M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1434 Press
Mis.

397. 398

Dated 27—6— 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th June 1867.

No. 397. Read the following letter from G. S. FORBES, Esq., to the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 28th May 1867:—

1. I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. Miscellaneous, No. 408, dated May 26th, 1867, and having reference to a narrative of the late famine, compiled at my special request by Mr. Grigg. The Government observe that this narrative was drawn from official records, and circulated to a limited extent, without their knowledge and sanction. They condemn this proceeding as an irregularity, and (as I regret to infer from paragraph 3) as a breach of public trust.

2. It may tend to qualify the view thus taken, if I point out that six copies of the narrative in question were submitted for the information of Government two or three months ago. That the only other copies sent out (three in number) were forwarded to the three Famine Commissions, from which I had received applications for information.

3. That all the official correspondence (English) from which the history of the late famine is compiled had already been published in the newspapers, under the authority of Government; and, lastly, that the history itself has not been published, though seen and remarked upon by the Editor of the "Friend of India," and that its publication may, if such a course is thought desirable, be rendered impossible.

4. I should add that I left my own copy with the Chaplain of the district, and that the Judge has another.

5. I am grateful for the considerate tone of the Government Order towards myself personally; but as I feel that no amount of consideration could lessen the gravity of the conclusion inseparable from paragraph 3 of that Order, I am anxious to put on record such vindication of my conduct as may be afforded by the remarks, which I now respectfully submit for the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

No. 398. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1867, No. 1,434.

Miscellaneous.

1. The Government had no intention of imputing breach of trust to Mr. Forbes, and as on examination they find that most of the Government Orders relating to the late famine which are quoted in the narrative had been previously placed by Government at the disposal of the public press, they readily admit that these papers had ceased to possess the character of confidential communications.

2. The Government are, however, unable to exonerate Mr. Forbes from blame for breach of rule in causing a compilation from Government records to be prepared and printed in his Office, so as unavoidably to confer on it an official character, and giving it even a limited circulation without their knowledge or sanction.

3. The fact that copies were cotemporaneously sent to Government, does not affect the question of the propriety or otherwise of the proceeding.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To G. S. Forbes, Esq.
,, the Collector of Ganjam.
,, the Board of Revenue.

Rd. S. T. Augustin.

If Mr. Forbes considers that what he has now submitted, is a vindication, it would perhaps be hard to deny him the satisfaction of so believing. The letter from him might then properly be "recorded." But I personally feel that nothing more related to Mr. Forbes's material allegations upon which the Post order appears to have

"I would" record

JP

If all the statements in Mr Gregg's narrative are really based on Govt. correspondence published by order of Govt. in the Newspapers then I think that the Letter should inform us of this explanation in regard to the use of the words in satisfactory to Govt. and that it is only stated in so far as the compilation of the narrative admits accurate in connection with the authority and actions of Government.

N.

Pro. 26th May 1867
No. 408

Reported to England
D/12th August No. 4 Pol/1867
Mch.

Recd 1867 Dept
from G. S. Forbes Esqr

D/28 } May 1867
R/28 }

Abstract

Submitting his explanation with reference to G.O. relating to his use of Govt records for the Famine Narrative printed by them.—

No. 397

No. 1434 - 27 June

Revd 28th May

Revenue Department.

No. 1434.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 27th June 1867.

Read the following

Letter from G. S. Forbes Esqre

Submitting his explanation with reference to G.O. relating to his use of Govt records for the Famine Narrative printed by him.

(Rec'd here on 28th May 1867)

The Government had no intention of imputing breach of trust to Mr Forbes and as on examination they find that of the Government orders relating to the late famine which are quoted in the narrative had been previously placed by Government at the disposal of the public press, they readily admit that those papers had ceased to possess the character of confidential communications.

The

The Government are however unable to exonerate Mr. Forbes from blame for breach of rule in causing a compilation from Government records to be prepared and printed in his Office, so as unavoidably to confer on it an official character, and give it even a limited circulation without their knowledge or sanction.

The fact that ~~a~~ copies had been sent to Govt. does not affect the question of the propriety or otherwise of the proceeding.

1 Copy to Govt. of Bombay by Dispatch
1 ——— Govt. of Bengal
11 Copies ——— Govt. of India

Reported to England
by 12th August No. 1480 of 1867
Mes.

Revenue 1867 Department
Pro. of Govt for Secrecy

No. 434

Pro. of the Madras Govt
dated 24th June 1867

Mr. Forbes explanation with reference
to the publication of the
Conjeeveram Famine Correspondence, with orders
thereon.

No 397 & 398