

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	682	Press Mis.
Dated	26 8 1987	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 1st September 1857.

No. ~~9~~. EXTRACT FROM THE MINUTES of Consultatin in the Public Department, dated
14th August 1857, No. 1137.
(Vide *Diary*, Public Consultation, 18th August, No. 36 and 37.)

No. ~~10~~. ORDER THEREON, No. 682; dated 26th August 1857.
To be Recorded.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

Public Department
No. 1137
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Dated 14th August 1857.
Read the following
No. 1081.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor General of India in Council, in the Home Department, under date the 21st July 1857.

Cons. 23rd Nov. 1855, Nos. 8 to 12. READ again the papers recorded on the Consultation of the date noted in the margin.

Read a letter, No. 75, dated 26th January 1856, from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, enquiring whether that Government are not at liberty to publish from time to time as a Supplement to the Official Gazette, any papers which they may wish to make known, but which are not such as can be conveniently published in the printed Selections.

Read a Circular letter, dated the 9th January 1857, enquiring what further rules are considered necessary as to the publication through the medium of Newspapers of official papers.

Read a reply, No. 38, dated the 17th January last, from the Government of Bengal, stating that the Lieut. Governor has no suggestions to offer on the subject.

Read a reply, No. 105 A, dated the 24th January last, from the Government of the N. W. Provinces, to the same effect.

Read a reply, No. 53, dated the 12th March last, from the Government of the Straits Settlements, to the same effect.

Read a reply, No. 1441, dated the 3rd ultimo, from the Government of Bombay, submitting for sanction, certain rules on the subject.

The Right Hon^{ble} the Governor General in Council observes, that on the 23rd November 1855, a Resolution was passed, laying down rules under which access to official Records was to be allowed to the representatives of the Public Press.

This Resolution was communicated to the several subordinate Governments, and they were invited to suggest any further rules that might seem necessary.

Only the Governments of Madras and Bombay think any further regulations necessary. The Government of Madras ask permission to publish any papers they wish as a Supplement to the Official Gazette, observing that their object will not be met by publication in the Public Press, as the Editors may suppress portions of a correspondence if they are so inclined. His Lordship in Council is of opinion that this recommendation has no necessary connexion with rules for the Editor's room; but he remarks that the Gazette ought to be very sparingly used for the publication of official correspondence, and only when some special object is to be attained.

The Government of Bombay have drawn up a set of rules, which in so far as they are in accordance with the Resolution of the Government of India are unobjectionable. The only addition to that resolution is a rule intended to discourage the publication of personal censures, except when the personal censure is the main point of the correspondence. His Lordship in Council thinks, that it would be better not to place at the disposal of the Press, papers containing any passages which it is not considered desirable to publish.

The Government of Bombay, desire moreover in exceptional cases to have a discretionary power of making available for publication, correspondence on subjects of local interest, not finally disposed of.

His Lordship in Council does not think that it is advisable to give publicity to any paper even of local interest, when the subject is, or is likely to come under the consideration of the Government of India.

On the whole, the Right Hon^{ble} the Governor General in Council does not see any grounds for making at present any change in the Rules as originally promulgated by the Supreme Government, and he accordingly directs that they remain in force in all the Presidencies and Governments without addition or alteration.

Foreign.	Govts. of Madras.
Financial.	Bombay.
Military.	Bengal.
Public Works.	N. W. Provinces.
	Straits Settlements.

ORDERED, that the foregoing Resolution be communicated to the Departments and Governments noted in the margin, for information.

/Sd/ R. P. Chapman

Offg. Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Ordered to be communicated to the several Departments of the Secretariat.
(True Extract and Copy)

To
3c The Political Department

/Signed/ E. Maitland

Edward A. Wright 11/9/54

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W. M. M. M. M.

Act 11/11/54