petitioners to attend at the next day's Cutcherry to give depositions, and if they do so I will take depositions from them and proceed with the cases.

(Signed) N. NARISIMHASWAMY,
Deputy-Tahsildar.

NOTICE.

Parties wishing to present petitions to the Acting Principal Assistant Collector and Magistrate can do so (1) in person, (2) or by a duly authorized Vakil, or (3) through the post.

2. In the case of petitions presented in person or by Vakil verbal orders will, as a general rule, be given on the day they are presented. Copies of the order can be had on application on the day following.

In the case of petitions sent through the post if an endorsement is required, sufficient postage labels for the pre-payment of the reply should be enclosed. If this is not done the order will be kept for one week in this office, and if not claimed will then be sent to the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar of the talook in which petitioner lives. If not claimed within a further period of three months they will be destroyed.

3. No notice can be taken of petitions of a criminal nature sent by post. Parties wishing to lodge a complaint must do so in person or by Vakil.

4. Anonymous petitions are not noticed.

(True Copy)

(Signed) J. KELSALL,
Acting Prinl. Asst. Collector.

From T. SUBBA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 20th June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Tummalapilli Subba Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Srungavara Pukota.

I HAVE understood the contents of your honour's Proceedings of the 19th instant, No. 19.

I dispose of the petitions presented to me generally within a month. If any could not be so disposed of from any unavoidable cause they are disposed of before the close of the following month; I therefore beg to bring these circumstances to your notice.

From V. JAGANNADHA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Assistant Collector of Vizagapatam, dated 23rd June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Vullipalem Jagannadha Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Vizagapatam Taluq.

I HAVE received your honour's Proceedings of the 19th instant, No. 20, and understood its contents. You have ordered me to report in detail the present practice of my receiving and disposing of petitions. There being no revenue business in this talook no petitions connected with that department are presented to me, but when lands charged with quit-rent are sold the owners thereof put in applications for the names of the purchasers being entered in the accounts, and the quit-rent collected from them. With reference to such applications I register the transfers of the lands in accordance to the Inam rules. If any Arzis in the Summary Department are referred to me from the Huzoor I, as soon as I have received them, issue summonses to the parties and witnesses, fixing a day for their appearance. As soon as they accordingly come I inquire into the matter, and after the inquiry is closed submit the records to the Huzoor with my Arzi. With these exceptions no revenue petitions are presented to me; I therefore beg to bring these circumstances to your honour's notice.

From D. JAGANNADHA, ROW, Acting Deputy Tahsildar, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Bimlipatam, 1st July 1871.

Arzi addressed by Dhilli Jagannadha Row, Acting Deputy-Tahsildar of Bimlipatam Talook.

GENERALLY NO Arzis are presented in this talook in the Revenue Department. Whenever such are presented they are inquired into and the final settlement communicated to the petitioner if present, and if he is not present it is endorsed on the petition, which, if the petitioner enclosed postage stamps therein, is forwarded to him by post; and if no such stamps have been received

it is retained in this office. When petitions are sent by post they are received and disposed of as above stated. As the collection of quit-rent has been made over to the Zemindars no revenue petitions are presented here. Magisterial petitions sent by post are not received. If any petition presented by the party in person is Magisterial it is duly filed as a case and inquired into, but if it is not Magisterial it is rejected and returned to him at once ; I therefore beg to represent these facts to your honour.

From K. VIRARAJU, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Collector of Vizagapatam, dated Chipurpilli, 3rd July 1871.

Arzi addressed by Kapila Viraraju, Deputy-Tahsildar of Chipurpilli Talook.

I HAVE understood the contents of Circular, No. 8, dated the 13th June, published in the District Gazette of the 24th idem, and directing the Deputy Tahsildars to report the manner in which petitions are received and disposal of by them.

1. Applications presented by parties, together with lists of property distrained by them under the Rent Recovery Act VIII. of 1865.

2. Applications presented by the heirs of deceased Village Munsiffs who had been performing the business for fresh puttahs, and those presented by the Munsiffs conducting the duties without puttahs for puttahs.

3. In cases of death of persons holding Akaram lands, or lands attached to the service of Village Munsiff, petitions presented by persons conducting the duties of Village Munsiff, and requesting the lands to be made over to them.

4. Applications presented for the transfer of Inam title-deeds.

Papers of the above descriptions are presented to me. The petitions mentioned in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 are inquired into, and the records submitted to the Huzoor with my report.

With reference to the applications referred to in paragraph 4 the transfers are recorded in the register opened for the purpose.

Some miscellaneous petitions presented in the Huzoor under the Rent Recovery Act, and Act VI. of 1831, are also referred to me for investigation, and I accordingly inquire into the matter thereof and submit the records to the Huzoor with my report.

This talook being included in the Zemindari and proprietary estates, no more revenue petitions than those alluded to in paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 are presented to, or disposed of by me ; I therefore beg leave to bring these things to your honour's notice.

From O. SRINIVASA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Senior Assistant Collector, Vizagapatam, dated Vizianagram, 22nd June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Ongole Srinivasa Row, Deputy-Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate of Vizianagram Talook.

I HAVE understood the contents of your Order, No. 17, dated the 19th instant, directing me to report the practice in respect to receipt of all kinds of petitions presented in my office, and in reply beg to state that no miscellaneous petitions of any sort are ever presented to me, with the exception of petitions of Magisterial complaints.

From M. Y. ALLIKHAN, Sub-Magistrate, to the Senior Assistant Magistrate, Vizagapatam, dated Bobbili, — June 1871.

Arzi addressed by M. Yahaiya Allikhan, 1st Class Sub-Magistrate of Bobbili Talook.

I HAVE received your orders of the 19th instant, Nos. 17 and 18, and in reply beg leave to state as follows :—

1. There is no file in this office in the Revenue Department.

2. In Magisterial cases in which the accused cannot be apprehended without a warrant, the petitions of complaint are presented on paper bearing the stamp provided for in the Court Fees' Act VII. of 1870. In cases in which the Police may arrest the accused without a warrant the petitions are presented on plain paper. Two file registers are kept for the petitions.

3. The registering business is performed by the second Gumastah.

4. The petitioners appear four or five days after their petitions are presented. These petitions are disposed in seventeen days on the average.

5. A separate register is opened for miscellaneous applications.

6. Petitions of objection connected with the Income-tax are presented on eight Annas stamped paper. They are disposed of in eight days on the average. The decisions are openly read over to the parties if in attendance, or if they are not present, they are made known to them through their Vakils.

7. If any petitions are referred to me from the superior Courts in the Revenue Department, I inquire into them, and submit the records to them with my reports.

8 If any parties apply for copies, and if they are such as may be given, they are caused to be prepared by the copyists and delivered to them after my seal and signature are put to them.

I therefore beg to bring to your honour's notice the above long existing practice.

From Y. NARSINGA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Senior Assistant Collector, Vizagapatam, dated Gunupur, 24th June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Yemmada Narsinga Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Gunupur Division.

I HAVE received your honour's Order, No. 17 of the 19th instant, directing me to report the practice in my office in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds, and understood the contents thereof.

2. I file the petitions that you or the Governor's Agent may have referred to me in the Revenue and Magisterial departments, and if the reference be for inquiry and report I submit the records to the Huzoor with my opinion, and if it be for my settlement I dispose of the matter.

3. In regard to the petitions presented in my office I dispose of such cases as I may be competent to do so, and submit to your Huzoor the records of such cases as I am not competent to dispose of without your orders previously obtained.

4. Petitions of the latter kind are presented or referred to me seldom, and not so frequently.

From M. JAGANNADHA ROW, Sub-Magistrate and Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Senior Assistant Collector, Vizagapatam, dated Palcondah, 27th June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Mallemanugula Jaganadha Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Palcondah Talook.

I HAVE received your honour's Circular Order of the 23rd instant, No. 18, and understood the contents thereof.

In my office are presented Magisterial petitions, petitions connected with the Income-tax, and those of village servants requesting leaves.

2. Four registers are opened for the Magisterial petitions, one for register cases, one for calendar cases, one for complainant's depositions taken on oath and endorsed to the Village Magistrates, and the other for petitions endorsed to the Police.

3. A register is kept for the petitions of objection to Income-tax.

4. No register is kept for the petitions of village servants for leaves, as they are submitted to your Huzoor with my reports.

5. The Magisterial business, and that connected with the village servants, is performed by my Head Gumastah, and that connected with the Income-tax by my second Gumastah.

6. Petitioners appear by the time the Court is opened.

7. Petitions are answered as soon as they are presented.

8. Registers are kept for all petitions, except those of village servants, for leave mentioned above.

9. A separate register is opened for petitions connected with the business of Assessors and referred to me from the Huzoor. It is kept by the Assessors.

10. Petitions of appeal connected with the Income-tax Act are presented by the parties personally.

11. They are disposed of as soon as the witnesses, etc., have appeared.

12. The average time occupied in the disposal of a petition is one month and fifteen days.

13. As soon as the petitions, have been inquired into the decision is read over to the petitioners, etc., who may be present; I therefore beg to bring these circumstances to your honour's notice.

From N. KODANDA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Acting Senior Assistant Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam, dated Rayaghada, 26th June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Nandagiri Kodanda Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Rayaghada Talook.

I HAVE been favoured with your honour's orders, Nos. 11 and 18, dated respectively the— and 25th instant, and in reply beg to represent as follows. The undermentioned are all the descriptions of petitions presented in my office :—

1. Petitions of Magisterial complaints.

2. Applications, etc., presented by distrainers under Sections 16 and 17 of Act VIII. of 1865.

3. Petitions presented by owners of cattle which have been impounded and sold by auction or delivery of the sale proceeds to them.

For these petitions separate registers are kept, and this work is done by my Head Gumastah.

Petitioners appear between 3 and 6 P. M. Magisterial petitions are disposed of in not more than a week, except in the case of intricate matters.

As regards summary petitions they are not disposed of by me, but they are only reported on to the superior officers under Sections 16 and 17 of the Rent Recovery Act. When a petition is presented for the sale proceeds of impounded cattle, I immediately inquire into the claim, and if it is established report the same to the Treasury Deputy-Collector, and request orders for payment. If the claim be not established it is dismissed.

In respect to the Income-tax no petitions of appeal have been preferred before me since the commencement of the collection of the tax, which was on the 1st April 1867, as the taxes imposed by me were duly paid; I therefore beg to bring these circumstances to your honour's notice.

From B. NARAYANA ROW, Deputy-Tahsildar, to the Acting Senior Assistant Collector, Vizagapatam, dated Parvatipore, 27th June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Birakayala Nyrayana Row, Deputy-Tahsildar of Parvatipore Talook.

IN reply to your honour's order, dated the 23rd instant, No. 18, I beg leave to represent the following things to you.

2. The undermentioned three kinds of petitions are presented to me :—

(*a.*) Magisterial complaints in cases in which the Police cannot arrest the accused without a warrant.

(*b.*) Petitions of objections under the Income-tax Act.

(*c.*) Applications for copies.

Three separate registers are opened for these three kinds of petitions. The register of Magisterial complaints is kept by my head Gumastah; that of petitions of objection under the Income-tax Act by the Income-tax Clerk, if any has been appointed, or by the Head Gumastah; and that of applications for copies by the Dufterbund.

3. As soon as Magisterial complaints are presented, I examine the complainants on oath, and give the depositions for being registered, after which I issue summonses under the Code of Criminal Procedure to the defendants and witnesses for their appearance on a day fixed by me in reference to the distance of their places or residence. I also issue warrants when it is necessary. When all the parties are present on the appointed or any subsequent day, I try the case and pass decision. Some complaints are dismissed for default under Sections 259 and 269, and some for want of sufficient grounds under Sections 67 and 180 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The average time occupied in the disposal of a petition is fifteen days.

4. Petitions of objection to Income-tax are presented on stamped papers in conformity with the Income-tax Act. As soon as such a petition is presented I appoint a day for the hearing thereof and write it thereupon, and personally tell the petitioner to appear on that day with his witnesses and documents. If the petitioner does not appear on the day fixed his petition is dismissed for default, and the fact made known to him personally when he makes his appearance subsequently. If the petitioner appears on the appointed day with the witnesses and documents in his behalf I at once inquire into the matter and endorse the decision on the petition itself, and read it over to him. The average time occupied in the disposal of a petition is three days.

5. When applications for copies are presented I write an order on them that they must be granted, or that they cannot be granted according to their being or not being such as may be granted, and read it to the applicants and hand the applications over to the Dufterbund. If my order is to give the copies, the Dufterbund gets them prepared by the copyist, examines them, and after my seal and signature are affixed, deliver them to the party in my presence. The copies are delivered within three days, except when the required stamped papers are not presented at all or in time by the applicant, and when he delays in coming and taking the copies which have been prepared. The average time within which an application is granted is two days. This is the practice in my office, and I beg to report the same to your honour.

From K. RAMASWAMI, Sub-Magistrate, to the Senior Assistant Collector, Vizagapatam, dated Gajapatinagram, 21st June 1871.

Arzi addressed by Kotamaraz Ramaswami, Sub-Magistrate of Gajapatinagram Talook.

I HAVE received and understood the contents of your honour's Order, dated the 19th instant, No. 17.

Whenever petitions of Magisterial complaints are preferred before me, I at once examine the petitioners on oath, fix dates for the hearing of the cases, intimate the same to the complainants, cause the cases to be filed, and issue summonses. When both the parties and the witnesses have come in obedience to the summonses, in cases falling under Chapter XV. of the Code of Criminal Procedure, I examine the complainant and the witnesses in the presence of the accused persons, taking the substance of their evidence. Though there is proof, yet if the accused persons do not admit the truth of the complaint but call witnesses, I also examine them and record my judgment and finding, which I read over to both parties. If the finding be that the accused be imprisoned, or if it be that they pay a fine and the fine be not paid, I cause them to be imprisoned. In the latter case I also issue a warrant for the levy of the fine. If the fine be recovered before the termination of the period of imprisonment, I cause the accused to be released at once. If the parties apply on one Anna stamped papers for copies of the findings I grant them on half Rupee stamped papers presented with the applications. All these proceedings of each day are entered in a diary by the office time the following day. In cases falling under Chapter XIV. I make full

examination ; if the case is proved I prepare a charge, read it over to the accused persons, and then examine them. The remaining proceedings are held in the same manner as in cases falling under Chapter XV. I record the findings in the forms prescribed in Chapters XIV. and XV. In cases coming under Chapter XII., I conduct full inquiry, and if the case is proved convict the accused for trial before the Court of Session, and if there be no proof discharge them and record a finding of acquittal. If parties do not appear on the day specified in the summonses issued to them, I issue warrant for their apprehension. If, on their being produced before me, they give reasonable cause for their not having obeyed the summonses I excuse them, otherwise I punish them under Section 174 of the Penal Code.

