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Public (1896) Department.

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G.O., No. 849

DATED 10th Aug. 1896

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

SIGNING OF PAPERS.

Directing that with effect from next year the Under Secretaries, Public Works Department, and the Assistant Secretary, Local and Municipal Department, shall remain at Madras for the purpose of signing papers instead of accompanying Government to Gotacamund.

BACK PAPERS.

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FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
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No. 849, PUBLIC, 10TH AUGUST 1896.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

ORDER—No. 849, Public, dated 10th August 1896.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that, with effect from next year, the following officers of the Secretariat shall remain on duty at Madras instead of accompanying Government to Ootacamund :—

The Under Secretary, Public Works Department, General Branch.

" " " " Railway " " " " Irrigation "

The Assistant Secretary, Local and Municipal Department.

2. During the absence of Government from Madras all papers for issue from Madras in the departments under the Chief Secretary will be signed by the Assistant Secretary "for Chief Secretary," and those for issue from the Revenue department will be signed by one or other of the Under Secretaries in the Public Works department "for Secretary to Government, Revenue department," under arrangements to be made by the Secretary to Government, Public Works department.

3. There will, however, be no objection to the four officers mentioned in paragraph 1 being attached to the head-quarters of Government at Ootacamund for six weeks each, one at a time, should they prefer it, provided that before leaving Madras each officer makes satisfactory arrangements—to be approved of by the Secretary or Joint Secretary to whom he is subordinate—for the signing of the papers which he would have to sign if at Madras by one or other or among the other three officers remaining at Madras.

(True Extract.).

Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.

" Public Works Department.

" " " " Railway Branch.

" " " " Irrigation "

" Local and Municipal Department.

Exd. Shaik Karim.

Obt. of {1896} Madras.
PUBLIC.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., No. 849, 10th August 1896.

AUGUST.

Signing of Papers.

Directing that, with effect from next year, the Under Secretaries, Public Works department, and the Assistant Secretary, Local and Municipal department, shall remain at Madras for the purpose of signing papers instead of accompanying Government to Ootacamund.

Public Works Dep.
May 13th 1896.

My Dear Hon. Secy.

The arrangement in Ben.
in regard to the Under Secretaries
going to the hills is as follows:

The three Under Secretaries
on the Civil side i.e. Judicial, Finance
and Revenue arrange with their Secretaries
as to the time when each should go up.
this year no one has proceeded to
Darjeeling. After the rains in September
probably two will go up and the
third remain down.

The arrangements as regards
the P. W. D. are quite distinct. The
rule is that the three Under Secretaries
in this dep't take it by turns, one
going up hill at a time. Lees is
now at Darjeeling. Thomson goes
next & I take the last period.

We have nothing to do while
we are down here with the work
of the Civil Side. During my four
years all I can recollect to have
done outside of P. W. D. matters
was to sign some papers for one of the
the Civil Under Secretaries during
some holidays as he wanted to go
away; but this was arranged

in a friendly sort of way.

Yours Sincerely
(Ed) W. Banks Gwyther.

The Chief Secretary is asked to
comment on this Note
(Ed) A. G. 24.
17-6-26

Note.

Some facts having been brought
to my notice since the discussion of the
Council regarding the signing of
papers in Madras I think it only
right that I should report
as they throw a somewhat new
light on the subject.

It was stated that in the
practice of a D. P. W. Under Secretary
signing papers for other Departments
had been in vogue for years and that
I was the first to try and upset
the arrangement. With regard to this
I have ascertained that, with the
approval of Lord Wenlock, who
had had 4 years' experience of the
working of the Secretariat, hardly a
single paper belonging to other
Departments was signed last year
by the Under Secretaries of the
D. P. W., this would seem to show
that a system which had been in
force for years was at last
acknowledged to be unjust, and was
corrected; but now that a new officer
is holding the post of Chief Engineer
an attempt is made to go back to the
old order of things.

2.

I also wish to C.

the following fact. Some
ago I wrote a note on an
subject to the Local
Municipal Department, and
day I enquired what had become
of it, and was told that it had
been sent to Madras, as all Local
and Municipal papers had to be sent
there. I then enquired, if this was
the case, what was the use of an
Assistant Secretary here, and I received
information that the whole of the
Local and Municipal Department's
Office establishment was in Madras,
and that the Assistant Secretary
had actually not a single clerk with
him at Coimbatore; and it will be
remembered that during the discussion
in Council it was made a strong
point why the Irrigation Under
Secretary should be in Madras
because his establishment was there,
and there was only one clerk up here.
As it was stated that I had
raised the question, I was challenged
to say what I proposed and stated
that I considered each Department
should be made to do its own
work, and to this opinion I still
adhere, and I am

at as does to understand how any
view can be taken of the matter
enclose a D.O. showing that
is the system followed in Bengal
3. From what I have stated in para
2 I cannot see how it can be maintained
that it is impossible to spare the services
of the Assistant Secretary Local and
Municipal Department for work in
Madras.

