

13/846
Ecclesiastical (1897) Department.

ORDINARY PRINTED.

G.O., No. 40

DATED 28-6-97

21/21

[Despatch Abstract.]

Payment of pew-rents by Gmt Officials

Receiving report from the Venble the Arch-
deacon on the question of —.

3/20/1897.

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Government { 1897 } of Madras. ECCLESIASTICAL.

Recd.

Regd.

1897.

Enclosures

Spare copies

G.O., No. 40, 28th June 1897.

JUNE.

Payment of Pew-rents by Government Officials.

Recording report from the Venerable the Archdeacon on the question of —.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

ECCLESIASTICAL DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following papers :—

Official Memorandum from the Chief Secretary to Government, to the Venerable the Archdeacon, No. 326, dated 8th February 1897.

It appears to Government anomalous that officials—for whom alone Government churches have been erected and are maintained at the expense of the State—should be required to pay rent for sittings in such churches; the Venerable the Archdeacon will therefore be requested to look into the subject and submit a report thereon.

From the Venerable W. W. ELWES, M.A., Archdeacon of Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Coonoor, 17th May 1897, No. 3613.

I have the honour to state, with reference to memorandum, No. 326, Ecclesiastical Department, dated 8th February 1897, that there are only three churches in which pew-rents are charged, viz., St. George's Cathedral, Ootacamund Church and Coonoor Church.

2. I forwarded a copy of the memorandum to the Cathedral trustees, and the Church committees of the Ootacamund and Coonoor Churches.

3. I have the honour to enclose copies of letters from the Coonoor and the Ootacamund Church committees, dated 22nd February 1897 and March 1897, and copy of a resolution passed by the Cathedral trustees, dated 7th April 1897.

4. I agree with the view of the Cathedral trustees that it lies entirely within the province of the Government to decide as to whether Government officials should continue to pay pew-rents or not. Pew-rents have been charged with the approval of Government, and it seems to me clear that the same authority which gave the permission can withdraw the permission whenever it sees fit to do so.

5. I agree also with the view that although, if the permission to charge pew-rents is withdrawn, there will be no difficulty in meeting the ordinary church expenses, yet there will be a loss annually of several thousands of rupees to societies and charitable institutions, and possibly to the poor.

6. Should Government decide to withdraw the permission to charge pew-rents, it will be necessary that it should be clearly defined what officials at Madras, Ootacamund and Coonoor are entitled to seats free of charge.

ENCLOSURES.

From the Rev. C. E. WHITELEY, Chaplain of Coonoor, to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated 22nd February 1897.

In reply to the particular questions asked in your letter, No. 3416, of the 16th instant, on the subject of pew-rents, I have the honour to state on the part of the Committee of All Saints' Church, Coonoor, that—

(a) The amount of pew-rents collected in the year 1896 was Rs. 1,127.

(b) The portion of this received from Government officials was small, but we cannot give the exact sum as we are not sure who are included for this purpose in the term "Government officials." We suppose that officers retired from Government service are not included, but we

beg to be informed whether Military officers on the "Unemployed list" come under this designation and also Government servants whose services are lent for other employment. A case we have in view is that of the Chief Engineer of the Nilgiri Railway.

(c) Considering the relatively small number of Government officials in this station, we are decidedly of opinion that it would be advisable here to continue charging pew-rents to non-officials, though the Government direct that Government officials are to have seats free.

So far as we know no objection is felt to the present system by the residents in Coonoor; and no objection has been laid before us; and we believe this system gives general satisfaction.

(d) We do not think it probable that if pew-rents were discontinued the amount of the offertories would be materially increased. And we do not think that if a collecting book for subscriptions were substituted, anything like an equivalent to the pew-rents would be realized.

2. As regards paragraph 2 of your letter requesting the views of the Church committee on the subject, we beg further to submit that, in our opinion, the premise in the memorandum of Government accompanying your letter, viz., "officials for whom alone Government churches have been erected and maintained at the expense of the State" does not altogether apply as regards this church. A considerable part of the cost of the erection and maintenance of this church has been derived from non-official sources.

