

Revenue (1898) Department.

PRESS SERIES.

G.O., No. 86

Dated 12th February

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passing orders on the question of
improving the present position of
Sub-Collectors:

BACK PAPERS.

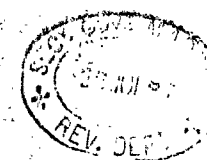
G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Revenue (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 6246



From The Board of Revenue
to Land Revenue

Order

No. 227

Dated 3-7-97

Received

Registered

Enclosures

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SUBJECT.

Submitting opinion on
the question of improving
the present position of
Sub-Collectors.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1897.

Board of Revenue

(Land Revenue),

MADRAS.

Printed July 19th.

Proceedings, No. 227, 8th July 1897.

JULY.

Submitting to Government the Board's opinion on the question of improving the present position of Sub-Collectors.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

(LAND REVENUE).

FULL BOARD.

READ—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 1255, dated 3rd April 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to certain Collectors, for early remarks, Government Order considering that the present position of Sub-Collectors in this Presidency needs improvement, and requesting the Board of Revenue to report, after consulting a few selected Collectors, if there is any objection to the restoration to Sub-Collectors of certain powers which have been taken away from them.

READ—also replies from certain Collectors to the above proceedings.

RESOLUTION—No. 227, dated 8th July 1897.

In its order disposed of in the first of the papers read above, Government desired the Board to express its opinion on the question of improving the present position of Sub-Collectors, after consulting a few selected Collectors. Government observed that Sub-Collectors in this Presidency being usually officers of long service and high position who will shortly have to fill the place of a Collector, should be allowed to exercise as much of the power and undertake as much of the responsibility of a Collector as they can, subject to the Collectors' general power of revision and control and that a distinction ought to be made between them and the other Divisional-officers. It accordingly proposed to restore the following powers to Sub-Collectors :—

(i) The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., subject to the confirmation of the Collector;

(ii) the power of granting privilege leave to these officers without the right of veto on the part of the Collector;

(iii) the three distinctive powers which were taken away from them in 1893 under Government Order, No. 768, Revenue, dated 2nd September 1893, viz. :—

(a) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector, which the Sub-Collector deems improper;

(b) the right to appoint and dismiss revenue inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 (except his own head clerk) in his division subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control; and

(c) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under subject merely to the Collector's general power of revision and control, whereas in the case of the other Divisional-officers, this power is expressly subjected to the Collector's veto.

North Arcot ..	(Mr. S. H. Wynne).
Godavari ..	(V. A. Brodie).
Salem ..	(C. H. Mounsey).
Tinnevely ..	(A. W. B. Higgins).
Kistna ..	(J. N. Atkinson).
South Arcot ..	(A. E. C. Stuart).
Coimbatore ..	(H. Bradley).

2. The Government Order was communicated to the Collectors of the marginally-noted districts and their opinions, which have now been received, will be dealt with under each of the classes of powers specified above.

3. Item (i)—The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c.—All the officers consulted deprecate the grant of

this power to Sub-Collectors on the ground that the field of selection for the responsible posts of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., whole district and that Sub-Collectors can know nothing of the officers serving outside their divisions. Messrs. Castlestuart-Stuart, Bradley and Higgins also point out that the present staff of Sub-Collectors consists for the most part of junior officers who are constantly being transferred from one district to another and that they cannot, therefore, be expected to make suitable selections for filling up such appointments. If, however, Government decides to give this power to Sub-Collectors, Mr. Bradley would restrict its grant to officers who are of at least ten years' standing in the service and have been in the sub-division for at least a year continuously. He thinks (and so does Mr. Atkinson) that it would be sufficient to direct that Collectors should consult their Sub-Collectors before making selections for the higher appointments in question.

4. Item (ii)—The power of granting privilege leave to officers in the grade of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., without the right of veto on the part of the Collector.—The majority* of the officers consulted object to the grant of this power also. Mr.

* Mr. S. H. Wynne.
C. H. Mounsey.
A. E. C. Stuart.
V. A. Brodie.
J. N. Atkinson.

Wynne observes that the power of granting leave cannot be separated from the

power of appointment and that it is only the Collector that can know how and when leave can be granted without inconvenience. The total number of officers on leave in the district may be such as to necessitate the refusal or the indefinite postponement of the leave applied for; or the date of expiry of the leave already granted to an officer in another division may fix the date from which the leave of another officer in the Sub-Collector's division ought to begin, so as to avoid unnecessary transfers, expense and inconvenience. He adds that the power of granting leave without veto can in no way assist in training the officer who exercises it when he has not the power of appointment without veto, but will have rather the opposite effect as it confers on him power without responsibility. Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart points out that it would be illegal to take away the Collector's right of veto by an executive order, the right being one conferred by an express provision of law—vide clause (3), section 3 of Regulation VII of 1828. Messrs. Bradley and Higgins on the other hand see no reason why Sub-Collectors should not have the power of granting privilege leave to senior subordinate officers in their sub-divisions.

5. As regards the three distinctive powers which were taken away in 1893, all the officers consulted (excepting Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart) consider that these minor powers may be restored to Sub-Collectors. Mr. Atkinson states that he has always been of opinion that the final assimilation of Sub-Collectors to other Divisional-officers which was effected in 1893 was regrettable inasmuch as it tended to contract the field within which a Sub-Collector could acquire administrative experience, increased the Collector's work proportionately and impeded the equal and impartial distribution of promotions throughout the district. He would therefore welcome a reversion to the state of affairs which existed before 1893. Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart submits, on the other hand, that any tendency to weaken the authority of the Collector in a part of his district without lessening his responsibility to Government for the efficient administration of the whole, is to be deprecated, and that the contemplated changes appear to him to be not only unnecessary but also inexpedient.

6. Item (iii) (a) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub-Collector deems improper—Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart objects to the grant of this power on the ground that it will only tend to create friction. "A self-opinionated Sub-Collector with insubordinate tendencies, nebulous theories, doctrinaire views and peculiar ways can, if he chooses, give his Collector quite enough trouble as it is, without arming him with special powers to render himself still more objectionable." Mr. Higgins is, on the other hand, of opinion that no great harm could be done by the grant of this power, as, in cases where officers work harmoniously, the number of references that will have to be made to the Board will not be greater than if existing conditions were continued. He at the same time fears that an obstructive Sub-Collector might waste his own time and that of the Collector and the Board by insisting on unnecessary references.

The power will under his head objection also be was submitted by Mr. Atkinson because if he knows he will be told that if he sticks to them, they will be told before then.

