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SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT
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With orders
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Superseded

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 470-C.

MEMORANDUM.

READ—again G.O., dated 28th September 1885, Mis. No. 2288, Public.

READ—also the following papers :—

From the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, dated 6th November 1885, No. 1559—XII—626-2.
From the Punjab Government, dated 12th November 1885.
" Government of Bengal, dated 7th December 1885, No. 1106.
" " of Bombay, dated 22nd December 1885, No. 4888.

The Government has had under its consideration the existing practice of furnishing papers of public interest to editors of newspapers and others who may require or ask for them.

2. By Proceedings, No. 1135, dated 10th September 1875, the Governor in Council directed that each Secretary should mark every paper, intended for the Editor's table, so as to obviate the printing of extra copies of papers, the general publication of which was not intended.

3. As, however, papers for the Editor's table are selected after proceedings have been printed and the type broken up, the order referred to never worked satisfactorily.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council, accordingly, desires all Secretaries to state in submitting their *drafts* that it is proposed to place them on the Editor's table, so that specific orders may be obtained from which the Superintendent of the Press will know how many copies of orders passed should be struck off. All such papers should be submitted to Honorable Members in charge of departments in proof, and not in manuscript, and the Secretary should distinctly write to say that he proposes to place them on the Editor's table. It is not enough to mark the paper E.T.

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6. In the case of proceedings which do not go to Honorable Members of Government, the Secretary of the department will mark the paper for the Press.

7. Further, with reference to a recent application received from Messrs. Parry and Co., the Government will be prepared to supply mercantile and other firms with copies of proceedings in which they may be interested, and which have been placed at the disposal of the public, on their making the necessary application to the Superintendent of the Government Press, who will continue to publish in the Gazette the list of papers placed at the disposal of the press. Such papers will be supplied to such firms or individuals gratuitously, as they now are to editors of newspapers, and all such proceedings will, in future, be posted to editors of up-country newspapers, who, under the existing practice, have to send for them to the Secretariat, in consequence of which the provincial press is placed at a disadvantage as compared with that of the Presidency town. This merely recognises and extends the existing practice, the Editor's table in the Secretariat having, in fact, been non-existent for many years. Reports and bulky publications will be sold as heretofore.

8. In working the present instructions, the strictest attention will be paid to the orders of the Secretary of State concerning the publication of official papers which have to be communicated to his Lordship or to the Government of India.

9. These instructions will be found printed in G.O., 28th May 1878, No. 884, which is printed as an annexure to this memorandum, and it will be distinctly understood that it is better that papers in which the public are interested should be withheld, than that, by any oversight or inadvertence, proceedings, the publication of which is not desirable, should be made public.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th March* 1886.

W. WILSON,
*Acting Chief Secretary.*

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ Messrs. Parry and Co., extract.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press.

Copy to Librarian.

## ANNEXURE.

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Read—the following paper:—

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 6th May 1878, No. 19-860.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, copies of the correspondence marginally noted, regarding the rules which should govern the publication in India of official papers which have to be communicated to the Home Government, or to the Government of India, in ordinary official course.

Despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 89, dated 9th August 1877.
Despatch of Government of India, No. 4, dated 18th January 1878.
Reply by Secretary of State, No. 30, dated 21st February 1878.

2. The rule will henceforward be, that no official letters to Her Majesty's Government, or to the Government of India, and no resolution or other official paper that would in ordinary course be reported to either of those authorities, should be made public by Local Governments until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission to the superior authorities. If, in cases of rare exigency, this rule has to be transgressed, telegraphic intimation of the circumstances, with explanation, should be sent to the superior authority. Similarly, communications from the Government of India to subordinate Governments will not be made public until the interval above described has elapsed, save under exceptional circumstances, the occurrence of which will in each case be explained by telegram to the subordinate Government concerned. No subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to papers which may seem to reflect upon a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

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ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, dated India Office, London, the 9th August 1877, No. 89.

