No. 43. Read the following endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated 14th February 1873 :—

Read the following letter from Major R. F. OAKES, R. E., to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 21st January 1873, No. 29 :—

I HAVE the honour to inform you that when Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I., was here in December last he desired to see me and questioned me relative to the proposed regulating work for the Cauvery and Vennaur near the Grand Anicut. Of the object of this work he appeared to have obtained some erroneous impressions from the local officers. After our interview I deemed it well to place the information I afforded him on paper and so addressed the letter, a copy of which I enclose, to him and furnished him with copies of the Government Orders referred to the letter with the marginal remarks made in the enclosed copies.

2. As my views relative to the necessity of carrying out the revenue survey of the Tanjore District, intimately connected, as it is, with the regulation of the distribution of water to the various rivers, differ materially from those held by Government, I have deemed it right to furnish the Government with a copy of my letter and to take the opportunity of again urging the speedy carrying out of the revenue survey, and this the more as I observe from the enclosed note from the *Madras Mail* of the 19th December that the Collector of Tanjore has proposed to distribute the assessment through all the villages, once for all, and that the Government have sanctioned his proposal.

3. A revenue survey would not be more inquisitorial than the measurement necessary to apportion to each member of the village community the area actually appertaining to him, and hence I would urge that the opportunity should now be taken of carrying out the revenue survey of the Tanjore District.

4. It is presumed that in the apportionment now proposed no attempt will be made to discover concealed cultivation, and if the Merassidars are led to believe that the distribution now to be made will defer, if it does not altogether do away with the revenue survey, they will probably be content to allow the apportionment to take place without making difficulties and will share the area of concealed cultivation amicably, and probably the very apportionment now to be made will be brought forward hereafter in order to show that the revenue survey is not required.

5. If the Merassidars are distinctly informed that a revenue survey will follow, and that at no distant date, the more wealthy Merassidars will now endeavour to secure the extra cultivation by getting the smaller holdings correctly measured first according to the accounts and by having what remains of the village lands left to them or added to their holdings. If this is done a disturbing element will at once be introduced and there will be intense excitement throughout every village community as there will be when the revenue survey is undertaken ; it would be well then that the measurement, *i. e.*, the revenue survey and the distribution, should be undertaken at one and the same time, and that animosities

should not be aroused and the village communities should not be disturbed more than once during the next ten or fifteen years, within which period it is presumed that the revenue survey will be undertaken.

6. If the distribution has been proposed with a view of postponing the revenue survey, I beg to enter my protest against the proposal, and to point out that, however little the Revenue Department may consider the survey necessary for their purposes, it is required to admit of its being ascertained what area depends upon each stream for its supply in order that water may be distributed accordingly. As it is, it is more than doubtful whether the distribution of water to the major streams even approaches accuracy, while that to the minor streams must be postponed till there is some guarantee that one Collector will not find the distribution statement submitted by another Collector altogether incorrect as in the case of the branches of the Codamoorty, mentioned in my letter to Sir Richard Temple, K.C.S.I. Perhaps more correctly Curnam should be substituted for Collector in the last sentence for the Curnams are, for all practical purposes, the great authorities in such matters in the Tanjore District.

7. It has been urged by those who are opposed to the survey of the Tanjore District that the Merassidars may reasonably say, "Why, you have once already measured our lands and found what their area is, what can be the use of, or occasion for, measuring them again," and profess to be able to find no reply to such a question.

8. The reply appears to be simple enough. It is true the lands have been measured, but only in a rough manner with an eleven-yard rod and without the aid of scientific instruments and without proper supervision: all that is required is to have the measurements already made verified and the Merassidars may be asked why, if they are satisfied that the measurements already made are correct, they so strongly oppose the verification of the measurements. The fact of this strong opposition shows clearly that the Merassidars and others are perfectly well aware that a large area of concealed cultivation would be discovered on which no revenue is now paid if a revenue survey of the district were carried out, and, as no reliance can be placed upon measurements otherwise conducted, the sooner the revenue survey is put in hand, the better.

ENCLOSURES 4.

One letter to Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I., dated 16th December 1872.
G. O., No. 1,451, of 22nd May 1869, Revenue Department.
" " 2,836, of 24th November 1870, Public Works Department.
Extract from the *Madras Mail* of 19th December 1872.

TRANSFERRED to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 6th March 1873.

No. 44. ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1873, No. 262.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government resolve to refer this letter to the Board of Revenue for report after consulting the Director of Revenue Settlement and the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

(A[illegible]xtract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Director of Revenue Settlement.
" the Superintendent of Revenue Survey.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Vr. 43-44

Transferred to the Revenue Dept.

Lumsden Coll. RR.

Copy to Govt. P.W.D.

14th Feby 73

I think it will be transferred to the R. D. - there is what misleads the Secy & Chronicle of the Government of the Presidency - Land is certainly sanctioned - a survey is undertaken by many but it was deferred for want of funds & cannot. I suppose be yet undertaken

Revenue

1873 Depar.

6

No 554.

From. W. 644.

Major R. F. Oakes R.

6/1863/73

Dated 21st } January 1873.
Rec'd 24
15th Feby.

No 29.

Enclosures 4. Pers No.
Offg Sec to Govt

SO No 282. 6th March 1873

Regarding the information furnished to Sir R. Temple, K.C.S.I. on the subject of the Regulating works for the Canvery in the Tanjore District. With an order

6th March/73.

W. 262.

Endorsement from D.P.W. referring to Rev. Dept. letter from Major Oakes R.E. advocating the extension of the Revenue Survey to the Tanjore districts.

For the last time this question was discussed, vide G.O. 11 Nov. /70. The Collector, Mr. Morris, an old Tanjore officer - vide Paras 6 & 7 of his letter of 2d Feby /70 - declared his belief, wh he approximate accuracy of the old measurements [as pairmash] conducted by Messrs Campbell and Kindersley on the model of Lieut Thos. Munro's survey of the Ceded districts - and opined that a re-survey wd only "unsettle a happy state of agricultural "prosperity, & open up a wide field for "demoralization amongst the Canded "proprietors, in order to propitiate the "subordinate staff of the survey agency

2. On here grounds & because there were no funds & because some years must elapse before any Tamil Survey Party wd be established, the Govt negatived the proposal.

3. Major Oakes is mistaken in supposing that G.O. 14th Dec. last sanctioned any kind of fresh survey by the district authorities - that is not at all the scope of the order -

24/2/73

W. 262.

Hd Asst wants to

I would refer this letter to the Board of Revt for report on the Consulting the Engineering Branch of the Public Works Dept.

I.O.S.

I owned do as suggested by Mr Sim - It is improbable that a Tamil Survey will be undertaken at present. BH