(Sd/-) M. C.

N^o 469 D. dated 18th June 1896
Forwarded to the Chief Secretary
with reference to His Excellency's
note dated 17th June 1896.

(Sd/-) D. McNeill Campbell
Colonel R.E.

Joint Secretary to Govt. P.W.D.

with file
(to be kindly returned)

Copy of C. S.'s note sent to P. M.
in original.

It is a matter for regret I think that Col: Campbell has committed himself to statements the accuracy of which he has apparently in no wise tested.

He writes "It was stated to me" "that I was the first to try and upset the arrangement". I shall be glad if Col: Campbell will kindly point out where, when and by whom such a statement has been made. I most certainly did not make any such at the meeting of the Council nor have I to my knowledge made any such in writing nor can I find that my office has. I would invite attention to my Office Note No 699, 827.3.96 flagged L which distinctly contradicts Col: Campbell's allegation. He says that he has ascertained that with the approval of Lord Wenlock &c - - the old order of things. I shall be glad if Col: Campbell will furnish his authority for this. I entirely traverse his statement. If Lord Wenlock had approved I should very soon have been told so. I most certainly was not. The reason

reason why I gave in and did not
pose the question of a P. W. D. Under
Secy. being left in Madras to sign papers
was that Col: Pennington was an old
personal friend of mine with whom
I was loath to quarrel. My Chief
Secy. pressed me to carry on the fight
which was beginning to be acrimonious
but I decided to leave things alone
and try the experiment of having papers
signed up here. It led to delay and
extra expenditure. I do not know
what Col: Campbell means by the
words "at last acknowledged to be
unjust". What was the injustice?
Who was it who suffered from it
and who acknowledged that what had
gone before was unjust? I remember
nothing verbal and know of nothing
written which supports this statement.
I am not sure whether I correctly
interpret Col: Campbell in para 1
of his note to convey that taking
advantage of his being new to office
an attempt is now being made by me
to obtain the renewal of an arrange-
ment which had been set aside by
competent authority. If I am I must
the statement with an absolute denial.
It is quite true that the L. Secy.

office establishment is in Madras and
the Asst. Secy. is taken to Coey. It is
note the case that at the discussion in
Council the fact that this was the
case with the Under Secy. Irrigation Dept.
was made a strong point of. It was
mentioned incidentally and the fact
that he was the officer in charge of the
Sixth Restoration scheme which has an
very large office, was also mentioned.
The point pressed was that whereas
a former and experienced head of the
P. W. D. had expressed in writing the
opinion that the Under Secy. Irrigation
Dept. was not wanted at Coey. and
the presence of the Asst. Secy. with the
Chief Secy. was necessary.

Keeping him down in Madras
will cause very great delay in the dis-
patch of work and will impose upon
me personally a great deal of extra
writing every time that I have to
ask a question or give instructions
or require an explanation - as with the
mass of work to be done I very frequently
have - it will all have to be put in
writing and must be written by me.
As matters stand at present I can
send for the Under or Asst. Secy. and
get what I want settled at once.
They

They also can come to me and very frequently do, for instructions. Emergent matters which are not of infrequent occurrence and which are now seen to and prepared for me by the Asst. Secy. would have if he ~~was~~ not here to be done by me personally. I am as it is, much overworked and have more than I can do properly and much most strongly protest against having still more work thrown on my hands merely in order to allow of allow of the Under Secy ~~in the~~ in the Irrigation Dept. being permitted to come up to Cotacamund. I have nothing to do with the Rev. Dept; it is not under me in any way. If the views expressed by Col. Campbell in para 2 of his note are to be accepted then the Asst. Secy. who has only local and municipal work should sign only papers belonging to that Dept. and both the other Under Secretaries should either go down to Madras in order that ^{the} papers appertaining to ^{the} that Dept. in which they work should be signed by them or the papers should all come up here for signature. Comment upon this seems unnecessary.

As regard what is said in
para

para 3 of the note I am not aware of the source of the information upon which Col. Campbell bases his opinion nor am I aware that he has the slightest knowledge personal or derived of the work which the Asst. Secy. has to do or as to the necessity or otherwise for the presence of this officer with the Secy. to whom he is subordinate.

