

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G O. No. 231

Press

~~MS.~~

Dated

18. 4.

1857

B no. 29.30

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 29. Read the following letter from G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 7th April 1857, No. 439.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter, dated 7th Ultimo, from the Secretary to the Government of India to your address, and the correspondence therein referred to, forwarded for my Report on the 24th Ultimo, No. 178.

2. The Colonial Secretary at Colombo, in his letter, dated 9th January last, to the Secretary to Government at Fort William, proposes that the Accounts between Ceylon and India be closed and settled to 31st December 1856, and that, from that date, the exact balances of Account on the 31st December of each future year, be separately adjusted and settled by remittance, or through the Agents of the Ceylon Government.

3. The system observed at this Presidency for many years has been this. A quarterly Account Current is rendered to the Accountant General at Colombo soon after the termination of each official quarter. The Accounts are prepared upon the Vouchers* which have been received

here during the quarter, *i. e.*, the Account Current for the quarter ending 31st July is founded on Vouchers received in May, June and July, without reference to the dates of the payments to which those Vouchers refer. If this Department is to wait and debit in each quarter, the payments actually made in that quarter, supported by Vouchers, great delay will occur in rendering the Accounts, and the early adjustment of them will necessarily be retarded.

4. The Accountant General at Colombo also furnished similar quarterly Accounts to this Office, in which credits are afforded for the amount of the Vouchers actually received by them from this Office, during the quarter. Whenever the balances of Account due by the Ceylon Government accumulated to any large sum, the circumstance was brought to the notice of this Government, as per letters from this Office, noted in the margin, and the settlement thereof was effected. The balance due on their Accounts, admitted as correct, has been paid by a remittance, either by Bills on London, the sale

The payments made at Ceylon are very limited, for which credits are given in the Madras Accounts, so soon as Vouchers are received.

To Govt. dated	28th June	1839,	No. 142.
"	"	20th Feb.	1844, No. 65.
"	"	19th May	1845, No. 162.
"	"	18th Nov.	1847, No. 406.
"	"	24th Sept.	1855, No. 190.

proceeds of which Bills were accepted as payment, or through the Agents of that Government at this Presidency.

5. What I learn from the letter of the Colonial Secretary is a simple proposition of change in the *period* of rendering and settling the Accounts, *i. e.*, the Accounts are to be rendered on the 31st March, 30th June, 30th September, and 31st December of each year, instead of 31st July, 31st October, 31st January and 30th April, and that the balance due by them at the end of each Calendar year is then to be liquidated. If such be the intention of the Ceylon Government, I do not suppose that there will be any difficulty or delay in rendering Accounts, but if it be intended that the Accounts for each of the quarters abovementioned, are to be rendered with Vouchers complete for payments actually made within those quarters, there necessarily will be a great delay, as Vouchers are not received in this Office, till many months after the payments are made and debited in Account, and probably, viewing the adjustment in this manner, the Accountant General to the Government of India has adverted to the great delay that occurs at his Presidency.

6. I am not aware upon what principle the Accounts with Ceylon are rendered and adjusted by the Bengal Authorities. I would recommend that a reference be made to the Ceylon Government, to ascertain whether they intend that any new system should be adopted at this Presidency in the *preparation* of Accounts, or whether it is only intended, as I stated before, that there should be a change in the *period* of rendering and settling them.

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

7. A reference was received from Ceylon, with the Orders of Government, dated the 22nd January last, and an Account Current for two months, viz., November and December 1856, was prepared and sent to the Accountant General at Colombo, with letter dated 12th February last. The next Account Current that will be rendered, will be upon the new system for the Quarter ending 31st March 1857.

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

No. 30.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched

From T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government; to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated the 18th April 1857, No. 231.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Ultimo, No. 1001, and to transmit copy of one from the Accountant General reporting upon the proposition of the Ceylon Government relative to the annual adjustment of its Accounts with the Indian Governments.

2. I am desired to add that a communication similar to that forwarded with your letter under acknowledgment was received direct from the Ceylon Government, and that the Accountant General was directed to be guided by the instructions therein conveyed in adjusting the Accounts between that Government and this Presidency on the 31st December of each year; this Government understanding from the letter of the Ceylon Government that all that was desired was a change in the periods for which the Accounts were to be rendered and settled, and not any alteration in the mode in which the Accounts have hitherto been prepared.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Disptd 23rd

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Financial Department.

No. 231

To

Secy to the Govt of India

Sir,

I am directed by the R. H. the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th Ultimo, No. 1001, and to transmit copy of one from the Accountant General reporting upon the proposition of the Ceylon Government relative to the annual adjustment of its Accounts with the Indian Governments.

Dated 7th April 1857 No. 231.

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W. H. M.

2. I am desired to add that a communication similar to that forwarded with your letter under acknowledgment was received direct from the Ceylon Govt.

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countant General was
directed to be guided
by the instructions there-
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that God and this Pre-
sidency on the 31st Decem-
ber of each year — this
God understanding from
the letter of the Ceylon
God that all that was
desired was a change
in the periods for
which the accounts
were to be rendered
and settled and not
any alteration in the
mode in which the
accounts have hitherto
been prepared

For St. George,
18th April, 1857

JH

Q. What is the name of the person who is the author of the book "The History of the United States of America"?

Ms. A. 9.2.31

*The day: to the East of
Berlin*

24/10th 1896/57.

We knowledging the necessity
of the better of the 7th letter was sent
and transmitting copy of one
from the of command General
reporting upon the first section
of the Oregon War & declares to the
General a signed word of its
seem to with the British
War.

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