21/4/21

Revenue (1897) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 754

DATED 4th September

[Despatch Abstract.]

Stamping of Weights and Measures.

Sanc. the expenditure of Rs. 18,025-14-1 incurred in the — during 1896-97.

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 DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture),

MADRAS.

Recd. } 1897. *Enclosures*

Regd. } *Spare copies*

Printed August th.

The Hon. Mr Grose C.I.E

Proceedings, 21st July 1897, No. 522.

No. 7548/4 dt. 3rd Sept. 1897

Orders Go (Press)

The total expenditure incurred during 1896-97. viz Rs. 18,125-14-1, is sanctioned. 11/27/1897

JULY.

RS 20-8-97

Rd 16.9.97 Rd (letter) Mr C.G Mr J.P 6/5

I have received and copy sent herewith submitted 11/27/1897 Put up a copy for reserve Accordingly 25.9.97 Submitted, copy of Mem. to the Hon. the Member with Government Settlement. 11/27/1897

Stamping of weights and measures.—Submitting to Government report on the operations of the establishments for — during the triennium ending 1896-97.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(REVENUE SETTLEMENT, LAND RECORDS AND AGRICULTURE).

READ—the following papers:—

Fom the Collector of	Anantapur,	dated	11th May 1897,	Dis. No. 720.
,, ,,	of Arcot, North	,,	17th ,, ,,	,, 1483-Acct.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	21st ,, ,,	,, 1552-Acct.
,, ,,	of Arcot, South	,,	3rd ,, ,,	No. 1098-Acct.
,, ,,	of Bellary	,,	17th ,, ,,	Dis. No. 365-Acct.
,, ,,	of Canara, South	,,	30th April ,,	,, 383-Acct.
,, ,,	of Chingleput	,,	7th May ,,	,, 491-Acct.
,, ,,	of Coimbatore	,,	6th ,, ,,	,, 1524-Rev.
,, ,,	of Cuddapah	,,	6th ,, ,,	,, 1049-Acct.
,, ,,	of Ganjám	,,	19th ,, ,,	,, 805-Acct.
,, ,,	of Gódávari	,,	20th ,, ,,	,, 795-Acct.
,, ,,	of Kistna	,,	5th ,, ,,	,, 979-Acct.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	29th ,, ,,	,, 1172-Acct.
,, ,,	of Kurnool	,,	27th ,, ,,	,, 1442-Eng.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	29th ,, ,,	,, 1478.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	4th June ,,	,, 1536.
,, ,,	of Madras	,,	11th May ,,	,, 1003.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	2nd June ,,	,, 1200.
,, ,,	of Madura	,,	11th May ,,	,, 764.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	5th June ,,	,, 764.
,, ,,	of Malabar	,,	6th May ,,	No. *Nil.*
,, ,,	of Nellore	,,	16th June ,,	,, 1816-Ver.
,, ,,	of the Nilgiris	,,	12th ,, ,,	Dis. No. 1279.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	14th ,, ,,	,, 1291.
,, ,,	of Salem	,,	7th May ,,	No. 806-Acct.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	4th June ,,	Dis. No. 977-Acct.
,, ,,	of Tanjore	,,	27th May ,,	No. 761-Acct.
,, ,,	of Tinnevelly	,,	23rd June ,,	Dis. No. 1181.
,, ,,	of ,,	,,	28th ,, ,,	Ref. on No. 148-Perl.
,, ,,	of Trichinopoly	,,	15th May ,,	No. 1396-Try.
,, ,,	of Vizagapatam	,,	5th June ,,	Dis. No. 1508-Acct.

RESOLUTION—dated 21st July 1897, No. 522.

With reference to paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 482, Revenue, dated 14th June 1896, and paragraph 11 of B.P., dated 31st July 1888, No. 375, the Board begs to submit to Government the following report on the operations of the establishments for stamping weights and measures during the three years ending 1896–97.

2. During the period under report, stamping operations were in progress in all the Districts except the Nilgiris and Malabar.

3. *Operations in* 1896–97.—The subjoined statement shows the number of measures, weights and measuring rods stamped during the year and the receipts and charges connected with the stamping operations as reported by Collectors:—

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped and the receipts and charges during the year 1896–97 as reported by Collectors.

Districts.	Number of measures and weights stamped.			Measuring rods.	Total.	Rate of fees charged.	Total fees collected during the year.	Charges incurred.			Remarks.
	Dry measures.	Liquid measures.	Weights.					Establishment.	Contingencies.	Total.	
						Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1. Ganjám	1,526	211	473	16	2,226	0 1 0	139 2 0	165 1 11	5 15 9	169 2 2	(a) 7,738 articles at As. 1–6 and 169 at As. 2 each.
2. Vizagapatam ..	5,510	872	1,595	..	7,907	(a) { 0 1 6 / 0 2 0 }	(b) 763 9 2	(c) 698 14 6	(d) 127 4 1	826 2 7	(b) The collection as per details should be Rs. 746–9–0. Explanation has been called for to account for the difference.
3. Gódávari ..	1,231	129	1,311	..	2,671	0 0 9	125 3 3	120 0 0	5 7 0	125 7 0	(c) Includes the arrears of pay during 1895–96 paid in the year under report.
4. Kistna	12,993	648	10,373	20	24,034	(c) { 0 0 10 / 0 1 0 }	1,496 3 8	724 4 2	72 5 1	796 9 3	(d) Includes Rs. 119–11–4 being the cost of testing glasses, brass yard measures and foot rules purchased during the year under report.
5. Nellore	6,854	627	8,138	17	15,036	0 0 6	(d) 466 0 6	328 3 0	3 0 0	331 3 0	(e) 556 articles at 10 pies and 23,168 at 1 anna each.
6. Cuddapah ..	10,702	362	6,522	44	(g) 17,950	0 1 3	1,402 5 6	1,339 7 0	(h) 26 7 7	1,365 14 7	(f) The collections as per details should be Rupees 469–14–0. The short credit of Rs. 1–13–6 has been made good in April 1897.
7. Anantapur ..	1,751	237	1,281	44	3,313	0 1 0	207 1 0	(i) 211 5 5	..	211 5 5	(g) Includes 320 toddy and arrack measures stamped.
8. Bellary	2,871	144	1,955	..	4,970	0 1 0	310 10 0	300 0 0	7 7 6	307 7 6	(h) Includes Rs. 19–4–7 being the cost of steel dies purchased for use in the District.
9. Kurnool	5,719	654	5,494	44	11,911	0 1 0	(j) 738 6 0	484 1 1	96 10 6	580 11 7	(i) Includes Rs. 17–2–0 being the amount of pay relating to previous year disbursed in the year under report.
10. Madras	9,532	361	21,422	..	31,315	0 0 9	1,467 14 3	890 3 1	79 0 3	969 3 4	(j) Includes an excess amount of As. 3, the sale-proceeds of a copy of the karnam's survey manual erroneously credited under this head into the Markapur taluk accounts.
11. Chingleput ..	29,617	497	39,884	1,336	71,334	0 0 4	(k) 1,483 15 0	978 9 2	34 11 6	913 4 8	(k) The collections as per details should be Rupees 1,486–2–0. The difference of Rs. 2–3–0 is reported to have been misappropriated by the stamping gumastah at Tiruvallur and that the matter will be enquired into.
12. North Arcot ..	29,707	1,363	27,448	199	58,717	0 0 9	(l) 2,752 6 3	2,671 15 0	0 15 0	2,672 14 0	(l) The collection as per details should be Rupees 2,752–5–9. The difference of 6 pies is due to the short collection of 9 pies in Chandragiri taluk, which has been made good in April 1897, and the excess collection of 3 pies in Punganúru.
13. South Arcot ..	48,264	3,925	36,913	498	(m) 87,840	{ 0 0 4 / 0 1 0 }	1,537 10 8	840 13 3	35 13 0	876 7 3	(m) Includes 1,007 steel-yards and scale-beams and 233 toddy and arrack measures stamped.
14. Tanjore	35,070	7,010	35,839	154	77,563	{ 0 0 4 / 0 0 6 }	2,003 11 4	1,292 6 1	179 3 7	1,471 9 8	(n) Includes 87,636 articles at 4 pies and 184 measuring rods at 1 anna each.
15. Trichinopoly ..	12,149	1,163	3,808	61	17,181	0 1 0	1,072 9 0	568 3 1	8 0 0	576 3 1	(o) Includes 37,230 articles at 4 pies and 40,338 at 4 pies each.
16. Madura	35,495	2,689	17,145	152	55,481	0 0 8	2,311 11 4	1,874 0 5	49 5 7	1,923 6 0	(p) Includes As. 4–3 being the sale-proceeds of old standard weights.
17. Tinnevelly ..	18,208	510	30,100	40	48,858	0 0 9	(r) 2,290 7 9	1,920 6 6	(q) 195 7 6	2,115 14 0	(q) Includes Rs. 37–6–8 being the cost of scales, standard weights, 4 seal types, a lock and a stamp purchased for use in the District, and As. 4 being the Railway charge for sending a scale and a lock to Ottapidaram Tahsildar.
18. Coimbatore ..	12,835	241	1,348	..	14,424	(r) { 0 0 8 / 0 0 10 }	708 10 6	585 9 10	32 15 2	618 9 0	(r) 4,089 articles at 8 pies and 10,395 at 10 pies each.
19. The Nilgiris ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	(s) 2,362 articles at 1 anna and 3,017 at As. 2 each.
20. Salem	8,447	747	824	10	10,028	0 1 0	626 12 0	633 12 0	0 15 7	634 11 7	(t) Includes 326 toddy and arrack measures stamped.
21. South Canara ..	2,714	1,172	1,471	12	5,369	(s) { 0 1 0 / 0 2 0 }	524 2 0	217 8 0	265 12 2	423 4 2	
22 Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	238,095	23,352	254,764	2,637	568,008	..	22,730 6 2	16,729 11 9	1,166 9 10	17,896 5 7	
Total for 1896–97 ..	274,945	29,591	254,159	1,845	(t) 559,174	..	23,437 15 9	16,367 2 9	1,951 0 5	18,318 3 2	

