

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2887

Press
Mis.

64-65

Dated 4 — 12 — 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 64. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Simla, 20th September 1867, No. 63-4,691 :—

1. Under instructions received from the Home Government in the year 1856, the Government of India had entered upon a consideration of the means by which a general Census of the population of India might be taken in 1861; but the undertaking was postponed in 1859 in consequence of the mutinies, as it was felt that it would not be prudent to make a general enumeration of the people so soon after the violent disturbances by which a great portion of India had recently been agitated, and from which the country was not even yet in all parts quite free.

2. The proposal to take a general Census was revived in a communication from the Government of Bengal, dated Public Proceedings, June 1865, No. 36. the 4th May 1865, (No. 3,185), in which it was urged that the considerations which led to the postponement of the Census of 1861 no longer existed, and that the want of anything like even an approximate knowledge of the population was much felt in every department of the Administration.

3. Concurring in these views, the Governor General in Council submitted to Her Majesty's Government a recommendation that arrangements should be made for undertaking a general Census in 1871, on the understanding that when the time approached the measure would, if necessary, be suspended, as it was in 1859.

4. The Secretary of State in reply expressed his concurrence in this recommendation, and it now remains for the Government of India to give effect to the proposition. Meanwhile, a Census of the population of the North-Western Provinces was taken in January 1865, and a Census of the population of the Central Provinces in November 1866.

5. I am now directed to transmit a copy of the Secretary of State's Despatch last mentioned, together with copies of the Census Reports of the North-Western and Central Provinces, and to request that the subject of the proposed general Census in 1871 may be taken into consideration, and that the Government of India may be furnished, by the 1st January 1870, with a report as to the best mode of effecting it, together with remarks on other points connected with the matter.

6. Should circumstances render the taking of such a Census objectionable, I am to request that they may be fully explained. But in the meantime it is desirable that the local Authorities and District Officers should use every effort to familiarize the minds of the people, who may be likely to regard with suspicion a measure, the purport of which they do not fully understand, with the idea of a Census, to be taken sooner or later in the Province or District in which they may be residing.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
4th December 1867.

7. A further communication will be addressed to you, after consultation with the Statistical Committee, in regard to the nature of the Census Forms and Returns, which should, it is obvious, be uniform for all Provinces.

From the Secretary of State for India, (Public,) to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 8th September 1865, No. 66.

I have considered in Council your Despatch No. 47, dated the 15th of June last, and I have to state, in reply, that I concur in the opinion which you have expressed, that arrangements should be made for undertaking a general Census of British India in the year 1871.

Transferred to the Revenue Department.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
25th October 1867.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1867, No. 2,887.

Miscellaneous.

1. Referred to the Board of Revenue for report, with reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the above letter.

2. The Board's attention will be given to the remark in paragraph 6 as to the necessity of familiarizing the minds of the people with the idea and object of a Census, but it is observed that there is nothing novel in the idea in this Presidency.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with three pamphlets

Erd. F. R. Bantleman.

Revenue Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 4th November 1867.

Read the following
letter from the Secretary to the
Government of India.

Requesting that arrange-
ments may be made for under-
taking a general Census of the
population in 1871.

(Here enter 20th Sept 1867
No. 63
4691)

Referred to the Board
of Revenue for report, with re-
ference to paras 5 and 6 of the
above letter.

2. The Board's attention will be given to the remark in paragraph 6 as to the necessity of familiarizing the minds of the people with the idea and object of a Census, but it is observed that there is nothing novel in the idea in this Presidency.

14 Copies To the Secy of Govt, with three pamphlets
Despt 5

S. R. Bantleman

Revenue 1867 Dep't
of Justice Jan 2

Nov 28 1867

To of the Madison Co
2/4 to Dec 1867

Nov 28 1867