Sectt. II—48—21,640-29-1-17.

Home (1917) Department.
(Miscellaneous)

Ordinary SERIES.

G.O. No. 455.

DATED 12-5-1917.

INDEXED

[Despatch Abstract.]

Informal conferences.

Requesting the Board of Revenue, Land Revenue, to instruct collectors to keep a record in future of all ——— held by them during their tours.

PAPERS PUT UP WITH CURRENT No. ________

Papers of the department to which the current belongs.

Number.	Date.	Original (=O) or spare copy (= S.C.)	Remarks. (In this column such of the papers as have been removed for copying, printing, etc., should be marked with a cross.)	Initials of Referencer with date in token of return to Reference department.

Papers of other departments.

Department.	Number	Date.	Original (= O.) or spare copy (= S.C.)	Initials with date of (1) Referencer acknowledging returns of the paper concerned or (2) Despatcher to denote the return of the papers to the department concerned.

Sectt. II-8 (*f*)—25,005—27-4-15.

1

Home (Miscellaneous) Dept.

2

LETTER

1532/16—1 d/ 3.1.17

Refrs

To

The Secretary to the
Chief Commissioner for
Central Provinces,
General Department.

3.1.17

Recd & desp
3.1.17

Sir,

I am directed to request that, with the permission of His Honour the Chief Commissioner, the Madras Government may be furnished at your early convenience with a copy of the debate on the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Kelkar in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on the subject of district darbars.

I have etc.

A.V.S.
20-12-16.

P.de R.
20-12-16.

3.1.17

24.12.16

Misc

2 C No. 113 Home mis

16.1.17

2

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
16-JAN-1917
GOVT. OF MADRAS

3

No. 15A
XVI

CENTRAL PROVINCES SECRETARIAT.

General Administration Department.

From

A. Macleod, Esquire, I. C. S.,
Under Secretary to the Chief Commissioner,
Central Provinces,

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras.

Nagpur, the 12th January 1917.

Sir,

In compliance with the request contained in your letter No.1532/16-1, dated the 3rd January 1916, I am directed to forward herewith a copy of the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. Kelkar in the Central Provinces Legislative Council on the 18th August 1916 on the subject of District Darbars and of the reply given thereto.

p.1-2:
pp 3-79

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

AMacleod
Under Secretary.

12.1.17

L.B.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Chief Commissioner of the Central Provinces, assembled on the 18th August 1916.

* * * * *

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE HOLDING OF DURBARS IN DISTRICTS.

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar:—"Hon'ble Sir, before I proceed to move this resolution, I would, with the permission of this Council, suggest a slight modification in its wording which would more accurately express the idea that was in my mind when I gave notice thereof. It is not necessary that any formal permission to do this need be asked for or given. It would be considered enough, I hope, if I state the scope which I had intended to give to this resolution. It is not my desire, as apparently seems to have been recommended in this resolution, that instructions in the very first instance be issued to every one of the District Officers to hold such functions. The object that I have in view will be gained if the experiment be tried in a few select areas under the guidance of capable officers, specially of those who may be considered by the head of the Local Government to be endowed with tact. It is necessary, Hon'ble Sir, for the success of the experiment which I am asking your Government to initiate to-day that it should be entrusted to tactful officers, and even amongst Civilians, tactfulness is not a quality conspicuous by its universality. I should therefore be quite content if the recommendation which I make here is accepted even tentatively, and is tried as an experiment in a few selected places only.

"After indicating its real scope, I will proceed to move the second resolution which stands against my name. It runs thus:—

> 'That this Council recommends to the Hon'ble the Chief Commissioner that instructions be issued to the District Officers to hold Durbars in a district of officials and representative non-officials, where, among other matters, questions regarding local grievances might be asked and replied to on the spot.'

"Hon'ble Sir, District Durbars, when they are held occasionally as they now are, are merely formal functions, where a few title-holders and other important persons in the district are given an opportunity of coming into personal contact with the higher officials of Government. Sometimes at these functions sanads etc. are presented to the fortunate recipients of coveted titles or honours. So far, these Durbars serve what may be called only a spectacular purpose. But even at Durbars like these, as you are aware, Hon'ble Sir, sometimes District Councils and Municipalities are allowed to deliver addresses in honour of the Head of the Administration, which sometimes contain a long list of local wants and grievances.