4. The total number of measures, &c., stamped during the year was 568,008 or 8,834 more than in the previous year. The increase, which occurred in all the kinds of articles stamped except liquid measures, was largest in the case of dry measures. The decrease in the liquid measures was slightly over 6,500. During the year under report about a thousand scale-beams and steel-yards were also stamped.

Articles stamped.	1895-96.	1896-97.	Difference.
Dry measures	272,945	285,695	+ 12,750
Liquid measures	29,891	23,352	— 6,539
Weights	254,169	254,764	+ 595
Measuring rods	1,843	2,637	+ 794
Steel yards and scale beams ..	..	1,007	+ 1,007
Toddy and arrack measures ..	326	553	+ 227
Total ..	559,174	568,008	+ 8,834

Taking the aggregate number of measures and weights stamped, there were decreases of about 1,000 in Gódávari, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Coimbatore and South Canara, of about two to three thousand in Nellore, Anantapur and North Arcot, of a little over 7,500 in Ganjám and Madura, and of over 9,000 in Tinnevelly. On the other hand, there were increases of about two to three thousand in the Districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore, of about five to six thousand in Kistna and Vizagapatam, and of nearly 27,000 in South Arcot. The falling off in Ganjám is reported to be due to the facts that the establishment worked only in the second half of the year, and that the work turned out during that period was not satisfactory owing to the prevalence of cholera in the sub-division. The decrease in Gódávari is attributed to the fact that one, out of the two parties in the District, turned out no work during the year owing to the death of the stamping gumastah; and that, in North Arcot, is ascribed to the abolition of the establishment in Maderpauk consequent on the transfer of that Division to the Chingleput District and, to a certain extent, to the unfavourable character of the season. The causes of the falling-off in the other Districts have not been explained by the Collectors. The large increase in South Arcot is reported to be due to the establishments having worked vigorously and to greater vigilance having been exercised by the supervising officers. The Deputy Collector of Madras, where there was an increase of about 1,000 in the number of weights and measures stamped, states that it is impossible to give any explanation for variations in the number as bazaarmen are under no compulsion to have their weights and measures stamped.

5. The receipts and charges according to Collectors' statements amounted to Rs. 22,720-6-2 and Rs. 17,895-5-7 against Rs. 23,487-15-9 and Rs. 18,818-3-2, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease occurred chiefly in the Districts in which there was a large decrease in the number of measures and weights stamped.

6. The charges exceeded the receipts in Gánjam, Vizagapatam, Gódávari Anantapur and Salem. The excess in Ganjám was chiefly due to the disbursement of certain salaries relating to the previous year. In Vizagapatam, although there was a marked improvement in the stamping operations, the charges exceeded the receipts owing to the purchase of fresh yard measures and ounce glasses for use in the District. The slight excess (viz., Rs. 8) in Salem is reported to be due to the payment of certain arrears due on account of the previous year. The excess in Gódávari and Anantapur was small.

District.	Excess of charges over receipts. Rs.	A.	P.
Ganjám	25	15	11
Vizagapatam	72	9	5
Gódávari	0	3	9
Anantapur	4	4	5
Salem	7	15	5

7. In the Districts noted below the realizations considerably exceeded the total charges incurred :—

Districts.	Rate of fee charged. Rs.	A.	P.	Receipts. Rs.	A.	P.	Charges. Rs.	A.	P.	Difference. Rs.	A.	P.	Percentage of difference.
South Arcot	0	0	4	1,837	10	8	876	7	3	+ 961	3	5	109·7
Trichinopoly	0	1	0	1,072	9	0	566	3	1	+ 506	5	11	89·4
Kistna	0	0	10	1,496	3	8	796	9	3	+ 699	10	5	87·8
Chingleput	0	0	4	1,483	15	0	913	4	8	+ 570	10	4	62·5
Madras	0	0	9	1,467	14	3	969	3	4	+ 498	10	11	51·5
Nellore	0	0	6	468	0	6	331	3	0	+ 136	13	6	41·4
Tanjore	0	0	4	2,003	11	4	1,471	9	8	+ 532	1	8	36·1
Kurnool	0	1	0	738	6	0	580	11	7	+ 157	10	5	27·2
South Canara	0	1	6	524	2	0	423	4	2	+ 100	13	10	23·9

In Kurnool and Trichinopoly the Collectors propose, with reference to paragraph 8 of B.P., dated 11th August 1896, No. 195, that the rate of one anna charged in their Districts may, without loss to Government, be reduced to 9 pies; and their proposals are approved and sanctioned. In Kistna, Tanjore and South Arcot, the rates of fees were reduced during the year under report from one anna to 10 pies in the first named District, from 6 pies to 4 pies in the second, and from 4 pies for each weight, measure or steel-yard and one anna for each measuring rod to a uniform rate of 4 pies for all the articles in the third. The reduced rates in the latter two Districts and the rate prevailing in Chingleput being very moderate, it seems unnecessary to make any further reduction in them. In Kistna, the reduction does not appear to have been given effect to in the General Deputy Collector's Division. The Collector states that that officer has been requested to report why the rate of fees is still kept at 1 anna in his division and to issue orders at once to reduce the fee to 10 pies. The excess being very large, the Collector will be requested to consider and report at the end of the current year whether the rate of fee may not be reduced still further. The Collectors of Nellore and Madras also will be requested to report whether any reduction can be made in the existing rates of fees in their respective Districts. During the year, under review the rate of fees was reduced also in Coimbatore from 10 pies to eight pies. In Vizagapatam, the Board sanctioned in its Proceedings, No. 568, dated 1st February 1896, the reduction of the fee to a uniform rate of As. 1-6; but in the report read above, the weights and measures are stated to have been stamped at the former rates. The Collector will be requested to report why the reduction was not given effect to.

8. With a few exceptions, the test by volume of water is reported to have been applied in all the Districts in the case of dry measures. The Collector of Gódávari states that as "final orders have not yet been passed regarding the test of dry measures by volume of water as stated in Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 1565, dated 14th March 1893, those measures were tested as follows:—the capacity of the measures presented for test was adjusted by actually filling them with a known quantity of grain measured and by calculating the contents of the heap of grain over the rim of the measure according to the formula given in the Board's Standing Orders." The Board does not understand the Collector's remark. What the Board stated in its Proceedings, No. 1565, dated 14th March 1893, was that pending the result of investigations ordered in G.O., No. 610 (Revenue), dated 31st August 1888, regarding the grain measures in use at the several stations in the Presidency no alteration need be made in the existing standard measures in the District. It does not follow from this that the test by volume of water, which is the most correct method of determining the volumes of grain measures, should be discarded. The question of the test to be applied by stamping officers in Gódávari will, however be dealt with in separate Proceedings.

