

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. TURNER, 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 enclosure returned.

" R. Bruce-Foote, Esq.

" J. S. Gamble, Esq.

" the Superintendent, Government Central Museum.

Exd. A. Aubert.

Gobt. of (1885) Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 17th August 1885, No. 939.

AUGUST.

Manual of Vizagapatam.

Board's opinion that the plan of the — should be left to the Collector's discretion concurred in, and portions of his letter communicated to certain officers for remarks.