"It is true that the Head of the Administration is not able often to offer redress on the spot. A careful consideration of the points brought out in the various addresses is all that is usually promised. But even to have been able to bring their wants directly to the notice of the officer presiding over the administration of the Province, whether redress is forthcoming early or not, is a privilege highly valued in the mofussil. I am dwelling upon these points once again though they are fairly well known to all, in order to point out that I am not asking this Government to initiate an altogether new departure on the lines contemplated by the terms of this resolution. By the necessities of the situation there is no asking of questions at these Durbars, but only a presentment of wants; still so far as they go they, to some extent, serve the very purpose which I have in view now. I only want the existing practice to be carried a step forward. Durbars held in honour of the Head of the Administration are necessarily very few and far between, while the object that I have in view is to bring the District officials and the representatives of the people in a District together in order that the latter may be able to tell the District officials personally about their many wants and grievances. Hon'ble Sir, the question of bringing the Administration into closer touch with the people, not alone at the highest seats of Provincial authority but from top to bottom, was before the Decentralization Commission and, on the basis of the evidence recorded on this question, a resolution also was moved in the Imperial Council by the late Mr. Gokhale in 1912, and in a somewhat modified form by the Hon'ble S. N. Bannerji in 1914. It is most unfortunate that those resolutions should have been thrown out. Mr. Gokhale's motion, however, went much further than what I am proposing here. He wanted standing advisory or administrative Councils, to be associated with District Officers, whose advice the latter should be bound to take in certain matters. Whatever the official view on that question may be, we feel, Hon'ble Sir, that the present purely bureaucratic character of the District Administration,—I am not using the adjective in any offensive sense,—will not be liberalized unless the District Officials have such administrative Councils associated with them in the ordinary day-to-day administration in the District. But as I have said already, my proposal is not meant to be so far-reaching as was the late Mr. Gokhale's. It is intended to serve a very small purpose. The suggestion in fact arises out of the defective character and composition of our present Council. Though the maximum number of members who may be nominated or elected to this Council is laid down by Parliamentary Statute at thirty, the Regulations made by the Governor General under the Councils Act, now under the Government of India Act of 1915, have cut this down to twenty-five, including both officials and non-officials and experts. My point, however, is that even if all the remaining five seats yet held in reserve were to be thrown open to non-officials only, the representation of the Province in this Council will still be inadequate. But taking facts as they are at present, I am myself supposed to represent here the interests of the rural areas contained in eight districts comprising the Nagpur and the Chhattisgarh Divisions. Now I ask any official or non-official member present here to say whether it is possible for any one man, however capable he may be, to acquaint himself with the real needs and wants of a population so vast and widely scattered. I at least have, Hon'ble Sir, come to the conclusion that any Councillor who wants conscientiously to serve the interests of his constituents can hardly attend to any other work and even then, on account of the wide territorial extent of the constituency, it is questionable how far he may be able to cover the whole ground. Men abler and more versatile than I can claim to be, may perhaps be able to do a little better than myself, but I believe most of us are by now convinced that the output of useful public work in this Council (beyond of course that of legislation which will always go on, whether non-officials leave their own impress on it or not, since that work is both in its inception and in subsequent stages mainly official) is bound to be very small indeed so long as this state of things continues. As I have said, I am supposed to represent the rural interests of eight districts; the Council regulations most unwisely have made no provision for paying me my tour charges when I go about in quest of grievances. And of course I am not entitled to levy any *rasad* or *begar* paid or unpaid. Besides I get no kind of personal allowances, out of the proceeds of which I might perhaps have appointed a small staff of assistants. And yet I am supposed to bring to the notice of the Administration here all the wants and grievances of the people inhabiting such a wide area. I have no hesitation, Hon'ble Sir, in confessing that it is impossible for any one to do his duty adequately and conscientiously under these circumstances. The result is, as you must have noticed, the absence of any method or system in the way in which to frame our interpellations. We make occasional notes of such grievances as are brought to our notice and, without any pretence even of being exhaustive or properly selective, we pour all these questions, ill-digested and uncouthly worded, into the Secretariat to be dealt with by the presiding deities of this place as suits them best. I do not want to be discourteous or talk in terms of disparagement of the work of my honourable colleagues. But every one must have felt that we cannot preserve a proper sense of proportion so long as the work has to be done under present circumstances. It is partly to find a remedy for this state of things that I have brought forward the suggestion contained in the resolution which I am moving. It is neither for the purpose of enabling representative non-officials in a District to force their advice in administrative matters on the unwilling ears of the District officials if they themselves do not want it; it is not for the purpose of enabling the former to frame and move any formal resolutions at these Durbars that I am moving this resolution. What I am anxious about is that some local remedy of a fixed and permanent character might be provided for the proper ventilation of local grievances in a responsible manner. The members of the District Councils with a few members of the Municipalites thrown in and a few other respectable members who may be selected from outside both these bodies may form the nucleus of a Durbar such as I am contemplating. The District Councils are expected to meet at least once in every three months. If these District Durbars are held simultaneously with the meetings of these Councils and persons attending such Durbars are given the privilege of asking questions as regards such acts of members of the District administration as are felt to be grievances, I believe they will form a very useful and important though informal adjunct to these Councils. Hon'ble Sir, it has long been felt that provision must, in one shape or other, be made for the grievances of the District being ventilated in a responsible manner in the District itself. You must have noticed what are called District conferences being organized by non-officials only. The Presidency of Madras, I find in the papers, holds the largest number of such conferences. One such was recently held within the limits of our own Province at Yeotmal, and the Deputy Commissioner is reported to have in every way facilitated the holding of such conferences, welcoming them as corollaries to the institution of these Councils. The Deputy Commissioner himself and some Extra-Assistant Commissioners were present throughout the proceedings, and, though it could not have been very pleasant to them to hear all that was said from the platform, it must have brought many local wants and grievances to their notice in all their force and intensity. But Hon'ble Sir, it is not my intention to speak of such conferences. What I am advocating now is an institution of a more responsible character and with a more limited scope. At present if there are any local grievances, they have to be taken to the Provincial Administration and have to be brought up for discussion in the Provincial Councils. I cannot better describe the effect of such a procedure than in the words of the late Mr. Gokhale. 'Under such an arrangement' said he, 'the grievances of a whole Province gather together and come in one stream, so to say, before the Provincial Government when a meeting of the Legislative Council happens to be held; and that conveys an altogether erroneous idea about the whole administration, as though things were wrong here, there, everywhere.' 'What is necessary' said he, 'is that as a grievance arises it should be dealt with as far as possible on the spot. Then it ceases to be a subject of discussion in so many homes. Then it ceases to breed that poison which gradually comes to fill the air and does infinite mischief both to the Government and the people.' This, Hon'ble Sir, is the very ground on which I have been urged to make the recommendation contained in this resolution. It may be said in reply to it that District Officers do of their own motion as a matter of fact make inquiries into local grievances and are prepared to give such suitable redress as may meet the necessities of each case. No doubt it is part of the District Officer's ordinary duty to ascertain local wants and grievances. But it is common knowledge that however capable and sympathetic an Officer may be, this work of active investigation into local grievances will never be effectively done, if it is left to his own initiative only. And as for informal consultations and private inquiries, we are frankly of opinion that they are not enough to meet the needs of the present situation. The present system of informal consultations or, as it is otherwise described, the system of consulting 'whom we please' will never give the Administration that consciousness of moral strength which it will have if the consultation is more open and a sense of responsibility is made to attach to the persons who are consulted. In the matter of the original proposals in connection with the Central Provinces University scheme, you are, Hon'ble Sir, aware how opinion taken individually at first was ultimately found to be against the collective sense of the majority. In citing this one instance out of perhaps many which you can call to your mind, I am only anticipating the argument which is likely to be urged in reply to my suggestion that, as some kind of local inquiry into wants and grievances is made, there is no necessity for ordering a new departure as is contemplated in this resolution. In his evidence before the Decentralization Commission, Mr. Sly, now Commissioner, Nagpur Division, while expressing his opinion against the creation of separate advisory Councils for Districts, has said that he would use the present District Councils for this purpose. I have already said that District Councils and the members of the Municipalities might form the nucleus of such Durbars. I am, therefore, entitled to claim Mr. Sly as at any rate giving a qualified support to the suggestion I am making here. But I believe I am supported in a large measure by what Mr. Jatar, the Deputy Commissioner of Akola, has said in his evidence before the Decentralization Commission. Perhaps because he was an official and had to take his cue from his official colleagues, he was against District Advisory Councils. But what is more significant, he added, that 'the Deputy Commissioner knows the good men of his District who are capable of giving him good advice. At present a record is not always carefully maintained of the names of men capable of giving assistance and advice, and though in handing over memoranda some officers keep some notes, it is often difficult for officers to get such help when they are new in a District. All that is at present necessary is to keep carefully prepared lists of influential men able to give help; which lists may be revised every three months by personal inquiries.' Mr. Jatar, I admit, does not approve of the creation of a formal body of advisors. But as I have already explained at the outset, my object is not to force non-official advice on unwilling District officials but to give the people in the mofussil an opportunity to bring their grievances in a responsible manner before the District authorities. It may be argued that aggrieved parties may individually go to the Deputy Commissioner and lay their grievances before him. This reply may perhaps serve here as a mere piece of argument, but those who know the conditions prevailing in the District can realize at once how difficult this is. Every District Officer is not equally accessible nor is every one of them an example of patience. We also know our own weaknesses. It is therefore that I am proposing something in the nature of a formal institution where all grievances could, as of right, be taken and ventilated, not by vague grumbling behind the backs of officials, but in a responsible manner and in the presence of officials themselves. Personally I feel sure that the carrying out of this proposal will keep the wheels of the District administration well oiled and greased. It will reduce a considerable amount of friction, and it will enable a large part of the work that has to be done here at considerable cost and expense to be done locally and on the spot.