9. The method of testing liquid measures by means of standard measures prepared in the manner described in B.P., dated 11th August 1896, No. 194, appears to have been introduced only in Madras and South Canara.

10. There were no complaints by the public against the stamping establishments during the year.

11. In Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly, it is stated that 13 and 34 persons, respectively, were prosecuted for using false weights and measures and that of these 11 and 5 persons were convicted and the others discharged or acquitted. The Collector of Tinnevelly further reports that in the Sankaranayinárkóyil taluk the gumastah and the smith were dismissed as they were found to have entered into a systematic contract with a local bazaarman for the supply of measures to the public and to have recovered illegal fees. The Collector of South Canara reports that he caused an investigation to be made into the weights and measures in use in the Mangalore Town with the result that many stamped weights and measures in use in the grain trade of the town were found to require re-adjustment most probably on account of the wearing away by long use, that in one case only the owner appears to have tampered with the measures shortly after they were stamped, for which he would be prosecuted criminally; that a large number of weights and measures have yet to be stamped, especially in the precious metal trade, and that notices have been ordered to be given to the merchants concerned that they should get their weights and measures stamped or retested by the stamping establishment.

12. The Collector of Madras states in his report that "of the 9,532 dry measures, 361 liquid measures, and 21,422 weights on which fees were levied during the year, 341 dry measures, one liquid measure and 457 weights which formed part of the sets produced for stamping were not actually presented and stamped" and adds, "of these however, 147 dry measures and 126 weights relating to sets produced for being stamped since 1st January 1897, will be accepted and stamped if tendered before 30th June 1897." It would appear from this that fees are charged for whole sets of weights and measures whether the whole or only a part of the set is brought to be stamped. The Board considers that the practice is objectionable and should be discontinued unless the Collector can show cause for retaining it. The Collector of Coimbatore states that the Head Assistant Collector reports as follows: "There seems to be a practice in this Division that as soon as the stamping gumastah goes to a taluk, each bazaarman is made to produce his weights and measures for verification whether in previous years they were stamped or not. By this practice a great number of the weights and measures produced by the bazaarmen are being restamped year after year. In B.P., dated 31st July 1888, No. 375, paragraph 9, the Board considers that this is unnecessary, except in cases where they have become worn out or reduced in capacity and it cannot be said that the weights and measures stamped in the previous year become worn out in the very next year." The Collector adds that "as these establishments are self-supporting, it is not unlikely that the gumastah with a view to show collections sufficient to cover his pay, makes a point of restamping measures and weights even when those stamped in the previous years do not require it; that he is issuing orders drawing the attention of the gumastah to the paragraph of the Board's Proceedings quoted above and forbidding him from calling for and inspecting measures except under the written orders of the Tahsildar under whose supervision he is working; and that the Tahsildars will be directed to satisfy themselves that the stamping done in former years has become obliterated, or that the measures generally are becoming so worn out as to need verification, before allowing the gumastahs to call for weights and measures every year."

13. The receipts and charges as reported by Collectors compare as shown below with the figures furnished by the Accountant-General:—

Receipts.

	Rs.	A.	P.
According to Collector's figures	22,720	6	2
Add—			
Excess amount erroneously credited to "stamping weights and measures" in Bellary	8	6	0
Excess receipts shown in the Accountant-General's books not explained by the Collector of Madras	1	8	0
Amount erroneously credited to "stamping weights and measures" instead of under "23. Stationery and Printing" in North Arcot	0	4	0

	Rs.	A.	P.
Receipts—cont.			
Amount wrongly credited to "stamping weights and measures" instead of to "sale of old stores and materials" in South Arcot	3	1	7
Amount realized in 1895–96 but credited into the accounts of the year under report in Trichinopoly	6	11	0
Total ...	22,740	4	9
Deduct—			
Amount realized in the year under report but not credited into the accounts of that year in Trichinopoly	33	11	0
Total receipts as advised by the Accountant-General ...	22,706	9	9
Charges.			
According to Collector's figures	17,895	5	7
Add—			
Amount of charges shown in the Accountant-General's books not reported by the Collector of the Nilgiris ...	399	0	8
Total ...	18,294	6	3
Deduct—			
Amount not adjusted in the Accountant-General's books in Vizagapatam	102	1	1
Amount of the cost of three pairs of scales obtained from Public Works Workshops omitted in the Accountant-General's books in Tanjore	166	7	1
Total charges as advised by the Accountant-General ...	18,025	14	1

14. The Board requests that the above charges (Rs. 18,025–14–1) which are less than the receipts (Rs. 22,706–9–9) of the year may be sanctioned.

15. The Collectors of Vizagapatam, Madras and Tanjore do not appear to have compared their figures with those of the treasury accounts although attention was drawn to this point in previous years' reports. They have been called upon to explain discrepancies between their figures and those reported by the Accountant-General. In the report received from the Nilgiris, it is stated that there were no charges on account of stamping operations; but in the Accountant-General's statements, a charge of Rs. 399–0–8 is given, which is probably due to the purchase of certain standard weights, measures and other articles for use in the District (*vide* B.P., dated 8th January 1897, No. 173 R. S). The Collector has been requested to report on the matter.

16. *Operations during the triennium ending* 1896–97.—The statement in Appendix I shows in one view the number of measures and weights stamped in each District, the amount of fees collected and the charges incurred during each of the three years ending 1896–97. As compared with the first of these years there was a steady increase in the two subsequent years in Kistna and Tanjore, in the number of weights and measures stamped; while in Nellore, Anantapur and Coimbatore, there was a steady falling off. In Vizagapatam, Bellary, South Arcot, Kurnool, Madras, Trichinopoly and Salem, there was a falling off in 1895–96, but the decrease in the first three Districts was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the subsequent year, while that in the other four Districts was only partly made up by recoveries in the following year. In the remaining eight Districts there was an increase in 1895–96 but a decrease in 1896–97. The Districts which contributed the largest number of articles stamped are Tanjore, South Arcot, Chingleput, North Arcot, Madura and Tinnevelly, the total number stamped in these Districts in each of the three years being 70 per cent. of the number stamped in the whole Presidency. The variations in the receipts correspond with the variations in the number of weights and measures stamped in all the Districts except Kurnool and Tanjore, where there was a falling off

in the receipts of 1896–97 as compared with those of the previous year, owing to reduction in the rates of fees from As. 1–3 to 1 anna in the former and from 6 pies to 4 pies in the latter.

17. Compared with the triennium ending 1893–94, the total number of weights and measures stamped during the period under report exhibits an increase of more than 147,000 and the fees collected an increase of Rs. 3,186, while there was a decrease of Rs. 824 in the charges incurred. The largest increases in the numbers stamped occurred in Chingleput, Nellore, Tanjore and South Arcot, while the largest decrease occurred in the District of North Arcot. The variations in the receipts correspond with the variations in the number of weights and measures stamped.

18. In respect to the working of the establishments the Board desires to draw the special attention of Collectors to the following remarks:—

So far as regards weights and measuring rods, which are easily tested by standards, there is no reason to apprehend error. The correctness of liquid measures is also not difficult to gauge, and, except as regards the sale of intoxicating liquors (where the use of English measures is enforced), the maintenance of correct liquid measures is a matter of comparatively small importance.

19. Quite other is the case with respect to the bewildering variety of local grain measures in which the record of the daily price of the staple food-grains is maintained. Upon the correctness of these local measures, *i.e.*, upon their correspondence with the capacities given in appendix to Board's Standing Order No. 290, depends the correctness of the Board's calculations of the average prices which determine the commutation rate, and ultimately the land-revenue demand. In stamping grain measures it is therefore of extreme importance that the stamping establishment should understand what it is about, and that its work should be intelligently supervised.

20. It has been recently reported from the Gódávari District that a local measure, supposed to contain 320 tolas, is now found to have expanded, diversely in divers localities, and that these various expansions mostly bear the Government stamp. The error appears to have arisen from the adoption of unauthorized testing processes, and from obliviousness, on the part of even the superior officers, to the prime importance of maintaining unchanged the local standards in terms of which the prices of the staple food-grains are reported.

