

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 1454

DATED 16th March 1897.

[Despatch Abstract.]

According to P. stating that the Board is not prepared to reconsider its orders already issued on the Accountant General's report on the account work of the Forest officers of this Presidency during 1895-96.

BACK PAPERS.

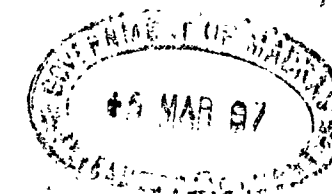
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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Revenue
Educational (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1980



The Hon: Mr. G. S. C. 28

Order misc. no. 1454 d/16th Mar 1897

Recorded

10/3/97

[Handwritten signature]

From The Board of Revenue
Land Revenue
Forest Branch

No. 66

Dated 18 February 1897

Received 5 - 3 - 97

Registered 6. 3 - 97

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Stating, with remarks,
that the Board is not prepared
to reconsider the orders issued
in B.P. Forest No. 48872 on the 16th
October 1896 on the A.G.
report on the working
account work of the Forest
offices of this Prescy. during
1895-96.

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8.11.97

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11/3/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE), FOREST No. 66, 18TH FEBRUARY 1897.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE).

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

READ—the following letter from E. D. M. HOOPER, Esq., Acting Conservator of Forests, Southern Circle, to the Secretary to the Commissioners of Land Revenue, dated Coimbatore, 23rd January 1897, Ref. No. 1692:—

On Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 488, dated 20th October 1896, I have the honour to remark that the plan of comparing one officer's work with that of another, when it goes the length of publishing the names of the best and worst of the officers, is scarcely fair to those complained of unless some more exhaustive system of comparison is adopted.

2. The first consideration left out is a very important one. The primary account work of a district is to keep accurate accounts, while the mere punctual despatch of accurate statistics and returns hastily prepared under pressure represents only a fraction of the work of the account work of a Forest office. To finally judge, therefore, of an office by the quality and date of certain routine returns can only be characterised as anomalous.

3. The Accountant-General may consider that, so far as he is concerned, the offices count for nothing more, but this is not completely accurate, for in the Inspection reports of the Forest offices he has means at his disposal of checking the conclusions he arrives at in these annual revisions. Even applying this test to his figures, there are certain considerations which are not available for insertion in his calculations, but which fully account for the apparent faultiness of certain officers in this matter of office work. I refer especially to the healthiness and geographical position of a district. I think in this connection, I may be allowed to speak with some authority, and for these reasons alone it is impossible to make any but an entirely inaccurate misleading conclusion between, say, the work of the office of Kurnool with that of Bellary or Anantapur.

4. The punctuality of returns depends primarily on arrangements by the District Forest-officer, but, however, good the arrangements he makes, they are all subordinated to the quality of the staff both in the District and Range offices. Good under clerks cannot be had in Kurnool where Range clerks are now only being introduced throughout the circle, while the prevalence of sickness not only causes changes but also lassitude in the staff.

5. It is therefore impossible, as pointed out, to compare the work of offices, and to publish the names of those whom the Accountant-General declares to be best and worst is only misleading and not strictly just towards some at least of the officers who are probably in justice entitled to praise instead of blame.

6. Turning to the comparison instituted, I would protest against the prominence given to one district for punctuality, for it is shown in the figures quoted that the punctuality has been entirely at the expense of accuracy, while even in punctuality itself it is reported that in nine months of the twelve the important returns were late. Yet this is a district where graduates are procurable on small pay, and an office should be in good order in every way.

7. I would ask that this be forwarded on to other Conservators, and should they concur in my remarks that the Board consider the expediency of submitting fresh Proceedings to Government.

RESOLUTION—Forest No. 66, dated 18th February 1897.

The Board is not prepared to reconsider the orders issued in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 488, dated 20th October 1896.

2. It is perfectly true, as pointed out by Mr. Hooper, that the Accountant-General's review of the account work of the various District Forest-offices merely weighs the merits of the work according to certain fixed standards, and that there are other considerations which must be taken into account in arriving at a correct conclusion as to the efficiency or otherwise of any particular office. But it cannot be denied that the report in question is a fair criticism of the accounts and returns received by the Accountant-General; and it is only valued as such by the Board and Government. Mr. Hooper appears to have overlooked the fact that the Accountant-General takes cognizance of accuracy, as well as of punctuality, and as the Board is also in possession of the Conservators' reports on their examination of these offices, there is ample material on which to base a final criticism of the work turned out.

3. The Accountant-General's report will in future be referred in the first instance to Conservators before passing final orders thereon. The Conservators will then have an opportunity of furnishing explanations for any failures for which they may consider that there are palliating circumstances.

(True Copy and Extract.)

K. S. Wamkhanu
Asst Secretary.

31 MAR 1897

To the Conservators of Forests.

„ Accountant-General.

Copy to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department. ✓

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed March th.

Proceedings, Forest No. 66, 18th
February 1897.

Stating, with remarks, that the Board is not prepared to reconsider the orders issued in Board's Proceedings, Forest No. 488, dated 20th October 1896, on the Accountant-General's report on the account work of the Forest offices of this Presidency during 1895-96.

When given for copying _____
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When signed _____

189.

READ AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT

STATEMENT WITH DITTO

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