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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

656

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated

22-5-1876

196—.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 209. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th March 1876, No. 739 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 10th November 1875, No. 1,616, Revenue Department :—

ABSTRACT.—*Agricultural Statistics*.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue, for an expression of their opinion, letter from the Government of India, requesting the submission of —, and resolving, in the meanwhile, to forward to that Government a file of the statement of agricultural statistics and acreage of crops prepared by the Board of Revenue during the last five years.

THE order of Government above recorded calls for the opinion of the Board on the creation of a separate Statistical Department in their office charged with the preparation and submission of returns relating to Agriculture and Commerce, with the remark that the additional establishment recently sanctioned will probably suffice for the purpose.

2. The Board observe that if the filling up of the forms prescribed by the Secretary of State were all that is required, and if the statements were to be confined to Government tracts alone, exclusive of Zemindaries, the work could be done in their office without any additional establishment; it is clearly the intention of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, however, that the statistics to be furnished should be comprehensive and include Zemindari as well as Government tracts; and, indeed, looking to the purposes for which they are stated to be required in the report of the Special Committee, it is obviously necessary that they should be rendered as complete as possible, if any reliance is to be placed upon them as aids in the decision of important questions of a general nature.

3. The forms are simple enough, and, as remarked by Government, the present returns furnish nearly all the information that the new forms are framed to exhibit. The difficulty lies in supplying the particulars which the Committee suggest should be appended to the returns. The information to be embodied in these notes can only be obtained by a far more searching and minute examination of the agriculture and trade of the country than is possible with the machinery at present available, and on some of the points specified, no information at all is now recorded, and minute local investigation is requisite for the collection of the details. The notes are to embrace the following subjects :—

- (1.) The class and quality of soils in which, and the seasons at which, each principal kind of crop is cultivated.
- (2.) The estimated quantity of seed required.
- (3.) The estimated average yield per acre of each principal kind of crop, and the price thereof.
- (4.) The average rent per acre for each principal crop.
- (5.) Whether the produce is consumed within the district or exported; if exported, in what directions and to what extent.
- (6.) Whether there is any considerable importation of the same articles as those produced in the country, and for what purposes they are chiefly used.

4. From the above statement of the subjects to be treated of, and from the Minute recorded by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Provinces, referred to in the despatch from the Government of India, printed with the Government Order read above, it is clear that the information required is of a very comprehensive character. Not only has the area cultivated in Zemindari as well as Government tracts to be recorded, but information has also to be collected regarding the yield of lands under the several classes of soils, and the distribution of the produce. This information, when collected, will doubtless be invaluable for many important purposes, and the Board fully admit the desirability of procuring the most complete and trustworthy statistics possible, but they are convinced that existing establishments in their office and in the districts cannot undertake this work without detriment to their other duties. The recent addition to the Board's establishment adverted to by Government was sanctioned for a definite increase of work in connection with the preparation of Trade Returns, and if anything more is required than the continued submission of returns, modified in form but defective in many respects owing to their being based on imperfect materials, not only must the staff in the Board's Office be supplemented, but the agency in the districts must be improved at a considerable additional cost.

5. It does not appear that this Government contemplated any radical change of system immediately, or that they require more than a revision of the returns so that they may exhibit in the shape considered best adapted by the Statistical Committee to the purpose as much of the information required as is readily procurable with the means at present available; but from the tenor of the papers communicated to the Board, it seems that the Secretary of State and Government of India are not likely to accept this as a sufficient compliance with their requisition. An impression appears to prevail that the information required is readily procurable, but is withheld from a reluctance to undertake the task of collecting it. This is the opinion deliberately expressed by the Statistical Committee at paragraph 21 of the Report now communicated, and as the imputation is entirely groundless, it is desirable that the causes of the difficulties which are experienced in meeting the wishes of the Secretary of State and Government of India should be clearly explained, and the measures, which in the Board's opinion must be taken if anything like an approximation to accuracy and completeness in the returns is to be looked for, fully stated.