21. On an examination of the Collectors' reports, the Board does not feel the least assurance (in spite of the repeated cautions given in the past) that similar mischief may not be resulting from stamping operations elsewhere. No Collector gives any description of the dry measures which have been stamped, nor do the reports contain any indication that the stamping gumastahs are acquainted with the appendices to Standing Order No. 290, or that they are competent to make the test by volume of water which the Standing Order describes, or that they understand that no grain measure should be stamped other than the local standard, and its multiples and sub-multiples. The presumption that work is being properly done is weakened by the fact that the stamping gumastahs are poorly-paid temporary hands, whose pay often does not exceed eight or ten rupees a month; while the Collectors' reports disclose that the supervision exercised over them by the Tahsildars and Divisional officers is (no doubt from press of other work) often unintelligent, perfunctory, or *nil*. Most of the reports recite that dry measures were tested "by water," or "by volume of water," or "by means of water measured in ounce glasses",—stereotyped formulæ which do not re-assure the Board.

The Collector of Madras reports that "measures are measured by gallon-sized pots of 61 ounces" whatever that may mean.

Bellary tests "by volume of water and rice with standard measures." Ganjám tests "by water and rice."

22. The Board therefore deems it necessary to request all Collectors (except the Collectors of Malabar and the Nilgiris) to call on their Divisional Officers to ascertain by personal enquiry of the stamping gumastahs what grain measures they have, in fact, been stamping; what test each gumastah has, in fact, been applying; whether the

gumastah understands Standing Order No. 290, and the appendices as revised up to date, and is competent to test measures in accordance with it; and whether the stamped local measures now in actual use exhibit any notable variation from the standards given in the conversion table appended to Standing Order No. 290.

23. The result of the enquiry should be reported as soon as may be. The Collector of Gódávari will submit the report in respect of those taluks regarding which he has not already reported.

24. To lessen the risk of mistake in future, each stamping gumastah should be directed to maintain, for grain measures only, a diary in the following form:—

Date.	Taluk.	Town or village.	Name of person presenting the measure to be tested.	Local name of the measure.	Number of tolas it ought to hold of second sort or average rice (*vide* appendix to Standing Order No. 290).	Diameter.	Contents in water ounces.	Contents in water ounces after correction.	Date of stamping.

(True Extract.)

R. Srinivasan
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to all Collectors.

Kvd A. Rungaswmy Aiyangar.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped and the receipts and charges during the triennial period ending 1896-97.

Districts.	Number of weights and measures stamped.				Fees collected.				Charges incurred.			
	During 1894-95.	During 1895-96.	During 1896-97.	Total.	During 1894-95.	During 1895-96.	During 1896-97.	Total.	During 1894-95.	During 1895-96.	During 1896-97.	Total.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Ganjám	2,490	9,833	2,226	14,549	155 10 0	614 9 0	139 2 0	909 5 0	559 0 9	601 10 3	165 1 11	1,325 12 11
2. Vizagapatam	2,711	1,909	7,907	12,527	317 4 3	233 15 0	753 9 2	1,304 12 5	235 8 10	800 15 8	826 2 7	1,862 11 1
3. Godávari	3,382	3,814	2,671	9,867	158 8 6	178 12 6	125 3 3	462 8 3	145 0 6	176 0 0	125 7 0	446 7 6
4. Kistna	15,107	18,702	24,034	57,843	944 3 0	1,168 14 0	1,496 3 8	3,609 4 8	785 6 10	808 10 5	796 9 3	2,390 10 6
5. Nellore	26,856	17,619	15,036	59,511	839 4 0	550 9 6	468 0 6	1,857 14 0	329 13 11	354 15 4	331 3 0	1,016 0 3
6. Cuddapah	16,805	19,019	17,950	53,774	1,575 7 6	1,594 8 9	1,402 5 6	4,572 5 9	1,177 3 11	1,339 2 1	1,365 14 7	3,882 4 7
7. Anantapur	5,552	5,551	3,313	14,416	347 0 0	346 15 0	207 1 0	901 0 0	260 6 5	306 15 5	211 5 5	778 11 3
8. Bellary	4,885	4,597	4,970	14,452	305 5 0	287 5 0	310 10 0	903 4 0	302 2 0	306 14 0	307 7 6	916 7 6
9. Kurnool	11,990	11,601	11,811	35,402	945 13 9	813 7 3	738 6 0	2,497 11 0	747 12 6	478 8 0	580 11 7	1,807 0 1
10. Madras	32,242	30,321	31,315	93,878	1,511 5 6	1,421 4 9	1,467 14 3	4,400 8 6	1,037 15 6	1,034 3 4	969 3 4	3,041 6 2
11. Chingleput	57,482	72,380	71,334	201,196	1,197 8 8	1,507 14 8	1,483 15 0	4,189 6 4	706 0 2	998 13 3	913 4 8	2,618 2 1
12. North Arcot	59,811	61,903	58,717	180,431	2,803 10 6	2,901 11 3	2,752 5 3	8,457 11 0	2,871 8 6	2,892 5 3	2,672 14 0	8,436 11 9
13. South Arcot	68,913	60,964	87,840	217,717	1,442 0 4	1,276 0 8	1,837 10 8	4,555 11 8	826 3 3	760 5 9	876 7 3	2,463 0 3
14. Tanjore	69,006	74,246	77,563	220,815	2,156 7 0	2,320 3 0	2,003 11 4	6,480 5 4	1,257 7 3	1,382 11 8	1,471 9 8	4,111 12 7
15. Trichinopoly	18,395	15,310	17,161	50,872	1,119 11 0	957 4 0	1,072 9 0	3,179 8 0	602 1 4	666 0 1	566 3 1	1,834 4 6
16. Madura	55,660	63,046	55,481	174,187	2,319 2 8	2,626 14 8	2,311 11 4	7,257 12 8	1,921 3 11	1,918 4 0	1,923 6 0	5,762 13 11
17. Tinnevelly	54,707	58,005	48,858	161,570	2,566 3 0	2,728 6 3	2,290 7 9	7,585 1 0	2,244 8 9	2,370 9 0	2,115 14 0	6,730 15 9
18. Coimbatore	16,694	15,327	14,424	46,445	869 9 8	798 4 6	708 10 6	2,376 8 8	561 14 0	559 8 0	618 9 0	1,739 15 0
19. The Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Salem	10,863	8,933	10,028	29,824	678 15 0	558 5 0	626 12 0	1,864 0 0	678 11 0	558 10 0	634 11 7	1,872 0 7
21. South Canara	4,535	6,088	5,369	15,992	446 2 0	602 11 0	524 2 0	1,572 15 0	411 13 2	503 1 8	423 4 2	1,338 3 0
22. Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	538,086	559,174	568,008	1,665,268	22,729 3 4	23,487 15 9	22,720 6 2	68,937 9 3	17,661 14 6	18,818 3 2	17,895 5 7	54,375 7 3

APPENDIX II.

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped as well as the receipts and charges in the triennium ending 1893-94 and 1896-97.

Districts.	Number of weights and measures stamped during the triennium ending		Receipts during the triennium ending		Charges during the triennium ending	
	1893-94.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1896-97.	1893-94.	1896-97.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Ganjám	16,787	14,549	1,049 3 0	909 5 0	1,614 0 4	1,325 12 11
2. Vizagapatam	8,863	12,527	1,149 10 6	1,304 12 5	904 3 3	1,862 11 1
3. Godávari	15,106	9,867	708 1 6	462 8 3	772 0 4	446 7 6
4. Kistna	44,626	57,843	2,713 2 9	3,609 4 8	2,240 5 4	2,390 10 6
5. Nellore	29,437	59,511	1,048 3 9	1,857 14 0	930 15 5	1,016 0 3
6. Cuddapah	57,398	53,774	5,381 1 0	4,572 5 9	4,378 11 5	3,882 4 7
7. Anantapur	18,966	14,416	1,184 12 0	901 0 0	1,152 1 11	778 11 3
8. Bellary	19,680	14,452	1,230 0 0	903 4 0	1,157 5 6	916 7 6
9. Kurnool	30,086	35,402	2,397 6 3	2,497 11 0	1,678 12 7	1,807 0 1
10. Madras	101,450	93,878	4,755 7 6	4,400 8 6	4,092 11 3	3,041 6 2
11. Chingleput	148,955	201,196	3,103 3 8	4,189 6 4	2,256 0 9	2,618 2 1
12. North Arcot	205,445	180,431	9,634 1 6	8,457 11 0	9,595 13 7	8,436 11 9
13. South Arcot	198,382	217,717	4,151 8 0	4,555 11 8	4,465 8 4	2,463 0 3
14. Tanjore	192,654	220,815	6,020 7 0	6,480 5 4	3,568 5 11	4,111 12 7
15. Trichinopoly	38,951	50,872	2,434 7 0	3,179 8 0	1,943 12 10	1,834 4 6
16. Madura	166,118	174,187	6,921 10 4	7,257 12 8	5,843 12 11	5,762 13 11
17. Tinnevelly	150,029	161,570	7,037 15 6	7,585 1 0	6,548 14 7	6,730 15 9
18. Coimbatore	38,561	46,445	2,010 1 0	2,376 8 8	1,545 15 3	1,739 15 0
19. The Nilgiris	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Salem	18,952	29,824	1,184 8 0	1,864 0 0	1,126 9 0	1,872 0 7
21. South Canara	16,766	15,992	1,636 11 0	1,572 15 0	1,483 12 3	1,338 3 0
22. Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1,517,692	1,665,268	65,751 9 3	68,937 9 3	55,199 12 8	54,375 7 3

Government {1897} of Madras.

