M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 22

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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1627	Press
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated 11-11-1875	196 .

MRY

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 157. Read the following letter from A. O. HUME, Esq., C.B., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, (Statistics,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 29th October 1875, No. 622 :—

In continuation of previous correspondence on the subject of the compilation of the monthly and annual returns of the trade and navigation of the Madras Presidency, I am directed to state that a very serious error has just been discovered in the returns of the coasting trade as now rendered and published in the consolidated volume of the Government of India.

2. Part II. of this volume, which is compiled from the monthly returns received from the Provincial Governments, represents only a part of the coasting trade, *viz.* :—

(*a*) the trade of each Presidency with British Ports in all the other Presidencies, and

(*b*) the trade of each Presidency with Foreign Indian Ports, whether within the Presidency itself or in any of the other Presidencies. The trade from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency has hitherto always been omitted in the local returns and also in this Part, compiled from them.

3. To remedy this defect and obtain a complete view in the annual volume of the coasting trade under all its heads, *viz.* :—

(*a*) trade of a Presidency with all other Presidencies,

(*b*) trade from Port to Port within each Presidency,

(*c*) trade with all Foreign Indian Ports within as well as without the Presidency, and also to obtain a complete view of the total trade and shipping of each port separately in India, a set of forms was prepared in the Financial Department in 1869 and circulated to the local Governments with the Memorandum of the Financial Department No. 2,191, dated the 29th July of that year. These forms were meant to show the total trade and shipping of each Port, in abstract, under the three heads of—

(*a*) Foreign Ports, *i.e.*, ports external to British India.

(*b*) Ports in other Presidencies.

(*c*) Ports within the Presidency.

It was requested that the forms should be filled up annually as soon after the close of the year as possible and forwarded to the Financial Department. This request was regularly complied with, and the returns have since then formed Part IV. of the volume published by the Government of India.

4. There appears to have been some uncertainty, arising from the absence of definite instructions as to the object of the forms when they were circulated, in the filling up of the columns under the heads (*b*) and (*c*) above mentioned. These columns ought, no doubt, to have been sub-divided so as to show the total trade—

(*a*) Foreign, external to India.

(*b*) Foreign coasting.

(*c*) (I.) Coasting with British Ports in other Presidencies.

(II.) Coasting from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency.

5. In consequence of the somewhat indefinite character of the forms and the absence of specific instructions on this point when they were circulated, it is by no

means clear now what the figures which have hitherto been returned under heads (*b*) and (*c*) actually represent in some cases. But irrespective of this, an extremely large error has just come to light in the manner in which the forms have hitherto been filled up in Madras under the head (*c*) "Ports within the Presidency." The practice hitherto has been to regard the figures furnished annually under this head as representing (as the column was *intended* to represent) the trade from Port to Port under British jurisdiction in the Presidency of Madras, and in the annual review of trade these figures have always been added to the totals of those given in Part II., the result being held to be the total coasting trade of the Presidency of Madras.

6. But in comparing the figures forwarded with your letter of the 19th August, No. 1,248, with those contained in the abstract returns required for the Secretary of State, some of which have recently been furnished, it has been found that the figures hitherto accepted as those of the coasting trade are really only a small part of it. Part II. of the annual volume of the Government of India for 1874-75, which is now in the Press, contains the following figures for merchandise obtained from the totals of the monthly returns received from the Government of Madras :—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
(*a*) British Ports in other Presidencies	1,85,85,967	1,92,34,626
(*b*) Foreign Indian Ports within and without the Presidency	4,79,398	21,29,961
Total ...	1,90,65,365	2,13,64,587

In the returns received with your letter above quoted the figures are—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
(*a*) Ports in other Presidencies	1,87,21,383	2,01,73,923
(*b*) Ports within the Presidency	3,43,982	11,90,600
Total ...	1,90,65,365	2,13,64,523

