

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

of
Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 72

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 17 . 2 .

1860

B.No. 26-27.

7/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
for the month of February 1860.*

No. 26. Read the following letter from R. P. HARRISON, Esq., Accountant General; to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 8th February 1860, No. 432.

I have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Government the draft of a circular which, with their permission, I propose to issue for the guidance of all civil officers making advances, or responsible for their being made, to have effect from the 1st of May next.

2. The unsatisfactory state of the outstanding balances in some of the Districts attracted my attention shortly after I assumed charge of the office of Accountant General, and on the 12th October last, a circular was addressed to Collectors requiring them to submit detailed statements of unadjusted advances outstanding on the 1st of that month, with a full explanation of the cause of delay in the adjustment of every item which had been outstanding more than three months, and the measures which had been adopted for their adjustment.

3. The returns which have been received to this circular shew that, in most of the Districts, there are numerous balances unadjusted, of long standing, many of which have apparently been allowed to remain unsettled, solely because no measures, or no proper measures, have been adopted for their adjustment.

4. The different Collectors have been called upon to take immediate steps for the settlement of all old advances; but it appears to be desirable, with the view of securing more prompt attention in future to this important part of a Collector's duty, that some definite rules should be laid down, pointing out the responsibility which they will incur by any neglect or unnecessary delay in effecting the due adjustment of advances which they have either made or authorised. I propose therefore with the approval of the Government to circulate the rules embodied in the accompanying circular, which are similar to rules issued by the Accountant to the Government of Bengal with the sanction of that Government in August last, and have been recently adopted by the Accountant General in Bombay under the authority of the Government of that Presidency.

CIRCULAR.

In order to secure more prompt attention on the part of disbursing officers to the early adjustment of advances, the following rules are issued with the sanction of Government, and are to have effect from the 1st May next.

1st. As a general rule, all officers are required to procure the adjustment of advances made by them, or upon their responsibility, within a period of six months at the latest from the date of disbursement.

2nd. Any officer allowing more than six months to elapse, and failing to shew sufficient reason for the delay, will be reported to Government with a recommendation that the balance be recovered by monthly deductions from his salary until the full sum is recovered.

3rd. No advance will be allowed to remain outstanding for more than a year without the sanction of Government. This rule will not be considered strictly applicable to advances on account of Local Funds, the adjustment of which may be unavoidably delayed beyond that time.

4th. It is the duty of an officer on receiving charge of a Treasury to adopt measures for the speedy adjustment of all items of advances left unadjusted by his predecessor, and any culpable remissness on the part of an officer in charge of a Treasury in disposing of the several items of balances, will, when satisfactorily established, render such officer personally responsible for any loss which the Government may thereby sustain.

5th. An officer will be considered to have shewn culpable remissness who may not have taken such steps as lay in his power to procure an adjustment within a period of three months from the date of his assuming charge.

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6th. Every officer in charge of a Treasury will submit with his monthly accounts a separate memorandum, in the form annexed, of all advances which have been outstanding more than six months.

MEMORANDUM of unadjusted advances which have been outstanding six months and upwards.

Number and description of the item.	Under what head debited.	Date on which the advance was made.	Authority under which the advance was made.	Amount originally advanced.	Portion adjusted.	Balance still remaining unadjusted.	Remarks.
							In this column the Collector will give a full explanation of the cause of delay in the adjustment of all items which has been outstanding more than six months, and the measures which have been adopted for their adjustment.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 17th February 1860, No. 72.

The Accountant General will be pleased to state whether the rules proposed to be circulated for the guidance of all civil officers making advances, are intended to apply to advances in the Public Works Department.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

No. 882.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 18th February 1860.

Read the following letters ;—

No. 6221, From H. D. Phillips, Esq., Civil Service, dated 15th in Con. 15th December 1859.
 „ 3706, „ the Collector of Ganjam, „ 16th „ 26th July 1859, No. 213.
 „ 4721, „ „ Rajahmundry, „ 14th „ 21st Sept. „ 141.
 „ 4681, „ „ Bellary, „ 16th „ 19th „ „ 136.
 „ 545, „ „ Tanjore, dated 31st January „ 4th Feb. 1860, „ 17.
 „ 3617, „ „ Trichinopoly „ 18th „ 21st July 1859, „ 145.
 „ 5457, „ „ Madura, dated 29th October „ 3d Novr. „ 211.
 „ 5028, „ „ Canara, „ 3d „ 8th Oct. „ 173.
 „ 3572, „ „ Malabar, „ 13th „ 19th July „ 171.
 „ 5976, „ Mr. Newill, dated 30th November in Con. 1st December 1859.
 „ 3870, „ Inam Commissioner, dated 30th July „ 2d August „ 83.
 „ 3666, „ Inspector General of Jails, dated 16th „ 23d July „ 297.
 „ 4374, „ Special Assistant to Inam Commissioner, dated 29th August in Con. 2d Sept. 1859.
 „ 4512, „ Deputy Collector of Masulipatam, „ 6th in Con. 10th Sept. 1859, No. 9.
 „ 3949, „ Deputy Collector of Tanjore, „ 5th „ 8th Aug. „

Resolved that the above letters be submitted to Government, with reference to their orders, dated 14th June 1859, Fin. Dept., No. 335, on Colonel F. C. Cotton's observations and suggestions regarding the circulation of small coins in the provinces.

