M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1601	Press ~~Mis.~~
46-47	
Dated 24 —11 — 1859.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, for the month of November 1859.

No. 46. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department; dated 17th Nov. 1859, No. 4076.

Communicating a letter from the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army with reference to one from Mr. Knox respecting his office being kept in ignorance of the movement of Troops. (Vide Military Proceedings from 11th to 19th November 1859, Nos. 228 to 230.)

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1859, No. 1601.

Ordered that the foregoing proceedings be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From the Collector of Masulipatam.

Bringing to notice a practice that has of late obtained of keeping his Office in ignorance with respect to the arrival of Troops for procuring carriage &c. } Here enter 3rd November 1859, No. 32.

Referred to the Commander-in-Chief.
8th November 1859.

From the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army, Fort Saint George, 14th November 1859, *No.* 424 ; *to the Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department.*

I have the honor, by order of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief to acknowledge the receipt of copy of Mr. Knox's letter dated 3rd instant, complaining that a practice has lately obtained of keeping him in the dark in relation to the movement of Troops, and citing several instances in proof.

2. The Government having in their order dated 8th instant referred the letter for the consideration of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, I am directed in reply to say, that His Excellency is unaware, that any practice has been introduced varying from that which has ever prevailed on this subject.

3. Movements of Troops by sea are not matters that can be fitted to a day. Every effort that foresight can make is made beforehand that they should be so fitted, but every days experience proves that with the ever fluctuating means of transport at the disposal of this Government, it cannot always be done. There is a variety of circumstances beyond the official knowledge of Collectors, that has to be considered in moving Troops by sea or land, of greater consequence than the provision of Carts.

4. Mr. Knox complains that no intimation was given him of the arrival of the 12th Regiment. His Excellency is not aware that any intimation should have been given him—The G. O. ordered the 12th to relieve the 29th. It did so accordingly, the only supply required being boats to land the 12th, and Carts from the town to carry their baggage to the Lines at Masulipatam.

5. Then regarding the Company of Artillery—On the 10th September and 13th October last, I addressed the Officer Commanding Northern Division, on the subject of the expected arrival of the Company from Burmah, my last letter informing him that the Company would probably be at Masulipatam by the end of October. These letters were duly communicated to the Officer Commanding that station. That information should have been sufficient. It is sufficient every where else. The exact number of Carts can no where be stated before the arrival of the Troops, and there is always time after arrival given to collect Carts before the Troops are ordered to move. If Carts were collected, and not used on the date and in the number collected, Government would be liable to a charge of Batta for detention.

6. However as the Company has not arrived to this day, Mr. Knox has been put to no inconvenience.

7. Mr. Knox complains also that such short notice was given him of the intended departure of the 29th Regiment, adding that if a little time were given him for inviting tenders he could supply carriage without pressing the Ryots, and at cheaper rates. The facts are these—The 12th Regiment much to the advantage of the Public service, was dispensed with in Burmah sooner than was contemplated, and as opportunities of return transports presented themselves, the Officer Commanding the Pegu Division, was directed to avail himself of them. Having thus arrived at Masulipatam, the Officer Commanding the Northern Division suggested by Telegraph dated 10th October, that the 29th should march at once. It was accordingly ordered to do so on the 1st November, because that is the date on which the road westward usually opens. Great difficulty having been experienced in getting carriage it was ordered to march when supplied with carriage, thus entirely accommodating the Collector, and as the 15th instant was reported to be the date when they might march, they will do so if the weather permits.

8. After a great deal of trouble to relieve the alleged pressure upon the people supplying the Carts by arranging that they should be relieved at Secunderabad by those brought by the

32d Regiment, it was telegraphed that the relief was unnecessary, the Contractor wished the Carts to go the whole distance to Kamptee, apparently shewing that the difficulty was exaggerated, and that the Ryots were not pressed by the Collector.

9. I have thus by desire of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, detailed at some length the circumstances referred to by Mr. Knox, in order that Government may be the better able to weigh the value of Mr. Knox's statements. To His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief they appear to have been made unnecessarily.

10. There is not a Corps in the service that is ordered to march in course of ordinary relief, that is not made acquainted with the probable date of its movement for weeks and months before the event. But events are not tied to any Programme of relief, and it must therefore occasionally happen that the most judicious arrangements must fail of success, and that inconvenience not only to Cart owners, but to much larger interests must ensue.

ORDER, No. 4076, 17*th November* 1859.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Deputy Quarter Master General of the Army be communicated to the Public Department.

(True Extract.)

A Marshall Sgl
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Public Department.
„ Revenue Department, for information. With 5 spare copies.

Exd. J. E. Cashart.

Revenue 1859 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. 30th Nov.

No. 2140

Proceedings of the
Madras Govt. in the
Military Department.

Dated 17th November
Rd. 22nd 1859.

Communicating a
letter from the Dep.
Quarter Master Genl. of
the Army with reference
to one from Gn. Knox
respecting his office
being kept in ignorance
of the movement of
Troops.

No. 1601.

Recorded.

24th Nov. 1859.

No. 46 & 47.