"I will answer only one objection more which is likely to be urged against my proposal before I close. It may be said that if the ventilation of the grievances is to be strictly local, then logically the more local it becomes the better. It may then be said, that the real solution of the difficulty will lie in the District Officer hearing complaints in the villages themselves. To this my answer is simply this, *viz.*, that it will indeed, no doubt, be the height of administrative wisdom at once to start the formation of village *panchayats* and summon them to the aid of District administration, but as this is considered to be nothing but a counsel of perfection at the present stage—I do not think it is so, and I may at a future date move a resolution on that subject also—but as it is considered to be such a counsel of perfection, I believe we may make a beginning by organizing such an agency at District Head-quarters only at the outset. Hon'ble Sir, I frankly admit that I am putting this suggestion forward only as a step towards the ultimate formation of District Administrative Councils such as were contemplated by the late Mr. Gokhale. Even if the constitution of this Council is so far expanded as to contain two representatives from each District, even then I believe that the necessity for a non-official District Administrative Council will still remain. For what we want is 'more Government on the spot', 'more expeditious Government', and in order that such Government may be liberal in character and not merely bureaucratic in character—again I mean no offence—it is necessary that it should be in responsible association with the representatives of the people who have to live under it. As a step towards that, and as supplementary to the work of this Council, I am urging this suggestion forward to-day. If I am so fortunate as to secure the acceptance of this resolution at the hands of this Council, I shall be quite content for the present if you allow the experiment to be tried in some selected Districts to begin with. Hon'ble Sir, I am not speaking without precedent. I am told that Durbars similar to those suggested by me are held in some Districts in the Bombay Presidency and that is an additional reason that has encouraged me to place this resolution before the Council for its consideration."