6. Demands for statistical information on a variety of subjects have recently increased to a very considerable extent; every endeavour has been made to comply with them, and when this has not been possible, the causes have been clearly stated. In their Proceedings recorded in G.O., dated 3rd December 1872, No. 2,833, the Board submitted an estimate of the expenditure which they considered necessary to ensure satisfactory results, but the matter was dropped with reference to G.O., dated 13th January 1873, No. 114. The same difficulties to which attention was then drawn still exist, and they can only be overcome by considerable expenditure of public money. Whether the expenditure can be incurred at present or not, is a question which the Board cannot determine, but in their opinion the object in view justifies a liberal allotment for the purpose; and without it there

is no prospect of any material improvement in the submission of statistical information. The Board will proceed to indicate in outline the measures which they consider necessary for the collection and record of statistics in order to secure some approach to accuracy and completeness.

7. Machinery already exists for collecting to a great extent the information required, but systematic and efficient supervision is required to direct operations and reduce the information to shape. There is a Curnam or Accountant in each village both in the Zemindari and Government tracts; his office is hereditary, and he is, as a rule, intelligent and capable of furnishing all the particulars required in regard to the agriculture and commerce of his village; but, as is to be expected from men of this class, his returns are not always trustworthy, and his work requires close and careful supervision. In Zemindaries, moreover, he is almost independent of the Collector's authority. To attain this end, it will be necessary to place the Zemindari Curnams directly under the control of Collectors (a subject upon which the Board have already addressed Government in their Proceedings, dated 27th October 1875, No. 2,975), and to increase the staff of inspecting officers. The existing number of Revenue Inspectors in the Government tracts including the increase proposed in the Board's Proceedings, dated 14th February 1876, No. 430, is not sufficient for the additional work which the collection of statistics involves, and there are no Inspectors whatever in the Zemindari tracts. The number in the Government taluqs will have to be slightly augmented for about three months during each year at least, and new officers of this class employed in Zemindaries. At the lowest calculation the additional number of Inspectors required will cost Rupees 1,54,950, as shown below:—

	Number of Villages.	EXISTING STAFF OF INSPECTORS INCLUDING THE INCREASE ALREADY PROPOSED.		ADDITIONS REQUIRED.			
		Number.	Pay.	Number.	Pay per mensem.	Number of Months in a year for which their employment is required.	Cost per annum.
			RS.		RS.		RS.
Government Villages...	28,600	610	2,49,780	572	14,300	3	42,900
Zemindari Villages.	20,800	...	...	{ 208 416	5,200 10,400	12 3	62,400 31,200
							93,600
Inam Villages ...	4,100	...	...	{ 41 82	1,025 2,050	12 3	12,300 6,150
							18,450
Total...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,54,950

8. The duty of these Inspectors will be to examine the accuracy of the statements furnished by the Curnams, by inspection and experiments. They will

measure a certain number of fields every month, examine the produce of a number of localities in each class of soil, and compare the results with those given by the Curnams, and, after making the necessary corrections, tabulate them and send them to the Tahsildar who will, after examining them, submit them to the Board of Revenue through the Collector of the district, each of these officers recording such remarks as their general experience and knowledge of the district may suggest both in regard to the accuracy of the statistics and the removal of any hindrances to the development of agriculture and trade.

9. In addition to the above staff for collecting information in villages, it will be necessary to employ a certain number of clerks to register the traffic at the several Railway stations and at each point where roads leave the district, as there is no establishment at present for registering traffic by land. The Railway Department now furnishes certain traffic statements, but they are not in sufficient detail for the present purpose, and the Board do not suppose the Railway Companies will undertake to collect and furnish the information in the detail required by means of their own establishments. It will be necessary, therefore, to employ a clerk on Rupees 20 at each Railway station, and to entertain at least eighty Registrars on similar pay for registering the traffic on important roads. This will cost Rupees 46,080, as shown in the margin.

112 Clerks at the rate of one Clerk on Rupees 20 for each Railway station.	rs. 26,880
80 Clerks on Roads	19,200
Total...	46,080

10. This is the establishment required in the districts. At the central office there should be an intelligent officer under the orders of the Board of Revenue, who could devote his entire time and attention to examining figures, collating and abstracting them, and directing operations generally. The efficiency of the new department which it is proposed to create will depend in a great measure on the officer placed at its head, and with the view of securing an officer possessing exceptional qualifications for the post, the Board consider that his pay ought to be fixed at a rate which will command the services of any Civilian below the standing of a Collector, say Rupees 1,500 per mensem, with travelling allowance at the rate of Rupees 10 per day. Under him there should be an establishment located in the Board's Office with a well-paid Manager whose salary should not be less than Rupees 300.

11. The above scheme will cost Rupees 2,50,000 in round numbers over and above the charges of the ordinary establishments now entertained and those already proposed.