EXTRACT from Proceedings of the Cathedral Trustees held on the 7th April 1897.

Read memorandum from His Excellency the Governor in Council on pew-rents.

Letters from Church Committees, Coonoor and Ootacamund, in answer to certain questions propounded by the Venerable the Archdeacon with respect to letting of seats in those churches.

Resolution.—Resolved that in the opinion of the Cathedral trustees the question as to whether free seats should be provided for Government servants is one for the decision of Government alone. The trustees would merely point out that in case of such a step being taken, the Cathedral funds would be materially crippled, and the large grants now given to charitable societies and to the poor could not be continued. The trustees have every reason to believe that they would not be able to raise by any other means the amount now realized from pew-rents. Should Government decide that Government officials are entitled to free sittings in the cathedral, it will be necessary for it to specify what officials are entitled to this privilege. It must be remembered that a considerable number of officials live outside the cathedral district.

From the Church Committee of the Ootacamund Chaplaincy, to the Venerable the Archdeacon of Madras, dated March 1897.

With reference to your letter, No. 3416, dated 16th February 1897, covering memorandum, No. 326, dated 8th February 1897, Government of Madras, Ecclesiastical Department, we have the honour to point out that in the memorandum the statement that "Churches have been erected and maintained at the expense of the State" is somewhat misleading, as both for their erection and maintenance the principle of supplementing the Government grant is admitted by inviting the contributions of the congregation (*vide* Rule XI, Revised Rules, Churches and Cemeteries, Government of India, Home Department, No. 103, dated Simla, 20th June 1885).

As regards maintenance, the principle of pew-rents is contemplated and certain charges are sanctioned against them (*vide* Rules XXI and XXIII of rules above referred to).

Asylum Press Almanac, 1894, pp. 985-986.

The charging of pew-rents is not therefore anomalous or irregular from a legal point of view.

If Government paid the whole cost of the maintenance of Divine Service for its servants, it would certainly be anomalous for them to be charged for what has been already paid for in their behalf by Government; but when Government does not pay the whole charge, it is surely not anomalous for Government servants to be asked to pay some portion of the additional cost in one of the ways suggested by Government and sanctioned by custom, viz., pew-rents, as in some cases, a way the most satisfactory and convenient to the greater number of worshippers.

Looked at from this point of view the charging of pew-rents to Government servants is not therefore anomalous in practice.

The question remains, is it anomalous in principle?

That there should be distinctions between various classes of worshippers in the House of God, that any worshipper should be excluded because he is not able to pay the pew-rent, is certainly open to question in principle; but the same objection might be brought against the reservation of seats for Government officials which would equally exclude the poor or those who were not officials.

The custom, however, obtains in Ootacamund, as in many places in England, that the seats are only reserved until the commencement of service, after which all sittings are free and there is besides a considerable number of free seats.

The payment of Re. 1 per mensem per sitting is rather the payment for the privilege of reserving certain seats until the commencement of Divine Service than "rent" in the ordinary acceptance of the term, it is moreover quite voluntary.

In St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund, it is a privilege that has been enjoyed for the last thirty years or more; it is, in our opinion, highly valued and its withdrawal would be much deprecated by many.

In a G.O., dated 20th April 1864, the following sittings were to be reserved for certain functionaries in St. Stephen's Church, Ootacamund:—

	Sittings.	
His Excellency the Governor	6	} When at Ootaca- mund.
The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop	3	
His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief	3	
The Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the High Court	3	
Each Member of Council	3	
The Secretary to Government in attendance on His Ex- cellency the Governor	2	
The General of the Division	2	
The Chaplain	2	
Each Lay Trustee	2	
The Judge of Ootacamund	2	

(In all 28 sittings.)

"After deducting those reserved for the above official functionaries, three-fourths of the seats are to be let, persons having the power of hiring them, either for the forenoon or for the afternoon service, but not for both."

