

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	5	Press <u>Mis.</u>
Dated	7. 1.	1858

B. No. 6.7 6.7

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 6. From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil and Session Judge of Rajahmundry; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Judicial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 18th December 1857, No. 298.

SIR,

1. Complaints against the existing system of pre-audit have, I find, been already submitted to Government, both by my predecessor, Mr. Cotton, and by the Subordinate Judge, Mr. Blair, based, alike, upon serious inconveniences arising, (as they conceived), from the working of that system. The one however having been apparently over-ruled because made at the very commencement only of that working, and the other having elicited a long and, as Government considered, satisfactory, explanation from the Civil Auditor. I venture, after this lapse, to add my testimony as to its continued most inconvenient effects; as well as to very respectfully suggest, how unequally such bear, personally, upon members of the service, the sphere of whose duties lies at a distance from the Presidency.

2. The Civil Auditor has, I observe, in his letter to you under date December 12th, 1856, No. 2133, stated "that at least half the salary Bills of Officers and their Establishments are audited and returned on the day of their receipt, whilst cases of detention for more than 48 hours are rare and exceptional." Not only, however, have those of *this* Court *never* been, within my experience, among the favored half, but they have, on two out of five Returns made, been of the number of the "rare and exceptional cases" adverted to.

3. Bills posted here on the first of a month *should*, unless owing to very *unusual* delay in the post, be here again on the 10th, whereas the "earliest" date of actual receipt has been 12th, *i. e.* in October and the current month, whilst in August, it was the 13th, in November the 14th, and in September the 15th.

	4. That the system
* 1 Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor, dated 15th January 1857.	of pre-audit has been
1 Civil Auditor's reply, do. 20th	found to work vexatiously
1 Mr. Cotton's letter, do. 26th	is, I believe, generally ad-
1 Civil Auditor's Do. do. 3rd February	mitted; and I shall not, I
1 Acting Civil Judge's letter to Civil Auditor, dated 1st Sept.	trust, be held as exceeding
1 Do. Do. to Do. 1st October	my proper vocation, if res-
1 Do. Do. to Do. 13th	pectfully submitting to
1 Civil Auditor's reply, dated	Government my own indi-
1 Acting Civil Judge's letter, dated, 14th	vidual experience, as well
1 Do. Do. Do. 1st December	as that of Mr. Purvis,
1 Civil Auditor's reply, Do. 11th	the Collector, and of my
1 Acting Civil Judge's letter to Collector, 11th	Predecessor Mr. Cotton,
1 Collector's reply, dated 12th	illustrated by the accom-
1 Ag. Civil Judge's letter to Civil Auditor, dated 17th	panying correspondence as,
	per margin: * Mr. Cotton's

complaint, being, I would observe, totally distinct from that submitted by him to Government adverted to in para: 1.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil and Session Judge.

From R. R. COTTON, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the CIVIL AUDITOR, Fort Saint George, dated 15th January 1857, No. 11.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I have not yet received my Salary Bills for deputation, and house rent, though the Abstract of the Establishment of this Court was received on the 13th Instant, I request therefore you will be good enough to hasten the same.

(Signed) R. R. COTTON,
Acting Civil Judge.

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 8th January 1858.

From F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Civil Auditor; to the Acting Civil and Session Judge, Rajahmundry, dated 20th January 1857, No. 2444.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 15th Instant informing me, that your bills for deputation allowance and house rent for last month have not been returned to you, I have the honor to state that those bills were not received in this Office with your bill for out-of-employ allowance, which was received on the 5th and passed and returned to you on the 6th Idem, nor do they appear to have been received since. If you will therefore forward other bills, I shall audit and return them to you without delay.

(Signed) F. LUSHINGTON,
Civil Auditor.

From R. R. COTTON, Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated 26th January 1857, No. 17.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th Instant, and in reply to inform you, that having signed my former bills, I delivered them to my Head Writer, who states most positively that he despatched them with the establishment and other bills in one cover, and that he did so, is apparent from the following fact.