I, on the other hand, can draw a very long experience in the Secretariat and I adhere to the opinion which I have all along expressed. It appears to me that there is an impression on the part of the Joint Secy. to Govt. and other officers of the P.W.D. that the Civilian head of the Secretariat is doing his best to give the benefit of coming to Cotacamund to civilians to the exclusion of others who might fairly look to come there also. This I wish most distinctly and emphatically to repudiate. The attitude which I have taken is one based on a much longer knowledge of what is required than is possessed by Col. Campbell or for that matter any other officer.

in the Secretariat and if I could
honestly say that the Asst. Secy's being
in Madras would not be prejudicial to
the work of a very large office, Dept.
I would not for a moment seek to
prevent his being kept there nor
would I object to his signing papers
for the absent officers of the P. W. D.
or for any other dept.

(Initialed) J. F. P.

signing of papers at Madras.



Public Works Department,

May 13th 1896.

My dear Sir,

The arrangement in Bengal
in regard to the Under Secretaries
going to the hills is as follows -

The three Under Secretaries
on the Civil side i.e. Judicial,
Financial & Revenue arrange
with their Secretaries as to the
time when each should go up.
This year no one has proceeded
to Darjeeling. After the rains in
September probably two will
go up & the third remain down.

The arrangements as regards the P. W. D. are quite distinct. The rule is that the three under-secretaries in this Dept. take it by turns, one going uphill at a time. Lees is now at Dayehing, Thomson goes next & I take the last period.

We have nothing to do while we are down here with the work of the Civil Side. During my four years all I can recollect to have done outside of P. W. D. matters was to sign some papers for one

of the Civil under secretaries during some holidays, as he wanted to get away: but this was arranged mutually in a friendly sort of way.

Yours sincerely
W. Banks Wyther

Note.

The Chief Sec. is asked to comment
on this Note.

894

19/5/96

Some facts having
been brought to my notice
since the discussion in
Council regarding the
signing of official
papers in Madras I think
it only right that I should
represent them, as they
throw a somewhat different
light on the subject.

It was stated that
the practice of a S. P. W.
Under Secretary signing
papers for other Departments
had been in vogue for
years and that I was the
first to try and upset
the arrangement. With
regard to this I have
ascertained that, with the
approval of Lord Northbrook

who had had 4 years' experience of the working of the Secretariat, hardly a single paper belonging to other Departments was signed last year by the Under Secretaries of the G.P.W.; this would seem to show that a system which had been in force for years was at last acknowledged to be unjust, and was corrected; but now that a new officer is holding the post of Chief Engineer an attempt is made to go back to the old order of things.

2. I also wish to bring ~~forward~~ to notice the following fact. Some 4 days ago I wrote a note on an important subject to the Local & Municipal Dept., and yesterday I enquired what had become

19 of it, and was told that it had been sent to Madras, as all Local & Municipal papers had to be sent there. I then enquired, if this was the case, what was the use of an Assistant Secretary here, and I received information that the whole of the Local & Municipal office establishment was in Madras, and that the Assistant Secretary had actually not a single clerk with him at Ooty, and it will be remembered that during the discussion in Council it was made a strong point why the Irrigation Under Secretary should be in Madras because his establishment was there, and there was only one clerk up here. [As it was stated

that I had raised the question, I was challenged to say what I proposed, and I stated that I considered each Department should be made to do its own work, and to this opinion I still, and always will, adhere; and I am at a loss to understand how any other view can be taken of the matter. I enclose a D.O. showing that this is the system followed in Bengal.

3. From what I have stated in para 2 I cannot see how it can be maintained that it is impossible to spare the services of the Assistant Secretary Local & Municipal Dept for work in Madras.

[Signature]
11/6/96

N.O. 469 d/18 June 1896

forwarded to the Chief Secretary with reference to His Excellency's note dated 14.6.96

[Signature]
Colonel R.E.
Joint Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

with file
(to be kindly returned)

18/6/96

Public Dept:

NOTE

It is a matter for regret I think that Col: Campbell has committed himself to statements the accuracy of which he has apparently in nowise tested.

He writes "It was stated * * * that I was the first to try and upset the arrangement". I shall be glad if Colonel Campbell will kindly point out where, when and by whom such a statement has been made. I most certainly did not make any such at the meeting of the Council nor have I to my knowledge made any such in writing nor can I find that my office has. I would invite attention to my office note No. 699, d/ 27-3-96, flagged I, which distinctly contradicts Col: Campbell's allegation. He says that he has ascertained that "with the approval of Lord Wenlock ^{ad order of things} I shall be glad if Colonel Campbell will furnish his authority for this. I entirely traverse his statement. ^{If Lt. Wenlock had approved I should very soon have} The reason why I gave in and did not press the question of a P.W.D. Under Secy. being left in Madras to sign papers was that Col: Pennycuik was an old personal friend of mine with whom I was loath to quarrel. My Chief Assistant pressed me to carry on the fight which was beginning to be acrimonious, but I decided to leave things alone and try the experiment of having papers ^{signed} up here.

