

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Official DEPARTMENT.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
21st November 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 205. From J. FISCHER, Esq., Agent and Manager of the Shevagunga Zemindary, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madura, 25th October 1866.

I have the honor, respectfully to request that you will be good enough to submit this letter to His Lordship the Governor in Council, supported, if necessary, by your recommendation that the request contained in it may be complied with, if it be deemed reasonable.

2. His Lordship is perhaps aware that I am the Agent and Manager of the Shevagunga Zemindary, an Estate which occupies an area of 1460 square miles, and pays an annual revenue to Government of Rupees 2,58,640-14-0. The population, according to the last census, is 395,600. The protection of life and property in this Zemindary is, as it is everywhere else, chiefly in the hands of the Police, and it is but natural that I should take an interest in what the Police are directed to do, and what they actually do in respect to the protection which they are intended to afford to the public. The better organized and disciplined the Police, the greater generally the security to life and property. In a word, the prosperity of the Zemindary is identified amongst other things with the efficiency of the Police.

3. With this belief strongly impressed upon my mind, I wrote, as advised by a Member of the Police Force, to Messrs. Graves, Cookson, and Co., of Madras, to enrol my name as a subscriber to the Police Weekly Circular, a periodical issued at Madras under the authority of the Inspector General. This Firm replied that it was necessary to obtain the sanction of the Assistant Inspector General before they could supply me with the periodical in question.

4. I then addressed the Assistant Inspector General on the subject, and have now heard from the Inspector General, in reply, that the Police Weekly Circular "is a strictly Departmental Circular, and that he is not authorized to let it go beyond Public Service."

5. Copies of the reply which I received from Messrs. Graves, Cookson, & Co., of my letter to Captain Carr, and of Mr. Robinson's reply, I have the honor respectfully to submit for your information.

6. The Police Weekly Circular is, in one sense, a strictly Departmental Circular, but, inasmuch as the public are interested in the efficient working of a Force, which is maintained, at an enormous cost to the State, absolutely for their benefit, inasmuch also as a part of the cost of the Police is beginning to be defrayed by the people themselves, by means of Municipal rates, Mr. Robinson's Circulars might, I respectfully urge, be regarded as one of a public character also. The Government do not hesitate to "let" the *Fort Saint George Gazette* "go beyond Public Service." The various Acts, Local and Imperial, the Proceedings of the several Legislative Councils, the District Gazettes, the Circular Orders of the Board of Revenue, the rulings and decisions of the High Court, the Rules regarding Registration, Forest Conservancy, Post Office, Waste Lands, &c., various reports in which the public are interested, such as those on Vaccination, Public Instruction, Civil Dispensaries, &c— all these are published and sold to others than those in the Public Service, and there can be no doubt that the more the orders of those in authority are circulated and made known, so much the more is the work of administration facilitated,

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and the greater the amount of public good done. In the instance of the Police Weekly Circular, the wider its circulation, the greater I imagine the terror which an efficient Police would instil into the minds of the evil-disposed, and consequently the less the crime. In short, with a perfect knowledge of the orders issued to the Police, the evil-disposed would, I respectfully submit, be less disposed to offend the Majesty of the Law. Probably, it is this consideration which has actually induced the publication at Calcutta of the Revenue, Judicial, and Police Journal, a monthly serial of the Government Acts relating to Revenue, Judicial, and Police matters as they come into force, Circulars of the Board of Revenue, of the High Court, and of the Inspector General of Police, &c., (George Wyman & Co., Publishers, 1a Hare Street, Calcutta).

7. The only objection which might reasonably be made to others than those in the Public Service subscribing for the Police Weekly Circular is that it is scarcely fair or desirable that those unconnected with the Police should see the strictures passed occasionally upon the conduct of the members of the Force. But, happily, the names of those upon whom the strictures are passed are never published. With this exception, no other reason can, I think, be urged against my being allowed to become a subscriber to the periodical in question.