2. It is the custom in my Office to have every letter despatched entered in a book, with its weight, on referring to the said letter book, it shews that the letter forwarded to you on the 31st December weighted 6 Rupees 8 annas. On weighing the paper on which the Establishment bill, the original and duplicate of the District Moonsiff's house-rent bills, and my bill for out-of-employ allowance were written, together with the envelope, the weight is but a trifle over 5 Rupees, shewing most clearly that other papers were likewise sent, and you will find that 2½ sheets of foolscap on which the missing bills were made out, will just about bring the weight to that which is entered in the letter book as the weight of the letter.

3. I would venture to suggest your examining your books, to see if you have not passed the missing Bills, should you have done so, it will at once shew that the Bills were sent, at the same time should this evidence not be extant, I must still hold my conviction founded on the entry in the letter book, the assertion of my Head Writer that he sent them, and that too of the Shroff who entered the weight of the letter in the book, that the bills were sent, and that the omission to return them, is owing to negligence in your Office, which has put me to considerable inconvenience and expense, as having to make regular remittances to England for my family I have been obliged to obtain a loan.

4. While on this subject, I would likewise beg to bring to your notice, that a bill for witnesses' batta forwarded to you on the 10th December last, has not been returned, and that bills passed by you for one Court, have through the carelessness of your despatching Officer, more than once, been put into envelopes directed to another.

5. I enclose copies of two entries in the Post letter Book.

(Signed) R. R. COTTON,
Acting Civil Judge.

From F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Civil Auditor; to the Acting Civil and Session Judge of Rajahmundry, dated 3rd February 1857, No. 2589.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, (yesterday,) of your letter, dated the 26th Ultimo, from which I regret to find, that the loss of your Bills is still considered by you to be attributable to negligence in my Office. Under the circumstances represented in your letter, it is impossible to doubt that the Bills were forwarded as stated by you to this office, though at the same

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 8th January 1858.

time I am wholly unable to account for their subsequent disappearance, or to tell upon whom the blame of their loss should be fixed, every letter cover received in this Office is opened by myself, and upon each enclosure the date of receipt is noted in the covers under my initials. The letter is then taken to the record Department, where each Bill is consecutively numbered, and entered in a Register, after which the Bills are distributed for examination to the several auditors, who again affix their initials to the Register in token that they have received the Bill. On examination of the Register, I find in respect to the letter supposed to have contained the missing Bills, the following entry 1982, "Acting Civil and Session Judge, 2 Bills, 1 Estimate, and 1 out-of-employ allowance," and it is evident therefore, that the Bills never reached the Record Department, and if received in this Office, that they must have been lost in their transit from my room to that of the Record Department, which, as the Record room is only a few paces from my own, seems a most improbable circumstance. The foregoing explanation will, I trust, satisfy you that there is no negligence in my Office and that every possible precaution is used to guard against the loss of Bills transmitted to it for the purposes of audit.

2. With respect to the Bill for witnesses' Batta alluded to in the 4th para: of your letter under acknowledgment, I beg to inform you that a Voucher headed Account Particulars for Prosecutors' and Witnesses' Batta for November last was received on the 18th December 1856, but under the supposition that that it was merely the fore-runner of a Bill that would be subsequently sent from your Office, it was kept carefully apart, your letter now under acknowledgment however induces me to think that the supposed Voucher is the Bill alluded to, and to save delay therefore, I herewith return it to you, audited, but not without remarking that had you adhered to the instructions issued by this Office in respect to the preparation of Contingent Bills the delay complained of would not have occurred.

(Signed) F. LUSHINGTON,
Civil Auditor.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 1st September 1857, No. 177.

SIR,

On the 1st Ultimo, I forwarded with this Court's Pay Abstracts for the past month, a Bill for District Moonsiff Court House rent, which not having as yet been returned, I am led to believe the same must have been mislaid, and have the honor consequently to send a duplicate of the same.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 1st October 1857, No. 209.