Mr. Brodie also thinks that the number of references to the Board will not be numerous and adds that, in the absence of this right, no responsibility for the administration of his division is felt by the Sub-Collector. He considers it necessary and desirable that there should be an officer empowered to express his own views on any important question of administration and so possibly procure the rectification of an error which may have been committed by the Collector in consequence of the large quantity of work that has, under existing conditions, to pass through his hands. Mr. Mounsey observes that, in some instances, Collectors happen to be their Sub-Collector's seniors by one year only and that it is, therefore, desirable that Sub-Collectors should have the right to require a reference being made to the Board on any disputed point.

7. Items (iii) (b) and (c)—(b) the right to appoint and dismiss revenue inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 in the Sub-Collector's division (except his head-clerk), subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control—(c) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under, subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control.—The objections to the grant of these powers which are urged by Mr. Castle Stuart-Stuart are (1) that in the case of appointments of revenue inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20, the area from within which selections can be made for vacancies occurring in the sub-division will become unnecessarily restricted; and (2) that in the case of appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 20 and under, the right of veto cannot be legally taken away from the Collector. On the other hand, Mr. Brodie states that Sub-Collectors having shortly to occupy the still higher positions of Collectors or District Judges can safely be trusted with the exercise of patronage to a limited extent and that the power can be exercised without detriment to the public service, as Sub-Collectors can generally find competent men in their own divisions to fill the places of Revenue Inspectors and clerkships of Rs. 50 and less. The only appointment he would exclude is that of taluk head accountant, to which nominations will be made in consultation with the Treasury Deputy Collector. He adds that if memoranda of appointments made by Sub-Collectors are transmitted to the District Press through the Collector, he can, without ordinarily disturbing the Sub-Collector's appointments, issue general instructions from time to time for future guidance with reference to the appointment of better qualified men if such are available in other parts of the district. Mr. Higgins would exclude from the scope of this power, Revenue Inspectors, Taluk Sheristadars and Taluk Head Accountants, for the reason that they require to be moved from one part of the district to another. He has, however, no objection to Sub-Collectors being authorised to nominate men for all ministerial appointments including that of their head clerk, subject to confirmation by Collectors. Messrs. Mounsey and Wynne observe that though the field of selection for the office of Revenue Inspector is the whole district, the number of officers of this class is considerable even in the sub-division and that the delegation of the power to Sub-Collectors will relieve Collectors of some very troublesome work, while the experience gained by the exercise of it will be of immense assistance to Sub-Collectors when they are called upon to fulfil the more difficult duties of Collectors. Mr. Mounsey would, however, leave the appointments of Taluk Sheristadars and Taluk Head Accountants in the Collector's hands, any recommendations which Sub-Collectors may make being duly considered. Mr. Bradley points out that as the Collector is likely to pay less personal attention to the working of the division which is under the senior officer than to that of the other divisions, the claims to promotion of the clerks and Revenue Inspectors employed under Sub-Collectors tend to escape the Collector's notice and that this defect of the present system would be remedied if the power of appointment were, as suggested, vested in Sub-Collectors themselves.

8. The Board agrees with the majority of the Collectors consulted in considering that it is essential in the interests of district administration to withhold from Sub-Collectors the power to nominate their own Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and other upper subordinates or to give them privilege leave. The Sub-Collectors of the present day are mostly junior officers and are never left very long in the same division, in consequence either of transfers from one district to another, or of promotion to higher posts, or of absence on leave. Further, the field of selection for the posts in question, which are of a very responsible nature, will in most cases be unnecessarily restricted to

the subordinates serving within the Sub-Collector's division. The Board believes that

Districts.	Names of Sub-Collectors employed on 1st July 1897.	Actual service up to that date.		
		YS.	MONS.	DS.
South Arcot	Mahomed Raza Khan, Esq.	14	6	9
Cuddapah	E. L. Vaughan, Esq.	8	11	17
Kistna	H. F. W. Gillman, Esq.	8	6	28
Ganjām	J. G. D. Partridge, Esq.	8	5	27
Salem	Lionel Davidson, Esq.	7	6	10
Tanjore	F. Du. Fre Oldfield, Esq.	6	7	20
North Arcot	V. Venugopal Chetty, Esq.	6	7	10
Vizagapatam	E. B. Elwin, Esq.	6	5	27
Tinnevely	P. S. P. Rice, Esq.	6	6	24
Chingleput	J. H. Robertson, Esq.	5	9	6
Górávari	W. W. Phillips, Esq.	5	8	20
Malabar	M. J. Murphy, Esq.	5	6	10
Madura	R. F. Grimley, Esq.	5	1	20
Coimbatore	L. G. Moore, Esq.	4	6	15

Collectors always consult such of the Divisional-officers as really know their divisions about nominations to be made to vacant posts in such divisions and that to concede more to Sub-Collectors for the mere purpose of training them in the work of Collectors would involve an undue interference with the Collector's efficient administration of the district and would also injuriously affect the interests of the subordinates themselves, matters which are of more importance than the improvement of the Sub-Collector's status. The power to grant privilege leave to the officers in question should in particular be retained in the Collector's hands, as he alone knows when the leave applied for by any such officer can be granted and how the vacancy caused by the grant of the leave can be filled up so as to entail the least possible expense and inconvenience.

9. No great objection, however, exists to the restoration of the three distinctive powers which were taken away from Sub-Collectors in 1893. The right to require a reference to the Board in cases of disagreement is productive of possible good and is not likely to cause much inconvenience, as Sub-Collectors are not usually obstructive and as the abuse of the privilege would be promptly visited by the severe displeasure of the Board and Government. The power to appoint Revenue Inspectors and all clerks drawing over Rs. 20, except their own head clerks, may also be conferred on Sub-Collectors without detriment to the interests of the district administration, as competent men are usually to be found within the limits of their divisions. The appointment of Taluk Sheristadar and Taluk Head Accountants should, in the Board's opinion, be left in the hands of the Collectors, as a knowledge of accounts is essential in their case and as the Treasury Deputy Collector should also be consulted in making nominations to these offices.

10. In addition to the proposals made by Government and dealt with above, Mr. Higgins suggests the delegation to Sub-Collectors of certain other powers at present exercised by District Collectors, but as the powers of all classes of officers have been only recently revised in connection with the question of reducing the work in Collector's offices, the Board considers it inexpedient to re-open the matter now.