In cases in which the accused persons cannot be arrested by the Police without a warrant I receive the petitions on stamped papers, and in those in which the accused may be arrested without a warant, as also in the above-described cases where the complainants are too poor to procure a stamped paper, I receive the petitions on common paper.

The depositions are taken down and the findings recorded in my own hand.

I hold office every day from 10 A. M. to 6 P. M., the last hour of which period is occupied in my receiving petitions of complaint, and taking down depositions from the complainants on oath.

When distrainers, under Act VIII. of 1865, present the list of distrained property and other papers, I at once value the property and submit them to the Huzoor.

In cases referred to me under Regulation VI. of 1831, if the plaintiff has produced the extract from the permanent settlement accounts, I examine both the parties and the witnesses as in a Civil case and report the result to the Huzoor, submitting the opinion of the Assessors.

In cases under Chapter XV. if the complainant does not appear on the day appointed for the hearing of the complaint I dismiss it under Section 259, and if he does not appear on the day to which the hearing of the complaint may have been adjourned under Section 269, of the Code of Criminal Procedure. If the complanant requests permission to withdraw his complaint I grant it under Section 271, C. C. P. Whenever a complaint not proved is, in my opinion, frivolous and vexatious I award, under Section 270, C. C. P., that the complainant shall pay amends to the accused. In cases in which a fine is imposed upon the accused persons I order, under Section 44, C. C. P., that a reasonable part thereof be paid to the person who has suffered by the offence.

When a complaint appears incredible from the complainant's deposition itself I dismiss it under Section 67, C. C. P.

Whenever complaints are dismissed under Sections 67,259, or 269, or permitted to be withdrawn under Section 271, C. C. P., I write in my own hand on the several depositions the words, required by the Code to be recorded.

Where notices of assessment under the Income-tax Act have been issued by me, I receive petitions of objection if presented within the time fixed for the purpose, or thereafter when the excess is small and well accounted for, and examine the petitioners and their witnesses, as also the witnesses, if any, for Her Majesty the Queen upon oath. When the inquiry is closed I record my decision and inform it to the petitioner, who is granted a copy of it if applied for. If no appeal is lodged and the amount of tax not paid within the period allowed I report the fact to your Huzoor, soliciting orders for the recovery of double the amount, and when favoured with them I act in obedience thereto. I, in accordance to the Proceedings of the Revenue Board, dated 21st January 1870, receive appeal petitions on stamped papers against the quit-rent mentioned in the Inam Title-deeds recently issued, hold proper inquiry, and submit the records to the Collector with my opinion, and he forwards the same to the Inam Commissioner.

When petitions are presented containing complaints of "breach of contract" I proceed and dispose of them under Act XIII. of 1859.

I therefore beg to bring the above circumstances to your honour's notice.

(True Copies and Translations.)

(Signed) H. RICHARDSON,
Deputy-Collector.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th August 1871, No. 320.

As desired in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue of the 20th of May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to forward the reports of the Divisional Officers and Tahsildars on the subject of the receipt and disposal of petitions.

2. Petitions that come by post are disposed of, as far as possible, on the day they are received. Of course, some require further information, and so the petitions cannot be at once disposed of.

3. As to petitions that come by hand, the practice somewhat varies in the different Taluks ; but in all, the Tahsildars are accessible to petitioners. Some receive petitions all the time they are at Cutcherry, others have fixed times; some have boxes placed at the door of the Cutcherry into which petitions can continually be put, and which is opened every day before the Tahsildar ; some, too, allow petitioners to bring their petitions at all times, and put them on the Tahsildar's table themselves ; others only allow their peons to bring in the petitions, and then send for the petitioners when they are ready to read the petitions.

4. Thus, while the mode of receipt varies, all are in the habit of receiving petitions that are brought by petitioners.

5. It is the invariable rule to dispose of petitions on the very day they are brought, if it is possible to do so. Some petitions it is absolutely impossible to dispose of without further inquiry or information.

6. The Head-Assistant Collector and the Deputy-Collector are very much in favour of the letter-box, and its being opened at a fixed hour.

7. As to the opening the box at a fixed hour, any rule would be impracticable. If a rule is made, it must be precise. Suppose the rule was that this box was to be opened at 4 o'clock. would you have other work suddenly left, and probably considerably delayed, because the clock, struck four; but, not to go so far as that, suppose there was a Magisterial case under trial at 4 o'clock on a Saturday, and if petitions were not heard that day, the case might be finished and perhaps the prisoners released, would you have me adjourn the case and keep the prisoners in custody for two more days, rather than send away a few petitioners who could easily come another day ?

8. As to the box itself, it goes a long way towards preventing people coming with verbal applications. I do not like the box-plan at all.

9. I do not think that any rule can be laid down on the subject of the receipt of petitions. I would impress upon Tahsildars the necessity, if possible, of receiving petitions every day, but I would leave it to the Tahsildars to decide as to the time and manner of doing so.

10. Tahsildars have got as much as they can well do now, they would be hampered by rules, and very probably would not be able to do as much as they do now.

11. As to the distribution of Puttahs, Mr. Gibson does not see any objection to their being given to the Village Officers for distribution. In the other Divisions, it is generally the custom to have puttahs distributed, in the presence of the Settlement Officer, to those who come for them, and the rest are given to the Village Officers or Revenue Inspectors to take to the different villages.

12. The plan in these divisions is as good a one as could be adopted. With me, it generally depends on the number of the puttahs left undistributed whether they are given to the Village Officers or Revenue Inspectors ; if there are a great many, they are taken to the village by the Revenue Inspectors.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From V. VENKATACHELLUM, Deputy-Collector, to the Acting Collector, Bellary, dated Huvinhadagili, 23rd June 1871, No. 173.

WITH reference to your memorandum of the 5th instant, appended to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th ultimo, No. 2,095, I have the honour to enclose, copies of the three Arzees* received from the Tahsildars in my Division, reporting the existing practice with regard to the receiving of petitions and answering them.

*Hurpanahully Taluk Tahsildar's Arzi No. 147, dated 16th June 1871.
Kudligi Taluk Tahsildar's Arzi No. 229, dated 16th June 1871.
Huvinhadagili Taluk Tahsildar's Arzi No. 198, dated 14th June 1871.

2. I beg to state that I receive petitions every day (Sundays excepted) after 4 P.M., and pass orders on them either on that day or on the following day.

3. I think it will be convenient to the parties and the Tahsildar and other officer to keep a box, like tappal letter box, in the presence of the officer, so that all persons having to present petitions may put them there without waiting for a time. The box may be opened one hour before the officer leaves the office, and he may pass orders on them on that date, or only date them and pass orders on the following day.

4. You are well aware that no puttahs are now being given every year to every ryot paying revenue to Government, and that new puttahs are issued to those ryots in whose old puttahs additions or corrections are to be made, by the ryots taking additional fields or relinquishing some of the fields under them.

5. Notices are issued at the Jamabandy time for the attendance of such ryots who are entitled to new puttahs. If they attend, their puttahs are being given to them in the presence of the Settlement Officer. If they do not attend, their puttahs are being delivered to the Village Moonsiff or Curnum for being given to them.

6. The ryots who newly take up lands any year will be furnished with a puttah for their lands.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From W. S. FOSTER. Esq., Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 30th June 1871, No. 306.

As requested in your foot-note to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,095, dated May 20th, 1871, I have the honour to forward the Arzees of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars on the subject.

2. From these you will see that the Tahsildars of Adoni and Gooty keep boxes into which any one is allowed to put his petition, and these boxes are opened in the evening, and the petitioners are called, and their petitions read, and, so far as is possible, disposed of while the petitioner is present. The objection to this would seem to be that the Tahsildar is not accessible to any one who does not bring a written petition, but I was speaking to the Tahsildar of Adoni about this, and he said that he received the people who had verbal complaints to make after he had disposed of the written petitions. At Aloor and Ooroovacondah the petitions are brought by the petitioners and placed on the Tahsildar's table at all times; these are read and disposed of at the close of the day, or at any other leisure time.

3. At Tadputri the Tahsildar received petitioners from 4 to 5 o'clock.

4. At Anantapur and Yemaganur the petitioners give their petitions to the peons, who bring them to the Tahsildar, and he disposes of them with the petitioners at Yemaganur; the time for the receipt of petitions is from 4 to about ½ past.

5. At Ravuchervu the Sub-Magistrate receives petitions when he goes to office, and again after he has finished trying his cases.

6. The practice, in my own office, is to call in petitioners about 5 o'clock, or when I have finished my other work they are allowed to come in in turn, with or without written petitions; of course those petitioners whose petitions require to be on stamp paper are sent away to provide it, if they come with verbal or insufficiently stamped complaints. I pass orders at once on the matter if I can, but many petitions require information from the Tahsildars, or reference to papers in my own office; at all events, the petitioners are informed what steps I am going to take in the matter. In the case of Magisterial petitions, if there is time, depositions are taken from the petitioners, the same day, otherwise they have to come the next day, they are never, I think, put off longer than that.

7. At Jamabandy, my practice is to go through the Kulwar Chittahs with the Reddis and Kurnam, who have instructions to bring any ryots who have complaints to make, and I can then dispose of the matter before the puttahs are written. When puttahs are to be distributed, I get as many of the ryots as possible, and the puttahs are given to the ryots in my presence by a Revenue Inspector or Goomastah, who, as he gives each puttah to the ryot, reads out the amount entered in it. If only a few puttahs are left undistributed, they are given to the Reddi or Kurnam to be taken to the Puttahdar. If there are many puttahs left, they are given to Revenue Inspectors to take themselves to the villages. After the distribution of puttahs of each village is finished before me, I hear and dispose of any complaint that may be made by any ryots of that village. The puttahs are distributed by me at as many villages as I can, but that depends on the time I have to spare. I have given here my usual course, circumstances may alter this course, as at Hospett this year, where I was very much pressed for time. But even then, I received all the complaints that were made to me and disposed at once of all but those that required further information or inspection of the land.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From E. GIBSON, Esq., Head-Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 6th July 1871, No. 194.

IN reply to your foot-note to the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,095, dated 20th May last, I have the honour to inform you that my own practice with regard to petitions is to receive them in person, every morning between 8 and 9 o'clock, and to give out endorsements to those petitioners who may be in attendance at the close of the office in the evening: endorsement to persons who may not be present are forwarded by post. It must be understood that it is seldom possible, owing to the necessity of making inquiries, to distribute endorsements on the same day on which petitions are presented. From reports received from the Tahsildars, I find that (with the exception of Pennakonda) no rule for the receipts or disposal of petitions is observed in the taluqs. Petitions are said to be received at any time during the day. This plan appears to me to be objectionable in many ways, it affords room for indefinite delay in the receipts of petitions, and enables importunate petitioners to disturb more important business which may be going on; I am, therefore, in favour of definite hours being fixed. If a letter box were affixed in a conspicuous place outside every office into which Arzees could be dropped at any hour, I think that even a petitioner such as "Vijiaraghava Charry" could find no ground for complaints.

2. As regards the question of the distribution of Puttahs at the Settlement, I know that it is the custom in some districts, such as Tanjore, where the holdings are large and the annual alteration in the Puttahs few, to distribute each Puttah to its owner. I do not believe that this practice was ever observed in North Arcot, and if it were to obtain in this district, where the name of the Puttahdars is legion, and the changes in Puttahs almost numberless, we should require two years to conduct one settlement of the fifteen taluks. The custom of giving them to the village officials seems to

me to be unobjectionable, as each ryot knows well, that if he wishes it, he can receive his Puttah at the hands of the Settlement Officer in any special case. The reports from the subordinates are enclosed in original.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. S. FOSTER,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 4 to 19.— Tahsildars' reports.

From T. A. N. CHASE, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 15th July 1871, No. 237.

I HAVE the honour to submit the report called for in Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May last, No. 2,095, regarding the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds, and the delivery of puttahs at the annual jamabandy.

2. The practice in my office is to receive petitions daily soon after the current work is finished, and dispose of them on the same or the following day, the final orders being communicated to the parties in person if present, or else sent to them by post. In cases requiring local inquiry the petitions are referred to the Tahsildar or Sub-Magistrate and orders passed soon after the receipt of replies, and communicated to the petitioners by endorsement sent through the post.

3. The same system is observed in all the divisional offices in the district, except Nandial, where, prior to the receipt of the Board's Proceedings, dated 10th June 1871, No. 2,339, the Deputy Collector was in the habit of receiving revenue and miscellaneous petitions on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday, the magisterial and income-tax petitions daily.

4. In the taluks, all petitions are, as a rule, received daily, and disposed of as expeditiously as the nature of the complaint and the work of the taluk permit. Instances of Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates not receiving petitions are rare in this district. When such cases occur prompt notice is taken of them. I do not see that any improvement can be effected in the present system.

5. During the annual settlement the attendance of all ryots, particulary in the settled taluks, is not insisted on. It is not always necessary, for instance when the ryots have no complaints and do not wish any change in their holding, and the Government demand is unchanged. The heirs of deceased Puttahdars are encouraged to attend as much as possible, in order that their claims may be settled in the presence of the head man of the village and such others as may have attended.

The settlement is carried on at two or three places in each taluk, and the ryots have previous warning to attend or not at their pleasure.

The puttahs of the absent ryots are given to the Reddi and Curnum for distribution in the village. The Revenue Inspectors, of whom there are three or four in each taluk, and who are required constantly to itinerate in their range, are directed to see that there is no needless delay in the delivery of these puttahs and to enter the fact in their diaries, which are sent every month to the Divisional Officer through the Tahsildar. They are further required frequently to examine the village cash accounts and compare them with the ryots' receipts and puttahs.

6. This system acts as a very good check and provides for what the petitioners seek in their petition, and the evils and personal inconvenience attendant upon the enforced attendance of all the ryots are obviated.

7. I beg to enclose the original reports of the Divisional Officers on the subject, as directed in the second paragraph of the Board's Proceedings under reply.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. B. JONES, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated 14th July 1871, No. 65.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 2,095, dated May 20th, 1871.

2. With regard to petitions in my own office, if sent by post they are, as stated in the petition, noted in the proceedings read to me immediately on my arrival at cutcherry and orders passed on them by myself. Cases are then taken, and, when they are finished, all those who are present with petitions are called in and orders passed on them. If there be no cases for trial, the petitioners are called in as soon as my official letters and petitions by post have been disposed of. As a general rule, petitioners do not present themselves until late in the day. I have tried the system of taking the petitions before cases, but have found it would not answer, as the petitioners did not present themselves until the afternoon.

3. In regard to jummabundy, the puttahs are stamped within a few yards of me, and any ryot present can take his puttah there and then if he likes. Just as a village is called up for settlement a peon or attender cries out the name of the village outside the cutcherry, and any ryot who has any complaint or application to make can do so without let or hindrance of any description.