SIR,

1. In forwarding the herewith ordinary monthly salary Bills for September for Audit, I have the honor to bring to your notice the fact, that, although transmitted on the 1st as usual, those for August which should, in ordinary course, have reached your Office on the 5th Ultimo, were not passed by you until the 9th or despatched from Madras until 11th, (2 days afterwards,) or received here until the 15th, whilst it was on the 12th of the month previous, even before the preceding set was received back.

2. Deprecating all intention soever of being in the slightest degree exacting, or unduly raising a question, I would yet take the liberty of suggesting the absence of any apparent necessity for such delay in your Office in passing and despatching mere ordinary routine Bills of the kind, as occurred last month, and would, with reference to the considerable inconvenience arising to the very many parties interested, from delay and incertitude, solicit the favor, of your kindly auditing and returning these Bills in future as quickly as conveniently practicable.

3. I take the opportunity of also bringing to your notice that house rent Bills for Moonsiff's Courts for July and August, have not as yet been returned to me, though sent the former on the 1st August, the latter on 1st September last.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil and Session Judge.

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 8th January 1858.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 13th October 1857, No. 218.

SIR,

In forwarding copy of the order requested in your letter of the 8th current, I take the opportunity in at the same time acknowledging receipt of the Moonsiff Court's House rent bills for August and September last, to mention that the one for July (of which duplicate* was also sent) has as yet not been received. I have the honor

* *Vide this Court's letter, 1st September 1857.* therefore to request the favor of your attention to the same.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

From F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Civil Auditor; to J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge of Rajahmundry, dated October 1857, No. 358.

SIR,

1. In returning duly passed the bill forwarded with your letter of the 1st Ultimo, for rents of Houses occupied as the District Moonsiffs' Courts of Rajahmundry, for the month of August 1857, amounting to Rupees 16, I have the honor to inform you that, the bill which is stated by you to have been forwarded to this Office on the 1st August last, does not appear upon examination of my register to have been received at all; which bill, I presume, must be for July 1857, and not the bill for August, as your letter and reply seems to indicate. I request therefore that you will transmit to me the bill in duplicate for July last, to enable me to pass it.

2. I beg also to return herewith duly passed the bill* for September† last for the rent of Houses as abovementioned amounting to Rupees 16 which was subsequently received. I request that you will on the receipt of it transmit to me a duplicate thereof.

3. I request also that you will for the future include the charges for House rents in your Bill for Contingent Charges of your Court; as under the rules, separate bills are held to be inadmissible.

(Signed) F. LUSHINGTON,
Civil Auditor.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 14th October 1857, No. 219.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt, this day of your letter, without date, but bearing, No. 358, in reply to mine of 1st Ultimo.

2. I regret you should have considered there was room for doubting, from my letter, as to what particular Bill was alluded to, or for conceiving that one for August was indicated; suggesting, however, at the same time, the apparent improbability of my sending one for August, on the 1st of that month being, as it would, in advance.

3. In that letter, whilst adverting to presumed loss of the originally sent Bill, I not only enclosed a Duplicate, but specially brought to notice that I had done so. From your present reply, however, you not only appear to have failed to receive the Duplicate, as well as the original, but fail to in any way notice my mention of its transmission: calling for another as though none such had been despatched or advised.

4. I am quite unable to appreciate the tenor of para: 2 of your letter under reply, calling for duplicate of September's rent bill, which you state to have been subsequently received, but which was despatched hence under the same cover as all other Bills for September, on the 1st current, and was, as I observe, passed in your Office on the same date as they were (the 8th current,) I beg however to enclose it, as called for, as well as a *Triplicate* of the Rent Bill for July.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 8th January 1858.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated Rajahmundry, 1st December 1857, No. 263.

SIR,

I have the honor to request your attention to my letters, marginally noted, intimating the non-receipt of the Moonsiff Courts' House rent Bill for July, forwarded on 1st August last, to point out that notwithstanding Duplicate and Triplicate of the same have been also sent, I am still without the passed Bill.