There is another G.O., Madras, Ecclesiastical, dated February 1876, sanctioning, we believe, the present arrangement.

These Government orders point to the fact that the circumstances of this large hill station are peculiar.

The present custom works very well in practice and prevents the crowding out of the regular congregation by visitors who come and go in the season and are only here for a short time.

The Government grant for St. Stephen's Church is practically only Rs. 12 per mensem (including the pay of the cemetery chowkidar), i.e., for the maintenance of Divine Service Rs. 7. Whereas the ordinary expenditure for organist, choir, church servants, lighting, &c., at St. Stephen's is Rs. 260 per mensem, which is practically met by pew-rents, and there seems no reason why Government servants should be absolved from their proper share of the burden.

It is true these expenses might be met from the offertories which, under the present arrangement, are set free to a great extent for the relief of the poor, and the support of various local and diocesan charities.

Were pew-rents to be abolished, we believe the amount of offertories would not be materially increased and the grants, as noted above, for the various local and diocesan charities would have to be withdrawn.

We give below the answers to the queries in paragraph 3 of your letter:—

(a) "What amount do you receive annually from pew-rents?"

The amount varies, but the average for the past five years has been Rs. 2,128 per annum.

(b) "How much of this is received from officials?"

	RS.	RS.
Officials on duty	828	
Officials not on duty	240	
Non-officials including pensioners	—	1,068
		1,060

(These figures are approximate.)

(c) "If Government decide that all Government officials must have seats free, do you think it would be advisable to continue charging pew-rents to non-officials?"

We think it might probably not be desirable, but it would depend on the numbers.

(d) "Would it in your opinion be difficult to collect by offertories or collecting-books a sum equivalent to that realized by pew-rents?"

As previously stated, we do not think the amount collected by offertories would be permanently increased.

A collecting-book might be started which would be mainly supported by residents—it would not be generally so acceptable as the present system, and would in our opinion shift the burden of the maintenance of Divine Service, or the support of local charities, &c., on those who already bear a fair share.

ORDER—No. 40, Ecclesiastical, dated 28th June 1897.

Recorded.

(True Extract.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Venerable the Archdeacon.

Kxd. C. M. Thamboswamy.

Ecclesiastical dept
18

No. 326

78-2-97

It appears ^{from} ~~the~~
anomalous that
officials - for whom
alone Govt churches
have been erected
and are maintained
and ~~offered~~ at the
expense of the State -
should be required
to pay rent for sitting
in such churches;
the Venerable ^{the} ~~the~~
Archdeacon ^{will. therefore}
be requested to look into
the ^{subject} ~~matter~~ and
submit a report
~~on it~~ ^{thereon}.

The Venerable the Archdeacon
Madras

from orders

5013

3/2/97

4/2/97

(Recd 4082876)

53
6-2

Ecclesiastical (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 114.



From
The Venble The Archbishop of Madras

Order

No. 3618

Dated 17th May 1897.

Received

Registered

} 18-5-97

Enclosures

3

Spare copies

~~4~~

*CP/197
20/5/97*

SUBJECT.

*Reporting as the guests of
payment of fees sent to Government
Officials & forwarding papers
connected with the matter.*

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
<i>fo.</i>	141	<i>Eccl</i>	17-7-85
	262		21-11-77
	29		9-2-76
	82		18-4-66
	838		8-4-65
	340-1		10-12-64
	289		10-10-64
	188		23-7-64
	128		17-5-64
	125		17-5-64
	100		23-4-64
	96		20-4-64

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
	65		15-3-64
	4		7-1-64
	334		4-12-62
<i>Encl</i>		<i>put up on the 23-10-96</i>	

Ecclesiastical DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 114

1. H. E. THE GOVERNOR.
3. THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E.
2. THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.

SUBJECT.

PEW RENTS

FOR ORDERS.

Attention is solicited to the note for orders flagged *P* and to the remarks of Govt. at *Q*.

