(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 289 (W) Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated 21-8- 1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 461 Read the following letter from Captain L CONWAY-GORDON, R E, Examiner of Public Works Accounts, to Major-General G W WALKER, R E, Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 14th July 1876, No 114-W.

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government, No 1,491, dated June 15th, 1876, relative to the spelling of the names of districts, and, as partly responsible for the oversight therein noticed, I feel it desirable to explain the circumstances under which the new method of spelling was adopted

2. As far as this office was concerned, no oversight took place, in the draft standing order submitted for the approval of Government, the Jonesian system of transliteration was deliberately adopted for vowels in accordance, it was thought, with the express orders of the Madras Government In their Order, No. 1,404, dated September 12th, 1859, the Madras Government resolved to introduce this system of transliteration for all Native words, except the names of particular places which had become stereotyped by long usuage in a conventional form, and it is evident from the papers printed with this order that lists of all such places were to be prepared, and that in writing all other names not included in these lists the prescribed system of transliteration was to be strictly adhered to

3 This is in fact the course which has subsequently been approved of by the Government of India and by the Secretary of State, and which has been practically followed by all the local Governments in India All or nearly all have already published in the *Gazette of India* two lists of the names of all their principal places, one, a small list containing the few names which are considered to have acquired fixed spelling, the other, the bulk of the names properly transliterated

4 Mysore commenced in July 1874, Coorg followed in September, and the North-western Provinces in October of the same year The Punjab published its list in January 1875, Oudh in May, Assam in August, Bombay in September, and the Central Provinces in November 1875. This year has seen the issue of an official list of the names of the places in Bengal and Hyderabad. Madras, though the first to take up the question, is now nearly the only Government which has not yet definitely settled the orthography of the names of its principal places

5 In the absence of an authoritative list of the names of those places which are considered to have acquired a fixed spelling, it appeared to me that the orders of Government held good to transliterate all others in the manner prescribed I was in fact in hopes that the Madras Government, the first to commence, had resolved to be alone in completing the work in a thorough manner, and by transliterating all names without exception on the Jonesian system to reduce to a minimum the number of stumbling blocks, which words spelt on no system at all, must inevitably present to our children trained to associate in ninety-nine names out of a hundred a particular sound with a particular letter

6 In taking this view, which now appears to be incorrect, I was to some extent led astray by the example set me by the Secretary of State In the absence of any authoritative spelling, I see that he spells the names of the Madras Districts in much

the same way as is done in this office In his '*statements exhibiting the moral and material progress and condition of India*,' I observe Godávarí, Tanjor, Karnúl, Bellárí, Cuddapa, Nellor, Chengalpat, Trichinapillí, Tinnevellí, and Combator

7 The system of spelling adopted by the Accounts Branch may perhaps appear singular; but the singularity arises, I think, entirely from the fact of our having endeavored by such lights as we possessed to carry out orders of Government, which, as a rule, appear to be ignored.

8 Attention having now been called to the subject by the Madras Government, I venture to hope that, in accordance with their orders of the 12th September 1859, some serious effort may be made to secure uniformity in the spelling of Native names, and also to check the very general practice of using Native terms in official language in lieu of their English equivalents The latter practice, though strictly forbidden, is nearly universal As an instance, I might cite the following sentence taken from the records of the Madras Government as recently as the 7th June,—'*The ryots could put up a temporary whigamy to increase the supply which used always to be done by kody mauamut.*' How many ordinary English readers would understand it? Such a sentence is not English, it is a local *patois*

9 Not only does official correspondence teem with Native words, most of which have proper equivalents in English, not only are we oppressed by Native weights and measures, and even in some cases by a Native calendar, but the difficulty is further increased by these Native words being so badly transliterated, that their very etymology is doubtful As an instance, I will take the *Tamil* word '*jalli*,' broken stone or gravel, which, after appearing in the records as 'jully,' has got finally crystallized into the English word 'jelly,' and, as such, is current for the department. Who would recognize the Burmese word 'shimbíyin,' a plank, which, probably owing to its having something to do with wood, appears in the Madras records as 'shim*beams*'