District Establishment...	rs. 2,01,030
Central Office Establishment	
Superintendent...	21,600
Establishment	12,000
Total ...	2,34,630

or say Rupees ... 2,50,000 in round numbers.

The details will have to be further discussed and elaborated; should the Government concur in the Board's view and support their recommendations, it will be the duty of the special officer selected to organize the department. For

the present, it will suffice to give an outline of the measures proposed with a rough estimate of the cost.

12. With reference to the concluding paragraph of the Government Order, enquiring whether the Agricultural Statistics cannot be submitted earlier in the year in accordance with the practice in force before Board's Proceedings, dated 26th November 1874, No. 3,417, the Board observe that the date was changed because efforts to secure their earlier submission had proved ineffectual, and because it was considered that the facts disclosed by them could be more conveniently discussed in the Jamabundi Report. Should the Government, however, consider the delay in the publication of the statement material, the Board will instruct Collectors to furnish it by 1st April, the date fixed in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st June 1871, No. 2,495. The Board will await further orders before altering the existing practice or modifying the forms in use.

13. In conclusion, the Board observe that one preliminary point must be definitely settled before any radical change is introduced, viz., the period to which the statistics should relate, i.e., whether they should be for the official year or the fasli, or the calendar year. At present, the trade statistics are rendered for the official year, while the agricultural statistics are prepared for the fasli year. The Board are decidedly in favor of the official year, and have already expressed their views regarding the abandonment of the Fasli, in their Proceedings, dated 23rd October 1875, No. 2,941.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 210. ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1876, No. 656.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that these Proceedings be communicated to the Government of India in continuation of letter, dated 10th November 1875, No. 1,617, and that they be informed that if they insist on the minute details, which the Committee require to be appended to the returns, being furnished, an expensive establishment on the scale proposed should be entertained; and that if, otherwise, the returns now prepared will be made more complete without additional expense.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th March 1876.
Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 10th November 1875, No. 1,616, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Agricultural Statistics*.—Communicating to the Board of Revenue, for an expression of their opinion, letter from the Government of India, requesting the submission of —, and resolving, in the meanwhile, to forward to that Government a file of the statement of agricultural statistics and acreage of crops prepared by the Board of Revenue during the last five years.

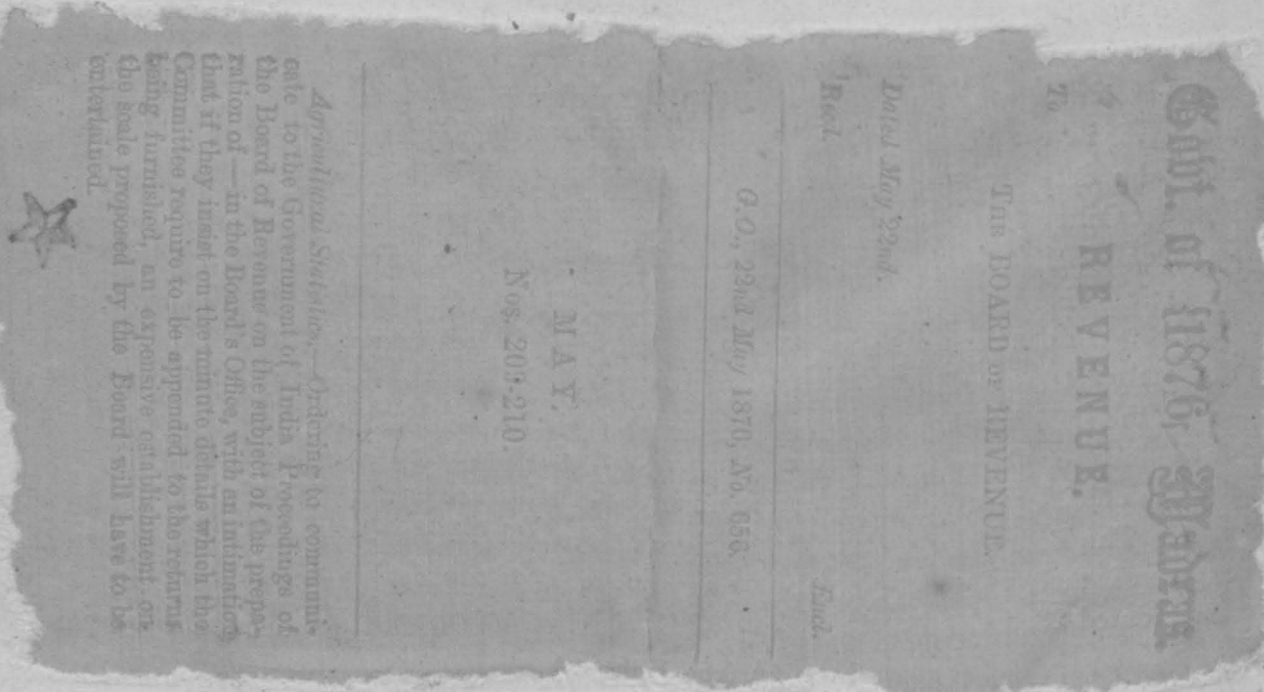
THE order of Government above recorded calls for the opinion of the Board on the creation of a separate Statistical Department in their office charged with the preparation and submission of returns relating to Agriculture and Commerce, with the remark that the additional establishment recently sanctioned will probably suffice for the purpose.