The Hon'ble Mr. F. S. A. Slocock:—"Hon'ble Sir, it may save some of the time of this Council if I rise at once and say that Government is prepared to accept this Resolution, and if my premature entrance into the debate is effected at the expense of depriving the Council of some of the eloquent and suggestive speeches which would otherwise have been delivered, I trust that Hon'ble Members will forgive me on the score of the nature of my announcement and will even feel a little thankful to me for having enabled them to get away to their tea a little earlier than otherwise they would have done.

"I listened with great interest to the speech of the Hon'ble Mover which brought before my mind an attractive, if a somewhat rose-coloured, picture of the district Durbars which he wishes us to introduce. It is indeed pleasant to think of the District Officer sitting among the wise men of the District disposing of all grievances on the spot to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. One good result of such a method will of course be that there will be no more appeals, a happy state of affairs which my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Standen, and all other Commissioners will no doubt welcome with pleasure. I myself can see, if I may be permitted to peer into the future, a further development of the Hon'ble Member's idea. When the Committee over which my friend, the Hon'ble Mr. Jones, is about to preside and which is going to frame proposals for the extension of female education has sat, and worked its will, may we not expect one day to see not only Durbaris but also Durbarins sitting in these Durbars and brightening the proceedings with their presence and their feminine wit and intuition? However, I do not think my Hon'ble friend looks so far ahead as that. In fact I gather what he looks forward to is that the District Durbars, which he now wants us to introduce, will have ceased to exist long before such a time can come. Not that he thinks that they will be unsuccessful but that he expects them to be replaced by some thing much more advanced. I refer to his frank admission that what he wants is to pave the way for the introduction of district advisory Councils. Well, I do not think it is necessary for me to follow my Hon'ble friend into a discussion of that matter; I regard it as a dead hare which it is not worth my while to chase; it was started some years ago, was well peppered by the Royal Commission on Decentralization and was finally polished off in the Imperial Legislative Council two years ago.

A 'A'

"I should like to tell the Council what action we took when the Hon'ble Member gave notice of his Resolution. A reference was made to the Bombay Government, who, as Hon'ble Members may be aware, have already introduced District Durbars in their Province, and that Government kindly furnished us with papers regarding the establishment of District Durbars there, from which it appears that they were started in the Nasik District in 1909 by the late Mr. Jackson and were subsequently, under Government orders, introduced into other districts. It is reported that the system of District Durbars is popular, judging by the appreciative references made to them in the Press.

"Now it must be understood by Hon'ble Members that the system as worked in Bombay and the system as we propose to introduce it in these Provinces will be entirely a permissive one, that is to say, the discretion of the District Officer will not be fettered in any way except that it will be prescribed that he should hold at least one Durbar annually in his district. Everything else, the nature of the subjects to be discussed at the Durbars, the selection of representative persons to attend them and the number of Durbars to be held each year will be left entirely to the District Officer to decide for himself and in such a system naturally a great deal will depend on the idiosyncracies of the District Officer. The system, in fact, will simply give a rather more formal aspect to a system which is already in force in many districts in these Provinces under which the District Officer summons the representatives of the landlords and other important persons of his district and consults them about matters of importance regarding which information or an expression of opinion is desired. This, I believe, is the system which has been followed in Narsinghpur and some other districts.

"The Hon'ble Mover has suggested that we should at first introduce the system in one or two districts only, and I am inclined to think it will be better to adopt this suggestion. It would perhaps be unwise to attempt a new experiment of this sort in a backward district like Mandla where it is not likely to be so much appreciated as it doubtless will be by the enlightened residents of Balaghat.

