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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1620	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 11-11-68 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

4/11/68

No. 142. Read the following letter
the Government of India, De-
merce, (Statistics,) to the Secy
Department, dated Simla, 14th

VERY great inconvenience having
in the preparation and submission of
Presidency of Madras, I am directed
correspondence which has taken place
lency the Governor in Council, with
prevent a recurrence of similar delay.

2. From a perusal of the correspon-
Council sees reason to infer that the Ma-
ciently alive to the importance of prompt
returns, and that the work must have
business which was deemed to be more
one instance there was a delay in the
might have been avoided. It is hoped
returns which have to be embodied
Government any delay occurring in
the exertions of the Government of
with the statistical information
making every allowance for the nature
of some of them from the capital,
proper system of preparing and re-
arrangements be made in the Board.
tion, there ought to be no serious
Government of India and of the
additions to the existing establish-
Government of India will be made
of the Madras Government. As
done by the Board of Revenue, it
might tend to greater expedition
despatch of the returns were
by one of the Secretaries. It is
duty, as the time of the Secretary
questions connected with the returns
have to deal. The Government
of Madras concur as to the expedi-

3. With these facts
co-operation which the
Government will not in-
commends the subject to

No. 143. ORDER T

Separate Revenue

Customs.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to
Revenue, Agriculture, and Com-
Government of Madras, Revenue
75, No. 602:—

By the delays which have occurred
and other trade returns for the
that the annexed summary of the
subject may be laid before His Excel-
such orders being passed as may

In question, the Governor-General in
Council of Revenue have not been suffi-
ciently the collection and compilation of the
has been postponed in favor of other
work, would, also, appear that at least in
the Secretary to Government which
may be observed that in the case of
compilation prepared by the Central
Agency or Province renders nugatory
by the Secretary of State in due time
to be laid before Parliament; and
ports in Madras and for the distance
by in Council feels satisfied that if a

is enforced, and if adequate
prompt examination and compila-
meeting the requirements of the

It is possible that some slight
delay. Should this be the case, the
consideration to the suggestions
that part of the work which is
Governor-General in Council that it
superintending the compilation and
a member of the Board, aided
any could best be spared for this
occupied with the many important
of the Madras Board of Revenue
to learn that the Government
arrangement.

With every reliance that that cordial
invariably received from the Madras
Board, the Governor-General in Council
Governor in Council.

Number 1875, No. 1,620.

ORDERED to be recorded with refer-
ence to letter to the Government of
India, dated 9th October 1875, No. 1,480.

1620
2

Summary of correspondence with the Government of Madras regarding the preparation of Monthly and Annual Accounts of Sea-borne Trade.

IN the letter from this Department No. 187, dated the 3rd March 1875, the attention of the Government of Madras was invited to the delay in the transmission of one of the monthly tables of trade and navigation for the month of November 1874. It was pointed out that such delays were the cause of much inconvenience, and that in the case in question not only was the publication of the consolidated monthly return for British India for November prevented, but that the preparation of the account of foreign trade which forms part of the Annual Statement of the Finances of India had also to be kept back, though it was urgently required. The Government of Madras was requested to issue instructions to the officers responsible for the preparation of the monthly accounts of trade and navigation which would ensure their submission to the Government of India within one month after the expiration of the period to which they relate. The missing table was received on the 5th March or more than three months after the close of the month to which it referred.