2. The Board observe that if the filling up of the forms prescribed by the Secretary of State were all that is required, and if the statements were to be confined to Government tracts alone, exclusive of Zemindaries, the work could be done in their office without any additional establishment; it is clearly the intention of the Secretary of State and the Government of India, however, that the statistics to be furnished should be comprehensive and include Zemindari as well as Government tracts; and, indeed, looking to the purposes for which they are stated to be required in the report of the Special Committee, it is obviously necessary that they should be rendered as complete as possible, if any reliance is to be placed upon them as aids in the decision of important questions of a general nature.

3. The forms are simple enough, and, as remarked by Government, the present returns furnish nearly all the information that the new forms are framed to exhibit. The difficulty lies in supplying the particulars which the Committee suggest should be appended to the returns. The information to be embodied in these notes can only be obtained by a far more searching and minute examination of the agriculture and trade of the country than is possible with the machinery at present available, and on some of the points specified, no information at all is now recorded, and minute local investigation is requisite for the collection of the details. The notes are to embrace the following subjects:—

- (1.) The class and quality of soils in which, and the seasons at which, each principal kind of crop is cultivated.
- (2.) The estimated quantity of seed required.
- (3.) The estimated average yield per acre of each principal kind of crop, and the price thereof.
- (4.) The average rent per acre for each principal crop.
- (5.) Whether the produce is consumed within the district or exported; if exported, in what directions and to what extent.
- (6.) Whether there is any considerable importation of the same articles as those produced in the country, and for what purposes they are chiefly used.

4. From the above statement of the subjects to be treated of, and from the Minute recorded by His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of North-Western Pro-



vinces, referred to in the despatch from the Government of India, printed with the Government Order read above, it is clear that the information required is of a very comprehensive character. Not only has the area cultivated in Zemindari as well as Government tracts to be recorded, but information has also to be collected regarding the yield of lands under the several classes of soils, and the distribution of the produce. This information, when collected, will doubtless be invaluable for many important purposes, and the Board fully admit the desirability of procuring the most complete and trustworthy statistics possible, but they are convinced that existing establishments in their office and in the districts cannot undertake this work without detriment to their other duties. The recent addition to the Board's establishment adverted to by Government was sanctioned for a definite increase of work in connection with the preparation of Trade Returns, and if anything more is required than the continued submission of returns, modified in form but defective in many respects owing to their being based on imperfect materials, not only must the staff in the Board's Office be supplemented, but the agency in the districts must be improved at a considerable additional cost.

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consider necessary for the collection and record of statistics in order to secure some approach to accuracy and completeness.

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8. The duty of these Inspectors will be to examine the accuracy of the statements furnished by the Curnams, by inspection and experiments. They will measure a certain number of fields every month, examine the produce of a number of localities in each class of soil, and compare the results with those given by the

Curnams, and, after making the necessary corrections, tabulate them and send them to the Tahsildar who will, after examining them, submit them to the Board of Revenue through the Collector of the district, each of these officers recording such remarks as their general experience and knowledge of the district may suggest both in regard to the accuracy of the statistics and the removal of any hindrances to the development of agriculture and trade.

