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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

175

Press
Mis.

Dated

26.6.42

1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 361. Read the following endorsement of the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Public Works Department :—

Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, Revenue—Forests, to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay in the Revenue Department, dated Fort William, 5th December 1870, No. 747-F :—

Your letter, No. 4,768, of the 4th October last, has been laid before His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and I am directed to communicate the following observations on the subject to which it relates.

2. The provisions of the Circular of the 1st September last regarding the position of the Inspector-General of Forests, and his powers of correspondence with Conservators, have been adopted after a prolonged and careful consideration of the whole subject by the Government of India. The Circular distinctly states that the Inspector-General will merely occupy the position of an advising and inspecting officer, and that he will have no authority or power in the matter of forest administration. On the other hand, it seems evident that, unless he is permitted to call for information, to offer suggestions, and freely to communicate with Conservators on matters connected with forest management, his advice will be of little value, either to the Government of India, or to the Local Governments.

3. The extent to which the Inspector-General of Forests may avail himself of this permission to call for information and to offer suggestions for the consideration of the Conservators in the Bombay Presidency must be left to circumstances, but the periodical abstracts of correspondence by the Conservators, as suggested in paragraph 7 of the Circular, and the submission, on the other hand, by the Inspector-General of his printed Proceedings, will, at all times, keep the Government of Bombay informed of the correspondence that passes between its officers and the Inspector-General of Forests; further, should His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in Council desire it, the Inspector-General of Forests will be instructed in addition to submit copies of all his official communications to the Conservators in the Bombay Presidency at the time they are made.

4. As it is not intended that the Inspector-General should, under any circumstances, issue orders or instructions to Conservators, it is hoped the Government of Bombay will see that the course proposed cannot in the smallest degree weaken that legitimate authority and responsibility of the Local Government which His Excellency the Governor-General in Council is so desirous to maintain.

No. 748-F.

Copy of the above, and of the letter to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

(Signed) W. A. CROMMELIN, Colonel, R.E.,
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
26th January 1871.*

No. 362.

ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1871, No. 175.

Forests, No. 23.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHAS. MACLEAN,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

No. 4,768 of 1870.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Bombay Castle, 4th October 1870.

From THE HONORABLE F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

To THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
Public Works Department (Revenue, Forests).

SIR,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Circular No. 118, of the 1st instant, regarding the position which it is proposed the Inspector General of Forests should occupy towards the Conservators in this Presidency.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council is strongly opposed to the proposals under which the Inspector General is to have "the right and authority to call for any information, reports, or returns which he may consider requisite; and be at liberty to address all Conservators on any subject relating to Forest Administration." He further considers that the proposal to leave it to the Conservator to decide how far the suggestions he may receive from the Inspector General are compatible with the orders of his own Government would be to place the former officer in an utterly false position.

3. The authority with which it is proposed to invest the Inspector General, under whatever restrictions it may be exercised, must have the effect of weakening the legitimate control and responsibility of the Local Government.

4. Nor does His Excellency in Council consider that any practical benefit would result from an officer like the Inspector General issuing instructions to Conservators at a distance. If there is one branch of revenue administration the efficient conduct of which is more dependent than another on a knowledge of local peculiarities and circumstances, it is the Forest Department. In this Presidency, for instance, a man thoroughly acquainted with the wants and requirements of the Southern Mahratta Country, would, if he were called upon to do so, be liable to issue very injudicious if not mischievous instructions to a Forest Officer in Guzerat. In the opinion of Government there would be far less objection to investing a central authority under the Government of India ~~to interfere in any other branch of the administration, say, for example, land revenue.~~

5. In the case of Sind there were peculiar circumstances connected specially with the requirements of the Indus Valley Railway that rendered it advisable that the Inspector General should have the authority over forest management that the Government of India desired.

6. Under the existing system, the Inspector General has every means of knowing what is being done in the Forest Department of this Presidency. His

Govt. of 1871 34/11/75.

REVENUE.

To

Dated January 26th.

Recd.

G. O. 26th January 1871, No. 173.

JANUARY.

Nos. 361-362.

Inspector-General of Forests corresponding
with Conservators in Bombay Presidency.—
Letter from the Government of India on this
subject, recorded.

1/11/71
2768 A

1100-3968/190

Excellency in Council anticipates that much benefit will result from the tour of inspection that Dr. Brandis has recently made in this Presidency, specially if his representations have the effect of inducing the Government of India to put ministerial establishments on an adequate footing. As a general principle, he considers that where the requirements of any departments have to be considered, it is far better that the enquiry should be undertaken by competent and independent authority. But he cannot consent to any proposals by which the Inspector General is to have the smallest direct voice in administrative details.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

F. S. CHAPMAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 747 F.
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
REVENUE—FORESTS.

To

THE CHIEF SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BOMBAY,
IN THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

FORT WILLIAM, DECEMBER 5, 1870.

SIR,

Your letter No. 4768 of the 4th October last has been laid before His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and I am directed to communicate the following observations on the subject to which it relates.

2. The provisions of the Circular of the 1st September last regarding the position of the Inspector General of Forests, and his powers of correspondence with Conservators, have been adopted after a prolonged and careful consideration of the whole subject by the Government of India. The Circular distinctly states that the Inspector General will merely occupy the position of an advising and inspecting officer, and that he will have no authority or power in the matter of forest administration. On the other hand, it seems evident that, unless he is permitted to call for information, to offer suggestions, and freely to communicate with Conservators on matters connected with forest management, his advice will be of little value, either to the Government of India, or to the Local Governments.

3. The extent to which the Inspector General of Forests may avail himself of this permission to call for information, and to offer suggestions for the consideration of the Conservators in the Bombay Presidency, must be left to circumstances, but the periodical abstracts of correspondence by the Conservators, as suggested in para. 7 of the Circular, and the submission on the other hand by the Inspector General of his printed Proceedings, will at all times keep the Government of Bombay informed of the correspondence that passes between its Officers and the Inspector General of Forests; further should His Excellency the Governor of Bombay in Council desire it, the Inspector General of Forests will be instructed in addition to submit copies of all his official communications to the Conservators in the Bombay Presidency at the time they are made.

4. As it is not intended that the Inspector General should, under any circumstances, issue orders or instructions to Conservators, it is hoped the Government of Bombay will see that the course proposed cannot in the smallest degree, weaken that legitimate authority and responsibility of the Local Government which His Excellency the Governor General in Council is so desirous to maintain.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

W. A. CROMMELIN, *Colonel, R. E.,*

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 748 F.

Copy of the above, and of the letter to which it is a reply, forwarded to the Government of Madras for information.

W. A. Crommelin *Colonel, R. E.,*

Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Recd. 10. 11. 1891

*Revenue 1870. Offt
N. 3968.*

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

REVENUE—FORESTS.

To

THE CHIEF SECY. TO THE GOVT. OF BOMBAY,
IN THE REVENUE DEPT.

No. 747 F.

Dated December 5, 1870.

Received *28. 12. 70.*

6-1.

No. 361

See

Communicates remarks relative to the objections of the Bombay Government to the Inspector General of Forests corresponding with Conservators in that Presidency.

P. W. D. Press—5-12-70—20.

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