REVENUE.

Recd.	} 1897.	*Enclosures*
Regd.		*Spare copies*

G.O., No. 754, 4th September 1897.

SEPTEMBER.

Stamping of Weights and Measures.

Sanctioning the expenditure of Rs. 18,025–14–1 incurred in the — during 1896–97.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture), No. 522, dated 21st July 1897 :—

Read—the following papers :—

From the Collector of	Anantapur,	dated	11th May 1897,	Dis. No.	720.
" "	Arcot, North	"	17th " "	"	1483-Acct.
" "	of "	"	21st " "	"	1552-Acct.
" "	Arcot, South	"	3rd " "	No.	1098-Acct.
" "	Bellary	"	17th " "	Dis. No.	365-Acct.
" "	Canara, South	"	30th April "	"	383-Acct.
" "	Chingleput	"	7th May "	"	491-Acct.
" "	Coimbatore	"	6th " "	"	1524-Rev.
" "	Cuddapah	"	6th " "	"	1049-Acct.
" "	Ganjám	"	19th " "	"	805-Acct.
" "	Gódávari	"	20th " "	"	795-Acct.
" "	Kistna	"	5th " "	"	979-Acct.
" "	of "	"	29th " "	"	1172-Acct.
" "	of Kurnool	"	27th " "	"	1442-Eng.
" "	of "	"	29th " "	"	1478.
" "	of "	"	4th June "	"	1536.
" "	of Madras	"	13th May "	"	1003.
" "	of "	"	2nd June "	"	1200.
" "	of Madura	"	11th May "	"	764.
" "	of "	"	5th June "	"	764.
" "	of Malabar	"	6th May "	No.	*Nil.*
" "	of Nellore	"	16th June "	"	1816-Ver.
" "	of the Nilgiris	"	12th " "	Dis. No.	1279.
" "	of "	"	14th " "	"	1291.
" "	of Salem	"	7th May "	No.	806-Acct.
" "	of "	"	4th June "	Dis. No.	977-Acct.
" "	of Tanjore	"	27th May "	No.	761-Acct.
" "	of Tinnevelly	"	23rd June "	Dis. No.	1181.
" "	of "	"	28th " "	Ref. on No.	148-Perl.
" "	of Trichinopoly	"	15th May "	No.	1396-Try.
" "	of Vizagapatam	"	5th June "	Dis. No.	1508-Acct.

Resolution—No. 522, dated 21st July 1897.

With reference to paragraph 5 of G.O., No. 482, Revenue, dated 14th June 1896, and paragraph 11 of B.P., dated 31st July 1888, No. 375, the Board begs to submit to Government the following report on the operations of the establishments for stamping weights and measures during the three years ending 1896–97.

2. During the period under report, stamping operations were in progress in all the Districts except the Nilgiris and Malabar.

3. *Operations in* 1896–97.—The subjoined statement shows the number of measures, weights and measuring rods stamped during the year and the receipts and charges connected with the stamping operations as reported by Collectors :—

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped and the receipts and charges during the year 1896–97 as reported by Collectors.

Districts.	Number of measures and weights stamped.				Charges incurred.			Rate of fees charged.	Total fees collected during the year.	Remarks.
	Dry measures.	Liquid measures.	Weights.	Measuring rods.	Total.	Establishment.	Contingencies.	Total.		
						Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1. Ganjám ..	1,626	211	473	16	2,226	159 2 2	5 15 9	165 1 11	0 1 0	139 2 0 (a) 7,738 articles at As. 1–6 and 169 at As. 2 each. (b) The collection as per details should be Rs. 746–9–0. Explanation has been called for to account for the difference. (c) Includes the arrears of pay during 1895–96 paid in the year under report. (d) Includes Rs. 119–11–1 being the cost of testing glasses, brass yard measures and foot rules purchased during the year under report. (e) 566 articles at 10 pies and 23,468 at 1 anna each. (f) The collections as per details should be Rupees 469–14–0. The short credit of Rs. 1–13–6 has been made good in April 1897. (g) Includes 320 toddy and arrack measures stamped. (h) Includes Rs. 19–4–7 being the cost of steel dies purchased for use in the District. (i) Includes Rs. 17–2–0 being the amount of pay relating to previous year disbursed in the year under report. (j) Includes an excess amount of As. 8, the sale-proceeds of a copy of the karnam's survey manual erroneously credited under this head into the Markapur taluk accounts. (k) The collections as per details should be Rupees 1,486–2–0. The difference of Rs. 2–3–0 is reported to have been misappropriated by the stamping gumastah at Tiruvallúr and that the matter will be enquired into. (l) The collection as per details should be Rupees 2,752–5–9. The difference of 6 pies is due to the short collection of 3 pies in Chandragiri taluk, which has been made good in April 1897, and the excess collection of 3 pies in Punganúru. (m) Includes 1,007 steel-yards and scale-beams and 253 toddy and arrack measures stamped. (n) 87,656 articles at 4 pies and 184 measuring rods at 1 anna each. (o) 37,230 articles at 6 pies and 40,383 at 4 pies each. (p) Includes As. 4–3 being the sale-proceeds of old standard weights. (q) Includes Rs. 37–6–8 being the cost of scales, standard weights, iron types, a lock and a stamp purchased for use in the District, and As. 4 being the railway charge for sending a scale and a lock to Ottappidaram Tahsildar. (r) 4,039 articles at 8 pies and 10,335 at 10 pies each. (s) 2,352 articles at 1 anna and 3,017 at As. 2 each. (t) Includes 326 toddy and arrack measures stamped.
2. Vizagapatam ..	5,510	872	1,525	..	7,907	698 14 6 (c)	127 4 1	826 2 7	(a) { 0 1 6 / 0 2 0 }	(b) 758 9 2
3. Gódávari ..	1,231	129	1,311	..	2,671	120 0 0	5 7 0	125 7 0	0 0 9	125 3 3
4. Kistna ..	12,993	648	10,273	20	24,034	724 4 2	72 5 1	796 9 3	(c) { 0 0 10 / 0 1 0 }	1,496 3 8
6. Nellore ..	6,354	527	8,158	17	15,036	328 3 0	3 0 0	331 3 0	0 0 6	(f) 468 0 6
6. Cuddapah ..	10,702	362	6,522	44	(g) 17,950	1,339 7 0 (h)	26 7 7	1,365 14 7	0 1 3	1,402 5 6
7. Anantapur ..	1,761	237	1,281	44	3,313	211 5 5	..	211 5 5	0 1 0	207 1 0
8. Bellary	2,871	144	1,965	..	4,970	300 0 0	7 7 6	307 7 6	0 1 0	310 10 0
9. Kurnool	5,719	554	5,494	44	11,811	484 1 1	96 10 6	580 11 7	0 1 0	(i) 738 6 0
10. Madras	9,632	361	21,422	..	31,315	890 3 1	79 0 3	969 3 4	0 0 9	1,467 14 3
11. Chingleput ..	29,617	497	39,854	1,336	71,304	878 9 2	34 11 6	913 4 8	0 0 4	(k) 1,483 15 0
12. North Arcot ..	20,707	1,363	27,448	199	65,717	2,671 15 0	0 15 0	2,672 14 0	0 0 9	(l) 2,752 5 3
13. South Arcot ..	43,264	3,925	38,913	498	(m) 87,840	840 13 3	35 10 0	876 7 3	{ 0 0 4 / 0 1 0 }	(n) 1,837 10 8
14. Tanjore	35,070	7,010	35,329	154	77,563	1,292 6 1	179 3 7	1,471 9 8	{ 0 0 4 / 0 0 6 }	(o) 2,003 11 4
15. Trichinopoly ..	12,149	1,163	3,808	61	17,161	553 3 1	8 0 0	566 3 1	0 1 0	1,072 9 0
16. Madura	35,445	2,089	17,145	152	55,481	1,874 0 5	49 5 7	1,923 6 0	0 0 8	2,311 11 4
17. Tinnevelly ..	18,208	610	30,100	40	48,858	1,920 6 6	195 7 6	(p) 2,116 14 0	0 0 9	(q) 2,290 7 9
18. Coimbatore ..	12,835	241	1,348	..	14,424	565 9 10	32 15 2	618 9 0	{ 0 0 8 / 0 0 10 }	(r) 708 10 6
19. The Nilgiris ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Salem	8,447	747	824	10	10,028	633 12 0	0 15 7	634 11 7	0 1 0	626 12 0
21. South Canara ..	2,714	1,172	1,471	12	5,369	217 8 0	205 12 2	423 4 2	{ 0 1 0 / 0 2 0 }	(s) 524 2 0
22. Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	285,695	23,352	254,764	2,637	568,068	16,728 11 9	1,166 9 10	17,895 5 7	..	22,720 6 2
Total for 1896–97 ..	272,945	29,891	254,169	1,343	(t) 559,174	16,867 2 9	1,951 0 5	18,818 3 2	..	23,487 15 9

