

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.

General.

To

6.8.83

No. 114 A—G.

Dated Simla, May 9, 1885.

Received

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Adoption of special measures for the reduction
of expenditure of all kinds.

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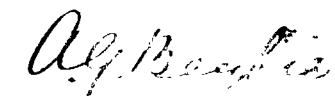
To

Simla, May 9, 1885.

The Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and Oudh, and the Punjab, in the Public Works Department.
The Chief Commissioners, Central Provinces, British Burma, Assam, and Coorg.
The Resident at Hyderabad.
The Resident at Mysore (through Foreign Department).
The Agents to the Governor General for Central India, Rajputana and Biluchistan.
The Superintendent of Port Blair and Chief Commissioner, Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
The Director General of Telegraphs.
The Inspector General of Military Works.
The Superintendent of Works, Simla Imperial Circle.
The Accountant General, Public Works Department.
The Director General of Railways.
The Director-in-Chief, Indo-European Telegraph.
The Director, Persian Telegraph.
The Director, Persian Gulf Telegraph.
The Consulting Engineers to the Government of India for Guaranteed Railways, Calcutta, Lahore, and Lucknow.

The following is forwarded to Local Governments, Administrations and Officers noted in the margin, for information and guidance.

By Order,



Major, R.E.,

Under Secretary to Government of India.

No. 552, dated Simla, the 29th April 1885.

RESOLUTION—By the Government of India, Department of Finance and Commerce.

THE expenditure which the Government of India has found it necessary to sanction on military preparations is likely to impose so severe a strain on the finances, that the adoption of special measures for the reduction of expenditure of all kinds and for the prompt realisation of the public revenue cannot with safety be delayed longer.

2. The Government of India is at present considering what reductions can be made in ordinary Imperial expenditure, as well as in Capital outlay on works of public utility, and special orders will shortly be issued on the subject.

It is, however, of immediate importance that the various Local Governments and Administrations should also consider what measures may now be feasible for suspending all optional expenditure, including both Provincial expenditure and Imperial expenditure directly administered by Local Governments. It would also be a considerable assistance to the Government if it were found possible to postpone for a time expenditure from Local Funds, the balances of which are kept in the Public Treasury. The Government of India does not, however, desire that there should be any undue interference with the legitimate authority of Local Bodies over funds appropriated by the legislature for specific purposes.

3. It is necessary that all proposals for increases of salaries or of establishments, or for additional expenditure of any kind, should be narrowly scrutinised at the present moment. The Governor General in Council is not prepared to say that no additional expenditure of any kind should be proposed or sanctioned; but it is obvious that at a time when reductions are being enforced proposals for additional expenditure can only be justified by very special causes.

4. The largest retrenchments at a time of pressure can usually be attained by a restriction of the expenditure on Public Works. Without wishing to impose any sudden check on the progress of Public Works which would be calculated to cause serious permanent loss, His Excellency in Council must in the present position of the finances press on the attention of local authorities the necessity of taking into their immediate consideration material reductions in their Public Works expenditure.

5. It is with regret that the Government of India has found itself compelled to call on Local Governments to restrict expenditure from the funds which have been placed at their disposal for carrying on and improving the administration of the country, but the present state of the cash balance and the prospects of expenditure in ensuing months leave no option in the matter, and the Governor General in Council is satisfied that he can count on the cordial and loyal co-operation of all Local Governments and Administrations.

6. The Government of India will be glad to receive a report, not later than 10th June, from each Local Government or Administration stating what reductions, immediate and prospective, have been found possible in each case.

If peace should be maintained, the Government of India will take the earliest opportunity of removing the restriction on Provincial and Local expenditure; but if, unhappily, war should break out, further and more stringent measures must be taken hereafter for improving the balances and revenues at the disposal of the Government of India.

ORDERED, that copies of this Resolution be sent to the various Local Governments and Administrations and to the several Departments of the Government of India.