

G.O. no 1799 W. of 22. 7. 84.

Pl. no 685

Govt. of (1884) Madras.
FINANCIAL.

No. 2079 W. of 23 August 84

Recorded.

(Signed) J.H.

(19)

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., &c., 1st August 1884,
Nos. 1760, 1761.

No. 2079 W. of 23 August 84

AUGUST.

Provincial Services.

Recording the Government of India's reply to the memorial from the Madras Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the financial administration of the Presidency, with the remark that the succinct statements of accounts and estimates of Provincial revenue and expenditure referred to were published in the local Gazette down to 1883-84 and 1884-85, respectively.

C. E. for Secy

With order

G.O. No 1799 W 27.22.7.84.

750 No 680 185

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following paper :—

From D. BARBOUR, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce (Accounts and Finance), to the Secretary to the Chamber of Commerce, Madras, dated Simla, 19th June 1884, No. 1735.

The memorial of the Madras Chamber of Commerce, dated the 30th January 1884, submitting for the consideration of His Excellency the Viceroy, on his visit to Madras, the views and opinions of the Chamber on certain matters in which the mercantile community of Madras is interested, has now been considered by the Government of India, and I am directed to convey the following remarks in regard to each of the points mentioned.

2. As regards the suggestion of the Chamber made in paragraph 2 of the memorial that the Buckingham Canal should be removed from the Provincial to the Imperial category of works and pushed on rapidly to completion, I am to observe that, while the Government of India regard the Buckingham Canal as a work likely to be most useful in time of famine, and generally advantageous to the country through which it passes, the canal does not at present hold out those promises of financial productiveness which would justify the Government of India in transferring it from the class of works in which it now stands. The question of a grant-in-aid from Imperial Funds for the prosecution of this work has recently received the fullest consideration of the Government of India. The Government of Madras has promised to spend on it $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs annually at least; and the Government of India has promised to give such aid from time to time from Protective Funds as the state of the Protective Works Grant will admit, having due consideration for famine works in other parts of India. For the current year, the Provincial Grant is, including Establishment and Tools and Plant, Rs. 2,20,000, the Government of India contributing a further sum of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs.

I am also to state that Madras receives a very large share* of the Imperial

* Out of a total grant of Rs. 55,98,000 for the whole of India during the current year, the share of Madras is Rs. 23,77,000. Ordinary Grant for Irrigation and Navigation at present, and that the Government of India is unable to give any further aid from Ordinary Imperial revenues.

3. In paragraph 3 of the memorial the Chamber complains of the delay in the reconstruction of the Madras Harbour, and suggests that the sum that may have to be expended on the harbour in excess of the estimates may be accepted as an Imperial charge. The delay of which the Chamber complains has been due to the necessity of referring, on more than one occasion, most important matters for the full consideration of the highest engineering authorities in England, so that all possible precautions

should be taken to avoid any future difficulty in carrying the work to a speedy and secure conclusion.

In regard to the suggestion that Imperial Funds should bear the cost of reconstruction, the Chamber will have already learnt from the papers which the Government of Madras has been requested to lay before it, that the Government of India has invited the mercantile community of Madras to take into consideration the creation of a Port Trust which will be responsible for the completion and management of the harbour, and that the proposals made by the Government of India are very favorable financially to local interests, and involve a large amount of assistance from Imperial revenues.

4. With regard to the question raised in paragraph 4 of the memorial regarding the further development of the policy of constructing railways, either through State agency or with assistance from the State, I am to state that the decision of this question will depend very largely upon the decision at which the Select Committee of the House of Commons which is now sitting may arrive on the subject.

5. In paragraph 5 of the memorial the Chamber complains of the high rate of license-tax levied in the Madras Presidency, and states that, although the late Financial Member of the Council of the Governor-General promised that there should be no unnecessary delay on the part of Government in meeting the views of the Chamber, nothing was done when the estimates for 1883-84 were framed towards remodelling or removing the tax. I am directed to refer the Chamber to the remarks in paragraph 2 of the Financial Statement for the year 1884-85 as explaining the action taken, and to say that the Government is not unmindful of the importance of placing this matter on a final and satisfactory footing.

6. As to the publication of succinct statements of Provincial revenues and expenditure suggested in paragraph 6 of the memorial, I am to remark that the accounts of the Provincial Services for 1879-80 and the estimates for 1880-81 and 1881-82 were published in the supplement to the *Madras Gazette* of 18th January 1881, and the accounts for 1880-81 and the estimates for 1881-82 and 1882-83 in the supplement of 28th December 1881. It does not appear that any later accounts and estimates have been locally published. There is a standing order of the Government of India directing the publication of such statements, and the attention of the Government of Madras will be invited to that order with an instruction to carefully comply with it.

