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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1517 Press
~~B.P. No.~~ ~~Mis.~~

Dated 16-10-1875 ~~196~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
16th October 1875.

1517/1

Read the following :—

No. 139. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I AM satisfied that public interest requires that the settlement of Tinnevelly be at once transferred to the Special Department.

2. I believe that it is simply impossible for any Collector, new to settlement work, to do justice to both his own work and the settlement operations at the same time—nay even if an expert settlement officer. But here we have constant changes going on. Some of these changes will place the work in the hands of novices—changes which will not cease till Mr. Pennington, another new officer, arrives some eighteen months hence. Efficiency requires that this constant change cease.

3. Nor do I altogether believe in the cheapness or expedition of Collector's work—even of Mr. Puckle's. Tinnevelly has been probably as long in hand, and cost as much in proportion as, *e.g.*, Nellore which was started at the same time. In fact, Mr. Rundall assures me that the most expensive work now in hand is that in Tinnevelly. We do not gain by letting Acting Collectors and Sub-Collectors potter over and alter the settlement of others.

4. I would desire Mr. Rundall at once to assume direct charge of the settlement of Tinnevelly, and request him to visit the district at early convenience and report.

5. I would let Mr. Arundel return as Additional Sub-Collector in charge of settlement under Mr. Rundall as soon as relieved from present duty, and I would there place him in charge of both parties. Venkata Charry is not so fully trusted by others as by Mr. Puckle.

12th October 1875. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

No. 140. ORDER THEREON, 16th October 1875, No. 1,517.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government have had under consideration the condition and progress of the Revenue Settlement in the Tinnevelly District. The Governor in Council is satisfied that, in the altered conditions consequent on Mr. Puckle's departure from the district, there is no longer any valid reason for throwing upon the Collector the additional burden of superintending the revision of the assessment, and resolves to direct the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement to assume the immediate control of the settlement operations in Tinnevelly.

2. Mr. Rundall is requested to take an early opportunity of visiting the district, and to make arrangements for the discharge of the current work, pending the re-appointment of the Additional Sub-Collector, who will, under the Director, assume charge of both the settlement parties employed in Tinnevelly.

3. Mr. Rundall will also report to Government the measures adopted by him in conformity with this order.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

20/12/75
1718/75
Further Cr 60/76.
20/12/00

Govt. of India
1875
REVENUE.

To

The Acting Director of
Revenue Settlement,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated October, 16th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 10th Oct., No. 1391.

OCTOBER.
Nos. 139-140.

Settlement operations in Tinnevelly.—Directing the Acting Director of Revenue Settlement to assume the immediate control of the —; requesting Mr. Rundall, after visiting the district, to make arrangements for the discharge of the current work, pending the re-appointment of the Additional Sub-Collector; and also to report the measures adopted by him in conformity with this order.

Proof

1517/75

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

I AM satisfied that public interest requires that the settlement of Tinnevelly be at once transferred to the Special Department.

2. I believe that it is simply impossible for any Collector, new to settlement work, to do justice to both his own work and the settlement operations at the same time—nay even if an expert settler. But here we have constant changes going on—some of these changes which place the work in the hands of novices—changes which will not cease till Mr. Pennington, another new officer, arrives some eighteen months hence. Efficiency requires that this constant change cease.

3. Nor do I altogether believe in the cheapness or expedition of Collector's work—even of Puckle's. Tinnevelly has been probably as long in hand, and cost as much in proportion as, *e.g.*, Nellore which was started at the same time. In fact, Mr. Rundall assures me that the most expensive work now in hand is that in Tinnevelly. We do not gain by letting Acting Collectors and Sub-Collectors potter over and alter the settlement of others.

4. I would desire Mr. Rundall at once to assume direct charge of the settlement of Tinnevelly, and request him to visit the district at early convenience and report.

5. I would let Mr. Arundel return as Additional Sub-Collector in charge of settlement under Mr. Rundall as soon as relieved from present duty, and I would there place him in charge of both parties. Venkata Charry is not so fully trusted by others as by Mr. Puckle.

12*th October* 1875. (Signed) W. ROBINSON.

RECEIVED

1577/73

I am satisfied that public interest requires that the Settlement of Tinnevelly be at once transferred to the Special Department

I believe that it is simply impossible for any Collector over to Settlement work to do justice to both his own work and the settlement operations at the same time - may even if one expert Settler - But here we have Constant changes going on - Some of the Taluk changes which place the work in the hands of

G.O. No. 1577 dy 16-Oct/74

novices

novices - Changes which will not cease till in Mr Pennington - and then new offices arrives Some 18 months hence. Efficiency requires that this constant change ceases

Nor do I altogether believe in the cheapness or expeditious of Collectors work - Even of Pickle's. Tunwell has been probably as long in hand and cost as much in proportion as - Ex. B. Bellows which was started at the same time. In fact Mr Rundall assures me that the most expensive work now in hand is that of in Tunwell file do not gain by letting acting Collectors & Sub Collectors potter over and alter the settlement of Revs.

I entirely concur in the course proposed by the Governor.

13. Oct. 75

I entirely concur.

Subordinate my opinion to G.O. Excepting Tunwell D. has perused & W. Pickle. never contemplated the retention of the work by future G.O. Infact Hon W. Pickle becomes Director of Ins. he has duly did retain the charge of the work. & carry it on himself.

