

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. *367-8* Press
Mia.Dated *2. 6.* 18 *55**Box 1-3 67*Not to be folded or roughly handled*11/8/36*

No. 1. From G. L. PRENDERGAST, Esq., Accountant General; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 21st May 1858, No. 20.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Extract Minutes of Consultation of the 17th Instant in the Financial Department, No. 329, calling for my opinion "whether, I perceive any difficulties in carrying out the rule which has been laid down by the Government of India for regulating the relation between the Officers of the Account Department and the Local Government or have any suggestion to offer on the subject."

2. As the Telegraph is in operation, I do not see any difficulty in the orders of the Supreme Government being carried out. The nature of the Officers of the Sub-Treasurer, and the Civil Auditor is peculiar, and in neither of them is there any Assistant. Some known provision should therefore be made for supplying the place of either of these Officers, if he should happen suddenly to break down, for neither Office can be shut up for a single day without some public inconvenience. Formerly there was a Deputy Accountant General and it was understood that he was available in such an emergency as there were two Assistants also in the Accountant General's Office. After that there was no Deputy, but there were 3 Assistants and the 1st Assistant was then available. But now there are only two Assistants. If therefore the 1st (the only Covenanted) Assistant is withdrawn to supply a sudden vacancy in the Treasury, or in the Civil Audit Office, the Accountant General is greatly inconvenienced and the work of the Office which the Public watch narrowly, is thrown back, and complaints will be heard.

3. I would therefore suggest that it should be left to the local Government in such an emergency to nominate* a "locum tenens" to

* Subject to the confirmation of the Government of India.
the Treasury, or Civil Audit Office. It is hardly fair to the Accountant General to put in "any man" as Acting 1st Assistant, for a know-

ledge of the duties is not to be learnt out of the Office, and the nomination of an Officer who is not somewhat conversant with the business, is of very little use to the Accountant General. I would therefore propose that the Local Government, if it thus withdraws the 1st Assistant, should be authorized to appoint temporarily in his place some person, if such happen to be on the spot, who has before been in the Accountant General's Office, even though some extra expense be incurred thereby.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, No. 307, dated 2nd June 1858.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched

No. 3. TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, in the Financial Department, dated 2nd June 1858, No. 308.

SIR,

In their proceedings in the Financial Department, dated the 26th March last, the Government of India laid down certain Rules with respect to the control which this Government was to exercise over the Officers in the General Department of Accounts, and intimated that if any difficulty was anticipated in acting on these Rules, they would be glad to consider any suggestions, which the Local Government might desire to offer on the subject.

2. Before replying to this call, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council deemed it advisable to request the opinion of the Accountant General whether he perceived any difficulties in carrying out the Rules, or had any suggestions to offer upon the question.

3. I am directed to transmit copy of the reply given by the Accountant General, and to state that the Government concur in the suggestions contained
Dated 21st May 1858, No. 20. in para 3. They have indeed acted upon the last of them in the appointment of Mr. C. A. Roberts to officiate as First Assistant to the Accountant General, during the employment of Mr. J. L. Lushington, as the Supreme Government will have been advised by my letter of the 22nd Instant; and have expressed their hope that this arrangement which has been made for the benefit of the public service will not be attended with any loss of allowance to Mr. Roberts. It should, however, be observed that under

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 31st June 1858.

the new system it may not always be in the power of the Local Government to nominate to a temporary vacancy in the First Assistantship to the Accountant General, a Gentleman acquainted with the course of business in the Office, as such qualified persons will not always be available.

4. The Madras Government, I am instructed to add, have no objection to offer to the Rule propounded by the Government of India, in their proceedings of the 25th March last, for regulating the relation between this Government and the Officers in the Department of Accounts. They are not prepared at present to suggest any modification in the terms of that Rule. Its working can only be tested by experience, and the Madras Government will again advise the Government of India on the subject, if they should find on trial that more definite instructions are required.

(Signed) T. PTCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Sealed into

Financial Dept. 3

368.

To the Secretary to the Government
of India
in the Financial Dept.

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WMA

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ject.

Believe

3. I am desirous to have
inserted copy of the reply given
by the Government General,
and to state that the
Government perceive in the
suggestions contained in
para 3. They have indeed
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of a Mr. L. S. Black to of-
ficial as ~~First~~ Assistant
Assistant to the Government
General during the absence
of Mr. J. H. Lamberton.

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10. — The Madras Government, I am instructed to add, have no objection to offer to the rule proposed by the Government of India in their proceedings of the 26th March last for regulating the relation between this Government and the Officers in the Department of Accounts. They are not prepared at present to suggest any modification in the terms of that rule. Its working can only be tested by experience, and the Madras Government will again address the Government of India on the subject if they do not find on the trial that more definite instructions are required.

J. J.

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2 pages, with 3

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