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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
12th July 1875.*

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No. 123. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, dated 13th November 1874, No. 1,218 :—

ABSTRACT.—Furnishing Resolution of the Government of India remarking on the want of uniformity and completeness in the preparation of Annual Administration Reports.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 12th July 1875, No. 1,044.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue.

2. With reference to the concluding remarks in paragraph 1 of the Resolution of the Government of India, the Board will now be good enough to submit a report showing how far Collectors and the Survey and Settlement Departments were able to comply with the instructions contained in G. O., 20th August 1867, No. 1,938.

3. From Board's Proceedings, dated 9th September 1872, No. 1,794, it would appear that full information was furnished, but was recorded pending further orders from the Government of India.

(True Extract.)

*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
13th November 1874.*

No. 30. Read the following extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home Department (Public), dated Fort William, 27th October 1874, No. 63-2646 :—

Read again—

Home Department Circular, Nos. 4317-4323, dated 23rd September 1869.

Do. Resolution, Nos. 1674-90, dated 12th May 1873.

Read also the following despatch from the Secretary of State for India, No. 10, dated 2nd July 1874 :—

"I have to call your attention to the want of uniformity and completeness in the preparation of some of the appendices of the Annual Administration Reports furnished by the several local Governments and Administrations.

"2. A certain arrangement of statistical forms was recommended in 1866 by the Statistical Committee for adoption in these reports. In the case, however, of four Provinces, viz., Madras, Bombay, Punjab, and North-Western Provinces, a quite distinct arrangement has been followed, while the report from Hyderabad does not furnish any statistical tables at all.

"3. I have further to point out the following deficiencies in the statistical information supplied in the appendices to some of the reports for 1872-73. In the Bengal Report no information is given under the following important heads, viz., Political Relations, Military, Agriculture, and Manufactures. Probably, in some instances, the information would be merely a repetition of that contained in the quinquennial summary, in which case it would be sufficient to enter a reference to the volume and page at which it may be found. In the appendix to the Madras Report, out of twenty-seven prescribed heads of information are touched upon at all. The report from Bombay contains no vital statistics, and the appendices to the North-Western Provinces, Mysore and Coorg Reports comprise no statistics of manufacture or trade.

"4. On the other hand, I must express my approval of the manner in which the required statistical tables have been drawn up in the reports of the Oudh and Central Provinces Administrations. The prescribed forms have been carefully adhered to, and all available information has been collected and classified under the several heads.

"5. I have to request that you will give instructions to the several local Governments and Administrations to follow, as far as practicable, the arrangement above referred to in the preparation of the appendices of their future annual reports."

RESOLUTION.—The Secretary of State draws special attention to the statistical tables which should form Part III. of the Annual General Administration Reports, and to the fact that the tables attached to the reports of some of the local Governments have not been prepared in the forms recommended by the Statistical Committee of 1866. The fact, however, is that no conclusive orders have ever been issued prescribing unreservedly those forms for general use. In October 1866 the several local Governments and Administrations were asked to make an attempt to record the required information in the manner prescribed by the Committee, and reports were received in reply showing the extent to which it was considered possible to comply with the order. A long correspondence on the subject ensued, and in 1869, upon representations from certain local Governments of the difficulties experienced in collecting the information required by the Committee's forms, the Government of India came to the conclusion that the forms must be greatly modified before their adoption could be finally sanctioned in some of the more

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**GOVT. OF 1874**  
**REVENUE.**

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated July, 12th.

Recd. Encl.

C. O. 12th July 1874, No. 1014.

JULY.

Nos. 123-131.

*Forms used for the Annual Administration Reports.—Communications to the Board of Revenue, a Resolution of the Government of India regarding on the —, and, with reference to the concluding remarks in paragraph of the Resolution, requesting the Board to submit a report showing how far Collectors and the Survey and Settlement Departments were able to comply with the instructions of the Government of India, August 1867 in reference to the same.*

important branches of the Administration. The local Governments and Administrations were informed accordingly, and they were invited to offer suggestions for recasting any of the other forms that were considered unworkable or incomplete. Subsequently, in the case of a few particular departments, forms have been settled and circulated for general adoption throughout India. Thus, one set has been lately prescribed for educational statistics, and local Governments have also been asked whether the Ecclesiastical Form No. IV-A is worth retaining. A set of judicial forms illustrating the working of the Civil and Criminal Courts, a form for recording mortuary statistics, and another for showing the operation of the Registration Department, have also been separately prescribed. And the remaining forms are now under consideration. The Government of India will be glad to receive any suggestions and criticisms on the forms, or sets of forms, which have not yet been specially prescribed, it being always kept in mind that the object in view is to give a compact summary of important statistical information only, and in a form suited, not for local peculiarities, but for general adoption.

