

Madras Record Office.

Government of Madras.

Revenue Department.

G. O. No. 545.

Dated. 19. 4. 1859

Not to be folded or handled roughly

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 19th April 1859.

No. 39. Read the following letter from J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue ; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government dated, 11th April 1859, No. 1277.

SIR,

As the Board of Revenue have observed that their Proceedings are not apparently laid upon the Editor's table together with the orders of Government in which they are reviewed, and some disadvantages seem to follow this course, I am instructed by the Board to bring the subject under the consideration of Government.

2. The Board are far from presuming to interfere with that authority and exercise of judgment which belong to the Government, or from wishing that their Proceedings should be published when any public inconvenience or disadvantage would be thereby occasioned. They are only led to bring the subject forward from the occurrence of some recent instances in which it appears to have escaped the notice of Government, that questions which were considered to have a general interest and importance, would have been laid before the public more fully as well as in a manner more satisfactory to the Board if the Proceedings of the Board had been placed upon the Editor's table as well as the orders of Government which were passed upon them.

*Extract Minutes Consultation 2d
March 1859, No. 265.*

*Extract Minutes Consultation 28th
February 1859, No. 256.*

3. The Board may here instance as of very recent occurrence the order of Government regarding the closing of talook offices in the Provinces on Sunday, and the review passed by Government on the Board's report on the working of the new village accounts. In the former case had their Proceedings and the Minute of their dissentient member been made as public as the Government order, much misapprehension would have been avoided, and in

the latter instance, it appears to the Board that they, the advisers of Government on revenue matters, have been placed in an unbecoming position by para. 22 of the Government order being published without their Proceedings, since their subordinates in the Provinces and the general public have thus been led to suppose that they had proposed something so unsuitable to the new system of accounts, that Government deemed it necessary to place them under the guidance of their own servant Jeyram Chetty. Had the Board's Proceedings been also published such an impression would have been prevented. The Collectors in the Provinces would then have seen from the instances given in para. 33 that the Board were only providing for some omissions in the forms of account which *must* be supplied in those Districts *where special items of taxation exist*. They would also have perceived that instead of the Board being dependent on Jeyram Chetty's aid they had been correcting imperfections in that system of accounts which he had drawn out previous to his employment in their office. Of Jeyram Chetty the Board had so favorable an opinion that they appointed him their Head Sheristadar, but it cannot conduce to their authority or usefulness for it to be supposed in any quarter that the Board cannot deal with such a subject as that of Village accounts without his aid, and the Board would feel little fitted for the important duties entrusted to them if this were the case.

4. It would also be an advantage to the officers in the Provinces and probably to others not in the service, to see the full discussion of interesting questions, as they would do when the Press published the entire series of papers laid on the Editor's table. The Board are fully alive to the advantage and convenience of furnishing official papers to the Press, but they cannot but submit that when strictures or criticisms on their Proceedings are published in the Newspapers, it would be but fair to let the public see the Proceedings which were under review.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, No. 545 ; dated 15th April 1859.

The Government fully agree with the Board that when an order of Government is laid on the Editors' table the papers on which it is founded should as a general rule be laid there also. Of the two cases mentioned by the Board, that of the Sunday question has already formed matter of correspondence and need not be re-opened. In that of the Village accounts, the Board's

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 19th April 1859.

Proceedings appear as far as the Government can ascertain, to have been really laid on the table, though apparently not noticed by the press. As respects the Officers in the Provinces, however, the Board's Proceedings have been communicated to them.

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

Read the following letter

Revenue B. Office,
Fort St. George,
11th April 1859.

N^o 1277

From,

J. D. Sim Esq.

Secretary to the Board of Revenue.

To,

J. Pycroft Esq.

Chief Secretary to Government.

Sir,

Dated, 11th April 1859, as above.
As the Board of Revenue have observed that their Proceedings are not apparently laid upon the Editors' table together with the orders of Government in which they are reviewed, and some disadvantages seem to follow this course, I am instructed by the Board to bring the subject under the consideration of Government.
2. The Board are far from presuming to interfere with that authority and exercise of judgment which belong to the Government, or from wishing that their Proceedings should be published when any public inconvenience or disadvantage would be thereby occasioned.