4. In regard to the offices of the Tahsildar and Deputy Tahsildar of Ramalakota, their mode of procedure with respect to petitions both from the enclosed translations and my own experience does not appear to me to call for change. I have, therefore, no improvements to suggest.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From E. TURNER, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector of Cumbum, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated 5th July 1871, No. 124.

IN reply to your endorsement, No. 44, dated 7th June 1871, on the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to inform you that the following are the kinds of petitions usually presented in this office:—

1.—Petitions regarding the shares of family property.
2.— Do. for securing the title to the lands.
3.— Do. regarding the disputes of the boundary of the fields.
4.— Do. regarding the distribution of water.
5.— Do. complaining of the extent of the lands being less than that entered in the puttah.
6.— Do. of having collected assessment in excess than that entered in the puttah.
7.— Do. requesting remission of assessment from causes out of ryots, control.
8.—Complaining of concealed cultivation and embezzlement of public money.
9.—Miscellaneous.

These petitions are disposed of as follows:—

The petitioner, on presenting his petition, is questioned regarding his complaint, and his arzee is read aloud in his presence; if possible, his petition is decided there and then, and the petitioner is at once entitled to receive into his hands a copy of the order passed. In some cases the petitioner is told to apply for redress to the Civil Courts. In that case an endorsement to that effect is given to him. But more commonly the petition cannot be settled at once; in such cases the petition will be endorsed to the Tahsildar or Revenue Inspector, as the case may be, for inquiry and report. A copy of this endorsement is given to the petitioner if he requires it; but more usually he is verbally instructed to return to his village to await the local inquiry ordered to be instituted into his complaint. Upon the receipt of the report of the Revenue Inspector or Tahsildar the petitions will be disposed of according to the merits and the results communicated to the petitioner by means of endorsement. These endorsements will be handed over to the petitioners if they are present; if not, they will be forwarded through the district post to be delivered to the parties.

Petitions 1 and 2 will generally be referred to the Civil Courts.

No. 3, to the Demarcation Department.

Nos. 4 and 5, to the Tahsildar and Revenue Inspectors for local inquiry.

No. 6, to the Tahsildar, unless personally inquired into by the Division Officer.

No. 7, to the Tahsildar.

No. 8, to the Tahsildar, unless personally investigated by the Division Officer.

Fresh puttahs are not issued every year. They are only issued in case of any change become ing necessary in the original puttah. These puttahs are handed over to the Reddy and Curnum during the jamabandy to be delivered to the respective parties. There is no check to find out whether these puttahs were actually delivered to the ryots. To remedy this evil ryots should be required to attend at the jamabandy to receive their puttahs, which they can do without much inconvenience, as only very few of them will be required to attend each year. It is a very general complaint among ryots that no puttahs are delivered to them; but ryots will not attend jamabandy unless forced to do so. Every day spent away from their cultivation is a loss to them.

Copies of arzees from the Tahsildars of Cumbum and Markapoor Taluks are herein enclosed.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From D. TIMMAPAH, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Peapally, 14th June 1871, No. 81.

WITH reference to your endorsement, No. 214, dated 7th instant, on a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. The petitions are generally received in my office whenever the parties appear before me with petitions in their hands and handed over by me to the Petition Clerk, who brings them, together with those received by post, on the same day between 4 and 5 P.M. and reads them to me in the presence of the parties who are present at the time, and the orders passed thereon are communicated to them by me.

3. If the matters complained are of a revenue nature and the orders passed thereon final, the petitions with endorsements are returned to the petitioners, if they are present, either on the same evening or on the day following, after making necessary entries in the books; if not, they are despatched by post.

4. The petitions requiring inquiry, report, or explanation from the Tahsildars or Sub-Magistrates are referred to them, and, on receiving their replies, they are disposed of, and the orders passed thereon are also endorsed on the petitions and returned to the petitioners by post.

5. The petitions which are written on unstamped paper are also read, and, if any of them require stamp duty to be paid thereon, they are returned to the parties with an endorsement to that effect.

6. On some occasions when I shall have any criminal or revenue case under trial before me, or when I shall be engaged in any emergent business which occupies my time till late in the evening, the hearing of the petitions is postponed to the following office-day.

7. The petitions received in the Magisterial Department are also disposed of similarly as above mentioned and filed in the record, in accordance with the rulings of the High Court in their Proceedings, dated 14th May 1869.

8. As regards the delivery of puttahs at the annual settlement of jamabundy, I beg to report that soon after the settlement of each village is over the Curnum prepares either new puttahs or makes the requisite alterations in the old puttahs, in accordance with the individual settlement for the year, and hands them over to the Revenue Inspector of the range or Goomasta in the Talook Cutcherry, who compares them with the chitta and certifies as to their correctness under his hand in each, and reports to me that the puttahs of certain villages are ready for signature, when, in accordance with my orders, they are handed over to the attender or a peon attached to my office, who impresses the seal bearing my name, and the office seal thereon in my presence.

9. After the puttahs are ready for delivery the Revenue Inspector of the range together with the Reddi and Curnum of the village come before me with the puttahs in the hands of the former, who calls out the names of the ryots, of whom those that are present will appear and receive their puttahs and the remaining puttahs are given in the hands of the Curnum, directing him as well as the Reddi to deliver them over at once to the ryots to whom they are to be issued.

10. The Revenue Inspectors are instructed at the same time to ascertain from the ryots of every village during their tour after the jamabundy whether they have received their puttahs, and to report immediately if any puttah is withheld by the village authorities.

11. As far as my knowledge extends there was no complaint of any kind in the matter, and consequently I am of opinion that the system is working satisfactorily.

12. In former times, though the jamabundy of two or three talooks was settled in one place according to the custom which then existed, yet almost all the ryots of every talook used to come to the place to receive their puttahs. The custom which now prevails is quite the reverse, although the settlement is made in three or four central places in each talook. The only ryots that appear before the officer making the settlement are those who have any complaints to prefer, or who wish to have the puttahs transferred from one to another, and, in some cases, the heirs of the deceased ryots, in order to get the puttahs renewed in their names.

13. I further beg to report that I have issued takeeds to the Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates in my division to describe the practice in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds in their respective offices.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From A. RAMACHENDER ROW, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Kurnool, dated Nundial, 24th June 1871, No. 93.

WITH reference to your endorsement, No. 214, dated the 7th instant, at the foot of the Board's Proceedings, No. 2,095, dated the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report on the practice at present followed in the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds and the distribution of puttahs during the annual jamabundy in my division.

2. In my office, petitions in the Revenue Department and on miscellaneous matters are received on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, while those in the Magisterial and Income-tax Departments *daily* and whenever they are presented by parties during office hours. When I am on circuit in the villages petitions of *all* kinds are received without the limitation of the week days aforesaid

3. The petitions are disposed of then and there; and, in cases which admit of final orders being passed, endorsements to the petitioners are given to them on the same day. Where reference to the talook is found necessary for inquiry and report or for further information, the order of reference is issued on the same day, and the petitioner is permitted to return to his village, the final order on his petition being sent to the talook for delivery to him.

4. Besides the petitions presented by the parties or their agents there are hosts of others that reach my office *daily* by the regular Post Office or the district dawk, and these are disposed of in the same way as those personally presented to me, unless the attendance of the complainants is required, which is generally the case as regards the Magisterial Department.

5. In the cutcherries of the Tahsildars of Nundial and Sirwell, and the Deputy Tahsildar at Kalva, petitions of all kinds are received daily and disposed of at once.

6. Since the receipt of the Board's Proceedings noted in the margin I have adopted the rule of the *daily* receipt and disposal *also* of the revenue and miscellaneous petitions. In practice, however, all revenue petitions and several magisterial complaints are forwarded by the parties through the Post Office, the ryots of the villages lying adjacent to Nundial or to my camp when on circuit appearing with their petitions before me. A good many petitions reach my office under your wrappers, and these are disposed of in the manner already described.

No. 2,339, dated 10th June 1871.

7. There is, therefore, really no hardship felt by the ryots in the matter of petitions. The course suggested by petitioner, Thamial Vijiya Raghava Chari, of the Arcot Talook, for the receipt and disposal of petitions, cannot be worked as advantageously as is supposed by him. The very constitution of the Revenue Department, which is always expected to be on the move in the talooks for the discharge of various revenue and magisterial duties, does not admit of the appliances, which are best suited to Judicial Courts having a fixed location and provided with a large staff of ministerial officers. The lodging of a magisterial complaint of murder, or dacoity, or other grave crime, in a box which could be serviceable *only* when the Magisterial Officer is at his head-quarters and its disposal *next* day, would be causing a serious delay and defeating the ends of justice, while at times a similar course followed in regard to charges of embezzlement of public revenue against village officers and others in the Revenue Department will be equally attended with pernicious results. Even in ordinary cases the box system will not be attended with any beneficial results, as the majority of the ryots will not stop in to see their petitions heard, and a delay would ensue in case their attendance is required. This will be the more so during the sowing and harvest seasons.

8. The present practice, therefore, of the *daily* receipt and disposal of petitions is best adapted to the Revenue and Magisterial Departments. If prompt redress is not secured, it is not the system that is at fault but the way in which it is worked by the presiding officer.

9. The Quarterly Revenue Returns introduced by the Board* have had an admirable effect upon the working of the whole of the Revenue establishments. Such periodical scrutiny of the work of the subordinate offices was very much required. I do not mean that there was a total absence of such scrutiny within the district or division itself before the introduction of the forms, but that the present shape in which the work is represented to higher authorities has had a good effect in accelerating the despatch of business in all the offices. Needless references to the talooks by the Divisional Officers, or to the village subordinates by the Tahsildars, have been entirely put a stop to, and the desire of showing a clean balance sheet of work turned out during the quarter has given additional impetus to the early disposal of all petitions.

* Board's Official Memorandum, No. 1,470, dated 30th November 1870, received 15th February 1871.

10. I now come to the second part of the Proceedings, regarding the mode of distribution of puttahs at the annual jamabundy.

11. The Revenue Officer conducting the settlement starts on a tour into the talooks after the preliminary arrangements, as regards the accounts and the stations at which the distribution should take place, are complete. The Tahsildar is provided with a memorandum showing the number of villages, the land revenue of which is to be settled at each station. The settling officer issues orders for the collection of such of the villages as are entitled to receive puttahs owing to fluctuations in the extent of their holdings during the year. All the ryots so required to attend, however, do not appear, and their attendance is not generally enforced. Puttahs of the absentees are handed over to the village officers, who distribute the same to the Puttahdars on their return to the villages. No complaints have been made to me of the non-receipt of puttahs or of unauthorized alterations in them by any of the ryots in my division, and no advantage, so far as my knowledge goes, has been taken by the Village Curnums of the delivery to them of the puttahs of the absentees in this division.

12. The heirs of deceased ryots, as a rule, do attend the jamabundy settlement to obtain orders for the needful transfer in their names of the puttahs held by the deceased, while others again, having neither fresh puttahs to receive nor applications to make for transfers, do attend to present complaints, such as regards the distribution of water or other local rights with which their neighbours have interfered.

13. The object of the system of annual renewal and distribution of *all* puttahs irrespective of changes in the holdings having been done away with, was no other than to save the ryots the trouble and expense of an unnecessary journey every year to the camp of the settling officer to the prejudice of their agricultural operations. Local wants and requirements could be, and have been, represented to Revenue Officers of all grades at all times when they are on their ordinary tours within their respective ranges as well as during the jummahbundy if the ryots choose to do so.

14. To prevent, however, the village officers from meddling with the puttahs of the absentees or delaying their distribution, I would suggest that the settling officer should leave such puttahs in the hands of the Tahsildar or the Deputy Tahsildar, who should call upon the absentees to appear at certain places, selected at convenient distances from their homes, and distribute them himself within a reasonable time after the close of the jamabundy. Beyond this simple arrangement not new rules appear to me to be called for on the subject.

From W M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallam, 17th August 1871, No. 248.

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to submit the following report on the practice observed by myself in regard to the receipt and disposal of petitions. At 2 P. M., daily, the Petition box is opened, and the contents (and which are usually applications for copies of accounts and other documents) are read and disposed of by endorsement, and immediately returned to the parties, if in attendance.

2. Again at 5 P. M., also daily, all petitioners are called up, and their petitions received by myself, the petitioners being also heard verbally at the same time. The petitions with the exception of such as require a reference to the Divisional Officers or Tahsildars or to the records in my own Office are, as a rule, disposed of by endorsement the next day. Those excepted, are similarly disposed of so soon as the requisite information has been obtained.

3. As I have at present no taluk under my own direct charge, I do not distribute any pattahs. The rule observed by me, while I have myself settled the Jammabandi of any taluk, has been, to have each and every one of the ryots called before me, and after disposing of his objections or representations, (if he had any to make) to have the pattah delivered to him in my own presence. The practice of entrusting the pattahs to the Karnams and Pattamaniagars for eventual delivery to the parties concerned, is scarcely known in this district.

4. I forward the reports of the Divisional Officers, with their enclosures, as enumerated below, showing in detail the practice observed by them as well as by the Tahsildars in their respective divisions. From these it will be seen, that in every case petitions are received and the petitioners themselves heard at appointed hours (though these differ in the case of the several offices) every day by the Head of the office, and that they are disposed of with all possible promptitude. Pattahs are likewise delivered in the presence of the Settling Officer after each Pattadar has been called up and has signed the Chittah.

5. It does not appear to me that the existing practices in this district need any modifications in view of the convenience of the public service. Perhaps, rules may be laid down for general adoption with regard to the hours at which petitions are to be received; but they will, I apprehend, only hamper the heads of the offices without producing any commensurate benefit to the public.

6. The Acting Head-Assistant Collector, Mr. Burrows, in his letter on this subject, brings to notice the desirability of laying down some plan to regulate the procedure in the matter of transfer of pattahs, so as to obviate the inconvenience which now entails on the party seeking the transfer, in having to wait until the written consent of the other party, designated in this district by the special term "Sammatipatram," as well as the requisite Numbarwari Account of the land from the Karnam has been obtained. Mr. Burrows refers necessarily to cases in which the registration of transfer is dependent on the united consent of both parties. In reference to such cases, therefore, I am about to issue a Circular, which will remove all reasonable cause of complaint. Under this circular, in every case in which a party seeks for the transfer of pattah, whether he be the transferer or transferree, he will be furnished on application by the Karnam with the least avoidable delay, with the necessary Numbarwari Account, duly attested by him, and with this

account, the applicant for transfer will appear before the Tahsildar, accompanied also by the other party to the transfer, so that the Tahsildar may at once take down the written "Sammatipatram" or agreement of both. Thus, the delay which now almost invariably occurs in procuring the attendance of the Karnam as well as of the other party to the transfer, will be saved, and neither of the parties will have to wait at the Taluk Station longer than a day. The inconvenience to the public service involved in calling up the Karnam to the Taluk Cutcherry for this purpose, will be likewise saved.

