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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	<u>403</u>	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	<u>2-8-</u>	<u>1861</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

14

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
2nd August 1861.*

No. 3. Read again the Resolution of the Government of India in the Financial Department, dated 3rd May 1861, No. 5,330, and the letter addressed to that Government in reference thereto, dated 11th ultimo, No. 293.

Read also the following Resolution :—

No. 8,228.

FORT WILLIAM, FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, *the 2nd July 1861.*

Under the circumstances stated by the Government of Madras, the Governor General in Council is pleased, on reconsideration, to direct that the orders passed on the 3rd May last be cancelled.

By order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

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

To the Government of Madras in reply to its letter No. 293, dated 11th ultimo.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1861, No. 403.

Ordered that the foregoing papers be communicated to the Civil Auditor, the Public Works Department, and Director of Public Instruction.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

FROM

T. PYCROFT, Esq.,
Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT, FORT WILLIAM.

SIR,

I am directed by His Excellency the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of an Order of the Government of India in the Financial Department, No. 5,330, dated 3rd May 1861.

2. In this Order the Supreme Government decline to invest the Civil Auditor of Fort William with the power of passing, without reference to Government, certain advances, hitherto possessed by the Civil Auditor at Madras, and direct that the practice prevailing at Madras be discontinued.

3. The cases alluded to, in which the Madras Civil Auditor has been in the habit of acting without reference to Government are the following.

4. An advance of one month's salary is allowed to Assistant Chaplains, on first arrival and appointment to a station in the Provinces, to enable them to join. In 1856 the Civil Auditor, Mr. F. Lushington, in submitting an application of the kind for the sanction of Government, suggested that a general authority might be conferred on the Civil Auditor to pass the bills of Assistant Chaplains for one month's salary in advance under similar circumstances. To this the Government under date 17th May 1856 assented.

5. In the Public Works Department it had been usual on the appointment of Probationary Assistant Overseers, or Sub Assistant Revenue Surveyors to the different Civil Divisions, to make them an advance equal to one month's salary to enable them to join their respective Divisions. Under date the 18th March 1856 the Chief Engineer requested that a permanent sum of Rupees 1,000 should be placed at his disposal to enable him to make these advances, which would from time to time be replaced by recoveries by instalments from the recipients. The Government, 2nd April 1856, thought that a better and simpler plan would be to authorize the Sub Treasurer once for all to make the requisite advances on occasion occurring, to be recovered in the ordinary course of business by the Audit Department, and resolved accordingly that every nomination to the rank of Probationary Assistant Overseer and Sub Assistant Revenue Surveyor as sanctioned by Government, should in future be communicated to the Civil Auditor and Sub Treasurer, and should be sufficient authority to advance on application a sum equivalent to a month's salary of the nominee. The individual on being apprized of his appointment was to make out a bill on the Honorable Company quoting the order of his appointment, and this having been countersigned by the Chief Engineer and passed by the Civil Auditor, the amount was to be drawn from the General Treasury; the advance to be recovered in four equal instalments, to be stopped from the monthly abstracts of the recipient and credited to the Sub Treasurer. This course has been followed from that time.

6. On the 12th April 1856 the Director of Public Instruction represented that he had on several occasions received applications from persons appointed by him to situations in the Department, and having long distances to travel, for an advance of salary to enable them to provide for the travelling expenses. He suggested that the Civil Auditor might be instructed to pass, in the case of any person newly appointed to the Department, one month's salary in advance, to be recovered by deductions of a moiety of the salary at the expiration of each of the first two months of service. The Government under date 16th April 1856 issued orders accordingly.

7. Similarly this Government, under date 21st April 1856, authorized travelling charges to persons in the Educational Department being passed in advance by the Civil Auditor on bills countersigned by the Director of Public Instruction.

8. All the above Orders, it will be observed, were passed in April and May 1856. They have therefore been in force for five years without public loss or risk, and to the convenience of Government and of the parties affected by them.

9. These several Orders will, according to the Resolution of the Government of India now under acknowledgment, have to be recalled, and a special reference made to Government on every occasion which would have fallen under them.