In a Despatch to the Government of Bombay, which I communicated to your Excellency in Council,* I pointed out the disadvantages arising from the hasty publication of resolutions in which the proceedings of the Government of India had been made the subject of unfavorable comment. Other cases have recently come to my notice in which serious misapprehension has been caused by the premature publication of official correspondence. This evil has especially been felt when despatches have been published in local newspapers before they have come into the hands of those to whom they are addressed. In this practice, which is not unfrequent, Her Majesty's servants in India depart from the rule which is observed in all departments of the Government at home. Except under circumstances of special exigency, despatches are not published in this country until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission.

* 6th April 1877, No. 28, Revenue Department.

2. The convenience of this usage has been generally felt, and it is, I believe, a rule of old standing here. But the introduction of telegraphic communication has made the observance of it more important than before. At the present day, if a despatch is published before it reaches its destination, the person to whom it is addressed is likely to receive the first impression of its contents from the imperfect, and sometimes misleading, summaries of the ordinary telegrams. This inconvenience is often felt in respect to communications from the Governments in India to this office. Summaries of State papers from time to time reach this country before I am in possession of them, and, therefore, when I am still unable to give any explanation or make any correction which is necessary for removing any erroneous impression that may have been formed.

3. I have made the foregoing remarks for the purpose of eliciting from your Excellency in Council an opinion as to the most suitable arrangements for terminating this inconvenience. My inclination would be to lay down a rule that no despatch from you to Her Majesty's Government nor any resolution of the nature of such a despatch, should be published in the *Gazette*, or be communicated to the public press, until an interval had elapsed such as would justify the assumption that the document in question had been received at this office. Such a rule would not, of course, apply to any case in which a special object would, in your Excellency's judgment, be served by immediate publication. In such an event, the intention to publish immediately might be stated in the despatch home. Nor would the rule in the least degree interfere with the publication of any facts which the Government might think it expedient to make known. To the publication of mere facts, the considerations to which I have adverted do not apply.

4. In respect to subordinate Governments the same principles would be applicable. No such Government should give publicity, on the exceptional occasions on which publicity is thought to be necessary, to despatches addressed to a superior authority, until an interval sufficient should have elapsed for them to reach their destination. A similar rule might apply to communications from the superior to the subordinate authority. And no subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to proceedings which reflect on a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Government of India, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Fort William, 18th January 1878, No. 4.

We have the honor to acknowledge your Lordship's Despatch, No. 89, dated 9th August 1877, on the subject of the inconvenience caused by the premature publication in India of official correspondence.

2. In reply, we beg to state that we fully appreciate the necessity for making suitable arrangements to terminate the inconvenience thus caused, and that we cordially concur in the rules which your Lordship proposes to prescribe, with this object, for future observance. With reference, however, to the proviso stated in paragraph 3 of the despatch under acknowledgment, namely, that the general rule prohibiting the immediate publication of a despatch to Her Majesty's Government, or a resolution of the nature of a despatch, should not apply to cases in which a special object would, in the judgment of the Government of India, be served by immediate publication, but that in such cases the intention to publish should be stated in the despatch, we desire to remark that it will be difficult for the Government of India in all cases to determine the expediency or otherwise of publishing a despatch before such despatch has actually issued. Circumstances, unknown to the Government at the time of sending a despatch, may afterwards transpire such as might render its immediate publication desirable in the interests of the public service, and in order to meet such cases, which will, however, probably be of unfrequent occurrence, we would propose an addition to the rules suggested by your Lordship, to the effect that, whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph.

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 28th February 1878, No. 30 (Public).

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 18th January No. 4 of 1878, relative to the premature publication of official correspondence, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Your Lordship in Council agrees generally with the views expressed in my Despatch of the 9th August, No. 89 of 1877, but suggests an addition to the rules prescribed by me, to the effect that "whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph."

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Order—dated 28th May 1878, No. 884, Public.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

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"marked ca-IV-19-3-86"

Bundle sent to Public Department

Not circulated

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

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" Public Works Department.