In his note of the 5th Decr. last the Hon'ble Mr. Bliss remarked that if an order were issued relieving officials from the liability to pay pew rents for the seats occupied by them, even though they still paid for those occupied by their families, the order would be misconstrued. Govt. decided, however, that if the proposal for a change came from the Ecclesiastical authorities themselves, the *matter would be* aspect of the whole thing changed. O.M. No 325 Pub., d/ 18th Feb, 1897, was accordingly issued requesting the Archdeacon to look into the subject and *report* thereon.

In reply he forwards copies of letters from the Coonoor and Ootacamund Church Committees, and copy of a resolution passed by the Cathedral Trustees, with the remark that he concurs in the view expressed by the Cathedral Trustees that it lies *entirely* within

C 21/5/97

R 4. 5 97

C 5. 6. 97

R 10. 6. 97

Within the province of Govt. to decide
~~as to~~ whether Govt. officials should
continue to pay pew rents or not; ^{that} ~~pew~~
rents have been charged with the ap-
proval of Govt.; and that it therefore
seems clear that the same authority
which gave permission can withdraw that
permission when it sees fit to do so.

The Ven'ble the Archdeacon also ^{agrees} ~~seems~~
in considering that if permission to

charge pew rents is withdrawn, there
will be a loss annually of ~~Rs. 7,000~~ ^{Several thousands of rupees}

to societies and charitable institutions,
and possibly to the poor though there

may be no difficulty in meeting the
ordinary church expenses. He adds that

should Govt. decide to withdraw the
permission to charge pew rents, it will

be necessary to clearly define what
officials at Madras, Ootacamund and

Coonoor are entitled to seats free of
charge.

3. It will be seen from the en-
closures that neither the Committee of

All Saints' Church, Coonoor, nor that of
St. Stephens at Ootacamund takes the

suggestion to abandon pew rents Con amore.

The former states that no objection has
been made ^{by the residents in Coonoor} to the present system, which it

believes gives general satisfaction;
that if pew rents were discontinued, it

is not probable that the amount of
offerteries would be materially increased;

and that, even if Govt. directs that its
officials are to have seats free, it is
decidedly

decidedly of opinion that it would be ad-
visable to ~~continue~~ continue charging pew
rents to non-officials. It states that
the amount of pew rents collected in 1896
was Rs. 1,127, and that the proportion of
this received from Govt. officials was
small. It presumes that officers retired
from Govt. service are not included in
the term "Govt. officials", and asks
whether military officers on the "unemploy-
ed list" come under that designation, as
also Govt. servants whose services are
lent for other employment, e.g., the
Chief Engineer of the Nilgiri Ry: The
Committee further points that the pre-
miss in memo at J namely "officials for
whom alone Govt. churches have been erect-
ed and maintained at the expense of the
State" does not altogether apply to the
Coonoor Church, as a considerable part of
the cost of the erection and maintenance
of the Church has been derived from non-
official sources.

4. The Church Committee of the
Ootacamund Chaplaincy also remarks on
this latter point and refers to rule XI
of the revised Ecclesiastical rules in
G.O.No. 141 Eccl., d/ 17th July 1885. ^{The Committee} ~~It~~
^{remarks} ~~states~~ that the principle of pew rents is
contemplated, and certain charges are
sanctioned against them, under rules XXI
and XXIII; and that the ^{charge} ~~change~~ of pew
rents is not therefore anomalous or irre-
gular from a legal point of view. It is
further pointed out that if Govt. paid
the whole cost of the maintenance of

page 12 of 80.

divine service for its servants, it would certainly be anomalous for them to be charged for what has already been paid on their behalf by Govt; but that when Govt. does not pay the whole charge, it is surely not irregular for Govt. servants to be asked to pay some portion of the additional cost in one of the ways suggested by Govt. and sanctioned by custom, namely, pew rents. The Committee therefore concludes that the charging of pew rents to Govt. servants is not anomalous in practice. It is further of opinion that is not anomalous in principle."

