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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1177	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated 28-8-1876 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1177/1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
29th August 1876.

No. 292. 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 Hon. D. F. CARMICHAEL, Secretary to the Government of Madras, Revenue Department, dated Simla, 18th August 1876, No. 454:—

In paragraph 11 of the circular from this department, No. 29C/32C, dated the 25th April last, it was urged that greater care should be exercised in the preparation of the accounts of trade and navigation than had hitherto been the case in some provinces. It was also remark[illegible]t it was, of course, essential that all corrections which might be found necessary should be carried out locally, and reported in the prescribed errata statements, in order that the compilations of this department might be revised, but that a great proportion of the very serious labor involved in carrying out the numerous revisions would be rendered unnecessary if due attention were paid to the correct preparation of the returns in the first instance.

2. In inviting attention to these remarks, I am directed to point out the grave inconvenience that results from the careless manner in which the accounts of the sea-borne trade have been recorded at the ports of the Madras Presidency.

3. For the twelve months of the year 1875-76 twenty long lists of errata have been received from the Madras Board of Revenue besides revised returns for seve[illegible]al [illegible]nths of the year. The annexed statement shows the date of despatch of and the [illegible]d by each list. From this it will be seen that in ten of these lists [illegible]ree, which are dated respectively the [illegible], 13th, and 22[illegible] July 1876, corrections have been entered for April 1875, three separate statements having been furnished within one month and so long as fourteen months after the period to which the corrections relate.

4. These statements are nearly all of them voluminous, but the last received is a formidable list consisting of upwards of two hundred pages of manuscript, the alterations in this list, it is reported, being necessary owing to the omission of inter-portal trade within the district in the returns formerly received from the district of South Canara. The omission was not rectified until after the accounts for eight months—April to November 1875—had been furnished with this defect. Revised returns of the coasting shipping for these eight months had also to be furnished owing to this omission.

5. An examination of these lists of errata reveals a great want of care in registering the trade at the ports of the Presidency, the errors consisting for the most part of omissions, of wrong entries of quantities and value, and of erroneous classification of articles.

6. It is hardly necessary to point out that the frequent receipt of heavy lists of errata, long after the period to which they relate, entails enormous labor on the compiling offices under the Board of Revenue and in this department, in carrying out the corrections, besides involving great risk of error in the repeated alteration of figured statements, and causing serious delay in the publication both of the local and imperial volumes of accounts for the year.

7. I am accordingly to request that under the orders of His Grace the Governor in Council precise instructions may be given to record the particulars of trade

and navigation with greater care at the several ports, and so to arrange that all needful corrections in a month's account shall be ascertained and reported within the next month, or at the latest the next following month.

Errata Statements received from Madras for 1875-76.

	Date.	*For what period.*
1.	22nd September 1875	April 1875.
2.	20th October "	April, May, and June 1875.
3.	19th November "	" " "
4.	22nd December "	April to July 1875.
5.	22nd January 1876	April to August 1875.
6.	2nd March "	May to July 1875.
7.	12th April "	July, August, October, and December 1875.
8.	1st May "	August and September 1875 and Jan. 1876.
9.	13th " "	September and October 1875.
10.	20th " "	November 1875.
11.	26th " "	September, October, and December 1875.
12.	20th " "	April 1875.
13.	31st " "	April 1875 and January 1876.
14.	7th June "	July to September 1875.
15.	21st " "	June 1875 to January 1876.
16.	21st " "	October 1875 to January 1876.
17.	26th " "	February 1876.
19.	13th "	[illegible]
20.	22nd " "	April to November 18[illegible]
		April 1875 to March 1876.

No. 293. ORDER THEREON, 28th August 1876, No. 1,177.

Separate Revenue, No. 31.
Customs.

COMMUNICATED to the Board of Revenue, who will arrange for the returns being submitted correctly in future. The rule in regard to errata statements now prescribed by the Government of India should be observed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

1177/76

Govt. of [1876] Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated August, 25th. 1877

Recd. Encl.

G.O. 28th August 1876, No. 1,477.

AUGUST.

Nos. 292-293.

Sea-borne Trade.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue letter from the Government of India regarding the accounts of the—recorded at the ports of the Madras Presidency, and requesting them to arrange for the returns being submitted correctly in future.

