

ORDINARY, MS.

Public DEPARTMENT.
G.O., DATED 6-5-92
No. 329

INDEXED.

When given for copying. 61

[Despatch Abstract.]

Agreeing with
the Commr of Police
that the Theosophist
is a newspaper.

No. 1072.

From The Govr. of Police.

Dated 18th April 1892.

FOR ORDERS.

30B.
21/4
L. J. J. J.

I agree with the view of the Com.
of Police.

W. J.
D. J.

There is no definition of the
expression 'public news' in
the Act. - Webster defines
'news' as 'fresh information
of something that has ~~happened~~
happened since a was before
'unknown' - In this case
the Act such as the article
in the Times about the
'Cunningham' may be news
but whether it is public news
is doubtful - However, it is
not worth while arguing over
as the Magazine was registered
before the change of place of
printing should be deemed to be
registered - Part II of the
Act - Johnson refers to
'Printing press & newspaper'

1072
No. 26. City Police Office.

Madras, 18th April 1892.

From

Colonel. H. H. Foss,
THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
MADRAS.

To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George,
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that in 29th January 1883, Madame Blavatsky, as Publisher of the Magazine entitled "The Theosophist", made a declaration in my Office in accordance with Clause (1) of Section 5 of Act XL of 1882. In 1st December 1887 a similar declaration was made by Colonel Olcott on his becoming Publisher of the Magazine.

2 — Colonel Olcott has changed the class of printing and if the "Theosophist" is a periodical work, containing public news or comments on public news, a new declaration ought to have been made under Clause (2) of the Section above mentioned.

3 — In 13th Instant Colonel Olcott appeared personally at my Office and contended that the provisions of

W. H. L.

The undersigned presents his compliments to the Commissioner of Police, Madras, and acknowledges receipt of his Official Note of even date: ~~Therefore~~, he begs to say that, whatever other authorities controlling the issue of publications may exist, it is immaterial that the Special Act under discussion, providing specifically and solely for the surveillance of newspapers and other periodicals devoted to the publication of "public news" and to "comments" thereon - in short, newspapers and only newspapers - should cover the case of the Theosophist, which is no newspaper at all, but a "Magazine of Oriental Philosophy, Art, Literature and Occultism". So convinced is he that this Act does not describe periodicals of the class of the Theosophist, that the undersigned respectfully asks the Commissioner of Police to refer this correspondence to the proper authority for decision. The undersigned prays the Commissioner of Police to understand

that he has not the least objection
to register the Magazine if there is
an Act requiring it; in fact, it is
already registered & has been
since the first; but the only
question for him is whether the
Magazine comes under this or
any other Act, so that the mere
changing of his batonage from
one registered printer to another
also registered, without notice to the
Police, would subject him to
penalties.

Sd/ A. H. Scott, P. T. S.
Proprietor of the Free Press.

True Copy

Henry Colonial
Commissioner of Police.

3
Pub: 1072/9

SECRET NO. 1072
Public Dept.



From
The Commissioner of Police,
Quebec
To the Chief Secretary to Govt.,
Fort St. George,
Quebec.

Re: 26.

Dated 18 } April 1892.
Recd:

Enclosure - 3.

The Theosophist.

Referring to Mr. Olcott's
letter for decision as to whether
Sec. 5 of Act No. 1 of 1867
applies to —.

30/9/87 24401 in Omb.
20/2/91 No 133 Omb. Omb.

Hon. Mr. Stokes C.S.D.
with reference to the
Hon. Mr. Garstin's note.

Order 6 May 92 at 309

The Govt. agrees
with the Comr. of Police.

(bonorders)

30B.
30/4

2 May

Received

To the Commr of Police
with 2 copies of the
Theosophist

BACK PAPER, No.

OF 18

FURTHER PAPER, No.

OF 18

READ AGAIN ORDER OF GOVERNMENT, DATED
18, No. MISCELLANEOUS.

ENCLOSURES.

CURRENT No.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT.

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL (not paged).

*With two copies of
the theosophical
instruments*

N.B.—

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.