2. In the meantime it appears practicable to settle finally the arrangement and distribution of the contents of the Administration Reports themselves as distinguished from the appendices. The reports for 1872-73, which are noticed by the Secretary of State, were intended to serve a special purpose, that is, to give a brief record of the existing condition of the country and its political institutions as well as a narrative of the year's events. And in the Resolution of the Home Department, dated 12th May, a form of report was prescribed which provided special chapters, distinguished by red-letter headings, for arranging the necessary information on matters of standard reference. It was also anticipated by the Resolution that these chapters would be written up once for several years to come in the report for 1872-73, after which future reports would only contain a reference back to that year's report.

3. In preparing the reports for 1872-73 the local authorities have, in a great measure, kept in sight the instructions of May 1873. They have, however, permitted certain variations so that the desired uniformity has not been altogether obtained. Thus, the Madras and Bombay Reports for 1872-73 have been properly

- \* (I.)—The General Summary.
- (II.)—The Departmental Chapters.
- (III.)—The Tables of Statistics.

divided into three Parts,\* and in Part II. of the Madras Report all the red-letter chapters have been given, except (a.) "Literary Societies" and

(b.) "Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction." One ordinary chapter—Archæology—has been omitted. In the Bombay Report all the red-letter chapters required have been given, and to distinguish them from the ordinary chapters the headings have been printed in red. Some of the chapters have been written by gentlemen possessing peculiar qualifications for the work, and in this respect the Bombay Report has a special value.

4. The Bengal Report has been divided into four Parts instead of three. Part I. is called "The Introduction" instead of "The General Summary," and the red-letter chapters are grouped together in a separate Part of the report under the title of "Statistical Summary," which does not seem to be a very accurate designation. The Government of Bengal explains that, as the Government of

India did not positively require that the red-letter chapters should be wholly prepared in the present year, it was thought better to collect them together with a separate paging so as to keep them distinct from the report in order that they might be eventually expanded and completed. Here the wishes of the Government of India have been misunderstood. The intention was that the red-letter chapters should be written up once for all in the reports for 1872-73, and it was clearly stated that their contents should not be annually repeated except in the event of some material change. The Bengal Report contains also two chapters which are not included in the form circulated by the Government of India—one on the Condition of the People, and the other on Frontier Relations and Feudatory Estates. Both these chapters contain much interesting matter. The latter chapter might with advantage have been included in the "Historical Summary;" and, as it deals with Cooch Behar and the Tributary Mehals, "Frontier Relations and Feudatory States" would have been a more suitable title.

5. In the North-Western Provinces Report also the title of Part I. has been changed.\* The red-letter chapters are

\* It is called "Introductory Chapter." for the most part very brief, and the separate sections—Historical Summary, Form of Administration, and Character of Land Tenures—are thrown together under a single heading—"Political." In the ordinary chapters also the arrangement of subjects is not altogether appropriate. For instance, in the chapters on Revenue and Finance the subject-matter

- † Rent Act.
- † Court of Wards.

of paragraphs 360 to 377† and of paragraph 380† would seem to belong to "Administration of the Land."

6. The Punjab Report has been properly divided into three Parts, and all the red-letter chapters are given, but they are not distinguished by any colored heading. In the departmental chapters, the subject of "Local Cesses" is included in the chapter on "Administration of the Land" instead of in that on "Revenue and Finance," to which it would seem properly to belong.

7. In the British Burma Report the omission of the red-letter chapter—"General System of Public Instruction"—is to be regretted. In other respects the instructions of the Government of India have been carefully followed. The General Summary is particularly good.

8. The Hyderabad Report has no tables of statistics appended to it as

- § Imperial Public Works.
- Nizam's State Railway.
- Residency Bazaars, &c.

Part III., but it has a special Part III. headed "Military," in which there are some miscellaneous chapters§ on subjects which might have been dealt

with under the prescribed chapters and headings.

9. The Mysore Report includes in the Appendix the Deputy Accountant-General's report on the civil accounts for the year *in extenso*. It would have been quite sufficient had a brief abstract of this been incorporated in the chapter on Revenue and Finance.

10. The reports for Oudh and the Central Provinces have been specially commended by the Secretary of State; their arrangement is in accordance with the standard plan which the Government of India desire to make uniform. The

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,  
13th November 1874.*

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attention of the other local Governments and Administrations are invited to the Resolution of the 12th May 1873 and to the remarks made by the Secretary of State, and it is requested that they may be kept in view at the time of preparing future Administration Reports.

