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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue.....DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

997

Press
Mis.

Dated 2. 7. 18 75 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 31. 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 A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 10th June 1875, No. 321 :—

I AM directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 588, dated the 13th April last, forwarding a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of the delay in the submission of the Madras Trade and Navigation Returns.

2. The Governor-General in Council observes with regret that, in the opinion of the Board, it is not practicable, under existing arrangements, to ensure the submission of the monthly trade returns within one month after the expiry of the period to which they relate, as desired by the Government of India; and that, in fact, instead of being sent earlier than is now done, still greater delay is anticipated in future as a consequence of the recent orders prescribing certain essential changes in the method of preparing the returns.

3. His Excellency in Council receives the intimation made by the local authorities with the more regret that the changes prescribed have been made under directions from Her Majesty's Government in England, who have been much impressed with the inaccuracies and imperfections of Indian Trade Statistics as now prepared, and who have repeatedly urged the necessity of reform on the Government of India. The Governor-General in Council cannot doubt that the Government of Madras feel as strongly as the other Governments interested the need for a closer approach to accuracy than has ever hitherto existed in the published figures of the trade of India, and that it will also make every possible exertion to secure, along with accuracy, the punctual and speedy publication of the returns, without which such statistics lose half their value.

4. It is possible that the system under which the monthly and annual trade returns of the Madras Presidency are compiled may require some modification to ensure the attainment of the results desired by Her Majesty's Secretary of State and the Government of India, and, His Excellency in Council is certain, in no less degree by the Government of Madras. But, at present, it is not clear in what direction a change is desirable. The Board of Revenue only support their remarks by reference to the cost of the compiling establishment at Bombay, which is Rs. 11,800 per annum, as compared with an establishment in Madras costing Rs. 5,640, though the latter Presidency has eighty-one ports compared with thirty in Bombay, and state that if greater despatch is to be insisted upon the establishment must be increased. This argument, however, would seem to involve a fallacy. If a comparison is to be made, the work to be done must be judged by the number of transactions recorded and figures to be calculated, and not the number of the ports alone. Obviously, it may happen that the trade of a small number of ports in one Presidency will much exceed that of a large number in another, and the work done may be very much more heavy.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd July 1875.*

This actually is the case as between Madras and Bombay. The figured statement

	Cost of Establish- ment per Annua.	Per-centage of Establish- ment.	Per-centage of Trade.
Madras	6,940	16.26	12.75
Bombay	11,800	32.31	30.38
Bengal	12,180	33.35	33.05
British Burmah ..	4,200	11.50	14.32
Sindh	2,400	6.58	4.50

entered in the margin shows the proportion of establishment in each of the five maritime provinces compared with the share of each province in the total foreign and coasting trade in 1873-74.

It will be seen from this statement that while in Bengal and Burmah the percentage of establishment is lower than that of the amount of trade in Bombay, it is slightly, and in Madras considerably,

in excess. According to this comparison, Madras is more favorably situated as regards establishment than Bombay, Bengal, and British Burmah; while the statement in the margin, giving the respective dates on which the monthly returns from Madras and Bombay have reached this department since October 1874, shows that they have been received from Bombay during the last five months about a month earlier than from Madras. The Madras returns for March have only now been received (on the 2nd June), while those for Bombay were received on the 5th ultimo, for Sindh on the 6th, for Bengal on the 10th, and for Burmah on the 12th ultimo.

Returns for	Received from	
	Madras.	Bombay.
Oct. 1874	28th Dec. 1874	2nd Dec. 1874
Nov. "	2nd Feb. 1875	5th Jan. 1875
Dec. "	2nd March "	3rd Feb. "
Jan 1875	1st April "	6th March "
Feb. "	6th "	2nd April "

5th ultimo, for Sindh on the 6th, for Bengal on the 10th, and for Burmah on the 12th ultimo.

5. If the case were to be decided, therefore, on a comparison of work done, and establishments entertained for the purpose, it would not seem unreasonable to ask the Government of Madras to arrange to submit the returns within the period specified in the Resolution of this department, Nos. 66c—69c (Statistics), dated the 9th April last.

6. But comparisons of this kind are undesirable. Systems grow up in various provinces as the result of local circumstances and practice, and it is preferable to consider the case of each province in such matters as the present by itself without reference to any other, except with a view to introduce new systems which have been tried elsewhere with success. In this point of view, no comparison can be made at present, inasmuch as the Government of Madras has as yet made no reply to my Circular, No. 90, dated the 22nd January last, asking for information as to the details of the system in force in the Presidency for the collection of the customs revenue and the record of the figures of the trade. Even, in the absence of these particulars, however, the Governor-General in Council is disposed to think that some re-arrangement of the establishments entertained might be attended with benefit; and I am to suggest, for consideration, whether it would not facilitate speedy submission of the returns if they were all compiled in a Central Office at Madras, the compilations now made at local ports being dispensed with. The adoption of this plan, which is similar to the plan carried out in England with great success (the monthly consolidated return being always published within seven days after the expiry of the month), would enable the local Government to reduce local establishments at subordinate ports, and would

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd July 1875.*

produce a saving, which might, with great advantage, be applied to the strengthening of the Central Office at the chief port. If this suggestion meets with the concurrence of the Governor in Council, the Government of India will be ready to sanction any re-arrangement not involving extra expenditure.