4. The total number of measures, &c., stamped during the year was 568,008 or 8,834 more than in the previous year. The increase, which occurred in all the kinds of articles stamped except liquid measures, was largest in the case of dry measures. The decrease in the liquid measures was slightly over 6,500. During the year under report about a thousand scale-beams and steel-yards were also stamped.

Articles stamped.	1895–96.	1896–97.	Difference.
Dry measures	272,945	285,695	+ 12,750
Liquid measures	29,891	23,352	— 6,539
Weights	254,169	254,764	+ 595
Measuring rods	1,843	2,637	+ 794
Steel yards and scale beams ..	..	1,007	+ 1,007
Toddy and arrack measures ..	326	553	+ 227
Total ..	559,174	568,008	+ 8,834

Taking the aggregate number of measures and weights stamped, there were decreases of about 1,000 in Gódávari, Cuddapah, Chingleput, Coimbatore and South Canara, of about two to three thousand in Nellore, Anantapur and North Arcot, of a little over 7,500 in Ganjám and Madura, and of over 9,000 in Tinnevelly. On the other hand, there were increases of about two to three thousand in the Districts of Trichinopoly and Tanjore, of about five to six thousand in Kistna and Vizagapatam, and of nearly 27,000 in South Arcot. The falling off in Ganjám is reported to be due to the facts that the establishment worked only in the second half of the year, and that the work turned out during that period was not satisfactory owing to the prevalence of cholera in the sub-division. The decrease in Gódávari is attributed to the fact that one, out of the two parties in the District, turned out no work during the year owing to the death of the stamping gumastah; and that, in North Arcot, is ascribed to the abolition of the establishment in Maderpauk consequent on the transfer of that Division to the Chingleput District and, to a certain extent, to the unfavourable character of the season. The causes of the falling-off in the other Districts have not been explained by the Collectors. The large increase in South Arcot is reported to be due to the establishments having worked vigorously and to greater vigilance having been exercised by the supervising officers. The Deputy Collector of Madras, where there was an increase of about 1,000 in the number of weights and measures stamped, states that it is impossible to give any explanation for variations in the number as bazaarmen are under no compulsion to have their weights and measures stamped.

5. The receipts and charges according to Collectors' statements amounted to Rs. 22,720–6–2 and Rs. 17,895–5–7 against Rs. 23,487–15–9 and Rs. 18,818–3–2, respectively, in the previous year. The decrease occurred chiefly in the Districts in which there was a large decrease in the number of measures and weights stamped.

6. The charges exceeded the receipts in Gánjam, Vizagapatam, Gódávari Anantapur and Salem. The excess in Ganjám was chiefly due to the disbursement of certain salaries relating to the previous year. In Vizagapatam, although there was a marked improvement in the stamping operations, the charges exceeded the receipts owing to the purchase of fresh yard measures and ounce glasses for use in the District. The slight excess (viz., Rs. 8) in Salem is reported to be due to the payment of certain arrears due on account of the previous year. The excess in Gódávari and Anantapur was small.

District.	Excess of charges over receipts. Rs.	A.	P.
Ganjám	25	15	11
Vizagapatam	72	9	5
Gódávari	0	3	9
Anantapur	4	4	5
Salem	7	15	5

7. In the Districts noted below the realizations considerably exceeded the total charges incurred :—

Districts.	Rate of fee charged. Rs.	A.	P.	Receipts. Rs.	A.	P.	Charges. Rs.	A.	P.	Difference. Rs.	A.	P.	Percentage of difference.
South Arcot	0	0	4	1,837	10	8	876	7	3	+ 961	3	5	109·7
Trichinopoly	0	1	0	1,072	9	0	566	3	1	+ 506	5	11	89·4
Kistna	0	0	10	1,496	3	8	796	9	3	+ 699	10	5	87·8
Chingleput	0	0	4	1,483	15	0	913	4	8	+ 570	10	4	62·5
Madras	0	0	9	1,467	14	3	969	3	4	+ 498	10	11	51·5
Nellore	0	0	6	468	0	6	331	3	0	+ 136	13	6	41·4
Tanjore	0	0	4	2,003	11	4	1,471	9	8	+ 532	1	8	36·1
Kurnool	0	1	0	736	6	0	580	11	7	+ 157	10	5	27·2
South Canara	0	1	6	5	4	2	0	423	4	2	+ 100	13	10	23·9

In Kurnool and Trichinopoly the Collectors propose, with reference to paragraph 8 of B.P., dated 11th August 1896, No. 195, that the rate of one anna charged in their Districts may, without loss to Government, be reduced to 9 pies; and their proposals are approved and sanctioned. In Kistna, Tanjore and South Arcot, the rates of fees were reduced during the year under report from one anna to 10 pies in the first named District, from 6 pies to 4 pies in the second, and from 4 pies for each weight, measure or steel-yard and one anna for each measuring rod to a uniform rate of 4 pies for all the articles in the third. The reduced rates in the latter two Districts and the rate prevailing in Chingleput being very moderate, it seems unnecessary to make any further reduction in them. In Kistna, the reduction does not appear to have been given effect to in the General Deputy Collector's Division. The Collector states that that officer has been requested to report why the rate of fees is still kept at 1 anna in his division and to issue orders at once to reduce the fee to 10 pies. The excess being very large, the Collector will be requested to consider and report at the end of the current year whether the rate of fee may not be reduced still further. The Collectors of Nellore and Madras also will be requested to report whether any reduction can be made in the existing rates of fees in their respective Districts. During the year, under review the rate of fees was reduced also in Coimbatore from 10 pies to eight pies. In Vizagapatam, the Board sanctioned in its Proceedings, No. 568, dated 1st February 1896, the reduction of the fee to a uniform rate of As. 1–6; but in the report read above, the weights and measures are stated to have been stamped at the former rates. The Collector will be requested to report why the reduction was not given effect to.

8. With a few exceptions, the test by volume of water is reported to have been applied in all the Districts in the case of dry measures. The Collector of Gódávari states that as "final orders have not yet been passed regarding the test of dry measures by volume of water as stated in Board's Proceedings, Mis. No. 1565, dated 14th March 1893, those measures were tested as follows:—the capacity of the measures presented for test was adjusted by actually filling them with a known quantity of grain measured and by calculating the contents of the heap of grain over the rim of the measure according to the formula given in the Board's Standing Orders." The Board does not understand the Collector's remark. What the Board stated in its Proceedings, No. 1565, dated 14th March 1893, was that pending the result of investigations ordered in G.O., No. 610 (Revenue), dated 31st August 1888, regarding the grain measures in use at the several stations in the Presidency no alteration need be made in the existing standard measures in the District. It does not follow from this that the test by volume of water, which is the most correct method of determining the volumes of grain measures, should be discarded. The question of the test to be applied by stamping officers in Gódávari will, however be dealt with in separate Proceedings.