11. His Excellency the Governor-General in Council trusts that the Administration Reports of 1873-74 may be prepared without any avoidable deviation from the form and series laid down by the Resolution of the 12th May 1873. Where no material impediment exists, uniformity of arrangement is incontestably convenient for the purposes of general review and comparison in India and (particularly) in England. Where any material impediment is found to exist it should be communicated beforehand to the Government of India, in order that it may be removed or adjusted in consultation with the local Government concerned.

No. 2647.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the several local Governments and Administrations for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. C. LYALL,  
*Secy. to the Govt. of India.*

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 13th November 1874, No. 1218.

Copy furnished to the Revenue, Military, and Public Works Departments.

(True Extract.)

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
Acting Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department. ✓

.. Military do.

.. Public Works do.

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

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N<sup>o</sup>. 1044 Revenue Department.  
 Proceedings of the Madras Government  
 Under date the 12 July 1875.

Read the following Res of  
 Govt. Public Dep.

Furnishing resolution  
 of the Govt of India remarking  
 on the want of uniformity  
 & completeness in the preparation  
 of Annual Administration Reports.

(H.E. 13 Nov. 1874. No 1218)

Communicated to  
 the Board of Revenue.

With reference to the  
 concluding remarks in  
 para. 1 of the resolution of  
 the Govt of India the  
 Board will now be good  
 enough to submit a report  
 showing how far Collectors  
 and the Survey & Settlement  
 Dep<sup>ts</sup> were able  
 to comply with the in-  
 structions contained in  
 G.O. 20 August 1867 No 1938.

G.O. 40 Aug 1875 No 1044

Revenue Department  
 Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,  
 Secy. to Govt.

Dated November, 1874.

Recd. — a — 25

Encl.

G.O. 10th November 1874, No. 1044

NOVEMBER  
 NOS. 2021.

Annual Administration Reports.—Resolution  
 of the Government of India remarking on the want  
 of uniformity and completeness in the preparation  
 of these reports which are furnished by the sev-  
 eral local Governments, furnished to the Revenue,  
 Military, and Public Works Departments.

G.O. 12 July 1875 No 1044

3 From Board's Res.  
dated 9 September 1872,  
N<sup>o</sup> 1794, it would appear  
that full information  
was furnished but was  
recorded pending further  
orders from the Gov<sup>t</sup> of  
India.

14 To the Board of Revenue 1 July

Note.

In the seq<sup>y</sup> of  
Stalis' Despatch regarding  
the Administration Report  
of 1872-73, he commented  
on the fact that in only  
two cases had the forms  
drawn up in 1866 by the  
Statistical Committee  
been adopted in their  
entirety. The Gov<sup>t</sup> of India  
remarks on this that  
some

1894  
some of the forms have  
not yet been prescribed  
by them and on these  
they invite suggestions and  
criticisms.

2 Among the unaltered  
forms are those which  
would have to be prepared  
by the Board of Revenue  
who in 1867 pointed out  
certain difficulties that  
would occur in their  
preparation and were then  
(G.O. 20 August 1867, L<sup>o</sup> 1938)  
told to send a set of forms  
to Collectors to be filled up  
and sent on to Gov<sup>t</sup> so  
that "a more accurate  
idea may be formed how  
far the design of the  
Statistical Committee can  
be carried out & whether  
it will be worth while to  
reprint the information  
annually to accompany  
the Administration Report."

3. The necessary orders were issued to collectors but though all their replies had apparently been received by the middle of 1870 the Board took no notice of them until Sept 1872 when they recorded the letters with reference to a remark of the Govt of India in a communication in which they said that pending the final decision of the Govt of India as to the extent to which the Statistical Committee's Forms should be adopted there need be no change in the returns hitherto used in the preparation of Administration reports.

4. The Board appear to have been influenced by an opinion which they had in the meantime expressed that the Govt

See para. 7 of letter in  
L.O. 15 October 1869 No 1431.

Bd. Proc. 4956 of 19 July 1870.

of India alone were competent to settle the matter but the result has been that the Govt have not been able to send to the Govt of India any further expression of their views based on experience after attempting to use the forms.

5. It is therefore suggested that the present revision of the Govt of India again inviting criticisms and suggestions should be communicated to the Board and that they should be called on to submit a report showing how far Collectors & the Survey and Assmt Dept were able to fill up the forms.

Yr

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