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P. H. C. No 4313
Govt. of (1881) Madras.
PUBLIC.

To
THE DEPARTMENTS OF THE
SECRETARIAT,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated July, 19th.

Issued

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Encl.

G.O., 19th July 1881, No. 977.

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JULY.

Encl. in Receipt Regr.

Secretariat Establishments.—Communicating
Resolution of the Government of India regard-
ing the business to be conducted by the Revenue
and Agricultural Department.

No. 1868 W of 29th July 1881.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

19th July 1881, No. 977.

Secretariat Establishments.

Read the following paper :—

Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India in the Home, Revenue, and Agricultural Department (Public), dated Simla, 4th July 1881, No. 25—886-914 [Current No. 1421].

Read the undermentioned papers :—

Home Department Resolution, No. 31—1104-1119, dated 14th June 1879.
" Report of the "Indian Famine Commission, Part I, paragraphs 113 to 125, and Part II, Chapter IV, Sections I and II. 53—2046-2061, dated 29th October 1879.
Despatch to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 14th March 1881, No. 19.
Telegram to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, dated 10th June 1881.
" from " " " 11th " "

RESOLUTION.

In 1879, under the pressure of financial exigencies, it was determined that the work of two departments, the Home Department and the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department, should be amalgamated (some of the duties of the latter being at the same time transferred to the Finance and Military Departments), and that the office of Secretary in the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department should be abolished. This measure was not adopted without reluctance, as it was admitted that the system which had been in force since 1870 possessed many advantages.

2. The Famine Commission has now proposed the institution of an Agricultural Department in India. It lays stress upon the importance of rendering readily available the accumulated experience of past famines in different parts of India, and has urged that greater attention should be bestowed on the investigation of vital, economic, and agricultural facts. Any effectual measures of agricultural and industrial development must, in the opinion of the Commission, tend at least to the mitigation of famines, both by promoting the increase of the food-supply amongst a growing population, and by directing industry into new and productive channels. Moreover, it is represented that the Government would obviously be strengthened, in its future dealings with scarcity, by a systematic classification of the experience gained in past calamities.

3. After careful consideration of the views put forward by the Famine Commission, the Governor-General in Council came to the conclusion that full justice could not be done to the important interests which they advocate, and more particularly to the protection of the people from the effects of uncertain seasons, without some enlargement and reconstitution of the department now charged with those duties. The experience of the last two years had shown that no additional work could be undertaken by the amalgamated Home, Revenue, and Agricultural Department without imposing upon it an undue burden; and it, therefore, became necessary to devise some additional means for the conduct of business more immediately affecting agricultural improvements, the social and economical condition of the people, and the material

resources of the country. It was accordingly determined to recommend to the Secretary of State the appointment of a new Secretary to the Government of India, to have direct and special charge of these branches of the administration; and His Lordship has now sanctioned this proposal.

4. It remains to decide what portions of the work at present performed by the amalgamated department shall be entrusted for the future to the new department, and what portions shall continue to be under the control of the Home Secretary. One of the most important objects of the new arrangements is to enable the Government of India to devote increased attention to the important subjects above mentioned; and it would, therefore, be inexpedient to make the new department responsible for all the general and miscellaneous business which, for reasons of administrative convenience, was formerly conducted by the Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce Department. The new department will, as a matter of course, control all operations for the relief of famine; but that part of its functions will be necessarily intermittent, and its main work will lie in the branches of the public administration which most closely affect agricultural development and the interests of the agricultural population. In making the following distribution of work, the Governor-General in Council has, therefore, been influenced by the desire to free the new department as much as possible from unnecessary calls upon its energies, in order to direct its efforts, so far as present circumstances admit, to the fulfilment of its most really essential duties.

5. Having regard to these considerations, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to direct that all matters connected with the subjects noted below, so far as they affect the provinces of British India, shall come under the cognizance of the new department, viz.:—

1. Land Revenue, including Settlements and Takávi Advances.
2. Surveys, including Geological Surveys, but excluding Archæological and Marine Surveys.
3. Agriculture and Horticulture, including Fibres and Silk, Fisheries, Cattle-breeding and Cattle-disease.
4. Minerals.
5. Meteorology.
6. Famine.

All matters relating to the undermentioned subjects shall be administered by the Home Department:—

1. Law and Justice.
2. Jails and the Penal Settlements in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
3. Escheats, and the administration of Estates of Intestates.
4. Police.
5. Education.
6. Examinations.
7. Industrial Arts, Museums, and Exhibitions.
8. Sanitation.
9. The (Civil) Medical Service.
10. The Ecclesiastical Service.
11. Civil Service questions.
12. Registration of Assurances.
13. Patents.
14. The working of the Vagrancy Act.
15. The working of the Arms Act.
16. Copyright.
17. Archæological Surveys and Conservation of Ancient Monuments.
18. Municipalities and Local Funds.
19. Census.
20. Gazetteers.

6. As a temporary arrangement, the Home Department will also be charged with the superintendence of the Forest Department; and, subject to reconsideration, the

Revenue and Agricultural Department will temporarily conduct the whole of the business of the Government of India connected with Emigration.

7. The Military and Finance Departments will continue to administer all matters connected with the branches allotted to them by the Home Department Resolutions, Nos. 31—1104-1119, dated 14th June 1879, and Nos. 53—2041-2061, dated the 29th October 1879.

8. The new department will be styled "the Revenue and Agricultural Department," and will be constituted with effect from the 6th July 1881. The officer to be placed in charge of it will have the position, and will exercise the duties, of a Secretary to the Government of India.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be communicated to the several Departments of the Government of India, the Local Governments and Administrations, and the officers named on the margin, for information and guidance.

Foreign, Military, Finance, Public Works and Legislative Departments; Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh and the Punjab; Chief Commissioners of the Central Provinces, British Burma, Coorg and Assam, and Resident at Hyderabad; Surveyor-General of India; Superintendent of the Geological Survey of India; Director-General of Post Offices in India; Superintendent of Port Blair and the Nicobars; Sanitary Commissioner with the Government of India; Surgeon-General with the Government of India; Registrar, High Court, Calcutta; Secretary, Board of Examiners; Registrar, Calcutta University; Bishop's Chaplain; Curator of Ancient Monuments; Director-General, Archæological Survey of India; and Meteorological Reporter to the Government of India.

Ordered, also, that the Department of Finance be requested by a separate Office Memorandum to issue the necessary orders regarding the salary to be drawn by the Secretary in the new department.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER THEREON, 19th July 1881, No. 977.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat in continuation of Public Department Proceedings, dated the 30th June and 7th November 1879, Nos. 1008 and 1613.

(True Extract.)

To the Departments of the Secretariat. (P.S.)
" Board of Revenue, with copy of previous orders.

Exd. J. Wright.

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