1416

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

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

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1/1416.

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 Tinnevelly 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 [illegible] objected to this as a fictitious creation of debt. With 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.

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.

Ed. W. H. French.

2/1416

Govt. of Madras.

REVENUE.

Dated November 9th

Read.

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

Encl

NOVEMBER.

Nos. 67-68.

Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevelly 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.

3/1416

No. 2,888.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 5th October 1874.

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

ABSTRACT.—*Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevelly 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 objected to this as a fictitious creation of debt. With 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.

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 Grote

Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tinnevelly, with Government Order.

Exd. W. H. French.

Ordered that the following letter be despatched to the Govt of Madras

Secretary's Office,
13th October 1874.

Board of Revenue
1874.

MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 13TH OCTOBER 1874, No. 2,88

Dated 13 October 1874. Encl

Received 14 October.

OCTOBER.
No. 2,888.

Hindu Pagodas in Tinnevelly 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—.

No 1415-9 Nov. 1874

Copy to Collr of Tinnevelly, with Govt Order.

No 3635.
Revenue 13th October 1874.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

No. 3695

From The Board of Revenue

Dated 14th October 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

The plan suggested by the Secy of State has difficulties - but as many payments and items to remit Notes are for hidden, we must try it but can be done.

See the case of the Cargo Pagoda as the best we can be to obtain for this of the

Pesh cush of thoroughly
solvent Zemindaries - if
the owners consent, as is
probable -

In the case of
petty Pagodas, commu-
-tation into land seems
the only course -

The Board might at
least ascertain from the

Collector whether the first arrangement is feasible. 5/1416

J. D. S.

22/10.

~~[illegible]~~ Would submit the
[illegible] the exhaustive pro-
ceedings of the Govt. of India
with an expression of opinion
that the issue of non-transferable
bonds be sanctioned as the only
sound unobjectionable course.

Would add that if the Govt. of
I. adhere to their resolution to
pension the Pagodas on any
wide [illegible] few will be really
willing (I believe few will be really
willing) Zemindar - commutation
into land involving a direct
charge on the State for an ex-

F. R. O. DER.

Memo. also
Mr. Hughes the
letter & add 10/6 Ptn
Pmt. re order the con-
tingencies of the
week if petty money
is unpaid to date
26/10

What can be the difference / to the crew / Sec.y of State as representing the haters of debate, between payment in cash, and payment in what are in effect Bk. Notes - in paper-money / but is / instead of coin? It used to be supposed that the Home Secretary accepted such a solution -
I wd. send to the F. O. the Procès of the N. of R.
I say that if it is inistd upon we are / even willing to adopt the consequent perpetual State
S. of State / but that we fail to see any difference in principle between a payment in Cash by the Treasury

& Mr. Asquith / not to / his early receipt of the / Secretary of State / and Payments to the crew: / of the pretended difference: / more especially as in both / having the payments, under / the Postal communication / the letter / made 29/10 / 26/10 X

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.
Government Records.

Revenue Department.

G. O. (Printed).

Dated 9-11- 1874.

No. 1416