7. As the Karnam's Numbarwari Account is to form part of the public record, and the applicant for transfer is to be merely the medium of its transmission to the Taluk Cutcherry, it need be on plain paper only; the paper being provided of course by the Karnam himself from his own stationery.

8. It is true that the Tahsildars with the powers now expressly given them by the Madras Act III. of 1869, may summon the other party; but then the applicant will have to wait for days, and probably weeks together, until the latter has appeared, and where he declines to give his assent to the registration of the transfer applied for, will have been waiting in vain. Indeed, I do not conceive that any hardship entails on the applicant for transfer in having to procure the attendance of the other party, for where the other party is willing, it will cost the applicant very little trouble to bring him along with himself, and where he is not willing, his attendance before the Tahsildar will be to no purpose; in fact, under the new plan, the applicant will be only saved the trouble of going to the Tahsildar and applying for transfer, where the transfer is not possible.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. M. CADELL, Esq., Officiating Collector in charge of the Sub-Collector's office, to the Acting Collector of Tanjore, dated Tranquebar, 20th July 1871, No. 291.

WITH reference to your endorsement, No. 325 of the 10th ultimo, I have the honour to forward, herewith, an abstract in English of the reports made by the Tahsildars and Sub-Magistrates of this Division, regarding the practice obtaining in their offices in receiving and disposing of all kinds of petitions.

2. In this office, both Magisterial and Revenue Petitions are received in the evening, between 4 and 6 P.M. every day. Orders are passed then and there on such petitions as can be disposed of, without any enquiry or reference to previous correspondence; those that require perusal of previous correspondence being reserved for disposal on the following day.

3. Revenue petitions, which cannot be disposed of without enquiry are, as a rule, referred to the Tahsildars for report, with the exception of course of such complaints as the Sub-Collector is bound by law to investigate himself, viz., suits under Act VIII. of 1865, serious cases of malversations triable under Regulation IX. of 1822, etc. Petitions referred to Tahsildars are promptly disposed of on their merits as soon as those officers' reports are received in this office. A register of unanswered references is also kept to show that no unnecessary delay takes place with respect to these petitions.

4. Magisterial complaints are sometimes referred to the police for preliminary enquiry, but they are more generally filed at once, and disposed of strictly, according to the course prescribed by the Code of Criminal Procedure, the depositions of the complaints being taken on the day the complaint is presented, or on the day following, as may be convenient. In cases appertaining to the jurisdiction of Sub-Magistrates, the parties are referred to those offices unless it be for any special reasons.

5. Applications for copies of documents (Magisterial and Revenue) are disposed of agreeably to the rules prescribed by the Board of Revenue, and the High Court of Madras, the Collector's sanction being obtained for such as require sanction, and orders being given by the Sub-Collector himself for such as require no sanction. Applications for copies of documents not in this office are at once rejected, and the applicants ordered to go to the office in which the documents are forthcoming.

13

6. As regards the practice of distributing pattahs, I beg to state, that the allegations contained in Vijiaragavachariar's petition does not apply to this district. The chittahs are invariably signed by the Puttahdars themselves and are delivered to the proper parties in the presence of the Settling officer; after enquiring and disposing of all disputes (if any) connected with them, Pattahs are carefully compared and delivered to the parties, and consequently the possibility of any additional entry being subsequently made by village officers, is out of the question.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

Abstract of the Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate's reports with regard to the practice observed in their offices in receiving petitions.

NEGAPATAM TAHSILDAR.—Petitions are received every day in the evening at 5 P. M. (except on sundays and holidays) sometimes by the Tahsildar himself and at other times by the Dafadar, all such petitions being heard by the Tahsildar in person. After initialling these and other Tappal petitions, which are opened by the Tahsildar himself, they are handed over to the Magistrate and Revenue Gumastahs for entry in the Registers. Of the Magisterial petitions, such of them as can be disposed of by the Village Magistrate are referred to him, and those which may be enquired into by the Police are referred to them. In those cases which can be tried or enquired into by the Tahsildar, depositions are taken on the very day or on the day following, and summonses issued and proceedings conducted in the usual course. Of the Revenue petitions, applications for Darkhasts, petitions for planting trees under the Tope rules, disputes about excess cultivation, petitions for the remission of second crop assessment and of assessments on lands used as house-sites, complaints about irrigation or excess collection, and applications for transfer of puttahs, etc., are sent to the Revenue Inspectors, Deputy Tahsildars or Karnams for preparing the necessary accounts connected with them or for any enquiry that may be required to be made by them. In those petitions which have to be enquired into by the Tahsildar, he sends Revenue summonses, and after getting the parties, conducts the enquiry in his own Court. Petitioners are then and there, or after looking into any previous correspondence, informed in person as to what has been done with their petitions; if endorsements are written, they are given in their hands. Numberwari Accounts are also called for from the Karnams and copies thereof given to the parties after having them compared by the Taluk Sheristadar.

NANNILAM TAHSILDAR.—Unless prevented by any special work, petitions are received on all days at 10 o'clock A. M. They are received and perused by the Tahsildar himself in person. In the case of Magisterial petitions, depositions are immediately taken from the complainants and processes issued after having them registered in a book. Such petitions are kept by the Magisterial Gumastah until they are disposed of. If there be no grounds for proceeding with the case, it is dismissed under Section 67 C. P. C; if the case is one triable by higher authorities it is rejected; if triable by a Village Magistrate, it is referred to him; if it is one in which the accused can be arrested by the Police without a warrant, petitioners are ordered to go to that department, orders being sent to the Police about them only when delay takes place. In the case of Revenue petitions; if they are for transfer of puttahs, the parties and the village officers with their accounts are ordered to appear on a particular day fixed, when Sammatipatrams or Deeds of consent are taken and forwarded to the Sub-Collector for sanction. On the receipt of such sanction, the necessary orders are sent to the Karnams. If the petitions be about differences in the extent or assessment of any land, they are sent for the report of the Revenue Inspectors or Karnam, and on the receipt of their replies, endorsements are given to petitioners, or if necessary, arzis written to the Sub-Collector. If the petitions be for copies of documents, they are sent for from the Karnams or taken from the Taluk records, as the case may be, and given to the parties after obtaining the sanction of the Sub-Collector. If the petitions be complaints of any excess collection, misappro-

priation or false entry, they are enquired into by the Tahsildar, under Act IX. of 1822, after obtaining the necessary authority for doing so, agreeably to Act VII. of 1828. Revenue petitions are kept by the Revenue Gumastah till they are disposed of.

NEGAPATAM TOWN SUB-MAGISTRATE.—No Revenue petitions are received by Deputy Tahsildars, Magisterial petitions are received every day between 4 and 7 P. M. They are received by the Sub-Magistrate in person. If they are triable by a Village Magistrate or refer to cases in which the Police can arrest without a warrant, the petitioners are ordered to go to the proper authorities: in cases, however, where sufficient grounds are shewn for the Sub-Magistrates taking up such case, it is filed and process issued without referring. Petitions triable by the Sub-Magistrate are generally read by the Sub-Magistrate himself and sometimes by the Gumastahs. The deposition below the petition is taken by the Gumastah under the Sub-Magistrate's dictation and the complaints are disposed of, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by the Criminal Code. If there be no time to take the deposition on that day, it is taken on a subsequent fixed day. Petitions for copies of orders, etc., are given in the hands of the Gumastah to get the copies made and given to the parties in due course after collecting the necessary fees. Magisterial petitions received by post are generally destroyed, unless they refer to any murder or to any property belonging to Government, about which all the necessary enquiry is made either through the Police or by the Sub-Magistrate himself in person.

TRIVALORE SUB-MAGISTRATE.—No time has been fixed for receiving petitions: they are accepted at any time they are presented during the office hours. They are sometimes read by the Sub-Magistrate and sometimes by the Gumastahs, and orders passed without delay, in such cases as could be disposed of at once: those which require enquiry are given to the Gumastahs, and are disposed of after the parties are summoned.

KODAVASAL SUB-MAGISTRATE.—Petitions are received every day in the evening after other Magisterial and Revenue works are finished. They are read and disposed of by the Sub-Magistrate himself. If there be sufficient time, the usual depositions below Magisterial complaints are received on the day they are presented: otherwise they are kept on to the following day. Petitions which do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Sub-Magistrate are endorsed and given back to the petitioners. Very few Revenue petitions are received. Petitions about Sammatipatrams, *i. e.*, deeds of consent or about property attached on account of arrears of Revenue are duly enquired into and disposed of in the usual course. Petitions which cannot be disposed of at once, are given in the hands of the Gumastahs for being brought to notice at the proper time.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From L. R. BURROWS, Esq., Acting Head-Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Mayavaram, 21st July 1871, No. 134.

IN compliance with the request contained in your docket, on Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I have the honour to forward, herewith, a memorandum, showing the practice of my own office and that of my subordinates in respect to petitions and pattahs.

2. As regards transfer of pattahs, I would suggest that some plan should be devised for obviating the inconvenience now felt by some parties in having to wait at the Taluk Cutcherry until the Sammatipatram and Numbarwari Statement has been got ready. I do not think that there is any great public inconvenience incurred by the present practice, but it frequently happens that parties are kept waiting, and if some general rules of procedure were drawn up for universal adoption, I have no doubt they would be felt as a boon, both by the public and the Taluk Establishments.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

MEMORANDUM.

HUZUR.

I.—*Receipt and disposal of petitions.*—A box is kept for receiving petitions of all kinds. It is opened every day at 12 o'clock after the Urzis, reports, and other papers of correspondence are read.

2. The petitioners are then called one after another, and after asking the necessary questions, petitions are disposed of in one of the following ways—

3. Petitions relating to Darkhasts, transfer of pattahs, and claims for remissions of Teervah, etc., are disposed of according to the rules laid down on each subject, after necessary examinations are made by the Taluk officials, and reports received from the Tahsildar regarding them, the results are communicated to petitioners through the Tahsildar.

4. Petitions regarding the deepening of channels, etc., are sent to Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar for being acted upon, with reference to the Collector's Circular, published at page 81, dated 3rd February 1866.

5. As regards all other miscellaneous petitions: orders are passed then and there in the presence of the parties if the subject matter of the petition would admit of the same being done.

6. If any reference to Office records was necessary, and the same could not be at once taken, the petitioner is ordered to come the next day, when orders are passed in his presence.

7. If any report, either at once or after inquiry and examination, was necessary from the Taluk or Village officers, etc., they are accordingly called for, and orders are then passed on each case. If the petitioner is not then present, the result is endorsed on the petition which is either kept in the office till the party asks for it, or sent to the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar for delivery, if necessary.

II.—*Regarding the delivery of pattahs at the annual Jammabandi.*—After the accounts of usual,* and extraordinary† remissions are received from Tahsildars, and the necessary orders are passed thereon, an order is sent to him, fixing the places where, the dates on which, and the Mahanams for which, the puttahs will have to be distributed to the Mirassidars, and directing him to have all the Jammabandi accounts, as per manual prepared and kept ready. When they are ready, the Tahsildar sends for the Mirassidars to the places appointed, a day or two previously, and gets their signatures in Account No. 5, *i. e.*, that the Jammabandi Chittah, after they are satisfied regarding its correctness. Objections raised, if any are inquired into, and disposed of by the Tahsildar if possible, or they are brought to my notice at the time of distributing pattahs. Each of such cases is heard and disposed of by me. After the disputes are thus settled, they sign the Account No. 5.

The pattahs are all distributed to the Mirassidars at the appointed dates and places in my presence.

* Of permanent nature such as for lands destroyed by the current of rivers, etc., and those occupied by houses and back-yards of Puracoodies, etc., etc, etc.
† For Taris, Nattapal, Shavi. etc., etc.

TALUKS.

Mayaveram Tahsildar, Urzi No. 620.

I.—*Regarding disposal of petitions.*—All petitions are received in my presence every day at 4 o'clock in the evening. They are immediately read over in the presence of the petitioners, and after asking them the necessary questions, disposed of in one of the following ways:—

1. Such petitions as can be disposed of at once, are disposed of accordingly, and the order communicated to the petitioner then and there.

2. If any records need to be seen regarding any of the petitions, another day is fixed for the hearing, and the party is ordered to attend on that date. Final orders are then passed and communicated to the petitioner, if he be present.

3. If the subject matter of any petitions requires any inquiry, it is made according to the circumstances of each case, orders are then passed by me, or a report is made to the Huzur in cases in which it is necessary.

The final order is then communicated to the party by an endorsement on his petition either directly or through the village officers.

4. As regards petitions claiming remissions of assessment, etc., the necessary examinations are made by me in person or caused to be made by Deputy Tahsildar or Revenue Inspectors, and disposed of according to rules on each subject, after obtaining Huzur orders, and the result communicated to the petitioners in person or through the village officers.

5. In cases of applications for transfers of pattah, the necessary accounts are sent for and seen, and signatures of both the parties are taken in my presence to the Sammatipatram or deed of mutual consent. A register of all such cases of transfers is sent (once or twice in each month) to Huzur, and after obtaining sanction, the necessary alterations are made in the accounts, and the Mirasi transferred accordingly.

II.—*As to the delivery of pattahs at the annual Jammabandi.*—All the accounts as per manual are at first ordered to be prepared. When they are all ready, a report is sent to the Divisional Officer. After obtaining orders, fixing the dates on which the Mahanam for which, and the places where, the pattahs are to be distributed, the Mirassidars are sent for through the Village Officers, and assembled at the places appointed a day previously. With the exception of a very few, all appear either in person or through their Agents or sons, etc. The Jammabandi accounts and puttah are shown to them, and after they are satisfied that they are all correct, they sign the Account No. 5, objections made by any are heard, and disposed of by the Tahsildar, if possible, or under the orders of the Divisional Officer. They afterwards sign the Account No. 5. The pattahs are then distributed to them in the presence of the Divisional Officer. The pattahs of those that were absent at that time, are kept in deposit and given over to them whenever they apply.

Shealli Tahsildar's Arzi No. 8.

1. Petitioners are called every day as soon as the Cutcherry begins. Their petitions are then read, and after asking them the necessary questions, disposed of in one of the following ways.

In effect the same as Mayaveram regarding the disposal of petitions, and to the delivery of the pattahs.

Tranquebar Deputy Tahsildar's Urzi No. 61.

Petitions are received every day in the evening. Regarding the disposal, the course followed is the same as the Mayaveram Tahsildar.

(Signed) L. R. BURROWS,
Actg. Head-Asst. Collector.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 5.

From A. STRINIVASA ROW, Deputy-Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, dated 21st June 1871, No. 116.

I HAVE the honour to submit my report, describing the present practice of my office as well as those of the Tahsildars in this Division, in respect of the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds and also as to the delivery of pattahs at the annual Jammabandi, called for in your foot-note, No. 325, appended to the Board's Proceedings of the 20th ultimo, No. 2,095.

