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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	645	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	27-5-	1874 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th May 1874.*

No. 258. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th April 1874, No. 971 :—

In 1869 the Board issued a Circular to the effect that all processes issued under Act II. of 1864 should be served by Village Officers free of charge. The experience of five years shows that the order has not worked well. In 1870 the Collector of North Arcot represented that his collections were greatly in arrears

Board's Proceedings, dated 31st August 1870,
No. 5,539.

and obtained the sanction of the Board to employ batta peons temporarily, and under that sanction he appears to have

employed batta peons even in 1872-73. In 1872 the Collector of South Arcot brought to the notice of the Board the difficulty in making collections without paid process servers, and after some discussion, the Board sanctioned the entertainment

Board's Proceedings, dated 17th June 1873,
No. 1,039.

of batta peons whenever the collections fell seriously in arrear. In the same year, the Collector of Chingleput applied

for and obtained the sanction of the Board for employing batta peons, and in

Board's Proceedings, dated 1st August 1872,
No. 1,466.

1873, the Collector of Ganjam employed them on his own authority stating that the Village Officers who were them-

selves ryots neglected the part of their duty which consisted in collecting revenue. In Coimbatore the Sub-Collector appears to be in the habit of employing batta peons on his own authority, and the Collector of Salem has requested that the orders issued to the Collector of South Arcot may be extended to his district.

2. From the above circumstances and others which have come to the notice of the Board they are satisfied that the Circular of 1869 requires modification. The Village Officers are slow in serving processes being often connected with the parties interested, and it is not easy to insure promptitude on their part. Moreover Tahsildars have not a sufficient number of peons to carry processes to villages. Each Tahsildar with a charge of 150 to 200 villages has but eighteen peons, whilst formerly he had four and five times the number of the peons with one-fourth or half the number of villages.

3. It is most important in the interests of the ryots themselves, that the revenue should be collected punctually according to the kists, and that arrears should not be allowed to accumulate. The papers which have been before the Board with regard to the rapid increase of sales for arrears of land revenue show conclusively that part of the increase since 1859 must be attributed to the absence of paid process servers. The Board accordingly resolve to authorize Collectors generally to employ batta peons whenever they find it necessary to do so. The very knowledge that processes will be served and that batta, however small, will have to be paid if the kist is withheld, will have a salutary effect.

4. Great care however must be taken to prevent abuse and especially to guard against the entertainment as batta peons of needy Cutcherry retainers. The number of peons required for each taluq should be determined by the Divisional Officers, who should inspect them before they are enrolled; a register should be kept of them, they should be told off for duty in turns as their names appear on

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th May 1874.*

the register and their remuneration should not be allowed to exceed Rupees 7 a month. The number for each taluq should be so fixed that their cost may be covered by the amount collected during the year, and it should be altered from time to time under the orders of the Divisional Officers according to requirements. The process servers may be transferred from one taluq to another as experience may dictate.

5. Village Officers should always be made to assist the batta peons in serving processes and no property should be distrained by them except in the presence of the head of the village.

6. The maximum rates of batta collected from the ryots, will be* those sanctioned by the Board, in their Standing Circular No. 274, paragraph 20. When Collectors find that more batta than is required is collected they should immediately reduce the rates.

For the service of any process within a distance of 5 miles	Anna.	1
Do. beyond 5 miles and within 20 miles		2
Beyond 20 miles... ..		4

7. Under the orders now in force the Receipts must be credited under "Law and Justice" and Disbursements debited to the special provision made in the Budget for this purpose under "Land Revenue Miscellaneous." The Board have proposed a provision of Rupees 21,200 in some districts for 1874-75. Where this is insufficient or where no provision at all has been made Collectors will report how much more they require.

8. The crediting of Receipts under one head and the debiting of Charges under another is inconvenient and wrong in principle. The Comptroller of Accounts seems to have directed that the proceeds from Process Service under Act II. of 1864 should be credited "to Law and Justice" from a mistaken idea that the Processes are served under the Court Fees Act, but this is not the case (*vide* G. O., dated 13th March 1872, No. 446.) The Accountant-General will be requested to inform the Board if the instructions contained in his Circular No. 15 of 1870 can be modified so as to allow receipts for the service of Processes under Act II. of 1864 to be credited to a sub-head under Land Revenue Miscellaneous.

No. 259.

ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1874, No. 645.

Miscellaneous.

RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. G. A. Turton.

No. 971.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 24th April 1874.

