Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th March 1872.

No. 173. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd February 1872, No. 357 :—

Read the following paper from R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 30th January 1872, No. 45:—

ABSTRACT.—Return of fines and stoppages made from the pay of the servants in the Collectorate of Chingleput during the quarter ending 31st December 1871.

No. 92.—A 3rd-Class Revenue Inspector is fined Rupees 1-8-0 by the Tahsildar, apparently without the Collector's special sanction. The 8 Annas will be returned to the party at once, a Tahsildar's authority to fine extending to one Rupee only. Board's Proceedings, No. 2,973 of 5th June 1865.

2. *Nos.* 93 *to* 95.—A 1st-Class Inspector (salary 30 Rupees) is fined Rs. 5-4-0 during the quarter; 8 Annas by the Tahsildar, the rest by the Assistant Collector.

Nos. 96 *to* 99.—A 2nd-Class Inspector (salary 25 Rupees) is fined to the extent of Rupees 7-4-0 during the same period.

3. *Nos.* 100 *to* 103.—The case is here even worse. A 3rd-Class Inspector out of a total pittance of Rupees 60 for the three months is fined no less than Rupees 8-12-0.

4. The Collector will review the Assistant Collector's proceedings in Nos. 94, 96, and 103, and determine if the parties deserved punishment at all for "laxity in the collection of the Revenue." Such collection is the duty of the Village Monegars, though no doubt Inspectors are bound to bring to notice any remissness in this respect within their respective circles. In any of the three cases where fine appears to be called for, the Board direct the Collector to cut down the Assistant Collector's figure to a sum not exceeding half a Rupee. The Collector will pursue the same course in regard to Nos. 105 to 107, where Revenue Inspectors are again fined by the Assistant Collector in from $\frac{1}{4}$th to one $\frac{1}{3}$th their month's salary for "not collecting the value of demarcation stones."

5. *No.* 110, where a Tahsildar on Rupees 225 is fined in the maximum sum of Rupees 10 should also be reviewed. If the Collector concurs with the Acting Sub-Collector that a fine was deserved here "for arrears of unanswered references," he will cut down the figure to the "two or three Rupees" which amount is mentioned in Standing Order No. 392 as one beyond which a public servant should "very seldom be fined."

6. *No.* 120.—Here a Taluq Sheristadar is fined in $\frac{1}{12}$th of his pay by the same officer for "failing to send account No. 28 along with the other Jummahbundy accounts." The Collector will treat this fine in the same way.

7. *No.* 125 being a Tahsildar's fine, is of illegal amount (Rupees 2), and unless the Collector's sanction was obtained for it, must be reduced. It appears unduly heavy in any case, the party's salary being Rupees 15 only.

8. On the whole the Board have been much pained by a perusal of this return; where so many entries betoken a very harsh exercise of the power of fining, together with a lamentable disregard of the spirit of the numerous orders

that have been issued on the subject. They observe that the highest pay of any officer subject to the punishment of fine is Rupees 250, and as no fine can be inflicted beyond 10 Rupees, it follows that 4 per cent. on the salary of the officer fined must be declared the maximum mulct in all cases. They resolve to declare this to be so for the future; it being of course understood that it is only in the very grossest cases of specific faults, of the class ordinarily punishable by fine, that such *maximum* may be imposed. In the generality of cases, a far lighter per-centage should be taken.

No. 174. ORDER THEREON, 14th March 1872, No. 451.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government are as averse as the Board can be to any extreme resort to the system of punishment of subordinate officers by fine; but they are of opinion that a reference should have been made to the Collector of the district, before the decisions of the district officers were so extensively modified as has been done by the Board in this instance, and they cannot approve the rule laid down by the Board that the maximum of fine should be four per cent. in all cases alike, the effect of which would be to make 6 Annas and 4 Pies the maximum fine in the class of servants drawing Rs. 10 monthly—a clearly inadequate amount of punishment for the class of offences punishable with fine.

2. The Government do not consider the principle of a uniform percentage at all applicable to the case.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Board of Revenue

No. 357.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 22nd February 1872.

Read the following paper from R. A. DALYELL, Esq., Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 30th January 1872, No. 45:—

ABSTRACT.—Return of fines and stoppages made from the pay of the servants in the Collectorate of Chingleput during the quarter ending 31st December 1871.

No. 92.—A 3rd-Class Revenue Inspector is fined Rupees 1-8-0 by the Tahsildar, apparently without the Collector's special sanction. The 8 Annas will be returned to the party at once, a Tahsildar's authority to fine extending to one Rupee only. Board's Proceedings, No. 2,973 of 5th June 1865.

