M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 895 Press / Mis.

Dated 8th July 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 45. Read the following letter from W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Sub-Secretary to the Board of Revenue; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government R. D., dated 18th June 1859, No. 2328.

In Con. 8th June 1859, No. 2659.
In Con. 19th April 1859, No. 1784.

With reference to the Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 6th instant, R. D., No. 753, drawing the Board's attention to the fact that their Circular of 18th May last giving instructions to Collectors of Districts regarding the issue of Almanacs from their District presses is at variance with the intention of Government in their order of 18th April last, R. D., No. 547, which with reference to the Salem Almanac declared that such a publication "does not form legitimate material for a District Gazette" as a Supplement to which it had been published, I am directed by the Board to state that it never occurred to them to view this expression of opinion, in which they entirely concurred, as a prohibition against the issue of Almanacs in any form whatever from District presses, in which light however it now appears that Government desired it to be considered, and they would respectfully solicit re-consideration of the subject by Government.

2. They direct me especially to point out that in* the report on the working of the North Arcot press submitted by them to Government with their Proceedings of the 1st February 1855, the results and argument stated in which, the Board believe, had considerable influence on the extension of printing to all the districts, as much stress is laid on the benefits likely to result from the establishment of District Almanacs as from that of District Gazettes, and the Board think that the former are likely to obtain even a more extended circulation than the latter, for they believe a good and locally useful Almanac to be one of the few books that any native would buy ungrudgingly.

* *Para. 14, dated 17th Jan. in Con. 1st Feb. 1855.*
Board's Circular Order Book for 1855, page 26.

3. The Board readily admit that the publication of one containing such varied information as they propose in their Circular Order objected to by Government is not absolutely required for the purposes of the public service, and might therefore, however beneficial it seemed likely to prove, be left with propriety to private enterprise, were such likely to undertake it, but it must be borne in mind that the circumstances of the different parts of this Presidency vary as greatly as those of the different Presidencies themselves, that the coast districts need information comparatively useless to those not on the sea border and in like manner the "Ryotwari" districts call for that which might mislead the Ryots under the Zemindary settlement, while the differing languages add a further obstacle which in combination with others would probably prevent any such universal publication by private speculators.

4. These objections would present but little difficulty to the Collectors of the several districts, but if on the score of expense Government still object to a separate Almanac for each district, the districts might perhaps be grouped in such a manner as to preserve most of the advantages of the publication, while reduction could be effected in the total cost.

No. 46. ORDER THEREON, 7th July 1859, No. 895.

The Government do not desire to prohibit the issue of District Almanacs in the form originally intended. What they took exception to in their order dated 19th April 1859, No. 547, was the form and contents of the Calendar issued by the Collector of Salem; and the Board's Circular dated 18th May 1859, No. 1817, not having been sent to that district, and much stress having been laid in para. 2 of the Circular, on the importance of the Calendar portion of the Almanac, the Government were led to believe that the Board had overlooked their order above alluded to.

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

Rev. Dept.

No. 895

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 7th July 1859

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

(Here enter 18th June 1859
No. 2328)

The Government
do not desire to prohi-
-bit the issue of Dis-
-trict Almanacs in
the form originally
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their order dated 19th
April

Revenue 1859 Sept. 10.
Pro: of Govt. 8th July.

No. 895.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy. 7th July 1859.

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10-8-59

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19-4-59

Intimating that Govt. do not desire to prohibit the issue of District Almanacs in the form originally intended but that they were led to believe that their order of 19th April 1859 No. 517 had been overlooked by the Board.

No. 45 & 46.

28 June — 16 July