7. From paragraph 7 of the memorial it would seem that the Chamber is under some misapprehension in regard to the balance kept in Reserve Treasuries. It is not the case that the balances in the Reserve Treasuries ever reach such a sum as that mentioned. I am directed to enclose, for the information of the Chamber, a statement showing the balances in the Reserve Treasuries in each month from January 1880 to March 1884. The Chamber will see that since January 1883 the balance in reserve has only on one occasion (in September 1883) amounted to three crores, and that since then it has gradually been reduced to a crore and a quarter. The Government of India, I am to add, is unable to hold out any promise that the present system of keeping a portion of the Government cash balance in Reserve Treasuries will be modified.

Endorsement on the above.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, the attention of that Government being specially invited to paragraph 6 of this letter, and to the orders noted in the margin.

No. 1709, dated 22nd March 1877.
" 2809, " 2nd August 1882.

(By Order.)

(Signed) J. E. O'CONOR,
Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

BANKS and their Branches on the last day of each month (omitting 000).

Last day of	BALANCES IN RESERVE TREASURIES INCLUDED IN THE CASH BALANCES.			
	India.	Madras.	Bombay.	Total.
	RS.	RS.	RS.	RS.
January 1880	1,44,52	..	..	1,44,52
February "	95,74	..	..	95,74
March "	57,12	..	..	57,12
April "	60,68	23,78	29,36	1,13,82
May "	62,71	28,68	14,13	1,05,52
June "	56,50	32,68	16,83	1,06,01
July "	1,17,17	38,96	71,10	2,27,23
August "	1,16,29	6,13	53,31	1,75,73
September "	76,37	18	36,59	1,13,14
October "	1,00,45	74	1,88	1,03,07
November "	53,16	7	14,39	67,62
December "	68,46	17	6,32	74,95
January 1881	75,54	10,41	24,98	1,10,93
February "	1,03,23	28,31	31,79	1,63,33
March "	80,65	37,21	2,63	1,20,49
April "	55,96	62,16	14,44	1,32,56
May "	58,50	50,33	31,61	1,40,44
June "	1,49,45	33,58	47,25	2,30,28
July "	1,55,46	36,28	42,35	2,34,09
August "	3,01,43	33,82	65,30	4,00,55
September "	1,90,37	22,20	85,18	2,97,75
October "	2,27,19	19,66	39,94	2,86,79
November "	2,43,55	19,96	29,84	2,93,35
December "	2,07,55	19,31	20,19	2,47,05
January 1882	2,06,22	22,17	29,43	2,57,82
February "	2,48,84	35,98	38,29	3,23,11
March "	2,13,56	34,33	46,35	2,94,24
April "	1,91,05	28,46	51,36	2,70,87
May "	2,02,55	40,80	47,66	2,91,01
June "	2,41,22	33,63	63,41	3,38,26
July "	3,14,30	38,40	92,54	4,45,24
August "	3,58,33	18,45	78,14	4,54,92
September "	3,06,60	7,40	39,57	3,53,57
October "	2,52,36	4,03	82,72	3,39,11
November "	3,82,11	33	1,62,40	5,44,84
December "	4,10,29	8,82	1,68,72	5,87,83
January 1883	2,36,33	9,29	43,96	2,89,58
February "	2,05,43	16,24	13,29	2,34,96
March "	1,83,67	41,47	8,76	2,33,90
April "	1,00,45	26,83	33,71	1,60,99
May "	73,30	48,33	20,52	1,42,15
June "	1,36,97	52,59	8,25	1,97,81
July "	1,40,11	48,88	13,27	2,02,26
August "	1,38,73	43,93	66,60	2,49,26
September "	1,55,10	32,84	1,15,56	3,03,50
October "	1,31,99	13,64	1,19,98	2,65,61
November "	77,23	2,03	1,22,31	2,01,57
December "	63,84	5,90	74,73	1,44,47
January 1884	73,33	18,71	15,94	1,07,98
February "	90,99	25,34	23,02	1,39,35
March "	74,80	22,03	27,67	1,24,50

ORDER—dated 1st August 1884, No. 1760, Financial.

Recorded with the remark that succinct statements of Provincial revenue and expenditure have been continuously published yearly, as shown below :—

Financial year 1879-80 accounts, with revised estimate for 1880-81 and budget estimate for 1881-82. Gazette dated 18th January 1881 (Supplement).

Financial year 1880-81 accounts, with revised estimate for 1881-82 and budget estimate for 1882-83. Gazette dated 28th December 1881 (Supplement).

Financial year 1881-82 accounts, with revised estimate for 1882-83. Gazette dated 30th January 1883 (part I).

Financial year 1882-83 accounts, with revised estimate for 1883-84. Gazette dated 22nd January 1884 (part I).

Financial budget estimate for 1884-85. Gazette dated 20th May 1884 (part I).

(True Extract.)

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue department.

„ Public Works department.

„ Chairman, Chamber of Commerce.

ENDORSEMENT—dated 1st August 1884, No. 1761, Financial.

Copy to the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce.

E. F. WEBSTER,
Chief Secretary