11. In conclusion Mr. Brodie, the Collector of Górávari, makes the suggestion that the pay of the Sub-Collector's head clerk should be raised from Rs. 85 to Rs. 100 or 110, the object of the proposal being to ensure their remaining in the office for some length of time and to compensate them for being passed over when vacancies of Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 100 occur. The Board is not prepared to support this proposal at present.

(True Copy and Extract.)

L. W. Wamikanan
for 20 JUL 1897
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to all Collectors (Divisional-officers).

The position of Sub Collectors.

G. No. 6246.

From the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue.

Dated 23rd July 1897.

Am. Ins. Gen. C.A. 3

Am. Ins. H. B. H. K.C.A.P.

M. S. The Gov.

FOR ORDER.

*Vide notes to G.O. 1220-21,

Dated 14th November 1896.

Flagged A.

The order which has had the most prejudicial effect on the position of Sub. Collector is contained in para A of G.O. 268 of 2.9.93 in which it is said:

"These officers should be placed on exactly the same footing as other Divisional officers. This para should be cancelled. The powers which have been taken from the Sub. Collector were -

(1.) The power to require the Sub. Collector to make a reference to the Bd, when he & the Sub. Collector differed about an order.

(2.) The power to appoint revenue inspectors & clerks drawing over Rs 20 (except the Sub. Collector's Head).

When passing orders on the question as to the principles to be followed in recruiting Indian Civil Servants for this Presidency, the Honourable Mr. Grose incidentally raised the question of the position of the Sub Collectors.

The system of recruitment suggested by the Government of India and approved by the Government depended upon a distinction between superior and inferior posts.

A "superior" post was one carrying a salary of over Rs. 1000 per mensem, and would thus include a Sub Collector.

The history of the gradual assimilation of the Sub Collector to the other Divisional officers is given in the note attached to G.O. No. 1672 dated 26th March 1897.

The Government thought that it was too late to remedy the reduction in the position of the Sub Collector.

The Government decided to select officers for the Sub Collector's post from among the officers who had been selected for the post of Sub Collector.

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power possessed by Sub Collectors might be restored to them:---

(1) The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., subject to the confirmation of the Collector;

(2) The power of granting privilege leave to these officers without the right of veto on the part of the Collector;

(3) The three distinctive powers which were taken away from them in 1893 under Government Order No. 768 Rev., dated 2nd September 1893, viz.,

(a) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub Collector deems improper;

(b) the right to appoint and dismiss Revenue Inspectors and Clerks drawing over Rs. 20 (except his own Head Clerk) in his division subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control; and

(c) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under subject merely to the Collector's general revision and control whereas in the case of the other Divisional officers this power is expressly subject to the Collector's veto.

3. Before passing orders, however, the Sub Collector must consult the Board

Note In all these cases the Sub Collector's power was of course exercised subject to control & revision by the Collector.

With regard to (1), the Board all the Collectors consulted, except Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart, think this power should be restored; but the Sec. thinks it should not. Mr. Stuart urges that a wrong-headed Sub Collector can give a Collector trouble enough without it, & could give more trouble without it. This seems to be a misapprehension. If a Collector, receiving a wrong opinion from a Sub Collector, tells him that it is wrong, but that he will report it to the Board, if the Sub Collector wishes him to do so, the Sub Collector will shut up, unless he is sure of his ground, knowing that he is likely to catch it badly if a foolish dissent is laid before the Board. Mr. Higgins is afraid that some Sub. Collectors may insist on unnecessary references, & so cause a waste of time. Mr. Sec. believes that it will cause friction, that it is opposed to the Decentralizing Policy which has been adopted by Govt., & that it will increase correspondence. I don't think that the fear that there will be many references or that they will increase correspondence to an appreciable degree is justified by experience. During the 3 years that I have been in the Country, I have only heard of 3 or 4 such references. During the whole time I was in the Board (or 2 years as Sub. Sec., Sec., & the member) I do not remember

... it is not opposed to Decentralization, but is accordance with it. Messrs. Wynne, V. Freddie, Mounsey, Higgins, Atkinson, Castle Stuart, Stuart and Bradley.

to give the Sub Collector more power than he has at present. He knows that he can secure the opinion of the Board, if he chooses to do so, will make the Sub Collector feel that he is more responsible than

Taken by all the selected Collectors.

he feels now. I agree with the Board that this power to make references may do good & is not likely to do harm. I attach

Taken by the Board.

great importance to the matter, because I remember that when I came out to the Country, & whilst I was a Collector, this power of requiring a reference was the

Taken by Messrs. Castle Stuart, Stuart, Bradley and Higgins and also by the Board.

was considered the chief mark of the difference between the Sub Collector & other District officers, & a signal proof that he was in a superior position.

This should be distinctly ordered in the new R.O.

RS RS

* As to (2) & (3), I agree with the Board, with all the Collectors (except Mr. Stuart) & with the Sec., that these powers should be restored to Sub Collectors, with respect to all appointments except those of

... the Board's ... bodying the reports of the selected Collectors* is now submitted. The result is summarized below:--
4. Item (1). The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c.

Objections to the grant of the above power to Sub Collectors:---

Objection (A) The field of selection for these responsible posts will in is the whole district and a Sub Collector can know nothing of the officers serving outside his division.
(B) The field of selection for these responsible posts will in most cases be unnecessarily restricted to the subordinates serving within the Sub Collector's Division.

(C) Sub Collectors are at present mostly junior officers who are constantly being transferred and therefore cannot be expected to make suitable selections.

(D) Collectors (the Board believes) always consult such of the Divisional officers as really know their divisions about nominations to be made to vacant posts in such divisions and to concede more to Sub Collectors for the mere purpose of training them in the work of Collectors would involve an undue interference with the Collector's efficient administration of

in ... injuri-

ly affect the interests of the subordinates themselves matters which are of more importance than the improvement of the Sub Collector's status.

5. The Board has made a very fair selection among the senior Collectors and their unanimous opinion (backed as it is by that of the Board) against the proposed change forms a weighty pronouncement which the Government should not, it is submitted, lightly disregard.

6. In addition to the arguments above summarized I would ask consideration to the following:

(1) Not only are most of our Sub Collectors very junior officers (vide table on page 5 of the Board's Proceedings) but they are most of them birds of passage, liable to go back to a Head Assistantship on the one side or on to an Ag. Collectorate or judgeship on the other, while those who stand between these extremes are just the men whose period of service is such as to induce them to take furlough. A Collector on the other hand may, ^{and} often does, stay for several years in one district. The guarantee that the nomination of a Tahsildar is the result of adequate personal observation and experience and not of office or caste intrigues, is therefore far greater in the case of an appointment put forward by a Collector than in one which the present day Sub Collectors would make.