2. In my office, I receive petitions of all kinds at 11 A.M. of every day. I call petitioners one after another, hear each separately, and receive his petition, which I read myself or make one of my clerks read for me.

Petitions presented on plain paper, but which ought to be engrossed on Court Fees stamp as well as those written on insufficient stamp, are at once endorsed, registered, and returned to the parties.

Petitions on subjects with which the Revenue officers cannot interfere, are at once endorsed, registered, and returned to the parties.

Petitions which have reference to the cases pending before the Tahsildars are referred to them for early disposal or report, according to the nature of each case.

Petitions about which references have to be picked in my own office, are made over to a Clerk, and the parties ordered to appear on a fixed day on which the petitions are disposed of.

Darkhasts, complaints against Village Officers, applications for transfer of pattahs, etc., are referred to the Tahsildars for enquiry and report, directing the petitioners to appear before the Taluk authorities. On the receipt of reports from the Tahsildars, the petitions are disposed of and endorsements furnished to the parties either directly from my office or through the Tahsildar, according to the nature of each case. Important cases which require immediate attention, are filed in my office for personal enquiry, and processes issued to the parties concerned, appointing a day for the hearing of each case, on which day the case is investigated and orders passed thereon.

Petitions under Act VIII. of 1865 are invariable disposed of in my office.

Applications for copies of documents are disposed of by furnishing copies to the parties without delay.

3. I beg to submit, herewith, reports* of the Tahsildars of my Division describing the practice observed in their offices in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds. It would appear from their reports, that the practice observed in their offices is nearly similar to the system adopted in my office.

* Tanjore Tahsildar's, dated 14th June 1871, No. 975.
Pattukottai do. 15th June 1871, No. 727.

4. As regards the delivery of pattahs at the annual Jammabandi, I beg to state that Chittahs No. 5 are prepared by the Karnams, under the superintendence of the Taluk Sheristadar and Head Gumastah, with reference to the orders passed from time to time during the year from this office; after the preparation of the chittahs, ryots are produced before me with the chittahs.

The Mirasidars then sign the chittahs after examining them if necessary with the aid of the Karnams; then the pattahs, prepared in accordance with the chittahs are distributed in my presence. This distribution of pattahs takes place after disposing of the Takarars that may be raised by the Mirasidars, some of the Mirasidars send their agents, with powers of attorney, for receiving their pattahs. The pattahs of the absentee Mirasidars, if any, are deposited in the office, and distributed to them on their appearance after taking their signatures in the chittah.

5. In distributing pattahs, the Mirasidars are called one by one and each Mirasidar's pattah is delivered into his hands. The practice of sending pattahs in a lump to the village for distribution, in charge of the Karnams, does not obtain in this division.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 6.

From C. VIRASMI NAIDU, Tahsildar of Tanjore Taluk, to the Deputy-Collector of Tanjore Division, dated 15th June 1871, No. 727.

ENCLOSURE No. 7.

From Y. ALAGASINGARI NAIK, Deputy-Collector, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Mannargudi, 3rd July 1871, No. 60.

WITH reference to your docket No. 329, dated 10th ultimo, appended to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, I beg to report upon the practice prevailing in my Division in disposing of the petitions presented by ryots, etc.

1*st*.—Petitions on trivial matters, requiring no inquiries, are disposed of either on the same day in which they are presented or on the following day.

2nd.—Applications for copies of records are attended to within a day or two when they refer to orders and sentences passed by the officer to whom the petition is presented, but in cases where the sanction of the Collector is necessary, the petitions are forwarded for his sanction, which being obtained, copies are furnished without delay.

3*rd*.—Revenue petitions are forwarded at once to Tahsildars concerned either for report or disposal according to their nature.

4*th*.—When petitions relating to Magisterial matters are presented, the practice is to examine the complainant immediately, or on the following day, but in cases where the complainant, informed to make his appearance on the following day, fail to do so, then on the day of his appearance.

2. As regards the distribution of puttahs at the annual Jammabandi, I beg to state that all ryots are directed to attend at a time and place specified in the order previously issued to Tahsildars on the subject, and on their appearance accordingly, the Chittahs No. 5, are shown to them and their signatures obtained thereto. Immediately after this examination, pattahs are issued in the presence of the settling officer. For this purpose ryots are seldom detained beyond the day on which they appear.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 8.

From F. A. NICHOLSON, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Combaconum, 20th July 1871, No. 127.

WITH reference to your docket endorsement, No. 327, on Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, inquiring of the present practice in my Division in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions of all kinds, and also as to the delivery of pattahs at the annual Jammabandi, I have the honour to make the following report—

2. Petitions are received by the Tahsildar every day in open Cutcherry at 10 A. M. endorsed and returned at once to the parties if possible, or referred to the Revenue Inspectors or Village Authorities, if the case demands a local inquiry to be made. On the receipt of the report from his subordinates, the Tahsildar, according to the circumstance of the case, disposes of the petition either at once or after he has made further enquiry or after the final order of the Divisional Officer having been obtained. The result of a petition is generally communicated by endorsement through the village authorities, if the petitioner is not present at the Cutcherry on the day of its disposal.

In case of land-transfer petitions, the parties are summoned and the case decided or referred for the Huzur order, which order is communicated as usual. Petitions against village officers are similarly disposed of, the petitions being dismissed if the complainants do not appear on the day fixed.

In petitions for renting Government land or land under Circar management, time is fixed and notice is given to the parties concerned. Darkhast, Kudimaramat and Income-tax petitions as well as petitions for copies, are disposed of according to rule; in the disposal of all these petitions, strict care is taken to prevent all unnecessary delay.

3. Petitions of all sorts are taken in this office every day at 10 A. M., the petitioners presenting their statements personally to the Divisional Officer, who, on the revenue side, disposes of them at once by endorsement if possible or endorses them for enquiry and report to the Tahsildar, giving the parties notice of the same. On receipt of the Tahsildar's reports, with its enclosures, order is passed and forwarded to the Tahsildar, an endorsement on the petition with the purport of the order being at the same time forwarded "bearing" to petitioner. Petitions received by tapal are similarly disposed of.

Magisterial complaints are also received at this time immediately after the disposal of Revenue petitions, and the sworn deposition of the parties taken at once, and the complaint disposed of according to law.

With regard to Jammabandi practice, as soon as Pattahs and Chittahs are ready, the Tahsildar, communicates this to the Divisional Officer and obtains his order as to the time and place of distribution of pattahs. The various parties are then brought to the place, appointed two days before distribution ; pattahs and chittahs are then read out to them by the Karnam (some Mirassidars themselves do so). The pattadars are occasionally represented by their Agents or relatives who, if satisfied with the correctness of the accounts, sign the chittahs, and the pattahs are then distributed ; if found incorrect they refuse to sign, and make their objections ; their objections, if reasonable, are taken down in a book called takarapatti, and enquiry made thereon ; if unreasonable, the petitions are rejected and the pattahs kept in Taluk Cutcherry in deposit, so also are those of the parties who fail to appear, their pattahs being given over only on application made. The pattadars themselves sign the chittahs, not merely the Karnam and the Monigar, nor are the pattahs given to the Karnams and Monigars, but are distributed by the Divisional Officer in person, immediately the chittahs are signed without keeping the parties.

With regard to the distribution of pattahs, the Tahsildar recommends that the following change may be made. Now-a-days the Jammabandi is not much thought of, as little remisson is to be granted and little responsibility devolves on settling officer. The Takarars are chiefly that land is wrongly included in, or excluded from, pattahs or that the pattadars want their customary teervah altered or make objections to the entry of Jastisagupady. Most of these objections may be summarily disposed of. It seems therefore that the Tahsildars may now issue pattahs themselves, seeing that they may be supposed to have benefitted by their long experience under European officers at the distribution. Divisional officers hold Cutcherry only in three or four places, where parties must be present at least two or three days perhaps, at some distance from home ; whereas the Tahsildar is almost alway, on circuit and can immediately after cultivation has ceased, go round from March to May, enquire at leisure into the particulars in each village, and issue pattahs accordingly ; if takarar is made, the Tahsildar may go to the spot and decide the case then and there.

The Revenue will not be injuriously affected by this plan and the people can make no complaint of delay.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. M. CADELL,
Officiating Collector.

From W. McQUHAE, Esq., Acting Collector of Madura, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 14th August 1871, No. 240.

WITH reference to the Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, calling for a report on the practice of every office in the district in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions and also as to the delivery of puttahs, I have the honour to submit copy or translation of the report made by the head of every office in the district.

2. From these reports it appears that the practice is substantially the same in every office. Magisterial petitions are received and disposed of according to law. Revenue and miscellaneous petitions presented by the petitioners themselves are received at a fixed hour, generally in the afternoon, and as far as possible the petitioners are told at once what will be done with their petitions. When the petition is disposed of by endorsement it is returned to the petitioner duly endorsed on the following day, or is sent to him by post if he does not come to the office to receive it. Petitions received by post are treated like those presented by petitioners in person, except that the petitioner is not informed what is done with his petition till he either receives it duly endorsed or is sent for to be present at any inquiry that may be necessary. In cases where a reference to office records is necessary the petitioner should be told to return in two or three days,

and this is generally done. In cases where petitions are referred to a subordinate officer for inquiry and report, the petitioner is informed of the reference and told to appear before the officer making the inquiry if the case be one requiring his presence.

3. The mode of disposing of appeal-petitions in the Collector's office seems correct, and may be followed with advantage as far as practicable. As soon as an appeal is received the records and reports are called for, and, as soon as the records are received, a day is fixed by the Collector for the final hearing of the case, and notices are sent to the parties to enable them to be present. On the day appointed the parties are heard and the appeal is disposed of, or the further hearing of the case is adjourned to another day if necessary.

4. As, however, petitions are addressed to Revenue Officers on every imaginable subject, and are presented at all times and in all places, I think it will be found difficult to frame rules to regulate the treatment of all petitions from receipt to final disposal. I can only suggest that the following points should be attended to:—

1*st*.—The office should be open for hearing petitioners at a fixed time.

2*nd*.—They should be told at once what will be done with their petitions, if possible.

3*rd*.—Where reference to records necessitates delay they should be told to return on a certain day.

4*th*.—In all cases of appeal and inquiries of a judicial nature, due notice should be given of the day on which the question will be finally heard and determined.

5. With regard to the distribution of puttahs, notice is always given of the day on which the puttahs of a village will be distributed, and they are distributed to those ryots who attended in the presence of the officer making the settlement, the Tahsildar of the taluq, and all officials, Village, Taluq, or Huzur concerned in the settlement. The ryots' complaints can, therefore, be inquired into and settled at once, unless the matter is peculiarly complicated. Many ryots who have no business to do with the officer making the settlement do not attend, and their puttahs are given to the village officers for delivery in the village. I have no improvement to suggest on the present practice.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. W. BLISS, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated Camp at Pappampatty, 14th July 1871, No. 236.

I HAVE the honour to furnish the report called for in your letter, No. 1,122, dated the 20th ultimo.

2. Petitions presented to me are received by me in person, as a rule, every evening about 4½ or 5 P.M. before I leave office. On the petitioners presenting themselves I question them separately as to what they have to say, and, in all cases where it is possible, note on their petitions the endorsement or order of reference to be passed thereon. All such petitions are entered in the register, and are ready for signature by the time I come to office the next morning. They are then at once delivered to the parties if present, or sent to them by post "Service bearing" if absent; or, if the order passed on them is for reference to a subordinate for report or disposal, they are sent to him by post, as the case may be. It sometimes occurs that before being able to decide what order to pass on a petition it is necessary to refer to the records. In that case the petitioner is desired to attend on the following day, when he is again called up and his petition disposed of as above. In cases where the petitions are of such a nature as to necessitate the taking from the petitioner of a deposition on oath or solemn affirmation, it is done at once if it is not too late, or, at all events, the first thing on my reaching the office the next morning.

3. Occasionally, when I have no time to see petitioners of an evening on account of other work, I have the petitions taken from them to be read to me the next day by one of the office people in my presence, or I desire them to come again the next day.

4. Petitions received by tappal are abstracted in the office and brought to me for disposal generally the day after their receipt. On orders being passed they are delivered to the parties, etc., etc., as above stated with regard to petitions presented in person.

5. The system with regard to the delivery of puttahs at the jammabundy is as follows:—

A day or two before the day appointed for the attendance of the ryots the Curnums come to me with their accounts and the puttahs. I take them separately, and check a few puttahs in each village by reference to the accounts. I also occasionally check the entries in one account against those in others, as, for instance, Account No. 4 against Account No. 5. If I detect no mistakes the puttahs are handed over to the Duffadar to be stamped with my initials. If I do detect any mistakes, at least any of any importance, I punish, as seems necessary, under the circumstances the Taluq Gumastah or Revenue Inspector whose name appears on the outside of Account No. 5 as having compared the puttahs with the entries therein, and I have them all checked over again by some one else, generally one of my own clerks. After that they are again brought to me or my Sheristadar for further check before they are given out to be stamped.

6. On the attendance of the ryots they are made to sit down in rows according to their villages, and the Curnums, superintended by my Sheristadar, the Tahsildar, and other superior subordinates from my office and the Taluq Cutcherry, distribute the puttahs to them. Should a Puttahdar not be present, his puttah is given to his brother, or son, or any other near relation who may be there to receive it. Should no one be there to take a ryot's puttah, the Curnum keeps it and delivers it to him on his return to the village. To ensure his doing this I require a list to be made out (which I initial and the Curnum signs) of all puttahs so left in his charge. This prevents his pleading that they were never entrusted to him for delivery. Of course, when he gives a ryot his puttah he has to get his signature in the list.

7. When the puttahs have been distributed I go along each line of seated villagers and inquire if they have any complaints to make or petitions to present. Any one who has anything to say stands up and says it, and the matter is generally disposed of on the spot, as the presence of the other ryots and of the taluq and village officials renders written references and prolonged and formal inquiries quite unnecessary in nine cases out of ten.

8. I have no particular suggestions to make on the petition embodied in the Board's Proceedings which gave rise to this correspondence. The only thing that appears to me would be a change for the better would be that it should be laid down as a rule that petitioners should be seen every day immediately on the office being opened instead of just before its close in the evening, as is now the rule in every case I am acquainted with. If this was ordered and widely published and adhered to for some little time, people would come early and could get their endorsements and go away on their return home at once, or at all events by 2 or 3 P.M., and thereby in many cases would be saved the necessity of spending the night away from their villages. For a time there would be a little hardship in the fact that people, not knowing the new rule, would not reach the office before 3 or 4 P.M., which is about the time petitioners collect now, and would, therefore, have to wait until the next day, as, of course, to receive petitions twice a day, unless in particular cases, would be too serious an interruption to business to be allowed; but they would soon get accustomed to the change. If, however, such a rule were determined on, it should, I think, be a general one, or there would be always an uncertainty in people's minds as to when they ought to come, which would probably prove more generally inconvenient than the present system. I don't think the suggestion about boxes a good one, as I think officers should always, when possible, see and hear petitioners themselves.

