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Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

22nd June 1857

Bach no 50 + 51

Order no 8527 / 19th June 1857

(5 sheets)

பாதுகாப்பு பிரிவு-1

செப்பனிடுபவர் பெயர்: [illegible]

செப்பனிடுவதற்காக எடுத்தக்- 07/08
கொள்ளப்பட்ட நாள்.

19/12/08

சரிபார்க்கும் முதல் முதியாள கையொப்பம்	சரிபார்க்கும் 2ம் முதியாள கையொப்பம்	ஆராய்ச்சி உதவியாளர் கையொப்பம்

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 22d June 1858.

No. 50. Read the following letter from F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Civil Auditor; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, in the Revenue Department dated 20th May 1858, No. 59.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation of Government in the Revenue Department dated 14th Instant, in the concluding para. of which I am required to explain without delay under what circumstances certain charges made by the Collector of South Arcot in his Establishment were passed by this office.

2. In reply I beg to state that the abolition of the Translatorship by the Acting Collector of South Arcot first came under the notice of this office, on the 7th November last, when auditing the Revenue Abstract of that District for the month of October. Mr. Taylor was immediately called upon to explain under what authority the alterations in his Establishment had been made, and his reply, copy of which is annexed, being considered unsatisfactory, he was informed that such alterations could be only recognized under the special orders of Government. On the 21st November, Mr. Taylor stated that he had applied on that date for the sanction of Government, and when therefore the Abstracts of that month were submitted for audit, I considered that I was justified in admitting the 30 Rupees out of the Translator's pay allotted to the Printing Press, in anticipation of the orders of Government, which I was in daily expectation of receiving.

3. The arrangement adverted to in the 4th para. of Mr. Taylor's letter I held to be altogether unauthorized, and the sum of Rupees 40 which he stated had been distributed in the Moonshee Department was struck out from the Pay Abstract of that month, and has since been regularly deducted from his abstracts up to the present time. If therefore the Acting Collector has disbursed this sum of Rupees 40, the payment has not received the sanction of this office, but has been made by that officer on his own personal responsibility.

4. The only error therefore, if any, which I have committed has been in passing the 30 Rupees on account of the Printing Press, but looking to the nature of the situations absorbed both in Nellore and Madura for the purpose of creating funds for the Establishment of the Printing Presses in those Districts, I saw no reason to suppose that the sanction of Government would be withheld to the abolition of the Translatorship in Cuddalore, which equally with the Deputy Sherishtadarship in Nellore had been pronounced by the Collector to be an office which might be conveniently dispensed with; and being aware that it was the earnest desire of Government that the Printing Establishments in the several Districts should be placed as speedily as possible on an efficient footing, it seemed to me that I should be scarcely justified in interfering with Mr. Taylor's arrangements. I may also add that I had every reason to expect that the arrangements proposed by the Acting Collector would be brought under the consideration of Government at a much earlier date, and that not more than one, or two months at the furthest would elapse, before I was placed in receipt of the orders confirming or negativing his proposal.

Para. 5. Referring to the remark that the present is not the first instance of unauthorized alteration in Public Establishment which has come before Government within the last few months, I beg to observe that this office does not possess the means of exercising that minute control over the Collector's Establishment which the Government would appear to demand from it. On the substitution of the monthly for the annual audit new forms of salary abstracts were necessarily adopted, as it was unreasonable to expect that the Collectors should furnish monthly the detailed statement, which they had hitherto been wont to submit but once in the year. These forms were taken from those in use in the Bengal and Agra Presidencies, and contain, merely the total amount paid to each department without specification of the manner in which the different amounts are distributed. It is obvious, therefore, that the rates of salary assigned to each individual in the department might be changed by the Collector without detection by this office, provided the total sum drawn for the department accorded with the sanctioned amount. At the foot of each pay bill however the Collector is required to attach a certificate to the effect that the orders of Government in respect of dividing salaries have not been violated, and on this certificate this office has hitherto relied for the due observance of those orders.

