

Public (1897) Department.

ORDINARY MS.

G.O., No. 706-7

DATED 4-6-97

INDEXED.

131
7/6/97

[Despatch Abstract.]

Forwarding to the Govt of India a letter received from the President, Madras Provincial Conference of 1897, with the resolutions referred therein

J
7/6/97

Recd. 11/6/97

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
1452/98							

When
1.00-20.7

Public (1897) Department.

CURRENT No. 1792

From

The President, Madras
Provincial Conference 97.

No.

Dated 28-4-97

Received 11
Registered 12 } 5-97

Enclosures - 1

Spare copies. 14 of enclos and 2 of

SUBJECT.

Submitting resolutions passed at the Madras Provincial Conference 97.

So
Look up the index for 1897
with a view to see whether a similar
mention has been made before.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, 1897.

Saturday, the 17th April 1897.

Monday, the 19th April 1897.

11-30 A.M. to 5 P.M. (Both Days.)

RESOLUTIONS.

1. That this Conference desires to approach Her Majesty The Queen-Empress of India on the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Most Beneficent Reign with its heart-felt and Loyal congratulations and expresses its gratitude for the manifold blessings of her rule.

2. That this Conference records its deliberate opinion that the Land Revenue administration has impoverished the ryots of the Presidency; that it is necessary, in the interests both of the Government and of the people, greater fixity, if not permanency of tenure, should be generally accorded; that improvements should be protected by law from taxation; that the existing heavy assessments in some of the newly-settled districts should be reduced, and that no revision for the purpose of enhancing existing settlements shall be made without special legislation.

That this Conference further records its emphatic protest against the disregard which the Government shows to the Mirassidars by designating them as Kudies in the Pattahs.

3. That this Conference presses upon the Government the urgent necessity of redressing the grievances of third-class railway passengers from whom the largest portion of Railway revenue is derived, and desires to express its hope that Government will take effective steps to bring about an early redress of those grievances.

4. That this Conference places on record its firm conviction that the appointment of a native of India as a member of the Executive Council of His Excellency the Governor of Fort St. George is absolutely necessary in the interests of good and efficient administration.

5. That it is necessary in the Administration of Justice that there should be an entire separation of Judicial and Executive functions, and that all Magistrates should be relieved of their revenue duties and placed under the superintendence of the Sessions Judges and the High Court.

6. That this Conference desires to express its heart-felt sympathy with the British Indians in South Africa for the ill-treatment they are subjected to in that country, and hopes that the British Government will soon redress their grievances.

7. That this Conference is emphatically of opinion that no real purpose is served by keeping the District Boards and Municipalities as distinct electoral bodies for electing members to the Legislative Council, and strongly advocates the splitting up of the Presidency into a larger number of Electoral Divisions, and the throwing open of more seats for election to secure a fair and adequate representation of the people in the Legislative Council, and prays

that the non-official members of District Boards and Municipalities may be permitted to vote directly at the meeting for the election of members to the Legislative Council.)

8. While thanking the Government of Madras for their Order, No. 216, Revenue, dated 30th March 1897, passed to mitigate the excessive rigour and short-sighted economy hitherto pursued in their famine policy, this Conference urges that, in order to keep the labourers in health and strength, more liberal wages should be paid, and that in view of the hardship the ryots are subjected to from failure of crops and want of fodder for cattle, that Government be pleased to afford facilities for free grazing, besides granting relief by Tuccavi loans and remissions of revenue to pattadars paying less than Rs. 30 a year to Government.)

9. That in the opinion of this Conference it is desirable to give effect to the provisions of Madras Act V of 1884 by throwing open at least a few seats in the Taluk Boards for election by the people, and to increase the proportion of elected members in the District Boards.

10. That this Conference places on record its entire disapprobation of the present system of financial contract between the Central and the Madras Governments as being detrimental to the interests of this Presidency.

11. That this Conference begs to enter its most emphatic protest against the Annual Exodus of the Madras Government to the Hills; and is constrained to express its regret that the Madras Government should have thought fit to proceed to the Hills at a time when famine is already on the land and pestilence is threatening the people.)

12. That this Conference views with great concern the large increase of retail liquor shops in the Presidency as productive of many evil effects, both moral and physical, to the community, and recommends the more stringent enforcement of the existing laws and an increase in the cost of licenses as remedial measures; and this Conference further urges that the law should be so framed as to apply to liquor obtained by fermentation or distillation alone and the principle of local option already accepted by the Government of India should be at once given effect to. (That this Conference is strongly of opinion that the existing Salt laws are very oppressive to the poorer classes.)

13. That this Conference records its regret that the Government (has not yet taken any steps to protect the religious endowments of this Presidency against malversation,) and considers that early legislation on the subject is indispensable.

14. That this Conference thanks the Government of Madras for the practical recognition it has given to the principle enunciated in the Queen's proclamation (that the Indian subjects of Her Majesty of whatever creed or race may be appointed to any office the duties of which he may be qualified to discharge by the appointment of an Indian as Advocate-General,) and prays that the Secretary of State will be pleased to confirm the principle in filling up the permanent vacancy.

