

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	828	Press Mis.
Dated	28. 7. 1918	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Political Consultation, 29th September 1857.

No. 37. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk ; to E. MALTBY, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 16th September 1857, No. 234 of P. C. S.

SIR,

1. In para : 3 of my letter of 25th May, No 83 of 1857, I had the honor to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council all that I considered necessary to meet the case of the feelings of Stipendiaries under the change of transferring, direct to the British Government, the duty of issuing the Stipend receipts, which had hitherto been left to the Carnatic Nabobs to perform.

2. Even there, I conceded more than Political reasons seemed to me to justify. Our policy should be to make as many people as possible feel under obligations to, and interested in the prosperity of the State, and in every case to make the individuals perceive that the bounty which they enjoy is the gift of the British Government alone : and this can only be done by its being made to reach them direct from the Government, without the intervention of any other party. So long as the Nabobs lived, the arrogant of these Mahomedan people smoothed to themselves their reception of our bounty, by styling themselves, the Pensioners of the Nabob, because, as above alluded to, from 1801, until January last, Political reasons led to the receipts for the Pensions we gave, being countersigned by the Nabobs ; and I know that any countersignature, permitted, of any of these Stipends, by any Stipendiary, will, by so much divert from the State the gratitude of the recipients whose Stipends are so countersigned, and by so much give importance to the person who so countersigns them ; the importance being similar in character to, though less in degree, than that hitherto given to the Nabobs by the same Act. The only difference being that while formerly we had only one Nabob, by allowing countersignatures to be made we will have so many small ones, and although formerly, many Englishmen used to laugh at and make light of such arrogant assumptions of dignities on these men's parts, I never did so, and under the events of the day, no one I think will now feel inclined to treat, as a light matter, any striving after an importance not justly belonging to them. I am therefore not able to recommend the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to permit any Pensioner or Stipendiary of Government to countersign the receipts which we issue for the Pensions of any other Pensioner. This was asked of me in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 425 of 3rd June and No. 659 of 22nd August, and it seems to me quite clear that the more any Stipendiary craves to possess the right to countersign our Stipend receipts as he must be doing so merely to obtain an importance which is wholly unnecessary, and even injurious, as regards himself, and is entirely prejudicial to Government, the more should he be met with positive refusals.

3. When I recall to recollection the views expressed in my letter, No. 66, dated 26th September 1856, and my practice and recommendations, to give these and all other men, all that they can justly call their own, it will be recognised that I would allow the Stipendiaries to do as they like with their own ; but, the Pensions given to the Carnatic Stipendiaries by the State are ours alone, and should be used for our State purposes, and it is not for the Public interests that any Pensioner should, by having the right conceded to him of countersigning the receipts of his brother Stipendiaries be enabled to divert from the State towards himself any portion of the gratitude which the recipients should render to the State alone.

(Signed) EDWARD BALFOUR,

Government Agent.

No. 38. ORDER THEREON, No. 828 ; dated 28th September 1857.

In the order of Government, dated 3rd June last, No. 425, the Agent was instructed to express his opinion whether it might not be arranged that Heads of Families should countersign the receipts upon which the subordinate Members of their families drew the portion of the Stipends allotted to them. Government sought this information because the entire Stipend has heretofore been drawn on the receipt of the Head of each family, and the Agent's recent departure from this course appeared from his own remarks, in para : 3 of his letter, dated 25th May last, to be likely to cause some dissatisfaction.

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2. The Agent now treats the question as one not between the Head of a family and its Subordinate Members, but between the Stipendiaries generally and the Government. Because the Nawaubs used to countersign the Receipts, and some of the Pensioners therefore chose to attribute the bounty which they received to the Nawaub and not to the British Government, the Agent argues that if Heads of families are permitted now to countersign the receipts, the importance and gratitude which formerly belonged to the Nawaub will be transferred to them, the "only difference" being that while formerly we had only one Nabob, by allowing countersignatures to be made "we will have so many small ones," and he expresses an opinion of the impolicy of any such arrangement.

3. The Government cannot enter into this view of the subject. There is too great a distinction between the position of the Nawabs and that of Heads of private families for there to be any fear of their being confounded, and as the entire Stipends have hitherto been drawn on the receipts of Heads of families their importance could receive no augmentation by their countersignature being now required to the receipts to be taken from the Subordinate Members for their several portions. The object which Government had in view was to guard against discontent on the part of Heads of families from an idea that a part of their authority or right had been taken away from them and on this point the Agent is silent. If however he is satisfied that no such feeling will arise from his new arrangement, the Government will not insist on its being modified in the manner suggested at least until it has been practically tried.

N^o 828

Political Department

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
of 28th Sept 1857
Read letter from Govt Agent at the Rank
of 16th Sept 1857
No 234

~~Govt Agent that~~
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dissatisfaction.

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 -ment-

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 position of the ~~the~~ Nawabs & that of heads
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 fear of their being confounded, & as the
 entire ~~depends~~ ^{depends} have hitherto been drawn on the
 receipts of heads of families their reputation
 could receive no augmentation by their
 counter signature being now required to the
 receipts ^{to be} taken from the subordinate members ^{of the}

Study to compare 689

The object which Govt had in view was to ^{prevent}
 discontent on the part of ^{heads of families} ~~heads of families~~ ^{from} ~~from~~ ^{from}
 against ^{that a part of their authority} ~~that a part of their authority~~ ^{right had been}
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 11. 1. 1858.

Com 29 Apr 57
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 21. 1. 1858
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