M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-32.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

122-123

G.O. No. 1416 Press / Mis.

Dated October 18, 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, from 5th to 21st October 1859.

No. 122. Read the following letter from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; dated Fort William, the 20th September 1859, No. 1886.

I am directed by the Governor General in Council, with reference to Nos. 17 and 18 of the Proceedings of the Government of Madras, in the Revenue Department from 30th July to 5th August, to request that you will, with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council, submit a report explaining more particularly the grounds for the abolition of certain fees heretofore paid to the Curnums, the effect of which measure it appears may be to increase the charges of Government, and I am to request that any further steps which may be thought desirable by the Government of Madras in the matter may not be taken without the knowledge and approval of this Government.

Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

No. 123. From J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq, Secretary to Government, Fort St. George; to the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 18th October 1859, No. 1416.

I am directed to acknowledge your letter of the 20th September, No. 1886, referring to the abolition of certain fees by an order of this Government.

2. I am directed to state in reply that the whole case is set forth in the letter from the Board of Revenue dated July 16th 1859, recorded in the Proceedings quoted in your letter; and this Government is not aware what further facts can be given. The following remarks, however may serve to explain the case. The exaction of fees from weavers, in addition to the Muhtarafa tax levied upon them, as a means of providing for the cost of that tax, is an abuse and an extortion, as stated in the order of this Government in the case; which could hardly have failed to be abolished as soon as brought to notice. The practice of forcing the payers of a tax thus to pay also for the collection of it, is one unrecognized by any financial principle; it is opposed to the usual course followed in the case of the Muhtarafa tax itself, and is unauthorized by law. It originated probably in the order of some former Collectors of Guntúr. The usual course, where the Muhtarafa revenue is large, and the general Revenue Establishment of the village insufficient for its collection, is to allow a per centage from the amount of the tax, as now ordered in the present case.

3. The exaction of any fee at all, above the amount of the authorized tax, is an extortion; but in the particular case which led to the matter being brought before Government, the extra and unauthorized demand amounted to above twelve per cent. on the lawful tax. A large portion of the amount so raised, though imposed nominally for the payment of Karnams, was paid in fact to persons performing no duty at all; while the remainder was employed in paying double the number of Karnams really necessary for the work in the village.

Folio 1 Diff: 19

No 1416

Sec. Govt of India

Home Dept

Sir

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th Sept. last: 1886, referring to the abolition of the certain fees and to request that I am directed to

Govt

2 I am directed to state in reply that the fact mentioned is not found in the letter from the Govt of Ben. dated the 16/9/87, recorded in the Pol. proceedings of the letter, & this Govt is not aware what further facts can be given. The following remarks however, may serve to explain the case. The exaction of fees from bearers,

for the department

in addition to the Mukhtarfa
Tax levied upon them, as a
means of bringing for the
cost of that Tax, is an abuse
& an extortion, as stated in
the order of this Court in the
case of the Municipality of Poona which
the levying of a Tax does to
log also for the collection
of it, is one unnecessary
& any financial principle;
it is opposed to the usual
course followed in the case
of the Mukhtarfa Tax chiefly, & is unauthorized &
it originates solely in the
order of some Collector
of finance. The usual course, when the
Tax is, & the annual Rev. Estab. of the
is to allow a percentage
from the amount of the Tax as
was ordered
as in the present case.
3. The exaction of
any fee at all, above the
amount of the authorized
Tax is an extortion, but
case

could
failed the
soon as col-

Municipality Rev. is
its collection,

a large portion of
as raised, those imposed
nominally for the payment
of Ramans, was paid in
to persons
fact, performing no duty of
all, while the remain-
der was employed in doing
double the number of Ramans
really necessary for
the work in the village.

Surveyor. 18 October
1859.

No. 1886.

From

W. Grey Esquire
Secretary to the Govt of India

To

T. Pycroft Esquire
Chief Secy to the Govt of
Fort St. George

Dated Fort William the 20th Sept. 1859

Home Dept. Sir,

I am directed by the Governor General in Council to refer to Regs 17 and 18 of the Orders of the Court of Directors, in the Revenue Department from 30th July to 5th August, to request that you will with the permission of His Excellency the Governor in Council submit a Report explaining more particularly the grounds for the abolition of certain fees heretofore paid to the Revenue Officers, the effect of which measure it appears may be to increase the charges of Government, and I am to request that any further steps which may be thought desirable by the Government of Madras in the matter may not be taken without the knowledge and approval of this Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obed.t Servant

W. Grey

Secretary to the Govt of India

Revenue 18th Sept.
& No. 3 of Govt 31st October.

No 1116.

To
The Secretary to the
Government of
Madras.
Fort St. George 1859.

Explaining grounds for abolishing certain fees paid to the Revenue Officers.

122—5

1 Oct. 1859

Rec.d Oct.r 8th August 1859
No. 17478

Revenue 1859 Depart.t
Pro.s of Govt. 21st October
No. 1794.
From the Secretary to the
Govt. of India.
Dated 20th September 1859
Rec.d 28.
No. 1116. 18. dated in 1859.
Calling for a report
of the grounds for
abolishing certain
fees paid to the Cur-
rooms and requesting
that further steps in
the matter may not
be taken without
their Knowledge &c.

No 122

C14 1 October 817