15. That this Conference enters its emphatic protest against the water-cess policy of the Government introducing as it does a disturbing element in taxation, and suggests that (the imposition of the cess be regulated by certain defined principles affording security to the rights of land-holders and of persons investing money in land.)

16. That, having regard to the unsatisfactory character in many respects of the Police Administration of this Presidency, this Conference appeals to the Government of Madras to (take immediate steps to reform its Police Administration by an increase in the salary and the qualifications of the lower grades and their far more careful enlistment and by appointing to higher posts in the service duly qualified natives of the country.)

17. That in the opinion of this Conference the existing forest laws and regulations are working great hardship on the ryots of this Presidency.

18. That this Conference places on record its deep conviction that the system of (technical education now in vogue is inadequate and unsatisfactory, and prays that, having regard to the poverty of the people and the decline of indigenous industries, the Government will introduce a more elaborate scheme of technical instruction and set apart more funds for the better and more successful working of the same.)

A. N. S. S. S.
M. N. S. S.
Secretaries.

C. S. S. S.
President, Provincial Conference.

The Madras Mahajana Sabha,
Mount Road, Madras, 28th April 1897.

From

The Hon'ble Mr. C. Sankara Nair, B.A., B.L.,

PRESIDENT, MADRAS PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE, 1897.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY

TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

OOTACAMUND.

SIR,

I have the honour to submit herewith the Resolutions passed at the Madras Provincial Conference of 1897 for the consideration respectively of His Excellency the Governor in Council of Madras, of His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor-General of India, and of His Lordship the Secretary of State for India.

The Conference met and discussed the propositions at two of its sittings on Saturday the 17th and Monday the 19th April 1897, and it consisted of the Members of the Mahajana Sabha and of about 60 delegates from the Mofussil districts of the Madras Presidency.

Fifteen copies of the Resolutions are sent herewith, and I beg respectfully to request that you will be so good as to place them before His Excellency the Governor in Council and to forward the same to the Government of India and to the Secretary of State for India.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

A. Subramachari
M. Sankaran
Secretaries.

C. Sankara Nair
President, Provincial Conference.

1897
Dept.
Enclos. No.
To
G. No.

C 31/5/97
R 31/5/97

When given

[G.]
25
11-11-06.

Public Dept:

C.No.1792

H. E. THE GOVERNOR.

THE HON'BLE MR. BLISS, C.I.E. ✓

THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E. ✓

SUBJECT.

*Resolutions of the Madras
Provincial Conference of 1897*

FOR ORDERS.

*I should send the res^{ns}
on without remark*

BS 26/5/97

28/5/97

The President of the Madras Provincial Conference submits resolutions ~~discussed and passed~~ at two of its sittings in April last for the consideration of

- (1) this Govt.
- the* (2) Govt. of India
- and *the* (3) Secy. of State.

Of these Public is concerned with resolutions 4, 6, 11 and 13, the others being for Revenue, P.W.D. (Ry.), Judicial, Legislative, Local and Municipal, Financial and Educational.

2. Resolution No.4 places on record the firm conviction of the Conference that the appointment of a Native of India as ^a Member of the Executive Council of H.E. the Governor of Port St: George is absolutely necessary in the interests of good and efficient administration.

This needs no comment. The appointment does not rest with this Govt. but

with

*CR/5/97
R 31/5/97*

residence
against

abstract put up flagged

18

Educational

departments respectively, for disposal;
and ~~unforwarded~~ ^{that} copies of the resolutions
and covering letter ~~to~~ ^{may be forwarded} the Govt. of Ind.
and the Secy. of State without remark.

CW. AK.
21-5-97

19.5.97

9.7.0

Papers to be read in proceedings:—

When given for
When copied
When ex
When

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Current No.

1792

of 1897, dated

28/4, from

The President Madras
Provincial Conference

" "

" 189 , "

" "

" "

" 189 , "

" "

C.S.

ORDER.

W. 706 of 4th June 97

The Resolutions
will be forwarded
from order

C.W.
3/6/97

To The President, Madras
Prov. Conference } 2.

Letter W. 707 of 4th June 97
she be to the foot of the
Home DE,

Sir

With ref to W. 706 of 4th June 97,
letter W. 707 of 4th June 97, Home DE,
Published 30.4.97, I am
directed to forward
copy of a letter received
from the President,
— Madras Provincial
Conference of 1897
and the Resolution
referred to therein

C.W.
3/6/97

18 / from order
4/6/97

I do not think the heading to the instruction
is unorthodox—But the can be
regarded as a kind of adverb. From
the covering letter it would appear
that it is not intended that
it should be.

The only course appears to be to provide
as suggested in the office note.

The resolutions can hardly be con-
sidered petitions: they are rather
the kind of views and protests with
regard to certain—many of them
may well now be subject to
call for replies.

If answers are to be given each branch
of the Government will have to reply
in separate proceedings

20
20/5/97.

When given for copying 7/6
When copied 7/6
When examined 9/6
When signed 1897

READ AGAIN G.O., No. 139
DATED

CURRENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No.

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT A A A A A A A

LETTER OF GOVERNMENT.

STATEMENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.—

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