

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 692-3 Press
Mis.

Dated 3. 11. 1857

B no 10-12- 5-6

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 3rd November 1857.

No. 10. From the Accountant General; to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated 31st October 1857, No. 221.

SIR,

In my letter to Government dated the 28th Ultimo, I intimated that the necessary preparation would be made by me in conformity with the orders of the Government of India to introduce in the Civil branch throughout this Presidency the system of *Account Current* as observed in Bengal from the commencement of next official year in lieu of that of *book keeping* by double entry in which the accounts are now rendered to this Office by Collectors, &c. I further submitted in para: 19* of the Memorandum forwarded with the same letter that the difference of opinion in respect to the Honorable Court's intentions on the subject in question might be easily settled by an immediate reference to that authority by the Supreme Government, if it should be their pleasure to do so, as there would be ample time for the purpose between this and the period fixed by them for the commencement† of the *Account Current* system

Para: 10.

* Of my replies.

† 1st May 1858.

2. I have now the honor to report for the information of Government, and the Government of India, that I find that "The select Committee appointed (in England) to enquire into the receipt, issue, and audit of public monies in the Exchequer, the Pay Office, and the audit Department," in their report‡ thereon, dated 18th August last have earnestly recommended the extension of the commercial system of *book keeping* § by double entry, to the accounts of all the public Departments in England in which it has not yet been adopted. For facility of reference, I annex that portion of their report which refers immediately to this subject, I am sure the Supreme Government will give it that consideration to which it is so well entitled in disposing of the question at issue, in connection with my replies given in the printed Memorandum, already referred to, which accompanied my letter to your address of the 28th Ultimo.

§ As the superior system of *Account*.

3. It will indeed be strange and I should think *not* satisfactory to the Honorable Court, if, when the Government at home are introducing uniformly the one system, which I advocate, as the better system, that very system should be abrogated *throughout India* as inferior to the *Account Current* system.

5. "System upon which the Public Accounts should be kept. Your Committee consider that it is the necessary ground work of any really important improvement, that the whole of the public accounts should be kept on an efficient, and, as far as practicable, uniform system. The evidence given before them by competent witnesses has satisfied them that the commercial system of book-keeping by double entry, wherever it has been applied in the public departments, has materially aided in introducing order and regularity in their financial transactions, has facilitated the audit of the accounts, and has promoted correct appropriation. The Inspector of the Audit Office appointed to check the appropriation of the naval and military expenditure has borne testimony to the efficiency of the system of account in operation in the naval department, to the successful manner in which it has stood the test of great expansion during the late war, to the punctuality with which the annual accounts of receipt and expenditure have been presented to Parliament, and to the facilities which the system has afforded in conducting the concurrent audit of the naval expenditure.

"Your Committee therefore earnestly recommend the extension of the system to the accounts of the public departments in which it has not yet been adopted, and the provision of a security through the control of the Treasury, for the maintenance of the system on a principle of uniformity when it shall have been generally established. Your Committee feel assured that whatever

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 3rd November 1857.

"new securities may be devised for the faithful appropriation of the public money they will be incomplete unless they are accompanied by a system of public accounts founded on the principles they have suggested."

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

No. 11. ORDER THEREON, No. 692; dated 3rd November 1857.

It is resolved to forward a copy of the foregoing letter to the Government of India, in continuation of that transmitted to them under date the 27th Ultimo, and to request their attention to the report of the Select Committee therein quoted.

Order that the following letter be despatched

No. 12. TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, dated the 3rd November 1857, No. 693.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter of the 27th Ultimo, No. 679, I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to forward, for submission to the Government of India, copy of a further communication from the Accountant General in reference to the proposed introduction of the Bengal system of Account into this Presidency, and to request attention to that portion of the report of the Select* Committee thereto annexed, in which they earnestly recommend the extension of the Commercial system of Book-keeping by double entry to the Accounts of all the Public Departments in which it has not yet been adopted.

(Signed) E. MALTBY,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

27
Exp. Order thereon, No. 692, 8/32 November/57.
It is resolved to forward a copy of the foregoing letter to the Govd. of India in continuation of that transmitted to them under date the 27th Ultimo, and to request their attention to the report of the Select Committee therein quoted.
Ordered that the following letter be despatched:
W. L. Lowing letter be despatched:
To the Secy to the Govd. of India. (Here enter No. 693)
To the Secy to the Govd. of India.

To the Secy to the Govd. of India. Dispd 5th

5217208 2283

Dispd. 3rd. 11. "Barthage"
Duplicate copy. Dated 5th

Financial Department

No. 193

The Secretary to the Govt of India

Sir,
In continuation of my
letter of the 24th ultimo. No.
199, I am directed by the
R. H. the Governor in Coun-
cil to forward for sub-
mission to the Govt of
India copy of a further
communication from the
Accountant General at the
Presidency in reference
to the proposed introduc-
tion of the Bengal system
of Account into this Pre-
sidency, and to request
attention to that portion
of the report of the Select
Committee thereto annexed,
in which they earnestly
recommend the extension
of the Commercial system
of Book-keeping by double
entry to the Accounts
of

H
T
H

Dated 31st Oct. 1857. W. L.

* Appointed in England to
superintend the receipt, dis-
burse, and audit of public mo-
nies in the Exchequer, the Pay
Office and the Audit De-
partment.

of all the Public Depart-
ments in which it has
not yet been adopted.

Wm Lenge - 2
3^d November 1857 - 3

The honorable
Sir,
Your most obedt

12/1
Acting Secy

Sheldon & Sons

General 8357, separate

28th Aug 3

To the Hon. Secy. of the Board of
Agriculture

28th Nov 1857

28th Nov 1857
No 582

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