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2. In reply, we beg to state that we fully appreciate the necessity for making suitable arrangements to terminate the inconvenience thus caused, and that we cordially concur in the rules which your Lordship proposes to prescribe, with this object, for future observance. With reference, however, to the proviso stated in paragraph 3 of the despatch under acknowledgment, namely, that the general rule prohibiting the immediate publication of a despatch to Her Majesty's Government, or a resolution of the nature of a despatch, should not apply to cases in which a special object would, in the judgment of the Government of India, be served by immediate publication, but that in such cases the intention to publish should be stated in the despatch, we desire to remark that it will be difficult for the Government of India in all cases to determine the expediency or otherwise of publishing a despatch before such despatch has actually issued. Circumstances, unknown to the Government at the time of sending a despatch, may afterwards transpire such as might render its immediate publication desirable in the interests of the public service, and in order to meet such cases, which will, however, probably be of unfrequent occurrence, we would propose an addition to the rules suggested by your Lordship, to the effect that, whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph.

3. With the addition described in the previous paragraph, we are fully prepared to accept the rules suggested by your Lordship, which appear to us to be both reasonable and proper, and on receiving the final approval of Her Majesty's Government thereto, we shall cause the necessary instructions to be issued for the guidance of subordinate Governments.

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 28th February 1878, No. 30 (Public).

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 18th January No. 4 of 1878, relative to the premature publication of official correspondence, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Your Lordship in Council agrees generally with the views expressed in my Despatch of the 9th August, No. 89 of 1877, but suggests an addition to the rules prescribed by me, to the effect that "whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph."

3. On the understanding that the necessity for such immediate publication will be of unfrequent occurrence, I will not object to the addition proposed by your Lordship in Council.

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Order—dated 25th May 1878, No. 884, Public.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

## PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 470-C.

MEMORANDUM.

READ—again G.O., dated 28th September 1885, Mis. No. 2288, Public.

READ—also the following papers :—

From the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, dated 6th November 1885, No. 1559—XII—626-2.
From the Punjab Government, dated 12th November 1885.
" Government of Bengal, dated 7th December 1885, No. 1106.
" " of Bombay, dated 22nd December 1885, No. 4888.

The Government has had under its consideration the existing practice of furnishing papers of public interest to editors of newspapers and others who may require or ask for them.

2. By Proceedings, No. 1135, dated 10th September 1875, the Governor in Council directed that each Secretary should mark every paper, intended for the Editor's table, so as to obviate the printing of extra copies of papers, the general publication of which was not intended.

3. As, however, papers for the Editor's table are selected after proceedings have been printed and the type broken up, the order referred to never worked satisfactorily.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council, accordingly, desires all Secretaries to state in submitting their *drafts* that it is proposed to place them on the Editor's table, so that specific orders may be obtained from which the Superintendent of the Press will know how many copies of orders passed should be struck off. All such papers should be submitted to Honorable Members in charge of departments in proof, and not in manuscript, and the Secretary should distinctly write to say that he proposes to place them on the Editor's table. It is not enough to mark the paper E.T.

5. Probably twice the number of the newspapers, &c., entered in the list of papers entitled to proceedings placed at the disposal of the press, will suffice.

6. In the case of proceedings which do not go to Honorable Members of Government, the Secretary of the department will mark the paper for the Press.

7. Further, with reference to a recent application received from Messrs. Parry and Co., the Government will be prepared to supply mercantile and other firms with copies of proceedings in which they may be interested, and which have been placed at the disposal of the public, on their making the necessary application to the Superintendent of the Government Press, who will continue to publish in the Gazette the list of papers placed at the disposal of the press. Such papers will be supplied to such firms or individuals gratuitously, as they now are to editors of newspapers, and all such proceedings will, in future, be posted to editors of up-country newspapers, who, under the existing practice, have to send for them to the Secretariat, in consequence of which the provincial press is placed at a disadvantage as compared with that of the Presidency town. This merely recognises and extends the existing practice, the Editor's table in the Secretariat having, in fact, been non-existent for many years. Reports and bulky publications will be sold as heretofore.

