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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE**GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS***RE* DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

B.P. No.

144

Press

Mis.

Dated

21. 3

1873
196*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

No. 340.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th March 1873.

Read the following letter from H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of South Canara, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Manjeshwar, 13th February 1873, No. 203 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit the Return called for in Board's Proceedings, No. 7,412 (Miscellaneous), dated 7th November 1872, of the work required to be done in one twelve-month in the District Magistrate's Division exclusively by a full power or 1st Class Magistrate.

2. It is necessarily for the year 1871. It shows a total of 273 trials and committals, involving the examination of about 1,500 persons, besides 89 appeal cases, and some 3,600 other papers in the form of Sub-Magistrates' calendars, Sub-Magistrates' references, Police referred charge-sheets, Police reports not connected with tried cases, Review petitions and Miscellaneous petitions, etc.

3. A similar return of the first half of 1872 shows that Magisterial work has continued to grow.

4. Added to this I have, during the absence of a Head Assistant, had brought to me his appeals and original full power cases, as well as my own.

5. But I beg to represent that it is not only the excessive Magisterial work that I deprecate as the Board's Proceedings suggest, but also the other unimportant routine work alluded to in my former letters, and the large number of revenue cases under Act VIII. of 1865.

To Board, dated 2nd May 1872, No.	515.
" " 14th June " "	700.
" " 23rd August " "	1,071.
" " 9th October " "	1,223.

6. The only two full power or 1st Class Magistrates that I have now in the district to help me with criminal work are the Salt and Treasury Deputy Collectors; for the General Deputy-Collector and the Assistant Collector are both 2nd Class Magistrates, and the Head Assistant Collector is too far away for cases to be sent to him, except in the monsoon. It is at the detriment of their proper duties that the Salt and Treasury Deputies are pressed to aid in this work.

7. The Board has called for the enclosed return with a view to "compare it with that done in other districts;" but I beg to submit that the result of such a comparison, whatever it may be, will in no way touch my argument, in which I seek to lay the matter before the Board on much broader grounds. I wish to lay

before them not the relative, but the positive, position of the Collector of South Canara, and I am inclined to think that there are other Collectorates also in which better work would be done for Government if the Collector were less overwhelmed with non-administrative detail.

8. Though much more might be urged on this subject I trust enough has been said to show that it is a broad administrative question on the whole, and in particular an immediately pressing one in South Canara. I beg the Board will not dispose of it without a review of the whole correspondence.

9. I trust it will be recognized in the above correspondence that I am not seeking personal ease. I trust I have sufficient past character for diligence to save me from any such reflection. Indeed if I had not such a consciousness I should scarcely have made bold to press this matter as I have. A certain amount of relief from undue pressure I do seek certainly, but for my coadjutors quite as much as myself; and I have already shown that the pressure was felt by a predecessor even when he had a larger staff and much less work, for there has been very serious growth thereof in many ways since then. The point from which I started, however, is that good administration and good work in any department is incompatible with such pressure, and that unless it is taken off Government interests will assuredly, though perhaps negatively and unobtrusively, suffer.

10. In conclusion I will repeat that the staff I now have is—

- 1 Head Assistant, with 1st Class Magistrate's powers.
- 1 Assistant, with 2nd Class do. do.
- 1 General Duty Deputy-Collector, with 2nd Class do.
- 1 Salt Deputy-Collector.
- 1 Treasury Deputy-Collector.

But the staff this district needs is—

- 1 Head Assistant, with 1st Class Magistrate's powers.
- 1 Assistant, with do. do. for a Taluq charge.
- 1 Assistant, with do. do. for head quarters, irrespective of any unqualified Assistant.
- 1 Salt Deputy-Collector.
- 1 Treasury Deputy-Collector.

11. It is desirable that the Additional Assistant be, if possible, a European Covenanted Officer, because then he may have the charge of Treasury keys and be a Justice of the Peace, and thus be useful at head quarters in a way that a Deputy-Collector cannot.

12. I would solicit that early orders may be passed, as the General Deputy-Collector's retention has been sanctioned only till the return of the Assistant-Collector from the Laccadives.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Statement.

the return submitted does not disclose sufficient cause for the attention of Government to the question whether the district staff in South Canara is adequate or inadequate.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

J. G. Gole
Secretary.

To the Collector of South Canara.

Ed. J. Tulloch.

Revenue 1873. Dhara

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

74-827

PROCEEDINGS, 8TH MARCH 1873, No. 340.

Q 24/19 March 1873.
Encl.

Received 20th March 1873

MARCH.
No. 340.

South Canara District Staff.—Collector informed that return of work submitted by him does not disclose sufficient cause for calling attention of Government to question whether district staff is adequate or inadequate.

8th Mar.
RECEIVED

21st March 1873