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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1416.	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	9 - 11 - 1874.	196 . .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1416

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th November 1874.*

No. 67. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 5th October 1874, No. 2,888:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 26th August 1874, No. 1,086, Revenue Department:—

ABSTRACT.—*Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevely District.*—Referring to Revenue Board for early report letter from the Government of India furnishing an extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the mode of payment for the maintenance of—

As the Board understand the matter, objection is taken to the payment of allowances from Government Treasuries to pagodas, because it seems to persons ignorant of the history of such allowances that they are a grant in aid of Idolatry made by a Christian Government, whereas they are in truth payments of a debt, made, as all such payments must be made, without regard to the religious opinions of the recipients.

2. Energetic measures have been taken from time to time to avoid the semblance of a grant in aid by commuting these allowances into grants of the assessment of Government land, but the difficulties in the way have been found to be insuperable without doing injustice either to the State or to the creditors of Government or to its tenants.

3. The Board proposed to assign untransferable Government securities to the pagodas, which is a fictitious creation of debt. With reference to this objection, which is apparently admitted by the Secretary of State, the Board respectfully to observe that no fictitious debt would be created. The debt exists, is real and cannot be repudiated, and it must be paid by a sacrifice of revenue whether lands or public securities are assigned to the pagodas.

4. The suggestion on which the Board are desired to report seems to be that the revenue of certain villages should be assigned to pagodas, but that the villages should continue to be managed like other Government villages, the usual remissions being given in times of scarcity and drought, etc., and that the revenue should be collected by officers of Government and then remitted to the pagodas.

5. If the revenues of the assigned villages are only equal to the allowances now paid in cash, this would be equivalent to telling the pagoda authorities that the amount paid to them would depend upon seasons and the discretion of officers of Government. No harm would be done to the ryots, but the arrangement would be so unjust to the pagodas that it would amount to a partial repudiation of the liabilities of Government. If the revenues of the assigned villages are larger than the allowances now paid, and the portions allotted to the pagodas are so small that in all probability they will be readily paid even in bad seasons, a portion of the difficulty would be avoided, and the difficulty would be still further reduced if the assignment were made from the revenues of flourishing Zemindaries, but the question would be sure to arise frequently whether coercive processes could and should be used under Act II. of 1864, to collect money due to pagodas.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
9th November 1874.

6. In any case, the interposition of Government on behalf of pagodas (or the aid to Idolatry as it is sometimes styled) must be continuous and greater in amount and more obvious to the people than it is when the allowances are paid direct from the Government Treasuries. Under the revenue system of this Presidency, the plan necessarily implies innumerable petitions setting in motion, at the instance of pagoda authorities, Collectors and Divisional officers, the Board of Revenue, and Government. Moreover, the allowances must still appear in the Government Accounts, and it does not matter whether they are called "Payments" or "Remissions," since in both cases the *fact* they represent will be the payment of cash to pagodas by officers of Government, whether village officers or others.

No. 68.

ORDER THEREON, 9th November 1874, No. 1,416.

Miscellaneous.

ORDERED that the following letter
be despatched to the Government of
India in the Financial Department:—

(Here enter, 9th November 1874, No. 1,417.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government.

3
1416
ber 1874.

Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 26th August 1874, No. 1,086, Revenue Department :—

ABSTRACT.—*Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevely District.*—Referring to Revenue Board for early report letter from the Government of India furnishing an extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the mode of payment for the maintenance of—

As the Board understand the matter, objection is taken to the payment of allowances from Government Treasuries to pagodas, because it seems to persons ignorant of the history of such allowances that they are a grant in aid of Idolatry made by a Christian Government, whereas they are in truth payments of a debt, made, as all such payments must be made, without regard to the religious opinions of the recipients.

2. Energetic measures have been taken from time to time to avoid the semblance of a grant in aid by commuting these allowances into grants of the assessment of Government land, but the difficulties in the way have been found to be insuperable without doing injustice either to the State or to the creditors of Government or to its tenants.

3. The Board proposed to assign untransferable Government securities to the pagodas, etc., entitled to allowances, but the Governor-General in Council ~~objecting to this as a fictitious creation of debt~~ ^{in reference to this objection}, which is apparently admitted by the Secretary of State, the Board beg respectfully to observe that no *fictitious* debt would be created. The debt exists, is real and cannot be repudiated, and it must be paid by a sacrifice of revenue whether lands or public securities are assigned to the pagodas.

