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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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| G.O. No. | 757. | Press |
| B.P. No. | 818. 182—183. | Mis. |

Dated 22. 6. 1874. 196—.

*Not to be folded or roughly handled*

**No. 182.** Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India:—

Revenue, No. 10.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON, *14th May* 1874.

MY LORD,—The despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 24th February, No. 4 of 1874, transmitting the quinquennial returns furnished by the Board of Revenue for fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72), has been considered by me in Council.

2. As these quinquennial returns represent periodical statements of the progress of the country in material prosperity, it is very necessary that they should be as exact as possible. They constitute the successive stand points from which surveys of the country can be taken, and they are of great value for purposes of comparison or contrast. But their usefulness is greatly impaired if their accuracy is open to question.

Paragraph 11 of the letter of the Board of Revenue.

The present returns contain statements which the Board cannot explain, and which have necessitated a reference to the Collector of Tinnevelly. It appears that some Collectors have included tanks and wells used for drinking water among the works of irrigation, while, with strict reference to such works only, the number has been given with no specification as to the amount of capital sunk on them, or the extent of the means provided for irrigation purposes. The Board proposes to arrange for the provision of this information in future returns. A large increase in Government and private tanks is shown in the district of Madura, but no explanation is afforded, and it is apprehended there must be some error in the return. The Board will, therefore, call on the Collector for a report. A decrease of 200 Government channels is shown in the district of Tinnevelly, which is not explained by the Collector, who is called on to account for the diminished number. The Board suspects that many wells are entered as Government wells in the districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, Trichinopoly, and Salem, which are not maintained by Government, and considers that their entry as Government works is not correct. It adds that the "whole statement requires revision." With respect to Statement E, the Board "has reason to doubt its correctness." Statement F is mentioned as "not representing the actual state of things."

Paragraph 13.

Paragraph 16.

Paragraph 17.

Paragraph 22.

Paragraph 29.

Paragraph 31.

3. It appears to me that it would have been more satisfactory if the Board of Revenue had called for the necessary explanations before submitting the returns to your Lordship in Council. The returns would then have had great value as statements to which reference could have been made at any time without any feelings of doubt.

4. Viewing these returns apart from the defects to which allusion has been made, the results presented are certainly satisfactory. They show an increase in occupied

area in comparison with the former quinquennial returns of more than a million of acres, and an advance in assessment of upwards of eight lakhs of rupees. It is evident that greater attention is now paid to agricultural works, and that the general condition of the tanks is more satisfactory. The steady increase in tiled and terraced houses is an evidence of growing prosperity, and the improvement in the condition of the ryots is shown by the large addition to the number of ploughs and tilling cattle.

I have, etc.,
SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

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No. 183. ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1874, No. 757.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue, with reference to Proceedings of Government, 11th February 1874, No. 184.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Quinquennial Returns on Revenue for Fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871–72).
721.—Communications to Revenue Board Secretary.
Rates for irrigation remarks.—
Nos. 139–155.
J. LEE.
G. O., 20th June 1874, No. 457.
Fort St. George.
Public Works Dept.
To
The Board of Revenue.
REVIEW
on
Quinquennial Returns for Fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871–72).

India Office,
London, 14th May 1874.

Revenue,
No. 17

## To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

My Lord,

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2. As these quinquennial returns represent periodical statements of the progress of the country in material prosperity, it is very necessary that they should be as exact as possible. They constitute the successive stand points from which surveys of the country can be taken, and they are of great value for purposes of comparison or contrast. But their usefulness is greatly impaired if their accuracy is open to question. The present returns contain statements which the Board cannot explain, and which have necessitated a reference to the Collector of Tinnevelly. It appears that some Collectors have included tanks and wells used for drinking water among the works of irrigation, while with strict reference to such works only, the number has been given with no specification as to the amount of capital sunk on them, or the extent of the means provided for irrigation purposes. The Board proposes to arrange for the provision of this information in future returns. A large increase in Government and private tanks is shown in the District of Madura, but no explanation is afforded, and it is apprehended there must be some error in the return. The Board will therefore call on the Collector for a report. A decrease of 200 Government channels is shown in the district of Tinnevelly, which is not explained by the Collector, who is called on to account for the diminished number. The Board suspects that many wells are entered as Government wells in the Districts of Cuddapah, Bellary, Trichinopoly, and Salem which are not maintained by Government, and considers that their entry as Government works is not correct. It adds that the "whole statement requires revision." With respect to Statement E, the Board "has reason to doubt its correctness." Statement F is mentioned as "not representing the actual state of things."

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No 15.

Revenue
14th May 1874

The
Letter to Fort St George
No 10

Recd. 7 June 74

Replies to Revenue Despatch
forwarding the Quinquennial
Returns furnished by the
Board of Revenue for
Fasli 1281 (A.D. 1871-72)
No 75

~~Communicated to the~~
~~Board of Rev. with reference to Rec. of~~
~~11 Feb 1874 No 84.~~

[illegible]

22 June 74

182-183

To [illegible] 2 July/74