These figures, it will be seen, agree exactly in the imports and almost exactly for exports, and the inference to be drawn from them is that in the figures received with your letter of the 19th August, those under the head (*a*) "Ports in other Presidencies" represent the trade with both British and Foreign Indian Ports in other Presidencies, while those under the head (*b*) "Ports within the Presidency" represent the trade with only Foreign Indian and not British Ports within the Presidency, the trade with such British Ports being omitted. This inference is strengthened by a comparison of the returns in question with Return Nos. 19 and 20 of the fourteen abstract forms prepared for transmission to the Secretary of State, in which the coasting trade is represented as follows :—

	Imports. Rs.	Exports. Rs.
(*a*) With Foreign Ports in India	4,91,005	21,29,892
(*b*) With Ports in other Presidencies ...	1,85,74,360	1,92,34,631
(*c*) With Ports in Madras	1,85,18,176	2,50,11,067
Total ...	3,75,83,541	4,63,75,590

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11*th November* 1875.

The total of the two heads (*a*) and (*b*) above given exactly corresponds with the total of the coasting trade as shown in the returns received with the letter of the 19th August, from which the whole of the coasting trade between British Ports in the Madras Presidency has been omitted. This trade amounts, according to head (*c*) above, to upwards of four crores and thirty-five lakhs of rupees, *viz.*, Rs. 1,85,18,176 for imports and Rs. 2,50,11,067 for exports, and no record of it exists in the annual statement of trade and navigation compiled in this department. Similar omissions occur in the import and export of treasure, and doubtless also in the returns of shipping and tonnage, though the statements for the latter required for the Secretary of State have not been received, and consequently no particulars can be stated as yet, but it may be said generally that the returns of trade issued by the Government of India have, owing to these omissions, been understated, so far as the coasting trade is concerned, by about 435 lakhs of rupees for merchandise and 257 lakhs for treasure for the past year, and a proportionate under-estimation has occurred in all previous volumes.

7. In bringing this matter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council, I am desired to state particularly that the Government of India do not impute any blame whatever to the officers responsible for the compilation of the returns. It is clear that a misunderstanding has existed, the result, no doubt, of want of clearness in the forms themselves and of the absence of instructions in regard to the objects they were intended to serve. But now that the error has been discovered, it is evident that measures should be taken to guard against a repetition of it. The Government of India have felt compelled to withhold the publication of their annual volume for 1874-75, the whole of which is in type, until complete figures for the coasting trade can be obtained for that year as well as for the five years previous thereto, and I am to request that you will be good enough, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, to issue instructions to the Board of Revenue with this object.

8. It has occurred to the Governor-General in Council in connection with the matter under notice, and having regard also to the correspondence which has already taken place in regard to the preparation of the new forms in which the trade and navigation returns have now to be rendered, that it would be advisable to depute for a short period to Madras an officer thoroughly conversant with the new forms and able to explain at once any doubts and difficulties in regard to their preparation that my previous letters and circulars may have failed to remove. Difficulties have arisen, not only in Madras, but in other Provinces also, and the deputation of an officer acquainted with the subject would, it is believed, save the local authorities much trouble and perhaps needless labor.

The difficulties which have been felt in Bengal have been completely removed in personal communication with the authorities of the Calcutta Custom-house, by whom the returns for the whole Presidency are compiled, and a great deal of lengthy and perhaps unsatisfactory correspondence has thus been avoided. In the same way, if the Board of Revenue at Madras were to have the advantage for a brief period of the services of an officer intimately acquainted with the subject, the Governor-General in Council is confident that all the doubts and uncertainties which must necessarily exist in regard to the carrying out of a new system, which is largely a matter of detail and

arrangement, would disappear, and thus save prolonged correspondence, and in many cases the trouble of preparing a new form which have already been filled in with considerable labor, under a misapprehension.

