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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 396 Press ~~Mis.~~

Dated 3 – 8 – 1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

17/7/39.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
3rd August 1864.

No. 11. Read the following letter from F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Accountant General; to the Secretary to Government, Financial Department, Fort Saint George, dated 28th July 1864, No. 81.

* In original to be returned.

I have the honor to submit, for the consideration of Government, two letters* addressed to me by the Officiating Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras, on the 25th instant, on the subject of the Order of Government in the Financial Department, No. 365, dated 13th idem, and to state that of the two boxes forwarded for my inspection, as samples of those which contained the remittance of Copper despatched from the Bank on the 7th June last, Box No. 2 purchased in the bazaar, and which was made of new Mangoe wood planks an inch thick, and secured by iron clamps all round, was unquestionably the strongest. Both boxes were, however, sufficiently strong for despatch of Treasure to any part of India, provided only ordinary care were observed in its conveyance.

2. It is obvious to remark that no boxes can be constructed of sufficient strength, either at the Mint, or elsewhere, to withstand the rough usage described in the 2nd paragraph of Mr. McIver's letter to Inspector General of Police of the 16th ultimo, and as it is expressly stated by the Bank Secretary that the whole of the boxes containing the remittance in question were in a perfectly sound and good condition when despatched from the Bank premises, there is every reason to believe that the damaged condition of the box referred to by Captain Cloete was caused by the carelessness of the coolies when delivering the boxes at the Royapooram station.

3. So long as there is a divided responsibility between the remitting officers and the Police in charge of the remittance, complaints similar to the one now preferred by Captain Cloete will, I fear, be of frequent occurrence, and the only remedy appears to me to be that suggested in the concluding portion of paragraph 2 of the Officiating Secretary's letter of the 25th instant, No. 27-1119. If the Inspector of Police in charge of the remittance be further enjoined to see that the boxes receive fair usage at the hands of coolies and bandymen in the course of transit, I do not believe that there will be any necessity for the despatch of spare boxes and tools, which it is stated by the Secretary would be attended with practical difficulties.

From T. E. FRANCK, Esq., Officiating Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras; to F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Accountant General, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 25th July 1864, No. 27-1119.

In forwarding for your information the enclosed copy of an Order of Government in the Financial Department, No. 365, dated 13th July 1864, I have the honor, by desire of the Directors of the Bank, to draw your attention to the instructions contained in paragraph 1, respecting the transmission of "spare boxes and tools for repairs" with each remittance of Specie sent by the Bank into the interior.

2. The practical difficulties attendant on such a measure will readily occur to you, and as there does not appear to be any necessity for it, if the boxes are securely packed, and in sound condition when despatched from the Bank, I am directed to suggest that with the view of avoiding any future question on this point, the Head Constable of each Police escort should be required to examine and take charge of the boxes previous to their despatch from the Bank, rejecting any that may be in bad order, or with the seals broken, and that the Bank should thereby be relieved from any further responsibility in the matter.

3. If this suggestion meets with your concurrence, I shall feel obliged by your submitting it for the consideration of Government, with an expression of your opinion on the subject.

From T. E. FRANCK, Esq., Officiating Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras; to F. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Accountant General, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 25th July 1864, No. 27-1120.

With reference to my letter, No. 27-1119 of this date, I have the honor to forward for your inspection specimens of the boxes used by the Bank for remittances of Specie. On the occasion of the recent remittance of Copper coin to

No. 1 procured from the Mint.
No. 2 purchased in the bazaar.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
3rd August 1864.

Codoor, which has given rise to the Order of Government referred to in my letter above-mentioned, 83 of the boxes were of the same description as No. 1, 651 the same as No. 2, and the remaining 358 were boxes received from the Mofussil Treasuries, which were used for the purpose of return remittance, being perfectly sound and good. The boxes were further encased with gunnies, and fastened with ropes. I think you will agree with me that the statement in Captain H. D. Cloete's letter, that the boxes were "unsafe and made of wood no better than touchwood" is somewhat exaggerated.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON, 3rd August 1864, No. 396.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter and of its enclosures be sent to the Inspector General of Police, and that he be requested to state if the Police escorts can receive charge of the boxes containing public treasure at the Bank of Madras instead of at the Royapooram Railway station.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Madras Police.

Exd. J, Tulloch.

№ 27/1120

Bank of Madras.
Madras 25th July 1864

J. Lushington Esq:
Accountant General
Fort St. George.

Sir

With reference to my letter № 27/1119 of this date, I have the honor to forward for your inspection, specimens of the boxes used by the Bank for remittances of Specie. On the occasion of the recent remittance of Copper Coin to Codoor, which has given rise to the Order of Government, referred to in my letter above mentioned, 83 of the boxes were of the same description as № 1, 651 the same as № 2, and the remaining 358 were boxes received from the Mofussil Treasuries, which were used for the purpose of return remittances, being perfectly sound and good. The boxes were further encased with Gunnies and fastened with Ropes. I think you will agree with me that the Statement in Capt. H.D. Cloete's letter, that the boxes were "unsafe and made of wood no better than touchwood" is

№ 1. procured from the Mint
№ 2. purchased in the Bazaar

DA & AG. Office
Recd 25 } 7 1864
Ansd __ }

25/7.

somewhat exaggerated.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
W. W. Mack.
Offg: Secy: & Treasurer.