"Subject to the reservation suggested in what I have said, the Government thinks that the experiment is worth giving a trial to. Anything which is likely to bring the District Officers into closer touch with the people, or as the proceedings will be conducted in the vernacular, to encourage a more intimate knowledge of the vernacular, or in any way to make the administrative machine work more smoothly, can do no harm and is worth trying, and for this reason the Government has decided to accept the Resolution. In accepting it I wish to say that orders giving effect to the scheme will be issued as soon as possible, but of course I cannot promise that they will issue immediately or that the system will be introduced at once."

The Hon'ble Rao Bahadur N. K. Kelkar:—"Hon'ble Sir, I have nothing to say now in addition to what I have already said. On behalf of myself and of the non-official Members of this Council I have to thank the Government for their acceptance of this Resolution. It seems that it is taken for granted by the Hon'ble Mr. Slocock that my Resolution related to Durbaris only; I believe my Resolution is sufficiently comprehensive to include Durbarins also. As regards advisory Councils, I have already stated that the time has not come for introducing the system of advisory Councils in these Provinces; all I said was that later on they will be introduced.

"For obvious reasons I have not gone into details of the Durbars; they will have to be worked out later. There may be the necessity of holding one Durbar or two Durbars or three Durbars; that will be determined according to local demands. So far as the principle is concerned, it has been accepted and I again beg to thank the Government for doing so."

The Resolution was accepted.

* * * * * * *

C. S. FINDLAY,

Secretary to the Central Provinces
Legislative Council.

Govt. Press, Nagpur:—L. R.—16-9-16—80.

Home (mis) dept

Letter No. 1532-2
24.1.17

To

The Secretary to the
Govt. of Bombay
General dept.
(with Copy of Extract-para at A on p 7 C.P.)

24/1

Despd with encl
DMUS
24.1.17

Sir,

I am directed to invite a reference to the accompanying extract from the speech of the Hon'ble Mr F. S. A. Slocock made at the ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ meeting of the Legislative Council of the Chief Commr of the Central Provinces ~~assembled~~ held on the 18th Aug. 1916 and to request that, with the permission of H. E. the Govr. in council, the Madras Govt. may be furnished with a copy of the papers regarding the establishment of district Darbars in the Bombay Presy. referred to ~~[illegible]~~ in the speech.

24/1

Cir.
19.1.17
Pdeh
20.1.17

22-1-17

To

The Secretary to the [illegible]

[illegible] General Dept

[illegible]

Sir,

[illegible]

Hon. Mr F. S. A. [illegible]

the Legislative Council [illegible]

[illegible]

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
-5-FEB-1917
GOVT. OF MADRAS

C.No. 361 Mis
5.2.17

No. 913 of 1917.

9

8

Political Department,
Bombay Castle, 3rd February 1917.

From

J. E. C. Jukes, Esquire,
Deputy Secretary to Government, Bombay;

To

The Secretary to the Government of Madras,
Home Department (Miscellaneous).

Sir,

p8CF

pp10-15 infra

With reference to your letter No. 1532-2, dated the 24th January 1917, addressed to the Government of Bombay in the General Department, I am directed to forward herewith copies of two Resolutions issued by the Government of Bombay in the Political Department, which dealt with the scheme for holding Durbars in the Districts of the Bombay Presidency.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J. E. C. Jukes

Deputy Secretary to Government.

SF.

Instructions for the holding of Darbars by the Collectors in their Districts.

No. 2563, dated the 17th March 1909.

From A. M. T. Jackson, Esquire, Collector of Nasik;
To The Commissioner, C. D.

It may be of interest to you and to Government to hear of the results of an experiment which I have been conducting since I came to this District at the end of November 1907.

2. * * * *

3. I have made it a practice to hold a Darbar at every Taluka Head-quarters Station visited on tour, generally after office in the evening. I also hold a Darbar at the District Head-quarters at 4 o'clock on every Saturday when I happen to be in the Station. It is of course not expected that all those on the Darbar list should attend every Saturday Darbar. They receive a general invitation for all Saturdays and can attend whenever they find it convenient to do so.

4. In preparing the lists of persons to be invited, I had of course at first to take the names from the lists of Sardars, Municipal and Local Board Members, pleaders, income-tax payers and so on, supplementing them by information obtained from the Mamlatdars and others. Increasing acquaintance with the District of course makes it possible to add other names from personal knowlege. My object has been to be inclusive rather than exclusive. Even in the case of active politicians invitations have been issued. * * * *

5. My practice has been to open the first Darbar at each place with a few words explaining that my object is to make the acquaintance of those present and to give them an opportunity of bringing to my notice any matters affecting the town, the taluka, or the country generally which they may wish to put forward. Any one who wishes then rises and speaks, and is followed by others, until all who desire to say anything have done so. My practice is to join in the discussion by asking questions and announcing the

decisions

decisions or policy of Government, and to take notes of matters of which further consideration is desirable. The proceedings, which are conducted in the vernacular and last as a rule from half an hour to an hour, terminate with the distribution of atar and pan. From the Indian point of view, this creates a bond of personal hospitality between the Collector and his Darbaris, and has been a great factor in making the institution popular, as it has most certainly become.

