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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	39	Press / Mis.
Dated 7-5-1874		196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 301

From J. Geoghegan Esqre
Under Secretary to the Govt. of India
Department of Agriculture,
Revenue and Commerce.

To The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of
Madras

Calcutta, Dated 13th May 1872.

Sir,

Surveys

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters Nos. 1728 and 329 of respectively the 3d October 1871 and 22 February 1872 on the question of strengthening the present survey establishments in Madras with a view to the speedier attainment of continued geographical materials.

2. But before sanctioning any additional Expenditure on this account, the Governor General in Council desires to receive from the Government of Madras a complete account of the Survey Establishments of the Southern Presidency in much fuller detail than the papers now before His Excellency in Council afford material for. The account should show the strength and cost of the Establishments which first took the field, the succession in which sanctioned if any, the work performed, and the total financial result.

3 In connection with this
subject

subject, I am to commend to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council the following points.—

(a) The topographical survey of cultivated tracts intersperced amidst ryotwari lands has in Madras been conducted on the scale of four inches to the mile. In Northern India, such a scale has only been found necessary for the definition of village boundaries. Where these are not laid down, a scale of one inch to the mile has been found sufficient. It should be considered whether the non delineation of village boundaries is necessary, and if it is not so whether the scale of survey might not be reduced.—

(b) Uncultivable tracts are topographically surveyed on the scale of 2 inches to the mile. It appears to the Governor General in Council very doubtful whether the value of a survey of such ground on such a scale can at all justify the Expenditure involved. In Northern India the scale of survey in such cases has never exceeded one mile to the inch.—

(c) The disproportion between the numbers of European and native Officers in the composition of the two parties proposed by Col. Priestley is very marked. For the two topographical parties, he asks permission

permission to entertain 6 European Officers and 62 Natives Surveyors and Draftsmen. It has been found quite impossible in the Bengal Presidency to endure a correct delineation of ground in difficult hilly country by means of Establishments thus organised. Indeed the number of Native employés proposed by Col. Priestley for two parties is equal to the total number of European and native Officers of the same classes in the whole sum topographical survey parties under the control of the Surveyor General of India.—

4. But apart from the question of the constitution of the survey parties and the scale or scales in which the Survey should be conducted, the Governor General in Council thinks that some further Explanation is necessary as to why a survey which has completed upwards of 34,000 square miles of Country should have produced so little geographical material. The figures given by the Government of Madras are insufficient to explain this, for they do not show the proportion of revenue full scale survey to the surveys on the lesser scales, either actually accomplished or remaining to be taken up. Before sanctioning an addition to the existing strength of Survey

the

the Governor General in Council would wish to be assured that the same object could not be attained by a redistribution of the work. For a judgement upon this point, data are however altogether wanting.

5 A part of the proposition before the Government of India is the entertainment of an establishment of Computers & Draftsmen, costing Rupees 13,056 per annum. The sum is not large, but the Governor General in Council is not sure whether Col Priestley has fully apprehended the way in which it is desired to utilize the results of the survey for Geographical purposes. The establishment includes a lithographic branch. But what is really needed for Geographical purposes is not lithographed maps, but manuscript materials, with the necessary mathematical data for the scale of 4 miles to the inch. It appears to the Governor General in Council, as at present informed, a subject for regret that the preparation of such materials should have been allowed to fall into arrear, instead of being carried on, as in Northern India, pari passu with the survey.

6. To sum up, the Government of India before deciding whether an extra establishment is necessary desires full information as to the past and present

present constitution of the Madras survey and the work it has hitherto achieved in each class of survey and the work still remaining to be done, and further to be placed in a position to judge whether by reduction of the present scales of topographical survey, by a change in the constitution of parties, by a redistribution of the Revenue and Topographical branches, or in any other way, it may not be possible without interfering with the main object of the survey to promote the collection of geographical materials at a somewhat more rapid rate than has hitherto been the case. I am to request that the whole subject to the careful consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W. J. Geoghegan
Under Secretary to the
Govt. of India.

Revenue Survey Office
Chepauk
24th October 1873

(True Copy)
H. Cross. Captain
D. Supt. in charge of the Office
of the Supt. Rev. Survey

Compd. K. P.
C. & H. Castle

No. 301 Calcutta, 13th May 1872

From

J. Geoghegan Esquire,
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India
Department of Agriculture,
Revenue & Commerce.

To

The Chief Secretary to the Govt. of
Madras

Sir

Surveys

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letters No. 1728 & 329 of respectively the 3rd October 1871 & 22nd February 1872 on the question of strengthening the present Survey establishments in Madras with a view to the speedier attainment of continuous geographical materials.