In 1869 the Board issued a Circular to the effect that all processes issued under Act II. of 1864 should be served by Village Officers free of charge. The experience of five years shows that the order has not worked well. In 1870 the Collector of North Arcot represented that his collections were greatly in arrears and obtained the sanction of the Board to employ batta peons temporarily, and under that sanction he appears to have employed batta peons even in 1872-73. In 1872 the Collector of South Arcot brought to the notice of the Board the difficulty in making collections without paid process servers, and after some discussion, the Board sanctioned the entertainment of batta peons whenever the collections fell seriously in arrear. In the same year, the Collector of Chingleput applied for and obtained the sanction of the Board for employing batta peons, and in 1873, the Collector of Ganjam employed them on his own authority stating that the Village Officers who were themselves ryots neglected the part of their duty which consisted in collecting revenue. In Coimbatore the Sub-Collector appears to be in the habit of employing batta peons on his own authority, and the Collector of Salem has requested that the orders issued to the Collector of South Arcot may be extended to his district.

2. From the above circumstances and others which have come to the notice of the Board they are satisfied that the Circular of 1869 requires modification. The Village Officers are slow in serving processes being often connected with the parties interested, and it is not easy to insure promptitude on their part. Moreover Tahsildars have not a sufficient number of peons to carry processes to villages. Each Tahsildar with a charge of 150 to 200 villages has but eighteen peons, whilst formerly he had four and five times the number of the peons with one-fourth or half the number of villages.

3. It is most important in the interests of the ryots themselves, that the revenue should be collected punctually according to the kists, and that arrears should not be allowed to accumulate. The papers which have been before the Board with regard to the rapid increase of sales for arrears of land revenue show conclusively that part of the increase since 1859 must be attributed to the absence of paid process servers. The Board accordingly resolve to authorize Collectors generally to employ batta peons whenever they find it necessary to do so. The very knowledge that processes will be served and that batta, however small, will have to be paid if the kist is withheld, will have a salutary effect.

4. Great care however must be taken to prevent abuse and especially to guard against the entertainment as batta peons of needy Catcherry retainers. The number of peons required for each taluq should be determined by the Divisional Officers, who should inspect them before they are enrolled; a register should be kept of them, they should be told off for duty in turns as their names appear on the register and their remuneration should not be allowed to exceed Rupees 7 a month. The number for each taluq should be so fixed that their cost may be covered by the amount collected during the year, and it should be altered from time to time under the orders of the Divisional Officers according to requirements. The process servers may be transferred from one taluq to another as experience may dictate.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May 27th.

Recd.

G. O., 27th May 1874, No. 645.

MAY.

No. 258-259.

Service of processes under Act II. of 1864.
—Records Board's Proceedings authorizing C.
ollectors generally to employ batta peons for —

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5. Village Officers should always be made to assist the batta peons in serving processes and no property should be distrained by them except in the presence of the head of the village.

6. The maximum rates of batta collected from the ryots, will be* those sanctioned by the Board, in their Standing Circular No. 274, paragraph 20.

For the service of any process within a distance of 5 miles	1	When Collectors find that more batta than is required is collected they should immediately reduce the rates.
Do. beyond 5 miles and within 20 miles	3	
Beyond 20 miles... ..	4	

7. Under the orders now in force the Receipts must be credited under "Law and Justice" and Disbursements debited to the special provision made in the Budget for this purpose under "Land Revenue Miscellaneous." The Board have proposed a provision of Rupees 21,200 in some districts for 1874-75. Where this is insufficient or where no provision at all has been made Collectors will report how much more they require.

8. The crediting of Receipts under one head and the debiting of Charges under another is inconvenient and wrong in principle. The Comptroller of Accounts seems to have directed that the proceeds from Process Service under Act II. of 1864 should be credited "to Law and Justice" from a mistaken idea that the Processes are served under the Court Fees Act, but this is not the case (*vide* G. O., dated 13th March 1872, No. 446.) The Accountant-General will be requested to inform the Board if the instructions contained in his Circular No. 15 of 1870 can be modified so as to allow receipts for the service of Processes under Act II. of 1864 to be credited to a sub-head under Land Revenue Miscellaneous.

(A true Extract.)

J. G. Gode
Secretary.

To all Collectors.

„ the Accountant-General.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Ed. G. A. Turton.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH APRIL 1874, No. 971.

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Encl

Received

16 May.

APRIL.
No. 971.

Service of Processes—under Act II. of 1864.—Collectors authorized generally to employ batta peons for—certain instructions issued on subject. Accountant-General requested to state if instructions contained in his Circular No. 15 of 1870, can be modified so as to allow receipts on this account to be credited to a sub-head under Land Revenue Miscellaneous.

27 May 1874
27 May 1874