7. The Government of India will await with interest an expression of the opinion of the Government of Madras as to the best way of securing the accuracy and punctuality in the compilation and publication of these returns, which it is the endeavour of the Governor-General in Council, in pursuance of the instructions received from Her Majesty's Government, to obtain.

No. 32.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd July 1875, No. 997.

Separate Revenue, No. 4.

Customs.

In this letter the Government of India point out that the Madras trade returns are received a month later than those of Bombay, as well as considerably later than those from any other maritime province; and they urge that steps be taken to correct this.

2. In paragraph 4 a tabular statement is given showing the relative cost of establishment in each maritime province as compared with the value of trade, indicating that, so far as this goes, Madras is in a favorable position.

3. The statement, however, gives no clue to the number of transactions which is a more important element in the calculation.

4. However this may be, it becomes absolutely necessary to devise a means by which the submission of the returns from Madras shall be expedited.

5. In G. O., 13th April 1875, No. 587, the Board were called on to state what additional establishment was necessary.

6. This should be done at once. It should be considered, too, whether increased despatch could not be attained by the submission of unclassified returns direct from the ports, or, if not from all ports, at least from those whose position, with regard to the district headquarters, is such as to cause delay which would be obviated by direct transmission of returns to Madras.

7. It might facilitate matters if the Board were to obtain from Bombay the original returns received in the Central Office for any particular month, so as to compare the amount of transactions and method.

8. An intelligent man from the Trade Statistic Department should be deputed to Bombay and Calcutta to see, on the spot, how the returns of those provinces are compiled.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

A. MACGREGOR,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Accountant-General.

Edw. P. E. Dantlman.

Recd. 1877-78-79-80

GOVT. OF INDIA
REVENUE
THE BOARD OF REVENUE
No. 321

997
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No. 321

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,
Revenue Department.
Simla, dated 10th June 1878.

Statistics

SIR,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 588, dated the 13th April last, forwarding a copy of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue on the subject of the delay in the submission of the Madras Trade and Navigation Returns.

2. The Governor General in Council observes with regret that in the opinion of the Board it is not practicable under existing arrangements to ensure the submission of the monthly trade returns within one month after the expiry of the period to which they relate as desired by the Government of India, and that in fact instead of being sent earlier than is now done, still greater delay is anticipated in future as a consequence of the present orders prescribing certain essential changes in the method of preparing

preparing the returns.

3. His Excellency in Council receives the information made by the local authorities with the more regret that the changes prescribed have been made under directions from Her Majesty's Government in England, who have been much impressed with the inaccuracies and imperfections of Indian trade statistics as now prepared, and who have repeatedly urged the necessity of reform on the Government of India. The Governor-General in Council cannot doubt that the Government of Madras feel as strongly as the other Governments interested the need for a closer approach to accuracy than has ever hitherto existed in the published figures of the trade of India, and that it will also make every possible exertion to secure, along with accuracy, the prompt and speedy publication of the returns without which such statistics lose half their value.

It is possible that the system under which the monthly and annual trade returns of the Madras Presidency are compiled may require some modification to ensure the attainment of the results desired by Her Majesty's Secretary of State and the Government of India, and His Excellency in

Council

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Council is certain, in no less degree, of the Government of Madras. But at present it is not clear in what direction a change is desirable. The Board of Revenue only supports their remarks by reference to the cost of the compiling establishment at Bombay, which is Rs. 11,800 per annum, as compared with an establishment in Madras costing Rs. 5,600 though the latter Presidency has eight ports compared with thirty in Bombay, and states that if greater despatch is to be insisted upon the establishment must be increased. This argument, however, would seem to involve a fallacy. If a comparison is to be made, the work to be done must be judged by the number of transactions recorded and figures to be calculated and not the number of the ports alone. Obviously it may happen that the trade of a small number of ports in one Presidency will much exceed that of a large number in another and the work done may be very much more heavy

	Cost of Establishment per annum	Number of Establishment	Encumbrance of Trade.	This actually is the case as between Madras and Bombay
Madras	5,940	16.26	12.75	The figures stated in the margin shows the proportion of establishment in each of the Presidencies
Bombay	11,800	32.31	30.38	
Bengal	12,180	33.35	38.05	
Burma	4,200	11.50	14.32	
Siak	2,400	6.38	4.50	

proportion of establishment in each of the

five maritime provinces compared with the share of each province in the total foreign and coasting trade in 1873/74. It will be seen from this statement that while in Bengal and Burmah the percentage of establishment is lower than that of the amount of trade, in Bombay it is slightly and in Madras considerably in excess.