4. The suggestion on which the Board are desired to report seems to be that the revenue of certain villages should be assigned to pagodas, but that the villages should continue to be managed like other Government villages, the usual remissions being given in times of scarcity and drought, etc., and that the revenue should be collected by officers of Government and then remitted to the pagodas.

5. If the revenues of the assigned villages are only equal to the allowances now paid in cash, this would be equivalent to telling the pagoda authorities that the amount paid to them would depend upon seasons and the discretion of officers of Government. No harm would be done to the ryots, but the arrangement would be so unjust to the pagodas that it would amount to a partial repudiation of the liabilities of Government. If the revenues of the assigned villages are larger than the allowances now paid, and the portions allotted to the pagodas are so small that in all probability they will be readily paid even in bad seasons, a portion of the difficulty would be avoided, and the difficulty would be still further reduced if the assignment were made from the revenues of flourishing Zemindaries, but the question would be sure to arise frequently whether coercive processes could and should be used under Act II. of 1864, to collect money due to pagodas.

Govt. of 1874. 27.10.1875.

REVUE.

Dated November 9/14

Recd.

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G. O., 42 November 1874, No. 1, 416.

NOVEMBER

Recs. 67-68.

Times' Reports in Tinnevely District.—Ordering that a reply to letter from the Government of India, furnishing an extract from a Despatch from the Secretary of State regarding the mode of payment for the maintenance of —, be despatched.



6. In any case, the interposition of Government on behalf of pagodas (or the aid to Idolatry as it is sometimes styled) must be continuous and greater in amount and more obvious to the people than it is when the allowances are paid direct from the Government Treasuries. Under the revenue system of this Presidency, the plan necessarily implies innumerable petitions getting in motion, at the instance of pagoda authorities, Collectors and Divisional officers, the Board of Revenue, and Government. Moreover, the allowances must still appear in the Government Accounts, and it does not matter whether they are called "Payments" or "Remissions," since in both cases the *fact* they represent will be the payment of cash to pagodas by officers of Government, whether village officers or others.

(A true Extract.)

J. G. Cole
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Tinnevely, with Government Order.

Exd. W. H. French.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Govt of Madras in the Financial Dept.
(The following is No. 1117)
11/17/74

26 August 1874 No. 52

BOARD OF REVENUE
MADRAS

1874.

Received 15/9/74
No 3635

RECORDED,
21 OCTOBER 1874, No. 281
Oct 13 0 21/74
Encl

Received 14 October

OCTOBER.
No. 2,838.

Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevely District.
Remarks passed on letter from Government India, furnishing an extract from a despatch from the Secretary of State regarding mode of payment for maintenance of—

Do 14/16-9 December 1874
With order 11/17/74

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3635

From the Board of Revenue
Dated 14th October 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

*The plan suggested by the
Secy of State has little
its difficulties - but as money
payments and how to arrange
notes are for his share, we must
try to get it done.
In the case of the
large Pagodas the best way
will be to assign portions of the*

Postmaster of the morning
Solvent Union Series - if
the series can be sent, as is
possible -

In the case of
Patty Payson, can we
-tation in to land -

the only case -

The Board may let it
be set as certain from this

when he has the first as
important is for the 5/14/16

L. & S.

22/10.

Not submit the
M. exhaustive pro-
cesses of the Gov. of India
into an expression of opinion
that the issue of non-transferable
bonds is sanctioned as the only
sound and directionable course
I add that the Gov. of
will pension the Payson as any
other (I think few will be really
other) Jan. 1916 - Comm. 1916
with bank involves a direct
charge on the state for the

We also
 specify the
 water the
 subjects
 suggest
 your
 Nov. 1840
 the course
 collection of
 money due
 to the
 1840

X Office to Report fact
 of this early receipt from
 certain specified local
 and payments in cash, not
 of the general nature; -
 were especially in bad
 seasons the payments, made
 the prompt cancellation, and
 they made good from the latter
 more & Apr 29/10

26/10
What can be the difference / in the view of the
Sec^y of State as representing the holders of currency
between payment in cash, and payment in
what are in effect for! Notes - in paper-
-money (that is) instead of coin? It is not to
be supposed that ~~the~~ the same for! will
accept such a collection - 14/10
I would send to the Sec^y of the R. of the
to say that if it is insisted upon we are of course
willing to adopt the corresponding proposal of the
S. of State: ~~but~~ that we fail to see any
difference in principle between a
payment in cash by the Revenue

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government Records.

Revenue Department.

G. O. (Printed).

Dated 9-11- 1874

No. 1416