8. In working the present instructions, the strictest attention will be paid to the orders of the Secretary of State concerning the publication of official papers which have to be communicated to his Lordship or to the Government of India.

9. These instructions will be found printed in G.O., 28th May 1878, No. 884, which is printed as an annexure to this memorandum, and it will be distinctly understood that it is better that papers in which the public are interested should be withheld, than that, by any oversight or inadvertence, proceedings, the publication of which is not desirable, should be made public.

W. WILSON,
*Acting Chief Secretary.*

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th March* 1886.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
" Messrs. Parry and Co., extract.
" the Superintendent, Government Press.

Copy to Librarian.

## ANNEXURE.

*G.O., 28th May 1878, No. 884, Public.*

Read—the following paper:—

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 6th May 1878, No. 19-860.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, copies of the correspondence marginally noted, regarding the rules which should govern the publication in India of official papers which have to be communicated to the Home Government, or to the Government of India, in ordinary official course.

Despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 89, dated 9th August 1877.
Despatch of Government of India, No. 4, dated 18th January 1878.
Reply by Secretary of State, No. 30, dated 21st February 1878.

2. The rule will henceforward be, that no official letters to Her Majesty's Government, or to the Government of India, and no resolution or other official paper that would in ordinary course be reported to either of those authorities, should be made public by Local Governments until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission to the superior authorities. If, in cases of rare exigency, this rule has to be transgressed, telegraphic intimation of the circumstances, with explanation, should be sent to the superior authority. Similarly, communications from the Government of India to subordinate Governments will not be made public until the interval above described has elapsed, save under exceptional circumstances, the occurrence of which will in each case be explained by telegram to the subordinate Government concerned. No subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to papers which may seem to reflect upon a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, dated India Office, London, the 9th August 1877, No. 89.

In a Despatch to the Government of Bombay, which I communicated to your Excellency in Council,* I pointed out the disadvantages arising from the hasty publication of resolutions in which the proceedings of the Government of India had been made the subject of unfavorable comment. Other cases have recently come to my notice in which serious misapprehension has been caused by the premature publication of official correspondence. This evil has especially been felt when despatches have been published in local newspapers before they have come into the hands of those to whom they are addressed. In this practice, which is not unfrequent, Her Majesty's servants in India depart from the rule which is observed in all departments of the Government at home. Except under circumstances of special exigency, despatches are not published in this country until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission.

* 6th April 1877, No. 28, Revenue Department.

2. The convenience of this usage has been generally felt, and it is, I believe, a rule of old standing here. But the introduction of telegraphic communication has made the observance of it more important than before. At the present day, if a despatch is published before it reaches its destination, the person to whom it is addressed is likely to receive the first impression of its contents from the imperfect, and sometimes misleading, summaries of the ordinary telegrams. This inconvenience is often felt in respect to communications from the Governments in India to this office. Summaries of State papers from time to time reach this country before I am in possession of them, and, therefore, when I am still unable to give any explanation or make any correction which is necessary for removing any erroneous impression that may have been formed.

3. I have made the foregoing remarks for the purpose of eliciting from your Excellency in Council an opinion as to the most suitable arrangements for terminating this inconvenience. My inclination would be to lay down a rule that no despatch from you to Her Majesty's Government nor any resolution of the nature of such a despatch, should be published in the *Gazette*, or be communicated to the public press, until an interval had elapsed such as would justify the assumption that the document in question had been received at this office. Such a rule would not, of course, apply to any case in which a special object would, in your Excellency's judgment, be served by immediate publication. In such an event, the intention to publish immediately might be stated in the despatch home. Nor would the rule in the least degree interfere with the publication of any facts which the Government might think it expedient to make known. To the publication of mere facts, the considerations to which I have adverted do not apply.

4. In respect to subordinate Governments the same principles would be applicable. No such Government should give publicity, on the exceptional occasions on which publicity is thought to be necessary, to despatches addressed to a superior authority, until an interval sufficient should have elapsed for them to reach their destination. A similar rule might apply to communications from the superior to the subordinate authority. And no subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to proceedings which reflect on a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

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Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

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*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 470-C.