"That there should be distinctions between the various classes of worshippers in the House of God; that any worshipper should be excluded because he is not able to pay the pew rent is", it is admitted "open to question in principle". But then the same objection, it is observed, might be brought against the reservation of seats for Govt. officials which would equally exclude the poor or those who are not officials.

The Committee then explains that at Ootacamund, as in many places in England, the seats are only reserved until the commencement of service, after which all sittings are free; and that there is besides a considerable number of free seats. [This it is submitted is not quite ~~the case~~ the case

Very few seats in the Church proper are free; and the number has been

x I know nothing about this. I am aware through that there are free seats.

138
been this year still further reduced: but of course there is plenty of room in the gallery.]

The Committee then goes on to say that the demand of one rupee per mensem, per rather the payment seat, is ~~much~~ for the privilege of reserving some certain seats until the commencement of divine service than "rent" in the ordinary acceptance of the term, and that it is moreover quite voluntary; ~~and~~ that this privilege has been enjoyed at Ootacamund for the last 30 years or more, that it is highly valued and that its withdrawal would be much deprecated by many.

Reference is then made to the ~~the~~ ^{Nº 96 Eccl d/} G.O. ~~of~~ ^X 20th April 1864, reserving seats for certain functionaries in St: Stephen's Church, and to the ~~the~~ ^{Nº 29 Eccl} G.O. ~~dated~~ ^X 9th Feb. 1876, sanctioning the present arrangement. These orders it is stated point to the fact that the circumstances in Ootacamund are peculiar: The present custom it is observed works very well in practice and prevents the crowding out of the regular congregation by visitors who come and go in the season.

The Govt. grant for the St. Stephen's Church is said to be practically Rs.12 only per mensem. As this includes the pay of the Cemetery Chowkidar, the grant for the maintenance of divine service is only Rs.7, whereas the ordinary expenditure for Organist, Choir, Church servants, lighting etc. is Rs.260 per mensem. This is practically met by pew rents. The Committee therefore sees no

reason

C.W. 22/5/97 A.K. 25/5/97 ²⁰31/5/97

Note for H. E. the Governor in re pew rents

(1)

N^o 226 Ecol d/9.7.55 flagged N
But please see portion marked with blue
pencil at M.

vide letter from the Trustees d/24.1.96
Flagged M

* The numbers reserved under instructions
from foot as official sittings were from
60 to 70 (M) later 58 (L)

* N^o 98 Ecol d/28.7.35 A^a

vide Not^a in the Gazette Volume put up D^a
(24.10.8.35)

vide L

St George's Cathedral was
built in the years 1812-15 wholly
at the expense of foot, its cost
Rs 172,315 being defrayed "from
the unappropriated Lottery
Funds".

N. No pew rents were collected
until 1835 when on the repre-
-sentation of the Trustees of the Cathe-
-dral that the practice, which
till then had obtained, of dis-
-posing of the pews with reference
to established local rank
had failed to give satisfaction,
Govt, at their suggestion, directed
that a certain number of the
seats nearest the pulpit, with
the exception of those reserved
for the members of foot, the
Judges of the Supreme Court &c,
should be rented, and
that all others should be
thrown open to the public.

The Trustees were authorized to
publish a notification to this
effect in the Fort St. George
Gazette which was accor-
-dingly done under date the 12th
August 1835.

In para 30 of Despatch
N^o 9 d/15th August 1857 we find
the Court of Directors giving it
as their opinion that, as the
expenses of the choir & organ
"are henceforth to be defrayed
from the Pew Rents", if
then

these should prove inadequate for the purpose, and if difficulty should be experienced in making up the amount by voluntary subscriptions, the Trustees should not be prohibited from demanding rent on the seats occupied by individuals in right of their official position.

In August 1862 the Trustees represented to Govt the insufficiency of funds at their disposal to meet the ordinary expenses of the Establishment, and, referring to the opinion given by the Court of Directors in the despatch quoted above, suggested for consideration certain arrangements to remedy this evil. But Govt thought it undesirable that any change should be made in the existing arrangements whereby seats were reserved for H. E. the Governor and the principal officers of Govt free of charge.

