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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th February 1874.*

No. 227. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th February 1874, No. 289 :—

Read the following letter from R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Trichendur, 26th December 1873, No. 734 :—

THE Ottapidaram Taluq of this district is peculiarly circumstanced, the Government villages are but seventy-six in number, viz., six near Tuticorin, fourteen near Ottapidaram, eleven near Velatikulam, and forty-five near Kytar, while the intervening space is filled up by Zemindaries. The Tahsildar has but little to do, but employment is found for seven Sub-Magistrates; of these, the Ettiapuram Sub-Magistrate only has second class powers, and only one of the others, excluding the Ottapidaram Tahsildar, draws 100 Rupees a month. This one exception is the Velatikulam Sub-Magistrate who, with the revenue charge of eleven villages, resides in an out of the way locality, where he has but little to do, as compared with the Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate who, on 70 Rupees a month, is the managing man in a large town, and is employed on many and various duties that the better paid Sub-Magistrate of Velatikulam has nothing to do with.

2. I enclose a letter from the Head-Assistant Collector on the subject, and endorse his recommendation that the pay of the posts be interchanged, and that on the occurrence of the next vacancy at Velatikulam, the pay of the Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate be raised to 100 Rupees and that of the Velatikulam Sub-Magistrate be reduced to 70 Rupees.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From J. H. BOYLE, Esq., Acting Head-Assistant Collector, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated 8th December 1873, No. 448.

I BEG to draw your attention to a proposal, which will, I hope, commend itself to you for approval, for improving the position of the Sub-Magistrate and Deputy-Tahsildar of Tuticorin.

He is, as you know, a Sub-Magistrate of the inferior grade, drawing only Rupees 70 monthly; and I desire to secure the services of the best and most experienced officer of that grade, for Tuticorin, by raising the Town Sub-Magistracy to the Rupees 100 grade.

The post of Town Sub-Magistrate here is no easy one. The town is busy and growing; full of European firms; the seat of a Railway Terminus; a crowded harbour; and on every side a rising and important place. The Native Magistrate in charge has, therefore, no idle time of it. Magisterially his file is heavy, as he has to dispose of all Municipal cases, as well as the crime of the neighbourhood. But his heaviest work is that general and administrative business, which does not show at all on paper, but which consumes a large portion of the incumbent's time.

Thus the allotment of land in exchange for Railway occupation, or for town improvements, or for new house sites, and the town is spreading rapidly, fall primarily on the Deputy Tahsildar as the only local official who possesses knowledge of the accounts, and who can represent both private and public interests.

4. I have no hesitation in saying that I am constantly employing the services of Muttiya Pillai, the Town Sub-Magistrate, in fifty duties that do not technically belong to him; but which he can do and does better than any body else. If we want to make a new street, he lays it out; if we take up a man's house or ground, the Sub-Magistrate drives the bargain; and I am often ashamed of the way I turn his services to account for doing whatever has to be done.

5. The labourer is worthy of his hire; and the pay of officials should be calculated according to the importance and responsibility of their duties; judged by this standard, the Tuticorin Sub-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
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Magistracy is under-paid, for there is a similar official at Velatikulam who draws Rupees 100, and does not 1/4th of the work. It is of course not his fault. Velatikulam is an obscure rural village, with nothing stirring about it, and no new thing to be done. The Magisterial work is not nearly so heavy as that of Tuticorin; while of Municipal and general work of administration he has absolutely none.

6. It is a good, quiet little place for a young man to learn his work in, but not the place to post a Rupees 100 Sub-Magistrate to. The result is that the best men go to the place where they are least wanted, and where they are best paid, and I simply propose to put the higher pay at the place where there is most work.

7. The change cannot be made off hand, while the present incumbent of Velatikulam holds that post; but if you would take this matter up, and have the sanction of Government placed on record for effecting the change, when the next vacancy occurs at Velatikulam, we can post the newly promoted man to that office, and keep our Sub-Magistrate here on higher pay. Only the other day Muttiya Pillai was transferred to Velatikulam on promotion, and made way here for a perfectly new man. Thus the town gets an inexperienced official for the lower salary, and the experienced officer is sent to the obscure village where he draws higher pay, and does far less work. I merely wish to prevent the recurrence of this mistake.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector shows that the Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate has far more work and responsibility than the Velatikulam Sub-Magistrate, whereas the former gets Rupees 70 and the latter Rupees 100 a month, and he proposes that the next time the Velatikulam Sub-Magistracy is vacant the rates of pay should be interchanged.

3. The Board think this should be sanctioned. From Mr. Boyle's letter it appears that Muttiya Pillai who did extremely well as Sub-Magistrate of Tuticorin has just been promoted to Velatikulam. Apparently, if Government approve of the proposal to change the rates of pay, it will be best to bring the change into force at once and re-transfer Muttiya Pillai to Tuticorin.

No. 228. ORDER THEREON, 26th February 1874, No. 257.

Miscellaneous.

SANCTIONED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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

Ld. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 289.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE dated 11th February 1874.

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Govt. of 1874
REVENUE.

7th Landed & Revenue
Esq., Esq., Esq.

RECEIVED
Nos. 289.

Sub-acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue
My—Sanctions to the proposal to transfer the
to Tuticorin, and the Sub-Magistrate of the
to the Town Sub-Magistrate, interchanging the
of the pay of the two posts.

Magistracy is under-paid, for there is a similar official at Velatikulam who draws Rupees 100, and does not 1/4th of the work. It is of course not his fault. Velatikulam is an obscure rural village, with nothing stirring about it, and no new thing to be done. The Magisterial work is not nearly so heavy as that of Tuticorin; while of Municipal and general work of administration he has absolutely none.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
Collector.

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(True Copies and Extract.)

J. G. G. G.

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

„ the Collector of Tinnevely.

Exd. G. A. Tutton.

FEBRUARY.

No. 289.

BOARD of REVENUE,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 11th FEBRUARY 1874, No. 289.

Copy 17 sent 17/2/74.
Encl.

Received 18/2/74

Sub-Magistrate of Velatikulam—in Tinnevely District.—Proposal of Collector that pay attached to post of—should be reduced from Rupees 100 to 70 per mensem when next vacancy occurs, and that of Tuticorin Sub-Magistrate raised from Rupees 70 to 100, submitted to Government for sanction. *see 257*

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26. 7. 1874