

CONFIDENTIAL

Sectt. I (i)-L-10,000-7-10-76.

(1) Number of pages 6
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

JUDL

DEPARTMENT

CONFIDENTIAL

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

64

Press
Mis.

Dated 13-1-1887

1887

Not to be folded or roughly handled

85

64
assured, that if the government
had seen any reason to
complain of the Nation's
presenting they would have
called upon him for an
explanation ~~and~~

No 6.

From the Governor of Madras.

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

High Court Madras.

12 January 1887

Sir,

1. On the eve of an investigation, specially named by the Government, into the circumstances surrounding the outbreak of the late fire in the People's Park, the "Madras Mail" yesterday evening published a communication which compels me in my own interests as Governor, and for my own official satisfaction, to address the Government.

2. Under the heading "The Further Inquiry: Legal View of the case", a correspondence of the "Mail" publicly avows the inference that "the authorities are satisfied" and disatisfied with the conduct and action of their officer, the "Governor".

3. I have the honor to ask whether there is any foundation in truth for the statement that the official conduct of the inquest at the People's Park has caused any dissatisfaction with me, in

My Official capacity as Coroner.

4. If the Government be displeased with my official action, I respectfully solicit the reasons (of which I am wholly ignorant) for their displeasure. If they be not, their assurance with relieve me of a certain amount of apprehension.

5. I conceive that the Government would have expressed any disapproval they may have felt of my conduct in the official correspondence which since the Park disaster has passed between the Government and myself. I am unable to detect any vestige of rebuke in any of those communications.

6. I have never yet been called upon to offer any explanation of my proceedings at the late inquest. I am prepared to do so if the Government think there is anything which needs explanation: and in the event of being unable to satisfy the Government, I shall be prepared to ask the Government to relieve me of my duties as Coroner.

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7. With my view of my strict legal duties under the Corrie Act the Government are already acquainted. No exception has been taken to it by the Government, and I am of the same opinion still. My subsequent action has, I trust, satisfied the Government that I am sparing from entering upon any long, anxious and important inquiry I was not actuated by any ^{selfish} desire to make work, or to reflect the public interests.

8. I have told my present information for nearly seven years in my official report: and I am free to confess that I am to the present of my official reputation, and anxious to sustain it in what may be my last year of office.

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

Laurey Norton.

Coroner.

24/0 4
Mr Norton habitually insinuates,
if all that is attributed to him
really emanates from his pen,
that I am ^{in the letter} ~~not~~ ^{that he does not} ~~not~~ ^{in the letter}
giving an opportunity for self-
defence. That is why I suppose
sized that this could not be.
I still slightly prefer the draft
as it stands in black ink, or
else I? add to the red ink
'before giving expression to their
dissatisfaction', but I do not
press the matter. It is true that
when I wrote the draft I thought
it possible, this not likely, that
we might have to find fault
with the coroner hereafter; ~~and~~
perhaps it is still possible
I do not wish to give him any
assurance that it will not
be so. We have never discussed
the questions why he delayed the
inquest, & whether he was not
bound to do more than ascertain
the direct cause of death in a
satisfactory manner. But as
I have said I do not press the matter
or wish to see the papers again.

13 Jan
Let the order
issue with the
red ink amendment.
went suggested
by H. C. W. 13/1

Indulgent 1889 Dept.

From C. No: 103.

Super The Governor of Ind.

13-1-89

To The Chief Secy to Govt

Date 12 } January
Dec 13 }

by J. D. L. Smith

No. 6

Bringing to notice
certain remark made
by the "Mail" regarding
the discharge of his duties
in his Official Capacity
as Coroner at the inquest
held at the People's Park
requesting the opinion
of Govt thereon.

It appears to the fact that an
unauthorized statement in
the newspapers...
correspondent affords no proof
for this official reference. In
Boston may not assured that
the Govt. has been...
the Govt. will ask for any...
reason to complete of his
action... they may consider
proceeding they would have
reasons... will not find fault
called for... from him...
with him without giving him
explanation.

To The Governor
of Massachusetts
Respectfully

The amendment in and out is
proposed by H.E. the Govt. has been
doubtful whether the draft should
be done at the said reference.