9. In addition to the above staff for collecting information in villages, it will be necessary to employ a certain number of clerks to register the traffic at the several Railway stations and at each point where roads leave the district, as there is no establishment at present for registering traffic by land. The Railway Department now furnishes certain traffic statements, but they are not in sufficient detail for the present purpose, and the Board do not suppose the Railway Companies will undertake to collect and furnish the information in the detail required by means of their own establishments. It will be necessary, therefore, to employ a clerk on Rupees 20 at each Railway station, and to entertain at least eighty Registrars on similar pay for registering the traffic on important roads. This will cost Rupees 46,080, as shown in the margin.

112 Clerks at the rate of one Clerk on Rupees 20 for each Railway station:	Rs. 26,880
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10. This is the establishment required in the districts. At the central office there should be an intelligent officer under the orders of the Board of Revenue, who could devote his entire time and attention to examining figures, collating and abstracting them, and directing operations generally. The efficiency of the new department which it is proposed to create will depend in a great measure on the officer placed at its head, and with the view of securing an officer possessing exceptional qualifications for the post, the Board consider that his pay ought to be fixed at a rate which will command the services of any Civilian below the standing of a Collector, say Rupees 1,500 per mensem, with travelling allowance at the rate of Rupees 10 per day. Under him there should be an establishment located in the Board's Office with a well-paid Manager whose salary should not be less than Rupees 300.

11. The above scheme will cost Rupees 2,50,000 in round numbers over and above the charges of the ordinary establishments now entertained and those already proposed.

District Establishment...	Rs. 2,01,030
Central Office Establishment	
Superintendent...	21,600
Establishment	12,000
Total ...	2,34,630

or say Rupees ... 2,50,000 in round numbers.

The details will have to be further discussed and elaborated; should the Government concur in the Board's view and support their recommendations, it will be the duty of the special officer selected to organize the department. For the present, it will suffice to give an outline of the measures proposed with a rough estimate of the cost.

12. With reference to the concluding paragraph of the Government Order, enquiring whether the Agricultural Statistics cannot be submitted earlier in the year in accordance with the practice in force before Board's Proceedings, dated 26th November 1874, No. 3,417, the Board observe that the date was changed because efforts to secure their earlier submission had proved ineffectual, and because it was considered that the facts disclosed by them could be more conveniently discussed in the Jamabundi Report. Should the Government, however, consider the delay in the publication of the statement, material, the Board will instruct Collectors to furnish it by 1st April, the date fixed in Board's Proceedings, dated 21st June 1871, No. 2,495. The Board will await further orders before altering the existing practice or modifying the forms in use.

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(A true Extract.)

W. H. French
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, with one enclosure returned.

will be sent

Exd. W. H. French.

Obots

Ordered that the Proceedings be communicated to the Govt of India in continuation of letter of 10 November 1875 No 1617 & that they be informed that if they wish on the minute details, which the Commission requires to be appended to the Returns, being furnished an expense establishment on the scale proposed should be entertained; & that if otherwise, the returns now prepared will be made more complete & suitable as -
22 Nov 1876

Recd Copy to the Board of Directors 22 May 1876
14th March 1876

Board of Revenue
MADRAS.

1876.

2/2/399

Revenue 8/4/76

PROCEEDINGS, 15th MARCH 1876, No. 739.

Copyable 1/6

Received. 6 April.

MARCH.
No. 739.

Statistical Returns relating to Agriculture and Commerce.—Expressing opinion as to creation of separate department in Board's Office for preparation of —; and awaiting further orders of Government before altering the date on which, or the forms in which, these statistics are now furnished.

May 17/6 A. H. H.

Obots 22 May 1876

R. L

Boards Prop of 15th March/76
No 739.

Agricultural Statistics

I think the Govt of India - 15th Nov last - our opinion that our present Returns are very nearly all that is required -

I do as proposed. altho I consider the R's proposals extravagant - But we cannot

more until we are told whether we are to collect all the information suggested - Then this is known or can be ascertained in the mean time

The R's also requested to review the practice that preceded their order of 24 Nov. 1874. The subject has fully discussed by the Madras Govt. in Prov. Board for 18 Nov 1875. No 1616
10/3 - 162.

We have already told the Govt of India - 15th Nov last - our opinion that our present Returns are very nearly all that is required - We may now send up this letter, stating that the Govt are prepared to put these Returns into still better shape, without additional expense, but that 2 1/2 cases of R's will be required, if all the minutiae desired by the India Office Commission are absolutely necessary - & await orders.

11/8/76.

Agricultural
Statistics

Memo.

Ans

rough

1877