10 As regards the names of places, it is not too much to say that the same name frequently appears in such different forms that any one who was not aware that they were different forms of the same name would unhesitatingly put them as the names of different places For instance, who would imagine that Bezoarah and Beswada were the same place? Who would identify Damarapak with Thamarapaukum? To show how little attention is paid to the spelling of Indian names, I may instance the name Pattumpádú, which in the same Budget appears indifferently as Pattempaudoo, Puttumpaudoo, and Pottampaudu In the papers printed with a single order of Government, the same name 'Sivakúntham' appears spelt in three different ways, while in those printed with another Government Order received a few days previously it is spelt a fourth way, and in the Budget a fifth

11 Had I space I could easily multiply such instances indefinitely But I will briefly conclude with an extract from the Proceedings of this Government of nearly seventeen years ago—an extract, I regret to say, quite as true now as it was at the time it was written, 'the official phraseology is so redundant and confused as to be a positive obstruction to public business, and to cause in the aggregate an enormous waste of invaluable time.'

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st August 1876. *No* 2,189.

No. 462 ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1876, No 2,189

ESTABLISHMENT, No 24

ORDERED to be recorded

2 His Grace the Governor in Council concurs as to the expediency of establishing an uniform system of spelling proper names, and desires that the lists ordered in G O, No 1,404, dated 12th September 1859 (Public Department), be prepared without further delay

(True Extract)

Colonel,
Offg Under Secy to Govt, P W D.

To the Examiner of Public Works Accounts
" Revenue Department
" Public Department, with copy of Note by the Hon R S Ellis, C B

Exd E C Shunker
Spare Copies

[Cr Wks Form No 2]

No 114 Pc

From

THE CONTROLLER,
PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS,

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

Fort Saint George, 11th July 1876

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of Government No 498 dated June 15th 1876, relative to the spelling of the names of Districts, and as partly responsible for the arrangement therein noticed, I feel it desirable to explain the circumstances under which the new method of spelling was adopted.

2. So far as this Office was concerned no oversight took place; in the draft Standing Orders submitted for the approval of Government, the Jonesian system of transliteration was deliberately adopted for words in accordance, it was thought, with the express orders of the Madras Government. In their Order

&c

No 1404 dated September 12th 1857, the Madras Government resolved to introduce this system of transliteration for all Native words except the names of particular places which had become stereotyped by long usage in a conventional form and it is evident from the papers printed with this order, that lists of all such places were to be prepared, and that in writing all other names not included in these lists, the prescribed system of transliteration was to be strictly adhered to.

3. This is in fact the course which has subsequently been approved of by the Government of India and by the Secretary of State and which has been practically followed by all the Local Governments in India. All or nearly all have already published in the Gazette of India two lists of the names of all their principal places, one a small list containing the few names which are entitled to have acquired fixed spelling, the other,

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the bulk of the names properly transliterated.

4. Mysore commenced in July 1874, Coorg followed in September and the North Western Provinces in October of the same year. The Punjab published its list in January 1875, Oudh in May, Assam in August, Bombay in September and the Central Provinces in November 1875. This year has seen the issue of an official list of the names of the places in Bengal and Hyderabad. Madras, though the first to take up the question, is now nearly the only Government which has not yet definitely settled the orthography of the names of its principal places.

5. In the absence of an authoritative list of the names of those places which are entitled to have acquired a fixed spelling, it appears to me that the orders of Government held good to transliterate all others in the manner prescribed. I do in fact in hopes that the Madras Government, the first to

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Accounts Branch may perhaps appear singular
but the singularity arises, I think, entirely from
the fact of our having endeavoured by such lights
as we possessed to carry out orders of Government,
which on a priori appear to be ignored.

Attention having now been called to the
subject by the Madras Government, I venture
to hope that in accordance with their orders
of the 12th September 1859 some serious effort
may be made to secure uniformity in the
spelling of native names, and also to check
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in official language in lieu of their English
equivalents. The latter practice, though strict-
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all laying down rules for the spelling of
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spelling I see that he spells the names of the
Madras Districts in much the same way as is
done in this Office. In his Statement
exhibiting the moral and material Progress and
condition of India, I observe Godavari, Kaira,
Kurnul, Balari, Cuddapa, Nellore,
Chingalpat, Trichinapalli, Vizagapatam and
Coimbatore.