with P.C. 26 Jan 59

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6. If the Civil Auditor is now to be held responsible for any charge which may take place in establishments between the 1st of May and 30th April, when the detailed lists are furnished to him, it will be absolutely necessary for his protection that a detailed statement shewing the sum paid monthly to each individual should be submitted for his audit, though the amount of additional labor which will be thrown on the Collector's Establishment in the preparation of this statement, and on the Audit office in checking it, will be excessive. I have no wish to evade this duty, if deemed by the Government necessary, as a few extra hours labor on the part of the Auditors during each week will probably enable them to perform it; but I believe that with the limited and already overburdened establishment allotted to the Collector, the preparation of such a statement will be found impracticable, nor indeed am I disposed to think that any good end would be attained thereby, for if an officer could sign a certificate to the effect that no alteration had been made in this establishment, knowing at the time that such averment was false, it is not likely that he would scruple to make false entries in his detailed statement, which would answer the same purpose.

From G. N. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Collector of South Arcot; to F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Civil Auditor, Fort St. George; dated Cuddalore, 12th November 1857, No. 97.

SIR,

In reference to your letter of the 7th Instant I have the honor to inform you that the alterations in the abstract of my Establishment for last month, to which you allude, are as follows.

2. A deduction of Rupees 22-9-3 was made in the Item of Establishment, under the head "English Department" being the salary of the Translator from the 22nd to the 31st Ultimo, at the rate of 70 Rupees per month. This situation, I have considered it necessary to abolish from that date, in order to carry out the instructions conveyed in Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 21st November 1855, regarding the maintenance of the Printing Establishment, because I found that there was very little to do in that office since the transfer of the executive charge of the Public Works Department, to the District Engineer which took place on the 1st May last.

3. From this amount I have appropriated Rupees 9-10-10 or 30 Rupees per month to the Printing Establishment, in the proportion indicated in the said abstract, by raising the salaries of those who deserved promotion and by entertaining additional hands for the speedy working of the Press which it has become necessary to do since the publication of the South Arcot Gazette.

4. The remaining sum of Rupees 12-14-5 or 40 Rupees per month, was distributed in the Moonshee Department, in the proportion of 25 Rupees and 15 Rupees respectively to two Goomastahs, who were appointed to assist the Head Moonshee in consequence of his having additional work in the Petition and English Departments by the abolition of the Translatorship.

5. I have issued instructions that in future all changes in the Establishment should be particularized by a foot note in the monthly abstract so as to enable you to pass it.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, No. 852; dated 19th June 1858.

The explanation of the Civil Auditor that he passed the appropriation of Rupees 30 from the pay of the Translator of the Collector's Cutcherry of South Arcot for the payment of the Press Establishment in anticipation of the orders of Government is not satisfactory. The practice and rules of the Audit office, the Government believe, allow no such discretion.

2. Paras. 5 and 6 of Mr. Lushington's letter contain matter for consideration in the Financial Department; they will therefore be referred to that Department.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

N 852 A3

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 19th June 1858

Read the following letter from the Civil Auditor (Received 20th May 1858 N 59)

The explanation of the Civil Auditor that he passed the appropriation of Rupees 30 from the pay of the Translator of the Collectors Cutcherry of South Arcot for the payment of the Press Establishment in anticipation of the orders of Government is not satisfactory. The practice and rules of the Audit office, Government believe, allow no such discretion

2 Paras 5 and 6 of Mr Lushingtons letter contain matters for consideration in the Financial Department they will therefore be referred to that Department

W. H. B

1 Copy to the Civil Audr. Dated 21st
3 Copies to Financial Department with Paras 5 & 6 of the Lre

Recvd June 12-8
18-57-58

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24-11-57

3-4
27-11-58

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Reserve 1868 Dft
Dft to Comr. 22 June

No 362
Extract Minp. of Comr.
Dft 19th June 58

Ex Mins Committee Financial
Depth Dft 10th July 58 Chs II 34
in Chs
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Observe that
the explanation of the
Board contains in
respect of certain
unauthorized charges
stated by him in the
accounts of the
Collector of South
Wexford is not satis-
factory

P. 57 6 6 Fiat
Dft
Expd 19 June 58

No 50 867.

12 June RD