[Signature]
Wenlock Esq. I must certainly have left.

it led to delay and extra expenditure.

I do not know what Col: Campbell means by the words "at last acknowledged to be unjust". What was the injustice? Who was it who suffered from it and who as acknowledged that what had gone before was unjust? I remember nothing verbal and know of nothing written which supports this statement.

I am not sure whether I correctly interpret Col: Campbell in para 1 of his note to ~~convey~~ ^{that} taking advantage of his being new to office ~~that~~ an attempt is now being made by me to obtain the renewal of an arrangement which had been set aside by competent authority. If I am, I meet the statement with an absolute denial. It is quite ~~clear~~ true that the L. & M. office establishment is in Madras and the Asst: Secy. is taken to Ooty. It is not the case that at the discussion in Council the fact that this was also the case with the Under Secy:, Irrigation Dept:, was made a strong point of. It was mentioned incidentally and the fact that he was the officer in charge of the Tank Restoration scheme, which has a very large office, was also mentioned. The point pressed was that whereas a former and experienced head of the P.W.D. had expressed ~~in~~ writing the opinion that the Under Secy. Irrigation Dept:, was not wanted at Ooty, the presence of the Asst: Secy with the Chief Secy. was necessary.

Keeping him down in Madras will cause very great delay in.

disposal of work and will impose upon me personally a great deal of extra writing as every time that I have to ask a question or give instructions or require an explanation- as with the mass of work to be done I very frequently have - it will all have to be put in writing and must be written by me. As matters stand at present I can send for the Under or Asst Secy. and get what I want settled at once. They also can come to me and very frequently do for instructions. Emergent matters, which are not of infrequent occurrence and which are now seen to and prepared for me by the Asst. Secy, would have if he was not here, to be done by me personally. I am, as it is, much overworked and have more than I can do properly and must most strongly protest against having still more work thrown on my hands merely in order to allow of the Under Secy. in the Irrigation Dept. being ~~allowed~~ ^{permitted} to come up to Ooty. I have ~~nothing~~ nothing to do with the Rev. Dept. It is not under me in any way. ^{the} views expressed by Col: Campbell in para 2 of his note are to be accepted, then the Asst. Secy. who has only Local and Municipal work should sign only papers belonging to that dept and both the other two Under Secretaries should either go down to Madras in order that the papers appertaining to the depts. in which they work should be signed by them, or the papers should all come up for signature. ^{here} Comment upon this seems unnecessary.

As regards what is said in.

para 3 of the note I am not aware of the source of the information upon which Col: Campbell ~~has~~ bases his opinion, nor am I aware that he has the slightest knowledge, personal or derived, of the work which the Asst. Secy. has to do, or as to the necessity or otherwise for the presence of this officer with the Secy. to whom he is subordinate. I on the other hand can claim to have a very long experience in the Secretariat and I adhere to the opinion which I have all along expressed. It appears to me that there is an impression on the part of the Joint Secy: to Govt. and other officers of the P.W.D. that the Civilian head of the Secretariat is doing his best to give the benefit of coming to Ootacamund to the Civilians to the exclusion of others who might fairly look to come there also. This I wish most distinctly and emphatically to repudiate. The attitude which I have taken is one based on a much longer knowledge of what is required than is possessed by Col. Campbell or for that matter any other officer in the Secretariat and if I could honestly say that the Asst. Secy's being in Madras would not be prejudicial to the work of a very large dept. I would not for a moment seek to prevent his being kept there, nor would I object to his signing papers for the absent officers of the P.W.D. ~~for these any other off-
icer~~

SIGNING at MADRAS

Recd. July 23. 1896.

E. I. Form No. 22-2,000-21-4-93.

GOVT.
OF MADRAS. }

1896.

P. W.
DEPT.

CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION.

Ootacamund
Madras, 6. July 1896.

Recd 7
OFFICE NOTE No.

Circulation Register.

To	From	Despatch Date.	Receipt Date.
<i>W</i>	<i>I</i>		

KEEP-WITH.

No. , dated 189 .

Colonel Pennycook's statement that the work of the Under Secretary in the Irrigation Branch was more of a technical character and that his communications with his chief was almost entirely in writing was made without reference to me, or I could have informed him otherwise. Many points arise in the disposal of papers which require personal consultation on technical matters, and the necessity of the presence of my Under Secretary where I am, is, I consider, quite as necessary as it can be in the case of any of the Under Secretaries under Chief Secretary. The fact that I occasionally leave Ootacamund

town during my residence there would strengthen the arguments in favor of my Under Secretary being at Ootacamund during my absence to attend to urgent requisitions and afford information in emergent questions.

