M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 522 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 6-7- ~~19~~ 1837

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 37. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th June 1857, No. 150 of P. C. S.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 445 of the 10th Instant, in which is referred for my report a communication from Syed Taha Sahib and eight others, on the subject of the alteration, recently made in the form of the Stipend receipt issued to the Jaghiredar Stipendiaries.

2. I would offer as my opinion to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, that it be returned to the Writers desiring them, in addressing Government to adhere to the usual Channel of communication. This course being in strict accordance with para : 2 of the Petition Regulations of Government, which it is very desirable to adhere to with these people.

1 *Fatimah Begum, Nickah Daughter of the Uncle of Syed Taha Sahib.*
2 *Aushah Begum, Nickah Daughter of* do. do.
3 *Furhut Bee, Nickah Widow of* do. do.
4 *Koolsoom Begum Nickah, Daughter of* do. do.
5 *Mymunut Oon Nissa Nickah Widow* do. do.
6 *Sadot Begum, Sister of Syed Taha Sahib.*
7 *Khyr Oon Nissa Begum, Shadee Wife of Syed Taha Sahib.*
8 *Careem Oon Nissa Begum, Daughter of* do. do.

3. On the subject of their complaint, it may be regarded as that of Syed Taha Sahib alone, the other parties, all Women, being related and connected with him in the degrees as per margin.

4. The copy sent by them, No. 1, of the form of receipt, hitherto issued to them, is correct : and it was submitted to Government in my communication, No. 45, dated 3rd April last.

5. During the period of my tenure of office the form of this old receipt has been repeatedly submitted to me, as highly insufficient, and it has been often reported to me that the community have made it a subject of their wit ; while the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will observe, it is not a receipt at all, and the Persian is headed " Memorandum."

6. The subject of the form of the Stipend receipts has now been so often before Government, that it will be sufficient perhaps to state briefly the whole facts relating to them.

7. Up to March of this year the Stipend receipts of the Carnatic Stipendiaries of 1801, were prepared by the Sircar and issued under the Seal and Baiz of the Nabob with the signatures of the Moonshee of the Sircar and of the Serishtadar of the Khandan. The mechanical labour of the Agency was limited to my countersigning these, after audit, entry, and recording the bearer's name. The Stipend receipts of the Carnatic Jaghiredar Stipendiaries were prepared in and sent out by this office, for their owner's signatures, and were countersigned, &c., like the others on their return.

Foreseeing the additional mechanical labour that the cessation of the Niabut would occasion in the Agency, I prepared and submitted, and received the sanction of Government for, a form of receipt, so arranged, as, being once written, it would last for three or even more years, simply by adding paper. There will now be about three thousand Stipendiaries and with the receipt proposed the mechanical labour would have been limited to the preparation of three thousand receipts, once in several years : but, from the objections offered to it, that form was, with a view to conciliate, done away with, and in lieu of three thousand once in several years, the Agency will now have to prepare and issue three thousand receipts a month : the difference of work from an issue of three thousand in many years and having to issue as now, three thousand a month is great, and Syed Taha Sahib would add to this by the issue of one portion of the receipts in one form, those of the Carnatic Jaghiredar Stipendiaries in a form different from all the others.

8. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council will decide whether there will be any advantages at all from this course ; or whether the advantages will be such as to compensate for the additional labour. As Government will recognise that little or more writing in filling up forms of receipts does not in any way add to my personal labour, the preparation of the same being the mere mechanical duties of Clerks, I believe myself capable of offering a perfectly unbiassed opinion on the petty subject referred to Government by Syed Taha Sahib.

I would submit that the servants in the conjoint Offices of the Government Agent at Chepauk, and Paymaster of Carnatic Stipends, were as sufficient as before the change in the Niabut to carry on the work, with the first proposed form of Stipend receipt which was so framed as that one issue of three thousand should last several years : that I have great doubts, if we be sufficiently strong to get through the work now that we have three thousand receipts to issue monthly : but I have no doubt that if any more work be thrown on us, we must break down. And the addition of Hindustani or Persian, suggested in Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 3rd June, No. 425 of 1857, and the change now proposed by Syed Taha Sahib would just do it.

9. On the changes, generally, I will, as I remarked on the 13th Instant, defer writing until things have settled down into their proper places ; and I can see what the fixed state of things will be : but the increase of the petitions alone will be observed in the margin. Most of this part of the additional work falls on me, it is my most particular care to attend to all petitions myself and see that they are attended to ; but the entry to my Endorsments into our books now occupies one Clerk alone. We have got through the work because, ever since October last, there have been four or five young men, constantly employed with us and it is with their voluntary labours, that we have been able to get through the greatly expanded work : though I think we are doing very well and quietly and that any further change is wholly unnecessary, I have freely addressed these remarks to place the case before Government, in order that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council may have the information necessary to decide what to do.

Petitions received.								1*st* 6 *Month of* 1857.
1849	1850	1851	1852	1853	1854	1855	1856	
256	280	225	215	304	277	370	559	1063

10. With nothing to do, but the idle, and with all captious feelings which dissatisfied idleness engenders, Syed Taha Sahib can only discover this trifle to find fault with and reckon as a grievance and submit as a complaint to Government direct. Syed Taha Sahib is only a grandson in the female line of a Servant of Wallajah, and he complains of the form of a receipt which the Sons and Daughters of Nabobs and children and Grand-Children of Wallajah have taken, not only without the slightest complaint, but without even imagining that the form their receipt was written in, can be of the slightest importance; and it is the more out of place for him to complain of issuing a receipt in English, because of all the Stipendiaries perhaps Syed Taha Sahib's disposition has made him better acquainted with, and he has had more to do with English than any one of them.