9. As to the second paragraph of the petition in question, I cannot understand it. I do not know what is meant by the ryots "attaching their signatures to the chittahs," unless an allusion is made to the old custom of taking muchilkas from the ryots, which was abandoned years before I entered the service. As to the complaint that the Curnums and Monegars make entries in the puttahs at their pleasure, I do not see how this is possible, as to make additions they must write over the settling officer's initials at the foot of the puttah and would be at once detected. Moreover, every ryot can come and get his puttah personally and complain on the spot if he thinks it is not right.

10. The reports (five) of the Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars of the Sub-division on this subject are forwarded herewith.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From G. McWATTERS, Esq., Head Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated Ramnad, 26th July 1871, No. 210.

I HAVE the honour to submit translations of reports (together with originals) received from the officers noted in the margin, with reference to your letter dated the 20th June 1871.

Ramnad Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate.		
Tiruvadani	do.	do.
Tirupattoor	do.	do.
Tiruchuly	do.	do.
Shevagungah	do.	do.
Mudukalattur	do.	do.

2. The Ramnad Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate reports that he attends to petitions the first thing every day after the opening of his cutcherry and disposes of them at once without any delay.

3. The Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate of Tiruvadani reports that he calls petitioners as soon as he comes to office and disposes of their petitions at once.

4. The Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate of Tiruppattur reports that he takes petitions the last thing every evening before closing his cutcherry and disposes of most of them at once. When depositions or inquiries are necessary, petitions cannot be disposed of till the following day, or later.

5. The Trichuly Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate reports that he receives petitions when presented and disposes of them.

6. The Shevagungah Deputy Tahsildar and Sub-Magistrate does not state distinctly how and when he receives petitions; but it may be gathered from his statement that he does so daily and disposes of those not requiring any investigation at once.

7. The Mudukolattur Sub-Magistrate reports that he receives petitions at 4 o'clock P.M. each day and disposes of them at once.

8. With reference to my own office, the practice hitherto has been to receive petitions every afternoon and to dispose of them at once, acquainting the parties. When complainants have to be examined on oath, the depositions are usually taken the following day.

9. During jammabundy I generally see that puttahs are distributed individually to the ryots in my own presence, so that each ryot may have an opportunity of bringing to notice any irregularity on the Kurnum's part in preparing the puttah or levying assessment.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. A. DAVIES, Esq., Assistant Collector, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated 27th July 1871, No. 116.

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th June last, No. 1,124, I have the honour to submit copies of the reports, together with translations thereof, received from the Tahsildar of the Melur Taluk and the Sub-Magistrate of Madura Town in respect to the receipt and disposal of petitions and also as to the delivery of puttahs.

2. Revenue petitions (for I presume the Board's order cannot refer to magisterial) are received daily by me in person at 4 or 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The petitioners are almost invariably then and there examined as to the subject of their prayers, and they are at once told by verbal orders how their petitions are disposed of. If a final decision can at once be given, it is given and the petitioners are informed what it is. Next day written endorsements are made on the petitions to the same effect ready for the petitioners to take away if they come for them.

If they do not return for their endorsements next day they are despatched bearing to them by post. It has been the custom hitherto so to despatch them at once; but I have made it a rule to keep such petitions for a week, so as to allow the petitioners a little time to appear and claim their endorsements. Most petitions cannot be at once disposed of. Those received in my office range themselves under one of the five following heads:—

I.—Complaints against taluk and village officers; the latter a very fruitful cause of petitioning in some of the taluks of which I have had charge.

II.—Durkhast petitions and appeals.

III.—Applications regarding the assessment of lands, the repair and construction of tanks, and such other matters connected with irrigation.

IV.—Applications for appointment to village offices.

V.— do. for copies of orders, etc.

3. Now, of these only the last can, as a rule, be disposed of at once, though there are a few petitions of a miscellaneous sort, such as requests to hurry on the report of a Tahsildar, upon which orders can also at once be passed.

4. With regard to the other classes of petitions, before they are disposed of a report from the Tahsildar is generally necessary. Petitioners, therefore, presenting such petitions are informed that they are referred to the Tahsildar for report, and that upon receipt of his report orders will be passed. The petitioner can always learn at the Taluk Cutcherry the date of his petition being reported upon, and can, therefore, again appear before me to be heard when I read the Tahsildar's report. I think, however, that on this point a more uniform practice might prevail. I think it might be made a rule that upon the receipt of a report from a Tahsildar notice should be at once sent to the petitioners or parties concerned to appear on a fixed day to hear the substance of the report and to urge anything they may have to say in support of, or against, the report submitted. The evil of the present practice is that the petitioners do not know for certain the day on which the Tahsildar's report on the petition will be read; but if they happen to be present at the time they are always heard.

5. I have referred only to petitions received personally, but revenue petitions received by post meet with just the same attention, and like proceedings are taken upon them as those presented in person, the only difference being that the petitioner himself voluntarily foregoes the advantage of making the greater impression upon my mind which his presence in the flesh might create. Petitions for transfer of puttahs, relinquishment of lands, and durkhast petitions being generally received and disposed of in the taluk are not introduced in my division. As to the delivery of puttahs, I can only say that at the two jamabundies I have attended puttahs are delivered to the ryots, if they are present, in the presence of the settling officer; in fact, I have been told that it is only those ryots that fear that they will not receive their puttahs without annoyance or trouble who attend the jamabundy for the express purpose of receiving them at once. The assertion of the petitioner in the Board's Proceedings under report, that the puttahs not delivered to the Puttahdars direct are altered in the village after the settling officer has passed them, is, I believe, altogether unfounded, as it is quite impossible for them to be altered without immediate detection upon a complaint being made by the ryot injured. Except the one or two points I have adverted to, I cannot suggest any real improvements that can be made in the present practice. The proposition about having boxes and other similar suggestions are liable to just the same objections as those that are urged against the present system. I feel sure that under the prevailing practice, so long as the superior officer himself maintains a strict supervision over his subordinates, no unnecessary delays will arise in the disposal of petitions, and parties will not be vexatiously detained for orders.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE,
Acting Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 4.

From P. SOOBIEN, Acting Deputy Collector on General Duties, to the Acting Collector of Madura, dated 9th August 1871, No. 193.

ADVERTING to your letter of the 20th June last, No. 1,125, and to the Board's Proceedings, dated the 20th May, No. 2,095, I have the honour to report—

1st.—Petitions are received every day before the closing of the office, and on hearing the parties in each case orders are noted on them in abstract, bearing in mind to communicate the purport to the parties then and there. The next cutcherry day the orders are put in the proper form and placed for signature. If they be final orders referring the parties to former decisions or to Civil Courts, the petitions are returned to them with an endorsement thereon, after registry, if they be present, or directed to them by post. Petitions requiring a report from, or fit to be disposed of by, the local officers, are despatched the same day or the day after, as the convenience of the office work will permit. Petitions requiring inquiry at this office are attended to the next office day after presentation. It is not, of course, uncommon that some delay takes place in a few instances in which former records have to be searched for before passing an order.

2nd.—With regard to the distribution of puttahs, at the appointed day, the ryots appear before the settlement officer, and in his presence the puttahs are distributed by the Karnum and Nattamgar. Those of the absenting ryots are presented to their relatives or friends, who are willing to take them, to be handed over to their owners. Such of them as remain undisposed of as above are retained by the Nattamagars for delivery to the parties concerned after they return to their villages. These remarks relate only to the puttahs actually presented by the ryots to the Karnum before the day of distribution for entering the alterations in the holding, etc. The puttahs that are not so presented are in some instances brought to the Karnum on his return to the village, when he makes the necessary entries and returns them to the ryots.

2. I have no suggestions to make on either of the above subjects.

3. The reports received from the subordinate officers on the subject are forwarded herewith.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. McQUHAE.
Acting Collector.

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevelly, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Manakarei, 26th July 1871, No. 331.

As required in Proceedings, No. 2,095, dated 20th May 1871, I have the honour to report on the practice of receiving and disposing of petitions of all kinds in this district, and the delivery of puttahs at the Annual Jummahbundy. I also forward reports on the same subjects from the Sub-Collector, Head Assistant Collector, and General Charge Deputy-Collector.

2. As these enclosures detail the practice in the several Sub-divisions I will here merely speak of my own practice : petitioners are called up daily towards the close of the afternoon, and each man states his case ; a pencil note is then made on the back of his petition in English and a Tamil endorsement is subsequently prepared and given to him, or forwarded by post to him or to the subordinate authority, who has to carry out the instructions conveyed. The preparation of these endorsements is naturally a somewhat tedious process ; the rudest characters and most illegible hand-writings have to be deciphered in office, and an abstract of the contents of each petition and the order passed thereon has to be registered in a book kept for the purpose. It often thus happens, particularly when the establishment is pressed by business, that three or four days elapse before a petitioner gets his endorsement, and during that time he is lounging about the Cutcherry, wearying every one with questions as to how far his business advances ; this only

applies, however, to a small per-centage of petitioners, mostly those who require copies of documents, etc., for the greater bulk of the petitioners leave as soon as they have presented their petitions, feeling confident that the orders promised will be sent to the talook subordinates.

3. I have thought of issuing endorsements over a counter, or at a window in a particular room in the Huzoor Cutcherry, but this plan would be of no avail when the Collector is absent on circuit, and would put a great deal of power into the hands of the distributing clerk. I next thought of having all endorsements delivered before me in person, but found this would not answer as much time was daily wasted by calling for absentees ; the ancient mode of delivery has, therefore, been left undisturbed, and it answers reasonably well ; it is simply this—the petition Clerk distributes endorsements in open Cutcherry to those who apply for them, and forwards by post all endorsements that are not applied for within a reasonable period. The following list for May will show the mass of petitions received and disposed of in my office only, and perhaps quite that number or more were received and disposed of by the other Division Officers collectively :—

Subject.	How presented.		Total.	How disposed of.			Remaining.	Since disposed of.	Balance.
	Personally	By Post.		Personally	Referred for report.	Referred for disposal.			
Petitions put in with appeals	3	2	5	5	...	...	...	...	...
Puttah disputes... ...	26	21	47	9	4	18	16	12	4
Encroachments	4	8	12	2	2	7	1	...	1
Miscellaneous	104	76	180	54	9	61	56	37	19
Charge of theft	1	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	1
Income-tax...	8	9	17	11	...	2	4	2	2
Durkhasts	17	9	26	7	2	10	7	6	1
Inams...	3	3	6	...	1	4	1	1	...
Maintenance	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
Demarcation	4	3	7	...	1	5	1	...	1
Pounds	3	2	5	...	...	2	3	3	...
Bribery	1	2	3	...	...	2	1	...	1
Applications for remission	167	62	229	59	9	121	40	33	7
Choultries	9	5	14	1	1	8	4	...	4
Grass rent	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Misconduct of officials.	17	20	37	7	4	11	15	9	6
Repairs of works ...	31	21	52	10	6	20	16	16	...
Transfer of puttahs ...	28	11	39	3	3	23	10	7	3
Village appointments..	25	18	43	12	2	11	18	15	3
Division of crops ...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
Applications for copies.	33	26	59	40	...	2	17	13	4
Total...	486	300	786	222	44	309	211	154	57

4. Petitioners are very well cared for when they come to Divisional Officers, but I cannot say as much for their treatment at the Taluq Cutcherries. These latter are built in the form of a hollow square, and the intimates are so secluded that a Pallan or Pariah has to go through much shouting and grovelling in the dust of the street before he attracts such notice that his petition must be heard to get rid of him. The higher classes are better off, but even their petitions are disposed of in a very unsatisfactory manner by endorsement to a Revenue Inspector, a low paid official in charge of some 50 villages who has no power to deal with a case, but merely reports on it. These Revenue Inspectors are hardly worked, being the real Executive Officers in the Revenue branch, while their pay is so scanty, from 20 to 30 Rupees, that it would hardly defray their cart-

hire for the ground that they ought to traverse. No wonder that work falls into arrears, that petitions are not reported on, and that the interests of Government and the ryot are neglected in many respects in which immediate action is needed. I have endeavoured to raise the status of Revenue Inspector by insisting on candidates for the office of Taluq Sheristadar and Sub-Magistrate passing through this grade, but there is great difficulty in weeding the ranks which have been filled by Goomastahs who were often unfit for work in the Cutcherries, and it is not very long since that a Revenue Inspector was discovered to have been blind for years. There are thirty-six Revenue Inspectors in all in this district, and I have appointed every man of them who is qualified to the higher grade of Talook Sheristadar; there is now not a single Revenue Inspector qualified for promotion, and I am anxious to introduce passed Goomastah who have had some revenue experience, but who are still young and active, and qualified for higher posts. If Revenue Inspectors were put in their right position, were allowed to decide petty cases subject to the usual appeal, and were paid at rates varying from 30 to 50 Rupees, we should have an efficient staff of really useful officers training in the school, best suited to turn out good Taluq Sheristadars and Tahsildars; at present there is nothing between a Taluq Head Goomastah on 20 Rupees and a Sheristadar on 60 Rupees in the ordinary line of promotion, but if three classes of Revenue Inspectors intervened, with salaries graded at 30, 40, and 50 Rupees, promotion would be less abrupt, and we should secure men who have passed through the practical school of actual field-work for Tahsildars. As it is many a Tahsildar is now quite lost out of his Cutcherrry, and seems not to possess the faculty of observation, or to know whether what he sees is as it should be, or otherwise.

On 3rd February last I submitted proposals on this subject, to which I beg to refer the Board. The singing of chittahs by ryots is now quite out of date, and has passed away with the dittam. If the ryots did sign the chittahs there would be nothing gained by their doing so, an not one in a hundred would trouble himself to ask what he signed: as a Settlement Officer I can assert that the ryots of Trichinopoly would not even scrutinize the copies of the new settlement puttahs which were circulated for their inspection, but returned them duly signed without comment, and it was only when the fair puttahs were issued and Jummahbundy made that so many objections were raised that half the labour of preparing the puttahs had to be gone over again. Under recent orders, moreover, the puttahs that remain unaltered are not re-written annually, and consequently about 60 per cent. of the ryots have nothing requiring signature. Of the remainder a very small per centage attend the Jummahbundy except in unfavourable seasons, but are content to have their puttahs brought home by the Curnam or by some friend, whom a whole class depute to watch their general interests; this is as it should be, and the settlement will make things still easier. I cannot suggest any thing further than that the people should be made better acquainted with the system under which they are ruled, and to this end I suggest that the rudiments of the revenue system, with which they are daily concerned, should be taught in the Grant-in-aid schools, and that the raising generation should learn something of the rules for acquiring, holding, and resigning land; of the rules for the guidance of Village Officers; of the Rent Recovery Act, the Stamp and Local Funds, Acts, and other simple matters which are now mysteries to all but officials.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From A. J. STUART, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector, to the Collector of Tinnevelly dated—June 1871.