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Accounts

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9. Not only does official correspondence thus with native workmen, most of which is frequently equivalent in English, not only are the specific by native weights and measures, and even in some cases by a native calendar, but the difficulty is further increased by these native words being so badly transliterated; that their very etymology is doubtful. As an instance I will take the word 'falli' broken stone or gravel, which often appearing in the records as 'fully' has got finally crystallized into the English word 'filly' and is current for the Department. Who would recognize the Burmese word 'Shimbyin' a plant, which probably owing to its having something to do with wood appears in the Madras records as 'Shimbaum'.

10. As regards the names of places, it is not too much to say that the same name, frequently appears in such different forms, that any one who was not aware that they were different forms of the same name would be unhesitatingly misled unhesitatingly find them as the names of different places. For instance who would imagine that Berguriah and Biseriah were the same place? Who would identify Bamaraspatti with Thamaraspantham? To show how little attention is paid to the spelling of Indian names, I may instance the name Pattampadu, which in the same Budget, appears indifferently as Pattempaudo, Puttumpandoo and Pottampandu. In the papers printed with a single order of Government, the same name 'Trivaitturtham' appears spelt in three different ways, while in those printed with another Government Order received a few days previously it is spelt a fourth way, and in the Budget a fifth.

11. Had I space I could easily multiply such instances indefinitely. But I will briefly conclude with an extract from the Proceedings of this Government of nearly seventeen years ago, an extract, I regret to say, quite as true now as it was at the time it was written;- 'the official phraseology is so redundant and confused

"confused as to be a positive obstruction
"to public business, and to cause a
"the aggregate, a prodigious waste of
"of invaluable time."

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Servt.

A. Conway-Gordon.

Examiner, P.M.G. Accounts.

12-10-59 - 1407
12-10-59 No. 2621
" 15-1-76 - 87
" 15-6-76 " 1691
23-3-60 - 435
6-8-66 - No 40

P. W. 1876 Department

-W-5057

From

The Secretary
Ch. Accounts

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Department

No 1148.

Dated the 14th
Recd the 14th Dec 76.
Noted the 14th

Ordered this recorded

Public Works Department.

15

Offers observations relative to the opening of the Harbour of Madras

With Orders

No 461

Letter - 5-6-76 Note 9-8-76
Recd - 27-7-76 Note 30-7-76
Cir - 19-9-76 Note 27-7-76
Despd to Dft 17-7-76.

Recd 24-8-76
Cir 15-9-76 Note 16-8-76
Recd 9-8-76 Note 16-8-76

12-10-59 - 1404
§ 12-10-59 № 2621
" 15-1-21 - 87

P. W. 1876 Departm
№ 205

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

UNDER date the

Read the following :—

From

The Examiner of
Public Works Accounts

(H.C. № 114 Dtd 14th July 1876)

Before keeping this
Let the bill be returned
to be
in S.O. 1859.
Prepared by
Translation
to be typed out.
Submitted BL 29/7

1. Ordered to be recorded.

His Grace the Governor in Council concurs as to the necessity for a systematic revision of spelling but does not approve of spasmodic action on the subject by one Department or individual.

And desires that the bill ordered in G.O. read 25th inst. be returned without further delay

Circulate

I do suggest that such bills be now prepared for consideration

BL. 7/8

Grants P. W. Accounts.
Revenue Department
Public Department in the copy
Xth Asst. Secy to Govt

2. It is observed from paragraph 2 of the letter to

Despd to Dr 17-7-76.

to the Colonial Secretary Colombo No 780 dated 6th August 1866 (Public) that the lists referred to in paragraph 5 of G.O 1404 dated 12th September 1859 have never been prepared. His Grace the Governor in Council desires that action be now taken in the Public Department for their preparation.

No 2189 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Under date the 21 Aug 1876

Read the following —

From

The Examiner of Public Works Accounts } (A&E No 114 Wd 14th July 1876)

Ordered to be recorded.

His Grace the Governor in Council concurs as to the necessity for a systematic revision of spelling and desires that the Lists Ordered in G.O. No 1404 dated 12th September 1859 (Public Department) be prepared without further delay

Examiner P.W. Accounts
Revenue Department
Public Department with the Copy of note by the Honble R. S. Ellis C.B.

Dated 1/9/76

5057 ff.

Gobt. of Utah Territory.

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Committee of Ways & Means

23-

21st August 2189

Pp 161-162

Special & Private Names

Concurring in the action of the House relative to establishing a uniform system of Public Schools throughout the Territory, (Public Capitol being prepared without delay -