11. In such changes as have occurred, we must expect a little display of their pent up feelings, but care and watchfulness have prevented them having any cause and in my opinion this complaint of Syed Taha Sahib would be settled by the plan in my second para: being adopted. If that be not done, and Government do not permanently increase our Establishment, perhaps it would be easily disposed of by Syed Taha Sahib being referred to this Office, and with the Right Honorable The Governor in Council's permission, I can, after due audit, countersign any form of Receipt of his own preparation which he or others may choose to write out for himself or themselves, in the same way as we all prepare our own Abstracts provided the Treasury will receive the same.

12. I will only add that, when changes such as we have passed through occur, it is in my opinion the duty of the Servants of the State, to adapt themselves and their mode of working to the altered circumstances. It would have been, as regards our work, a very easy mode of meeting the recents changes for me to have addressed Government requesting additional hands for the greatly additional work : but I very much disapprove of such conduct, and I had hoped by certain modifications so to reduce the amount of mechanical labour, as to be able to carry on the work as before with the old strength of the Office, and it is with pleasure that I record the willingness with which all in it have seconded my views.

13. Amongst these proposed modifications, I may mention (1) The introduction of the New form of receipt, which once written would last three years ; but this though sanctioned, has since been abandoned; (2) The payment of the Stipendiaries quarterly and half-yearly, instead of Monthly as now: but this was not sanctioned ; and (3) The introduction of printed forms for routine letters : And attention to other minor modes reducing labour which we are now giving. But in all that relates to the conjoint Offices of Government Agent at Chepauk, and Paymaster

of Carnatic Stipends the great object of the Officer should ever be to keep the mere mechanical labour at the smallest possible amount, so as to allow the largest portion of our time and attention to be given to the personal audit of the Stipends, and so to watch over the Stipendiaries as to make them conscious of the Superintendence being active, and incessant. I would rather therefore keep the receipts as they now are, than have additional Clerks added to us : and if Stipendiaries be permitted as suggested to prepare their own receipts, the labour will be much diminished.

14. I would also add, that what with deaths, acceptances of bonuses, and transfer to other Stations, the number of Stipendiaries will be diminished a few hundred within the next twelve months.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR.
Government Agent.

No. 38 ORDER THEREON, No. 522 ; dated 6th July 1857.

The principal objection made by Syed Taha Sahib to the new form of receipt, is that in the printed form the parties signing the receipt are styled " Carnatic Stipendiaries," whereas he and the other members of his family receive their allowances on a different footing as " Carnatic Jaghiredar Stipendiaries." It is easy to obviate this objection by having some of the forms printed with the words " Carnatic Jaghiredar Stipendiary" under the blank space left for the signature and Government direct this to be done.

2. In other respects Government have nothing to add to the orders which they gave regarding the new form of receipt in Extract Minutes of Consultation, 3rd June last, No. 425. They have since allowed the Agent the temporary aid of 2 additional Clerks to meet the extra work which devolves on his Office, while the new arrangements regarding the payment of the Stipendiaries are being carried out. (Extract Minutes of Consultation, dated 24th June, No. 493.)

3. The Agent in this letter adverts to what he considers the impropriety as well as the inconvenience of the complaining parties having been allowed to address the Government direct on this occasion, but he misunderstands the purport of the Petition Rules. It is certainly right that all persons should first seek redress from the Head of their Office or Department if they have subject of complaint, and before petitions are received by Government the rules require that it should be shown that the subject complained of has been brought before the Petitioner's official superior. But when the matter of complaint arises from an act or an order of a head of a Department, the Rules are not intended to prohibit an application being made for redress direct to Government.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

21st April /57 No. 142
Pol. Lr. to Engd. 12th July
No. 13 of 1858 Pam. 243
Replied to 27th Octr
No. 1 of /58

In Dy. &c. 7 July

POLITICAL 1857 DEPARTMENT.

From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR,

Government Agent at Chepauk.

To

S. Maltby Esquire

Actg. *Chief Secretary to Government*

Fort St. George

Dated 26th June 1857

Received 29 " 1857

No. 556. No. 150

Acknowledges receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 445 of the 10th Instant referring for report a communication from Syed Taha Sahib & eight others regarding the alteration recently made

Madras :—Printed at the Government Press.

Pol. Dy. No. 522

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made in the form of the Stipend Receipt issued to the Jaghiredar Stipendiaries & Offers his opinion that it be returned to the Writers desiring them in addressing Govt. to adhere to the usual channel of Communication —

C. 3 July
[illegible]

No. 522 Political Department

Extract Mins: of Cons: Dated 6th July 1857.

Read letter from Chepauk Agent d. 26th June 1857 No 150 - reporting upon a petition addressed to Govt by Syed Taha Sahib & others.

H

W.C.

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Copy to Govt Agent at Chepauk
Para 1 to Syed Saha Sahib & others
(in [illegible])
[illegible]

In Dr to cons. 7 July
Political. 1857 Dr par Ct.

Pol. Ld to Engd 12th July
No 13 of 1858 Paris 243
Replied to 27th October
No 1 of 158

No 522

Extract Mins: of Cons.

4/6 July 157

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