Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
14th May 1872.

No. 156. Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of North Arcot, to the Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Vellore, 13th May 1872, No. 16 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt this day of your Service Telegram in which the Government are pleased to censure me in very strong terms for having, as they imagine, " encouraged opposition amongst the Regimental families" here to the wishes of Government in regard to their transfer from hence to Arcot, and in reply to state that the Government have been curiously misinformed in the matter.

2. I beg to assure the Government most positively and distinctly that I have not interfered in the way they at present imagine. I have not conversed nor communicated either directly or indirectly with any officer, whether European or Native connected with the Regimental families, on the subject of their move to Arcot.

3. Captain Mayne informed me late on Friday of the nature of the orders that had been received in regard to those families, and of the dissatisfaction that they were manifesting ; but beyond saying to him a word of regret that the move was so annoying to them, I did nothing further. Yesterday (Sunday 12th) I communicated to you demi-officially what I had been told by Captain Mayne, and *beyond that I have not taken any action whatsoever.* I regret very much that the Government should so hastily have accepted and relied on the extremely inaccurate information that was before them when they instructed you to despatch to me the telegram now under reply, and I venture to hope that, on receipt of this letter, they will be pleased to cancel that message and the censure it contains.

No. 157. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1872, No. 781.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government see no reason to modify the censure conveyed by telegraph to Mr. Whiteside and Captain Mayne.

2. On representations made to them by the Honourable Mr. Ellis as the result of his personal inspection at Vellore, in company with the Sanitary Commissioner, after the inundation, the Government resolved in G. O., 10th May 1872, No. 1,551, Military Department, on removing the families of the 14th and 27th Regiments from the Vellore Mahals, into which they were crowded on the destruction of their lines by flood, to the Government buildings at Arcot; and Mr. Whiteside was instructed to afford all the assistance in his power to accelerate the move which, on sanitary grounds, was deemed so emergently necessary. Captain Mayne appears, from Mr. Whiteside's demi-official note of 12th, to have been aware of these orders, and to have informed Mr. Whiteside that the families were raising " the strongest objections" to being removed. The several points connected with the proposed removal of the families had been fully discussed with the Military authorities at Vellore by the Honourable Mr. Ellis, and, after careful reflection, it had been deemed absolutely necessary, on the score of the health of the place, and especially of the troops and the families in the Mahals, to give effect to the proposal ; but instead of endeavouring to convince the families of the importance to themselves of the trans-

fer, Mr. Whiteside, according to his own Note, "*requested Captain Mayne to ascertain distinctly from the families*" whether they were prepared to make other arrangements for themselves, being the very course most adapted to encourage these women in objections to a measure which the Government considered in the highest degree expedient. Mr. Whiteside could scarcely have adopted a course more calculated to defeat the intentions of Government. The result is shown by the communications addressed by Captain Mayne on 13th instant to the Superintendent of Family Payments at Madras.

3. The Government observe that this complication is probably mainly due to Mr. Whiteside's habitual substitution of demi-official for official communications on important subjects, which has been exemplified in other cases; and in the present instance they note that, although the disastrous floods occurred at Vellore on the 2nd instant, they have not up to this moment received any official report whatever on the subject from the district officers, save Mr. Kelsall's brief letter of the 3rd May.

4. They desire that Mr. Whiteside will understand that demi-official correspondence should be restricted to matters which it is not desirable or necessary to place on public record, or to the elucidation of details which do not require to be so recorded; and they request that he will abstain from communicating in this form with the Secretaries to Government when the subject-matter should be reported or discussed officially.

5. In further illustration of the extreme inconvenience of the opposite course the Government observe that the one good reason why the families might urge their remaining at Vellore, namely, the existence of special means of employment there as rice-pounders in the pay of the merchants, is before them only in Mr. Whiteside's demi-official note of 14th instant.

6. The Government desire that Mr. Whiteside will at once submit a full report of all the circumstances attending the late cyclone in the North Arcot District.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Officiating Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Collector of North Arcot.
,, the Military Department.