10. I am however directed respectfully to solicit, that the Resolution may be re-considered, and that this Government may be permitted to adhere to its former practice.

11. I am to point out that in all the cases referred to, the advances are made under conditions perfectly well defined, and on sufficient responsibility. No greater degree of security would be attained by each case being separately submitted for the sanction of Government, as the Government would pass all such as a matter of course, on the countersignature of the Civil Auditor and Departmental head. The only result would be increased delay, and more detail work thrown upon Government and the Civil Auditor.

12. The Madras Government fail to perceive any difference in principle between the issue of advances on such clearly defined terms, and that of the issue of monthly salaries and fixed allowances as tentage, or why the former should not be passed by the Civil Auditor without reference to higher authority as well as the latter.

13. In the Order of the 3rd ultimo, it is observed that "the practice cannot be more necessary in the case mentioned by the Civil Auditor of Fort William than in many others, and to make the practice general is objectionable." I am instructed on this to remark with deference, that if the practice be unattended with any risk to the State, and tend to economy of time and labor on the part of its servants, it would be preferable to extend it to all cases in which it could safely be adopted, rather than to abolish it. The great evil in Indian Offices is that they are overloaded with details which do not conduce to effective check while they absorb the time and attention which should be devoted to matters of real importance.

14. The Madras Government must be permitted to refer to the very Order under reply as an illustration of this remark. Although issued at the beginning of May it is numbered 5,330, from which it would appear that about 5,330 separate orders, letters, &c., had been despatched from your Office in the course of the preceding four months, which, at the rate of twenty-five working days to the month, would give fifty-three orders or letters per diem. Many of these must be mere routine, passed as a matter of course, and on reliance on some subordinate servant in the Office. Any change which would relieve your Office from such detail without diminishing its real control would doubtless be desirable.

15. Lastly I have to remark that the practice in respect to these advances obtaining at Madras has been summarily set aside by the Supreme Government, without this Government having had an opportunity of explaining the circumstances under which it arose, or the reasons for which they would desire its continuance. I am directed to solicit that for the future a reference may be made to this Government on any such occasion, and that they may be allowed to offer such remarks as may occur to them before final orders are given.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

Signy J. Pycroft.

Chief Secretary.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
11th June 1861.

Exd. F. Cartledge,

N^o. 8228

Fort William
Financial Department
The 2nd July 1861.

Under the circumstances stated by the Government of Madras, the Governor General in Council is pleased, on reconsideration, to direct that the orders passed on the 3rd May last be cancelled.

By Order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

WSP

W. A. Smith

Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To the Government of Madras in reply
to its letter N^o. 293 dated 11th Ultimo.

of the Enclature.

Financial Department

Proceedings of the Madras Govt

Read again the Resolution of the Govt of India in the Mad Dept dated 5 May 1861. No 5330. and the letter addressed to that Govt in reference thereto. ~~Resubmitted~~ dated 11th June. No 293.

Read also the following Resolution of the Govt of India.

dated 2nd July 1861. No 8228.

Order thereon. 2nd August 1861 No 1403.

Ordered that the foregoing papers be communicated to the Civil Auditor, the Public Works Department, Director of Public Instruction, and the ~~Commissioner~~ of the ~~Division~~.

JP

P. W. Dept
Civil Audr { Sep 23rd with a copy each
D. C. Secy } of the Enclosure.

Order 11th June 1861. No 5330.

File 1861 Sept

No 403.

The Secy to the Govt of India. Sept 8228

2nd July 1861
No 2223

No 411

Cancel the order of the Govt No 5330 of 3rd May 1861 in which the confirmation of the practice that persons in Madras of certain offices being made by the Civil Auditor without reference to Govt

25/1/63

Financial 1861 Sept.

No. 403.

Proceedings of Fork

Dated 28 Augt. 1861.

Committed to the first
part of the 1st. Report
and Decided by the
Board of Directors
of the Fork of the
River to purchase the
land on which the
road was built, and
to build a bridge at
the place where the
road crosses the
river.

Resolved that the
Board of Directors
be authorized to
purchase the land
on which the road
was built, and to
build a bridge at
the place where the
road crosses the
river.