8. Under these circumstances, therefore, I have the honor to request that Government will be pleased to over-rule the objection raised by the Inspector General of Police in his letter to me of the 29th August last, and to allow me, in common with the rest of the public who are willing to pay for the same, to subscribe to, and receive, the Inspector General's Police Weekly Circular.

9. With few exceptions, I understand that Sub-Magistrates and Police Inspectors subscribe to, and pay for, this Circular. If such be the case, it then becomes their private property, and there is nothing to prevent them showing the Orders of the Inspector General to their friends. The Orders thus become public, and the apparent object of the Inspector General to keep them strictly private is at once frustrated. Is this a desirable state of things? I, therefore, respectfully urge that the public be allowed to subscribe to this Circular, as under a liberal Government they are at liberty to subscribe to every other publication sold either under their immediate orders, or under the orders of their Officers.

No. 1.

From Messrs. GRAVES, COOKSON, & Co., to J. FISCHER, Esq., Agent and Manager, Shevagunga Zemindary; dated Madras, 18th August 1866, No. 463.

In reply to your letter of the 31st ultimo, we beg to say that the subscription to the Police Weekly Circular in English is Rupees 1-8-0 for the current half-year of 1866, and that you must obtain the sanction of Captain M. W. Carr, the Assistant Inspector General of Police, before we can supply you with the Circular. We regret we have not the Police Orders for sale.

No. 2.

From J. FISCHER, Esq., Agent and Manager, Shevagunga Zemindary, to Captain M. W. CARR, Assistant Inspector General of Police; dated Kiringakotay, 29th August 1866, No. 306.

I have the honor to annex true copy of a letter which I have received from Messrs. Graves, Cookson, & Co., and to request you will be good enough to allow them to enrol me as a subscriber to the Police Weekly Circular. I have always taken an interest in the Police, and am always ready and willing to afford them every assistance in my power. I should like to be kept informed of all

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orders issued to the Police, and if there are any orders which Mr. Robinson would like to have known to the people of the Zemindary, I shall be happy to publish them in the Zemindary Gazette, a copy of which I have no objection to send you, or the District Superintendent, gratis.

2. If you are good enough to accord sanction to the Police Circulars being sent to me, I beg will be pleased to let me have them from the commencement of the year.

No. 3.

W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, to J. FISCHER, Esq., Agent and Manager, Shevagunga Zemindary; dated Madras, 6th September 1866, No. 1463.

Department.

The Police Weekly Circular is strictly a Departmental Circular, and I am not authorized to go beyond Public Service.

I have to thank you for your aid.

Forwarded to the Inspector General of Police, for his remarks.

SAINT GEORGE,

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

November 1866.

Secretary to Government.

06. From the Inspector General of Police, to the Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 10th November 1866, No. 1866.

Department.

Mr. Fischer, in his letter of the 25th ultimo, applies for copies of all Departmental instructions, &c., issued to the Police by me, of all Orders of Government communications from other Departments which affect the Police, which, for the convenience and economy, are now printed in a collective form, and circulated gratis or on payment, as the case may be, to Departmental Officers, as well as to States whose relation to the Police requires that they should be kept fully informed of every thing affecting its administration.

I do not think that the wish could be complied with without much inconvenience in the Public Service, and the reply, against which he appeals to Government, is the same as that given to several Editors of Newspapers, and others connected with the Public Service, who have preferred the same request.

The question is a general one, and does not apply individually to Mr. Robinson who has, as a rule, been helpful to the Police.

ORDER THEREON, 21st November 1866, No. 1836.

The Police Weekly Circular being a Compendium of Departmental Orders, &c., for the special information and guidance of the Police, the Governor in Council regrets that Mr. Fischer's application cannot be acceded to.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

H. Burns.

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 Mr. Fischer. He
 always in mind
 and no doubt
 somewhere, all
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No 1036 dated 21 Nov/66
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J.P.
 W.M.
 Council

To Mr. James Fischer Esq.
 the Insp. Genl. of Police. }
 26/11