9. It is observed from recent Proceedings that the Government of Madras had it in contemplation to send a subordinate to Bombay to ascertain the system in force in that Presidency, with the object, no doubt, after comparing the systems in the two Presidencies, of introducing into Madras any improvements that might seem needed. The execution of the proposal has, it appears from the papers forwarded with your letter of the 9th instant, No. 1,480, been deferred for the present. It occurs to the Honorable the President in Council that the object which the Government of Madras had in view may be equally and perhaps more completely attained by the deputation to Madras of an officer from this department thoroughly conversant with the system of statistical returns which it is desired to introduce in the several Maritime Districts throughout India and British Burma. It is accordingly proposed to send to Madras early in the ensuing month Mr. J. E. O'Connor, Assistant Secretary in the Statistical Branch of this Department, whose special duty it is to supervise the compilation of the trade returns of British India. His instructions will be to place himself at once on arrival under the orders of the Board of Revenue. Should His Excellency in Council concur, the Government of India would suggest that the Board might employ Mr. O'Connor to examine the materials now existing in their office, to compare the manner in which these are worked up with the systems obtaining in Bengal and in the Statistical Branch of this department, and to suggest to the Board's officers any improvements which may seem required with a view of lessening work and of expediting it. He might also be directed to explain clearly to the compiling officers the precise objects of the new forms and remove all doubt and uncertainty regarding them and the manner in which they should be filled in. He might also be required to assist in supervising the compilation of the information required in regard to the coasting trade before the annual volume of the Government of India for 1874-75 can be published. Generally it is hoped that his services may be utilised in affording to the officers charged with the compilation of these returns such aid and advice as the Board of Revenue may consider necessary, and in expediting the compilation of the additional information required.

10. The Government of India much regret that there have been difficulties and misunderstandings in connection with these statistics. There must, of course, always be a certain amount of difficulty and uncertainty on the introduction of a new system, the details of which can hardly be made perfectly clear in correspondence, and the object of the Government in now deputing Mr. O'Connor to Madras is to save the local authorities as much trouble as possible in the work of placing matter connected with the manipulation of the returns on a satisfactory footing for the future. As Mr. O'Connor is thoroughly acquainted with the subject, it is hoped that his deputation will be entirely satisfactory to the Government of Madras.

11. I am to add that, after leaving Madras, Mr. O'Connor has been instructed to proceed to Bombay to assist, under the orders of the Secretary to Government, in clearing up certain doubts and difficulties which exist in that Presidency also in regard to these new statistical forms.

12. A reply to your letter of the 9th instant, No. 1,480, will be sent shortly.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th November 1875.

No. 158. ORDER THEREON, 11th November 1875, No. 1,627.

Separate Revenue, No. 21.
Customs.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue who will be good enough to see that the requisitions of the Government of India, as detailed in paragraph 7 of the foregoing letter, receive immediate attention.

2. The Government of India will be informed that His Excellency the Governor in Council views the deputation of Mr. O'Connor to Madras with much satisfaction, and the Board will arrange for his services being fully utilised.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated November, 11th.

Read

G. O. 11th *November* 1875, No. 1,027.

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 157-158.

Trade Returns.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue letter from the Government of India on the subject of deputing Mr. O'Connor to Madras to afford instruction in the preparation of and in the compilation of the returns of the coasting trade; and resolving to inform the Government of India that a deputation of Mr. O'Connor is viewed with disfavour. His Excellency the Governor with attention.

No. 622 162/3X

FROM

A. O. HUME, ESQUIRE, C. B.,

Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Revenue, Agriculture
and Commerce,

To

The Secretary to the
Government of Madras,

Simla, dated 29th October 1875.

Statistics.

SIR,

In continuation of previous correspondence on the subject of the compilation of the monthly and annual returns of the trade and navigation of the Madras Presidency, I am directed to state that a very serious error has just been discovered in the returns of the coasting trade as now rendered and published in the consolidated volume of the Government of India.-

2. Part II of this volume, which is compiled from the monthly returns received from the provincial Governments, represents only a part of the Coasting trade; viz:-

(a) the trade of each Presidency with British ports in all the other presidencies, and

(b) the trade of each Presidency with Foreign Indian ports whether within the Presidency

still

itself or in any of the other Presidencies. The trade from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency has hitherto always been omitted in the local returns and also in this Part, compiled from them.