6. I have now sufficient experience to say that this system is extremely useful, not only for the purpose of creating and maintaining friendly relations between the Collector and the non-officials, but also for the purpose of making him acquainted with the matters that really interest the people. The tradition of comparatively free speech in public Darbar is not yet extinct and has several times been referred to in my presence by way of preface to the statement of some grievance. The opportunity of so speaking is greatly valued, and, so far as my experience goes, is seldom used for the purpose of bringing forward an individual petition. The matters which are most generally brought up are general questions such as forest policy, the importance of greater supervision over weights and measures and of better arrangements for the protection of widows and orphans, of improving the position of school masters and so on. These are the matters that really interest the people, and one hardly realises the extent of the feeling about them so long as one draws one's knowledge from the petitions ~~of~~ or conversation of individuals.

7. The Darbar system of course is no substitute for the the regular daily hearing of petitions or for interviews with particular persons, but I have found it an extremely useful and valuable supplement to these, and I would recommend that something of the kind should be generally adopted. The essence of it is the personal relation between the Collector and his Darbaris, and the Collector should have absolute discretion as to whom he will and whom he will not admit. Anything like a fixed number of members or a formal constitution

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constitution for the Darbar would be a great mistake.

Endorsement by the Hon'ble Mr. W. T. Morison, C.S.I., Commissioner, C.D.

No. C.-883, dated the 23rd March 1909.

Submitted for the information of Government.

2. The system of holding frequent Darbars is an excellent way of getting into touch with the people, and is much appreciated by them. During my tour this year I have at many of my camps invited the local leaders (in number from 25 to 40 at each place) to informal Darbars, ending with the distribution of flowers, etc., at which local affairs have been discussed. The people appeared to appreciate these meetings, and I feel sure they do much good.

3. I would recommend that Mr. Jackson's letter be communicated to all Collectors with a suggestion that a similar experiment should be tried both by them in their Districts and by their sub-divisional officers in their charges. It may not in every District be found convenient to hold a Darbar as often as every week at head-quarters; but no rules need be laid down.

No. 3773.

Political Department.

Bombay Castle, 26th May 1909.

RESOLUTION.- Copies of the foregoing papers should be forwarded to all Collectors with an intimation that Government approve of the arrangements described by Mr. Jackson and desire that Darbars should be held occasionally in each District . The Collectors should select the gentlemen whom they consider eligible for attendance at the Darbars, and should prepare regular lists of the Darbaris for each District, additional nominations being made from time to time as occasion requires.

2. Besides these occasional Darbars, an annual Darbar should be held in each District to which the principal officials, especially the Mamlatdars, and a few non-official gentlemen selected for their judgment and knowledge of the affairs of the District should be invited. The non-official gentlemen invited to

to these annual Darbars should all be chosen from among the Darbaris. Questions of general interest should be discussed at the annual Darbar, and at some convenient date after the annual Darbar the Collector should hold a meeting of the officials alone at which administrative matters should be confidentially discussed, the Collector's orders explained, and instructions issued for carrying out his orders.

3. The proceedings of the Darbars should invariably be conducted in the vernacular of the District.

Sd. J. H. DuBoulay,

Acting Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
All Collectors,
The Revenue Department of the Secretariat,
The General Department of the Secretariat,
The Judicial Department of the Secretariat,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.

True copy,

for Superintendent.

SF.

Instructions for invitations to Darbars and other public functions held by Collectors in their districts.

No. 50555, dated the 12th December 1913.

From—H. A. Sams, Esq., I.C.S., Postmaster-General, Bombay.

To—The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay.

I have the honour to forward herewith a copy of letter No. 12895-Ap.,* dated the 26th August 1913, from the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs and to say that from enquiries made it has been ascertained that some of the Postal Superintendents in this Circle are invited to attend District Darbars and other public functions but they are not given seats according to the Table of Precedence given in the Bombay Quarterly Civil List. I beg, therefore, to request that you will kindly issue orders if there be no objection that the Postal Superintendents should be invited for District Darbars and other public functions to be held in the districts and be given seats according to the order shown in the Table of Precedence.

2. The Table of Precedence mentions Indian officers only and the Postal Superintendents are included in it against entry 10 under the heading "Sardars of the Second Class". No provision has, however, been made in the Warrant of Precedence for the European Superintendents employed in this Department and I beg to enquire as to the practice in force in other Departments in respect of these precedences when a European holds an appointment usually held by an Indian.

P. D. Letter No. 748, dated the 2nd February 1914.

From—The Secretary to Government, Political Department, Bombay;

To—The Postmaster-General, Bombay.

With reference to your letter No. 50555, dated the 12th December 1913, I am directed to invite your attention to my letter No. 7054,* dated the 27th November 1913, and to state that Postal Superintendents will be invited to District Darbars and to other public functions under the control of Collectors if they call upon the Collector of the district in question, and intimate to him their disire to be invited to such functions.

