1. Number
2. Date of
3. Initials of

M.R.O. 1—32 400—23-11-60

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 12-10-58

G.O. No.	2141	Press Mis.
165-66 Dated	19-10-	1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th October 1858.

No. 165. Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation in the Political Department, dated 1st October 1858, No. 643.

Communicating to this Department a letter from the Government of India, intimating that, it would be far more pre'erable that the Home authorities should receive papers relating to passing events and questions of importance, as soon as possible, after they become records of Government with a simple covering letter than that they should be retained to become at some future period collections to elaborate Despatches. (Vide Political Consultation, 1st October 1858, Nos. 9-10)

No. 166. ORDER THEREON, No. 2141; dated 12th October 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

No. 643.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 1st October 1858.

Read the following letter from R. B. CHAPMAN, Esq., Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, 14th September 1858, No. 3143.

Foreign Dept. SIR,

I am directed to forward, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, copy of a Resolution recorded by the President in Council upon receipt of the Secret Committee's Despatch, dated the 30th July last, No. 1976.

COPY.

No. 3141.

RESOLUTION.

FORT WILLIAM,
Foreign Department,
The 14th September 1858.

Read a letter from the Honorable the Secret Committee, dated the 30th July last.

In this Despatch the Honorable the Secret Committee remark on the inconvenience resulting from the system of transmitting to them large collections of papers which might, without any injury to the Public Service, have been forwarded to the Court of Directors.

The Committee also observe that only a very small proportion of the correspondence which it has been the habit to forward to them is of a nature to require the same to be kept secret, and they desire, therefore, that only papers, the communication of which to persons not sworn to secrecy may be attended with inconvenience to the State, may in future be transmitted in the Secret Department.

In directing observance of the above orders the President in Council does not wish a departure from the present system of prompt despatch of papers to the Honorable Court in all Departments. In ordinary times it is the custom to report the opinions of Government in detail with the proper papers as they are forwarded to the Court of Directors. But in such a conjuncture as the present, strict observance to the system ordinarily observed is obviously inexpedient, and as the opinions of Government can generally be learnt from its correspondence with its principal Officers, from the resolutions of Government, or from the Minutes of its several Members, the President in Council, conceives it to be more advantageous that the Home Government should receive papers, illustrative of passing events, and elucidatory of questions of pressing importance, as soon as possible after they become records of Government, with a simple covering letter, than that they should be retained to become, at some future period, collections to elaborate Despatches. When it is desired to offer any explanations, not afforded by the papers themselves, an intention of doing so can be expressed.

Home Department.
Financial Department.
Military Department.
Public Works Department.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the Departments noted in the margin, and to the Governments of Madras and Bombay.

Ordered also that a copy be communicated to the Right Honorable the Governor General.

(Signed) C. BEADON,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(A true Copy.)

(Signed) R. B. CHAPMAN,
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

Ordered to be communicated to the Revenue and Public Works Departments, and to the Military Department.

(True Extract and Copies.)

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
„ Public Works Department.
„ Military Department.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

P. W. 1858 Dept to
Cons 12th October

№ 2342.

Extract Minutes
in the Political Dept

Dy 1st October 1858
Rd 7th № 6433

№ 2141
To be Recorded

Fort St. George
12th October 1858

Communicating to the
Dept a letter from the Govt of
India intimating that it
would be undesirable that
Home and Bombay Govts
receive papers relating to
passing events & questions of
importance, as soon as
possible, after they become
records of Govt with a simple
covering letter, than that
they should be returned to
become at some future
period collections to elaborate
Despatches

To be Recorded

№ 165 & 166.

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