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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 598 *Revenue* Press.
B.P. No. 598 Mis.

Dated 30.4.1880

197

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 598.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 30th April 1880.

Read the following letter from H. J. STOKES, Esq., Collector of Madura, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 16th April 1880, No. 127 :—

HAVING reason to suspect that much concealed cultivation was going on in the hill villages I instituted inquiries, the result of which I submit to the Board for orders.

2. The Palni hills are divided into two ranges, the Upper and Lower. The former has three villages with thirteen hamlets, and the latter two villages with sixty-nine hamlets. The revenues payable thereon are Rs. 3,514 and Rs. 11,545 respectively. Each village has two Curnams on Rs. 7 each except Vilputty which has only one. None of them reside in this village, but all live in the plains. The Curnams themselves are either unable or too indifferent to keep a careful account of new cultivation, and there is no check exercised over them. The Board will easily gather from these circumstances that considerable loss of revenue must annually occur to Government. The cultivation of hill lands is becoming more and more important in consequence of the daily increasing cardamom and coffee cultivation. I would therefore strongly recommend that a Revenue Inspector be appointed to look after the affairs of the Lower Palnis. The cultivation on the Upper Palnis is not of much importance, and from their position much extension of cultivation cannot be expected. It may be left to the care of the Curnams subject to the supervision of the Kodaikānal Deputy Tahsildar. From the Neutral Saddle the length of the Lower Range (according to the ordinary route) is about 48 miles, and that of the Upper 32 miles. The area of the hills is about 427 square miles. It is thus impossible for a Revenue Inspector located on the plains to attend to the work on the hills. Nor does the work now allotted to the Inspectors on the plains admit of their sparing time for hill work.

3. As the work on the hills is very laborious, and living there expensive, I would recommend a 1st Class Revenue Inspector on Rs. 30 and allow him a Peon from the Palni Taluk, increasing the pay of the latter (now Rs. 6) to Rs. 7. The additional annual cost thus involved will come to Rs. 372. It can hardly be doubted that the advantage accruing from the proposal would far outweigh the additional expenditure that will have to be incurred. The present cost of the Village Establishment of the Lower Range who are paid by salary amounts to Rs. 876.

4. I have issued instructions that the Curnams must be compelled to live in their respective hill villages and in default to dismiss them and appoint those that are willing to live on the hills.

5. Copy of the Sub-Collector's letter received on the subject is enclosed.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copy of Sub-Collector's letter.

SUBMITTED to Government.

2. The Board consider that the entertainment of a Revenue Inspector for the Lower Palnis is desirable and support the Collector's proposals involving an additional cost of Rs. 372 per annum.

3. The residence of the Hill Curnams in their villages should be enforced.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
Collector of Madura. with original enclosure to be returned.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 2900/80.

From The Board of Revenue
Dated 30 April 1880
FOR ORDERS.

Sanction to be granted
from year. Report
before close.

1/11/80

1880.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 30th.

Printed May 11th.

Received 11/11/80

PROCEEDINGS, 30TH APRIL 1880, No. 598.

APRIL

No. 598.

Revenue Inspector — for the Lower Palnis in
Madure District — Supporting Collector's re-
commendation for entertainment of a —, and
instructing that the residence of Hill Gurnans in
their villages be enforced.

Sanctioned.

[Faint handwritten notes and signatures at the top of the page, including "To the Board of Revenue" and "Sanctioned"]

FOR ORDERS.

Subject *amended*
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