IN reply to your Circular, No. 398, dated 8th June 1871, I have the honour to report that it is usual in my office, as well as in those of the Tahsildar's, to receive petitions daily, but not at any fixed hour. If an endorsement to the petitioner only is passed he would usually receive it the next day, but if, as is most commonly the case, the subject of the petition requires inquiry it will be sent to the taluq, or the Revenue Inspector, or Village Officers as the case may be, and the petitioner informed of what has been done.

2. I do not see that any decided improvement can be made upon this system, unless it be by restricting the receipt of petitions to two fixed days in the week when half a day or a whole day might be spared, and the endorsements written in the Vernacular and signed, and the petitions returned or despatched the same day.

3. As regards the distribution of puttahs it is usual, and indeed necessary, for the puttahs to be taken for distribution to the village, as not one-forth of the Puttahdars come to the Jummahbundy. I believe this is the least troublesome way to all parties of distributing, as no one is obliged to leave his village unless he has some grievance to bring forward.

4. It is true that the Curnums do sometimes delay to distribute the puttahs and now and then tamper with them, but I think the remedy proposed of making every man attend the Jummahbundy would be worse than the evil now complained of. One Tahsildar suggests that each Inspector should distribute the puttahs in his division, but I do not think this would be a sufficient advantage to compensate for the additional work thrown upon him.

5. I beg to suggest that an improvement in the despatch of ordinary business might be made if all Revenue Inspectors were authorized to receive and dispose of petitions, giving them, under the orders of the Tahsildar, the same powers as the Tahsildars now have, petitioners or persons with a petty grievance could then in less time and with less trouble get their cases investigated, and either settled or, if need be, reported on without the trouble of going to the Tahsildar, who is often so overwhelmed with the numbers who flock to him that he cannot dispose of their various complaints without delay. Under the present system a petition eventually does come back from the Division Officer to the Tahsildar, and from him to the Revenue Inspector for inquiry, therefore, it would save times and trouble to all if the petitioner is taught to begin at the first step at once. The rule should be made that, unless a direct complaint against an Inspector or Tahsildar is coupled with an ordinary grievance, petition should not be received in a higher office without an order or endorsement from the lower office, showing that petitioner has preferred his complaint there and is not satisfied with the result. Many cases would be settled at once if taken up by a Revenue Inspector almost on the spot, and the relief to the Tahsildar and his office, as well as to the people themselves, would, I think, be great.

6. From a different point of view I maintain that it is far preferable practically to trust a subordinate in the position of a Revenue Inspector with a considerable amount of authority ill-paid and exposed to temptation though he is than to trust him, as we are forced to do by the exigencies of business, with the inquiry into complaints, and with the power of making a report for some one else to act upon cases are generally settled on his report, and he will never feel the same sense of personal responsibility when he makes a report for another decision, as when he is obliged to record a decision himself and to give the parties a copy of it on the spot. They would also, if they frequently pass unjust decisions, be more speedily brought to book by the number of reversals of their decision on appeal by the Tahsildar or Division Officer; a report is an indefinite, intangible proceeding, which the parties concerned in the dispute under inquiry can never see, and so cannot find out accurately what the Revenue Inspector has said or done, and may easily be tricked by being told one thing while another is written in the report. Lastly, this system would be a good school for training Sub-Magistrates and Tahsildars, and giving young men an opportunity of qualifying themselves in a practical manner for such posts, as well as their superior a chance of seeing what sort of officers they are likely to turn out.

7. I do not anticipate any difficulty from the Inspector having no establishment, as the agency of the Village Curnums and other officers is at his disposal. Each Village Curnum in which a complaint is investigated might act as Goomastah for recording evidence given before the Revenue Inspector, and for making the fair copies of the decision and the copies for the parties. The records of the inquiry might be kept by the Curnum or Moonsiff of the village in which the case occurred until called for on appeal; a supply of stationery would be required, but there need, I think, be no further additional expense.

8. The Tahsildar of Nangunery suggests that the village accounts be open to inspection, and the Curnums ordered to show them to any one wishing for information. I think that the publication of such an order would do good; it would often be evaded, but the villagers would know that this is one of their rights, and I think that on payment of a small fee to the Curnam for the trouble of dictating any ryot might be allowed to take an unauthenticated copy of any village accounts.

9. As regards the transfer of puttahs there is much delay now, owing to the trouble involved in getting the required information from the villages to the Talook offices. If all such cases were decided, in the first instance, by the Revenue Inspectors in the village concerned, and only investigated by the Tahsildar on appeal, I think time and trouble would be saved, and the opportunities for extortion by Village Curnums reduced. Very many cases, I understand, are not brought forward at all on account of the trouble and delay involved in the inquiry in the Tahsildar's office. Practically one of the Talook Goomastahs investigates these matters, and brings them before the Tahsildar. It is, I think, better that this should be done by a Revenue Inspector, who will be responsible for what he does. In cases in which there is no serious objection to the transfer the Revenue Inspector's order would be passed in the village, and the transfer effected almost without delay or trouble.

10. On the subject of the petition generally I beg to say that I think the broad facts of the case are somewhat as follows:—

(1.) The people have become more litigious and better acquainted with their rights and with our procedure.

(2.) Those who submitted to wrongs at the hands of more powerful neighbours now come forward and complain more than they did.

(3.) The full occupancy of all land, and its increased value, has given rise to a greater number of disputes, and to their being more keenly contested.

(4.) The breaking up of the village system by which I mean the influence that the villagers had as a body over any one of their members, has produced a great change, and every one acts for himself and his own interest without any check from the villagers as a body, while in place of appealing to village public opinion when wronged a ryot has no recourse but to our offices

11. The consequence of these facts and changes in the character and conditions under which the people live, as it affects the old and unchanged system under which the administration was carried on when a very different state of things existed, is—

(1.) That the Division and Talook offices are overwhelmed with work, which they have not time to do in the thorough and complete manner in which work was done when there was much less of it.

(2.) That to keep up with the increasing demand made on their time, and to keep own arrears of business, they have been obliged to alter the system by which their predcessors were accustomed to work, and to adopt every device and shift by which the disposal of complaints might be made more speedy.

12. That among the customs which necessarily fell through in the course of these changes were those referred to in the petition, they being found to be too cumbrous and occupying to much time to be consistent with the disposal of other business at pace now necessary. No doubt the revenue administration has suffered from the necessity of adopting short cuts to the disposal of business of all kinds, but the necessity could not, I think, be met otherwise without changing the system. It has suffered by delays in disposing of complaints, and by an increase in the proportion of wrong decisions owing to want of proper inquiry and supervision.

13. If the Government were to lay down a rigid system of procedure by Act, such as is the Criminal Procedure or Civil Procedure Code, it would speedily be seen how far the power of disposing of complaints properly and on a proper investigation falls behind the requirements,

and the short cuts to disposing of business being rendered impossible by such an Act the necessity for an increase of establishment of officers, having power to dispose of revenue and miscellaneous complaints, would soon become obvious; but as long as short cuts in procedure are allowed, and pressure put upon Tahsildars and other officers to show no arrears, short cuts will be made to the disadvantage of the administration.

14. The state of things existing may be not unfairly described as a general scramble on the part of the petitioners and people with grievances to see who can recure the largest possible amount of attention from the authorities none get enough, but many not being able, within reasonable limits as to time, and without the trouble of the scramble to get any attention, and not being at all certain that when they do it will be sufficient to ensure the proper investigation of their grievance, prefer to bear the ills they have, and so hundreds of puttahs remain untransferred, and many grievances exist which never come to the front, but simmer on in the village as long as they can be bourne at all.

15. One remedy would be a rigid system of procedure by which a thorough investigation of a comparatively few cases might be ensured, the rest going undisposed of and unattempted; and another the multiplication of officers having powers to decide such complaints. The easiest and cheapest change would be, I think, that proposed above, but the pay of the Inspectors should be increased and horse allowance given them.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From A. T. ARUNDEL, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to the Collector, of Tinnevelly, dated Tuticorin, 12th July 1871, No. 144.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your Circular Memorandum, No. 399, dated 8th June, on Board's Order, No. 2,095, dated 20th May.

2. My own practice is to receive petitions not less than three times a week just before leaving Cutcherry. Orders are passed at once on applications for copies of documents, complaints that involve a reference to the Tahsildar, petitions for employment, etc., etc. If a reference is necessary to the records of my own office the petitioner is ordered to appear next day when his application is disposed of. Revenue cases are filed and settled, in due course, after inquiry.

3. Petitions referred to the Tahsildar, and received again from him with his report, are disposed of by endorsement. The final order is communicated to the Tahsildar, and through him by one of his subordinates or the Village Officers, to the parties concerned, who, however, frequently attend my own office after the Tahsildar's report has been sent in, and present an application for a copy of the order passed.

4. Endorsed petitions are delivered to the parties on their application, or if they fail to appear are forwarded to them by post. There is always, except in special cases, a delay of at least a day in endorsing and registering a petition, and it is quite in the power of an intriguing subordinate to delay the delivery of such petitions for objects of his own. This defect would be to some extent remedied by keeping a list of all endorsed petitions, and calling out the names of the parties at a certain hour, for, say a week, at the end of which time every petition should be sent off by post to the petitioner's address.

5. At the recent Jummahbundy the puttahs were distributed singly before me to each Puttahdar, who appeared in person or by representative. The undistributed puttahs were handed over to the Village Officers for delivery to the Puttahdars at their village. In a few cases where the Puttahdars were dead the puttahs were detained, pending a report as to the next heir. It would be better to have puttahs, about which there is no dispute, distributed by a subordinate the day before the village is called up, so that each Puttahdar could examine his new or amended puttah, and be ready to object to it if necessary. The undistributed puttahs should be delivered through some subordinate above the grade of Village Officer.

6. It remains to notice the system prevailing in the talooks, and here I believe is the greatest ground of complaint, and the most need for reform. Some idea of the vexations and delays which must fall to the lot of many, who have neither money nor influence to press on their business in the talook, may be formed by obtaining a full explanation of all the cases in arrear with Tahsildars or their Revenue Inspectors. An inquiry I made last April into these arrears led to the suspension of two Revenue Inspectors, and the resignation of a third. One of these officers had no less than six cases, which had been with him for a year and three months without being disposed of, and he had also eight other cases, which had been pending from three to seven months, and in which he had done nothing whatever. In another case requiring an inspection and an enumeration of palmyrahs *five years* elapsed between the filing of the petition and the passing of the final order. In another case a complaint against a Curnum was pending for four years, and the Tahsildar's report at the end of that time was sent up incomplete.

7. The disposl of business in the talooks depends undoubtedly to a great extent on the character of the Tahsildar and his subordintes, and the amount of supervision exercised over them, but I believe that it depends most of all on the nature of the talook itself. There are some talooks where it is simply impossible for the Tahsildar, and the establishment allotted to him, to do, and do thoroughly, all the work that ought to be done. I am not yet able to speak with certainty about the talooks in this division, but I am inclined to think that the work in the Tenkaria Talooks is beyond the power of the present staff. It is most difficult to succeed there in clearing off the arrears and the current work as well, while in the Ottapidarum Talook no difficulty at all is experienced. The cases quoted in paragraph 6 are all from the Tenkarai Talook.

8. The fact seems to be that there is a far greater difference between talooks than was ever intended. All difficulties, whether arising from area, or population, or revenue, or litigiousness, or all these combined, are supposed to be met by the higher salary of the Tahsildar, and the appointment of one Revenue Inspector and one Goomastah in addition to the ordinary staff. The inadequacy of such an addition is shown by the present condition of Tenkaria, a first class talook. As a better illustration I would, however, refer to the talook I was in charge of in Tanjore, viz., Combaconum, where the pressure of work was so great that every Goomastah (I think without exceptions employed a private assistant to whom he was understood to pay a small monthly salary.

The following statement shows the difference between the talooks in population and revenue, and this affords a fair criterion as to the amount of business that arises in each. It must also be noted that as Ottapidarum contains a large tract of Zemindary land (which adds little to the amount of revenue work, except in the Divisional Officers' Cutcherry), it is provided with three additional Sub-Magistrates, who are also Deputy Tahsildars, while in Tenkarai Talook there is only one additional Sub-Magistrate:—

———	Number of Ryotwar villages.	Area in 39 Miles.	Land Revenue Ryotwar.
Tinnevelly District.			
Ottapidarum...	66	480	1,58,000
Tenkairai	156	459	4,78,000
Tanjore District.			
Combaconum...	417	341	7,64,000

9. I would, therefore, suggest a re-arrangement of talooks and their establishments as the most effective way of ensuring the proper disposal of business of all kinds.

10. If, however, this be impracticable a considerable improvement might be effected by extending the powers of Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors. Authority should be given to them to receive and dispose of petitions, to make inquiries, and to submit final reports to the Divisional Officer through the Tahsildar, who would pass them on with an expression of his own opinion.

11. I think it is also desirable that Tahsildars should be distinctly prohibited from rejecting any petitions without first receiving and endorsing them. Complaints are not unfrequent that the Tahsildar has refused to receive a petition, and has merely given some verbal order regarding it. This practice is objectionable in every way, and ought to be put a stop to.

———

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From T. VENCAT ROW, General Charge Deputy-Collector, to the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated Senkernainarcoil, 23rd June 1871, No. 121.

I HAVE the honour to reply to your Circular, dated 8th instant, giving cover to the Board's Proceedings of the 20th ultimo, No. 2, 095.

2. DISPOSAL OF PETITIONS.—In my office the petitions are received every evening and read in the presence of the parties, and disposed of the same or next day after hearing the parties. Exception to this are of rare occurrence. When information is required from talook the petitions are endorsed to the Tahsildar.

3. I forward, herewith, the Memorandum of the Tahsildar of Senkernainarcoil, describing the practice in his office as to the mode of disposing of petitions, etc., and this is the course observed in other talooks.

4. It appears to me that in talooks the Sheristadar should be directed to receive petitions of all kinds at a fixed hour, say 1 P.M., ascertain the correctness of the stamp, and immediately hand over the magisterial petitions to the Tahsildar. In revenue matters, he should collect the information available from the records and by inquiry from the parties persent, and bring the petition to the notice of the Tahsildar at about 4 or 5 P.M., and give him all necessary explantions while the parties are present, so as to enable him to dispose of them if possible the same evening. A Talook Sheristadar has little magisterial work while the Tahsildar is at Cusbah the above will be a useful occupation of his time in addition to his ordinary treasury and account business, which is light except at the end of the month. When petitions are referred to the Revenue Inspector for for local inquiry reports should be required to be submitted within a specified time. The Sheristadar should be specially responsible that reminders are sent, and that no unnecessary delay occurs in this branch of business.

