M.R.O. 1—50,000—18-10-

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1557 Press Mis.

49-50

Dated 16 — 11 — 1948.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 49. Read the following letter from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 7th October 1859, No. 2078.

Home Department.

With reference to your letter No. 932, dated the 13th July last, I am directed to convey the acknowledgments of the Governor General in Council for the Minute* therewith forwarded, containing the views of His Excellency the Governor of Madras, on the means whereby he considers that the Finances of India may be retrieved from their present embarrassment without any new taxation.

* Dated 11th July.

2. There is one part of His Excellency's Minute upon which the Governor General in Council considers it necessary to remark. After laying much stress on the importance of effecting a reformation of the existing Police, His Excellency goes on to say—"A complete and in "my opinion a very satisfactory plan for the re-organization of the Police of the Madras Presi- "dency has been before the Legislative Council since February last, and I will not attempt to "estimate the pecuniary loss to the State from the opposition it has met with there."

3. In this passage it is evident that the intention is to cast blame upon the Legislative Council, and to fix upon it the responsibility of having caused pecuniary loss to the State by opposition to a good and useful measure.

4. Having made enquiries on the subject, the Governor General in Council is satisfied that this responsibility does not rest upon the Legislative Council, and that no such blame, as is implied by His Excellency the Governor of Madras, can justly be imputed to that body.

5. The facts appear to be as follows.

6. A Bill for the better regulation of the Police within the territories subject to the Presidency of Fort Saint George, was introduced by the Member for Madras, and was read in the Legislative Council for the first time on the 26th of February last.

7. At the next meeting but one of the Council, namely on Saturday the 12th of March (it not having been found possible to print the Bill and its annexures, which were of considerable length, in time for the second reading on the intermediate Saturday), the Bill was read a second time.

8. A debate preceded the second reading, and a motion was made for postponement, with a view to further enquiry before the Bill passed through that stage, but the motion was withdrawn, as the sense of the Council was found to be against it, and the second reading took place without a division.

9. On the following Saturday, the Bill was referred to a Select Committee, who were ordered to make their report after the 23rd June, that date being fixed in the usual course by the Clerk of the Council in conformity with the Standing Orders.

10. The Select Committee met on the 25th of June, and having settled the Bill, agreed upon their report; but before the report could be prepared and presented, the Government of Madras requested that the Bill with the amendments proposed by the Select Committee, might be forwarded to Madras before any further steps were taken.

11. The Bill was sent accordingly, and it had not been returned on the date upon which His Excellency the Governor wrote the Minute, now under consideration.

12. On the return of the Bill from Madras, no time was lost in presenting the report of the Select Committee, and the Legislative Council, being about to be prorogued for some weeks, the Member for Madras asked that the Standing Orders might be suspended, which was at once agreed to, and having passed the Bill through a Committee of the whole Council, Mr. Forbes moved the third reading on the last day on which the Council sat, *viz.* the 6th of September.

13. The Bill received the assent of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General on the same day, and a copy was at once forwarded to Madras, so that the Act might be brought into immediate operation.

14. The foregoing detail will show that, beyond the motion for postponement, which, as already noticed, was withdrawn almost immediately after it was made, the Bill encountered no opposition in the Legislative Council either before or after the Minute of His Excellency was

penned, and consequently that no ground exists for the allegation implied by His Excellency's Minute, that such opposition has caused pecuniary loss to the State.

15. The alteration which was made in the character of the Bill after it had been read a second time, was made, the Governor General in Council is informed, with the full concurrence, if not at the request of the Government of Madras.

16. In conclusion I am to state, that the Governor General in Council remarks with great satisfaction that His Excellency the Governor of Madras anticipates such immediate results from the new Police Bill, in the way of a saving to the State; and I am desired to request that, when the reorganization of the Police has been completed, a full report of the saving which has been effected by it may be made to this Government.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1859, No. 1557.

On the reorganization of the Madras Police being completed, a full report of the saving thereby effected will, as desired in the concluding para. of the above letter, be furnished to the Government of India.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. F. Cartledge.

Order thereon 16 November 1859. No. 1557.

On the reorganization of the Madras Police being completed a full report of the saving thereby effected will, as desired in the concluding para of the above letter, be furnished to the Govt of India.

JP.