M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 876 Press Mis.

226-277

Dated 25. 5. ~~19~~ 1876

6/7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 276. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 9th May 1866, No. 734.

I have the honor to solicit the instructions of Government, with reference to the refusal on the part of the Supreme Government to pass my Budget Estimate for the construction of huts, &c., amounting to Rupees 53,000.

2. The indispensable provision for gradually hutting our men has hitherto been annually made in the Budget of the Public Works Department, in the same manner as has always been done in regard to all buildings required for all other Departments of the Public Service.

3. In October last, the Government of India ruled that "it only leads to "extra expense to employ the Public "Works Department to construct huts "and temporary buildings which re-

No. 925A, dated 16th October 1865.

"quire no skill, and which the Civil Officers themselves can get done more cheaply, "and quite well enough," and threw on Police Officers the construction and repair of "Police lines and buildings, except large Police stations," adding that "their "construction or repair may be provided in the Civil Estimates under each Depart-"ment, as petty construction and repair."

4. My Budget was returned to me for revision, in accordance with this new principle, and the result is the total disallowance of the usual grant for Police huts and lines.

G O., Public Works Department, 6th December 1865. No. 3697.

5. It was duly explained, in submitting the estimate, that this was a mere transfer under explicit orders. The Supreme Government reply that this explanation would have been sufficient in reference to any other Department, and observed, in general terms, that there are items in the Police Budget which they think admit of reduction.

6. Thus, either the Police must go without shelter, or, as the Supreme Government suggest, the money must be found by savings under other heads.

7. The Madras Police Budget is fairly and honestly drawn, with reference to actual demands. The bulk of it is for fixed Establishments actually sanctioned and fully employed.

8. Uncertain and moderate savings, of course, accrue in consequence of casualties and temporary inability to recruit up to full strength. But these savings, together with any others which may accrue under the Budget grant of Rupees 39 lakhs, have already been entirely appropriated, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, dated 19th January 1865, No. 599, "to enable this Government to grant an "allowance of batta to the subordinate ranks of the Force, to meet the present high "prices for all necessaries of life."

9. We clearly cannot treat as available "savings" sums already fully appropriated to indispensable purposes, or divert any part of them to meet charges which belong to the Public Works Budget. Moreover, these "savings" under every head are rapidly decreasing, and this year will be small. Several Districts have only been granted the boon of batta during some months of the passed official year, notwithstanding high prices, because the savings would not admit of the full

grant. We cannot now withdraw this pledge. The pay of the Force is avowedly inadequate; prices are still rising, and in some Districts are almost at famine rates. The savings on the entire Budget, when divided among so many men, gives but a small and a very uncertain rate of increased pay.

10. I have already shewn, in a former communication, No. 2205, dated 15th November 1865, that a general reduction of the Establishment cannot be safely made. The proportion of Police to the population of the Presidency is 1 to 1108. In England it is 887, and in Ireland 1 to 420. Several Districts of this Presidency are notoriously undermanned. We cannot therefore hope to find the funds by disbandments.

11. On all sides, there are calls for increased protection. The increase which has been found indispensable in the Khond and Sowrah hill countries, must, I fear, be met by transfers from other Districts which can ill-spare the reduction. The number of convicts confined in Jails is steadily on the increase, and the large number of prisoners confined in Subsidiary Jails must, for want of accommodation, be guarded in detached buildings, at an increased demand on the force required for General Police duties. The revision of the Town Police Establishments, on the introduction of the Towns' Improvement Act, claims as legal grant-in-aid at least between Rupees 6000 and Rupees 7000 more than is provided for in the Budget under this head.

12. State services are inadequately provided for. The frontiers of French Settlements require a more numerous preventive patrol; and there is no use of disguising the fact that the establishment for the protection of the Salt monopoly is every where inadequate. The Salt stores contain about a million and half sterling worth of Salt, and the annual manufacture exceeds one million. A monopoly of a prime necessary of life—which is manufactured under circumstances which invite illicit traffic and render its check very difficult; which is spontaneously produced over hundreds of miles of lonely swamp—cannot be adequately protected by an establishment whose cost is only 0·46 per cent. (or 1·65 Pie of a Rupee) of the revenue derived from it. The recent addition of 12½ per cent. to the monopoly price of Madras Salt necessarily increases the temptation to smuggling; but while this measure is expected to add 13½ lakhs to the revenue, or one-third of my entire Police Budget, no addition is made to my grant for guarding the Salt revenue, and a retrenchment is made which must further cripple the Establishment.

13. I have several just and reasonable applications from the Board of Revenue for increased protection. A Member of the Board has recently examined the matter at every Factory, and reported the provision inadequate. I know that it is so; but I have not a man or a Rupee to meet these calls. I have great apprehensions that the demand of State services will lead to a sacrifice of the interest of the Public.

14. Under these circumstances, we cannot pretend to meet out of the estimate for Police Establishments the sum required for buildings, amounting to half a lakh of Rupees.

