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G.O. No.

B.P. No.

1121

Press

Mis.

Dated

22.2.1875 196

Not to be folded or roughly

No. 292. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th July 1875, Miscellaneous No. 6,209 :—

Read the following letter from W. R. ROBERTSON, Esq., M.R.A.C., Superintendent of the Government Farms, to H. R. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secy. to the Board of Revenue, dated Sydapet, 28th June 1875, No. 331.

WITH reference to G. O., No. 769, dated the 20th of May 1875, calling for any explanations I may have to offer regarding certain apparent inordinate delays in preparing some reports, I have the honor to submit the following :—

2. In October 1871 the Sydapett Farm Committee was dissolved, and the general management of these farms and of all other Government farms that might be established in this Presidency was transferred to me under the general control of the Board of Revenue. This necessitated an entire change in the work of my office; my accounts were entirely remodelled; and my official correspondence with the Board was very largely increased, while my general correspondence also became heavier. Though I was then more than fully employed, I was obliged, shortly after the change took place, to leave my headquarters on a tour on the Nilgiris, which occupied three months; and during this period all my more important office-work (preparation of reports, &c.,) stood over and accumulated. About this period I addressed the Board in a letter, No. 414, dated the 28th of May 1872, as follows :—

"My frequent absence from these farms will render this absolutely necessary, and, as before stated, my routine work has increased to such an extent that I cannot attend in a satisfactory manner to the important matters frequently referred to me by the Board and Government. My three months' tour on the Hills has altogether disarranged my office-work, and made it impossible for me to attend punctually to the Board's requirements."

These remarks were noticed by the Board in their Proceedings, No. 1,164, dated the 2nd of July 1872, as follows :—

"Paragraph 3. The Board, however, while disapproving the proposed employment of an Assistant to Mr. Robertson competent to carry on teaching, think it very desirable that he should be relieved in the transaction of the routine and office-work connected with the farm. An intelligent man, with sufficient education for this purpose, and who could be trusted to keep things going at the farm during Mr. Robertson's occasional absences, might be entered in."

In reviewing these Proceedings in an order, No. 397, dated the 7th of April 1873, His Excellency the Governor in Council observed as follows :—

"Paragraph 2. It is clearly essential, in the first place, that Mr. Robertson should have a competent Assistant, of training and education similar to his own. His Excellency in Council will move the Secretary of State to engage such a person,—a graduate of some English or German institution of repute."

In January 1874 such an Assistant was appointed, and he entered upon his duties at Sydapett about two months afterwards.

3. It will thus be seen that more than twenty months elapsed between the time when the Board expressed their opinion that I should have the aid of an Assistant and the time when that Assistant entered upon his duties. During these twenty months I was again absent from my headquarters nearly three months, which caused a further

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th July 1875.*

addition to the arrears of my office-work; and these arrears were still further increased during the latter three months of this period when in performing the duties of Secretary to the Exhibition Committee so large a portion of my time was occupied,—services which were acknowledged in paragraph 7 of Board's Proceedings, No. 2,352, dated the 22nd of August 1874, as follows:—

"The thanks of the Board are due to the Members of the Committee and Judges, and especially to Mr. Robertson to whose exertions such success as was attained was mainly owing."

4. I need scarcely observe that, *if an Assistant had been appointed when the Board expressed the opinion that I should have the aid of an Assistant, these arrears would not have accumulated.* Since the appointment of Mr. Benson as an Assistant to me, I have been able to devote much more of my time to the preparation of reports and to other important work referred to me by Government and the Board, and the arrears which had accumulated are rapidly being reduced. The only reports now due from me are the annual report for last year which I am now commencing, and the Carolina paddy report which, as stated in my letter to the Board, No. 252, dated the 14th of May 1875, I cannot at present prepare, as I have not yet received the full returns of the district experiments.

5. During the two years previous to the appointment of an Assistant, when I had to choose between carrying on the work of the farms, keeping up to date my accounting, correspondence, and other work of the kind, or the preparation of my reports, I invariably selected the former, seeing that, while the farm work, &c., could not be postponed without serious loss, the preparation of reports, detailing and reviewing operations which *had already been performed*, though, at the same time, I was fully conscious of the great importance of my reports being submitted when due.