3. To remedy this defect and obtain a complete view in the Annual volume of the Coasting trade under all its heads, viz:-

(a) trade of a Presidency with all other Presidencies;

(b) trade from Port to Port within each Presidency;

(c) trade with all Foreign Indian Ports within, as well as without the Presidency

and also to obtain a complete view of the total trade and shipping of each port — separately in India, a set of forms was prepared in the Financial Department in 1869 and circulated to the local Governments with the Memorandum of the Financial Department No. 2191 dated the 29th July of that year. These forms were meant to shew the total trade and shipping of each Port, in abstract, under the three heads of

(a) Foreign Ports, i.e Ports external to British India.

(b) Ports in other Presidencies

(c) Ports within the Presidency.

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It was requested that the forms should be filled up annually as soon after the close of the year as possible and forwarded to the Financial Department. This request was regularly complied with and the returns have since then formed Part IV of the Volume published by the Government of India.

4. There appears to have been some uncertainty, arising from the absence of definite instructions as to the object of the forms when they were circulated, in the filling up of the columns under the heads (b) and (c) abovementioned. These columns ought no doubt to have been subdivided so as to shew the total trade

(a) Foreign, external to India

(b) Foreign Coasting

(c) (i) Coasting with British Ports in other Presidencies

(ii) Coasting from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency.

5. In consequence of the constant indefinite character of the forms and the absence of specific instructions on this point when they were circulated, it is by no means clear now what the figures which have hitherto been returned under heads (b) and (c) actually represent in some cases. But

irrespective

itself or in any of the other Presidencies. The trade from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency has hitherto always been omitted in the local returns and also in this Part, compiled from them.

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(b) trade from Port to Port within each Presidency;

(c) trade with all Foreign Indian Ports within, as well as with the Presidency;

and also to obtain a complete view of the total trade and shipping of each port.-- separately in India, a set of forms was prepared in the Financial Department in 1869 and circulated to the local Governments with the Memorandum of the Financial Department No. 2191 dated the 29th July of that year. These forms were meant to shew the total trade and shipping of each Port, in abstract, under the three heads of

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(b) Ports in other Presidencies

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(a) Foreign, external to India

(b) Foreign Coasting

(c) (I) Coasting with British Ports in other Presidencies

(II) Coasting from Port to Port (British) within the Presidency.-

5. In consequence of the somewhat indefinite character of the forms and the absence of specific instructions on this point when they were circulated, it is by no means clear now what the figures which have hitherto been returned under heads (b) and (c) actually represent in some cases. But irrespective

irrespective of this, an extremely large error has just come to light in the manner in which the forms have hitherto been filled up in Madras under the head (c) "Ports within the Presidency". The practice hitherto has been to regard the figures furnished annually under this head as representing (as the column was intended to represent,) the trade from Port to Port under British jurisdiction in the Presidency of Madras, and in the annual review of trade these figures have always been added to the totals of those given in Part II, the result being held to be the total coasting trade of the Presidency of Madras.

6. But in comparing the figures forwarded with your letter of the 19th August No. 1248, with those contained in the abstract returns required for the Secretary of State, some of which have recently been furnished, it has been found that the figures hitherto accepted as those of the coasting trade are really only a small part of it. Part II of the Annual Volume of the Government of India for 1874-75, which is now in the Press, contains the following figures for merchandize obtained from the totals of the monthly returns received from the Government of Madras.

