

29TH AUGUST 1883, No. 1698, PUBLIC.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From J. C. SHAW, Esq., Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, dated Madras, 15th August 1883.

I have been desired by the members of the Chamber of Commerce to suggest to Government that the time has come when the Proceedings of Government in all public matters which do not affect the public safety should be placed at the disposal of the Press, and Proceedings on such subjects as Railways and Canals, including all reports as to their management, should be placed at the service of the Chamber.

The reports of the Departmental officers have their value, but the Chamber are of opinion that as representing the non-official public, the public that supports these undertakings, the Chamber might, in many instances, make such suggestions as would tend to a more profitable working. Looking also to the desire expressed by the Government of India, that the construction of future railways should be left to private enterprise, the necessity of publicity is largely increased. I am directed to ask your re-perusal of the papers, placed lately at the disposal of the Press, to demonstrate the comparative valuelessness of what is now made public.

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2. In reply, I am desired to inform you that the Government have noted your request, and, as far as it may be possible to do so, will be prepared to meet the wishes of the Chamber of Commerce.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Copy to all Secretaries to Government.

Exd. J. Wright.

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Issued

Recd.

Encl.

Letter, 29th August 1883, No. 1698.

AUGUST.

Publicity of Government Papers.

Informing the Chairman, Chamber of Commerce, Madras, that Government have noted the request of the Chamber of Commerce that Proceedings of Government on public matters not affecting the public safety should be given to the Press, and Proceedings and Reports relating to such subjects as Railways and Canals should be placed at the service of the Chamber.

With order

*cb. for Ryp.
cb. for S.*

No 2638 - Raf. 19th Sept/83

Recorded.

*sa/ C.B.
n.s.*

No. 2638 Raf. 19th Sept/83

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

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Exd. J. Wright.

With order

No 2638 - May 19th Sept/83

Recorded

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Issued

Recd.

Encl.

Letter, 29th August 1883, No. 1698.

No 2638 May 19th Sept/83

AUGUST.

Ch. for Rep.
Ch. for L

No 2638 Wd 19th Sept 1883

No. 7735

Govt. of (1883) Madras.

PUBLIC.

B

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S.S.C.

13-9-83

Issued

Recd.

8/9/83

Encl.

Letter, 29th August 1883, No. 1698.

b. s. c

AUGUST.

2638 Wd 19-9-83

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1 copy to E.R. 24-9-83

2 copies to the printer
with order

with order

Subdi. Rept. Register

To the C. E. for Rys
The C. E. for S.

20/9

20/9

10/9 Recd 18/9