Exd. F. R. Bautleman.

Revenue Dept.

No. 781.

Proc.s of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 14th May 1872.

Read the following letter from W. S. Whiteside, Esq. Actg. Sec.y to Govt.

Requesting that the telegram conveying censure may be cancelled.

} R. Dept. 15th May 1872, No. 16.

The Govt see no reason to modify the censure conveyed by telegraph to Mr. Whiteside and Captain Mayne

2. On representations made to them by the Hon: Mr. Ellis as the result of

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at Vellore in company
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-missioner after the inun-
-dation, the Govt resolved
in G. O. 10th May 1872,
No 1551 Military Dept.
on removing the families
of the 14th and 27th Regi-
-ments from the Vellore
Mahals into which
crowded
they were ~~ordered~~ on
the destruction of
their lines by flood,

to

4

to the Govt buildings
at Arcot, and Mr
Whitesides was instruct-
-ed to afford all the
assistance in his power
to accelerate the move
which on sanitary
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-cessary - Captain
Mayne appears from
Mr Whitesides Demi-
-Official Note of 12th
to have been aware
of

of these orders and
to have informed Mr
Whiteside that the
families were pass-
ing "the strongest
objections" to bring
removed - ~~These~~
objections ~~had been~~
~~fully discussed~~
~~with Captain Mayne~~
by the Hon: Mr Ellis, and
~~decided~~

The several points connected with the proposed removal of the families had been fully discussed with the Military authorities at Vellore,

and after anxious reflection it had been deemed absolutely necessary ~~to accept the proposed~~ measure - to give effect to the proposal

~~decided to be insufficient~~
~~to counter-balance the more~~
~~pressing considerations on~~
~~the score of the health of the~~
place, and especially of the troops and the families in the Meahals, but instead of endeavouring to convince the families of the importance to themselves of the measure, Mr Whiteside, according to his own note, "requested Captain Mayne to ascertain distinctly from the families" whether they were prepared to make other arrangements for themselves, being the very course most adapted to encourage these women in ~~(former)~~ objections to a measure which the Govt considered in the highest degree expedient. Mr Whiteside could scarcely ~~have~~ adopted a course more calculated to defeat the intentions of Govt - The result is shown by the communications

Communications addressed by Capt: Mayne on 13th Instant to the Superintendent of Family Payments at Madras

3 The Govt observe that this complication is probably mainly due to Mr Whiteside's habitual substitution of demi official for Official Communications on important subjects which has recently exemplified in three cases in the Madras Presidency and in the present instance they

I would select one letter illustrative - for letter in this case it would be desirable that the whole matter should be kept as secret as possible. I D S

they note that althó the disastrous floods occurred at Vellore on the 2nd Instant they have not up to this moment received any official report whatever on the subject from the district officers, save Mr Kelsall's brief letter of the 3rd May

4 They desire that Mr Whiteside will understand that demi official correspondence should be restricted to matters which it is not desirable or necessary to place on public record, or to the elucidation of details which

do

do not require to be so recorded; and they request that he will abstain from communicating in this form with the Secretary to Government when the subject matter should be reported or discussed officially.

5 In further illustration of the extreme inconvenience of the opposite course the Government observe that the one good reason why the families might urge their remaining at Vellore viz: the existence of special means of employment there as rice pounders in the pay of the Merchants, is before them only in Mr. Whiteside's demi official note of 14th Instant.

6 The Government desire that Mr. Whiteside will at once submit a full report of all the circumstances attending the late Cyclone in the N. Arcot district.

L. B.

1. Agl Clk of N. Arct. Dec 20 Inwd 72
7 Military Dept. S.

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE ACTING COLLECTOR OF
NORTH ARCOT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 14*th*.

Recd. 1872.

G. O., 14*th May* 1872, No. 781.

MAY.
Nos. 156—157.

Censure against Mr. Whiteside.—Letter from Mr. Whiteside requesting, under explanation furnished, that it may be cancelled, with order thereon.