It was, however, suggested that an appeal for subscriptions to the Choir &c might be fitly addressed to those public officers who in virtue of their official positions, had sittings assigned them free of rent.

In December 1863 the Trustees returned to the charge stating that the call for subscriptions had not been a success; and Govt then

G.O. N° 334 Eccl d/4th December 62
flagged L

Note

This does not follow the wording of the G.O. but is in accordance with the interpretation of it given by the Trustees in their letter d/27. 11. 75 in G and accepted by Govt.

G
(Member of Council).

G.O. N° 262 Eccl d/21. 11. 77
flagged G

then in its order N° 4 Eccl d/4th January 1864 ruled that "Each of the functionaries to whom seats are allotted, except the Bishop, Archdeacon, and the Chaplains," should pay for his seat at the rates charged other members of the congregation, and that a refusal to pay authorized the Trustees to rent these seats to others.

In 1875, and again in 1876, Sir Wm^r Robinson declined to pay rent for the sittings reserved for himself and family in the Cathedral, during the time of his absence on duty from the Presidency. But the Govt, after referring to the Govt of Bengal and Bombay, accepted the principle that in view to the retention of a lien on sittings in the Cathedral, payment should be made for them whether the seat holder is present or absent from the Presidency; and remarked that if the rents were payable by the year, no question would arise.

It may be here remarked that in reply to the reference alluded to above the Secy

to the fact of Bengal replied in 1875 that in Calcutta the only officials besides the Bishop and the Archdeacon entitled to seats in the Cathedral pews were the Viceroy and the Lt. Governor. All other seats were paid for, and officers quitting Calcutta on duty had either to give up their seats or to continue to pay for them during their absence. On the other hand the Secy to the Govt of Bombay ^{impaired} ~~disseminated~~ in 1877 that the Trustees of the Cathedral there allotted pews to H.E. the Governor and Staff, the members of Council &c, and that pew rents had been abolished "for some years past".

The papers flagged B, C, D, H & J all relate to St Stephens Church at Ootacamund, but, hardly touch on the point in question, viz., the authority for levying pew rents on H.E. the Governor and the members of Council.

From para 2 of the Ootacamund Chaplain's letter in G.O. N° 65 Eccl d/15th March 1864, it would appear that about the year

* vide his letter d/12.7.75 in G.O. 262 Eccl d/21.11.77 flagged

* vide his letter d/13.10.77 in G.O. 262 Eccl d/21.11.77 (G)

G.O. 96 20.4.64 29 9.2.76 340 10.12.64 125 17.5.64 65 15.3.64

* The Chaplain writing in 1863 says "some twenty years ago."

* The authority for this is not available but in E.M.C. N° 246 Eccl d/16th Oct 1846 "reserved seats in the several churches under this Presidency" were confined to the senior military and Civil Officers and the clergymen of the station and to the G.O.C. A seat was also to be reserved for a member of Govt during his residence at any station. ^{Kth} This comes to much the same thing, but does not specifically mention the Governor, Bishop, or the Chaplain.

01. The Hon the C.T. of the H.C. } when at
2. The Secy to Govt in attendance } Ootacamund
on H.E. the Governor

year 1843 "when pews in the several churches connected with Govt were appropriated to certain public functionaries" it was ruled that seats "should be reserved for the Governor, the Bishop and members of Council during their residence at any station", and also for the Chaplain, Lay Trustees and "the chief Civil and Military authority at the Station".

G.O. N° 65 Eccl d/15.3.64, however, restricted the reserved seats to certain officials only, including H.E. the Governor and the members of Council, and suggested, as "desirable", that "a portion of the sittings (three fourths) should be rented, as is done at the Cathedral at Madras".

In G.O. N° 96 Eccl d/20th April 1864 the arrangement suggested above was directed to be put in force from the second Sunday in the ensuing month, and two more officials were added to the list of those entitled to reserved seats.

