

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	493	Press
		<u>Mis.</u>
Dated	24. 6.	~~10~~ 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 30th June 1857.

No. 1. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk, to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 13th June 1857, No. 108 of P. C. S.

SIR,

I beg of you to represent to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that I do not think it possible, with the present strength of the Agency Office, to fill up two or three thousand receipts in Hindoostani or Persian, as ordered in last clause of Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 425, of the 3rd Instant: and, on the present strength, it would not be prudent to make the attempt. The only Servants who know these languages are myself and the Assistant Government Agent; the time it would occupy to fill in the printed parts of these Receipts, would be seven complete days. Independent of the fact that it is not suitable Employment for either of us, the nature of the duties of this Office requires that we should not have our times occupied in mechanical labour, if we would continue that watchfulness over the Stipends which enabled me with his aid to reduce them during a few years by nearly a lac and a half per Annum.

2. In the recent changes, with the work so immensely increased, that any stranger would undoubtedly have utterly broken down in it, I have not asked for any increase of strength: but to carry out the present order does seem so entirely beyond our power, that if still deemed essential, which I do not in any way consider it to be, the addition of one or two Servants will be indispensable.

3. On the subject of the Office generally, I am waiting to see how the work will be, before occupying the time of Government with the expression of opinions which further experience, when matters become more settled, might render it necessary to modify; but the work has so very greatly increased, in many ways, that every effort will require to be made by us to reduce the amount of mere mechanical labour, and even then I doubt if the members of the Office will suffice or the Salary of Rupees 525 per mensem of the Government Agent at Chepauk and Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends will be a fair remuneration for the work that my Successor will find to do. On the present matter, however, if the Right Honorable the Governor in Council would wish the effort to be made I will do so, and report, but I think it very unadvisable for many reasons. Amongst those I may mention that, in the Nabob's time, of the 1200 Receipts he issued, written in Persian, about 250 of the owners are estimated to have been able to understand what had been written in that language. Our present Receipts are between 2000 and 3000—of the owners of which about 3 or 400 may, at the utmost, understand what might be written on the receipt; and to more than the half of the whole number of the Stipendiaries, all written languages are alike unknown.

4. In my letter of the 24th December last, No. 155, conscious of the necessity of restricting the amount of work, I made many suggestions, all of them tending to effect this object; such as (1) A new form of Stipend Receipt; (2) To issue all Receipts quarterly and half-yearly; (3) To make it a Condition of issue to all the new Stipendiaries that they should reside at certain places out of Madras, &c., &c., but none of all these were sanctioned, though it was only in the hope that they would be so, that I abstained from recommending an increase to the strength of the Office.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR,
Government Agent.

2. ORDER THEREON, No. 493; dated, 24th June 1857.

It is the wish of Government that no delay should arise from any difficulty in preparing the Receipts for the Carnatic Stipends according to the new Form. The Agent is therefore authorised to entertain two Extra Clerks on salaries of Rupees (25) twenty-five and Rupees (15) fifteen respectively for 3 months, by which time the new Receipts will, it may be expected, come into easier operation.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Political Department

No 493

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
dated 24 June 1887

- Read letter from Govt Agent
at Chapank dated 13 Inst.

H.
J.

It is the wish of Govt that
no delay should arise from
any difficulty in preparing
~~the~~ the receipts for
the Comptroller's Office according
to the new forms. The Agent is
therefore authorized to instruct
~~for~~ two extra clerks
on salaries of Rs 25 & Rs 15
respectively for 3 months, by
which time the new receipts
will, it may be expected, come
into operation.

U.

to Govt Agent at Chapank
Account General
Civil Auditor } Dated 24th

Subscribed 30th June
Richard 1837 33th 1838

John St. George & Co.
No 17 of 1857.
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Richard St. George 1837

Richard St. George

of 1847 June 1857

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