2. With the Circular of the 22nd January, Nos. 78—81, were forwarded to the Government of Madras extracts from a report of a committee appointed by the Secretary of State, commenting on the manner in which the Indian returns of sea-borne trade were compiled, and suggesting improvements. In this Circular instructions were communicated regarding such of the committee's instructions as seemed capable of being carried into immediate effect. With the Circular Nos. 82—85, of the same date as the foregoing, were transmitted to the Government of Madras a set of fourteen forms which the Secretary of State required to be filled up annually for transmission to England as soon after the close of the year as possible. They were forwarded with the following remarks: * * "it is requested that they may be circulated to all the ports in Madras to be filled up from the corrected totals of the monthly returns and transmitted, within a week after the close of the year to which they refer, to the chief Customs officer in the Presidency. This officer will cause the forms thus filled up to be thrown into a summary for the Presidency, and after the figures have been carefully revised, the summary should be transmitted in duplicate with the least possible delay." In the Resolution recorded in this Department on the 9th April last, Nos. 66—69 C., after further and more detailed instructions in connection with the preparation of the forms had been given, it was stated (para. 20): "There is also much delay in the submission of the monthly accounts to the Government of India. His Excellency in Council considers it essential that the monthly consolidated accounts of the Government of India should not be published later than two months after date. To ensure this result, each local monthly account must (former orders on this point being superseded) be despatched to this Department without fail within one month after the last day of the month to which the account refers. Local Governments should adopt measures to ensure the punctual submission from subordinate ports, within seven days after expiry of the month, of the returns required for the compilation of the accounts of the province."

3. With the letter from the Government of Madras of the 13th April, No. 588, was submitted a communication from the Board of Revenue dated the 2nd idem explaining the delay in the submission of the missing return for November. It seems that the return was delayed for certain information required from the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras. The statement received from that officer on the 19th December 1874 was imperfect, but he was not asked for a revised return until nearly a month later, *i. e.*, on the 13th January 1875. This was furnished on the 27th January, but apparently nothing

Z. 1018. Returns.—Recording letter from the Government of India regarding delay in the preparation and submission of the monthly and other

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 142-143.

REVENUE.

Govt. of India 1875

was done with it until the receipt of two telegrams from this office dated the 8th and 17th February, when it was examined and again found to be incorrect. A correct return was at last received on the 25th February and sent to the Government of India on the 27th. The Board added: "The fact is that till the telegram was received from Calcutta the Board were not aware that this particular account was of such vital importance." It must here be observed that a consolidated return cannot be compiled and published until the compilers are in possession of the whole of the materials on which the compilation is based and that the absence of this return, consequently, not only made it impossible to utilise the returns which had already been submitted by the Board but also all those which had been received in due course from the other provincial Governments. The Board went on to point out that it was impossible to submit the returns earlier than they had generally been rendered unless the establishment was increased, and they based the claim for an increase of establishment on a comparison between the number of ports in Madras and the number in Bombay and the strength of the establishments respectively entertained in the two Presidencies.

4. The Madras Government called upon the Board to state what additional establishment was required for the purpose of ensuring punctuality and to submit a tabular statement for the sanction of the Government of India.

5. These proceedings having been transmitted to the Government of India, it was pointed out in the letter from this Department No. 321, dated 10th June, that the comparison made by the Board was not a fair comparison, that what should be compared was the amount of trade and number and extent of transactions to be recorded, and that judged by the results of such a comparison, Madras was more favourably situated as regards establishments than Bombay, Bengal and British Burma. It was added, however, that such comparisons are undesirable and that systems which have grown up in a province should be judged on their own merits, but that the Government of Madras not having replied to the Circular from this Department No. 90, dated the 22nd January last, in which a request was made for the details of the system in force, had not given the Government of India an opportunity of judging of the merits or demerits of the system. Still it was pointed out that probably some improvement might be effected if all compilations of figures of trade were done in a central office, local offices being reduced and the central office strengthened proportionately, and a suggestion to this effect was made to the Government of Madras, with a request for their opinion on the best way of securing accuracy and punctuality.

6. No reply has been made to this reference, and it is not known what action, if any, has been taken on it. The Board does not seem to have submitted any proposals regarding its establishment, and no reply to the Circular of 22nd January has as yet been received.

7. On the other hand the delays of which complaint had been made continued and increased.

8. On the 12th May in letter No. 121 O. the Government of India asked for the early transmission of the fourteen abstract annual statements of trade required by the Secretary of State for India filled up for 1874-75.

9. In the Resolution of the 9th April, already cited, it was said of these forms (para. 21): "These latter forms are now due, and it is essential that they should be promptly submitted."