No. 454

1177/2

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 18th August 1876.

SIR,

In paragraph 11 of the Circular from this Department, No. 29/32 dated the 25th April last, it was urged that greater care should be exercised in the preparation of the accounts of trade and navigation than had hitherto been the case in some provinces. It was also remarked that it was of course essential that all corrections which might be found necessary should be carried out locally, and reported in the prescribed errata statements, in order that the compilations of this Department might be revised; but that a great proportion of the very serious labour involved in carrying out the numerous revisions would be rendered unnecessary, if

attention were paid to the correct preparation of the returns in the first instance.

2. In inviting attention to these remarks, I am directed to point out the grave inconvenience that results from the careless manner in which the accounts of the sea-borne trade have been recorded at the Ports of the Madras Presidency.-

3. For the twelve months of the year 1875/76 twenty long lists of errata have been received from the Madras Board of Revenue, besides revised returns for several months of the year. The annexed statement shows the date of despatch of and the period embraced by each list. From this it will be seen that in ten of these lists - including the last three which are dated respectively the 10th, 13th and 22nd July 1876, corrections have been entered for April 1875, three separate statements having been furnished within one month, and so long as fourteen months after the period to which the corrections relate.

4. These statements are nearly all of

of them voluminous, but the last received is a formidable list consisting of upwards of two hundred pages of manuscript, the alterations in this list it is reported, being necessary owing to the omission of interportal trade with district in the returns formerly received from the district of South Canara. The omision was not rectified until after the accounts for eight months, April to November 1875, had been furnished with this defect. Revised returns of the Coasting shipping for these eight months had also to be furnished owing to this omision.

5. An examination of these lists of errata reveals a great want of care in registering the trade at the ports of the Presidency, the errors consisting for the most part of omissions, of wrong entries of quantities and values, and of erroneous classification of articles.-

6. It is hardly necessary to point out

out that the frequent receipt of heavy lists of errata, long after the period to which they relate, entails enormous labour on the compiling offices under the Board of Revenue, and in this Department, in carrying out the corrections, besides involving great risk of error in the repeated alteration of figured statements, and causing serious delay in the publication both of the local and imperial volumes of accounts for the year.

7. I am accordingly to request that under the orders of His Grace the Lord in Council, precise instructions may be given to record the particulars of trade and navigation with greater care at the several ports, and so to arrange that all needful corrections in a months account shall be ascertained and reported within the next month, or at the latest the next following

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

R. Stewart
Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Errata Statements received from Madras for 1875-76.

	Date		For what period
1	22d.	September 1875.	April 1875.
2	20th.	October —"—	April, May and June 1875.
3	19th.	November —"—	Do. Do.
4	22d.	December —"—	April to July 1875.
5	22	January 1876.	April to August 1875.
6	2d.	March —"—	May to July 1875.
7	12th.	April —"—	July, Augt. Octr. and Decr. 1875
8	1st.	May —"—	August & Septr. 1875 & Janry. 1876.
9	13th.	May —"—	September and October 1875.
10			November 1875.
11	26th.	May —"—	Septr. Octr. and Decr. 1875.
12	20th.	May —"—	April 1875.
13	31st.	May —"—	April 1875 & January 1876
14	7th.	June —"—	July to September 1875.
15	21st.	June —"—	June 1875 to January 1876.
16	21st.	June —"—	October 1875 to Janry. 1876.
17	26th.	June —"—	February 1876.
18	10th.	July —"—	April 1875 to March 1876.
19	13th.	July —"—	April to November 1875.
20	22	July —"—	April 1875 to March 1876

N. 350

Rec: 1176: Sept.

From

The Secretary Govt. of Lusi.
Dept. of Revenue

N. 454

Dated 18th } Aug: 1876
Rec'd 25th }

Pointing out, with observations, the grave inconvenience that results from the careless manner in which the accounts of inward trade are rendered at the ports of the Madras Presy; and requiring that the accounts of each of these ports as to exchange, shipping, and imports and exports shall be ascertained and transmitted to the Govt. of India monthly, or at the latest the next following month.

No 1177

Communicated to the Board of Revenue, who will arrange for the returns being submitted correctly in future. The rule in regard to errata statements under prescribed by the Govt of India should be observed.

28 August 1876