M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-39.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. Press ~~Mis.~~

Back No. 19-20

Dated 6-1-1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

9/22-7-39

No 2133

From
T. Lushington Esq
Civil Auditor.

To
J. Bycroft Esq
Chief Secretary
to Government.

Sir,

With reference to the complaint preferred by Mr. J. A. Blair, Acting Sub Judge of Rajahmundry regarding the delay which has attended the audit and return of his Salary bill for October last and the Contingent bills of his Court for August and September last, which the Government in their Order of the 10th inst. in the Financial Dept. have referred to me for remarks, I have the honor to report, that Mr. Blair's Pay abstract for October last was received by me on the 7 November but in consequence of Mr. Blair having failed to report to me the date of his relinquishing charge of his late appointment of Acting Sub Collector of Masulipatam, it was kept by, unaudited, pending the receipt of

this

this report which Mr Blair was called upon to furnish in my letter to him of the 12th November. This letter Mr Blair states he received on the 17th idem and immediately complied with the requisition it contained, which report as it has since been ascertained was received in this Office on the 24th idem. Meanwhile the Auditor charged with the audit of Revenue charges, was in furtherance of an arrangement, which the pressure of duties had rendered necessary (viz: that after the 20 of the month, about which time the pressure in the Fixed Audit Department of the Office is much diminished, he should do duty in the Statement Department) & passed to that Dept. to work off the arrears and on his return to the Fixed Audit Dept., his attention was recalled to Mr Blair's case by his letter of the 27th ultimo, which was received on the 4th inst. Mr Blair having stated therein that he had reported the date of his delivering charge of the Sub Division of Masulipatam, his bill for October was passed and returned to him on the 4th instant, the date of receipt of his letter and he was asked to furnish a duplicate copy of his report. From the foregoing narrative the Government will perceive that the delay which Mr Blair characterises as "unnecessary", is due mainly to his want of observance of a rule which from his standing in the Service, he could not but be aware of; and that had he agreeably to usage reported to me at once the date of his relinquishing charge, the subsequent delay which has occurred in this Office would not have taken place.

2. Referring to the 3d para of Mr Blair's letter to Government in which he states that unnecessary and great delay occurred in passing the pay abstracts of the Extra Jail Guard of the Rajahmundry Jail for the months of August and September last, & also the Contingent Charges of the

the Subordinate Court, I beg in the first place to remark that Bills for Contingent Charges such as those under notice being exempt from the rule of preaudit no inconvenience could have been experienced by the Sub Judge and secondly that the delay complained of was entirely attributable to the Sub Judge's want of due observance of the instructions forwarded by me for the guidance of Collectors and Judl. Officers in preparing their Bills. The Bill for August I beg to observe was in the first instance received on the 23d September & was returned unaudited on the same day with a Memo to the Subordinate Judge directing his attention to the remarks made by me in the Bills of his Court for May & June 1856, wherein he was requested, to give in all future bills the correct rates of the rice & other food purchased and to attach thereto the Doctor's certificate for the extra food allowed to sick Prisoners

without

without which particulars the audit of the Bill would have been altogether useless. The bill was recd. again in this Office on the 10th October and was returned for the 2d time with my letter of the 17th of the same month pointing out to that Officer certain errors which were found upon examination & marked in pencil in the Account Particulars of Batta paid to Prisoners in the month of August and requesting that he would prepare and submit an amended bill which Mr. Blair forwarded to me together with the Bills for the month of Septr. 1856 for the first time in his letter of the 25th October both of which were received on the 1st November and were duly passed and returned to him on the 3d of the same month.

3. I trust from the above explanation afforded, Government will be satisfied that the delay complained of by Mr. Blair is mainly attributable to his own want of observance of my Circular instructions and to the failure of the Officers of the Court to prepare those

Bills

Bills correctly. That my Establishment is chargeable with the detention of Mr Blair's Bill from the 24th Ultimo to the 4th instant, I must admit, but with the large number of five thousand and seven hundred Bills to audit in each month, and with the arrears of two years accounts to be cleared off, it is scarcely to be expected that some delay will not occasionally occur. I deem it right however to add that at least half of the Bills for the Salaries of Officers and their Establishments are audited and returned on the day of their receipt and that cases of detention of such Bills for more than 48 hours are rare and exceptional.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obt Servant

J. Blair Esqre,
Civil Audit Office
12th December 1856.

F. Lushington
Civil Auditor

Financial 1856 Dept.
Indexed from 6 January/57.
From The Civil Auditor
To The Chief Secy. to Govt
Dated 12 Decr 1856
Recd 15/16
No. 2133
No. 734

S.E. No. 620

Submits report on the complaint preferred by Mr. J. H. Blair regarding the delay which has attended the audit & return of his Salary and Contingent Bills—

F. 16 December/56 No 6907/90

Copy sent to Mr. Blair 31 Decr/56. No. 620

C 15 Decr

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Financial Department.

No. 620

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation.

Dated 30th Decr 1856.

Read again letter from J. H. Blair, Esqre, Acting Subordinate Judge of Rajahmundry dated 1st & recorded in Dt. to Con. 16th December 1856.

Read also the following letter from the Civil Auditor.

Dated 12th December 1856. No. 2133.

The Govt. consider the delay complained of by Mr. Blair in the audit and return of his Pay Abstract and the Contingent Bills of the Court to have been, under the circumstances, sufficiently accounted for by the Civil Auditor.

Chief Secretary.

Copy to Mr. Blair with copy of C. A.'s report 3 Desp'd 2d Jany
To the Civil Auditor. Desp'd 5 Jany/57.
Recd 3d Cont'd & Rep'd 5 Jany/57.
C. A.

Jno S. R. Huntly

19 & 20

Further letter from the A. Civil & Session Judge of Rajahmundry
D/ 18th December /56 No 578

In Despn 6 January '57
Financial 1856 No 5

No 620.

Extract Mins of Cons.
of 30th Decr /56.

c 18 Decr