	Imports	Exports
(a) British ports in other Presidencies	Rs. 1,85,85,967	1,92,34,626.
(b) Foreign Indian Ports within and without the Presidency	4,79,398	21,29,961
Total Rs.	1,90,65,365	2,13,64,587

In the returns received with your letter above quoted the figures are

	Imports.	Exports
(a) Ports in other Presidencies	1,87,21,383,	2,01,73,923
(b) Ports within the Presidency	3,43,982,	11,90,600
Total Rs.	1,90,65,365	2,13,64,523

These figures, it will be seen, agree exactly in the imports and almost exactly for exports, and the inference to be drawn from them is that in the figures received with your letter of the 19th August, those under the head (a) "Ports in other Presidencies" represent the trade with both British and Foreign Indian Ports in other Presidencies, while those under the head (b) "Ports within the Presidency" represent the trade with only Foreign Indian and not British Ports within the Presidency, the trade with such British Ports being omitted. This inference is strengthened by a comparison of the returns in question with Return No. 19 and 20 of the 14 abstract forms — prepared

prepared for transmission to the Secretary of State, in which the coasting trade is represented as follows:-

	Imports	Exports
(a) With Foreign Ports in India	4,91,005	21,29,892
(b) With Ports in the Presidencies	1,85,74,360	192,84,631
(c) With Ports in Madras	1,85,18,176	2,50,11,067
Total Rs.	3,75,83,541	4,63,75,590

The total of the two heads (a) and (b) above given exactly corresponds with the total of the coasting trade as shewn in the returns received with the letter of the 19th August from which the whole of the coasting trade between British ports in the Madras Presidency has been omitted. This trade amounts, according to head (c) above, to upwards of four crores and thirty five lakhs of rupees, viz:- Rs. 1,85,18,176 for imports and Rs. 2,50,11,067 for exports, and no record of it exists in the annual Statement of Trade and Navigation compiled in this Department. Similar omissions occur in the import and export of Treasure, and doubtless also in the returns of shipping and tonnage, though the statements for the latter required for the Secretary of State have not been received and consequently no particulars can be stated as yet, but it may be said generally that the returns of trade issued by the Government of India have, owing to these omissions, been understated so far as the coasting trade is concerned, by about 435 lakhs of rupees for merchandise and 257 lakhs for treasure, for the past year, and a proportionate under-estimation has occurred in all previous volumes.

7. In bringing this matter to the notice of His Excellency the Governor in Council, I am desired to state - particularly that the Government of India do not impute any blame whatever to the officers responsible for the compilation of the returns. It is clear that a misunderstanding has existed, the result no doubt of want of clearness in the forms themselves and of the absence of instructions in regard to the objects they were intended to serve. But now that the error has been discovered, it is evident that measures should be taken to guard against a repetition of it. The Government of India have felt compelled to withhold the publication of

of their Annual Volume for 1874-75 the whole of which is in type, until complete figures for the coasting trade can be obtained for that year as well as for the five years previous thereto, and I am to request that you will be good enough with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, to issue instructions to the Board of Revenue with this object.

8. It has occurred to the Governor General in Council in connection with the matter under notice, and having regard also to the correspondence which has already taken place in regard to the preparation of the new forms in which the Trade and Navigation returns have now to be rendered, that it would be advisable to depute for a short period to Madras an officer thoroughly conversant with the new forms and able to explain at once any doubts and difficulties in regard to their preparation that may previous letters and circulars may have failed to remove. Difficulties have arisen, not only in Madras but in other Provinces also, and the deputation of an officer acquainted with the subject would,

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would, it is believed, save the local authorities much trouble and perhaps needless labour.-

The difficulties which have been felt in Bengal have been completely removed in personal communication with the authorities of the Calcutta Custom house, by whom the returns for the whole Presidency are compiled, and a great deal of lengthy and perhaps unsatisfactory correspondence has thus been avoided. In the same way if the Board of Revenue at Madras were to have the advantage for a short period of the services of an officer intimately acquainted with the subject, the Governor General in Council is confident that all the doubts and uncertainties which must necessarily exist in regard to the carrying out of a new system, which is largely a matter of detail and arrangement, would disappear, and thus save the prolonged correspondence and in many cases the trouble of preparing anew forms which have already been filled in with considerable labour, under a misapprehension.