The fact that the finances of the country are a gain by the transfer of a P.W.D. Under Secretary to Ootacamund, and that no such pecuniary advantage is derivable from a transfer of a member of the Indian Civil Service from which the Under Secretaries under the Chief Secretary are taken is another argument in favor of the procedure that it is now proposed should be followed in the future.

Colonel Pennycook, it appears from his note, when Mr. Ashpitel came up to Ootacamund, considered that each Department should make its own arrangements for signing its own papers, a conclusion, which, I consider, was at once just and equitable.

Ames

I don't in the least follow this

MS
14/7/96

No. 606 D

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

Ootacamund,

4th July 1896.

OFFICE NOTE.

From

R

To

W

As I was unavoidably absent from Ooty, when the subject of my office note to you, dated 5th May 1896, was discussed in Council, I think it may be worth while to record for His Excellency's information a few further remarks which I should have made had I been present.

2. I am not aware of there being anything on record, but I am assured by my ~~two~~ ^{deputy} that my predecessor Mr. Upstone was very strongly opposed to the system of signing papers for other departments and ~~that~~ ^{that} he declined to allow Mr. Fowler to be gazetted as "Under Secretary" until it was clearly understood that he should have no signing to do for other departments. I am assured that

There must surely be some mistake here. Mr. Fowler was not any other member of the P.W.D. but was a member of the Indian Civil Service. Such an appointment would be a serious mistake.

inter-views.

interviewed H.L. Lord Glenlock on the subject and that Lord Glenlock approved of his action.

If Mr. Upcott returns to India at the expiration of his leave (21. 8. 96) it will be easy to ascertain from him what occurred, but at any rate the fact remains that the Under Secretary, Railway, signed no papers last year for any of the Civil Departments, and that for a considerable period there was no other Under Secretary in Madras to sign them so presumably they must have either been sent to Ooty or must have been signed by some one who was not an Under Secretary.

4. What can be done once, can surely be done again.

5. It has been said that much delay and expenditure is caused by papers having to be sent back to Ooty for signature. Now, as regards delay, I suppose everybody will admit that Secretariat delays are proverbial all over the world, and that in most cases, where a paper has been a fortnight (or probably more) in getting disposed of, a further delay of two days at most, in sending it to Ooty for signature and despatch, is not of very much consequence. Of course

course there are papers of such urgency that every day, or even hour is of importance, but such would probably be disposed of entirely in Ooty without sending them to Madras at all, and if not, no one would seriously object to a "few urgent papers" being signed by any Under Secretary who ^{happened} ~~is supposed~~ to be in Madras at the time.

6. But what I principally object to is the enormous quantity of papers, which are neither urgent nor important, which are daily sent for signature to the Under Secretary left in Madras. The bulk of those that are in M/S could easily be sent to Ooty for signature without causing very serious delay or extra expense and a large proportion of the printed ones could have the signatures printed too. In fact the bulk of these no doubt have all the signatures printed on them, except that of the forwarding docket, and surely that might be signed "by order" by a responsible clerk and would be much better so signed than by an Under Secretary.

Who knows nothing whatever about the subject and has been ruled to be quite irresponsible in the matter

7. I have recently sent to the Chief Secretary a sample of a class of document which I maintain had no business to be laid before my Under Secretary for signature, viz a post card reminding a Municipality for the submission of certain returns. Apparently the form was originally intended to be signed by a clerk, for it has the words "by order" printed on it and struck out by the pen, and I am assured that it is not uncommon for as many as 80 of such cards to be sent up for signature in one day. I need hardly say that I utterly object to the time and energy of my Under Secretary being wasted by signing such documents and I would suggest that if the Secretary of the Local and Municipal Department cannot trust his head clerk to sign them, then they might be sent up to only to be signed by his own Under Secretary. The expenditure would not be great, for their weight is inconsiderable

inconsiderable, and the delay is not likely to be of great importance. Moreover what I say about these post cards would doubtless apply to many other classes of documents which the Under Secretary P.W.D is expected to sign for the Civil Departments.