9. The method of testing liquid measures by means of standard measures prepared in the manner described in B.P., dated 11th August 1896, No. 194, appears to have been introduced only in Madras and South Canara.

10. There were no complaints by the public against the stamping establishments during the year.

11. In Trichinopoly and Tinnevelly, it is stated that 13 and 34 persons, respectively, were prosecuted for using false weights and measures and that of these 11 and 5 persons were convicted and the others discharged or acquitted. The Collector of Tinnevelly further reports that in the Sankaranayinárkóyil taluk the gumastah and the smith were dismissed as they were found to have entered into a systematic contract with a local bazaarman for the supply of measures to the public and to have recovered illegal fees. The Collector of South Canara reports that he caused an investigation to be made into the weights and measures in use in the Mangalore Town with the result that many stamped weights and measures in use in the grain trade of the town were found to require re-adjustment most probably on account of the wearing away by long use, that in one case only the owner appears to have tampered with the measures shortly after they were stamped, for which he would be prosecuted criminally; that a large number of weights and measures have yet to be stamped, especially in the precious metal trade, and that notices have been ordered to be given to the merchants concerned that they should get their weights and measures stamped or retested by the stamping establishment.

12. The Collector of Madras states in his report that "of the 9,532 dry measures, 361 liquid measures, and 21,422 weights on which fees were levied during the year, 341 dry measures, one liquid measure and 457 weights which formed part of the sets produced for stamping were not actually presented and stamped" and adds, "of these however, 147 dry measures and 126 weights relating to sets produced for being stamped since 1st January 1897, will be accepted and stamped if tendered before 30th June 1897." It would appear from this that fees are charged for whole sets of weights and measures whether the whole or only a part of the set is brought to be stamped. The Board considers that the practice is objectionable and should be discontinued unless the Collector can show cause for retaining it. The Collector of Coimbatore states that the Head Assistant Collector reports as follows: "There seems to be a practice in this Division that as soon as the stamping gumastah goes to a taluk, each bazaarman is made to produce his weights and measures for verification whether in previous years they were stamped or not. By this practice a great number of the weights and measures produced by the bazaarmen are being restamped year after year. In B.P., dated 31st July 1888, No. 375, paragraph 9, the Board considers that this is unnecessary, except in cases where they have become worn out or reduced in capacity and it cannot be said that the weights and measures stamped in the previous year become worn out in the very next year." The Collector adds that "as these establishments are self-supporting, it is not unlikely that the gumastah with a view to show collections sufficient to cover his pay, makes a point of restamping measures and weights even when those stamped in the previous years do not require it; that he is issuing orders drawing the attention of the gumastah to the paragraph of the Board's Proceedings quoted above and forbidding him from calling for and inspecting measures except under the written orders of the Tahsildar under whose supervision he is working; and that the Tahsildars will be directed to satisfy themselves that the stamping done in former years has become obliterated, or that the measures generally are becoming so worn out as to need verification, before allowing the gumastahs to call for weights and measures every year."

13. The receipts and charges as reported by Collectors compare as shown below with the figures furnished by the Accountant-General:—

Receipts.

	Rs.	A.	P.
According to Collector's figures	22,720	6	2
Add—			
Excess amount erroneously credited to "stamping weights and measures" in Bellary	8	6	0
Excess receipts shown in the Accountant-General's books not explained by the Collector of Madras	1	8	0
Amount erroneously credited to "stamping weights and measures" instead of under "23. Stationery and Printing" in North Arcot	0	4	0

Receipts—cont.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Amount wrongly credited to "stamping weights and measures" instead of to "sale of old stores and materials" in South Arcot	3	1	7
Amount realized in 1895–96 but credited into the accounts of the year under report in Trichinopoly	6	11	0
Total ...	22,740	4	9
Deduct—			
Amount realized in the year under report but not credited into the accounts of that year in Trichinopoly	33	11	0
Total receipts as advised by the Accountant-General ...	22,706	9	9
Charges.			
According to Collector's figures	17,895	5	7
Add—			
Amount of charges shown in the Accountant-General's books not reported by the Collector of the Nilgiris ...	399	0	8
Total ...	18,294	6	3
Deduct—			
Amount not adjusted in the Accountant-General's books in Vizagapatam	102	1	1
Amount of the cost of three pairs of scales obtained from Public Works Workshops omitted in the Accountant-General's books in Tanjore	166	7	1
Total charges as advised by the Accountant-General ...	18,025	14	1

14. The Board requests that the above charges (Rs. 18,025–14–1) which are less than the receipts (Rs. 22,706–9–9) of the year may be sanctioned.

15. The Collectors of Vizagapatam, Madras and Tanjore do not appear to have compared their figures with those of the treasury accounts although attention was drawn to this point in previous years' reports. They have been called upon to explain discrepancies between their figures and those reported by the Accountant-General. In the report received from the Nilgiris, it is stated that there were no charges on account of stamping operations; but in the Accountant-General's statements, a charge of Rs. 399–0–8 is given, which is probably due to the purchase of certain standard weights, measures and other articles for use in the District (*vide* B.P., dated 8th January 1897, No. 173 R. S). The Collector has been requested to report on the matter.

16. *Operations during the triennium ending* 1896–97.—The statement in Appendix I shows in one view the number of measures and weights stamped in each District, the amount of fees collected and the charges incurred during each of the three years ending 1896–97. As compared with the first of these years there was a steady increase in the two subsequent years in Kistna and Tanjore, in the number of weights and measures stamped; while in Nellore, Anantapur and Coimbatore, there was a steady falling off. In Vizagapatam, Bellary, South Arcot, Kurnool, Madras, Trichinopoly and Salem, there was a falling off in 1895–96, but the decrease in the first three Districts was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the subsequent year, while that in the other four Districts was only partly made up by recoveries in the following year. In the remaining eight Districts there was an increase in 1895–96 but a decrease in 1896–97. The Districts which contributed the largest number of articles stamped are Tanjore, South Arcot, Chingleput, North Arcot, Madura and Tinnevelly, the total number stamped in these Districts in each of the three years being 70 per cent. of the number stamped in the whole Presidency. The variations in the receipts correspond with the variations in the number of weights and measures stamped in all the Districts except Kurnool and Tanjore, where there was a falling off

in the receipts of 1896–97 as compared with those of the previous year, owing to reduction in the rates of fees from As. 1–3 to 1 anna in the former and from 6 pies to 4 pies in the latter.

17. Compared with the triennium ending 1893–94, the total number of weights and measures stamped during the period under report exhibits an increase of more than 147,000 and the fees collected an increase of Rs. 3,186, while there was a decrease of Rs. 824 in the charges incurred. The largest increases in the numbers stamped occurred in Chingleput, Nellore, Tanjore and South Arcot, while the largest decrease occurred in the District of North Arcot. The variations in the receipts correspond with the variations in the number of weights and measures stamped.

18. In respect to the working of the establishments the Board desires to draw the special attention of Collectors to the following remarks:—

So far as regards weights and measuring rods, which are easily tested by standards, there is no reason to apprehend error. The correctness of liquid measures is also not difficult to gauge, and, except as regards the sale of intoxicating liquors (where the use of English measures is enforced), the maintenance of correct liquid measures is a matter of comparatively small importance.

19. Quite other is the case with respect to the bewildering variety of local grain measures in which the record of the daily price of the staple food-grains is maintained. Upon the correctness of these local measures, *i.e.*, upon their correspondence with the capacities given in appendix to Board's Standing Order No. 290, depends the correctness of the Board's calculations of the average prices which determine the commutation rate, and ultimately the land-revenue demand. In stamping grain measures it is therefore of extreme importance that the stamping establishment should understand what it is about, and that its work should be intelligently supervised.

20. It has been recently reported from the Gódávari District that a local measure, supposed to contain 320 tolas, is now found to have expanded, diversely in divers localities, and that these various expansions mostly bear the Government stamp. The error appears to have arisen from the adoption of unauthorized testing processes, and from obliviousness, on the part of even the superior officers, to the prime importance of maintaining unchanged the local standards in terms of which the prices of the staple food-grains are reported.

