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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

904

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

21-7-1874

-196-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st July 1874.*

No. 165. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th June 1874.
No. 1,560:—

Read the following letter from F. BRANDT, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1874: No. 140.

The contract* for the sale of stamps in this district† permitted by the Board as an experiment in all the taluqs, except Udaiyarpalkayam, for the year 1873-74 expires with the fast 1285 on the 30th instant.

2. It seems to be generally thought that the experiment has been a failure; of course, I cannot speak from my own personal knowledge for any length of time. Mr. Wright informs me that complaints have been very rife; that people cannot get stamps; the vendors are irregular in attendance, and, when present, have not a proper supply of stamps; and the renter and his sub-renters are always having disputes, accompanied by changes of vendors which put the people to much inconvenience.

3. Further, that the rates at which the contracts for the several taluqs were taken were too high, given chiefly to drive out the original starter of the system who came from Madras; and that such prices would not be obtainable again, there not being a sufficient margin of profit to allow of the sub-renters making a livelihood.

4. The only advantage, as it seems to me, which the system has, is a little additional profit by saving in the amount of discount given and the saving of trouble to Government; but the profit from stamp-revenue is surely sufficient already, and in this matter the convenience of the people can be hardly too much considered.

5. From the accompanying statement it will be seen that the total value of stamps sold in the eleven months of 1872-73 (corresponding to the eleven months of this year, 1873-74, for which alone we can give returns) was Rupees 1,00,865, of which Rupees 15,207 worth were sold by ex-officio vendors and Rupees 85,657 by licensed vendors on discount. In the eleven months of this year, Rupees 1,10,033 worth of stamps have been sold, of which Rupees 37,745 were sold by ex-officio vendors and Rupees 72,288 by the contractor. These figures speak for themselves I think.

6. For some reason or other, —necessity it may be,—the people seem to prefer buying from either ex-officio vendors or from licensed vendors rather than from a contractor.

7. For the reasons stated in paragraph 3, even the small saving, some Rupees 2,700, under the contract system cannot be expected in future; even if it could, I think it would be very dearly purchased at risk (or certainty) of inconvenience to the people. I know myself of a case only the other day where a gentleman came here for a stamp; the contractor's vendor was nowhere to be found; he had, when found, no stamps of the denomination wanted; he excused himself by saying the Courts were closed, but the stamp was really wanted for a Court then open.

8. I would suggest that the old system of sale by discount be reverted to, and that immediate steps be taken to secure the services of the old vendors who, I understand, are ready to come forward again at once.

9. As the term of the contract is so near a close, I request the Board will communicate their sanction immediately.

10. The matter was brought to my notice only three days ago, and this letter has been deferred simply because I could not before obtain the comparative statement which accompanies it.

Enclosure No. 1.—Statement.

Summary for the orders of Government:

2. As the contract expires in a few days, the Board sanction the return to the old system of sale by discount in anticipation of the approval of Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
21st July 1874.*

No. 166.

ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1874, No. 504.

Separate Revenue, No. 10.

Stamp.

Approved.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. G. MASTER,

Acting Secretary Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

By P. P. Bhatnagar

904
2

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

Read the following letter from F. BRANDT, Esq., Acting Collector of Trichinopoly, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 20th June 1874, No. 140,--

This contract* for the sale of stamps in this district, permitted by the Board as an experi-

* See letter from Collector, dated 27th January 1873, No. 12, mentioning all the taluqs, except Udaiyarpalayam, for the year 1873-74 expires with the fashi 1283 on the 30th instant.

ment in all the taluqs, except Udaiyarpalayam, for the year 1873-74 expires with the fashi 1283 on the 30th instant.

2. It seems to be generally thought that the experiment has been a failure; of course, I cannot speak from my own personal knowledge for any length of time. Mr. Wright informs me that complaints have been very rife; that people cannot get stamps; the vendors are irregular in attendance, and, when present, have not a proper supply of stamps; and the renter and his sub-renters are always having disputes, accompanied by changes of vendors which put the people to much inconvenience.

3. Further, that the rates at which the contracts for the several taluqs were taken were too high, given chiefly to drive out the original starter of the system who came from Madras; and that such prices would not be obtainable again, there not being a sufficient margin of profit to allow of the sub-renters making a livelihood.

4. The only advantage, as it seems to me, which the system has, is a little additional profit by saving in the amount of discount given, and the saving of trouble to Government; but the profit from stamp-revenue is surely sufficient already, and in this matter the convenience of the people can be hardly too much considered.

5. From the accompanying statement it will be seen that the total value of stamps sold in the eleven months of 1872-73 (corresponding to the eleven months of this year, 1873-74, for which alone we can give returns) was Rupees 1,00,905, of which Rupees 15,207 worth were sold by ex-officio vendors and Rupees 85,697 by licensed vendors on discount. In the eleven months of this year, Rupees 1,10,933 worth of stamps have been sold, of which Rupees 37,745 were sold by ex-officio vendors and Rupees 72,233 by the contractor. These figures speak for themselves.

6. For some reason or other, possibly it may be, the contractors prefer buying from either ex-officio vendors or from licensed vendors rather than from a contractor.

7. For the reasons stated in paragraph 3, even the small saving, some Rupees 2,700, under the contract system cannot be expected in future; even if it could, I think it would be very dearly purchased at risk (or certainty) of inconvenience to the people. I know myself of a case only the other day where a gentleman came here for a stamp, the contractor's vendor was nowhere to be found; he had, when found, no stamps of the denomination wanted, he excused himself by saying the Courts were closed, but the stamp was really wanted for a Court then open.

8. I would suggest that the old system of sale by discount be revived to, and that immediate steps be taken to secure the services of the old vendors who, I understand, are ready to come forward again at once.

9. As the term of the contract is so near a close, I request the Board will communicate their sanction immediately.

10. The matter was brought to my notice only three days ago and this letter has been deferred simply because I could not before obtain the comparative statement which accompanies it.

Enclosure No. 1.--Statement.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. As the contract expires in a few days, the Board sanction the return to the old system of sale by discount in anticipation of the approval of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

with an original Statement.

the Acting Collector of Trichinopoly.

Copy to the Superintendent of Stamps.

Read: P. B. Bantleman.

BOARD OF SUPERINTENDENTS
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 24TH JUNE 1874, No. 1,860.

24th June 1874

Resolved

JULY

No. 1,860.

Summary — Proposal of Collection of Treasures
for the use of the Government of Madras.
Should be referred to the Board of Superintendents
for their consideration. — Proposed resolution
for the use of the Government of Madras.
In anticipation of Government approval.

24th June 1874

24th June 1874