

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 734

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1862

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd April 1862.*

No. 40. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department, dated 8th March 1862, No. 308 :—

Read the following letter from W. GREY, Esq., Secretary to the Government of India, (Home Department); to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 31st January 1862, No. 828.

SIR,

1. I am directed to transmit for information and guidance the accompanying copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, No. 145, dated the 16th ultimo, prescribing restrictions with regard to the communication of official papers to private persons in this country, as well as with regard to their transmission to private persons in England.

2. The following points, it will be observed, are those to which attention is specially enjoined :—

(I). That no official papers are to be sent to individuals or public bodies in England, except through the India Office in London.

(II). That official papers are not to be communicated to private persons in India, until they shall have been forwarded to the Secretary of State.

(III). That a copy of every paper printed for publication, or circulation, beyond the Officers of Government, is to be sent to the Secretary of State by the first opportunity after it leaves the Press.

From the Right Honorable Sir CHARLES WOOD, Bart., M. P., Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, (Public); to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, the 16th December 1861, No. 145.

SIR,

I beg to draw the attention of your Lordship in Council to the extracts in the margin,

"I would observe that copies of this translation were sent to the persons to whom copies of printed official documents about the Indigo crisis had been sent."

"Numerous copies had been sent, as if by the authority of the Government of Bengal, to Members of Parliament and public bodies in England, to some parties at a distance in this country, and to the amount of no less than twenty copies to the Office of the Secretary of State in London."

the first from the letter of Mr. Seton-Karr to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 29th July last, and the second from the Resolution of your Lordship in Council of the 8th August following, on the subject of the transmission of official documents to public bodies and individuals in this country and elsewhere, by the public authorities in India.

2. I am aware that it has for some time been the practice in India to give early publicity to official papers of importance; and, although the practice has in some instances led to the circulation in this country of the proceedings of the Governments in India before they have been transmitted for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, the publication of such documents may sometimes be highly expedient, provided the time and manner of such publication be reserved for the decision of Government, subject to any restrictions which Her Majesty's Government may from time to time think it necessary to impose.

3. It can seldom, however, be necessary or desirable on public grounds, that official papers should be transmitted, under official sanction, to individuals or public bodies in this country; and, taking into consideration the mischief and embarrassment which have occurred from the circulation of the "Nil Durpan," ostensibly, though not in reality, under the sanction of the Bengal Government, I have to request that you will at once issue orders which will put a stop to direct communications of this nature, and that in any cases where it may be desired by Government to forward public papers to bodies or individuals in this country, the transmission be made through this Office.

4. I have, at the same time, to call your attention to the practice which appears to prevail to some extent in the public Offices in India, of communicating official documents to private individuals in that country. By this means, papers of importance have, from time to time,

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reached this country, and obtained a wide circulation, before they have been officially received at this Office. As a case in point, I may mention that a copy, printed in London, of the report of Mr. Morris on the Indigo Districts was privately placed in my hands, together with an elaborate paper upon it, by the "Landholders' and Commercial Association of British India," a considerable time before the report came to me from the Government of Bengal. Such occurrences are calculated to place Her Majesty's Government in great difficulty and embarrassment. I direct, therefore, that the practice to which I have referred, may be discontinued, and that no copy of a public document, of an official nature, be communicated to private individuals in India, till the same shall have been forwarded for my information. I have further to request that a copy of every paper published for general information, or printed for circulation to other than the Officers of Government, by order of your Excellency in Council, or of any Lieutenant-Governor or Chief Commissioner in India, subordinate to your Government, may be transmitted to me by the first opportunity after leaving the Press.

Communicated to the several Departments of the Secretariat for observance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) T. PYCROFT, *Chief Secretary.*

No. 41.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd April 1862, No. 734.

Ordered to be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

Rev-1862 O'Connell
Ch. of London - 1862
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Proceedings of the
All-England Convention
the British Association

Dated 1862 3 March
Revised 1862 1862.

No. 308.

No. 734 - 3-1862

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