

Judicia (1908) Department.

ORDINARY (Memo)

G.O., No. 1038

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DATED 30. 7. 1908.

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[Abstract.]

Under the India  
According to the Govt of India  
a letter from the Chamber  
of Commerce Madras regarding  
the

## CURRENT FILE.

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16.7.08  
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16.7.08



Madras, 9th July, 1908.



Recd 11.7.08

The Chief Secretary

to the Government of Madras,

O O T A C A M U N D.



Sir,

I have the honour to enclose a letter to the Government of India on the subject of the Unrest in India, and to request that you will be so good as to forward it at your earliest convenience.-

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*A. F. S. S. S.*

Chairman.

p.s.

Two spare copies are also sent herewith.

2/  
The Chamber of Commerce,

MADRAS, 9th July, 1908.

FROM

THE HON'BLE MR. A. J. YORKE,  
CHAIRMAN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE,

MADRAS.

TO

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVT. OF INDIA,  
HOME DEPARTMENT,  
SIMLA.

SIR,

This Chamber has been favoured with a copy of the proceedings at a Special General Meeting of the Behar Planters Association held in May and is asked to support that Association in impressing on Government the necessity of more energetic action in repressing seditious writing and speaking in the country. This the Chamber has decided to do ; in no spirit of panic but with the desire, so far as with the Chamber lies, to strengthen the hands of Government by recording the feelings of a body in South India whose prime interests are and must be the maintenance of good relations between Indians and Europeans, and generally the peace and prosperity of the country.

The Chamber wishes then to express its belief that Government action to date has been well conceived both as against the misguided bomb conspirators and against the seditious Press and speakers who have egged them on, and it urges henceforward the strictest enforcement of the Law and its prompt and consistent application by the Executive throughout the land.

That such action will meet with the approval of the commercial classes, both Indian and European, of this Presidency the Chamber can assert with confidence, as its Members very fully represent the European merchants and are in close touch with all the most substantial local Indian merchants. These all fully realise that their interests also are bound up in the permanent peace and well-being of the country and condemn the agitation as spurious and harmful.

These feelings have not only found verbal expression, but are significantly shown by the fact that though Swadeshi delegates, sent primarily, it appears, to appeal to students at a College adjoining the commercial quarter, have frequently attempted to also preach in Godown Street, the native business centre of Madras, they have consistently been denied a hearing there by Hindus and Mahomedans alike. This feature of the position is further made prominent by an incident which occurred a few days ago in another quarter of the city, when one such speaker was stoned away by a local mob.

Yorke

The Chamber thinks it probable that these feelings of dislike to the agitation are not confined to the traders of the city of Madras, but are largely held in other parts of the country by responsible people with a stake in it. They, however, generally hesitate to put forward their views, either through apathy or from a natural dislike to attempt a controversy with fluent irresponsibles who pose as honest patriots and would not hesitate to hold up to opprobrium any opposing them. Loyal opinion, however, based on sound views of self-interest would probably make itself felt up-country no less than in Madras as against such agitators if village officers generally were encouraged, and had pointed out to them shortly the harmful effect on the future of the country inevitable from the unchecked spread of seditious doctrines which range from crude boycott recommendations to open incitement to lawlessness and murder.

The Chamber is convinced that the so-called "safety valve" policy as to free speaking and writing is unfitted for India and is self-condemned by its results here to date. It has created a situation which need never have arisen but is fraught with danger not only politically but economically, for capital is already leaving the country. This calls for the active intervention of the authorities. They have on their side both power and reason, and the Chamber urges them to bring both home to all concerned, on the one hand by relentless enforcement of the Law, the first necessity of the case; on the other hand, by organised measures to enlist the active assistance of the many throughout the country who are interested in the preservation of its peace.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Sd.) A. J. YORKE,

*Chairman*



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# NOTES.

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Box No. C. 50

NOTES.

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[24336] From the Chamber of Commerce of Commerce & 9. 4. 08

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20-7-08

Hon Mr. Hannick C. Ld. & Co.  
Draft for approval.

20-7-08

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NOTES.

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27.7.21

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Gudmund

DISPATCHED  
30 JUL 1888

Letter 1038 800.708

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To the Secy to the G. of  
Home Dept

Sir,

I am directed  
to forward a  
letter addressed  
to the Govt of  
India from the  
Chamber of  
Commerce dated  
the 9<sup>th</sup> July  
on the subject  
of the interest in  
India

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7/1/25 R.H

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654/R1

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898 R1

4124 R1

330 RA

275 R1

895 R.11

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2054/R1

1846/R1

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RH

15513/RH/R1

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