2- But before sanctioning any additional expenditure on this account, the Governor General in Council desires to receive from the Government of Madras a complete account of the Survey Establishment of the Southern Presidency in much fuller detail than the papers now before His Excellency in Council afford materials for. The account should show the strength & cost of the Establishments which first took the field, the successive increases sanctioned, if any the work per-

formed

Enclosure to letter
No. 2578/88 of 21st
Octr 1870

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Bric. ch. 39 717
Surv 1874

formed & the total financial result.

3. In connection with this subject I am to commend to the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council the following points.

(a) The topographical survey of cultivated & cultivable tracts in enclosed & inside & private land has in Madras been conducted on the scale of four inches to the mile. In Northern India such a scale has only been found necessary for the definition of village boundaries. Where these are not laid down, a scale of one inch to the mile has been found sufficient. It should be considered whether the delineation of village boundaries is necessary & if it is not so whether the scale of survey might not be reduced.

(b) Uncultivable tracts are topographically surveyed on the scale of 2 inches to the mile. It appears to the Governor General in Council very doubtful whether the value of a survey of such ground on such a scale can at all justify the expenditure involved. In Northern India the scale of survey in such cases has never exceeded one mile to the inch.

(c)

(c) The disproportion between the numbers of European & Native officers in the composition of the two parties proposed by Col. Priestley is very marked. For the two topographical parties he asks permission to entertain 6 European officers & 62 Natives, Surveyors and Draughtsmen. It has been found quite impossible in the Bengal Presidency to ensure a correct delineation of ground of difficult hilly country by means of establishments thus organised. Indeed the number of Native employés proposed by Col. Priestley for two parties is equal to the total number of European & Native officers of the same class in the whole seven topographical survey parties under the control of the Surveyor General of India.

4. But apart from the question of the constitution of the survey parties & the scale or scales in which the survey should be conducted, the Governor General in Council thinks that some further explanation is necessary as to why a survey which has completed upwards of 84,000 square miles of country

Country should have produced so little geographical Material. The figures given by the Government of Bo[illegible] are insufficient to explain this for they do not show the proportion of previous full scale survey to the surveys on the lesser scales either actually accomplished or remaining to be taken up. Before sanctioning an addition to the existing strength of survey the Governor General in Council would wish to be assured that the same object could not be attained by a redistribution of the work. For a judgment upon this point data are however altogether wanting.

5 I part of the proposition before the Government of India is the entertainment of an establishment of compilers and draftsmen costing Rupees 3056 per annum. The sum is not large but the Governor General in Council is not sure whether Col. Priestley has fully apprehended the way in which it is desired to utilize the results of the survey for Geographical purposes. The establishment includes lithographic branch. But what is really needed for geographical purposes is not lithographed maps, but manuscript materials with the necessary mathematical data for the scale of 4 miles to the inch. It appears to the Governor General in Council as at present informed a subject for regret that the preparation of such materials should have been allowed to fall into arrear instead of being carried on as in Northern India pari passu with the survey.

6 To sum up, the Government of India before deciding whether an extra establishment is necessary desires full information as to the past & present constitution of the Bo[illegible] survey & the work it has hitherto achieved in each class of survey & the work still remaining to be done & further to be placed in a position to judge whether by reduction of the present scales of topographical survey, by a change in the constitution of parties, by a redistribution of the Revenue & topographical branches, or in any other way it may not be possible without interfering with the main object of the survey to promote the collection of Geographical

Geographical Materials at a somewhat more rapid rate than has hitherto been the case. I am therefore to commend the whole subject to the careful consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

I have &c.
(sd) J. Geoghegan
Under Secretary to
the Govt. of India

(True Copy)

H Cleaver Captain
Dy Supt. In charge of the
Office of the Supt. Revenue Survey

Revenue Survey Office
Chepauk
6th December 1873

Copy &c. &c.
Supt. G.B

Quilon Collr's No.
No. 3048 of 6/12/73
103

No. 2578/88

Revenue Survey Office.
Chepauk
21st October 1873.

From

The Superintendent Revenue Survey.

To

The Under Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

SIR,

With reference to your official Memorandum of the 20th Instant, I have the honour to forward a copy of the letter from the Government of India, Agricultural &c. Department, dated 13th May No. 301, requesting a complete account of the Survey Establishment of the Madras Presidency.

I have the honour to be
Sir
your most Obed. Servant

H Cleaver Captain
Deputy Superintendent
In charge of the Office of the
Supt. Rev. Survey

Extract &c.
Copd. S.O.

Revenue 1873 Dept.
No 3256

From
Sec. of St.

To
The Sec. to Govt.
to Govt. Rev. Dept.

Dated 21st October 73
Received 24 No. 2578
78

Enclosure one

Subject

Forwards Copy of a letter from the Govt. of India Agricultural Dept. dated 13th May 1872 No. 301 as directed in official Memorandum of 20th October 1873.

No 39.

Lodged

7 May 74