Mr Rundall Sub. Engr & the Little work under the Director - as the Collr. like becomes his ordinary duties. No one else can do the work the G.O. that the Revd. Gen. may not declare W. Rs. appt. Sub Engr Capper. He was Sub ordinary Surveyor. work & pick the Collr. did settle - Engr the Collr. resumes ordinary work. & he dresses Sub Engr

I would desire Mr Rundall at once to assume direct charge of the Settlement of Tunwell and request him to visit the District at early convenience and report

I would let Mr Rundall to return as additional Sub Collector in charge of Settlement under Mr Rundall as soon as relieved from present duty and I would there place him in charge of both the parties - Venkatasamy is not to fully trusted by Steven as by Mr Pickle

12/10

Shall not Sure how this matter can be best brought - in order - before Govt. that Mr Sale the Revs Secretary

Rev.
G.O. 16 October 1875
No 1512

The Settlement of Tinnevelly.

1512/5

As directed by H.E. The Governor, I made enquiries during my recent visit to Tinnevelly, chiefly of Mr. Comyn, regarding the condition of the Settlement work in that District.

Mr. Comyn re-iterated the opinion already expressed in his letters to me, that the Special Assistant Venkata Chari, though personally of unquestioned integrity, is unequal to the task of controlling and checking a large staff of subordinates, and concurs in the view that both the Settlement parties should work under the control of the Addl. Sub-Coll. or Dy. Director as the case may be. The first direct intimation of the extensive corruption among the subordinates to which I referred in my previous notes, was given by the Tahsildar of Tenkarei who reported in person that the house of one of the classifiers was besieged by a crowd of ryots clamouring for the return of bribes which they found they had given to no purpose. On this Mr. Comyn commenced a magisterial enquiry which was not finished when I saw him. The day after the Tahsildar's report the Special Assistant brought another case to Mr. Comyn's notice.

As regards the transfer of the supervision from the Collector to the Director of Revenue Settlement, Mr. Comyn feels that the Director cannot control or direct the Collector of the Dt as he would a Dy. Director

had he remained in Tinnevelly he would have preferred to retain the supervision of the Settlement work, with which he has for months past been making himself practically acquainted. But with the advent of a new Collector the work must again be much neglected, and I understood Mr. Conyn to advocate the transfer of the Control and Supervision of the Settlement to the Director, provided the Collector be kept au fait with the action of the Department by perusal of correspondence or otherwise.

Perhaps I may quote here the decision of Govt. at the time when the Settlement Department came under discussion and the work in the Tinnevelly Dt. was entrusted to Mr. Packle. (G.O. No 1427 of 20th May 1868.)

"The experience which the Govt. have had ... convinces "them that the retention of the Special Department "for the performance of this special duty is the only "method by which to ensure celerity and efficiency "in its discharge, consistency and uniformity in the "details of the re-assessment, and a fair measure "of relative equality in the resulting taxation, as well "as to save the country from the neglect which must "occur if the Collector and subordinate revenue-officers "are withdrawn from their ordinary duties and employed "on this intricate, laborious, and absorbing task.

In accordance with these views, the Govt. have resolved "to re-assign to the Director of Revenue Settlement the "supervision of the re-assessment of the land-revenue "in all those districts which have yet to be undertaken, "except Tinnevelly, the revision of which district "has already been for some time in hand under a "specially qualified officer in the Collector Mr. Packle."

With regard to the suggestion I ventured to make that I might perhaps prepare a scheme ~~for~~ under Mr. Packle's proposed method for the Settlement of a Taluk in Coimbatore during Mr. Clogstoun's absence, I have since learnt from Mr. Rundall that a scheme for the Settlement of five Taluks has already been prepared by Mr. Clogstoun, and the suggestion in question is of course nullified.

As the field-registration by subordinates of the unfinished portion of the Ambasamudram Taluk in Tinnevelly is completed, I might perhaps be able to make fair progress towards completing the Settlement of it, before going home on furlough next year, if Govt. were to reappoint me to the work on being relieved of my present post at the end of November.

A Stirrat.

Octacamund
8th Oct. 1875.

I cannot quite gather how much work has been completed in Tinnevelly & to what extent the Settlement of any Taluk has been carried out & Patta's issued - but I believe that the Pollom has been posted about & that Tinnevelly has a large Staff at work

12/10

In illustration of this inevitable neglect of the ordinary duties involved by a thorough devotion to the Settlement work I may mention that in the months of June last I had occasion to forward to the Collector a serious charge against the Tinnevelly Tahsildar of falsifying a public document which was so far proved that the Tahsildar's suspension was recommended. Mr. Conyn was then in camp engaged with the Settlement of the Tenkarei Taluk and up to the time of my visit in September, he had been unable to find time for the disposal of this important matter.

N.S.

8.10.75.

No 7517

16 Oct 75.

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The Govermnt. have had under consideration the condition and progress of the Revenue Settlement in the Tinnevelly District. The Governor in Council is satisfied that in the altered conditions consequent on Mr. Puckle's departure from the District, there is no longer any valid reason for throwing upon the Collector the additional burden of superintending the revision of the assessment, and resolves to direct the Acting Director of Rev. Sett. to assume the immediate control of the Settlement operations in Tinnevelly.

2. Mr. Kendall is requested to take an early opportunity

of visiting the District, and to make arrangements for the discharge of the current work, pending the reappointment of the Additional Sub-Collector, who will, under the Director, assume charge of both the Settlement parties employed in Tinnevelly.

3. Mr. Rundall will also report to Government the measures adopted by him in conformity with this order.

by 16-10-13

2 Centuries of Rent Settlement Mis. Dec 16
PC — 26/10
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