5. The matters in which delays chiefly occur, and in which the actions of the Curnums have to be controlled, are durkhasts and petitions for transfers of puttahs. The necessity of the transferee and transferer, and the Village Officers attending at the talook for the transfer of puttah, deters the presentations of applications. In cases where numerous puttahs have to be transferred in any village if the Tahsildar himself should proceed to the village and receive the applications, giving previous intimation of his coming, he will be able to settle many disputes on the spot amicably, and not only puttah transfers will be expedited, but several suits in Court regarding puttahs will be avoided. By this means, and by the Tahsildar being required to make inquiries in difficult revenue matters in the village itself, he will have a good opportunity of checking the actions of the Curnums. In the first year of my distribution of puttahs about five hundred applications were received and registered in Rajapoliem village, and more than two hundred in Watrap, and thus the whole villages were cleared.

6. The time of the Revenue Inspector is now much taken up in selling fallen, etc., trees in different parts of their ranges, a work which delays their reporting on important matters referred for their inquiries. They may be relieved of this duty to some extent by transferring the sale of small quantities of wood to respectable Village Moonsiffs. Thus the Revenue Inspectors will have more leisure to inquire into the actions of the Curnums and bring to notice. Here I beg to bring to notice the inadequacy of the pay of Revenue Inspectors, whose travelling consumes a great portion of their salary.

7. Many petitions are now transmitted by post to the Collector, and endorsed to the Divisional Officer, which, unless there is any complaint against the local officer, ought properly to be

presented to the Tahsildar if he has jurisdiction, or otherwise to the Divisional Officer, and if parties are referred to this course the endorsements now made in the Collector's office will be reduced considerably.

8. Distribution of Puttahs.—It is very rarely that complaints are made in this district by ryots of puttahs not having been given to them. Where such complaint is made at the time of distribution the matter is inquired into and puttah ordered to be given at once. When the ryots do not attend personally the puttahs are given to their friends who are present, or else given to them in the village by the Curnum.

9. It does not appear to have been the practice in this district for the ryots to inspect the chittahs and sign them. The Curnum only signs them.

Enclosure No. 1 in No. 3.

MEMORANDUM.

Answer to the first question.—The following practice is observed in disposing of the endorsements received from the Huzoor, and the petitions presented at the talook :—

1st.—Those petitions which are referred either for report or for disposal in the talook, and which do not involve the necessity of doing anything further than examining the records, are disposed of then and there without any delay.

2nd.—In cases of those petitions which cannot be reported upon without first obtaining a statement from the parties concerned, and ascertaining the truth of that statement by an examination of the Village Officers and others who are acquainted with the matter at issue, the following practice obtains, viz.,

3rd.—If all the parties summoned attend on the day appointed in the summons for hearing the case the petitions in such cases are disposed without any further delay.

4th.—If there is any delay in the attendance of the parties summoned the cases are deferred till their attendance is procured. In such cases a delay, averaging from two to four weeks, takes place before any report is submitted to the Huzoor.

5th.—In cases of those petitions in which it is necessary to ascertain by measurement the area of any land under dispute it is usual to refer the petitions to the Revenue Inspectors for their report. In some cases the Revenue Inspectors send in their reports without any unnecessary delay ; but in some cases their reports are delayed partly from their having other important works on hand, and partly from the difficulty experience in procuring the attendance of the parties concerned, and of the Curnums who might be otherwise engaged. In such cases the reports upon the petitions are unavoidably delayed for two or three months.

Answer to the second question.—During the time of the annual settlement a notification is sent round the talook, inviting all the ryots to attend at the talook and receive their puttahs on a day appointed. The ryots attend accordingly and receive their puttahs personally. But whenever any of the ryots are prevented from any cause whatever to attend personally the puttahs of such ryots are either given in the hands of their friends who might appear for them, or kept by the Curnums to be delivered to their owners at leisure ; but this is of rare occurrence. This practice should not, however, be countenanced.

Answer to the third question.—As soon as petitions for the transfer of registry are received they are entered in a Register book kept for that purpose, and which register is signed by the parties concerned, as well as by the Curnum and Merassidar. It was not hitherto customary to obtain the signatures of the ryots to the Pullyteerwah account called வசூல்சிட்டா "Kaithoowaury Chittah," or to the "கைதுவாரி." No other chittahs appear to have ever been kept in the talook.

(Signed) A. GOVINDOO NAIDOO,
Tahsildar.

13th June 1871.

From J. W. BREEKS, Esq., Commissioner of the Neilgherries, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Ootacamund, 22nd June 1871, No. 69.

I have the honour to reply to Board's Proceedings, No. 2,095, of 20th ultimo.

2. The practice of this district, in respect to the receipt of petitions, is detailed hereunder:—

Every petition presented to me or my Assistant is first sent into the office to be registered. After registry it is again placed before us for orders, if in the vernacular a translation prepared by the petition clerk is attached. When the subject matter of the petition is such as to admit of disposal without reference or particular inquiry the order is endorsed on the petition itself. It is next transcribed in the register and the original petition returned to the petitioner. When it is desirable to retain the original petition, a Precise is prepared, copy of which with order endorsed is furnished to the petitioner. All this takes a few hours, but orders are usually placed in the petitioner's hands the same day he presents his petition. When, however, a reference has to be made to a subordinate official the petitioner is at once informed of the circumstance and promised orders by post or through a Revenue official. No unnecessary delay has occurred, as far as I am aware, in the disposal of petitions presented to this office.

The Deputy Tahsildar of Coonoor receives no petitions except for transmission to this office. A translation of his report on the subject is enclosed for the information of the Board. In reference to procedure at the Jummahbundy, I beg to add that all puttahs are issued in person by my Assistant or myself. When distributing them I take the opportunity to acquaint the ryots with the amount they have to pay according to their puttahs in order to avoid extortion on the part of the village officers. The chittahs are occasionally examined, but not at every Jummahbundy.

Enclosure No. 1.

Urzee from Coonoor Deputy Tahsildar No. 1, *dated* 12*th June* 1872.

States that he has read Board's Proceedings, dated 20th May 1871, No. 2,095. Original petitions are not presented to him by ryots regarding any Revenue matter. The practice which now obtains is for all such petitions to be addressed to the Commissioner, who sometimes refers them to him for report. Puttahs are distributed in the presence of the officer conducting the Revenue Settlement. Neither the Curnums nor the Monegars are in the habit of distributing them themselves.

(Signed) J. W. BREEKS,
Commissioner.

No. 2849
Rev. 1872. Sept.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 12TH AUGUST 1872, No. 1,565.

Dept 23 Aug 72

Encl. 15 to Do

Received 27th August 1872.

AUGUST.

No. 1,565.

Petitions.—Reports from Collectors as to practice of their districts in regard to receipt and disposal of —and distribution of Puttas at Jamahbundy, submitted to Government, with remarks.

No 84

S.O. No 1564 - 12 Nov/72

19: Oct/72 A 26: Oct

25

Revenue Department.

No. 1564

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15 ~~October~~ Nov 1872.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting, with remarks, reports from Collectors as to practice of their districts in regard to receipt and disposal of petitions and distribution of Puttas at Jamahbundy } (R. D. 12th August 1872. No 1565)

The Govt agree with the Board of Revenue in considering that the reports received from the Collectors shew that the present system observed by the local Officers in disposing of petitions is generally satisfactory

satisfactory and are
of opinion that no fur=
=ther rules are called
for beyond the modi=
=fication of the Board's
Standing Order, No. 319-1
as proposed by them.

In practice the
System probably works
fairly in the various
districts but as pointed
out by Mr. Vans Agnew,
the Taluq Officers would
naturally represent their
proceedings in the
most favorable light
in reports written specially
for the Board of Revenue,
and the Govt observe
that the Collectors of
Tinnevelly and Cuddapah
are

6

are of opinion that the
treatment of petitioners
in the Taluqs is not always
satisfactory. See G.O.
No. In G.O. No. 1498 dated
28th October the Govt
have intimated their
willingness to consider
any proposals the Board
may have to submit
with reference to the
improvement of the
status and [illegible] number
of the Revenue Inspectors.

Under the present
System ryots who choose
to attend Summabandi
can always receive
their Puttahs in person

and

I would add -
"but the pets are
not disbarred to
invite an Asst Collr
or Officer, when duly
otherwise unable to at-
=tend."

and the Court do not
see that anything
more is called for
in this respect — L. H.

14 To the Board of Revenue Dr. 16 Hours 32

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 15th November 1872.

No. 84. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th August 1872, No 1,565.

Read the following replies:—

From Acting Collector	of Ganjam,	dated 12th June	1871,	No.	694.
,, Commissioner	of Nilgiris,	,, 22nd ,,	,,	,,	69.
,, Acting Collector	of Vizagapatam,	,, 14th July	,,	,,	677.
,, Collector	of Tinnevelly,	,, 26th ,,	,,	,,	331.
,, Collector	of Kurnool,	,, 15th August	,,	,,	237.
,, Acting Collector	of Bellary,	,, 15th ,,	,,	,,	320.
,, Officiating Collector	of Tanjore,	,, 17th ,,	,,	,,	248.
,, Acting Collector	of Madura,	,, 14th ,,	,,	,,	240.
,, ,,	of Kistna,	,, 15th February	,,	,,	13.
,, Collector	of North Arcot,	,, 23rd September	,,	,,	477.
,, ,,	of South Arcot,	,, 30th ,,	,,	,,	325.
,, Acting Collector	of Godavery,	,, 12th October	,,	,,	340.
,, ,,	of Chinglepat,	,, 14th ,,	,,	,,	504.
,, Collector	of Coimbatore,	,, 18th ,,	,,	,,	255.
,, Acting Collector	of Trichinopoly,	,, 18th December	,,	,,	325.
,, Collector	of Salem,	,, 18th ,,	,,	,,	4,037.
,, ,,	of Cuddapah,	,, 20th February	1872,	,,	27.
,, ,,	of Malabar,	,, 5th March	,,	,,	60.
,, ,,	of Nellore,	,, 9th ,,	,,	,,	502.
,, Head-Asst. Collr. in charge	of South Canara,	,, 23rd ,,	,,	,,	362.
,, Acting Collector	of Madras,	,, 29th May	,,	,,	94.
,, ,,	,,	,, 18th ,,	,,	,,	85.

THE foregoing papers are replies to Board's Proceedings, 20th May 1871, No. 2,095, calling on all Collectors, in pursuance of G. O., 27th April 1871, No. 120, to describe the present practice of every Office in their districts as to the receipt and disposal of petitions and the distribution of puttas at the Jamahbundy.

2. The general practice of local officers in regard to petitions is satisfactory and the reports of the Collectors show that they are alive to the importance of giving petitioners free access to them and that care is taken to dispose of petitions as speedily as possible. Petitions are received in office daily, in every district except Malabar, where three days in the week are appointed for the purpose, with reference it is presumed to Board's Standing Order No. 319-1 (XXXI. of 1866). The Board resolve to modify that order by prescribing that all officers shall call on petitions every day, in office, as nearly at the same hour as the exigencies of business will permit.

3. Beyond this modification, the Board do not consider any further instructions required, and see no necessity to frame any fixed rules for the receipt or disposal of petitions. Such rules might hamper the despatch of business; and as regards this matter there is much force in the remark of the Collector of Nellore that rules are not required for good officers, and may be easily evaded by bad ones. Several officers have suggested a rule that a box for the receipt of petitions should be placed outside every office; but two Collectors urge strong objections to this measure, and the Board leave its adoption or otherwise to individual choice.

4. The existing agency for the disposal of those petitions which can be decided only after local enquiry is quite inadequate. The duty falls in the great majority of cases on the Revenue Inspectors who have usually too great a charge, and are ill-paid. These officers are as a rule an overworked and despised set of servants whereas they, of all the subordinate Taluq officials, are the most important to the well-being of the people. Their number and salaries should be increased; they should be allowed peons and horse-allowance; and their powers should be extended to the disposal of petitions of certain classes, subject to appeal to the Tahsildars. The office is the best possible school for the posts of Deputy Tahsildar and Tahsildar; and though it would not be possible to make service as Revenue Inspector a necessary qualification for these posts, such service might, the Board think be admitted as qualifying. Under recent changes in the Stamp Laws, a considerable revenue has been ensured to the State from the business transacted by and for the population in the public offices; and it is, the Board submit, incumbent on the Government to see that the agency for the disposal of petitions is adequate and keeps pace with their number.

5. The Board therefore resolve to request the special attention of Government to the remarks of the Collector and Sub-Collector of Tinnevelly on the subject of Revenue Inspectors; and beg that they may be permitted to lay before Government definite proposals for carrying out the suggestions which they have made above.

6. The distribution of puttas appears to be conducted with care by Revenue Officers; and when delay occurs, the blame attaches solely to the owners, who are careless in the matter till some disagreeable result of their neglect arouses them. It does not appear whether the issue of puttas in Madura is confined to cases in which puttas are altered or issued for the first time.

7. With regard to procedure in transfer of holdings on which the Collector of Tanjore remarks, Mr. Cadell is referred to Board's Proceedings, 30th November 1866, No. 8,593.

8. On the whole the Board consider that the system of administration brought to light by these replies evidences an earnest wish on the part of district officers to give prompt attention to the requirements of the communities under their charge.

9. Copies of the replies which have been printed will be sent to all Collectors.

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 15th November 1872, No. 1,564.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board of Revenue in considering that the reports received from the Collectors show that the present system observed by the local officers in disposing of petitions is generally satisfactory, and are of opinion that no further rules are called for beyond the modification of the Board's Standing Order No. 319-1 as proposed by them.

2. In practice, the system probably works fairly in the various districts, but as pointed out by Mr. VansAgnew, the taluq officers would naturally represent

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
15th November 1872.

their proceedings in the most favourable light in reports written specially for the Board of Revenue, and the Government observe that the Collectors of Tinnevelly and Cuddapah are of opinion that the treatment of petitioners in the taluqs is not always satisfactory.

3. In G. O. dated 28th October 1872, No. 1,498, the Government have intimated their willingness to consider any proposals the Board may have to submit with reference to the improvement of the status and increase to the number of the Revenue Inspectors; but the Government are not disposed to impose on this class of officers other duties than those of inspection.

4. Under the present system, ryots who choose to attend Jummabandi can always receive their puttas in person, and the Government do not see that anything more is called for in this respect.

(True Extract)

(Signed) CARMICHAEL,

Secretary to Government.

Engd. F. R. Bantleman.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November 15th.

Recd. Engl.

G. O., 15th November 1872, No. 1,564.

NOVEMBER
N.

Petitions.—Proceedings Board of Revenue submitting reports from Collectors regarding the system observed in their disposal, with orders thereon.