According to this comparison Madras is more favorably situated as regards establishment than Bombay, Bengal, and British Burmah, while the statement in

the margin giving the respective dates on which the monthly returns from Madras and Bombay have

Returned for	Received from Madras	Received from Bombay
October 1874	28 th December 1874	2 nd December 1874
November	2 nd February 1875	5 th January 1875
December	2 nd March 1875	3 rd February 1875
January 1875	1 st April 1875	6 th March 1875
February	30 th April 1875	3 rd April 1875

reached this Department since October 1874, showing that they have been received from Bombay during the last five months, about a month earlier than from Madras. The Madras returns for March have only now been received (on the 2nd June) while those for Bombay were received on the 5th ultimo, for Sind on the 6th, for Bengal on the 10th, and for Burmah on the 12th ultimo.

5. If the case were to be decided therefore on a comparison of work done and establishments entertained for the purpose, it would not seem unreasonable to ask the Government of Madras to arrange to submit the returns within the period specified in the Resolution of this Department, No. 66-69 (Statistics) dated the 9th April last.

6. But comparisons of this kind are undesirable. Systems grow up in various provinces as the result of local circumstances and practice, and it is preferable to consider the case of each province in such matters as the present by itself without reference to any other, except with a view to introduce new systems which have been tried elsewhere with success. In this point of view no comparison can be made at present, inasmuch as the Government of Madras has as yet made no reply to my Circular No. 90 dated the 22nd January last, asking for information as to the details of the system in force in the presidency for the collection of the Customs revenue and the record of the

the figures of the trade. Even in the absence of these particulars however the Governor General in Council is disposed to think that some re-arrangement of the establishments entertained might be attended with benefit, and I am to suggest for consideration, whether it would not facilitate speedy submission of the returns if they were all compiled in a Central Office at Madras, the compilations now made at local ports being dispensed with.

The adoption of this plan, which is

carried out in England with great success (the monthly consolidated return being always published within seven days after the expiry of the month) would enable the local Government to reduce local establishments at subordinate ports and would produce a saving which might with great advantage be applied to the strengthening of the Central Office at the Chief port. If this suggestion meets with the concurrence of the Governor in Council, the Government of

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of India will be ready to sanction any re-arrangement not involving extra expenditure.

7. The Government of India will await with interest an expression of the opinion of the Government of Madras as to the best way of securing the accuracy and punctuality in the compilation and publication of these returns which it is the endeavour of the Governor General in Council, in pursuance of the instructions received from Her Majesty's Government, to obtain.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

R. Russell

Secretary to the Government of India.

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Regarding the com-
pilation of Trade Returns
so as to facilitate submission
to for. of India without delay.

E. J. [illegible]

(H.E. 10 June 1875 p. 32)

In this letter the
Gov^t of India point
out ^{that} the Madras
trade returns are ^{hereabouts} a
month later than
those of Bombay.

well as considerably
later than those from
any other Maritime
Province. A very rough
first step is taken
I admit this -
The fauna is a tabular
statement is given
showing the relative

There can be no doubt
that improvement is
possible. Indeed the
discovery of reports
from the American
people on the subject
of the 15th century
calendar. I am the
first to write any
conclusion.

Deposited from 1874
Some from returns are lost of establishment
The 1st must be considered in such manner. Provided
that the 1st & 2nd are the same as compared to 1874
in other terms. 1874

Nov: 1975: 2 yk

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7-10-62

The day & the first of Nov
24th of Nov di

32

2000

Dec 18 #3 June/75

24 Feb. 1897

Suggesting for consideration, with reference to the bill in the accompanying letter, Trade & Transportation Commission, whether it would be possible to study and report if they were all together in a central office at Treasury, the compiling now is done in the Treasury Department with, interesting nothing to mention any necessary pointing to the staff meeting with you, and accordingly report to the staff, and the first very pleasing memory of meeting in the compilation of the letter for the bill -

the value of trade
indicating that so
far as this port
Madras is in a
favourable position

The stat. however
gives no clue to the
number of transactions
which is a very serious
omission in
the calculation

however this may be
it becomes absolutely
necessary to devise
a means by which
the returns of the
ships from Madras

shall be expeditious.

In G.O. 13th April
1875. No 587 The Board
were called on to submit
state what additional
establishment was necessary

This should be done at
once. It should be
considered, too whether
increased relief will
not be attained by
the submission of
unclassified returns
direct from the ports, & if
not from all ports at
least from those where
position with regard
to the district head
quarters is such as

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 On Trade Returns

to cause delay which
 would be avoided by
 direct transmission
 of returns to Madras.
 It might facilitate
 matters if the Board
 could obtain from
 Bombay the original
 returns received in
 the context of the
 any particular month
 so as to compare the
 amount of transactions

Despatch

Madras

A method -

Last year.

After
 the opening of the
 Board of Trade
 in the month of July

2nd 1875-76
 1st 1876-77

As intelligent men
 from the Trade Statistics
 Dept. should be deputed
 to Bombay & Calcutta
 & all on the spot have
 the returns of their provinces
 are compiled.