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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 880 Press / ~~Mis.~~

Dated 12-10-1886.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

S. T. H.

Vernaculars —

28/9/89

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

READ—the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th August 1886, No. 1798-A :—

Read—the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., C.S., President, Board of Examiners, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 27th July 1886, No. 1162 :—

I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to bring to the notice of the Board of Revenue that I am about to submit, for the orders of Government, the case of a Head Assistant Collector who, after upwards of four years and-a-half service in two districts in which the same vernacular is spoken, is so astonishingly ignorant of that language that at the examination held on the 19th instant he declined to attempt the vernacular papers sent up for him, and was also unable to converse in the language in which he is supposed to have done his work in office for so long.

2. I attribute this lamentable failure almost entirely to the practice, that I am well informed is now common amongst the junior members of the Civil Service, of avoiding office work in the vernaculars as far as possible by passing orders on short dockets and précis prepared for them in English by their clerks, in which the contents of the arzis and petitions addressed to them by tahsildars and others are briefly summarised.

3. Of the wide door that is thus opened to corruption and injustice of all kinds, I need at present say nothing. I simply regard the practice from the stand-point of the officer in charge of the department whose business it is to supervise the manner in which these young officers carry out the intentions of Government and qualify themselves for the efficient performance of the various duties devolving upon them, one of the most important of which is the acquisition of a fluent and thorough knowledge of the languages spoken by the people of the districts where they are employed.

4. It is manifestly impossible that such an acquaintance with the vernaculars can be secured or retained unless the system that once was universal, of having all vernacular papers read aloud to them by clerks and then recording the orders required thereon, is again brought into force and insisted on.

5. I venture to hope that the Board of Revenue will concur with me in this view, and will be pleased to take as speedily as possible such steps in the matter as they may deem necessary.

Resolution—dated 11th August 1886, No. 1798-A.

The President of the Board of Examiners in the above letter draws the attention of the Board to what appears to them to be a serious matter and one upon which they consider the orders of Government should be taken. The fact that in the present day most of the clerks in Government employ know English, and that the bulk of work has so much increased that there is a vast temptation to reduce the vernacular portion of it by using English abstracts, makes it very probable that the practice to which the President alludes has grown up, and he is in the very best position for noting it. The

Board are afraid that it must be taken as a fact that there is a growing tendency among district officers to shirk the vernacular work of their offices. The practice of systematically disposing of vernacular work by means of English dockets must seriously impair the administration of the country. It cuts off every one who follows it from the daily use of the vernacular spoken in his division, and effectually keeps him back from any intimate knowledge of what is going on around him. To all intents and purposes it makes him a mere puppet in the hands of his office establishment. Such a practice is moreover wholly opposed to the wishes of the Government who have continually laid great stress on the importance they attach to the attainment by the junior members of the covenanted service of an accurate and familiar knowledge of the languages and people of the country they govern. The existing rules, however, have been shown by experience to be so general and permissive that they have failed to prevent the practice alluded to from growing up, and the Board now think that some stricter and more definite rules on the subject should be passed.

2. The Board, if the Government approve of the suggestion, would issue orders positively enjoining on all the officers to whom the rule should apply that they should do the vernacular part of their work in the old and proper manner, the papers being read out in full to the presiding office by his clerks and the order subsequently recorded in brief by him in his own hand-writing. When the papers are read out, the presiding officer should take such explanations of his clerk and make such notes as seem to him desirable, but no abstracts of papers should be made beforehand in any language.