2. I am to say that if Postal Superintendents are not given seats appropriate to their position in the Table of Precedence, the matter should in each case be brought in the first instance to the notice of the officer presiding. Exact adherence to the order of precedence cannot, however, be insisted upon in every case.

3. No special rule is followed with respect to precedence in cases where an European officer holds an appointment usually held by an Indian. European officers who are not mentioned in the Warrant of Precedence take rank "according to general usage" (see the remarks below the Warrant of Precedence). It is left to the discretion of the local officer to assign a suitable place to them.

No. 921.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 10th February 1914.

RESOLUTION.—Copies of the foregoing correspondence should be forwarded to the Commissioner in Sind, the Divisional Commissioners, and all Collectors for information and guidance, with reference to Government Resolution, Political Department, No. 3773, dated the 26th May 1909.

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*Not printed.

L. ROBERTSON,
Secretary to Government.

To

The Commissioner in Sind,
The Commissioner, N. D.,
The Commissioner, C. D.,
The Commissioner, S. D.,
All Collectors,
The Revenue Department of the Secretariat,
The General Department of the Secretariat,
The Judicial Department of the Secretariat,
The Public Works Department of the Secretariat.

Sect. II-8 (f)—25,005—27-4-15.

Home (Misc) dept

Memo. No. 1532/16-3
17.2.17

The Board of Revenue is requested to ascertain + report, with ~~with~~ ~~regard~~ reference to G.O. No. 1589 Public d/ the 22nd December 1913, how many informal conferences such as were therein recommended have been held by each individual District Collector now in charge of a District, in each of the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

I

CR
17.2.17

MS
16.2.17

Pdek
16.2.17

To

The Board of Revenue. (Land Rev)
(Memo)

Desp 17/2

Recd Despd MVS 18.2.17

C.F.—30.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

CURRENT No. Misc. C No

REGISTRAR, HOME DEPARTMENT
24-APR-1917
GOVT. OF MADRAS

Received 191 . Registered 1402 191 .
24-4-'17

Subject.

Informal conferences.

Reporting to Government that Collectors are unable to state the number of -------- held by them during the years 1914, 1915 and 1916.

ENCLOSURES.
No.
Spare copies

Resolution No. 1351 Routine

Station Madras, Dated the 19th April 1917

From H.R.Pate Esq., I.C.S.,
Secretary,
~~The~~ Board of Revenue, Land Revenue. ~~Revenue Settlement, etc.~~ ~~Separate Revenue.~~

The Hon'ble Sir Robert Clegg, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Commissioner of Land Revenue.

Resolution
~~Reference.~~

In reply to the Memorandum of Government No.1532-16-3 dated 17th February 1917, the Board begs to report that Collectors are unable to furnish the information called for as they have kept no record of the informal conferences held by them during the period in question. Most Collectors, however, report

p 16 ante

that

18

that they have frequently held such Conference~~s~~.

(True Extract)

SECRETARY.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Home department.

C.M.C./20-4.

MS
21.4

21.4.17

5,650—24-1-16.

C.B.—12

NOTES.

In connection with the resolution regarding district durbars which was moved by the Hon. Mr. Kelkar, and which the Government has accepted, orders have been issued to have such durbars by way of experiment. In six districts, *viz.*, Raipur, Wardha, Balaghat, Yeotmal, Saugor and Chhindwara the following classes of persons will be eligible for attendance:—Members of municipalities and district councils, landholders entitled to vote at council elections, representatives of the bar, district durbaries and *khas mulakhaties* and representatives of the mining industries. They will be entitled to put questions at these durbars. Press representatives will be permitted to attend the durbars.

1589 Pub/13

Mis 1532
13.12.16

Please put up the debate on the above subject. We shall prob^y be tackled about it at the next meeting of the Leg^ve Council. If the official rep^t has not come, some of the newspapers prob^y contain a report of ~~the~~ discussion.

A G L
4.XII.16.

SECY
6 DEC 16
REVENUE DEPT.

REVENUE-D
1960

Regd 6.12.16

Revenue Dept

To Under Secretary

The subject relates to the Home (Mis.) Dept — vide G.O. 1589 Pub(d) 22-12-13. Submitted that the file may be transferred to that Dept.

SRR
7-12-16

SRS
9.12.16

Home (Mis.) w.o.

REGISTRAR HOME DEPARTMENT
12-DEC-1916
GOVT. OF MADRAS

Recd 12 Dec
12.12.16

15

Home (Mis) Dept

Regr.

Please see the cutting on p. 1 ante and the H M's note. It is not clear when the resolution on which orders are reported to have been passed was moved by the Hon'ble Mr Kelkar in the C. P. Legve. council. Neither the Sectt. Library ~~and~~ nor the Legislative Dept. ~~are~~ is furnished with copies of the proceedings of the Leg: council of the C. P. It seems preferable to obtain a copy from the C. P. Adm. itself.

A draft letter to that Govt is Subd. for approval.