6. During the period in question the work of the farms was performed with regularity; my accounts were generally kept posted up to date; the numerous financial statements, income, expenditure, &c., required by the Board, were in most instances promptly submitted; and my correspondence which was heavy, the letters issued from my office being as follows:—

	Agricultural Exhibition.	Ordinary.	Total.
1872-73.. .. .	..	946	946
1873-74.. .. .	431	944	1,375

of which, I myself wrote 95 per cent., always received early attention.

7. In conclusion, I would add that, though I have been nearly seven years in the service of Government, all the leave that I have been able to take during that period amounts only to three months, and until the arrival of Mr. Benson I was unable to take Christmas, Easter, or other Government holidays.

SUBMITTED to Government, with reference to G. O., dated 20th May 1875, No. 769.

2. Mr. Robertson having now been provided with an Assistant, the Board trust that delays will be avoided in future.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
27th July 1875.*

No. 293.

ORDER THEREON, 27th July 1875, No. 1,131.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government trust that the
Board's anticipations will be realised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) A. MACGREGOR,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue

Ed. F. B. Bantleman.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2738

From *B^d of Rev.*

Dated *9 July*

1875.

FOR ORDERS.

*I do hereby say
that the Govt must
the 1st of anticipation
to be considered*

L.R.

6061. of 1875

REVENUE.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated July 27th.

Recd.

Recd.

O. O. 27th July 1875, No. 1131.

J.L.N.

No. 202-203

*Certain reports of the Superintendent of Customs
and Finance.—Expressing hope that the Board's
anticipations that delays will be avoided in future
in the preparation of — will be realized.*



FOR ORDERS.

Explanation of the delay in the preparation of the report of the Committee on the subject of the management of the Government Farms.

27/5/75

Revenue Department
5/11/75

Miscellaneous No 6209

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
dated 9th July 1875

No 231

Read the following

From W. R. Robertson Esquire M.R.S.C.
Superintendent, Government Farms

To J. C. Stokes Esquire
Acting Secretary, Board of Revenue
Chepauk.

Sir,

With reference to Government Order No 769, dated the 20th of May 1875, calling for any explanations I may have to offer regarding certain apparent inordinate delays in preparing some reports, I have the honor to submit the following:—

2. In October 1871, the Lydappett Farm Committee was dissolved and the general management of these Farms, and of all other Government Farms

that might be established in
this Presidency was transferred
to me, under the general control
of the Board of Revenue. This,
necessitated an entire change
in the work of my office; my ac-
counts were entirely remodelled;
and my official correspondence
with the Board was very largely
increased, while my general
correspondence also became
heavier. Though, I was then more
than fully employed, I was obliged
shortly after the change took place,
to leave my head quarters on
a tour on the Neilgherries, which
occupied 3 months, and during
this period all my more im-
portant office work (preparation
of reports) stood over and accumu-
lated. About this period I

2 p 6/11/34
addressed the Board in a letter
No. 414 dated the 28th of May 1872 as follows.

Parab. Now, whether or not
"this scheme is approved of,
"such an officer (an Assistant)
"must be appointed, my frequent
"absence from these affairs,
"will render this absolutely
"necessary, and as before stated,
"my routine work has increased
"to such an extent that I cannot
"attend, in a satisfactory manner,
"to the important matters frequently
"referred to me by the Board
"and Government. My three
"months tour on the hills has al-
"together disarranged my office
"work and made it impossible
"for me to attend punctually
"to the Board's requirements."

These remarks were noticed
by the Board in their Proceedings
N^o 1164, dated the 2^d of July 1872 as follows:

Para 3 - The Board however
while disapproving the proposed
employment of an Assistant to
Mr. Robertson competent to carry
on teaching, think it very desirable
that he should be relieved
in the transaction of the routine
and office work connected
with the Farm. An intelligent
man with sufficient education
for this purpose, and who could
be trusted to keep things going
at the Farm during Mr. Robert-
son's occasional absences, might
be entertained."

In reviewing these Proceedings
in an order N^o 297, dated the 7th of
April 1873, His Excellency the Governor
in

in Council, observed as follows:-

Para 2. It is clearly essen-
tial in the first place that Mr.
Robertson should have a com-
petent Assistant, of training
and education similar to his
own. His Excellency in Council
will move the Secretary of State
to engage such a person, a graduate
of some English or German in-
stitution of repute. In January
1874, such an assistant was appointed,
and he entered upon his duties
at Lydapett, about 2 months after-
wards.

3. It will thus be seen that
more than 20 months elapsed, between
the time when the Board expressed
their opinion that I should have
the aid of an Assistant and the
time when that Assistant