8. Another point is about the irresponsibility of the Under Secretary's signature, which appears to me to be both anomalous and objectionable in principle. I cannot answer for other people, but certainly I myself should strongly object to anything issuing from my office unless signed by a person, whom I could hold responsible either for the matter of the document or else at least for satisfying himself that the matter is in accordance with the order of a responsible person. This can be done either by comparing it with the original draft, or else by seeing from known initials that it has been so compared by a responsible clerk. Without such safeguard I should object to anything issuing from my own office. But there are no ~~such~~ ^{such} safeguards in the case of the documents signed

that the Under Secretary

signed by the Under Secretary for the Civil Department. The papers sent up are simply signed blindly, because they are sent up; and the quantity is so great that without great expenditure of time and neglect of his own work it would be impossible for the Under Secretary to take any steps towards satisfying himself that he is right in signing. Many of these documents relate to judicial matters, e.g., sentences, reprieves se and who is to be sure that orders which are not intended by proper authority, could not be put up by interested persons and issued in this blind fashion?

9. It is said that there is a Govt order which prescribes that all official documents emanating from Govt must be signed by a Secretary or an Under Secretary. I have not seen this order, but presume that its object must be to ensure that documents shall not be issued without a clear responsibility being attached for their issue. If so, all I can say is that the signature of documents by a person who cannot be held

23
in fact has been definitely stated to be irresponsible) is a distinct evasion of the intention of the Govt order referred to.

10. What I recommend is that each department should make its own arrangements for the execution of its own work, and that while each department should be expected to do the bulk of its own work, there need be no particular objection to its seeking the help of another department, within reasonable limits, e.g. of getting "a few urgent papers" signed by an Under Secretary of another department who happened to be conveniently situated for so doing; and was able to do so, and to be responsible for doing so, without detriment to his own work.

11. But I do not consider it fair to keep an Under Secretary of ~~one~~ ^{one} department down through the hot weather in Madras in order to do the work of the Under Secretaries of other Departments who are allowed to spend the whole

that the Under Secretary

whole season in ooty. At least let such take turn and turn about.

(20) C. D. H.

2.7.96.

E. S. M.

In consideration of the question of which
Officers should remain in Madras and which
Officers should go to the Hills when the
Govt. goes to the Hills, — the exigencies
of the Public Service, and not personal
inclination or interest, should form the
governing principle. ~~Whereas~~ In the
arrangement which exists at present, the
action of the Chief Secretary has been
governed by what he believes to be the
interests of the Service. ~~Admittedly~~

~~It is~~ I cannot allow that any injustice
has been done to this Point. [Not even
I permit to pass unchallenged the Chief
Engineer's expression of opinion that as
"Department should be made to do its
own work", if he means to imply that
one Department should not
be called upon to help another Department,
it is not correct. Such work should

Public Works Dept.
Note for His Ex. the Governor.

I am very sorry
that the Chief Secretary
should have accused me
of making statements without
testing their accuracy as
it necessitates my answering
his note and I had hoped
that all discussion on this
troublesome subject was over.
Mr. Price is well aware that
discussions in Council are
not in record but I feel
certain that no Member
who was present on the
5th June will deny
that the Honble Mr. Bhis
said to me to the following
effect "You are the first to
raise the question and try
get a system that has been
in force for years altered."

That the Under Secretary

Therefore for you to propose
what should be done" and
his Excellency said "Yes, it is
for you to make proposals" in
words to that effect.

The approval of Lord
Wentworth is not on record but
it seems to me incredible that
such an important change
in the working of the Govt.
Secretariat could have been
^{introduced} ~~introduced~~ for the whole period
the Government was on the
hill (my short experience
of the Secretariat teaches
me that such could not be
the case) ~~without his knowledge~~
and as he did not object it
must be concluded that
he approved. Everything is
on record, for instance,
it is nowhere recorded
that Mr Price gave in and
I not press the question
- Samuel Pennycook was

... All members of the adminis-
tration are members of the same Body,
and unless they all work together for the
general good of the body, one member
helping another does no service. It is
the general welfare of the Body must
rule.]

2. Although, as I have already said, the
Chief Secretary has, in the present arrange-
ment, done what he believes to be the best
in the interests of the Service, the discussion
which has taken place on the question and
which has been marked by some degree of
heat, makes it desirable, I consider, to again
re-examine closely the nature and extent
of the duties discharged by the Under Sec-
retaries now at Ootacamund.

3. The reason that I have received that
the Under Secretary Judicial, and the
Under Secretary Revenue, could not be
left in Madras without very serious in-
convenience to the work of govern-
ment, is, to my mind, confirmed by all
the information I have been able to
gain. But, I do not feel equally sure
that the presence at Ootacamund of

The Asst. Sec. L. & M. Department, is equally
indispensable. I am informed that the work
of this branch of the Department is in
fact carried on in Madras. The reason
given for the presence of the Asst. Sec.
in Ootacamund is that the Chief
Secretary finds it at times desirable
to ask him for information and to
give him oral instructions. To admit
the desirability of this, but I think
that desirability must be outweighed
by the advantage of having the
Asst. Sec. in immediate charge
of his branch of the Dept. at Madras.
I think the Chief Secretary should
give this aspect of the matter
fresh consideration.