Nos. 177, 1st September 1857, with Duplicate Bill alluded to in letter
209, 1st October.
218, 13th do.
14th October, Triplicate sent.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

From F. LUSHINGTON Esq., Civil Auditor; to J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil and Session Judge, dated Rajahmundry, 11th December 1857, No. 543.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 14th October and 1st December 1857, I have the honor to inform you that, as Contingent bills are furnished to this Office in duplicate and your duplicate of the Bill for July to which you refer in the above letters was received at the same time with the Bill for August, and had the word "Duplicate" written at the head of it, and as separate vouchers and no duplicate for August, accompanied the Bill for that month, it was supposed to be the Duplicate bill for that month, (August,) and was consequently stamped along with the original (for August,) and put away with other duplicate bills kept on record and you will observe from the stamp which it bears being of the same date, viz., 8th October 1857, as that of the bill for August, with which it came, that this was likely to have taken place, and the wording and amount of the two bills being precisely the same with the exception of the month, the mistake may be easily accounted for. I regret, however, that it should have occurred.

I have now altered the duplicate of the Bill for July, to "Original," and return it herewith passed for payment, having altered the Triplicate sent by you to "Duplicate."

I request that the duplicate of the bill for the month of August may now be submitted for record in my Office.

(Signed) F. LUSHINGTON,
Civil Auditor.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge; to the Civil Auditor, Fort Saint George, dated 17th December 1857, No. 296.

SIR,

1. I have the honor, pursuant to request conveyed in your letter of 11th Current, No. 543, to forward a duplicate of the Bill in question for August.

2. With reference to the explanation offered therein for the very protracted delay in return (therewith) of the "passed" Bill for July last, and for the considerable gratuitous trouble involved by the various applications that have become necessary in consequence, I would beg to suggest, that however explanatory of the way in which the same actually occurred, it in no way soever serves to justify the occurrence.

3. That the mistake mentioned as happening with reference to the character of the duplicate Bill when originally received by you, with the Pay Abstracts for August, might have readily been done so, had no specific information upon the subject accompanied it, I admit; but not so, when as in the present instance, distinct separate information by letters, was sent with the Bill, setting forth that it was "a Duplicate of that for July," (previously submitted.)

4. Supposing however the presumption of their easily mistaking the same, notwithstanding to be admitted, such admission could scarcely, I would take leave to suggest, hold good after your receipt of my subsequent letters of October 1st and 13th, in the latter of which, I again pointedly refer you to the above named letters (of September 1st) "as enclosing duplicate July"—: an intimation reiterated, moreover, in *extenso*, in yet another communication on the following day (October 14th.)

Fort Saint George, Financial Consultation, 8th January 1858.

5. When therefore we thus see a simple Bill for Rupees 16, delayed in passing and return, for between 4 or 5 months; and involving no less than five letters from this Office and two from your own, together with consequent loss of time, waste of Paper, and needless proportionate increase of Tauppal weight and duty, I shall not, I conceive, be considered, as exceeding the bounds of natural and strictly fair inference, when adducing the instance, as a pointed illustration of the, as I believe generally pronounced, vexatious working and nature of the system of pre-audit.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

(True Copies)

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil and Session Judge.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge of Rajahmundry; to A. PURVIS, Esq., Collector of Rajahmundry, dated 11th December 1857, No. 287.

SIR,

As I intend addressing Government, with reference to the irregularity of the Despatch, from the Civil Auditor's Office, and the invariably late receipt here of the salary bills of this Court, as well as pointing out the considerable inconveniences emanating from this system of pre-audit, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to let me know, whether you experience the one, and are of the same opinion as to the other, in order, that if so, I may embody the fact in my representation.

2. One Bill I may instance, which, although despatched on the 1st August and since followed by Duplicate and Triplicate has *not even yet* been returned.

(Signed) J. RATLIFF,
Acting Civil Judge.

From A. PURVIS, Esq., Collector of Rajahmundry; to J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil Judge of Rajahmundry, dated Peddapoor, 12th December 1857, No. 1192.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, I cannot call to mint any particular instances of delay in the transmission from the Civil Audit Office of the salary bills sent from my Office for pre-audit. The inconvenience of the new system to all public servants whose duties lay in the Mofussil must be patent to all. I long ago pointed out to the Accountant General that it was an utter delusion to suppose that the new plan in any way relieved the Collector of work. It has on the contrary increased it.