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9. It is observed from recent Proceedings that the Government of Madras had it in contemplation to send a subordinate to Bombay to ascertain the system in force in that Presidency, with the object no doubt, after comparing the systems in the two Presidencies, of introducing into Madras any improvements that might seem needed. The execution of the proposal has, it appears from the papers forwarded with your letter of the 9th instant, No. 1400, been deferred for the present. It occurs to the Board that the object which the Government of Madras had in view may be equally and perhaps more completely attained by the deputation to Madras of an officer from this Department thoroughly conversant with the system of Statistical returns which it is desired to introduce in the several Maritime Districts throughout India and British Burma. It is accordingly proposed to send to Madras early in the ensuing month Mr. J. E. O'Connor, Assistant Secretary in the Statistical Branch of this

Dept.

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Department, whose special duty it is to supervise the compilation of the trade returns of British India. His instructions will be to place himself at once on arrival under the orders of the Board of Revenue. Should His Excellency in Council concur the Government of India would suggest that the Board might employ Mr. O'Connor to examine the materials now existing in their office, to compare the manner in which these are worked up with the systems obtaining in Bengal and Bombay, the Statistical Branch of this Department, and to suggest to the Board's officers any improvements which may seem required with a view of lessening work and of expediting it. He might also be directed to explain clearly to the compiling officers the precise objects of the new forms and remove all doubt and uncertainty regarding them and the manner in which they should be filled in. He might also be required to assist in supervising the compilation of the information

required

required in regard to the coasting trade before the annual Volume of the Government of India for 1874-75 can be published. Generally it is hoped that his services may be utilized in affording to the officers charged with the [illegible] in the returns such aid and advice as the Board of Revenue may consider necessary, and in expediting the compilation of the additional information required.

10. The Government of India much regret that there have been difficulties and misunderstandings in connection with these statistics. There must of course always be a certain amount of difficulty and uncertainty on the introduction of a new system the details of which can hardly be made perfectly clear in correspondence, and the object of the Government in now deputing Mr. O'Connor to Madras is to save the local authorities as much trouble as possible in the work of placing matters connected with the manipulation of the returns on a satisfactory footing for the future. As Mr. O'Connor is thoroughly acquainted with the subject, it is hoped that his deputation will be entirely satisfactory to the Government of Madras.

11. I am to add that after leaving Madras Mr. O'Connor has been instructed to proceed to Bombay to assist, under the orders of the Secretary to Government, in clearing up certain doubts and difficulties which exist in that Presidency also in regard to these new Statistical forms.

12. A reply to your letter of the 9th instant, No. 484 will be sent shortly.

No 1627

Communicated to the Board of Revenue who will be good enough to see that the Regulations of the Govt of India as detailed in para 7 of the foregoing letter receive immediate attention.

2. The Government of India will be informed that H.E. the Govr in Council views the deputation of Mr. O Connor to Madras with much satisfaction and the Board will arrange for his services being fully utilized

Sd/ [illegible] 11 November 1874.

2nd copy
To the Board of Revenue Nos
14 Forwarded Captain Dec 1 70
4 3

Rec'd 15 Oct 1875. No. 4364.

From The Secy. to the Govt. of India Public Works Dept.

Dated 25 Oct 1875
Rec'd 5 Nov 1875

No 622

Notify that the Govr in Council sanctions the proposal contained in the margin of the enclosed letter from the Secy. to the Govt. of India Public Works Dept. dated 25 Oct 1875 and forwarded with your No 622 of 3 Nov 1875 for the services of Mr. O'Connor, Executive Engineer, 1st Class, Kistna Division, being placed at the disposal of the Govt. of India for employment on the Irrigation Works in Mysore, and that the Board will make the necessary arrangements for relieving him of his present charge.

Sd/ [illegible]
Secy to Govt

Do 1627-11 Nov 1874

Sd/ [illegible]
Secy to Govt

C 16 Sept/75 C 11 Nov/75

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

R Strachey

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

F W