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Revenue Department

Minutes of Consultation

8th July 1858.

Back No: 39 & 40.

Order No. 7594th June 1858

7 - Sheets

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No. 39. Read the following letter from Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government Fort St. George; date Madras 15th May 1858, No. 57.

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SIR,

With reference to Minutes of Consultation under date 12th Instant, No. 627, Revenue Department; I have the honor to forward for submission to Government a Petition, which was brought to my office in March last, by about 100 Brahmins, all, *apparently*, in a state of excitement. After reading the Petition, it was pointed out to them that they would subject themselves to heavy penalty if they resisted the Collector's officers in the execution of their duty in taking measurements under the provisions of Act XII. of 1851, I however undertook to show the Petition to Mr. Cunliffe the next morning, on the understanding that the Collector's officers would not receive any molestation or obstruction, I called accordingly on Mr. Cunliffe, and after some conversation on the subject, asked him whether the interior measurements of houses could not be, as well taken by a native maistry, as by an East Indian Surveyor. He then held some conversation with a native gentleman, (who chanced to be present on the occasion,) on the subject referred to by the Petitioners; and after some time Mr. Cunliffe said that he would give orders for a native maistry to take the measurements; and he did so; and there, so far as I was concerned, the matter ended.

To Colonel J. C. BOULDERSON, Commissioner of Police, Madras, &c., &c., &c.

The humble Petition of the undermentioned Bramin inhabitants of Triplicane of Madras; dated Triplicane 17th March 1858.

MOST HUMBLY SHEWETH,

That we beg to bring as below the grievances brought upon us by an order of the Collector of Madras on the subject of instituting Survey in the above village, and to request most respectfully to be excused for the intrusion we have been necessitated by circumstances to take; on the 13th Instant Surveyors under instructions from the said Collector came to our premises to survey the same and purposed entering our houses themselves, but as the said Surveyors belong neither to Bramin, Shetria, Vysia, or Soodra caste, we told them that it is opposed to our religious and local practices to allow them to enter in person into our houses, and requested them to be so good as to send into our premises persons belonging either to one or other of the above enumerated castes, at the same time intimating the inconveniences and other pecuniary losses, besides religious injuries we will be subjected to restore our religious concerns to their former footing, should the said Surveyors themselves enter into our houses. On the 15th Instant we presented a petition to the said Collector, setting forth all the above grievances and requesting him to send some Surveyors belonging to any one of the above classes; and to cause our houses, &c., to be surveyed, and also stating that the compliance with our request can in no way affect the object of the institution of Survey, while on the other hand it wards off the approaches of the impending grievances to us. But to our misfortune the Collector far from granting our request insisted upon sending those Surveyors only whom he sent at first. If any individual were to interfere in a public matter against the consent of many, the Commissioners of the Police is authorized to interfere and to render justice in compliance with the request of the majority. The meaning of the quit rent Act XII. of 1851, does not imply to go against religion.

We therefore request your honor will be graciously pleased to instruct the Collector to cause our houses, &c., to be surveyed by persons belonging to any one of the above classes; as we have no objection to have our houses, &c., surveyed; or to obtain a favorable order from Government on the subject of our application; in the meanwhile advising the Collector to postpone executing his orders to our prejudice.

For this act of grace and generosity affording protection to our religion without any loss to the public revenue, we, as in duty bound, shall ever pray for your health, wealth and long life.

Fort Saint George, Revenue Consultation of 8th June 1858.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, No. 759; dated 4th June 1858.

Ordered that a copy of Colonel Boulderson's letter be sent to the Board of Revenue with a request to report in communication with the Collector how far the explanation offered by him will meet the requirements of the case. The Government are quite prepared to enforce Act XII. of 1851 if it is necessary. But it is not yet explained why the Surveyor must go *within* the houses in order to measure the space of ground they occupy. It is necessary to be clearly informed on this point.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 57.

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759 Madras Police Commissioner's Office 15th May 1858.

From

Colonel J. C. Boulderson
Commissioner of Police

To

T. Pycroft Esqre
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Sir,

With reference to Minutes of Consultation under date 12th Instant No. 627 Revenue Department, I have the honor to forward for submission to Government a Petition which was brought to my Office in March last by about 100 Brahmins, all apparently in a state of excitement. After reading the Petition, it was pointed out to them that they would subject themselves to heavy penalty if they resisted the Collector's Officers in the execution of their Duty in taking measurements under the provisions of Act XII. of 1851, & however undertook to show the Petition to Mr. Umbichi the next morning, on the understanding that the Collector's Officers would not receive any molestation or obstruction,

I called accordingly on Mr. Cumliffe, and after some conversation on the subject, asked him whether the interior measurements of Houses could not be, as well taken by a native Maistry, as by an East Indian Surveyor - He then held some conversation with a Native gentleman, who chanced to be present on the occasion, on the subject referred to by the Petitioners, and after some time Mr. Cumliffe, said that he would give orders for a Native Maistry to take the measurements; and he did so; - and these, so far as I was concerned, the matter ended.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant

Commissioner of Police

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Genl. Dept.
Police Office
Calcutta 15th May 1858.
No. 1913.

Colonel C. Hamilton
Commissioner of Police
&c &c &c

Sir,

I am directed by the Chief Secretary to Government to transmit for your information, a Petition addressed to the Governor General in Council by Rama Sooroop Roy & 4 Sons, dated 13th May 1858, praying to be relieved from the payment of Police Assessment, on the ground that they are not benefited by the Police.

2. I am to request that you will report for the information of the Governor General in Council, whether the Petitioners are assessed to the Police Tax, and if so, whether they are benefited by the Police.

I have &c
(Signed) H. Woodrow
Secy to the Govt of Bengal

Sooroop & 4 Sons 1858

Police Office
The 15th May 1858.

No. 1913.

Chief Secretary to Government
with Compliments

Commissioner of Police

Received 18th May 1858

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Rev: Dept.

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No 759

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 4th June 1858

Read the following
letter from the Commissioner
of Police.

Ft Cove under 15th May 58 No 57

Ordered that a
copy of Colonel Bonderson's
letter be sent to the Board
of Revenue with a request
to report in communication
with the Collector how
far the explanation
offered by him will meet
the requirements of the
case. The Government are
quite prepared to enforce
Act XII of 1851 if it is
necessary. But it is not
yet explained why the
Surveyor must go within
the bounds in order to
measure the space

of ground they occupy.
It is necessary to be
clearly informed on
this point

3 Copies to the Bd of Pub. Disposal