(2) The Collector must in any case

This is true
JG

Treasury work. It is very desirable that the Sub Collector should have some experience & training as to one of the most important branches of a Collector's work, that of collecting revenue & making appointments.

I do not see why a special exception should be made as to the Sub Collector's Head Clerk, & that the Sub Collector, nor the Collector, should be allowed to select the officer. The exception seems to me to be the result of the mere fact that the Sub Collector's Head Clerk, who is supposed to be the Head Clerk, was excepted; but he was a very different officer of the Sub Collector's office.

As to i + ii of the Bds para 1 (power to nominate Tahsildars & deputy Tahsildars)

I was his man in Taluk during which time there were at least five different Sub Collectors.

My JG

I cannot look to judge whether this is an ordinary case. When I was in Taluk Harding & I were in the Sub Collector's office several times.

and give them Privilege Leave) I think sufficient reason is shown for not giving leave from the Sub Collector. All the authorities concerned are against it.

Mr Brodie's proposal that the salary of the Sub Collector's Head Clerk should be raised from Rs 85 to Rs 100 or Rs 110, is impossible for financial reasons, & the increase would not be enough to give the Sub Collector a Headman, like he had before Mr Garstin's time, & such as I think it would be well for him to have now.

The Rs 100 and submit a new St. O. about Sub Collector for Chap XIX - revised in Bd 449 10.6.93

The position of the Sub Collector should be stated as in the 2nd Bd. O. at page 5 of Bd 260, 2.9.93, and be stated that the Sub Collector may make selections for the post of Tahsildar, Deputy Tahsildar or Head Assistant in the Sub Collector's division.

A

JG
25/10/93

I agree with the Hon Mr. Fox-Pennington that it is better not to go back entirely to the present powers in the way of patronage which Sub Collectors enjoyed in the past, but I think it would be well to allow the Sub Collector the right to recommend the Tahsildar.

have the right of approving or setting aside the Sub Collector's nominations and under the proposed system this would lead to friction. At present the Sub Collector (unless manifestly incapable) is as a matter of course consulted by the Collector as to the merits of his subordinates and the promotions he would recommend for them. If the Sub Collector's recommendations have to be set aside for the time being in the interests of the District staff as a whole, they are not lost sight of, and a reasonable Sub Collector is perfectly aware of this fact. But if for the present system of private recommendations the Sub Collector is permitted to substitute an official nomination he will, if the Collector feels compelled to disallow it, have received a public over-ruling which is much more likely to lead to inharmonious relations (as well as to discontent on the part of the disallowed nominee) than the disregard of a private recommendation.

(3) The argument that the exercise of these powers is necessary to train the Sub Collectors ^{for the work of a Collector} is, I venture to think, fallacious. As a matter of fact every Civilian is in training for a Collectorate from the time that he receives full charge of a division. For under our present system each Divisional Officer is a Collector in

Signature, and a Collector is chiefly occupied in dealing, on appeal or reference, with matters which have come before his Divisional Officers at first hand. The proper exercise of patronage is no doubt the hardest task that a Collector has before him; but the requisites for success in dealing with it - knowledge of native idiosyncracies of individual character, accessibility, open-mindedness - can be far better obtained by the efficient discharge of his ordinary duties by a Divisional Officer than by prematurely exposing a young Civilian to the intrigues which beset every officer who has Tahsildars or Deputy Tahsildars in his gift.

(4) Again it must be remembered that the power of appointing Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars is not fully enjoyed even by the Collector himself. The Board's confirmation is necessary and Honourable Members will remember that there have been not a few cases in which the Board found itself compelled to veto the nomination of some obviously unfit man. It is not, I presume, intended to take this controlling power from the Board, and if so nomination by Sub Collectors would only increase official correspondence. For there would be first the Sub Collector's letter to the Collector; then that of the Collector to the Board - with the further possi-

all fear that Sub Collectors will exercise this, or the other, power of resigning the submission of their views to the Bd. to an undesirable extent, because of the certainty that any man who does will get no "sah upon" that he won't be in a hurry to repeat the experiment.

I would also order that, except in purely revenue matters, the Coll. shall send his communications to Tahsildars, Dy Tahsildars & Talukdars, via the Sub Collector through the Sub Collector or shall send him a copy simultaneously with the despatch of the original. I could give instances within my own experience of the necessity for some subordination.

RS
26/10/97

I accept the Hon. Mr. Gopal's proposals, which are I understand endorsed by the Hon. Sir H. B. S. Sir H. B. S. makes two further proposals in his Note of 26.10.97. The first of these, namely that a Collector, in forwarding his nominations of Tahsildars to the Bd., should also accompany them with his Sub Collector's recommendations, is, I think open to question. It would mean that the Collector would, in every case, have to send a letter to the Bd. with the Sub Collector's recommendations.

Sub Collectors' recommendations. I think it would be better that the Collector should not be made to do this, as it would tend to weaken his position, and I should greatly regret to see a hyper-critical or interfering member of the Board, such as procedure would be, the door for needless criticism and for mischief-makers meddling with the action of the Collector. I would therefore leave to the Collector all the power and prestige now vested in his hands. There are no objections to the proposal in the existing proposals. Sir H. B. S.'s Note.

RS
26/10/97

-bility of the Sub Collector's nomination being interrupted at the intermediate stage with disapproval or delayed for explanation.

7. I submit therefore that Government may well accept the adverse opinion of the Board of Revenue and of some of its best Collectors in regard to the change proposed. If the extra powers are to be given (which I strongly deprecate) I would certainly as suggested by Mr. Fradley (para 2 of the R.P.) confine them to Sub Collectors of 10 years standing who have been in charge of their divisions for not less than a year.

8. Item 2. The power of granting privilege leave to officers in the grade of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars &c. without the right of veto on the part of the Collector.

The decision on this point must obviously follow that in ^{regard} to the appointment of Tahsildars &c. If the Sub Collector is to have the power, subject to the general revision and control of the Collector to appoint a Tahsildar, he should have the same power in regard to giving him privilege leave. But if, as above urged, the power of appointment should not rest with him, it is obvious that the right of granting leave must be withheld also. Otherwise he would have power without responsibility the ^{power} ~~authority~~ of granting an officer leave of absence without having to concern himself as to his replacement.

ini. Item (3) (a). The right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub Collector deems improper.