3. The application of rules of the sort suggested should not, the Board think, affect any officers of the rank of Acting Collector. They can be trusted to carry on their work in the manner best adapted to effect its thorough and expeditious disposal. But while the Acting Third Member of the Board would not wish to see the rule applied to Sub-Collectors, the Acting First Member would apply it to all officers below the rank of Collector. The Acting Third Member would not apply the rule to Sub-Collectors, considering these officers to have passed out of the state of pupillage, and thinking that any order of the kind suggested would be viewed by these officers with great disfavor and cause much dissatisfaction, and probably be more honored in the breach than in the observance. Their work is in some cases so bulky that the assistance they can get from English abstracts should not, in his opinion, be denied them. If these officers have not a proper knowledge of the vernaculars and a proper interest in the work by the time they become Sub-Collectors, they are not likely to be led to improve themselves by any such rule as that now suggested.

4. The Acting First Member is on the other hand strongly of opinion that the rule should apply to Sub-Collectors. The rapidity of promotion is so great at present that an officer is now often an Acting Head Assistant after two years' service, and an Acting Sub-Collector after five years, and in his opinion much of the benefit to be derived from the proposed rule will be lost if its operation is not extended to all Divisional officers.

5. Another method of applying a rule of the sort would be to make it applicable to all officers below a certain number of years' service, but this method of application is open to numerous objections. It would be difficult *à priori* to fix the length of the period during which the rule should apply, and it would not be right that the method of work in any office should be so completely and suddenly altered as it would be if such a rule were laid down.

6. The Acting Second Member agrees with the Third Member in the view he has taken as to mode in which the proposed rule should apply.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) M. HAMMICK,
Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the President, Board of Examiners, Madras.

ORDER—dated 12th October 1886, No. 880, Revenue.

Miscellaneous.

The Government approve of the issue of orders as proposed by the majority of the Board. The promulgation of the orders will, it is hoped, be sufficient, but the Board and Collectors should exercise watchfulness, in reference to papers which may come before them, and notice cases in which the rules may not have been observed.

(True Extract.)

Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Department.

Exd. A. Aubert.

50 Copies.

b. 3-12.
8-10-12
19-12-86
23-1-87
5-11-12
28-8-89

Govt. of {1886} Madras.

REVENUE.

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 12th October 1886, No. 880.

OCTOBER.

Vernacular Work by District Officers.

Approving the suggestion that orders be issued for reviving the old system of having all vernacular papers read out to them by clerks and then recording the orders required thereon.

5

Palace 8-10-1886
just received.
Dear Bates
Yes encl. for
Revenue Sec.
perusal
Yrs Sincerely
17-10

Madras
August 17. 86.

My Dear Webster

In their Proc[d]s of the 11th inst, Ins 1798 A, the Board of Revenue have addressed for the subject of the superintendence practice, how common in the Courts, of disposing of Revenue by order lastly pleaded in English without Superintendence by clerks. The last Report the Board called for took place on the 1st November. since which they have

the continuance of such a
practice should apply to all
Divisional Offices, including
Sub Collectors. I do so because,
now a days, promotion in the
superior ranks of the Service
is so rapid that young men
are acting as Sub Col.rs before
they can have obtained a ready
command & thorough knowledge
of their Manuals — because
their business habits are not
so fixed & methodical as they
used (prior) to their Service ends
they can be easily trusted

not

to scamp their work in any
way — and finally, because,
being any deficiency in the
Board of Revenue, there have
been in many cases which
cases in which application has been made
from this System of orders to
Dacoits, and, in every case, the
Officer passing the objectionable
order was a Sub Collector.
In one case, the late Mr Abbott,
Sub acting as Sub Col.r in
South Canara, passed orders
on Dacoits (suppliers and
two Receivers) a Coconut
& a Plantain per a
kind, and indicating each
absolute whereas on his

ABSTRACT.

Clerks called which I considered
to my duty to send him all the
Papers, & ask an interview &
explanation of his conduct, in-
tending to refer the matter for
the consideration & advice of
Government. He was then acting
as Collector of Customs - His
explanation was very unsatisfac-
tory, but, as he did almost im-
mediately after transmitting it,
I considered it useless to carry
the matter further. But I
submit for the Facts now as tend-
ing to support my conclusion
in the question now at issue.