24.12.16

Cws 20/12/16

Pdeh 20.12.16

3.1.17

[Letter to the Secretary to the Chief Commr for Central Provinces no 1532-46 d/ 3.1.17].

[1/13]

pp 3-7 G

From the Secy to the Chief Commr. C.P. no 15 d/ 12.1.17

Regr. The Extract from the proceedings of the C.P. Leg. council re district darbars may be Submitted to the Hon'ble Member (Sir A. G. Cardew) after perusal by H. M. (Mis).

Cws 16.1.17

Pdeh 17.1.17

NOTES.

16

Attention is invited to the portion marked 'A' on page 7 of C.f. & orders are solicited whether we should call for papers from the Bombay Govt.

AR
18.1.17

Yes; please

19.1.17

Regr

A draft letter to the Bombay Govt. is subd. for approval.

Aoj
19.1.17.
Pdek
20.1.17

AR
22.1.17

24/1

p 8 CF [Issued as Letter No. 1532-2 d 24-1-17]

Regn

p 8 CF The letter to the Bombay Govt. has issued. Meanwhile it is for orders whether the file may be ~~be~~ submitted for the perusal of the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew through the H. M., with reference to the former's note at page 1 ante.

MS
25.1.17
Pdek
25.1.17

We may perhaps wait and

for the Bombay papers, so that we may have a complete file for H.M.'s perusal

CA
26/1/17

Write so
26/1

pp 9-15 CF (C No 361 Mis)

From the Govt. of Bombay (Pol. dept.) No. 913 d/ 3-2-17

Registrar

The Bombay Govt.'s resolutions on the subject of holding darbars will be found on pp 10-15 CF.

For orders as to circulation to H.M. & the Hon'ble Sir Alexander Cardew.

6.2.17

Pdek
7.2.17

CA
8.2.17

9.2.17

11.2.17

p 1 ante

Box 9
Circ 9.2.17
Retd 14.2.17

(I)

I should like the Bd of Revenue to be asked to ~~[illegible]~~ ascertain & report with regard to G.O. No 1589 Public d. 22 Dec. 1913 how many informal Conferences, such as were therein recommended, have been held by each individual District Collr ~~of a Dt.~~ now in charge of a Dt. (in each of the years

NOTES.

18

14-FEB-1917
GOVT. OF MADRAS

1914, 1915 + 1916.

AGL
13.2.17.

Recd
16.2.17

Registrar

Draft memo to the Board of Revenue is submitted for approval.

Wd
16.2.17
Pdak
16.2.17

CL
17.2.17

p16 cr.

(Memo. No. 1532-16-3 d 17.2.17)

p17-18 cr. (Cl. No. 1402)

From the Bd. of Rev., L.R., Resolution No 1351R d 19-4-17

Please see the reply of the Board of Revenue on pages 17-18 cr. It may be submitted to the Honble Sir A. G. Cardew with reference to his note above.

Wrote
25.4.17
Pdak
26.4.17

CL
28/4/17

Box 80
Circ 1.5.17
Retd 2.5.17

Hm 2

Hm 1

2/5/17

-3-MAY-1917
TO GOVERNMENT
HOME DEPARTMENT

The Bd may be asked to request Collrs to keep a record of informal conferences in future. Evidently there has ~~been~~ more stress on the informality than on the conferring.

AGL
2 5 17

NOTES.

19

A draft order ~~[illegible]~~ to the Board of Revenue is submitted, with reference to the H.M.'s remarks on page 5 ante.

Dept
5.5.17

1 Dept
7.5.17

The file may be circulated to the Hon'ble Mr. Gillman.

CA
9.5.17

Box 34
circ 10.5.17
retd 11.5.17

H.M. 2

10/5/17

SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS * HOME DEPARTMENT
12 MAY 1917

Issue
CA
12/5

[L. & M. / 96]
PWB 2,000—17-12-09.
16/5

Home (Misc) Dept. 20
~~LOCAL AND MUNICIPAL DEPARTMENT.~~

C. No. ......, from the ......, No. ......, dated 19

Order
~~Memorandum~~ No. 455, dated 1~~2~~ - 5. 19

17 - 18 C.F

With reference to the correspondence ending with their Resolution No. 1351 Routine of the 19th April '17, the Board of Rev., Land Rev. is requested to instruct the Collectors to keep a record in future of ~~all~~ informal conferences held by them ~~in future~~ during their tours.

RCOR
5/5/17

PdeR
7.5.17

9.5.17

16/5/17

To
The Board of Rev., L-R.
Copy to the Revenue Deptt.

Despd (R + O)
15 Q of C. No. 1402
a
16/5/17

Despd
a of C. No. 1402 to
16/5/17

When given for copying
When copied PWB 16.5.17
When examined 191 .
When signed

READ AGAIN G.O. No. , DATED
191 .

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO C. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT .. .. .. A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—
A = Copy in full.
B = Not to be copied.
P = Copy abstract only.
Q = Copy heading only.