

Revenue (1897) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 38 1/2

DATED 26th July

[Despatch Abstract.]

Comm^d to the Secy of Rev. despatches from
the Secy of State forwarding copy of further
papers respecting Mr. Rogers' criticisms upon
the Land Rev. Adm^t of the Madras Presidency.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 6049

Secy
Pam 2 is added
with ref to H. S. S.
26/7/97

The Hon: Mr. J. C. S. S.

The Hon Sir Henry Bliss

The Hon the Governor

From

The Secretary of State
for India

Order

Misc. No. 38729/26

20/7/97

Communicated

to the Board of Rev: in con-

tinuation of G.O. Misc. No.

3205 of 25th June 1897 with

the request that the submission

of the report called for may

be expedited

Dated 24th June 1897.

Received 17.7.97

Registered

Enclosures on 17/7/97

Spare copies

2. The attention of the Secy is particularly drawn to the statement in Mr. Rogers' letter that "the real truth, that the method of assessment of lands by the Rev. Survey is at the origin of the mischief has been fully acknowledged by Mr. Clark, but the Govt. is not aware of what is going on in Madras." (19.7.97)

The Board of Rev: Land

Rev:

Note

The Secy of State has declined Mr. Rogers offer to come over to Madras at State expense for studying the defects in the Madras Land Revenue Admin.

Forwarding Copy of further reports respecting Mr. Rogers' criticisms upon the Land Revenue Admin of the Madras Presy.

and to submit a report

As the Secy of State is paying so much attention to the deliberations of this gentleman the Govt. has it is submitted is asked to convey respectfully its report

12.11.97

19/7/97

1.11.97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.



The Under Secretary of State for India,
India Office.

24th May 1897.

Sir,

The very large interests at stake in the matter induce me to lay before the Secretary of State the following practical suggestion as to the manner in which the reform of the system of land revenue administration in Madras that I have been urging for the last four years may be commenced without any abrupt or untimely interference with things as they are at present. The magnitude of the operations required in order to effect a thorough reform is probably sufficient to account for the hesitation of the Madras authorities in undertaking it, after due allowance has been made for the dislike of the local Officers to see uprooted a system to which from long usage they have become accustomed, and the evils of which can only be appreciated by an unprejudiced eye looking at them from the outside. It is evident, too, from sundry expressions that have been allowed to slip from the pens of the Madras Government and the Board of Revenue in the course of the correspondence, that the fears of great disturbance in the conduct of affairs and of a sudden and large diminution in the land revenue have had their effect on the minds of those authorities in opposing my views, and these I hope to dispel. It will be remembered that although the Board of Revenue, with at all events the tacit endorsement of the Governor in Council, have descended to throw the blame of the non-success of the system not on its own deficiencies but on the Collectors and their subordinates who have administered it, the real truth, that the method of

of assessment of lands by the Revenue Surveylies at the bottom of the mischief, has been fully acknowledged by Mr. Clark, the Executive Officer at present responsible for Survey operations in Madras, almost in the precise terms that I have used in commenting on the state of matters. This fact contains in itself the seed of good promise for the future, which I have no doubt will, if properly cultivated, lead to a wholesome growth. He has apparently an open mind, and is not tied down to the superstition not uncommon to subordinate Indian officials who have not the opportunity of looking at matters from a broad point of view, that what has been done in their own Presidency must be the best. I have heard that this very objection has been raised to my own endeavours to bring the question forward, and it has been said that I only wished as a Bombay Officer to find fault with Madras, but I trust that the Secretary of State will by this time have discovered that my efforts have been dictated by a far higher motive. The one great encouraging factor those who desire reform have in their favour is that there is a large field to work upon, for the Madras Government have acknowledged there are six million acres of arable waste land in the Presidency. These could all be re-assessed on a proper system. As this would have to be done gradually, a single year's experience at a comparatively trifling cost would show how far the adoption of the Bombay system would tend to induce the taking up of the waste land for cultivation and lead to an increase of the land revenue. Let a commencement on a small scale be made in the waste lands in the Madras Collectories bordering on Belgam and Dharwar, or districts similarly situated to Bijapur and Sholapur, in Bombay, where the two systems could be seen working

working side by side, by the head of the Madras Survey with an experienced Bombay Officer. I would myself go out for a time for the purpose. Secretary of State would accept my services.

The two together would very soon come to an understanding as to what changes could be carried out without in any way interfering for the present with the existing system, and at a minimum cost, inasmuch as the existing revenue would not be affected to the extent of a single Rupee. In no other way can a satisfactory conclusion be arrived at. In this way the actual classification of the soil and the assessment of fields would be examined on the spot, with probably to a great extent the evidence of standing crops to enable the two Officers to form a judgment on the working of both systems.

Such a reliable joint report would then be furnished as would enable the Government and the Secretary of State to come to a decision as to what should be done to do away with the necessity for evicting over 10,000 tenants every year for default in payment of the land revenue, in addition to putting a stop to the system of issuing demand notices by the million, and putting the ryots to the extra expense of interest on overdue instalments and the cost of notices of various kinds served broadcast.

I have, &c.,

(Sd.) A. Rogers,

38, Clanricarde Gardens,
W.



601.

INDIA OFFICE,

LONDON. 24th JUNE 1897.

REVENUE,

No. 6.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE THE GOVERNOR
IN COUNCIL FORT ST. GEORGE.

Sir,

In continuation of my Despatch in
this Department No. 5, dated 27th May
1897, I forward herewith copy of
further papers noted in the margin
respecting Mr. Rogers' criticisms upon
the Land Revenue Administration in
your Presidency.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

George Hamilton

From Mr. Rogers, dated 24th May.
To Mr. Rogers, dated 21st June
1897.

292
14797

Referred to in Madras
Revenue Despatch
No. 6 dated 24th June 1897

Copy correspondence
with Mr. Rogers.

N=4

18-24/7/97

Same as C-No. 6049



INDIA OFFICE

LONDON 27 JUL 1897

No. 6.

Revenue,

24th June 1897.

The
Letter to Fort St. George,
No. 6.

REVENUE

No. 6.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN
COUNCIL, FORT ST. GEORGE

RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN
COUNCIL
24th June 1897

RECEIVED BY THE GOVERNOR IN
COUNCIL
24th June 1897
The Revenue Department
has the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. regarding the Revenue Department in the Madras Presidency.

Yours, Sir,

(Sd/-) George Hamilton

90-3872-Ans
2-6-7-97

No. 2.

Revenue.

24th June 1897.

Copy Letter to Fort St. George,
No. 6.

When given for copying _____
When copied _____ } 189.
When examined _____
When signed _____

READ AGAIN G.O., No. _____ DATED _____
189

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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IN ORIGINAL.

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