M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 14.

(2) Date of repair 15-7-39.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 466	Press / ~~Mis.~~
46-47.	
Dated 17-7-	18 63.

46-47 8/9

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15-2-08.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 17*th July* 1863.

No. 46. Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar; to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 7th July 1863, No. 136.

I regret to have to bring to the notice of the Board that the Acting Deputy Paymaster in charge of the Civil Treasury at Cannanore reports* the discovery of a deficiency of 12,000 Rupees in the Cash chest.

* Letter dated 1st instant.

2. A Military Court of inquiry has been assembled at the Deputy Paymaster's request to investigate the matter, and the result of the inquiry will be communicated to the Board as soon as known.

3. On the 4th instant the Deputy Paymaster telegraphed to me as follows :—

"Please send Cash-keeper, Shroff, &c., for Civil Treasury, mine have been arrested."

I have accordingly sent the Huzur second Shroff to Cannanore at once to officiate temporarily as Cash-keeper of the Civil Treasury, and telegraphed orders to the Cherakal Tahsildar to depute a Shroff from his Taluq.

4. I beg to enclose for the information of the Board a copy of the Deputy Paymaster's last letter† on the subject adverted to.

† No. 118, dated 4th instant.

From Captain W. DOUGLAS, Acting Deputy Paymaster; to the Collector of Malabar, Calicut, dated Cannanore, 4th July 1863, No. 118.

I regret to inform you that the Court of inquiry assembled to investigate the subject of the deficiency of Rupees 12,000 in the Civil Treasury under my charge has as yet come to no conclusion on the subject. Neither has any clue been found by the Police authorities who have been engaged in the matter ever since its discovery.

I request you will do me the favor to appoint some one to relieve me of charge of the Civil chest as soon as possible, as I must otherwise bring the business of the Treasury to a close pending this inquiry. A Cash-keeper is absolutely required immediately.

I shall keep you informed of the progress of the inquiry.

The 5 duplicate invoices received with your letter, No. 2,168, dated 2nd July 1863, are herewith returned.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) G. A. BALLARD,
Collector.

To the Acting Accountant General, Fort Saint George.

For information.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) THOMAS MURRAY,
Acting 2nd Asst. Accountant General.

Forwarded

To the Chief Secretary to Government.

(Signed) R. W. LODWICK,
Acting Dy. Auditor and Acct. General.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
11*th July* 1863.

No. 47. ORDER THEREON, 17th July 1863, No. 466.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. McMootry.

Extract from the Diary of Captain C. G Blamfield Superintendent of Police North Malabar - dated 2d July 1873

Rode over in the morning in consequence of a telegram from Captain Douglas at Cannanore stating that his Cash Chest had been robbed of Rupees 12,000 Twelve thousand and asking me to come in and help him -

The deficiency appears to have been discovered by Captain Douglas himself first in person on the 30th ultimo, when making up his accounts for transmission to the Deputy Collector at Calicut. The amount in specie in the Civil Cash Chest was found by him to be exactly 12,000 Rs (in 12 bags of 1000 Rs each) short of what it ought to be by his accounts kept by Cash Keeper and Shroffs daily and entries of receipts and issues by himself

97,000 proper balance 85- only found small coin all correct

illegible

The money was last counted by Captain Douglas on the 6th June when it was found to be correct and the Cash Chest has never been opened since

since and money taken out or closed except in his presence -

The Cash Chest is a large and very strong and heavy wooden box about 6×4×5: with strong iron girders It has a Centre lock (Branch) and the side pad-locks one (Branch) and one common iron one - the Keys of the two former are kept by Capt Douglas himself and have never been out of his possession for a moment and that of the other by the Cash Keeper (a Mr Pereira son of the Pay Office Manager) so that the chest can never be opened, except in the presence of both of them -

both bear an excellent character

It is in charge of a havildar's Guard, relieved every 24 hours of the 18th Regt N. I. who mount 2 sentries on the office by day and 3 by night (one of whom is always over the cash chest) relieved every 2 hours

There is not the slightest appearance of the box having been in any way disturbed, or any of the locks tampered with -

If the money has been taken away by night it must have been so by the havildar and his guard having previously

The peons and Mussalji leave the Office after it is closed in the evening

previously taken impressions of the three locks and had false Keys made The armourer Serjeant of the Fusiliers has examined the locks and is of opinion that this could not be done - Natives say that it could and this is the whole question at present

I have carefully questioned the whole of the Pay Office establishment consisting of Cash Keeper two Shroffs and two peons and one Mussalji one 10 and one 18 years in the place From what I can see at present their demeanour is not that of guilty men Their answers to questions are unhesitating and straightforward, and they seem willing and ready with any information they profess-

But they are unable to suggest any Solution of the deficiency except that of their having by mistake granted wrong receipts - Regarding which I have sent express to the Tahsildar on of their not having received such a large amount as Rupees 12000 out of 97 or one eighth, and reported it to Captain Douglas themselves - It is

It is just possible they may not have noticed it as the 1000 R bags composing this amount were all kept in one compartment of the chest very — and very dark —

The Military Cash Chest has not been touched at all the ordinary balance contained in it does not exceed 1,000 or 1,500 Rupees.

