

(1) Number of Pages.....8  
(2) Date of repair.....24.7.69  
(3) Initials of the Referencer.....*[Signature]*

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT

|          |        |               |
|----------|--------|---------------|
| G.O. No. | 1673   | Press.        |
| B.P. No. |        | Mis.          |
| Dated    | 14.11. | 1876<br>-196- |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

157

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
14th November 1876.*

No. 232. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 27th October 1876, Miscellaneous No. 9,232:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 28th August 1876, No. 1,177, Revenue Department.

Read the following letter from the Government of India, Revenue, &c., Departments, dated 18th August 1876, No. 454 (Statistics).

In paragraph 11 of the Circular from this Department, No. 29-C—32-C, 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 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 inconvenience that arises from the careless manner in which the returns of 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 such 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 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 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 officers under the Board of Revenue and in this department, in carrying out

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
14th November 1876.*

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.

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,  
Secy. to Govt., R.D.

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

The alterations reported in 1875-76 were necessitated by the novelty of the forms introduced and in great part by the frequent changes in the classification of the articles and the denomination of quantities. The Board submit that the novelty of the system and the character of the agency which has to be employed in this Presidency are sufficient excuse. The instructions of the Government of India in regard to the submission of the memoranda of alterations will be attended to in future, but the Board presume that it is not intended that errors, which may, notwithstanding all possible care, be discovered in accounts more than two months old, are not to be

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,  
14th November 1876.*

reported. Collectors of Coast Districts will be requested to enjoin upon their subordinates greater care in the preparation of the accounts and the observance of the orders of the Government of India conveyed in the last paragraph of their letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,  
Acting Secretary.

No. 233.

ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1876, No. 1,673.

Miscellaneous.

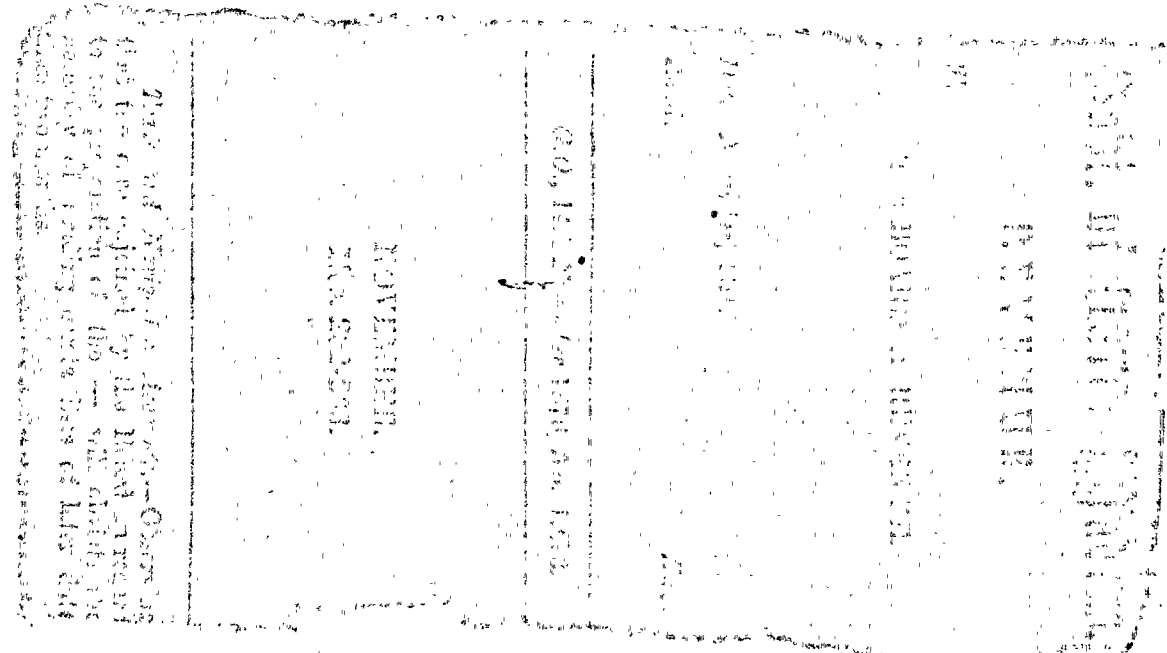
THE Government anticipate the care enjoined will obviate the necessity of sending errata lists of later date than two months.

(True Extract.)

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

E. F. R. Banderam.

To the Board of Revenue.



MISCELLANEOUS No. 9,232.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 27th October 1876.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 28th August 1876, No. 1,177, Revenue Department :—

Read the following letter from the Government of India, Revenue, &c., Departments, dated 18th August 1876, No. 454 (Statistics).

In paragraph 11 of the Circular from this Department, No. 29-C—32-C, 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 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 several months of the year. The annexed statement shows the date of despatch of and the period embraced by such 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 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 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 officers 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.

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. P. CARMICHAEL,  
Secy. to Govt., R.D.

*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       | Do. " "                                     |
| 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 January 1876. |
| 9. 13th "              | September and October 1875.                 |
| 10. 20th "             | November 1875.                              |
| 11. 26th "             | September, October, and December 1875.      |
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The alterations reported in 1875-76 were necessitated by the novelty of the forms introduced and in great part by the frequent changes in the classification of the articles and the denomination of quantities. The Board submit that the novelty of the system and the character of the agency which has to be employed in this Presidency are sufficient excuse. The instructions of the Government of India in regard to the submission of the memoranda of alterations will be attended to in future, but the Board presume that it is not intended that errors, which may, notwithstanding all possible care, be discovered in accounts more than two months old, are not to be

reported. Collectors of Coast Districts will be requested to enjoin upon their subordinates greater care in the preparation of the accounts and the observance of the orders of the Government of India conveyed in the last paragraph of their letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

*J. P. C.*

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

C-13: Aug 6 Q 13: No

The Govt agree with the Board that it cannot be intended that errors discovered in accounts more than 2 months old are not to be reported - All that is required is that the necessity for sending memoranda of alterations should, as far as possible, be avoided

Trade and Navigation - Explaining necessity for alterations reported in 1875-76 in accounts of - and requesting Collectors of Coast Districts to enjoin upon their subordinates greater care in preparing these accounts.

OCTOBER.  
Ms. No. 9,232.

Received  
11/10

Copy to Mr. 17/10

PROCEEDINGS, 27th Oct. 1876, Ms. No. 9,232.

4818  
Resolved 1876. 24/10  
Board of Revenue,  
MADRAS.

With order

Notwithstanding the Board's decision in the matter of the accounts of the Collector of the District of Madras, the Government have decided to direct the Collector to submit the accounts of the District of Madras for the year 1875-76, in accordance with the instructions of the Board, and to enjoin upon the subordinates of the Collector to exercise greater care in preparing these accounts.

Resolution No. 1573.

The Government anticipate the Government will anticipate the care enjoined will obviate the necessity of sending errors of later date than 2 months.

14/10/76

14/10/76