15. The question then comes, "can the men go without shelter"? I unhesitatingly answer, "no." The Government is aware that in all over sickly Hill Districts the men's health and lives render it indispensable that good shelter be provided;

unless so provided, there is absolutely none. In the low country, wherever the Police are not hutted, the men are practically quartered on the Villagers. These conditions ought not to be allowed to continue for a day longer than is unavoidable. It has been by budgetting annually for a reasonable sum—and surely £5300 for a whole year for a Force of 21,000 men, scattered over an area of 142,000 square miles, is reasonable—such as has been refused this year, that we are gradually providing in Hill Districts that shelter which the lives of the men claim, and are overcoming in the inhabited parts of the country the grave objection there must ever be to quartering the Police on the Villagers.

16. In conclusion, I venture very respectfully to express a hope, in reference to the terms in which this grant has been refused, viz., that an explanation which would have been sufficient in reference to any other Department is insufficient in reference to the Police, that the Government of India may still be pleased to accord the same consideration to the Police as is extended to other Departments.

17. The Madras Police are doing their work as fairly and successfully as other Departments. They are over-worked and under-paid, and they are exposed to hardships and discomforts such as affect no other Department of the Public Service. One of the gravest of these hardships must be seriously aggravated, unless the retrenchment, signified in the despatch I have ventured to draw attention to, be withdrawn.

No. 277 To the Secretary to the Government of India, Financial Department, dated Fort Saint George, 25th May 1866, No, 816.

Referring to paragraph 11 of your letter of the 29th March last, No. 1585, disallowing an item of 53,600 Rupees, being a charge for the construction of Police Huts, entered in the Budget Estimates of the Revenues and Receipts and the Civil Expenditure of this Presidency, for the ensuing official year, 1866-67, I am directed to submit, for the favorable consideration and orders of the Government of India, the annexed copy of a letter from the Inspector General of Mofussil Police, showing the urgent necessity which exists for the grant in question, and the impossibility of meeting it from savings in the Police Budget.

9th May 1866, No. 734.

2. The Government of India are aware that, hitherto, it has been usual to provide for hutting the Police in the Public Works Budget; that, under the Orders noted in the margin, the charge was transferred to the Civil estimates; and that the item disallowed is thus a mere transfer, under explicit orders, from the Public Works to the Police Budget.

Resolution of the Government of India, 16th October 1865, No. 925 *a*, P. W. D.

3. With reference to the remark of the Government of India, that, in their opinion, the Budget grant of 39 lakhs of Rupees for the Madras Police provides for some items which are susceptible of retrenchment, Mr. Robinson explains that the Police Budget being framed with reference to actual demands on account of fixed establishments fully employed, the margin for savings is not large; that such savings

as do accrue from casualties and temporary inability to recruit up to full strength are already appropriated, under the sanction of the Supreme Government, towards the allowance of batta to subordinate ranks of the Force, to meet the present high prices of all the necessaries of life; that these savings under every head are rapidly decreasing, and this year will be small; and that several Districts have been granted batta during some months only of the past official year, because the savings would not admit of the full grant.

19th January 1865, No. 599.

4. Mr. Robinson, likewise, shows that a general reduction of the existing Force cannot be safely made. He points out that the proportion of the Police to the population is already smaller in this Presidency than elsewhere; that on all sides there are calls for increased protection; that the increase which has been found indispensable in the Khond and Sowrah Hill tracts has to be met by transfers from other Districts which can ill spare reduction; that the revision of the Town Police Establishments, in connection with the Towns' Improvement Act about to be introduced, entails the payment of a Government contribution in aid of Municipal Funds of between 6000 and 7000 Rupees over and above the provision in the Budget; that the frontiers of the French Settlements require a more numerous preventive patrol than now exist; and that the Establishments for the protection of the salt monopoly is every where inadequate.

5. Under these circumstances, and as it is indispensable for the well-being of the Force that the necessary shelter should be provided for the men, I am directed to request that special sanction may be accorded for the sum which has been disallowed.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

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Judicial Department.

No. 816. 30

To

The Secretary to the Government
of India,
Financial Department.

Sir, Calcutta

Referring to para 11
of your letter of the 29th
March last No. 1585, dis-
allowing an item of 53600 Rs,
being a charge for the con-
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entered in the Budget
Estimates of the Revenues
and Receipts and the Civil
Expenditure of this Presidency
for the ensuing official
year 1866/67, I am directed
to submit for the favorable
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the Government of India,
the annexed copy of a letter
from the Inspector General

9 May 1866 - No 704

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2. ~~It will be seen~~ ~~by the~~ ~~that under the existing~~ it has been usual to provide for putting the Police in the Public Works Budget; that under the orders of the Government of India noted in the margin, the charge was transferred to the Civil Estimates, and that the item disallowed is thus a mere transfer, under explicit orders, from the Public Works to the Police Budget.

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16th Oct/65 No. 925a, P.W.D.

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Fort St. George
25th May 1866

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Judicial 1866 Departt.

No. 816.

To
The Secy. to the Govt.
of India

Dated 25 May 1866.

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