10. The request made in the Circular of 22nd January had, it appears, been overlooked, and no action had been taken by the Board of Revenue to obtain the figures required. On the 12th April the Board suggested that the filling up of the forms should be deferred until the year 1875-76. This suggestion was not forwarded to this office by the Madras Government until the 1st June with letter No. 858. In forwarding the Board's proceedings the Madras Government made no reference to the orders of the 9th April, quoted above,

which from the subsequent correspondence would seem to have been entirely overlooked. The delay in forwarding the Board's proceedings has not been explained.

11. On the 16th June this Department addressed to the Madras Government a telegram calling for the fourteen statements and stating that the matter was very urgent. In reply this Department was referred to the letter from Madras of the 1st June, from which it appeared that the only difficulty in filling up the forms with the figures for 1874-75 was that the returns were required for ports separately and not for districts. The Governor General in Council could not admit that this constituted any real difficulty and the Madras Government were so informed in a letter No. 401, dated the 17th July. But in view of the delay which had already been allowed to occur, permission was given to fill up the forms for the past year for districts instead of ports. This permission was conveyed by telegram on the 28th June and repeated in the letter of 17th July.

12. Meanwhile the monthly trade accounts for April being overdue, their prompt submission was requested in a letter of the 6th July, No. 355. The Madras Government were reminded of the instructions regarding the despatch of the accounts in question within a month after expiry of the period of report, and were requested to take such measures as would preclude the possibility of delay in the submission of these returns. The Government of Madras reported in a letter No. 1001, dated the 2nd (received on the 10th) July that the returns for April could not be submitted before the end of July, as the forms had to be printed and circulated to Collectors, and that the Board believed that it would take some time for Collectors to fill them up. In a further letter of the 20th July, No. 1091, replying to one from this Department of the 6th idem, the Madras Government referred to one of the 2nd as explaining the delay, and stated that the necessity of expediting the returns had been impressed on the Board and on Collectors. It was added: "Special measures are under consideration for ensuring greater despatch, but more allowance must be made for the great distances from which in many instances the district returns have to be collected."

13. On the 31st July a message was sent from this Department by telegraph to the Madras Board of Revenue asking if the trade returns for April had been despatched. The Board replied on the 4th August stating that returns were still due from some districts and that every effort was being made to expedite them.

14. On the 5th August a telegram was despatched to the Government of Madras stating that the returns for April had been received from all the other Provinces, as well as the fourteen tables required for the Secretary of State, and asking when those for Madras would reach Calcutta. The Madras Government replied on the 9th August that the Board hoped to have the returns for April ready by the 25th of the month, but that difficulty was experienced with the fourteen statements and that no date for their transmission could be fixed. From a subsequent letter from Madras of the 14th August, No. 1234, it appeared that the difficulties in question had led the Board to postpone the preparation of the forms until the expiration of the current year, and that the matter was left in abeyance pending the receipt of a reply to the Madras letter of the 1st June.

15. On the 31st August this Department replied in letter No. 504 to the Madras letters of the 2nd and 20th July pointing out that none of the ports in the Madras Presidency were more than 100 hours' distant by post from the town of Madras, except those of Ganjam and Vizagapatam, and that the post from the most distant of these did not occupy more than 167 hours in transit. Under these circumstances the Government of India could see no reason why the returns for the Presidency should not be despatched from Madras on the 25th of the month following that to which they appertain.

16. The returns for April were ultimately despatched from Madras on the 30th August and received in Calcutta on the 9th ultimo, the latest of the returns from the other provinces having been received on the 13th July, nearly two months earlier. The returns for June and July have long since been received from all other provinces, as well as some of the returns for August. From Madras the returns for June, now $2\frac{1}{2}$ months overdue, have not yet been received, and those for May were only received on the 30th September.

17. The fourteen statements for 1874-75 have also long since been received from all the other provinces. Some of them have at length been received from Madras, but the absence of the remainder compels the Government of India still to delay the transmission of the provincial returns to Her Majesty's Secretary of State. The object of the Government in England in calling for these returns was to be in a position to prepare quickly for presentation to Parliament an annual return of the trade and navigation of British India in reasonable time, without waiting for the printed accounts forwarded by the Government of India and the Local Governments, which have hitherto been in many cases, and especially in Madras, greatly delayed. This object cannot, it is evident, be now attained owing to the delays above adverted to, and as the consolidated annual volume of the Government of India will be ready for transmission to England immediately, the labour which the preparation of these fourteen forms has cost will practically have been wasted.

