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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 906 Revenue

Press
Mis.

Dated 8th August 1885.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following despatch from the Right Hon. RANDOLPH S. CHURCHILL,
Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right
Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort St. George, dated India Office,
London, 9th July 1885, No. 17 (Revenue):—

I have considered in Council your letter, No. 1, Revenue, dated 20th May last,
Settlement of the Nilgiri district. relative to the settlement of the Nilgiri
district, the results of which appear to be
satisfactory and creditable to the Settlement officer, Mr. R. S. Benson, whose report
I have perused with much interest.

2. As suggested by Mr. Benson, in paragraph 38 of his report, and recommended
by the Board of Revenue, the settlement should remain in force for 30 years.

ORDER—dated 8th August 1885, No. 906, Revenue.

Land Revenue, No. 105.

Communicated to the Board of
Revenue, the Director of Revenue
Settlement and Agriculture and to Mr.
R. S. Benson, C.S.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture.
„ R. S. Benson, Esq., C.S.

Exd. P. L. Pereira.

70 Copies.

Govt. of (1885) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 8th August 1885, No. 906.

AUGUST.

Settlement of the Nilgiri district.

Secretary of State's review of the report on the —, communicated to the Board of Revenue, Director of Revenue Settlement and Agriculture and to Mr. R. S. Benson, C.S.

India Office,
London, 9th July 1885.

Revenue,
No. 17.

To His Excellency The Right Honourable The Governor
in Council, Fort St. George.

SIR,

Settlement of the Nilgiri District.

Para. 1. I have considered in Council your Letter No. 1, Revenue, dated 20th May last, relative to the settlement of the Nilgiri District, the results of which appear to be satisfactory and creditable to the Settlement Officer, Mr. R. S. Benson, whose report I have perused with much interest.

2. As suggested by Mr. Benson, in para. 38 of his report, and recommended by the Board of Revenue, the settlement should remain in force for 30 years.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

James St. Churchill

№ 2

Revenue

9 July 1985

The Letter to Fort St George
No 14

Recd. 30 July / 85.

62-7-85

9/16 the road of Eureka
25th Dr of Dr. Sattler & Co. } Dec 18/8.
1 Dr. S. Hanson Esq. C. S. } R. C. Ing 10.

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REVENUE

No.

511/1

Dec

From

The Secretary of State.

Dated

7th

Recd.

31st

July 1883.

No.

17 Revenue.

SUBJECT.

Considering the results
of the settlement of the
Indians of the settlement
and stating that the settlement
should remain in force
for 30 years

C1-8-83
12-8-83

Full

Notes and documents

1883-84

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd August 1885, Mis. No. 7051 :—

Read—the following letter from H. G. GRIGG, Esq., Acting Collector of Vizagapatam, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 13th July 1885, No. 931 :—

With reference to the Government Order marginally noted, I have the honor to seek the Board's instructions as to the form that the new edition of the district manual ought to take. I would submit that the manuals of the districts that have been brought out are rather defective in one respect, and that is that they do not combine the information of a gazetteer with the compiled subjects of general interest. So when a reference is needed to any particular place, we have to turn to the index and hunt over half a dozen or twenty leaves to find what we want. Mr. Grigg's Manual of the Nilgiris is full of information on every topic, but it has this fault in a very marked degree. If I want to know the height of Dodabetta, for instance, I have to make a shot at a likely page out of 48 numbers entered opposite Dodabetta in the index. This fault is found in all the manuals I have seen, and I think it will be allowed that it detracts considerably from the handy value of a manual.

2. The best work of the kind that I have seen is the "Gazetteer of the Central Provinces" which, I believe, was compiled under the auspices of Mr. Charles Grant, late Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department. In that volume there are several introductory chapters that tell us all we want to know of the general description, history, geography and general administration of the country and which discuss topics of interest common to all the provinces. Then follows the gazetteer, in which every place of note, its local history and description, are recorded, affording an accessible fund of information ready at hand. I would respectfully suggest to the Board that the new Vizagapatam Manual should take this form.

3. In connection with this subject, I would ask the Board when we may hope to have a geological survey of the district, for we are absolutely without any information on this important subject.

4. We have no information either on the natural history of the flora and fauna of the district, but perhaps Mr. Gamble could contribute a paper on the botany. The larger beasts are known to us, but there is a difficulty about birds, insects, reptiles and fishes.

5. Would it be possible to let me have an assistant from the Museum who would accompany in my tours and make collections of specimens of natural history. He ought to come well supplied with books of reference. When not working with me, I should transfer him to the divisional officers, and in this way we might collect some valuable information in the course of a few months.

Resolution—dated 3rd August 1885, Mis. No. 7051.

Submitted for the orders of Government.

2. The Board consider that the plan of the manual should be left to Mr. Turner's discretion, but they are not impressed with the suitability of the Central Provinces Gazetteer as a model.

3. The Board have no information in regard to the prospect of a geological survey of the district being instituted in the immediate future, and it is doubtful whether the Museum could lend the services of an assistant capable of furnishing a valuable note on the natural history of Vizagapatam, but a note by Mr. Gamble on the flora of the district would be a useful addition to the work.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. F. MacCARTIE,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with letter, in original, to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Vizagapatam.

" " Conservator of Forests, Northern Division.

ORDER—dated 17th August 1885, No. 939, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government agree with the Board in thinking that the plan of the revised manual should be left entirely to Mr. Turner's discretion.

2. Paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of Mr. Turner's letter will be communicated to Mr. Bruce-Foote, Mr. Gamble and the Superintendent, Government Central Museum, respectively, for the favor of remarks.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. WILSON,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with one

" R. Bruce-Foote, Esq.

" J. S. Gamble, Esq.

" the Superintendent, Government

to be returned.

Museum.

Exd. A. Aubert.

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