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Marine (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 1042 Marine

DATED 16th Dec. 1898.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Gov. Servants

Govt. Public Depts. - Communicating letter from the Govt of India forwarding copy of letter from the Secy of State on the subject of the publication of Govt Policy by Servants to Communicate to the Govt Public Depts

Dr

[M.—6. 300—15-7-98.]

Indexed. 17/12/98

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Marine Department

Current Number 1532

Gobernment (1898) of Madras.

PUBLIC.

Recd. 3-12- } 1898. *Enclosures*

Regd. *Spare copies* 6

G.O., No. 1450, 1st December 1898.

No. 1042 Marine 16.12.98

Communicated to the Presidency Port Officer. A&K 13.12.98.

L.S.

The P.P.O. 2 c/c

DECEMBER.

Government Servants.

Communicating to the departments of the Secretariat and to all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary letter from the Government of India forwarding copy of despatch from the Secretary of State on the subject of the public criticism of Government policy by Government servants, and requesting its circulation for the guidance of all Government servants.

2.1.12.98

SW

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Read—the following paper:—

From H. LUSON, Esq., Deputy Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras, dated Simla, 16th November 1898, No. 2300.

I am directed to forward a copy of a despatch, No. 144, dated the 6th October last, from Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, on the subject of the public criticism of Government policy by Government servants, and to request that, with the permission of His Excellency in Council, it may be circulated for the guidance of all Government servants.

Enclosure.

Despatch from the Right Hon'ble Lord GEORGE HAMILTON, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 6th October 1898, Public No. 144.

I have received your letter of the 14th July, with enclosures, relating to a speech delivered by Mr. Thorburn, Financial Commissioner of the Punjab, at Simla on the 28th of June.

2. It appears that on that day a paper was read in connection with the United Service Institution on the subject of the Tirah campaign, and that, in the discussion which followed, Mr. Thorburn took the opportunity of making what is said to have conveyed the impression of being "an attack of a deliberate and somewhat violent character on the policy and proceedings of the Government."

3. It is not surprising that this action on the part of Mr. Thorburn should at once have attracted the serious notice of his official superiors, or that he should have found it necessary, within eight days of the delivery of the speech, to express his deep regret for his conduct. This apology your Government thought well to accept, and your acceptance was communicated to him through the Government of the Punjab in a letter dated the 12th of July.

4. In these circumstances I have no intention of commenting on this particular incident, so far as it affects Mr. Thorburn individually. But I think it right, while fully recognizing that every officer is entitled to form and to hold his own opinion on public matters, to record my entire agreement with Sir Mackworth Young's statement of the rules which must govern the conduct of Government servants in India. It should be distinctly understood that (to use his words) "a member of the Government service is not at liberty to make an attack upon what he knows or believes to be the policy or procedure deliberately approved by the Government," and that "it is no justification of such attack that he is actuated by conscientious motives or has a strong conviction of the correctness of his own judgment." I will add, further, that it is improper for any officer to convey to the public, whether in writing, or in a speech or otherwise, any opinion upon matters of Government policy which are, or are likely to become, the subject of public discussion. It is, of course, inevitable that cases must from time to time occur in which the decisions of Government do not commend themselves to the officers who may have to carry them out. On such occasion the officers in question, after making proper representations to their official superiors, have only two courses open to them, namely, either to acquiesce loyally and silently in the decision of the responsible authorities, or to resign their position in the service.

5. I am glad to have had of late more than one opportunity of stating publicly my high appreciation of the loyalty and self-devotion of the Indian Civil Service. Those qualities have never been more conspicuous than during recent years of difficult and anxious labour. But a clear understanding that the rules to which I have referred are in existence, and will be strictly

enforced, can only tend to increase the efficiency of that service; and I request that your Excellency will take such steps as may seem to you advisable to make my views generally known, and to ensure that improprieties, such as that which you have on this occasion thought fit to condone, shall not be repeated in future.

Order—No. 1450, Public, dated 1st December 1898.

Communicated to departments of the Secretariat and to all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary.

(True Extract.)

for *Chief Secretary*.

To departments of the Secretariat. (Marine)
,, all heads of departments under the Chief Secretary.

Exd. C. M. Thumbuswamy.