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*Acting Chief Secretary.*

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(True Extract.)

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3. I have made the foregoing remarks for the purpose of eliciting from your Excellency in Council an opinion as to the most suitable arrangements for terminating this inconvenience. My inclination would be to lay down a rule that no despatch from you to Her Majesty's Government nor any resolution of the nature of such a despatch, should be published in the *Gazette*, or be communicated to the public press, until an interval had elapsed such as would justify the assumption that the document in question had been received at this office. Such a rule would not, of course, apply to any case in which a special object would, in your Excellency's judgment, be served by immediate publication. In such an event, the intention to publish immediately might be stated in the despatch home. Nor would the rule in the least degree interfere with the publication of any facts which the Government might think it expedient to make known. To the publication of mere facts, the considerations to which I have adverted do not apply.

4. In respect to subordinate Governments the same principles would be applicable. No such Government should give publicity, on the exceptional occasions on which publicity is thought to be necessary, to despatches addressed to a superior authority, until an interval sufficient should have elapsed for them to reach their destination. A similar rule might apply to communications from the superior to the subordinate authority. And no subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to proceedings which reflect on a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

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ENCLOSURE No. 2.

From the Government of India, to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated Fort William, 18th January 1878, No. 4.

We have the honor to acknowledge your Lordship's Despatch, No. 89, dated 9th August 1877, on the subject of the inconvenience caused by the premature publication in India of official correspondence.

2. In reply, we beg to state that we fully appreciate the necessity for making suitable arrangements to terminate the inconvenience thus caused, and that we cordially concur in the rules which your Lordship proposes to prescribe, with this object, for future observance. With reference, however, to the proviso stated in paragraph 3 of the despatch under acknowledgment, namely, that the general rule prohibiting the immediate publication of a despatch to Her Majesty's Government, or a resolution of the nature of a despatch, should not apply to cases in which a special object would, in the judgment of the Government of India, be served by immediate publication, but that in such cases the intention to publish should be stated in the despatch, we desire to remark that it will be difficult for the Government of India in all cases to determine the expediency or otherwise of publishing a despatch before such despatch has actually issued. Circumstances, unknown to the Government at the time of sending a despatch, may afterwards transpire such as might render its immediate publication desirable in the interests of the public service, and in order to meet such cases, which will, however, probably be of unfrequent occurrence, we would propose an addition to the rules suggested by your Lordship, to the effect that, whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph.

3. With the addition described in the previous paragraph, we are fully prepared to accept the rules suggested by your Lordship, which appear to us to be both reasonable and proper, and on receiving the final approval of Her Majesty's Government thereto, we shall cause the necessary instructions to be issued for the guidance of subordinate Governments.

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ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 28th February 1878, No. 30 (Public).

The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 18th January No. 4 of 1878, relative to the premature publication of official correspondence, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Your Lordship in Council agrees generally with the views expressed in my Despatch of the 9th August, No. 89 of 1877, but suggests an addition to the rules prescribed by me, to the effect that "whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph."

3. On the understanding that the necessity for such immediate publication will be of unfrequent occurrence, I will not object to the addition proposed by your Lordship in Council.

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Order—dated 28th May 1878, No. 884, Public.

Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.
„ Military Department.
„ Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 470-C.

MEMORANDUM.

READ—again G.O., dated 28th September 1885, Mis. No. 2288, Public.

READ—also the following papers :—

From the Secretary to Government, North-Western Provinces and Oudh, dated 6th November 1885, No. 1559—XII—626-2.
From the Punjab Government, dated 12th November 1885.
" Government of Bengal, dated 7th December 1885, No. 1106.
" " of Bombay, dated 22nd December 1885, No. 4888.

The Government has had under its consideration the existing practice of furnishing papers of public interest to editors of newspapers and others who may require or ask for them.