A Court of enquiry on the matter consisting of Major Ewart Campbell and Hunter is now sitting & to duty would however I shall imagine be confined to ascertain whether any negligence has been shown by the Paymaster in his disbursement of money or management of accounts and to recording evidence on the subject unless ordered to do so I do not think that a Court of enquiry ordinarily ever offers an opinion —

The last Court of enquiry however as the Inspector General may remember ordered to assemble here by order of the Brigadier on the occasion of the sudden death of a shroff named Soobiah Chetty in the bazar intended as a court of inquest tried the suspected wrong themselves and took a

fortnight to conclude their proceedings and had the matter over to the Magistrate by whom the whole case had to be gone over again —

The Magistrate himself is a member of this Court which is now sitting and it seems from its proceedings at present to be about to do exactly the same and to attempt to do the whole thing detective investigation themselves

The arrest of the 7 employees of the Pay Office and the search of their houses had already been ordered by Military Joint Magistrate. The paymaster has telegraphed to magistrate at Calicut to be supplied with another Cash Keeper and Shroff —

If the money has really gone which I was at first disinclined to believe but every successive message from the Tahsildars closes up former avenue of hope the truest scent would appear to be to lie with the Military guard alone and it is not necessary that any one else except a Blacksmith need have known any thing

thing about it at all - supposing is I do that it must have been done at night as on Sundays the Guard leave the whole place to themselves to the day and night I have procured from the Adjutant a list of all the Havildars and Naigues on duty at the Pay Office during the 24 days in question - not one I observe has been on duty twice and all are said to be respectable men. He has promised to supply me also within 24 hours with a list of the men at the rate of 12 per day for 24 days - 288 men or nearly half the Regiment must have been employed during 10 successive days mohurrum they must have been all Hindoos -

If any of them have been on the guard two or three times or can be proved to have exchanged duties with other men in order to be placed on that guard I shall have something to go upon at present the whole affair is most mysterious all the officers composing the Court of enquiry (3) hold different opinions as to the persons by whom the theft must have been committed as also as to the time one only (Major Hunter) and the Paymaster agree with me -

Natives

Natives will not believe that it has happened at all. They say that were the accounts thoroughly examined the mistake would be discovered at all events from what date the deficiency has taken place - long antedated to the 6th of June

A former Shroff of the Pay Office and the Head accountant of Major Ewart's Office, have been sent for to go through the whole including Shroffs vernacular ones so as to make as sure as possible

The vouchers received by Deputy Collector have been forwarded by him and are correct so that there is little if any hope but that the money is gone -

It may possibly be buried in the lines of the 18th Regiment I have brought in with me my two best Native detectives one Inspector and one Head Constable who are not known in the place and have the assistance of the Tahsildar who is a Sharp fellow There is reason to suspect a particular individual to have been the Black Smith who made the Keys or picked and reset the locks -

He

No. 136

Malabar Collectors Office
Calicut 7th July 1863

From
G. A. Ballard Esquire
Collector of Malabar

To
W. Hudleston Esquire
Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Fort Saint George

Sir

I regret to have to bring to the notice of the Board that the Acting Deputy Paymaster in charge of the Civil Treasury at Cannanore reports the discovery of a deficiency of 12,000 Rupees in the Cash Chest.

Letter dated 1st Instant

2 A Military Court of enquiry has been assembled at the Deputy Paymasters request to investigate the matter and the result of the enquiry will be communicated to the Board as soon as known.

3 On the 4th Instant the Deputy Paymaster telegraphed to me as follows.

"Please send Cash Keeper Shroff of the Civil Treasury, mine have been arrested

I have accordingly sent the Huzur second shroff to Canna[illegible] to officiate temporarily as Cash Keeper of the Civil Treasury and Telegraphed orders to the Cherakal Tahsildar to depute a shroff from his Talug.

I

Sir

I have must have been a uncommonly clever fellow at his trade a Simple lock any one can pick with a quill but it is something to know that a larger one is so utterly unsafe as would appear from what has come out in this case at present.

I am most anxious about this case, and still do not wish to precipitate matters It stands at present as the most important case of the kind that had occurred since I have been in charge of the District and my own personal feelings as well as my spirit as a Police Officer are deeply interested in bringing it to light.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient
humble servant
G. A. Ballard
Collr

If to

4.

I beg to enclose for the information of the Board a Copy of the Deputy Paymasters last† letter on the subject adverted to.

† No. 118 dated 4th Instant.

I have &c.
(Signed) G. A. Ballard
Collector

Pay Office Malabar Kanara
Cannanore 4th July 1863

No. 118

To
The Collector of Malabar
Calicut

Sir

I regret to inform you that the Court of enquiry assembled to investigate the subject of the deficiency of Rupees 12000—"—" in the Civil Treasury under my charge has as yet come to no conclusion on the subject. Neither has any clue been found by the Police Authorities who have been engaged in the matter ever since its discovery.

I request you will do me the favor to appoint some one to relieve me of charge of the Civil Chest as soon as possible as I must otherwise bring the business of the Treasury to a close pending this enquiry. A Cash Keeper is absolutely required immediately.

I shall keep you informed of the progress of the enquiry

The

13

The 5 duplicates Invoices received with your letter No. 2168 dated 2d July 1863 are herewith returned.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. Douglas Capt.
Ag Dep. Paymaster

True Copies
(Signed) G. A. Ballard
Collector.

To
The Acting Accountant General
Fort Saint George

For information

/ True Copy /

Thos. Murray.
Ag 2d Assist. Acct. Genl.

Forwarded
To
The Chief Secretary to Government

Fort St. George
Acc. Genl's Office
11 July 1863

R. Chadwick
Ag Dy Aud. & Acct. Genl

R. Gordon Sutton

Province 1863 Departm

(6)

From The Actg Dy Auditor
& Accountant Genl

Dated 11 " } July 1863.
Received 11 " }

No 646/63

No 478

Forwarding certa
correspondence relati
the discovery of a def
iency of 12000 Rupee
the Civil Treasury
Cannanore.
July 1863 No 466-

Recorded.

11th July
1863

46-47