

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 522

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 7. 8.

1858

B. no. 12+13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 10th August 1858.

No. 12. Extract from the Proceedings of the Honorable the President of the Council of India in Council in the Financial Department, under date the 12th July 1858.

Read again para : 8 of the Financial Resolution, No. 1681, dated 26th March last, relative to the question of the control to be exercised by the Local Governments over the Officers in the General Department of Accounts.

Read the following letters from the Local Governments expressing their views on the question.

Government of Fort Saint George, No. 368, dated 2nd Ultimo.

Government of Bombay, No. 462, dated 19th May last.

Government of Bengal, No. 969, dated 26th May last.

Government of the North Western Provinces, No. 1680, dated 15th May last.

Chief Commissioner of the Punjaub, No. 724, dated 21st April last.

RESOLUTION.—In laying down, on the 23th March last, certain Rules in regard to the control which the Local Governments were to exercise over the Officers in the General Department of Accounts, it was intimated that if any difficulty was anticipated in acting on the rules, this Government would be glad to consider any suggestions which the Local Governments might desire to offer on the subject.

The Local Governments having accordingly submitted their views of the question at issue, the Honorable the President in Council is of opinion, after a careful consideration of the points noticed by them, that the only additional provision necessary at present, is in respect to cases of sudden sickness, in which His Honor in Council sees no objection to the Local Governments being empowered to make such temporary arrangements as may be requisite, subject to the orders of the Government of India.

Generally speaking it will, His Honor in Council thinks, suffice to nominate an Uncovenanted Officer to fill, *pro tempore*, the lowest appointment held by a Covenanted Officer, as has lately been done in Calcutta by the appointment of the 3rd Assistant to the Accountant General to act for the 2nd Assistant. In such cases when Covenanted Officers, who are candidates for admission to the Department, have undergone an examination and proved themselves fit for the Department, they may with advantage be appointed to temporary vacancies.

The objections raised by the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab and the Lieutenant Governor of Bengal do not appear to His Honor in Council to be valid. The Department of Account, he observes, is, of all others, the Department in which centralization has least disadvantages; nor does His Honor in Council see that there is any thing in the new system which can in any material degree be held to detract from the "local control on the spot prompt and efficacious," which is considered by the Chief Commissioner of the Punjab "ever to be needed to keep Departments in Order." Questions regarding cash remittances and supplies being (as they will be) disposed of under the orders of the Local Governments, subject only (as heretofore) to the general instructions of the Government of India, the solitary case in which any disadvantage is likely to be experienced under the new system, appears to His Honor in Council to be the case of an Officer who may place himself in contumacious opposition to the Local Government, by causing unnecessary delays in the preparation of the returns required by it. But it is not probable that cases of this kind will be otherwise than exceptional and rare; and as they will only require to be brought to the notice of the Government of India, to ensure a remedy being immediately applied, His Honor in Council cannot think, that the mere possibility of the occurrence of such cases can be held to outweigh the advantages arising from a more thorough uniformity of system in the preparation of the Accounts, and the facilities that will, by that means, be afforded of enforcing the general observance of all Departmental orders.

It is not, His Honor in Council considers, proper that the local administrations should have the power of declaring authoritatively what Charges shall be passed by the Auditors, or in what manner those Charges shall be adjusted by the Accountants, such matters ought to be regulated by the rules prescribed by this Government, which is responsible for the Accounts being properly checked and kept and rendered in the prescribed Form, and if a local administration from misunderstanding or disregarding the rules of Audit and Account, were to act in contravention of them,

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 10th August 1858.

it is quite proper that such cases should be submitted for the consideration of this Government, in order, that established principles, applicable to the whole of India, may not be infringed.

* Madras.

Bombay.

Bengal.

N. W. Provinces.

† Chief Commissioner of the Punjab.

Ordered also, that a copy of the same Resolution be sent to the Accountant General to the Government of India, the Civil Auditor and the Sub-Treasurer, Fort William, for information and guidance.

(A True Extract.)

(Signed) C. HUGH LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 13.

ORDER THEREON, No. 522; dated 7th August 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Offices of Account, Audit, and Payment.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

522

Ordered to be com.

Will be presented to the Offices of
Account, Audit & Payment.
Fort St George, 3
7th August, 1858-3

J.P.

To the Account General
" Civil Auditor }
" Sub Treasurer. } Sept 12