^{Office} The establishments of the P. W. D.,
Irrigation and of the P. W. D. Railways,
are in Madras. I am disposed to think
that there is no necessity for the Under
Secretaries of these Departments to
come to Ootacamund with the force.
When their assistance and advice are
required, their attendance at the
Govt. could be easily arranged for.

It will be

to look and

was an old personal friend
of his.

3. For years past it has been
considered in the Department
that it was most unjust that
a Public Works Under Secretary
should be forced to remain
in Madras to sign papers for
other Departments, the Under
Secretaries of which, were
allowed to be at Ootacamund
the whole six months. So long
ago as 1885, when I was
Under Secretary myself, I was
advised to fight the question
but I did not do so as at
that time I did not care to
go to the Hills. When a
system that has been in
force for years is changed it
must be presumed that
there is some reason for
the change and all I said
in my note was to the effect
that it would appear to

that the Under Secretary

the injustice of the system
'ed at last been acknowledged.

4. There is no Under-Secretary
in the P.W. Dept. under 157
years' service, while there is not
one in the Civil Dept. over
20 years' service; and I would
ask any one unconnected with
the latter Department whether
it is just that one of the
former should be forced
to remain in Madras to sign
papers for the latter who are all
permitted to remain at Ooty
for six months.

5. I am very glad that the
Chief Secretary has stated
that no advantage has been
taken of my being new to
office and I hope I may be
excused for having suggested
the possibility of such an
idea, but the fact remains
to last year when Lord
Rock was Governor and
'Panyankh Chief'

5. I have had an opportunity of seeing a good
deal of the work of the general branch of the
P.W.D. & have been impressed by the
business disposed of in this branch, passing
through my hands. I should not say the work
was heavy. It is impossible for me to estimate
how much of it is done by the Under-Secretary.
I think I know his hand-writing. I cannot say
that I have seen many specimens of it in the
papers which have come before me. Occasionally
see his initials. The Chief Engineer has the
assistance of Mr. Parsons, who, I understand,
is an excellent Officer. ~~Mr. Parsons is~~
~~in charge of the branch~~. I am not
sure, but I should think the Chief Engineer's
work might be done in Madras, under the
supervision of the Under-Secretary, who is also
Deputy Chief Engineer. Urgent papers are
of course less numerous in this branch than
in the Chief Secretary's Dept. The head
of the Dept. should, I apprehend, be able, with
the help of Mr. Parsons, to discharge
all the Secretariat work which falls to him.

Should it be found practicable to adopt the
arrangement which I have sketched, the

Asst. Secretary would sign, in Madras, all
papers issued from the Chief Secretary's
Office; and the P.W.D. Secretaries, those
coming from their Dept. This Asst. Secy
will have perhaps more to do than the
P.W. Under-Secretaries, and the
papers coming from the Revenue Dept.,
might therefore be signed in Madras
by the latter.

7. I do not lose sight of the fact that the
satisfactory discharge of the public business
would be promoted by giving officers some
refreshment and change to the hills, during
the Madras hot season. I think therefore
that, on the understanding that satisfactory
arrangements for carrying out the work by
mutual co-operation are made, — ~~each~~
each of the ^{Secy. or Asst. Secy.} Secretaries, who under
the suggested scheme, would be stationed in
Madras, might in turn be permitted
to repair to the hills, for six weeks
at a time.

8. Please circulate to Members

I agree with H.E., and I hope expressed by General Pennycuik
that the next step will be
to the Secretaries to go and that the Under-Secretaries
shall not be more than two in the hills.

Engineer, not a single paper
was signed by the P.W.
Under-Secretaries for other
Departments and that an
attempt is now made to
upset that arrangement
this year when there is a
new Governor and a new
Chief Engineer.

6. I most distinctly assert
that the fact of there being
only one Chief Clerk under
the Under-Secretary in the
General Branch was made a strong
point of in Council, and
that the Chief Secretary never
mentioned that the case of
the Assistant Secretary, Local
& Municipal Dept., was
worse, as he had actually
no clerks under him.

7. As regards the opinion
expressed by General Pennycuik
that the next step will be
to the Secretaries to go and that the Under-Secretaries
shall not be more than two in the hills.

Sept was not wanted at
Orly I request attention to
the Note from the Chief
Engineer for irrigation herewith
forwarded.

8. I am quite ready to believe
that the work of the Chief
Secretary is very heavy, and
I would be the last to wish
to throw any extra work
on him, but still I do not
see why his work should
be lightened at the expense
of the P.W. Dept., that is, why
an Under Secretary P.W. Dept
should be kept in Madras
to sign papers in order that
his Assistant Secretary
may be in Orly to help him.