2. The Government will perceive from these papers that the existence of any scarcity of small coin is doubted by several persons whose opinions merit consideration. It seems to the Board, however, that it is needless to discuss this part of the subject, or the larger financial question it involves. There can be no doubt that a sufficiency of small coin is essential for the convenience and interests of the people, and it is far more important to consider how any deficiency can in future be supplied or prevented.

3. With this view the Board would suggest the following measures, some of which are already partially adopted ;—

I. The disbursement, in small coin and copper, of all public salaries under a certain stated amount, to be fixed by the Accountant General.

II. The payment of a certain portion of larger salaries in similar coins.

III. The payment of a certain portion of all other public disbursements in similar coins whenever the payee raises no objection.

IV. The issue of such coins in full of all payments when desired by the recipients, and practicable without inconvenience to the treasury.

V. The issue by all Public and Military departments in their payments of as much of these coins as possible.

4. The Board are not aware whether the Accountant General would object to change in small silver or copper coins being given for Rupees at Taluq as well as Huzzur treasuries, to any person who desires it. If allowed, such a concession, the Board consider, would be a great convenience to the public, and would also meet the object Government have in view.

5. It will be for the Accountant General to arrange for a constant and sufficient supply of small silver coin and copper in every district, so as to admit of these measures being carried out. It will also be for the Accountant General and for Collectors under his instructions, to take care that the Huzzur and Taluq Treasurers and Sheriffs do not endeavour to restrict the circulation of small coins. The Board receive no returns or reports which would enable them to exercise any control in this respect, and it seems scarcely desirable or necessary that they should interfere in a matter which is clearly the province of the financial adviser of Government.

6. The Board by no means agree with Colonel F. Cotton as to the propriety of selling copper coins at a discount.

7. They consider that it would be mistaken policy on the part of Government to *force* any particular coin into circulation. The people are themselves the best judges of their own wants and interests, and all that Government, in the Board's judgment, ought to do, is to ensure a sufficiency of small coins being available, and to remove every obstacle to their free circulation. If the people will not take them when thus at their command, the inference is obvious that they do not, whatever the cause may be, require them, and the Board fail to see what advantage Government or the country would gain from endeavouring to force a larger supply on the people than they require.

8. Another objection to Colonel Cotton's proposal is, that much of the copper thus purchased at a discount from Government, would be paid back to Government at par, in liquidation of assessment and other public demands. The very large number of landholders paying less than 10 Rupees per annum to Government, (and even this petty sum in instalments,) renders this objection weighty.

9. As the issue of small coins is more troublesome and tedious than that of whole Rupees, the Board would suggest a supply of instruments to admit of their being weighed, when issued to any amount, with facility and accuracy. Improved balances for Collectors' treasuries were proposed so far back as 1855, but the Board believe have not yet been issued. Any mechanical appliance, which will reduce the business of counting by hand to a minimum, will remove one inducement which naturally leads the Government Shroff to avoid issuing small coins.

10. The bulk and weight of the larger copper currency must, the Board think, restrict its employment, and it seems deserving of consideration, whether the issue of silver coins of one Anna value, and the substitution of some more convenient metal for copper, may not be desirable.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To

T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government.
Copy to all Collectors.

- „ H. D. Phillips, Esq.
- „ Director Revenue Settlement.
- „ Inspector General of Police.
- „ Inam Commissioner.
- „ Inspector General of Jails.
- „ C. Runga Charloo, Assistant to the Inam Commissioner.
- „ M. Sadasevum Pillay, Deputy Collector, under Inam Commissioner.
- „ V. Ramiah, Deputy Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Financial 1860 Departt

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Proceedings of the Board
of Revenue.

Dated 18th }
Desp^d 18: } February 1860.
Rud

N: 882

Reporting with reference to
the Order of Government dated
14th June 1859 of the Department
N: 335, on Col. Cotton's observa-
-tions and suggestions regarding
the circulation of small coin in
the Provinces.

Hand No. 132/53.

Before approving
of the Draft Circular pro-
posed to be issued by
the Secy. General, per-
haps it will be proper to
refer it to the Revenue,
& Public Works Departments
to know what they have
to say about it, as the
advances are principally
made on account of
those Departments.

W. J. 9 Feb'y 60.

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I think the rules very
good, and an efficient
check on the system
of advances now prevailing
in the department of
P. Co. If they have been
introduced in Bengal
& Bombay, they should
be as well in Madras
where something of the sort
is very much wanted.
etc.

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Order thereon. 17 February, 1860. No 72

The Accountant General will be pleased to state whether the Rules proposed to be circulated for the guidance of all Civil Officers making advances, are intended to apply to advances in the Public Works Department.

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To the Accountant General. - July 20 -

After the above mentioned
the same person
and will be found to be
the same person to be
interested in the same
and given making
an entry of the same
in the public land
office.

With Respectful
Obedience