

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	<i>1027</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	<i>21-8-1957</i>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st August 1867.*

No. 158. Read the following letter from the Secretary to the Madras Advertising and Printing Company (Limited), to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 13th August 1867, No. 844.

I have the honor to forward, herewith, a copy of a letter (relating to Reuter's telegrams) which I have addressed to the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*, and shall be obliged by your laying it before the Government of Madras.

From the Secretary to the Madras Advertising and Printing Company (Limited), to the Editor of the *Delhi Gazette*, Agra; dated Madras, 10th August 1867.

I much regret that I have been prevented from answering your letter before. You complain at the gratuitous distribution of Reuter's telegrams to newspapers that are not subscribers to them, and ask the proprietors of the *Athenæum and Daily News* to join you in bringing an action against Reuter's Company.

With regard to your complaint, the grounds upon which it is based have very considerably widened since the receipt of your letter, although attempts seem to have been made in the Punjab and in Scinde to contract them. To the list of Journals, favored like the *Oudh Gazette*, "by the courtesy" of Government Officers, with Reuter's telegrams, must now be added the *Central India Times* and the *Bangalore Herald*. In the last issue of the last named Journal, Mr. Saunders, Commissioner of Mysore, was thanked for kindly placing at the disposal of the readers of that Journal the same telegrams which we—the originators of the late telegraphic federation, whose business was transferred to Reuter's Company—were led to believe, from the conditions agreed to by us with that Company, were only to be supplied to Journals paying Rupees 400 a month. Moreover, at the Mysore races, the telegrams were distributed by Mr. Saunders, before it was possible that the *Athenæum and Daily News* containing the same telegrams could have reached Mysore.

The Proprietors of the *A. & D. N.* have never looked upon their contract with Reuter's Company as merely one between them and the Company, though that is its position legally. I have been requested to furnish telegrams (transmitted to this Journal) for the use of other Journals at a distance, and also for the use of mercantile bodies, but, considering that it was the duty of each one of the Journals which belonged to the original federation to force as many other Journals as possible to subscribe to Reuter's telegrams, with a view ultimately of causing the subscription to be reduced all round, the requests have been invariably refused by me, though I believe that condition III of our agreement with Reuter's Company has not been so rigidly observed everywhere.

The Proprietors of the *A. & D. N.* view with deep regret that Reuter's Company has not considered that, in taking over the service formerly organized by the *Times of India*, it was in any way bound to protect the interests of those who relinquished that service to Reuter's Company. Not only are the telegrams which we have considered the monopoly of the subscribers distributed gratuitously in almost all parts of India, but they are distributed in some places before the newspapers subscribing for them have time to issue them; for it is not to be forgotten that the telegrams which are distributed gratuitously pass along the wires as Service messages, thereby taking precedence of Press messages. Moreover, the recipients of these gratis copies of telegrams are hampered by no condition not to furnish the contents of them to other Newspapers. Thus, it might happen, and probably would, were we to try the experiment, that we could receive through "the courtesy" of Mr. Saunders, Reuter's telegrams from Bangalore for about Rupees 50 a month, before we could receive them direct (?) for Rupees 400.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
21st August 1867.*

The Proprietors of the *A. & D. N.* do not think that the Proprietors of any of the subscribing Journals would ever have entered into an arrangement with Reuter's Company, had they foreseen the manner in which that Company has performed its part of the contract. And though I am instructed to say that, while the Proprietors of the *A. & D. N.* do not, as at present advised, think it wise to enter an action at law against Reuter's Company, they will be willing to adopt any measures, in conjunction with the managers of other subscribing newspapers, which may be deemed necessary for the protection of their joint interests. I would venture to suggest that all payments to the agency be suspended until some definite and satisfactory arrangement has been come to with the Company. We might submit the question to arbitration.

In the meantime, it would not be out of place to re-open the question of supplying ourselves with telegrams independently of Reuter's Agency, which could not possibly stand if the Proprietors of all the subscribing Journals bound themselves to each other under a penalty not to subscribe to Reuter's telegrams again, until the sanction of a certain majority of Proprietors had been obtained. I would also point out that if the *Madras Times* should join this Journal, which there is no reason to fear it would not do, jointly, as I have shown with reference to getting telegrams from Bangalore or even from Bombay, we might be perfectly free from the burden of subscribing to Reuter's telegrams.

No. 159.

ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1867, No. 1027.

To be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. S. ELLIS,
Acting Chief Secretary.

No. 844
From

The Secretary to the
Madras Advertising & Printing Company
Limited

To the Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith
a copy of a letter (relating to Reuter's telegrams,
which I have addressed to the Editor of the
Delhi Gazette and shall be obliged by your
laying it before the Government of Madras.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant.

Secretary

Madras Advertising & Printing Company
Limited

Alwarum & Daily News Office
Madras 13th August 1867.

Bridge 1007 across

Nov. 21 Aug.

From

The City of New York, N.Y.
-containing printing copy by
- 20 84

21/5 } Aug
24/4 }

Enclosed

100/297

Forward copy of the
addressed by King's the "State
"rights" regarding the protest;
- the distribution of the
Telegram by the author to
Birmingham which are not
included in the copy of the
addressed to the King's the
21st August 1867 & 10/29/10M

21st August 1867 & 10/29/10M
Received 11/11/10M

CH. 4. 1. 1.
1817.

158. 159.

to the London Mail

have not communicated

any of the King's Telegrams

to the Pope his

communication

may be recorded

the