They

They are only led to bring the subject forward from the occurrence of some recent instances in which it appears to have escaped the notice of Government, that questions which were considered to have a general interest and importance, would have been laid before the public more fully as well as in a manner more satisfactory to the Board, if the Proceedings of the Board had been placed upon the Editors' table as well as the orders of Government which were passed upon them.

3. The Board may here instance as of very recent occurrence the order of Government regarding the closing of Talook offices in the Provinces on Sunday, and the review passed by Government on the Board's report on the working of the new Village accounts. In the former case had their Proceedings and the Minute of their dissentient Member been made as public as the Government order, much misapprehension would have been avoided, and in the latter instance, it appears to the Board that they, the advisers of Government on revenue matters, have been placed in an inbecoming position

Extract Minutes
Comm. 2^d March 1859
N^o 203.

Extract Minutes
Comm. 2^d March
1859 N^o 203.

position by Para 22 of the Government order being published without their Proceedings, since their subordinates in the Provinces and the general public have thus been led to suppose that they had proposed something so unsuitable to the new system of accounts, that Government deemed it necessary to place them under the guidance of their own servant Seyram Chetty. Had the Board's Proceedings been also published such an impression would have been prevented. The Collectors in the Provinces would then have seen from the instances given in Para 33 that the Board were only providing for some omissions in the Forms of account which must be supplied in those Districts where special items of taxation exist. They would also have perceived that instead of the Board being dependent on Seyram Chetty's aid they had been correcting imperfections in that system of accounts which he had drawn out previous to his employment in their office. Of Seyram Chetty the Board had so favorable an opinion

opinion that they appointed him their
Head Sheristadar, but it cannot conduce
to their authority or usefulness for it to
be supposed in any quarter that the Board
cannot deal with such a subject as that
of Village accounts without his aid, and
the Board would feel little fitted for the
important duties entrusted to them if
this were the case.

4. It would also be an advant-
age to the Officers in the Provinces and
probably to others not in the service to
see the full discussion of interesting ques-
tions, as they would do when the Press
published the entire series of papers
laid on the Editors' table. The Board
are fully alive to the advantage and
convenience of furnishing official papers
to the Press, but they cannot but submit
that when strictures or criticisms on their
Proceedings are published in the News-
papers, it would be but fair to let the
public see the Proceedings which were
under review.

Revenue B^d Office,

Fort St. George.

11th April 1859.

File.

I have the honor to be,

your most obedient servant.

J. P. S. Esq.

Joint Secretary to Govt.

Revenue Dept

N^o 545

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 15th April 1859

Recd the following
letter from the Secretary
to the Board of Revenue

(Here entered 11th April 1859

N^o 1277)

The Government
fully agree with the
Board that when an
order of Government
is laid on the Editor's
table the papers on
which it is founded
should as a general
rule be laid there also.
Of the two cases men-
tioned that of the
Sunday question has
already formed matter

[Handwritten initials and marks]

Revenue 18th 3rd Report
Johannesburg 1859

From

The Secretary to the
Board of Revenue

To The Chief Secretary to
Government

Dated 11th 3rd April 1859

No 1277.
No 645:16 4th April 1859.

Bringing under
the consideration of
Govt the expediency
of laying on the Editor's
table such of the Board's
proceedings as form the
subjects of review in
the orders of Government
that are thus exposed
for the information
of the public.

13th April 1859

1859

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, mostly illegible]

of correspondence &
need not be reopened,
In that of the village
accounts the Board's
Proceedings appear
as far as the Govt.
can ascertain, to have
been really laid on
the table, though ap-
parently not noticed
by ^{the} Pres. As respects
the ~~2~~ Officers in the
Provinces, however,
~~it is to be remarked~~
~~that a copy of the Board's~~
Proceedings have ~~been~~
been communicated to
them.

JH

Copies to Bd of Rev.
Dis 16

note - as far as I
can make out the
Bd of Prov. were ac-
tually laid on the
table; but none of
the units concerned
can say positively whether
they were or not, as
no separate list of books
laid on the table has
hitherto been kept.
It will be done here
- after -

Received 1859 Dec 11th
D^o to Cash 17th April 1860

No 545.

Contract with of Cons.
27th 1859 2nd April 1859.

Concurring with the D^o that when an order of Cash is laid on the Cons. table the system on which it is founded, should as a general rule be also laid there.

No 39 & 40.