N. 27/1119.

Bank of Madras
Madras 25 July 1864

J. Lushington Esq:
Accountant General
Fort St. George.

Sir

In forwarding for your information the enclosed Copy of an Order of Government in the Financial Department N. 365 dated 13 July 1864, I have the honor, by desire of the Directors of the Bank, to draw your attention to the instructions contained in para: 1, respecting the transmission of "Spare ~~Specie~~ boxes, and tools for repairs" with each remittance of Specie sent by the Bank into the interior.

The practical difficulties attendant on such a measure will readily occur to you, and as there does not appear to be any necessity for it, if the boxes are securely packed, and in sound condition when despatched from the Bank, I am directed to suggest, that with the view of avoiding any future question on this point, the Head Constable of each Police Escort should be required to examine, and take charge of the boxes, previous to their despatch from the Bank, rejecting any that may be in bad order, or with the seals

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Ansd

Forwarded for information & Records
Fort St George 28th July 1864.

broken, and that the Bank should thereby be relieved from any further responsibility in the matter.

If this suggestion meets with your concurrence, I shall feel obliged by your submitting it for the consideration of Government, with an expression of your opinion on the subject.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
W. Buck
Offg. Dep. Treasurer.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 13th July 1864.

No. 40. Read the following letter from W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras,—June 1864, No. 1297.

General Department.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, copies of correspondence as per margin, on the subject of the insecure state of the boxes used for Cash remittances sent into the interior from the Bank of Madras.

1. From Superintendent of Police, Madras District, No. 212 of 13th June 1864, to Inspector General of Police.
2. From Inspector General of Police to Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras, No. 1217 of 14th June 1864.
3. From Secretary and Treasurer, Madras Bank, to Inspector General of Police, No. 27-288 of 16th June 1864.

2. It is, I think, necessary that the attention of Government should be drawn to the matter.

3. In the case of any deficiency being found in the contents of a broken box after arrival at its destination, it would not be possible to bring home the charge to any particular guard, as the escorts are relieved on the boundary of each District.

4. I would suggest that officers in charge of District and Taluq Treasuries be authorized to receive for repair, or in order to have new boxes substituted from Police Treasure escorts, any boxes of treasure which may have become broken or otherwise unfit for transit.

5. I would then order the Police, in the event of any box being in an insecure condition, to take it to the nearest Treasury; of course this would not apply to damage to seals, or slight injuries of that description.

From Captain H. D. CLOETE, Superintendent of Police, Madras District; to W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Police, Madras, dated Saint Thomas' Mount, 13th June 1864, No. 212.

I have on a former occasion reported on the insecure and dilapidated state in which chests of treasure are sent from the Bank Circular Memorandum, No. 408, P. W. C., No. 23, induces me to report again on the state of the boxes sent to Codoor on the 7thinstant. The European Head Constable who was in charge of the escort reports that many of the seals were broken when he took charge at Royapooram, and that one box was broken before the train started, and that by the time he made it over at Codoor, the top had fallen in altogether, exposing the coin inside. I have the honor to request you to be good enough to take steps to prevent a recurrence of this lax system of transmitting public money in boxes unsafe, and made of wood, no better than touch wood It is to be borne in mind that this treasure had to be escorted in carts through a wild country from Codoor.

2. The Head Constable of the Cuddapah Police party complained bitterly of having to escort this broken box, he having no means of repairing it. It is iniquitous to saddle the Police with such responsibility.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. W. CARR, Captain,
Asst. Inspr. Genl. of Police.

From W. ROBINSON, Esq., Inspector General of Madras Police; to the Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras, dated Madras, 14th June 1864, No. 1217.

In forwarding for your information an original letter* from the Superintendent of Police, Madras District, No. 212, dated 13th June 1864, I have the honor to request your particular attention to the report therein made, with regard to the unfit and insecure state of the boxes containing public treasure,† sent from Madras to Cuddapah *viâ* Codoor on the 7th instant.

* To be returned.

† Rupees 2,17,500.

2. I have lately issued a Circular Memorandum on this subject (copy enclosed) warning Police officers *not* to receive treasure insecurely packed, and I beg that you will cause all boxes of treasure sent hereafter from the Bank to be carefully examined before they are handed over to the escort.

(True Copy)

(Signed) M. W. CARR, Captain,
Asst. Inspr. Genl. of Police.

CIRCULAR MEMORANDUM.
No. 408, 11th June 1864.

Cases have occurred in which public treasure has been lost in consequence of the utterly insecure and dilapidated state of the chests in which it is contained.

2. In such cases the Revenue authorities neglect the primary duty of seeing that the treasure is safely stored. The chests are unfit for the safe custody of public monies; but they fail to observe or rectify it.

3. Police are placed in charge and loss accrues. And here the Inspector is at fault. It is the duty of the Inspector to see that every chest over which he has a guard is secure; and that it continues in this state. He should object to take charge of an insecure cash-chest, and instantly report the circumstance.

