

Revenue (1898) Department.

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

G.O., No. 4946

DATED 14th December 98

[Despatch Abstract.]

with reference to Govt-4448
14-11-98
Coming to the Bd of Rev for further extracts
from the Address presented to H.E. the Governor
by the People of Kumbakonam.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

N E T E N U E

Judicial (189⁸) **Department.**

CURRENT No. 8148

From

The Board of Revenue,
Land Revenue,
Madras.

No. 1351 *Refce.*

2 Orders

Levy

I marked the extracts
before the addresses were sent on to the other dep of the Secy,
myself & do not think

There is anything in
the "preceding passage"
which will help. But
the R.S.S. may be
asked to kindly
to be good enough to
forward a copy of
the address in
question for reference

Dated 28th November 1898.

Received }
Registered } 29/11

Enclosures -

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Requesting Govt. to furnish the Board with a copy of the preceding paragraph as the extract quoted by it re: the verification and attestation of village officer's statements in Tanjore cannot be properly understood without the context.

114
2-12-58

Yes
3/14/8
P.S. Pres. Sec.
I put up a copy of
the address

I put up a copy of
the volume

h. 7. 1/2
see 7. 20

C 5/12/48
20.12.48

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE (LAND REVENUE),

Madras, 28th November 1898 ~~1898~~

READ— Endorsement of the Secretary to Government, Revenue
Department, No. 4448, ^{misc} dated 14th November 1898.

Reference No. 1351 dated 28th November 1898.

The Board submits that the extract quoted in the
Endorsement read above cannot be properly understood without
the context and accordingly requests that a copy of the pre-
ceding passage may also be furnished to it.

Loael Davidson

Ag. Secretary.

To

The Secretary to Govt. Revenue Department.

Md. R. H.

J. S. A.

*Placed in No. 4448
The usual pamphlet contains a table of contents
which has not yet been issued.*

30/11/98

To
HIS EXCELLENCY

SIR ARTHUR ELIBANK HVELOCK G. C. M. G., G. C. I. E.

The Governor of Fort St. George

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY,

We, loyal subjects of our beloved and august Sovereign, the Queen Empress of India, welcome Your Excellency, as our Majesty's worthy representative, to our part of the country. We are deeply grateful to the Sovereign of the Universe for His having placed us under a Sovereign, like our Queen Empress and associated us with a people whose aim is always to raise all nations to their own level. We appreciate with thankfulness the truth that our fore-fathers never lived under an empire like the one under which we now live, where our persons and properties are safe from foreign invasions and marauders of various classes; where the highest officials of the state vie with one another in leaving marks of their administration on the country; and where the district heads, as a class, have been remarkable for sustaining the fame of a service, all round applauded as the best of all services on the face of the earth.

2. From experience, we see that this Empire is upheld mainly by four Departments, the Judicial, the Police, the Revenue and the D. P. W. The highest authorities of these, as a rule, have been the fathers of the people, and are highly mindful of its well-being. The highest judicial functionaries have been protecting the lives, properties and honor of the subjects, while their subordinates have been admired by the highest Judge of Great Britain for the excellent work done by them. The good done by them is however much dependant upon the lowest officer, the Bailiff; so is the Police Department, dependant upon the lowest Police Constable, the Revenue, upon the village accountant, and the D. P. W. upon its lowest Overseer. As these are honest and good men, so the Government rises in the estimation and love of the people. It is often said that these can be made honest and good by granting them better salaries, a proposition which is not borne out from people's experience from the Himalayas to Cape Comerin. [Even if it is possible, such an increase of expenditure the finances of the country cannot stand. That these lowest officers, as a rule, behave in such a manner as not to increase the love of the people to Government is too notorious to require any proof. If so, it becomes a question of vital importance to suggest a remedy for this known and true grievance of the people. It is not very easy to propose a remedy, which would be approved of by all concerned.]

3 Your Memorialists however venture respectfully to suggest the following remedies for your Excellency consideration.

4 The Bailiff is found to be irrepressible; hence it was said by a great authority that the troubles of a successful suitor commence after a decree is obtained in his favor. The remedy seems to lie in increasing their number and making them act jointly with the village officers in villages, and with the superior Police in the Town. No report made by them must be considered correct, unless it is witnessed by the superior Police or village officers. An officer next to the Judge should be their head and he should be held responsible for scrutinizing the doings of the Bailiffs or Amins.

5 The constable nuisance might be got rid of by the appointment of, a large number of persons as Justices of the Peace or Honorary magistrates, these being selected from the body of pensioned Sub-Judges, Magistrates and District Munsiffs. Anything that comes under their personal observation they may record, and it should be evidence against offenders. The number of these Justices of the Peace and Honorary Magistrates need not be limited and these would prove capital detectives of the offences committed by the Police. Not a day passes in which such men do not see the Police committing various offences and often getting scot free. Such pensioners are available and there would not be any difficulty in securing their services, if they are well treated.

6 As Justices of the Peace they would have unlimited territorial jurisdiction and very often the Police may not know them. This would be a reason for their being always afraid to do any wrong lest some Justice of the Peace may be observing it.

