Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1872.

No. 96. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 25th April 1872, Miscellaneous No. 3,019 :—

Read the following letter from R. W. BARLOW, Esq., Acting Collector of Chingleput, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Covelong, 15th April 1872, No. 150.

I HAVE the honour to submit the further report, promised in paragraph 2 of my letter dated the 7th of October last, No. 491, regarding the establishment required for the proper arrangement of the Vernacular records in this district.

2. The establishment I recommend for sanction and the term for which it should be entertained is shown in the margin. I fear the Board will consider the proposed expenditure heavy, but I do not think the work can be got through satisfactorily for less, and have made these proposals after consulting the Sub-Collector and Tahsildars. The Huzur records alone swallow up Rs. 1,404 of the total cost of Rs. 2,364; the reasons for this large outlay are explained in detail further on, but I anticipate Rs. 300 of this amount will be recouped by the sale of the waste paper from the torn up records of the Huzur, and, though the Sub-Collector and Tahsildars do not mention any sum, I think another Rs. 100 may be realized at least from this source.

	Rs.
Collector's Office, 2 Gumastahs, at Rs. 15 each, for 18 months	540
Collector's Office, 4 Gumastahs, at Rs. 12 each, for 18 months	864
Sub-Collector's Office, 1 Gumastah, at Rs. 15, for 4 months...	60
Sydapet, 1 Gumastah, at Rs. 15, for 12 months	180
Trivellore, 1 Gumastah, at Rs. 15, for 12 months	180
Ponnery, 1 Gumastah, at Rs. 15, for 12 months...	180
Three Sub-division Taluqs, 2 Gumastahs, at Rs. 15 each, for 12 months	360
Total...	2,364

3. The Huzur Vernacular records seem to me to be in a particularly bad condition, and the causes that have brought this about appear to have been—

(1.) For many years at Conjeveram, the records were without Collector or Assistant to supervise them.

(2.) The Huzur records have been knocked about from place to place to an unusual degree in this district. Head-quarters were moved from Caranguli to Conjeveram in 1828 and to Sydapet in 1860, when the Madras and Chingleput Districts were amalgamated; but, for sometime previous to this, a large part of the records were at Pullikaranai, owing to the Collector generally residing there. Even when brought to Sydapet there was no proper accommodation for them, and the confusion they have gradually got into is often cause of delay when a reference to the records has suddenly to be made.

4. Of late years, something has been done to improve matters, but this is little compared with what has yet to be got through. Since 1863 the Arzees and Returns are indexed and generally marked with R and D, but this has to be done for all papers previously received, and this sorting and indexing papers retained will entail heavy work. I propose to index for each taluq in the form appended :—

Index of Arzees received from the Taluq.

No.	Date.	To whom addressed.	Substance of the Arzee.	When answered or disposed of.

5. In addition to the paper records that have to be sorted and arranged as proposed above, there are about 670 bundles of old cadjan accounts which are more or less in a decaying condition ; some of these contain very valuable revenue statistics and details connected with the earlier administration of the district. I enclose a list of those which I consider the most valuable, and propose to have them copied on durable paper or printed, and then have them duly authenticated after comparison under the supervision of the Record-keeper ; the originals are gradually disappearing from decay.

6. The Sub-Collector asks for two Gumastahs to itinerate for the three taluqs of the sub-division for one year ; from what I know of the records of the Chingleput Taluq, I am inclined to think that one for each taluq, as proposed for the principal division, would not be too much, but I send on Mr. Crole's proposals as they stand for the Board's orders.

7. The Tahsildars of the principal division asked for two and three special Gumastahs, but I think the work can be performed by the proposed extra establishment. The records of the taluq, as well as those at the Huzur, have suffered from want of proper accommodation and from moves. I may instance that those at Trivellore, until the new standard Cutcherry was built, were kept partly in a muntapúm and partly in a private dwelling.

8. I cannot make any definite proposals regarding the older English records, till they are brought together at Homes's Gardens, and there is space to open them out; since 1863 they are in good order, and merely require arranging. I think, however, that one extra Writer for about six months is all that will be required.

9. In conclusion I may remark that no extra establishment has ever been sanctioned in this district for arranging records, and that if my proposals are sanctioned, I will use my best endeavours to see that it is fully utilized. I also wish to apologise for the delay that has occurred in submitting this information. I have been fully employed since my return to the district in the end of February, and lost sight of this reference till the receipt, on the 25th ultimo, of the Board's Proceedings No. 440 of the 11th idem.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1872.

SUBMITTED for the sanction of Government.

2. The neglected state of the records of the Chingleput District is in no way exaggerated by Mr. Barlow, and the importance of getting them arranged soon is great.

3. There is no provision made for this expenditure in the budget of 1872-73 ; but, if sanctioned, it can be met from general savings under "Land Revenue."

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1872, No. 753.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government recognize the exceptional disadvantages of the Chingleput District in regard to arrangement of its records, and sanction the employment of the proposed temporary establishment to reduce them to order at a total estimated charge of Rs. 2,364.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Miscellaneous No. 3019 Revenue Dept.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 25th April 1872.

Read letter from the Collector of Chingleput

dated 15th April 1872, No. 150.

Submitted for the sanction of Government

The neglected state of the Records of the Chingleput District is in no way exaggerated by Mr. Barlow and the importance of getting them arranged soon is great.

There is no provision made for this ~~new~~ permanent expenditure in the Budget of 1872-73 - but, if Sanctioned, it can be met from General Savings under "Land Revenue"

This is a very slipshod way of submitting

/True Extract/

J. B. Pennington
Sub-Secretary

To,
The Offg. Chief Secretary to Government
Revenue Department

with Collector's original letter and enclosure - to be returned

C. A. Boughey
Copying

Revenue 1872 Dep

No 1483

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 25th April 1872.
Despatched 25
Rec'd 26
an 2.
Ref'd

Submitting for issue of Govt. proposals of tenders of tenders of the Chingleput for employment of an extra establishment for arranging Vernacular records of District.

Walter Ross
No 753-10 May/72

No 753. 10 May 1872.
Submitting for issue of Govt. proposals of tenders of the Chingleput District in regard to arrangement of Records of Vernacular Records of the Chingleput District.
Walter Ross
Collector.

11 Board's Proc. dec 11 May
to Collector.