4. The Inspector General warns these officers that he will have them do their duty, or they must take the consequence. When treasure is lost from boxes which are found to be in this state, the Inspector General will not look amongst the small fry to make it good. If the watchmen be convicted they take their punishment. But the Inspector General will make the responsible officer to make good the loss.

(Signed) W. ROBINSON,
Inspr. Genl., M. Police.

(True Copy.

(Signed) M. W. CARR, Captain,
Asst. Inspr. Genl. of Police.

From J. McIVER, Esq., Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras; to the Inspector General of Madras Police, dated Madras, 16th June 1864, No. 27-288.

In reply to your letter, No. 1217, dated 14th June, I have the honor to inform you that the boxes used by the Bank for packing treasure are as strong and secure as it is possible to make them, and that they are always carefully examined previous to despatch.

2. The damage complained of arises from the careless way in which the boxes are treated in transit, the coolies throwing them down upon one another without any regard to the injury they occasion thereby.

3. In receiving treasure at the Bank, cases have frequently occurred in which a perfectly sound box has been smashed by another being thrown down heedlessly upon it.

4. Captain Cloete's letter forwarded with yours under reply is herewith returned.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) M. W. CARR, Captain,
Asst. Inspr. Genl. of Police.

No. 41. ORDER THEREON, 13th July 1864, No. 365.

The Governor in Council does not consider the explanation offered by the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras to be an answer to Captain Cloete's complaint. If the boxes containing public treasure were sound when sent from the Bank, they could not have been in the state in which they were represented to have been received at the Royapooram station by the Police escort. The simplest plan, for the future, will be for the Bank to forward with each Cash remittance a certain proportion of spare boxes and tools for repairs.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
13th July 1864.

2. The Governor in Council approves of the instructions issued on the subject in the Circular of the Inspector General of Police; his officers will refuse to take charge of any boxes in bad order, or with the seals broken.

3. No order such as that proposed in paragraph 4 is necessary. Under such circumstances it would be the manifest duty of Treasury and other Officers to afford every reasonable assistance in ensuring the security of Government property.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Inspector General of Madras Police.
" Secretary and Treasurer, Bank of Madras.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Fort Saint George
Accountant Genls Office
No. 81 28 July 1864

From
J. Lushington Esqre
Accountant General

To
The Secretary to Government
Financial Department

Sir,

In original to be returned

I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government two letters addressed to me by the Officiating Secretary and Treasurer Bank of Madras on the 25th Instant, on the subject of the order of Government in the Financial Department No. 365 dated 13th idem, and to state that, of the two boxes forwarded for my inspection, as samples of those which contained the remittance of Copper despatched from the Bank on the 7th June last, Box No. 2 purchased in the Bazaar, and which was made of new mangoe wood planks an inch thick, and secured by iron clamps all round, was unquestionably the strongest. Both boxes were, however sufficiently strong for despatch of Treasure to any part of India, provided only ordinary care were observed in its conveyance.

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2 It is obvious to remark that no boxes can be constructed of sufficient strength, either at the Mint, or elsewhere, to withstand the rough usage described in the 2d para of Mr. Mc Ivor's letter to Government of the 15th Ultimo, and as it is expressly stated by the Bank Secretary that the whole of the boxes containing the remittance in question were in a perfectly sound and good condition when despatched from the Bank premises, there is every reason to believe that the damaged condition of the box referred to by Captain Cloete was caused by the carelessness of the coolies when delivering the boxes at the Royapooram station.

3. So long as there is a divided responsibility between the remitting officers and the Police in charge of the remittance, complaints similar to the one now preferred by Capt. Cloete will, I fear, be of frequent occurrence, and the only remedy appears to me to be that suggested in the concluding portion of para 2 of the Officiating Secretary's letter of the 25 instant No. 27/1119. If the Inspector of Police in charge of the Remittance be further enjoined to

to see that the boxes receive fair usage at the hands of Coolies and Bandymen in the course of transit. I do not believe that there will be any necessity for the despatch of spare boxes and tools which it is stated by the Secretary would be attended with practical difficulties.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant

F. Huthinson
Accountant General

Encd
Naga Rattnam

Pro: 13th July 64 — 40-41

Financial 1864 Department

From

The Accountant Genl

To The Secretary to Government

Financial Department

Dated 28 July 1864

Rec'd 29 3rd

No 81.

No 373

Submits in original two letters from the Officiating Secy & Treasurer Bk of Madras d/25th Inst. with his observations on the sample Treasure boxes sent for his inspection in Conformity to the Bank Directors letter of the 2nd Inst. and states that if the Inspector of Police in charge be further enjoined to see that the boxes receive fair usage by the Coolies & Bandymen, he thinks there will be no necessity to send spare boxes & tools with the remittances

With an Order

No. 396 — 3d August 1864.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter & of its enclosures be sent to the Inspector General of Police & that he be requested to state if the Police Escorts can receive charge of the boxes containing public treasure at the Bank of Madras instead of at the Royapooram Railway Station.

J. D. S.

To Inspr: General of Madras Police