M.R.O. 1—32 400—22-11-60

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 430 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 25. 8. 1860.

B/No 72-78 3/3

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 77. Read the following letter from Mr. J. HALL, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, Fort Saint George, dated Ootacamund, 3rd August 1860.

I beg to acknowledge having duly received the Order of Government, dated 12th June 1860, on my letter of 23rd May.

2. In that application I pointed out that the opening of the Government Treasury at Ootacamund for the receipt of money from parties wishing to remit to Madras had the effect of withdrawing the cash that previously was brought to me, and that I was thus deprived of the means of carrying on my business as a Banker at Ootacamund, for which purpose I had established myself in this place; and I solicited either that this practice might be discontinued, or that I might be allowed to obtain money from the Ootacamund Treasury by Bills of Exchange from Madras.

3. I am informed in reply simply, that my request cannot be complied with. I can understand that it may not be convenient to allow of the cashing of private Bills at the Ootacamund Treasury; but after giving the fullest consideration to the subject, I am at a loss to know upon what grounds the practice of receiving money at that Treasury (a Government one) from private individuals for remittance to Madras, when such a course interferes with the legitimate business of private Bankers, can be justified.

4. I beg therefore that the Honorable the Governor in Council will graciously reconsider this point. I regret exceedingly being thus importunate but am compelled to address the Government again, as the only other alternative to me is the utter loss of my business.

5. I would respectfully submit, that the business of remitting money is legitimately that of Bankers, and that it therefore does not appear proper for the Government to make their Treasuries the channel of remittance when the necessity does not exist and when private enterprise is thereby interfered with. Moreover, it is not customary for Government to pursue such a course, and it is suggested that if for instance, it was done at the Presidency in the case of remittances to England, the Mercantile Banks and Houses of Agency, whose business would then be interfered with, would protest strongly against such a step. The same objection, I beg to submit, holds at Ootacamund.

6. As therefore it is contrary to the principles and practice of Government to interfere with private enterprise, I earnestly trust that the Government will upon further consideration be pleased to direct the discontinuance of the practice of opening the Treasury at Ootacamund for the receipt of money from private parties for remittance to Madras and Bombay which, as already stated, has been in operation, since the commencement of the present year.

No. 78. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1860, No. 430.

Resolved that Mr. Hall be informed that the Government are not prepared to direct the discontinuance of the practice adverted to at the end of the above letter.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Encl
Command 6
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Order thereon 25 August 1860. No. 430.

Resolved that Mr Hull be informed that the Govt are not prepared to direct the discontinuance of the prosecution adverted to at the end of his above letter

JP

Mr Hull
Att Genl

Disp'd 29 Aug 60