Vide paras 6 & 7 of the R.P. The Board is in favour of restoring this power and the only Collector who takes up a decided line against it is Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart. I venture to think that Mr. Stuart is right, and that the revival of ^{the} power in question will not only cause friction but will be opposed to the decentralization policy laid down in G.O. No. 955 Judicial, dated 5th July 1897. It will be a somewhat odd way of diminishing correspondence and giving further powers to Collectors (vide concluding portion of para 4 of the G.O. last quoted) to begin by ruling that the Collector is bound to refer to the Board a matter which is at present within his competence to decide on simply because he has the misfortune to differ from his most highly placed subordinates. The only case in which such a reference might be of use would be when the Collector's order involved some new or difficult point which was likely to come before the Board thereafter, and under such circumstances there ^{is} nothing at present to prevent any Divisional officer from respectfully suggesting a reference to the Board in the first instance, or any likelihood that such a request

I don't understand why
the Head Clerk and
be excepted. The
present rule results
from the fact that Sub.
Dist. Pleasidars
were excepted, but
they were never paid
Rs 150

would, if the Collector thought it at all advisable, be refused. But to give the sub Collector the power of challenging as of right a decision which he did not concur in is likely to be detrimental not merely to decentralization but to discipline.

10. Item (3) (b) & (c). (b) The right to appoint and dismiss revenue inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 in the Sub Collector's Division (except his Head Clerk) subject to the Collector's general power of revision or control; (c) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control.

Here I am in accordance with the Board and all the Collectors consulted except Mr. Castle Stuart Stuart (paras 7 and 9 of the R.P.) that their distinctive powers extending up to Revenue Inspectors ^{and Clerks} on Rs. 50 and under, other than Taluk Head Accountants may safely be given to the Sub Collector. The exercise of patronage to this limited extent will not interfere with the undivided powers which the Collector should retain in respect of the higher appointments on the District staff and smaller appointments now in question are sufficiently ^{separate} numerous for the sub divisions to be ^{separated} off, so to speak, from the rest of the district and allowed a separate list of its own; and increased powers in this direction, especially as

Revenue Inspectors, will (with-
out corresponding disadvantage) enable
the Sub Collector to be held more clear-
ly responsible for the work of his Divi-
sion. I submit, however, that the Board
is right in urging (para 9 of the R.P.)
that the appointment of Taluk Sherista-
dars and Taluk Head Accountants must be *left*
in the Collector's hands.

11. To sum up the Board and the majority
of the Collectors would refuse items (1)
& (2) of para 2 above to Sub Collectors,
but would grant them item (3) (a) (b) &
(c) with the exception of Taluk Sherista-
dars and Head Accountants from item (b).
The present note agrees with the Board
with the further elimination of (3) (a)
(power of demanding a reference to the
Board by Collector) as a power to be res-
tored to Sub Collectors.

12. From para 11 of the Current it appears
that Mr. Brodie proposes that the pay ~~that~~
~~of~~ of the Sub Collector's Head Clerk
should be raised from Rs. 85 to Rs. 100
or 110 to ensure his remaining in office
some time. The Board are not prepared to
support the proposal at present and its
adoption is obviously unnecessary unless
the powers of the Sub Collector are to
be increased in the manner originally
suggested by the Honourable Members. If
that is done it is clear that we must
also run to the expense of giving him a
superior Head Clerk.

12/19/17.

Secy

A draft order
is submitted over-
leaf.

The Hon. Sir H. Blair
(vide note at foot of
page 5 above) will
give Sub Collectors the
power of requiring the
Collector to submit
to the Board the
Sub Collector's objection
in cases where the
Collector determines
to appoint a Taluk
or Taluk, Taluk Sher-
idar or Head Accountant
to the Sub Collector's
wishes.

H.S. would not
give this power as
it might give a
hypercritical or inter-
fering member of
the Board an opening
for criticism & so on.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read again G.O.No:1672,d/26th Mar:'97.

Read also B.P.No:227,d/8th July 1897.

G.O. No 86 d/12th Feb/1898

The views of the Collectors consulted and of the Board of Revenue confirm H.E. the Gov: in Council in the opinion that the present powers of Sub-Collectors should be enlarged and their responsibilities increased so that these officers may be more fitly trained for the important and onerous duties they may be called upon to discharge as Heads of Districts.

2. The order which ^{appears to have} had the most prejudicial effect on the position of Sub-Collectors is that contained in para 1 of G.O.No:768,Rev: d/2nd Sept:'93 in which it is said: ~~directing that~~ ~~these~~ officers should be placed on exactly the same footing as other Divisional Officers.

The Govt: resolves to cancel this ~~instruction~~.

3. The powers which were thereby taken away from Sub-Collectors were:-

(1) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub-Collector deems ^{to be} improper.

(2).

is detrimental to the
Collector's influence in
the District.

It is submitted
that the Sub-Collector
has been given a power
of ^{compelling a} reference to the
Board in exceptional
cases.

It does not seem
however, to be the intention
of His Excellency to
prohibit the exercise
of this exceptional
right in the case of
appointments made
by the Collector, but only
to refrain from expressly
mentioning ^{in the G.O.} the power in
such cases.

W.H.
26/9/98

H.O.

Please see draft below
for approval.

8/2-10/8/98

Approved except as regards
one point
J.R.

I have made a slight alteration
W.H. 26/9/98

W.H. 26/9/98
I have made a slight alteration
W.H. 26/9/98

K. S. H. Bliss

8/24/98 press

3/2/98

Not see observation
in page 3.

I have made a slight
alteration in the draft
accordingly, W.H. may
issue

W.H.
4/4/98

Issued

W.H. 26/9/98

(2) the right to appoint and dismiss revenue inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs.20/- (except their own head clerks) in their division subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control, and

(3) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs 20 and under, subject merely to the Collector's general power of revision and control whereas in the case of the other Divisional Officers, this power is expressly subjected to the Collector's veto.

These powers will now be restored. With regard to the first power, the Govt: considers that the fears expressed as to the likelihood of its being abused and producing friction are unfounded and not warranted by experience in the past. With regard to the second power, the exception of the Sub-Collector's Head Clerk resulted from the fact that the Sub-Divisional ~~Saristadar~~ ^{a f} whom the Head Clerk replaced was excepted. The Sub-Divisional ~~Saristadar~~ ^{a f} was an officer of much higher status ^{a larger responsibilities} than the present Head Clerk and the Govt: is of opinion that the exception should not be made. The appointment and dismissal of ~~Taluk Saristadars~~ ^{a f} and Head Accountants should however remain in the Collector's hands as the chief qualification in the case of these Officers is a fitness to supervise Treasury work.