9. I have no knowledge of
the work the Assistant Secy.
has to do any more than
the Chief Secretary has knowledge
of the work the Under
P.W. Dept have to

Int. will be left in
Madras as well as the
Asst. Under Secretaries

200
14/7/96
I agree with H.E.

28
15/7/96

do; all I said was that the
Assistant Secretary had not a
single clerk with him at
Orly, and under these circum-
stances, I did not see how
it could be maintained that
it was impossible to spare
his services for work in Madras.
There is an impression on
the part of all Members
of the Department that treat
it as a sort of Cinderella
and keeping an Under
Secretary in Madras to sign
papers for the Civil Dept
is most unjust. Were it
not for this opinion, with which
I agree, I would not have
urged the consideration of
the question so strongly; but
I consider it not only a
Departmental question but
one which affects my authority
in the Department as
desired.

known that last year
Colonel Pennycook got the
system altered, and that
it should be again introduced,
shows on my part a certain
amount of want of influence
with the Government.

10. I enclose a note from
the Joint Secretary Railway
Branch from which it will
be seen that ^{he suggests that} papers need
not be signed in Madras,
and the matter is deserving
of consideration, but if it is
decided that papers must
be signed in Madras, and
that there is no objection
to an officer signing blind-
fold, I would suggest that
the Under Secretary Irrigation
Branch and the Assistant
Secretary Local & Munk Dept
remain three months
in the

otherwise I am strongly
of opinion that each
Department should be made
to do its own work.]

8/7/81

Public Dept.
Public Dept.

CURRENT No. 2306
Public Dept.

Ex 7912 of 18th July 1896

Transferred to the
 Chief Secretary for favour
 of necessary action.

J. W. Russell Clerk
 Secy P. W. D.

N.S.

Re. S. 1011

Regd 18-7-96

Encls - 5.

21. 4. 84. 31 E
 30. 4. 85. 1078 D
 14. 3. 88. 844 W
 14. 1. 93. 131 C
 3. 2. 93. 257 W
 15. 7. 94. 1805 W
 10. 9. 94. 2272 W
 8. 10. 95. 2475 W
 18. 3. 96. 1529 C
 10. 4. 96. 1949 C
 16. 4. 96. 15
 6. 5. 96. 122 D
 7. 5. 96. 128 D
 28. 5. 96. 258 D

FOR ORDERS.

A draft Order with regard to the celebration
 of the An. ^{Ann. of the} Under Secretaries, P.W.D. on the
 occasion during the stay of Govt. on the
 hills is submitted for approval.
 The question at issue having been
 decided it would be improper for
 me to remark upon or reply to Col
 Campbell's note.
 It is upon this point alone that I
 have remained silent.

20
 22/7/96.

Secretariat officers to
remain at Madras

FOR ORDERS.

H.H. The Gov. Secy

Public Dept

ORDER No 849, 210th Aug 189

H.E. the Governor in Council
is pleased to direct that with effect
from next year the following officers of
the Secretariat shall remain on duty at
Madras instead of accompanying Govt. to
Ootacamund:--

The Under Secy. P.W.D. General Branch
" " " " Railway "
" " " " Irrigation "
" Assistant Secy., L. & M. Dept:

2. During the absence of Govt.
from Madras all papers for issue from
Madras in the departments under the Chief
Secy. will be signed by the Asst. Secy.
" for the Chief Secy." and those for
issue from the Rev: department will be
signed by one or other of the Under
Secretaries in the P.W.D. "for the Secy.
to Govt. Rev: Dept:" under arrangements
to be made by the Secy. to Govt. P.W.D.

3. There will however be no
objection to the four officers mentioned
in para. 1 being attached to the head-
quarters of Govt. at Ootacamund for six
weeks each ^{one at a time} ~~in turn~~ should they prefer it
provided that before leaving Madras each
officer makes satisfactory arrangements
to be approved of by the Secy. or Joint
Secy. to whom he is subordinate for the

This will enable them to
arrange among them-
selves "in turn" might
be taken to mean in
the order mentioned in
para. 1

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUIRED. { Order complete. Letter only. Order complete with Letter.

Present to Press.
signature.
Respect in print.

No. 189 DATED

Secretariat officers
to remain at Madras

from orders

22/7/96

30B
20.7.96

26/7/96

To The Rev. depts
The P.W.D. "

Depts
20/8/96

Police Branch "

Intelligence Branch "

Ministry, L. & C. Dept:

H.E. the Governor
an wire

The Secy to Govt. P.W.D.
for favour of counterinit

TO C. No.

GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT

WITH DUTY.

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