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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	324	Press.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.

Official Correspondence.

25th January 1878, No. 134.

Read the following paper:—

No. 106. *From JAMES O'KINEALY, Esq., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Home Department, Public, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Madras, dated Fort William, 16th January 1878, No. 81, Confidential.*

I am directed to forward *confidentially* the accompanying copy of a despatch No. 13, (Revenue), dated 6th April 1877. from Her Majesty's Secretary of State to the address of the Government of Bombay, and to explain that at the time of its receipt the Governor-General in Council deemed it inexpedient to give wider publicity, than was necessary, to the disagreement between the Government of Bombay and the Supreme Government; but as the circumstances have now changed, and those reasons have no longer the same force, it is important that the general ruling contained in the final paragraph of the despatch should be communicated to the Local Governments for their future guidance.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India, to the Government of Bombay, dated India Office, London, 6th April 1877, No. 13, Revenue.

I have received and considered in Council your Excellency's letters of the 29th January and the 12th February.

2. In a Despatch to the Government of India, of which I enclose to your Excellency a copy, I have commented upon the various reports received from India in respect to the relief operations rendered necessary by the existing famine, and I have gladly acknowledged the foresight and energy which have been exhibited by your Excellency's Government in the conduct of those measures.

3. The undoubted merits of your policy, and the credit which it has deservedly conferred upon your administration, make me the more regret the attitude of antagonism in which you have thought it necessary publicly to place yourself towards the Government of India.

4. I have not been able to understand how the differences of opinion which arose between your Excellency and the Government under whose orders you are placed, have been regarded as of an importance sufficient to justify the irritation which they apparently produced. They principally concerned the propriety of sanctioning large works without the previous submission of sufficient estimates to the Government of India, by whom the money was to be found; and the prudence of concluding at a particular date that provision had to be made, not against a partial scarcity, but against a widespread and formidable famine. On the first point the Bombay Government, in my judgment, were in error; on the second and more important point they were in the right. The consciousness of the correctness of their forecast undoubtedly justified them in reiterating advice which their greater local knowledge gave them the fullest title to offer. But the occasion was scarcely one for remonstrance, still less for hostile controversy with the superior Government.

5. This, however, is a matter of no grave importance. I cannot describe in the same manner the publication of the Resolution of the 26th of January,—a step wholly inconsistent with the subordinate position assigned by Parliament to the Government of Bombay, and one which cannot be justified or excused by any error of judgment, if such there has been, committed by the Government of India.

6. If a Commissioner in the Presidency of Bombay had published in the local newspapers a letter attacking the orders issued to him by you, and attributing to them evil consequences which had taken place, you might properly have suspended him from his office. Yet the law which places him under your orders is the same law as that which places your Excellency's Government under the orders of the Government of India.

7. I must conclude that, in taking this course, your Excellency in Council did not reflect upon the detriment which such an example was likely to cause at such a time to the public service, and based your action upon the practice of giving immediate publicity to official correspondence, which is, in a special degree, habitual to the Governments in India.

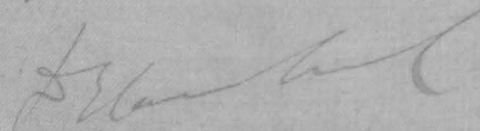
8. In order, however, to obviate any further misunderstanding upon this point, and to furnish a rule by which the Government of Bombay may in future cases be guided, I have to request that you will not henceforward publish any official document commenting upon the orders of the Supreme Government, until you have obtained permission to do so either from that Government or from the Secretary of State.

No. 107.

ORDER THEREON, 25th January 1878, No. 134.

Recorded: circulated to each Department of the Secretariat, *confidentially*.

(True Extract.)



Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
 " Military Department.
 " Public Works Department.

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Decem 1898 Dependent

Don. Public Dependent

Donat 23rd Aug 1898.
Recd 31st

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W. W.

Commonwealth letter
from the Gov. of India
forwarding copy of a
Report from the
Secretary of State
relating to a change
in the Indian Govt.
Govt of Bombay and the
Department of Public
Affairs. The Secretary
of State has forwarded
the Report to the
Secretary of State for
the Colonies and the
Secretary of State for
the War.