7 Good many petty offences may be declared not cognizable by the Police, making the Municipalities and Unions prosecute them before Honorary Magistrates. The number of these officers should be increased and their nomination and selection should be left to the Pensioned superior Magistrates in the District. The Honorary Magistrates should be declared subordinate only to the District Magistrate and to the District Sessions Court and should have no concern with any other paid Magistracy. On this subject much useful discussion was held in England only a few days ago.

8 As regards the Curnam or village accountant, the old remedy is the only remedy; that is, that the account he submits and the statements he makes must be attested and verified by at least a few of the chief ryots of the place and the village Munsif, who should be all literate. When these refuse to attest or verify them, the Taluk Sheristadar should enquire and ascertain which of the two versions is true, and that version should be adopted and the defaulter if he be the Curnam, should be punished, and if he be the ryot, he should be deprived of the privilege of attesting the account. During the short stay The Honble. G. Stokes made in this District, he tried to re-introduce this system, but the district was unfortunate to lose him, though on promotion.

9 As regards the D. P. W. the remedy seems to be attended with the greatest difficulty. Much depends upon the honesty and shrewdness of the Executive Engineer. All

irrigation works except those which require the daily superintendence of the skilful Engineer should be entrusted to villagers, and the works executed by them should be examined by officers not lower than the Sub-divisional officer. The villagers who executed the work should be paid by transfers in the account and not in cash, as a rule. Suppose, a canal has to be dug at a cost of a thousand Rupees, the villager must do the work according to the design and estimate, and when the Sub-divisional officer finds that the work has been satisfactorily done, he should issue a cheque which should be delivered into the Taluk Treasury as a payment of the land revenue of the village.

10 We will touch before we conclude upon only one more subject which, though the last, is the first in importance, which serves to disturb that universal rest, the characteristic of British good Government. It is the periodical re-settlement of Land Revenue and the annual disturbances of the demands against each ryot.

11 The first impoverishes the people, prevents improvements of land, and stops all increase of its production, and causes much demoralisation of the people. It has created a conviction in the minds of people that necessity for money creates a wilful forgetfulness of what the people had been made to believe, the unchangeable resolution and promise of the Government.

12 The annual disturbance creates causes of much discontent of the people, makes them not to know what their liabilities are, and places them very often under the whim and thumb of the village accountant.

13 We do not mean to hold that the aforesaid proposals to remedy these grievances are the only ones that should be adopted, but leave to Your Excellency's sense of justice, good policy, and statemanship to find out what other remedies are possible and how they should be introduced.

14 In conclusion we beg to assure Your Excellency that we will not allow our loyalty to the British throne to be exceeded by that of our fellow subjects in any other part of the British Empire, that we always wish to continue under its protecting wings and are always prepared to offer our all, in supporting the authority, dignity and continuance of that Empire on which the sun never sets.

We beg to remain,
Your Excellency's Most Obedient and Loyal Servants.

15 We beg to represent that there exists an absolute necessity of the improvement of the religious Endowment Act XX of 63 by

a local legislation without interfering with its principles of which the Government of India is very tenacious

16. The Executive Government can effect immense improvement in the existing state of things by modifying the rules they have framed under section 10 of the aforesaid Act, one of the main features of which should be to raise the qualifications of voters.

We beg to remain
Your Excellencies

Most obedient and loyal servants.

(Signature)

2. S. Sarangapany Iyengar (Karnatakallay agrahar
Kumbhakaram) an

3. Krishna macharya Karunakosha-ganharan

4. Eshanyayya

5. K. S. Sundar

6. C. R. Srinivasayya

7. Srinivasa-charya B.A.

8. S. Ramachandran D. A.

9. M. B. Puttachalapathy

10. G. J. Srinivasan

11. T. S. Srinivasan

12. C. R. Krishna Srinivasan

[illegible]

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Current No. 8148

From The Board of Rev. dR

Dated 28th Nov.

1898

FOR ORDERS.

C. no. 8148

(Why all these yards of
useless writing!
S/H)

The P.S.G. sends with reference
to the ~~Board~~ Ref. 1351 of 28th
Nov. 98, ~~the~~ Board of Rev.
~~stated that an extract~~
~~communicated to it in~~
~~Endt Mr. M. 1148 d. 11th~~
~~Nov 98 could not be pro-~~
~~perly understood without~~
~~the context and requested~~
~~that a copy of the preceding~~
~~passage might also be~~
~~furnished to it. The~~
~~Private Secy to H.E. the Govt~~
~~and who was then on~~
~~requested to send a full~~
~~copy of the address in reference~~
~~was done as follows~~
~~it~~ It appears that
paras 2, and 3 might be
of some use in explain-
ing para 8, the extract
communicated. Sub-
mitted that those paras
may

may be communicated
now to the Board.

V.K.M. Ch. Secy
9-12-98 9/12/98

yes

He
10/12/98

8/14/98

FOR ORDERS.

Please see draft below.

V.K.M.
13-12-98

Ch.
13/12/98

me
11/12/98

Rev. Dept.

Read Board's Ref. No 1351
d/28th Nov. 98. (C. No 8148)

Order Mis No 49A687/14th Dec 1898

With reference to

Endt No 4448 Mis. d/14. Nov
'98, the following extract
will now be communi-
cated to the Board of
Revenue.

(H.C. paras 2 & 3 of the
Address).

He
14/12/98

Ch.
13/12/98
to

The Board of Rev & R.
18.17-12-98

V.K.M.
13-12-98

A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.