(Signed) A. PURVIS,
Collector.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 5; dated 7th January 1858.

Ordered that the foregoing letter, with its enclosures, be forwarded to the Civil Auditor for any observations he may have to offer on the subject of the representations it contains. His attention is particularly directed to the remark of Mr. Purvis that the new system of Audit has not in any way relieved the Collector of work, but on the contrary has increased it.

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

From,

J. Ratliff Esq.

Acting Civil and Session Judge of Rajahmundry

To

J. Pycroft Esq.

Chief Secretary to Government

Judicial Department

Fort St. George

Madras

487. No. 298

Sir,

Complaints against the existing system of pre-audit, have, I find, been already submitted to Government, both by my predecessor Mr. Patton - & by the subordinate judge Mr. Blair, based, alike, upon serious inconveniences arising, as they conceived, from the working of that system - The one however having been apparently overruled, because made at the very commencement only of that working, and the other having elicited a long, & as Government considered, satisfactory, explanation from the Civil Auditor - I venture, after this lapse, to add my testimony, as to its continued most inconvenient effects, as well as, to very respectfully suggest, how unequally such bears personally, upon Members of the Service, the sphere of whose duties lies at a distance from the Presidency -

The

2. The Civil Auditor has, I believe, in his letter to you under date December 12th 1856 No. 2433 stated "that at least half the salary Bills of Officers & their establishments are audited & returned on the day of their receipt - whilst cases of detention for more than 48 hours are rare & exceptional -" Not only however, have those of this Court never been, within my experience, among the favored half - but they have, on two out of five Returns, made, been of the number of the rare and exceptional cases" adverted to -

3. Bills posted here on the first of a month should, unless owing to very unusual delay in the post, be here again on the 10th: whereas the earliest date of actual receipt has been the 15th is in October & the current month whilst in August, it was the 13th - in November the 14th - and in September the 15th -

4. That the system of pre-audit has been found to work vexatiously is, I believe, generally admitted, and I shall not, I trust, be held as exceeding my proper vocation, if respectfully submitting to Government my own individual experience, as well as that of Michigan the collector, & of my predecessor Mr. Cotton, illustrated by the accompanying correspondence as per margin - Mr. Cotton's complaint, being, I would observe, totally distinct from

that

1. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th June 1857.
2. Civil Auditor's reply 29th June 1857.
3. Mr. Cotton's letter dated 3rd July 1857.
4. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th July 1857.
5. Civil Auditor's reply 29th July 1857.
6. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th August 1857.
7. Civil Auditor's reply 29th August 1857.
8. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th September 1857.
9. Civil Auditor's reply 29th September 1857.
10. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th October 1857.
11. Civil Auditor's reply 29th October 1857.
12. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th November 1857.
13. Civil Auditor's reply 29th November 1857.
14. Mr. Cotton's letter to the Civil Auditor dated 15th December 1857.
15. Civil Auditor's reply 29th December 1857.

that submitted by him to Government and adverted to in para 1 -

Have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servt

Ross

Acting Civil and Session Judge

Clk

No 5

Ordered that the free

- going letter, with its enclosure,
- be forwarded to the Civil Service
- for any observations they may
- have to offer on the subject of
- the representative of education -
- His attention is particularly directed
- to the second of the three
- as that the new system of an
- not have met in any way to
- leave the College of St. Mark,
- but on the contrary has in-
- creased it.

To the Hon. Secy. of the
Treasury, 1858.

To the Civil Service - Dated 15th

To the Hon. Secy. of the Treasury
Ordered on 19/1/58

July 1 to 6 Aug 20 - 24 Aug 20

1858

Para 213.

6-7

Financial

To the Hon. Secy. of the Treasury
Dated 15th Dec 1857

To the Hon. Secy. of the Treasury
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With a Order