4. The officers consulted are as a whole

~~(Saristadar)~~

At the knowledge of the Sub-Divisional Officer from whom the selection must be made is necessarily limited

I think it should be distinctly ordered in the case of Sub collectors only. It may often be unnecessary to consult a young assistant or Dep Collector in charge of a division

This has been always my practice 8/4

generally opposed to re-investing Sub-Collectors with the remaining two powers which they once ~~enjoyed~~ ^{perceived}, viz:

(i) the power of nominating to the higher offices in the Sub-Division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars etc., subject to the confirmation of the Collector,

(ii) the power of granting privilege leave to these officers without the right of veto on the part of the Collector. The Government agrees with the Board that sufficient reason has been shown for not delegating these powers to Sub-Collectors. With reference however to the Board's belief that Collectors always consult such of the Divisional Officers as really know their divisions about nominations to ~~vacant~~ ^{posts that fall} ~~vacant~~ ^{in such divisions} ~~posts~~ ^{in such divisions} the Government considers that this ~~course of action~~ ^{procedure} ~~in the case of~~ ^{who} should be distinctly ordered ~~that~~ ^{who} Sub-Collectors should be invariably consulted in such cases. Further ~~it~~ ^{also} should be made a rule that Collectors should send all communications, except on purely Treasury or account matters, intended for Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, or Head Accountants in the Sub-Collector's Division, either through the Sub-Collector, or, if direct, then that a copy should at the same time be sent to the Sub-Collector.

5. With reference to the above orders the Board is requested to submit a draft Standing Order on the position of Sub-Collectors ~~to be included in~~ ^{to be included in} Chapter XII of the Standing Order

(viewed in G.O.449,d/10th June 1897.The
draft order should follow the lines of
the old Standing Order No:234 as printed
on page 5 of G.O.738,Revenue,d/2nd Sept:
1893.

File
26/1/98
8/11/98
29/11/98

To
The M^r. of Rev. (Clerk) *W.D. 5/3/98*
.. Financial kept.
.. Public kept.
.. Accts. General
copy to the M^r. of Rev. (Clerk. Rev.)
—do — (as above)

kept
4/3/98

100
8

Government {1898} of Madras. REVENUE.

Recd.

Regd.

} 1898.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 86, 12th February 1898.

FEBRUARY.

Sub-Collectors.

Passing orders on the question of improving the present position of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—again the following G.O., Mis. No. 1672, Revenue, dated 26th March 1897.

Order—Mis. No. 1672, Revenue, dated 26th March 1897.

The Government considers that the present position of Sub-Collectors in this Presidency stands in need of improvement. Sub-Collectors are usually officers of long service and high position who will shortly have to fill the place of a Collector. It is desirable that they should be trained for that place by allowing them to exercise as much of the power and undertake as much of the responsibility of a Collector as they can, subject of course to the Collector's general power of revision and control, and that a distinction ought to be made between them and the other Divisional-officers. His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that the end in view may be secured by restoring to Sub-Collectors, (i) the power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., subject to the confirmation of the Collector, (ii) the power of granting privilege leave to these officers, without the right of veto on the part of the Collector, and (iii) the three distinctive powers which were taken away from them in 1893 under G.O., No. 768, Revenue, dated 2nd September 1893. The Board of Revenue is requested to report, after consulting a few selected Collectors, if there is any objection to the contemplated restoration of powers.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).

READ—also the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), No. 227, dated 8th July 1897:—

FULL BOARD.

Read—again Proceedings of the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue), Mis. No. 1255, dated 3rd April 1897.

ABSTRACT.—Communicating to certain Collectors, for early remarks, Government Order considering that the present position of Sub-Collectors in this Presidency needs improvement, and requesting the Board of Revenue to report, after consulting a few selected Collectors, if there is any objection to the restoration to Sub-Collectors of certain powers which have been taken away from them.

Read—also replies from certain Collectors to the above Proceedings.

Resolution—No. 227, dated 8th July 1897.

In its order disposed of in the first of the papers read above, Government desired the Board to express its opinion on the question of improving the present position of

Sub-Collectors, after consulting a few selected Collectors. Government observed that Sub-Collectors in this Presidency being usually officers of long service and high position who will shortly have to fill the place of a Collector, should be allowed to exercise as much of the power and undertake as much of the responsibility of a Collector as they can, subject to the Collectors' general power of revision and control and that a distinction ought to be made between them and the other Divisional-officers. It accordingly proposed to restore the following powers to Sub-Collectors:—

- (i) The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., subject to the confirmation of the Collector;
- (ii) the power of granting privilege leave to these officers without the right of veto on the part of the Collector;
- (iii) the three distinctive powers which were taken away from them in 1893 under G.O., No. 768, Revenue, dated 2nd September 1893, viz.:—
 - (a) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub-Collector deems improper;
 - (b) the right to appoint and dismiss Revenue Inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 (except his own Head Clerk) in his division subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control; and
 - (c) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under subject merely to the Collector's general power of revision and control, whereas in the case of the other Divisional-officers, this power is expressly subjected to the Collector's veto.

North Arcot	(Mr. S. H. Wynne).
Godavari	(" V. A. Brodie).
Salem	(" C. H. Mounsey).
Tinnevely	(" A. W. B. Higgins).
Kistna	(" J. N. Atkinson).
South Arcot	(" A. E. C. Stuart).
Coimbatore	(" H. Bradley).

2. The Government Order was communicated to the Collectors of the marginally-noted districts and their opinions, which have now been received, will be dealt with under each of the classes of powers specified above.

3. Item (i)—The power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division, such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c.—All the officers consulted deprecate the grant of this power to Sub-Collectors on the ground that the field of selection for the responsible posts of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., is the whole district and that Sub-Collectors can know nothing of the officers serving outside their divisions. Messrs. Castle Stuart-Stuart, Bradley and Higgins also point out that the present staff of Sub-Collectors consists for the most part of junior officers who are constantly being transferred from one district to another and that they cannot, therefore, be expected to make suitable selections for filling up such appointments. If, however, Government decides to give this power to Sub-Collectors, Mr. Bradley would restrict its grant to officers who are of at least ten years' standing in the service and have been in the sub-division for at least a year continuously. He thinks (and so does Mr. Atkinson) that it would be sufficient to direct that Collectors should consult their Sub-Collectors before making selections for the higher appointments in question.

