No. 190. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th April 1873, No. 554 :—

Read the following letter from the Hon. D. ARBUTHNOTT, Officiating Collector of Madras, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 24th March 1873, No. 77 :—

WITH reference to the Board's Miscellaneous Proceedings No. 402 of 22nd January last, I have the honour to forward herewith the Register of Refunds kept by the Small Cause Court Stamp Vendor and a Certificate* of refund issued by the Court, with the vendor's letter in explanation of the Register. The necessity for raising his salary to Rupees 150 is explained in the Deputy-Collector's letter No. 555, recorded in G. O. No. 1,286 of 6th September 1872. The vendor sells about Rupees 10,000 worth of Court Fees Stamps every month, for which, if remunerated by discount, about Rupees 400 per mensem would have to be paid. He maintains an establishment of the strength noted in the margin† for selling the above quantity and for paying the Court refunds,—a work involving care and responsibility, as he has to see that the money is received by the proper parties. He supplies with stamps the suitors of both the High Court and Small Cause Court, and his sales may increase hereafter even above Rupees 10,000.

* No 736 of 28th January 1873.

†		Rs.
1	Sale Writer	20
1	Refund do.	15
1	Attender to take Indents to Deputy-Collector's office, etc.,	8
1	Peon	5
	Contingencies	2
		50

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of the letter from the Government of India, No. 4,859, suggesting the extension to Madras of a system now in force in Calcutta of requiring salaried vendors to purchase stamps for cash, I beg to state that I am not in a position to form an opinion on the subject, as I do not know what capital the vendors in question lay out in Calcutta whether they are able to keep a sufficient stock of all denominations of Stamps, Judicial and Non-judicial, up to Rs. 100, and within what distance of the Stamp Depôt which supplies them they hold office. I find that for a vendor to possess himself of *one* stamp of each denomination, Judicial and Non-judicial, an outlay of upwards of Rupees 2,000 would be required, and that, unless he lays out Rupees 4,000, he could not be in a position to supply to the public all the values required. Moreover, out of the three official vendors in Madras, those at the Small Cause Court and Sea Custom-house sell the largest quantity. Their distance from the Deputy-Collector's Office on whom they make their indents is two miles, and it would be very inconvenient for them to send to that office twice a day for supplies of stamps.

4. They are at present unwilling to adopt the suggestion in question, but they might perhaps be willing to do so, if a Stamp Depôt were opened at the Court premises, or at the Sea Custom-house.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Register of Refunds.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Certificate of Refund.

ENCLOSURENo. 3.—Letter from Stamp Vendor.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., 18th January 1873, No. 68.

2. The Board adhere to their opinion that the Stamp Vendor should have a salary of not less than Rs. 150 per mensem. It appears that his establishment costs Rs. 50 per mensem, and it does not appear to the Board excessive.

3. They see no advantage in the proposal that the vendors should be required to buy stamps for cash, adequate security being taken under the present system; and considering the distance of the place of vend from the depôt whence the stamps must be obtained, the proposed change would entail great hardship, and a special depôt would be expensive.

No. 191. ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1873, No. 533.

Separate Revenue, No. 14.
Stamp.

THE Government concur with the Board of Revenue, and resolve to address the Government of India in the sense of the Proceedings above recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Governm

GO 25814
Claims

No. 533.

(3)

The Govt. concur with the Board of Revenue, and resolve to address the Govt of India in the sense of the Proc. above recorded

27 May 73.

14 To the Board of Revenue dtd 3 June 73—