

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G O. No. 228	Press ~~Mis~~
Dated 17. 4.	1857

B. no. 25-26

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 21st April 1857.

No. 25. Read the following letter from G. L. PRENDERGAST, Accountant General; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 31st March 1857, No. 431.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Order of Government, dated the 18th, referring for my report a letter from Mr. Cotton, Civil and Session Judge of Masulipatam, dated the 9th Instant, complaining of the lateness of the receipt of his monthly Salary, and suggesting modes by which it may be paid more conveniently to him.

2. Mr. Cotton seems to me to have made too much of what he regards as a grievance, beginning by drawing a contrast in respect to the date at which he receives his Salary up Country, as compared with that at which his fellow Civilian receives it at the Presidency, as if there were not admitted advantages as well as disadvantages in a residence in the Mofussil.

3. If Mr. Cotton suffers inconvenience now under the new system, Government suffered inconvenience under the old. Government in order to have their Audit rapidly and satisfactorily executed, have gone to some expense to introduce the Pre-audit, and have directed that Salary Bills shall be pre-audited. This causes a certain delay, *i. e.*, Mr. Cotton does not receive, say his January pay, which he used to receive in the first week, till, say the close of the third week, a fortnight later, but his February pay, he receives as nearly as possible a month after his receipt of January pay, and so on.

4. I cannot coincide in the view he takes of his grievance as to his home remittances. Surely those remittances are not actually dependent upon the date of receipt of his monthly Salary. He must have other money available, and he can easily arrange that his Agents should make his remittances regularly, and convey his savings to his Agents by means of his monthly Bill, which is always granted upon the Accountant General. The fluctuation of the money market is not much to the point. It is true that he and others may have been disappointed at the alteration of the rate of Exchange, but the alteration may, and will, in some months be in his favor.

5. I come now to what Mr. Cotton wishes to be allowed to do that he ("and every Civilian up country") under the heading deductions in red ink at the back of the Abstract, may have the "privilege of depositing such sums from his Abstract, as he may wish in the General Treasury, payable on demand to the party in whose name such deposit is made, or order, or such drafts should be made for the whole amount of deposit payable only to a Bank or a House of Agency or other Firm, or Accountant General in Madras."

6. He has not put his plan very clearly, but I gather that he desires a portion of his Abstract to be lodged in the General Treasury, to be paid to his Agents, but why he says "to the Accountant General," I cannot understand.

7. To permit this would be a direct reversal of the Orders which I have recently issued with reference to the payment of the Salaries of Absentees from permanent situations. It would place every Civilian in the Mofussil in the position of Absentees, *i. e.*, in no case would it be possible to carry out the very desirable arrangement for bringing to Account at once in the proper District the Salary of each Officer belonging to it. Part of the Salary would be payable there, part here. Vast trouble would be imposed on the Sub Treasurer, for he would in every instance have to debit the amount to the Collector, who *should* have paid it, and forward the Abstract to that Collector, and continual duty would devolve on this Office to watch that a corresponding credit appeared in the Accounts of the Collector.

8. I trust Government will see that Mr. Cotton's arrangement is not feasible, and that he and others similarly situated have not much to complain of. It would be different if his Salary was paid to him quarterly or half yearly, but he receives it monthly: and Civilians are not so poor as to make out that their home remittances are *necessarily* dependent upon the date at which they can make their remittances from the Mofussil to their Agents at Madras.

(Signed) G. L. PRENDERGAST.
Accountant General.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 228; dated 17th April 1857.

The Government having received a report from the Accountant General on the arrangement suggested by Mr. Cotton, in para: 5 of his letter of the 9th Ultimo, for a portion of his Pay Abstract being deposited in the General Treasury, to be paid on demand to his Agents, resolve to inform that Gentleman that his request cannot be complied with, and to furnish for his information an Extract (paras: 5 to 7) of the Accountant General's report showing that such an arrangement as that proposed is not feasible.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

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Financial Department.

No 228

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
under date 17th April 1857

Read again letter from
Mr. Cotton Esq, Civil Judge
of Masulipatam, dated 27th
March last No 82. and re-
corded in Cons. of the
24th idem.

Read letter from
the Accountant General.
(dated 25th March 1857 No 131)

The Govd having
received a report from
the Accountant General
on the arrangement sug-
gested by Mr. Cotton in
parast of his letter of the
9th ultimo for a portion
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Treasury to be paid on
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resolve to inform him
that

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that Gentleman that his
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nish for his information
an extract (pages 5 to 9)
of the Accountant General's
report showing that such
an arrangement as that
proposed is not feasible.

JF

Copy to J. J. Cotton Esq. }
With extract from Report }
Genl's letter. (P. 5 & 7.) } Disp. 21st
to Account General.

John L. St. Louis
1857 Jan 31

John L. St. Louis
1857 Sept 1

1857

1857

John L. St. Louis

1857

25-26