4. Item (ii)—The power of granting privilege leave to officers in the grade of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., without the right of veto on the part of the Collector.—The majority * of the officers consulted object to the grant of this power also. Mr. Wynne observes that the power of granting leave cannot be separated from the

* Mr. S. H. Wynne.	Mr. V. A. Brodie.
" C. H. Mounsey.	" J. N. Atkinson.
" A. E. C. Stuart.	

power of appointment and that it is only the Collector that can know how and when leave can be granted without inconvenience. The total number of officers on leave in the district may be such as to necessitate the refusal or the indefinite postponement of the leave applied for; or the date of expiry of the leave already granted to an officer in another division may fix the date from which the leave of another officer in the Sub-Collector's division ought to begin, so as to avoid unnecessary transfers, expense and inconvenience. He adds that the power of granting leave without veto can in no way assist in training the officer who exercises it when he has not the power of appointment without veto, but will have rather the opposite effect as it confers on him power without responsibility. Mr. Castle Stuart-Stuart points out that it would be illegal to take away the Collector's right of veto by an executive order, the right

being one conferred by an express provision of law—*vide* clause (3), section 3 of Regulation VII of 1828. Messrs. Bradley and Higgins on the other hand see no reason why Sub-Collectors should not have the power of granting privilege leave to senior subordinate officers in their sub-divisions.

5. As regards the three distinctive powers which were taken away in 1893, all the officers consulted (excepting Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart) consider that these minor powers may be restored to Sub-Collectors. Mr. Atkinson states that he has always been of opinion that the final assimilation of Sub-Collectors to other Divisional-officers which was effected in 1893 was regrettable inasmuch as it tended to contract the field within which a Sub-Collector could acquire administrative experience, increased the Collector's work proportionately and impeded the equal and impartial distribution of promotions throughout the district. He would therefore welcome a reversion to the state of affairs which existed before 1893. Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart submits, on the other hand, that any tendency to weaken the authority of the Collector in a part of his district without lessening his responsibility to Government for the efficient administration of the whole, is to be deprecated, and that the contemplated changes appear to him to be not only unnecessary but also inexpedient.

6. *Item (iii)—(a) The right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub-Collector deems improper.*—Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart objects to the grant of this power on the ground that it will only tend to create friction. "A self-opinionated Sub-Collector with insubordinate tendencies, nebulous theories, doctrinaire views and peculiar ways can, if he chooses, give his Collector quite enough trouble as it is, without arming him with special powers to render himself still more objectionable." Mr. Higgins is, on the other hand, of opinion that no great harm could be done by the grant of this power, as, in cases where officers work harmoniously, the number of references that will have to be made to the Board will not be greater than if existing conditions were continued. He at the same time fears that an obstructive Sub-Collector might waste his own time and that of the Collector and the Board by insisting on unnecessary references. Mr. Brodie also thinks that the number of references to the Board will not be numerous and adds that, in the absence of this right, no responsibility for the administration of his division is felt by the Sub-Collector. He considers it necessary and desirable that there should be an officer empowered to express his own views on any important question of administration and so possibly procure the rectification of an error which may have been committed by the Collector in consequence of the large quantity of work that has, under existing conditions, to pass through his hands. Mr. Mounsey observes that, in some instances, Collectors happen to be their Sub-Collectors' seniors by one year only and that it is, therefore, desirable that Sub-Collectors should have the right to require a reference being made to the Board on any disputed point.

7. *Items (ii) (b) and (c)—(b) The right to appoint and dismiss Revenue Inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 in the Sub-Collector's division (except his Head Clerk), subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control—(c) The independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under, subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control.*—The objections to the grant of these powers which are urged by Mr. Castlestuart-Stuart are, (1) that in the case of appointments of Revenue Inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20, the area from within which selections can be made for vacancies occurring in the sub-division will become unnecessarily restricted; and (2) that in the case of appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 20 and under, the right of veto cannot be legally taken away from the Collector. On the other hand, Mr. Brodie states that Sub-Collectors having shortly to occupy the still higher positions of Collectors or District Judges can safely be trusted with the exercise of patronage to a limited extent and that the power can be exercised without detriment to the public service, as Sub-Collectors can generally find competent men in their own divisions to fill the places of Revenue Inspectors and clerkships of Rs. 50 and less. The only appointment he would exclude is that of Taluk Head Accountant, to which nominations will be made in consultation with the Treasury Deputy Collector. He adds that if memoranda of appointments made by Sub-Collectors are transmitted to the District Press through the Collector, he can, without ordinarily disturbing the Sub-Collector's appointments, issue general instructions from time to time for future

guidance with reference to the appointment of better qualified men if such are available in other parts of the district. Mr. Higgins would exclude from the scope of this power Revenue Inspectors, Taluk Sheristadars and Taluk Head Accountants, for the reason that they require to be moved from one part of the district to another. He has, however, no objection to Sub-Collectors being authorised to nominate men for all ministerial appointments including that of their Head Clerk, subject to confirmation by Collectors. Messrs. Mounsey and Wynne observe that though the field of selection for the office of Revenue Inspector is the whole district, the number of officers of this class is considerable even in the sub-division and that the delegation of the power to Sub-Collectors will relieve Collectors of some very troublesome work, while the experience gained by the exercise of it will be of immense assistance to Sub-Collectors when they are called upon to fulfil the more difficult duties of Collectors. Mr. Mounsey would, however, leave the appointments of Taluk Sheristadars and Taluk Head Accountants in the Collector's hands, any recommendations which Sub-Collectors may make being duly considered. Mr. Bradley points out that as the Collector is likely to pay less personal attention to the working of the division which is under the senior officer than to that of the other divisions, the claims to promotion of the clerks and Revenue Inspectors employed under Sub-Collectors tend to escape the Collector's notice and that this defect of the present system would be remedied if the power of appointment were, as suggested, vested in Sub-Collectors themselves.