18. With the Madras letter of the 30th August (received on the 7th September), No. 1300, the Governor General in Council has been informed of the difficulties felt by the Madras Board of Revenue in complying with orders issued as far back as the 22nd January and 9th April last. These difficulties resolve themselves simply into this: that some of the information required to be given for past years in the monthly accounts and in the fourteen abstract forms cannot be given. The reply to the difficulties thus stated is brief: where information is available, it should be furnished; where it is not available, the fact should be stated. Thus, if it is not possible to furnish for past periods the weights and quantities of articles of which only values have hitherto been shown in the returns, then only values need be stated, the absence of the additional information required being noted. But the impossibility of furnishing such information for past periods, when it was not recorded, is not a sufficient reason for withholding the information for current periods for which it has become available, in accordance with the orders of last January.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

Summary of correspondence with the Government of Madras regarding the preparation of Monthly and Annual Accounts of Sea-borne Trade.

Rece 4176/75

No. 602

FROM

A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B.,
Secretary to the Govern. of India,

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Department of Revenue,
Agriculture, and Commerce

Statistics.

ILA, the 14th October 1875.

S I R,

VERY great inconvenience have occurred in the preparation and trade returns for the Presidency of Mac annexed summary of the correspondence may be laid before His Excellency the such orders being passed as may pre future.

een caused by the delays which
ion of the monthly and other
directed to request that the
as taken place on this subject
r in Council, with a view to
urrence of similar delays in

2. From a perusal of the correspondence in question, the Governor General in Council sees reason to infer that the Board of Revenue have not been sufficiently alive to the importance and compilation of the returns, and that the work must have been frequently postponed in favour of other business. It is hardly to be deemed to be more urgent. It would also appear that at least in one instance there was a delay in the office of the Secretary to Government which might have been avoided. It is hardly necessary to observe that in the case of return which have to be embodied in a general compilation prepared by the Central Government, any delay occurring in a single Presidency or Province renders nugatory the exertions of the Government of India to supply the Secretary of State in due time with the statistical information which is required to be laid before Parliament; and for making every allowance for the number of small ports in Madras and for the distance of some of them from the Capital, His Excellency in Council feels satisfied that if a proper system of preparing and rendering the returns be enforced, and if adequate arrangements be made in the Board's Office for their prompt examination and compilation, there ought to be no serious difficulty in meeting the requirements of the Government of India and of the Secretary of State. It is possible that some slight additions to the existing establishments may be needed. Should this be the case, the Government of India will be prepared to give every consideration to the suggestions of the Madras Government. As regards, however, that part of the work which is done by the Board of Revenue, it occurs to the Governor General in Council that it might tend to greater expedition if the duty of superintending the compilation and despatch of the returns were entrusted to an individual member of the Board, aided by one of the Secretaries. Probably the Sub-Secretary could best be spared for this duty, as the time of the Secretary must be fully occupied with the many important questions connected with the land revenue with

which the Madras Board of Revenue have to deal. The Government of India will be glad to learn that the Government of Madras concur as to the expediency of such an arrangement.

3. With these brief observations and with every reliance that that cordial co-operation which the Government of India have invariably received from the Madras Government will not in any matter be withheld, the Governor General in Council commends the subject to the early attention of the Governor in Council.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

4176

Revenue 1875. *Sept*
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,
AGRICULTURE, AND COMMERCE.

STATISTICS.

To
THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

No. 602.

Dated Simla, the 14th October 1875.
Recd 25

Encl

W. H. ...
...

No 1620 - 11th November 1875

SUBJECT.

DELAY in the preparation and submission of the
monthly and other trade returns for the Presi-
dency of Madras.

In the order

CCP
Customs

1620

ordered blue
Recorded in the ...
to letter to the ...
of India d: 9th Oct 75
No 1480.
Lac

... 11th Nov 1875
...

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11th Nov 75. 18th Nov 75