

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 570

Press
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79-80

Dated

5 - 4 - 1860 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
for the month of April 1860.*

No. 79. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Mufassil Police, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Mangalore, 17th March 1860 :—

With reference to Order of Government of 15th February, No. 233, notifying the resolution of Government that *Village Fees* are in future to be taken as the basis of the wages of village Police; and that the *Indan land* is to be treated as supplementary and to be continued only so far as is required to make up a certain standard rate of emolument, I have the honor to request the attention of Government to the absolute necessity of immediate legislation in order to place this extremely uncertain and varying portion of the wages of the Village Police on a sure footing.

2. These Fees, of all kinds, are the ancient customary cesses of the country paid by the people for the support of their public institutions, and they should be most rigorously maintained and enforced by the Law. But their actual condition and prospects are in a most unsatisfactory state, and the provision of the Law in regard to them is most uncertain. The rates and character of these Fees have not every where been sufficiently ascertained; while the utmost uncertainty and irregularity prevail throughout the country in regard to their payment. In some Districts they are absolutely and entirely withheld from their proper recipients, and in no single village of the whole Presidency are they fully and promptly paid by all the Lawful contributors; but it seems more than doubtful whether, as the Law now stands, they can be enforced. It is wholly impossible to continue the collection in the manner hitherto practised. This uncertainty and those complications are naturally on the increase, and the Superintendents of Police, North and South Arcot, have already reported that the village watchers almost universally fail to collect their wages, as the Raiyats refuse to contribute their immemorial Fees.

3. I beg to recommend that the present occasion of re-constituting the Police of the Presidency be taken advantage of to obtain from the Legislature a short Enactment framed in the spirit of Regulation I of 1816, to secure the Police Fees of the country and to facilitate their collection.

No. 80. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1860, No. 540.

In an Order of this date the Government have instructed the Board of Revenue to insert in the new Revenue Code a provision for empowering the collection of the Fees of Village servants in the Revenue and Public Works Departments. They will leave it to the Board to consider whether that course or the one recommended in this letter is the preferable one; but whichever course is adopted, it is the desire of the Government that no delay should occur in the matter.

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

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3. They to recommend that the present occasion of reconstituting the Police of the Presidency be taken advantage of to obtain from the Legislature a short enactment framed in the spirit of Regulation of 1816 to secure the Police fees of the country and to facilitate their collection.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most Obedt. Servt.

W. Wilson

Inspector General
of Madras Police

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