2. By Proceedings, No. 1135, dated 10th September 1875, the Governor in Council directed that each Secretary should mark every paper, intended for the Editor's table, so as to obviate the printing of extra copies of papers, the general publication of which was not intended.

3. As, however, papers for the Editor's table are selected after proceedings have been printed and the type broken up, the order referred to never worked satisfactorily.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council, accordingly, desires all Secretaries to state in submitting their *drafts* that it is proposed to place them on the Editor's table, so that specific orders may be obtained from which the Superintendent of the Press will know how many copies of orders passed should be struck off. All such papers should be submitted to Honorable Members in charge of departments in proof, and not in manuscript, and the Secretary should distinctly write to say that he proposes to place them on the Editor's table. It is not enough to mark the paper E.T.

5. Probably twice the number of the newspapers, &c., entered in the list of papers entitled to proceedings placed at the disposal of the press, will suffice.

6. In the case of proceedings which do not go to Honorable Members of Government, the Secretary of the department will mark the paper for the Press.

7. Further, with reference to a recent application received from Messrs. Parry and Co., the Government will be prepared to supply mercantile and other firms with copies of proceedings in which they may be interested, and which have been placed at the disposal of the public, on their making the necessary application to the Superintendent of the Government Press, who will continue to publish in the Gazette the list of papers placed at the disposal of the press. Such papers will be supplied to such firms or individuals gratuitously, as they now are to editors of newspapers, and all such proceedings will, in future, be posted to editors of up-country newspapers, who, under the existing practice, have to send for them to the Secretariat, in consequence of which the provincial press is placed at a disadvantage as compared with that of the Presidency town. This merely recognises and extends the existing practice, the Editor's table in the Secretariat having, in fact, been non-existent for many years. Reports and bulky publications will be sold as heretofore.

8. In working the present instructions, the strictest attention will be paid to the orders of the Secretary of State concerning the publication of official papers which have to be communicated to his Lordship or to the Government of India.

9. These instructions will be found printed in G.O., 28th May 1878, No. 884, which is printed as an annexure to this memorandum, and it will be distinctly understood that it is better that papers in which the public are interested should be withheld, than that, by any oversight or inadvertence, proceedings, the publication of which is not desirable, should be made public.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th March* 1886.

W. WILSON,
*Acting Chief Secretary.*

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ Messrs. Parry and Co., extract.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press.

Copy to Librarian.

## ANNEXURE.

*G.O., 28th May* 1878, *No.* 884, *Public.*

Read—the following paper:—

From C. BERNARD, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department (Public), to the Chief Secretary to Government, dated Simla, 6th May 1878, No. 19-860.

I am directed to forward, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, copies of the correspondence marginally noted, regarding the rules which should govern the publication in India of official papers which have to be communicated to the Home Government, or to the Government of India, in ordinary official course.

Despatch of Her Majesty's Secretary of State, No. 89, dated 9th August 1877.
Despatch of Government of India, No. 4, dated 18th January 1878.
Reply by Secretary of State, No. 30, dated 21st February 1878.

2. The rule will henceforward be, that no official letters to Her Majesty's Government, or to the Government of India, and no resolution or other official paper that would in ordinary course be reported to either of those authorities, should be made public by Local Governments until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission to the superior authorities. If, in cases of rare exigency, this rule has to be transgressed, telegraphic intimation of the circumstances, with explanation, should be sent to the superior authority. Similarly, communications from the Government of India to subordinate Governments will not be made public until the interval above described has elapsed, save under exceptional circumstances, the occurrence of which will in each case be explained by telegram to the subordinate Government concerned. No subordinate Government should, under any circumstances, give publicity to papers which may seem to reflect upon a superior authority without first obtaining its consent.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor-General in Council, dated India Office, London, the 9th August 1877, No. 89.