Yours very truly
W. T. Richards

(1886.)

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 118.

From W. S. Whiteside Esq:

12. 1086 No. 8

Dated 17th

Received 24th August (in the office)

Enclosures —

No. —

SUBJECT.

Regarding neglect of Vernaculars by Junior Civilians.

13 a

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

READ—the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., C.S., President, Board of Examiners, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 27th July 1886, No. 1162:—

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RESOLUTION—dated 11th August 1886, No. 1798-A.

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junior members of the covenanted service of an accurate and familiar knowledge of the languages and people of the country they govern. The existing rules, however, have been shown by experience to be so general and permissive that they have failed to prevent the practice alluded to from growing up, and the Board now think that some stricter and more definite rules on the subject should be passed.

2. The Board, if the Government approve of the suggestion, would issue orders positively enjoining on all the officers to whom the rule should apply that they should do the vernacular part of their work in the old and proper manner, the papers being read out in full to the presiding officer by his clerks and the order subsequently recorded in brief by him in his own hand-writing. When the papers are read out, the presiding officer should take such explanations of his clerk and make such notes as seem to him desirable, but no abstracts of papers should be made beforehand in any language.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the President, Board of Examiners, Madras.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

1886.

Board of Revenue,

MADRAS.

Printed August th
1886.

Proceedings, 11*th Aug.* 1886, *No.* 1798-A.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
18 AUG 86
REVENUE DEPARTMENT

Submitting to Government for orders, with remarks, letter from the President, Board of Examiners, bringing to notice the *neglect of vernaculars by junior civilians*, and recommending the revival of the old system of disposing of vernacular papers under which they had the papers read out to them and then passed orders thereon.

G.O. No: 880 d/ 12.10.86.

The Govt approve of the issue of orders as proposed by the majority of the Board. The promulgation of the orders will it is hoped be sufficient, but the Board & Collectors should Exercise watchfulness, in reference to papers which may come before them, & ~~bring~~ bring to notice cases in which the rules may not have been observed. Endeavours will be made to avoid transfers of juniors to districts where vernacular attainment & when in which they have been trained are spoken.

Revenue Department.

Current No. 4739.

From Board 11 Augt 1886 No. 1798A.
&c. from Hon'ble Members Dated 17 Augt 1886.

FOR ORDERS.

I don't see any objection in issuing orders which will be impossible to enforce — In former days we had to pass very high languages with high penalty if we failed to pass our appointments — If the present civilians are made to understand that they will not get their sick leave they will wake up a little.

Now encouragement in the matter of vernacular knowledge among the juniors is probably the way in which they are known & kicked about from Tamil to Telugu districts & vice versâ. I submit that a little care

There is no objection to the proposed orders, but the difficulty will be to see that they are enforced. The only chance of this being done is that papers in which orders are transgressed may occasionally come under the notice of the Board and Collectors.

On account of the decline of vernacular knowledge among the juniors is probably the way in which they are known & kicked about from Tamil to Telugu districts & vice versâ. I submit that a little care

FOR ORDERS.

Re: Neglect of Vernaculars by Junior Civilians.

would often render such transfers unnecessary, & make it possible to keep a man in a district in which the vernaculars he is trained in are spoken.

W.S.

The transfer of officers question should be brought to the Chief Secretary's notice. I know that the service is so shorthanded it is difficult to avoid such transfers

Yes. The orders could be promulgated at once

Yes 30/8

Not difficult — Impossible dep

Sent on the 2nd para of the note. W.S.

28/8/81

I think the promulgation of orders such as those proposed by the Board is very necessary. The rule for the dealing with the Vernacular Correspondence should be universal but it would be found often officers in the grade of Collector to dispense with the necessity for so dealing with Vernacular papers except in cases of importance.

Yes dep

C.H. 8-9-81. DB 31-8-81. I would add Obligatory on all Non Revenue officers.

Yes