In the letter from the Under Secretary to the Govt

foot of India, N° 5480
d/15. 11. 64 recorded in
fo. N° 340 Eccl d/10th

December 1864, it was
remarked that "neither
at Calcutta, nor at
Simla, are church
sittings reserved,
free of charge, either
for members of Council,
or for any other high
officers. In reply this
foot requested attention
to its proceedings under
date the 17th May 1864
para 2 "wherein it was
directed that all official
functionaries, for whom
seats are reserved
in the Ootacamund
Church, should pay
the regulated pew-
rent, when actually
occupying them". Vide

G.O. N° 125 Eccl d/17th May 1864.
~~wherein it was directed that~~
~~all official functionaries, for whom~~
~~seats are reserved in the Ootacamund~~
~~Church, should pay the regulated~~
~~pew-rent, when actually occupying~~
~~them~~

In conclusion it may be re-
marked that in 1865 there were five
Churches in which the system of
pew-rents obtained, viz:-
The Cathedral; Emmanuel
Church, Black Town; St. Katharine's,
Vepery; and those at Ootaca-
mund (St. Stephen's) and
at Coonoor.

C.W. 7.11.96
J.D.B. 10/11/6
A.L.H. 12/11/56

D

with ref. G.O. 65 Eccl
d/15th March 1864 (2)

There personally a repugnance to the levying of
pew-rents in any Church, but I neither wish nor
expect that my sentiments in the matter should
influence the present question.
But, I agree with the view expressed in the G.O. 334
of the 14th Dec. 1862, that it is fitting that the
functionaries in question and (the Governor, Members of
Council &c) and their families should have seats
reserved to them in the principal Church of the
District, and I would add in all Government built
and maintained Churches. The seats so reserved
should be free of charge. St. George's Cathedral, the
Church at Ootacamund (St. Stephen's) and other
Churches in the District have been built at the
cost of the Govt. They are maintained at the cost of
the Govt. Their Ministers are Govt. Officers paid
from Govt. Funds. The fabric and their Officers and

Letter N° 341 d/10. 12. 64 & D
H Ministers are essentially part and parcel of a
State Department. It seems to me utterly
incongruous and anomalous that the Governor
and the Officers of Government should not have
access to these buildings free of charge, at all times.
vide the Bishop's letter d/27. 1. 65
flagged to

the Calcutta, the Vicar and the Lt. Gov. have sittings
in the Cathedral, free of charge. In the Bombay
Cathedral, the Gov. & his Staff, the Members of Council & some
other persons have seats reserved, free of rent.
Personally, I shall be glad to contribute to the funds of
any Church in which I may attend Divine
Service.

MA

13. 11. 96

+ these are
only examples
not families
connected with
functionaries

service, a voluntary contribution equal at
least to the amount of the pew rent, which
it is sought to levy upon me.
I propose for the consideration of my
Hon. Colleagues the revocation of the order
No. 4 of the 15th Jan. 1864, (flagged H), and
a revival of arrangements akin to those
existing before the date of that Order.

MA 29. 11. 96

circulated (3)

MA 2. 12. 96

G.O. 4. 12. 96
declares that one seat at each
Church should be reserved for the Governor
& for each of two chief
functionaries; but I do
not think we ought to
require it in the case of
the families of the two
functionaries.

(4) 4/12/96

It is curious that I was dis-
cussing this question of the payment
of pew-rents by officials only a few
days ago & expressed much
the same opinion as H.E. I quite agree
with him in his detestation of pew-
rents and in the feeling that it is
anomalous that officials should be
charged for the right to attend church

built, & supplied with clergy,
 by Govt. especially for their use.
 At least, if the churches & out
 here are not built, & the chap-
 lains supplied, especially for
 the benefit of the Christian officials
 employed by Govt., it is difficult
 to say for what purpose they are
 intended. I could not justify the
 supply of churches & chaplains
 at the public expense for the benefit
 of non-officials. This being so,
 I would never have allowed the
 collection of new rents from officials.
 It is a different thing, however, to
 undo what has already been done.
 I feel sure that if an order were is-
 sued relieving officials from the
 liability to pay new rents for the seats
 occupied by themselves, even though
 they still lived for them occupied by
 their families, the order would be
 misconstrued and would be attributed
 to far different motives from those
 which actuate H.E. - This would
 be very undesirable. I would therefore
 advise that matters be left
in statu quo -

I may add that I pay new
 rents all the year round both in
 Madras and in Ootacamund.