2. *Nos.* 93 *to* 95.—A 1st-Class Inspector (salary 30 Rupees) is fined Rs. 5-4-0 during the quarter; 8 Annas by the Tahsildar, the rest by the Assistant Collector.

Nos. 96 *to* 99.—A 2nd-Class Inspector (salary 25 Rupees) is fined to the extent of Rupees 7-4-0 during the same period.

3. *Nos.* 100 *to* 103.—The case is here even worse. A 3rd-Class Inspector out of a total pittance of Rupees 60 for the three months is fined no less than Rupees 8-12-0.

4. The Collector will review the Assistant Collector's proceedings in Nos. 94, 96, and 103, and determine if the parties deserved punishment at all for "laxity in the collection of the Revenue." Such collection is the duty of the Village Monegars, though no doubt Inspectors are bound to bring to notice any remissness in this respect within their respective circles. In any of the three cases where fine appears to be called for, the Board direct the Collector to cut down the Assistant Collector's figure to a sum not exceeding half a Rupee. The Collector will pursue the same course in regard to Nos. 105 to 107, where Revenue Inspectors are again fined by the Assistant Collector in from $\frac{1}{8}$th to one $\frac{1}{4}$th their month's salary for "not collecting the value of demarcation stones."

5. *No.* 110, where a Tahsildar on Rupees 225 is fined in the maximum sum of Rupees 10 should also be reviewed. If the Collector concurs with the Acting Sub-Collector that a fine was deserved here "for arrears of unanswered references," he will cut down the figure to the "two or three Rupees" which amount is mentioned in Standing Order No. 392 as one beyond which a public servant should "very seldom be fined."

6. *No.* 120.—Here a Taluq Sheristadar is fined in $\frac{1}{12}$th of his pay by the same officer for "failing to send account No. 28 along with the other Jummahbundy accounts." The Collector will treat this fine in the same way.

7. *No.* 125 being a Tahsildar's fine, is of illegal amount (Rupees 2), and unless the Collector's sanction was obtained for it, must be reduced. It appears unduly heavy in any case, the party's salary being Rupees 15 only.

8. On the whole the Board have been much pained by a perusal of this return; where so many entries betoken a very harsh exercise of the power of fining, together with a lamentable disregard of the spirit of the numerous orders

that have been issued on the subject. They observe that the highest pay of any officer subject to the punishment of fine is Rupees 250, and as no fine can be inflicted beyond 10 Rupees, it follows that 4 per cent. on the salary of the officer fined must be declared the maximum mulct in all cases. They resolve to declare this to be so for the future; it being of course understood that it is only in the very grossest cases of specific faults, of the class ordinarily punishable by fine, that such *maximum* may be imposed. In the generality of cases, a far lighter per-centage should be taken.

(A true Extract.)

J. B. Pennington
Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Chingleput.
Copy to all other Collectors.
" to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

Rec^d 14 20/72

Rec^d

Rev. 1872. Dept.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.
No. 813.

PROCEEDINGS, 22ND FEBRUARY 1872, No. 357.

Dis 27 March 72

Received 8th

FEBRUARY.
No. 357.

Fines imposed on public servants—in Chingleput Collectorate during 4th quarter of 1871.—Orders passed on return of. Four per cent. on salary of officer fined, declared to be maximum mulct in all cases.

Revenue Department.
No. 451.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.
Under date the 14th March 1872.

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Passing orders on return of fines imposed on public servants in Chingleput Collectorate during 4th quarter of 1871. (H. E. 22nd February 1872. No. 357)

The Govt are as averse as the Board can be to any extreme resort to the system of punishment of subordinate officers by fine, but they are of opinion that a reference should have been made to the Collector of the District, before the decisions of the District officers

were so extensively modi=
=fied as has been done by
the Board in this instance,
and they cannot approve
the rule laid down by
the Board that the maxi=
=mum of fine should
be 4 per cent in all cases
alike, the effect of which
would be to make 6 annas
and 4 pies the maximum
fine in the class of ser=
=vants drawing Rs 10 —
monthly — a clearly inade=
=quate amount of punish=
=ment for the class of
offences punishable with
fine —

2. The Govt do not
consider the principle
of a uniform percentage
at

at all applicable to the
case.

By Order

14 To the Board of Revenue Dec 15 Mar 1872

Govt. of [1872] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated March 14th.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 11th March 1872, *No.* 451.

PEARSH.

Nos. 173-174.

Fines imposed on public servants in Chingleput District.—Proceedings Board of Revenue on this subject, with orders thereon.