8. The Board agrees with the majority of the Collectors consulted in considering that it is essential in the interests of district administration to withhold from Sub-Collectors the power to nominate their own Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and other upper subordinates or to give them privilege leave. The Sub-Collectors of the present day are mostly junior officers and are never left very long in the same division, in consequence either of transfers from one district to another, or of promotion to higher posts, or of absence on leave. Further, the field of selection for the posts in question, which are of a very responsible nature, will in most cases be unnecessarily restricted to the subordinates serving within the Sub-Collector's division. The Board believes that

Collectors always consult such of the Divisional-officers as really know their divisions about nominations to be made to vacant posts in such divisions and that to concede more to Sub-Collectors for the mere purpose of training them in the work of Collectors would involve an undue interference with the Collector's efficient administration

Districts.	Names of Sub-Collectors employed on the 1st July 1897.	Actual service up to that date.
		Ys. MONS. DS.
South Arcot	Mahomed Raza Khan, Esq.	14 6 9
Cuddapah	E. L. Vaughan, Esq.	8 11 17
Kistna	H. F. W. Gillman, Esq.	8 6 23
Ganjam	J. G. D. Partridge, Esq.	8 5 27
Salem	Lionel Davidson, Esq.	7 6 10
Tanjore	F. Du Pre Oldfield, Esq.	6 7 20
North Arcot	V. Venugopal Chetty, Esq.	6 7 10
Vizagapatam	E. B. Elwin, Esq.	6 6 27
Tinnevely	P. S. P. Rice, Esq.	6 6 24
Chingleput	J. H. Robertson, Esq.	5 9 6
Gólavari	W. W. Phillips, Esq.	5 8 20
Malabar	M. J. Murphy, Esq.	5 6 10
Madura	R. F. Grimley, Esq.	5 1 20
Coimbatore	L. G. Moore, Esq.	4 6 15

tion of the district and would also injuriously affect the interest of the subordinates themselves, matters which are of more importance than the improvement of the Sub-Collector's status. The power to grant privilege leave to the officers in question should in particular be retained in the Collector's hands, as he alone knows when the leave applied for by any such officer can be granted and how the vacancy caused by the grant of the leave can be filled up so as to entail the least possible expense and inconvenience.

9. No great objection, however, exists to the restoration of the three distinctive powers which were taken away from Sub-Collectors in 1893. The right to require a reference to the Board in cases of disagreement is productive of possible good and is not likely to cause much inconvenience, as Sub-Collectors are not usually obstructive and as the abuse of the privilege would be promptly visited by the severe displeasure of the Board and Government. The power to appoint Revenue Inspectors and all clerks drawing over Rs. 20, except their own Head Clerks, may also be conferred on

Sub-Collectors without detriment to the interests of the district administration, as competent men are usually to be found within the limits of their divisions. The appointment of Taluk Sheristadars and Taluk Head Accountants should, in the Board's opinion, be left in the hands of the Collectors, as a knowledge of accounts is essential in their case and as the Treasury Deputy Collector should also be consulted in making nominations to these offices.

10. In addition to the proposals made by Government and dealt with above, Mr. Higgins suggests the delegation to Sub-Collectors of certain other powers at present exercised by District Collectors, but as the powers of all classes of officers have been only recently revised in connection with the question of reducing the work in Collector's offices, the Board considers it inexpedient to re-open the matter now.

11. In conclusion Mr. Brodie, the Collector of Gódávāri, makes the suggestion that the pay of the Sub-Collector's Head Clerk should be raised from Rs. 85 to Rs. 100 or 110, the object of the proposal being to ensure their remaining in the office for some length of time and to compensate them for being passed over when vacancies of Deputy Tahsildars on Rs. 100 occur. The Board is not prepared to support this proposal at present.

(True Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) N. S. BRODIE,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to all Collectors (Divisional-officers).

ORDER—No. 86, Revenue, dated 12th February 1898.

Miscellaneous.

The views of the Collectors consulted and of the Board of Revenue confirm His Excellency the Governor in Council in the opinion that the present powers of Sub-Collectors should be enlarged and their responsibilities increased so that these officers may be more fitly trained for the important and onerous duties they may be called upon to discharge as heads of districts.

2. The order which appears to have had the most prejudicial effect on the position of Sub-Collectors is that contained in paragraph 1 of G.O., No. 768, Revenue, dated 2nd September 1893, directing that these officers should be placed on exactly the same footing as other Divisional-officers. The Government resolves to cancel this instruction.

3. The powers which were thereby taken away from Sub-Collectors were —

- (1) the right in exceptional cases to require a reference to the Board in the case of an order issued by the Collector which the Sub-Collector deems to be improper;
- (2) the right to appoint and dismiss Revenue Inspectors and clerks drawing over Rs. 20 (except their own Head Clerks) in their division subject to the Collector's general power of revision and control; and
- (3) the independent right of appointment to posts of Rs. 20 and under, subject merely to the Collector's general power of revision and control, whereas in the case of the other Divisional-officers, this power is expressly subjected to the Collector's veto.

These powers will now be restored. With regard to the first power, the Government considers that the fears expressed as to the likelihood of its being abused and producing friction are unfounded and not warranted by experience in the past. With regard to the second power, the exception of the Sub-Collector's Head Clerk resulted from the fact that the Sub-Divisional Sarishtadar whom the Head Clerk replaced was excepted. The Sub-Divisional Sarishtadar was an officer of much higher status and larger responsibilities than the present Head Clerk, and the Government is of opinion that the exception should not be made. The appointment and dismissal of Taluk Sarishtadars and Head Accountants should however remain in the Collector's hands as the chief qualification in the case of these officers is a fitness to supervise treasury work and the Sub-Collector's knowledge of the officers from whom the selection must be made is necessarily limited.

4. The officers consulted are generally opposed to re-investing Sub-Collectors with the remaining two powers which they once exercised, viz.:—

- (i) the power of nominating to the higher offices in the sub-division such as Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, &c., subject to the confirmation of the Collector;
- (ii) the power of granting privilege leave to these officers without the right of veto on the part of the Collector.

The Government agrees with the Board that sufficient reason has been shown for not delegating these powers to Sub-Collectors. With reference, however, to the expression of the Board's belief that Collectors always consult such of the Divisional-officers as really know their divisions about nominations to posts that fall vacant in their divisions, the Government considers that this procedure should be distinctly ordered in the case of Sub-Collectors who should be invariably consulted in such cases. It should also be made a rule that Collectors should send all communications, except on purely treasury or account matters intended for Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, or Head Accountants in the Sub-Collector's division, either through the Sub-Collector or, if direct, then that a copy should at the same time be sent to the Sub-Collector.

5. With reference to the above orders, the Board is requested to submit a draft Standing Order on the position of Sub-Collectors to be included in chapter XIX of the Standing Orders reviewed in G.O., No. 449, dated 10th June 1897. The draft order should follow the lines of the old Standing Order No. 234 as printed on page 5 of G.O., No. 768, Revenue, dated 2nd September 1893.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. S. FORBES,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue).
„ the Financial Department.
„ the Public Department.
„ the Accountant-General.

Copy to the Board of Revenue (Revenue Settlement,
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