BS
 5/12/96

H.E. the Governor
 Resubmitted.

MA 7.12.96 (5)

I spoke to the Archdeacon in Madras on this
 subject on the 16th inst. when he expressed general
 agreement with me as to the paying of
 new

48

rents, generally, - and when he admitted that
 much paying of new rents at the Cathedral and
 other Churches, built, maintained and
 officiated by Govt., - was indefensible. He
 offered to look into the matter with the
 object, if possible, of suggesting measures
 for altering present arrangements.

I admit the force of the Hon. Mr. Bliss's
 remarks as to his Note of 5.12.96, but
 if the proposal for a change comes from the
 Ecclesiastical authorities themselves, the
 aspect of the whole thing would change. I
 think the objections that exist to the
 paying of new rents on officials might be
 stated to the Archbishop, and that he
 might be asked to report upon them.

A.H. 24.1.97

Hon. Mr. Bliss. C.I.E.
 Hon. Mr. Crose. C.I.E.

Resubmitted.

BS
 26.1.97

When that change takes place, we may hope
 for better things.

A.H. 4.6.97

Quite so BS

I will not object, though I
 do prefer not to open the
 question

BS
 27/1/97

This may be done

BS
 30/1/97 (7)

There is evidently no desire felt by the Archbishop or
 by the Chaplains of Ootacamund and Coonoor to alter
 the existing state of things as regards New rents.
 Until a change comes over the mind of the
 clergy, we had better leave things alone.
 A change of Bishopric cannot be far distant.

BS
 27/1/97 when
 23/2/97

to the Governor (for information)

Eccle Dept

(a) Om. n° 32648.2.97
(a) C. N° 114.

Pew Rents

C.S.

148

Order n° 40 of 28th June 97
Miss

Recorded

1 from order of

C.W.
11/6/97

14/6/97

Knible the Archdeacon (9)
2. Dist 9/7/97

Handwritten scribbles

J.H.C. Appd. R.H. 27.6.97

We please have the two
notes for orders printed
on yellow paper
for record only with
the notes by H.W.
etc... let me have proof

C.W.
11/6/97
not 20/6/97

C.S.

It is proposed
to print these notes
as they contain valuable
information that will
come in handy
at some future date

C.W.
11/6/97

20th 61

The Chaplaincy,
Gofacamund.

23rd Sep 1st 1896

Dear Major Romilly

- I write to acknowledge

with very many thanks H.E.
The former's kind donation
of Rs 20 to the Parish of poor
School

- With reference to the
questions on which the Ex^{cs}
seek for information I refer
them in their order

1 "How it comes that in a State
maintained Church few rents
are charged at all?"

- The Church is not wholly
maintained by the State

I have looked thro' this
but I have been
unable to trace in it
enthusiasm for buying new rent on the former & the
Members of Council. An office note wh. he prepared
making this point clear.



PORT ST. GEORGE.

24th October 1896.

1.11.96

My dear Romilly,

Herewith the papers asked for in
your D.O. of the 22nd. Those you specially
particularised as "(a) (b) and (c)" have
been flagged accordingly.

Yours sincerely.

A. Stundell

Major F. Romilly.

^{The Bishop}
of Connec. & thus play
throughout the year.

5 "Does the system of pew rents
obtain in all or any other of the
State maintained Churches in the
Presidency?" Not in all. I
have served in a good many -
the only other Church I know of
is Common (All Saints)

With kind regards

Believe me

Sincerely yours

Chas W Wright

Chaplain of Gotacamund.

Major F Romilly
Military Sec. to the Secy of
Indus