In a Despatch to the Government of Bombay, which I communicated to your Excellency in Council,* I pointed out the disadvantages arising from the hasty publication of resolutions in which the proceedings of the Government of India had been made the subject of unfavorable comment. Other cases have recently come to my notice in which serious misapprehension has been caused by the premature publication of official correspondence. This evil has especially been felt when despatches have been published in local newspapers before they have come into the hands of those to whom they are addressed. In this practice, which is not unfrequent, Her Majesty's servants in India depart from the rule which is observed in all departments of the Government at home. Except under circumstances of special exigency, despatches are not published in this country until the interval has elapsed which is required for their transmission.

* 6th April 1877, No. 28, Revenue Department.

2. The convenience of this usage has been generally felt, and it is, I believe, a rule of old standing here. But the introduction of telegraphic communication has made the observance of it more important than before. At the present day, if a despatch is published before it reaches its destination, the person to whom it is addressed is likely to receive the first impression of its contents from the imperfect, and sometimes misleading, summaries of the ordinary telegrams. This inconvenience is often felt in respect to communications from the Governments in India to this office. Summaries of State papers from time to time reach this country before I am in possession of them, and, therefore, when I am still unable to give any explanation or make any correction which is necessary for removing any erroneous impression that may have been formed.

3. I have made the foregoing remarks for the purpose of eliciting from your Excellency in Council an opinion as to the most suitable arrangements for terminating this inconvenience. My inclination would be to lay down a rule that no despatch from you to Her Majesty's Government nor any resolution of the nature of such a despatch, should be published in the *Gazette*, or be communicated to the public press, until an interval had elapsed such as would justify the assumption that the document in question had been received at this office. Such a rule would not, of course, apply to any case in which a special object would, in your Excellency's judgment, be served by immediate publication. In such an event, the intention to publish immediately might be stated in the despatch home. Nor would the rule in the least degree interfere with the publication of any facts which the Government might think it expedient to make known. To the publication of mere facts, the considerations to which I have adverted do not apply.

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The Despatch of your Excellency in Council, dated 18th January. No. 4 of 1878, relative to the premature publication of official correspondence, has been considered by me in Council.

2. Your Lordship in Council agrees generally with the views expressed in my Despatch of the 9th August, No. 89 of 1877, but suggests an addition to the rules prescribed by me, to the effect that "whenever the Government of India see strong reason for the publication of any document addressed to Her Majesty's Secretary of State, the intention or desire to publish such document should, if not previously announced at the time of its despatch home, be communicated and fully explained by telegraph."

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Communicated to the Departments of the Secretariat.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
*Chief Secretary.*

To the Revenue Department.
" Military Department.
" Public Works Department.

Exd. A. Raitt.

B. No 949 Wa 17-4-86.



Note

In carrying out the instructions in Public Memo. No 470 C & 15. 3.86, the following points should be observed —

(1) When it is considered that a paper should be placed on the Editors table, the Assistant who drafts or passes the order, should mark under the communication "To newspapers" —

(2) If any such papers are intended for circulation, an addl entry following effect should be made on the outside of the draft at post:— "Proposed to communicate to newspapers" —

(3) In addition to the number of office copies of papers ordinarily struck off, extra copies of such P.Ps as are going to newspapers should be printed - the number of extra copies will be double the number of newspapers entitled to receive P.Ps.

(4) The copies of P.Ps. will be sent by post to the several newspapers.

(5) The Editor's list will no longer be taken to Council, - but it will be sent to Supt Govt Press as usual for publication in the Govt Gazette - The H.C. will prepare the list weekly from the P.Ps. marked for newspapers, and send it up for W's initials in time to appear in the Gazette - When Govt are on the Hills, the H.C. will send up the list weekly from Madras - he will fix the day of despatch so that the list will return in time for the Gazette.

To S.A.W. Copy given
H.C. Copy given

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

No. 470-C.

MEMORANDUM.

READ—again G.O., dated 28th September 1885, Mis. No. 2288, Public.

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*Acting Chief Secretary.*

FORT ST. GEORGE,
15*th March* 1886.

To the Departments of the Secretariat.
„ Messrs. Parry and Co., extract.
„ the Superintendent, Government Press.

Copy to Librarian.

NOTE.—*To be substituted for copies of same number and date previously sent.*

## ANNEXURE.

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