21. On an examination of the Collectors' reports, the Board does not feel the least assurance (in spite of the repeated cautions given in the past) that similar mischief may not be resulting from stamping operations elsewhere. No Collector gives any description of the dry measures which have been stamped, nor do the reports contain any indication that the stamping gumastahs are acquainted with the appendices to Standing Order No. 290, or that they are competent to make the test by volume of water which the Standing Order describes, or that they understand that no grain measure should be stamped other than the local standard, and its multiples and sub-multiples. The presumption that work is being properly done is weakened by the fact that the stamping gumastahs are poorly-paid temporary hands, whose pay often does not exceed eight or ten rupees a month; while the Collectors' reports disclose that the supervision exercised over them by the Tahsildars and Divisional officers is (no doubt from press of other work) often unintelligent, perfunctory, or *nil*. Most of the reports recite that dry measures were tested "by water," or "by volume of water," or "by means of water measured in ounce glasses",—stereotyped formulæ which do not re-assure the Board.

The Collector of Madras reports that "measures are measured by gallon-sized pots of 61 ounces" whatever that may mean.

Bellary tests "by volume of water and rice with standard measures." Ganjám tests "by water and rice."

22. The Board therefore deems it necessary to request all Collectors (except the Collectors of Malabar and the Nilgiris) to call on their Divisional Officers to ascertain by personal enquiry of the stamping gumastahs what grain measures they have, in fact, been stamping; what test each gumastah has, in fact, been applying; whether the

gumastah understands Standing Order No. 290, and the appendices as revised up to date, and is competent to test measures in accordance with it; and whether the stamped local measures now in actual use exhibit any notable variation from the standards given in the conversion table appended to Standing Order No. 290.

23. The result of the enquiry should be reported as soon as may be. The Collector of Gódávari will submit the report in respect of those taluks regarding which he has not already reported.

24. To lessen the risk of mistake in future, each stamping gumastah should be directed to maintain, for grain measures only, a diary in the following form:—

Date.	Taluk.	Town or village.	Name of person presenting the measure to be tested.	Local name of the measure.	Number of tolas it ought to hold of second sort or average rice (*vide* appendix to Standing Order No. 290).	Diameter.	Contents in water ounces.	Contents in water ounces after correction.	Date of stamping.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. V. SRINIVASIAR,
Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to all Collectors.

APPENDIX I.

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped and the receipts and charges during the triennial period ending 1896–97.

Districts.	Number of weights and measures stamped.			Fees collected.			Charges incurred.		
	During 1894–95.	During 1895–96.	During 1896–97.	Total.	During 1894–95.	During 1895–96.	During 1896–97.	Total.	
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	
1. Ganjám ..	2,490	9,833	2,226	14,549	559 0 9	601 10 3	165 1 11	1,325 12 11	
2. Vizagapatam ..	2,711	1,909	7,907	12,527	809 5 0	880 15 8	826 2 7	1,862 11 1	
3. Gódávari ..	3,382	3,814	2,671	9,867	1,304 12 5	176 0 0	126 7 0	446 7 6	
4. Kistna ..	15,107	18,702	24,034	57,843	462 8 3	808 10 5	798 9 3	2,390 10 6	
5. Nellore ..	26,856	17,619	10,036	59,511	3,609 4 8	354 15 4	231 3 0	1,016 0 3	
6. Cuddapah ..	16,805	17,019	17,959	53,774	1,857 14 0	1,339 2 1	1,286 14 7	3,882 4 7	
7. Anantapur ..	5,552	5,651	3,813	14,416	1,672 5 6	306 15 5	211 5 6	778 11 3	
8. Bellary ..	4,385	4,597	4,970	13,952	903 4 0	366 14 0	307 7 6	916 7 6	
9. Kurnool ..	11,995	11,601	11,811	35,402	2,497 11 0	478 8 0	580 11 7	1,807 0 1	
10. Madras ..	32,242	30,321	31,315	93,878	4,400 8 6	1,034 3 4	969 3 4	3,041 6 2	
11. Chingleput ..	57,482	72,380	71,334	201,196	4,189 6 4	968 13 3	913 4 8	2,018 2 1	
12. North Arcot ..	59,811	61,903	58,717	180,431	8,457 11 0	2,892 5 3	2,672 14 0	8,436 11 9	
13. South Arcot ..	68,013	60,964	87,840	217,717	4,555 11 8	760 5 9	876 7 3	2,463 0 3	
14. Tanjore ..	69,006	74,246	77,563	220,815	6,480 5 4	1,392 11 8	1,471 9 8	4,111 12 7	
15. Trichinopoly ..	18,395	15,316	17,161	50,872	2,434 7 0	666 0 1	566 3 1	1,834 4 6	
16. Madura ..	55,600	69,046	55,481	174,187	6,921 10 4	1,918 4 0	1,923 6 0	5,762 13 11	
17. Tinnevelly ..	54,707	58,006	48,868	161,570	7,037 15 6	2,370 9 0	2,115 14 0	6,730 15 9	
18. Coimbatore ..	16,894	15,327	14,424	46,445	2,010 1 0	559 8 0	618 9 0	1,739 15 0	
19. The Nilgiris ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
20. Salem	10,863	8,933	10,028	29,824	1,864 0 0	558 10 0	684 11 7	1,872 0 7	
21. South Canara ..	4,535	6,088	5,369	15,992	1,572 15 0	503 1 8	423 4 2	1,385 3 0	
22. Malabar	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total ..	538,086	559,174	568,008	1,665,268	68,937 9 3	18,818 3 2	17,869 5 7	54,375 7 3	

APPENDIX II.

STATEMENT showing the number of weights and measures stamped as well as the receipts and charges in the trienniums ending 1893–94 and 1896–97.

Districts.	Number of weights and measures stamped during the triennium ending		Receipts during the triennium ending		Charges during the triennium ending	
	1893–94.	1896–97.	1893–94.	1896–97.	1893–94.	1896–97.
			Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
1. Ganjám ..	16,787	14,549	1,049 3 0	909 5 0	1,614 0 4	1,325 12 11
2. Vizagapatam ..	8,863	12,527	1,149 10 6	1,304 12 5	904 3 3	1,862 11 1
3. Gódávari ..	15,106	9,867	708 1 6	462 8 3	772 0 4	446 7 6
4. Kistna ..	44,526	57,843	2,713 2 9	3,609 4 8	2,240 5 4	2,390 10 6
5. Nellore ..	29,437	59,511	1,048 3 9	1,857 14 0	930 15 5	1,016 0 3
6. Cuddapah ..	57,398	53,774	5,381 1 0	4,572 5 9	4,378 11 5	3,882 4 7
7. Anantapur ..	18,956	14,416	1,184 12 0	901 0 0	1,152 1 11	778 11 3
8. Bellary ..	19,680	14,452	1,230 0 0	903 4 0	1,157 5 5	916 7 6
9. Kurnool ..	30,686	35,402	2,397 6 3	2,497 11 0	1,678 12 7	1,807 0 1
10. Madras ..	101,450	93,878	4,755 7 6	4,400 8 6	4,062 11 3	3,041 6 2
11. Chingleput ..	148,955	201,196	3,103 3 8	4,189 6 4	2,256 0 9	2,018 2 1
12. North Arcot ..	205,445	180,431	9,634 1 6	8,457 11 0	9,535 13 7	8,436 11 9
13. South Arcot ..	198,382	217,717	4,151 8 0	4,555 11 8	2,455 8 4	2,463 0 3
14. Tanjore ..	192,654	220,815	6,020 7 0	6,480 5 4	3,568 5 11	4,111 12 7
15. Trichinopoly ..	38,951	50,872	2,434 7 0	3,179 8 0	1,943 12 10	1,834 4 6
16. Madura ..	166,118	174,187	6,921 10 4	7,257 12 8	5,843 12 11	5,762 13 11
17. Tinnevelly ..	150,029	161,570	7,037 15 6	7,585 1 0	6,548 14 7	6,730 15 9
18. Coimbatore ..	38,561	46,445	2,010 1 0	2,376 8 8	1,545 15 3	1,739 15 0
19. The Nilgiris ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
20. Salem	18,952	29,824	1,184 8 0	1,864 0 0	1,126 9 0	1,872 0 7
21. South Canara ..	16,766	15,992	1,636 11 0	1,572 15 0	1,483 12 3	1,338 3 0
22. Malabar ..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	1,517,692	1,665,268	65,751 9 3	68,937 9 3	55,199 12 8	54,375 7 3

ORDER—No. 754, Revenue, dated 4th September 1897.

Miscellaneous.	The total expenditure incurred during 1896–97, viz., Rs. 18,025–14–1, is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement, Land Records and Agriculture).
„ the Accountant-General.
„ the Financial Department.

Erd. A. F. Eccleston.

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