(1) Number of pages 16

(2) Date of repair 19-9-39.

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 261 Press / Mis.

14-15

Dated 5 & 18[illegible].

9/6

14-15

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
5th August 1868.

No. 14. Read the following letter from the Accountant General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George.

Submits certain correspondence which has taken place between J. F. Price, Acting Sub-Collector of Salem, as Money Order Agent at Oossoor, and the Controller of the Money Order Department, regarding the refusal of the former to conform to the rules of the Department in regard to the mode of closing monthly accounts. (Dated 6th July 1868, No. 94).

No. 15. ORDER THEREON, 5th August 1868, No. 361.

To be recorded.

(True Extract).

R. S. ELLIS,
Chief Secretary.

Ed. J. Tallooh,

Precis of the correspondence regarding the Agency of the Money Order office at Ossoor.

In Order dated the 31st Decr last No 584, the Govt did not consider it advisable that the Sub Collector of Salem should be in charge of the Money order office at Ossoor, & the Collector was requested to propose some other arrangement.

2. This Order was communicated to the Controller Money order department.

Letter 27 February 68. No. 17.

3 The Collector in reply transmitted copy of a letter from the Sub Collector, stating that there was no person on his establishment who could undertake the duty and suggesting that the Deputy Post-master be appointed.

4 The Post master General gave his assent

to

to the arrangement, & on the 31st March last, S. Ramachendra Deputy Post Master was appointed Money Order Agent at Bezoar.

5 Prior to the No[illegible]n of the appointe[illegible] in the Gazette, the [illegible]t Order was sent to the Accountant Gen[illegible] Department and the following note was made on it in Pencil by the Examiner of Claims.

"Govt eventually make "these appointments - the "ordinary channel is thro' "the Controller & Acct. Genl.

6. On the 30th June the Accountant General brought to notice that the Money Order Agent at Bezoar declined to execute the requisite Security Bond, and that he had obtained leave of absence until the 2nd July -

A telegram was

Letter No 90.

immediately sent to Mr. Pochin to put Lutf Khan in charge for a few days, and an order was drafted and approved of, [illegible] requesting the Agent-Accountant General's department to state whether the Apothecary or any other public servant on his establishment could be appointed as Money Order Agent -

8 The Accountant General with his letter of the 6th July No 9 forwarded the correspondence which has passed between the Acting Sub Collector of Salem, the Controller of the Money Order Department, and himself. The correspondence originated by the Controller Money Order office pointing out to Govt Price a discrepancy between his weekly & monthly Statements of Rs 100

Rs 10 0, and requesting its adjustment - He also called upon him to pay from his own private funds the sum of 12 annas, the amount of second Commission which should have been levied on a Money Order for Rs 75, in accordance with Section 21 of the Rules - Mr Price declined compliance with the requisitions, on the grounds, viz 1st That the monthly and weekly statements were correctly drawn up, and

2ndly That Sections 38 and 40 bore out what he did.

Q. Mr Price in his letter of the 23rd May 68 No 27, has admitted that the weekly statement had not been correctly prepared he would sign any document to this effect, but he most decidedly declined to affix his signature admitting that

Letter dated 3rd June 68

I am afraid the Chief Secretary is to blame for having merely gazetted the appointment without otherwise communicating the fact to the Acct General & Controller - but I was not aware that the appt in the Gazette was insufficient - I was absent from the office on the day the communication with the Govt of claims took place. — RSE

Letter dated 8th June 1868

that on the 31st March he had in his possession Rs 729-14-7, when he knew that such a statement was untrue.

On Mr Price replying that he had given over charge of the Money Order office to the Deputy Postmaster at Ceder the Accountant General enquired under what circumstances and upon whose authority Mr Price omitted to hand over the office at Ceder to the Deputy Postmaster without first obtaining the sanction of Govt -

Mr Price in reply referred the Acct General to Govt dated 31st May 1867 No 854 and to page 774 of the Gazette dated 31st March 67, and enclosed copy of an official memo from the Collector & the Deputy Postmaster remarking that "as there has been ordinary care in the

the office of the Controller the reference under consideration would not have been required by. but Price further drew the Accountant Genl's attention to the very uncourteous tone of his letter, referring in particular to the expression "you have seen fit".

12. In acknowledging the receipt of this Communication the Accountant General stated that he could not admit there was "a want of ordinary care" on the part of the Controller as that officer was not aware that there was a departure from the usual course in the particular case under reference, and he added that he altogether failed to see in what respect his letter was open to the charge of being very "uncourteous".

13. Mr Price in his reply dated the 15th June

Letter dated 15th June/68

June No 384, hardly thinks the omission to make oneself acquainted with the orders of the higher authorities would be accepted as a valid excuse by Govt, or any other directing body, and he does not consider that if reference were made in this particular case that Govt would decide that there had been ordinary care in the Controller's office, or that he Mr Price should be held responsible for the shortcomings of another officer.

14. The Accountant General in his letter transmitting the foregoing correspondence remarks that he does not consider the Acting Sub Collector to blame in refusing to correct his account as he was new to his work and did not rightly apprehend what was required of him. He

* 5th July/68 No 94

consider

coincidens his Price however to be clearly wrong in refusing to pay the fixed 2 annas, and reference that his Price should have expressed his unwillingness to comply with the Controller's request in less objectionable terms than he did.

15. In para 4 of his letter the Accountant General refers to the unwarrantable censure which his Price passed upon the Controller, for his omission to notice the appointment of the Money order Agent in the Gazette, and considers that his Reason has satisfactorily explained the cause of the omission.

16. The Accountant General also refers to his Price having neglected the obvious Duty which he owed to the Dept of the Dept of reporting the fact of his having delivered over

Memo: No 336.

over charge of the Agency office to the Deputy Post Master. A reference however to the correspondence shows that his Price did undertake the 30th May last to make the report which the Accountant General states he neglected to do.

I submit that there has been a want of moderation in the expressions used on both sides. but having in view the position occupied by Mr. Lushington and as no orders are really necessary, it may be as well to record the correspondence.—

RDR

BOOK. DEPARTMENT.

13

No. 94

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
6th July 1868.

FROM. The ACCOUNTANT GENERAL,
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

TO THE Chief Secretary to Government

SIR,

Adverting to my letter of the 30th Ultimo, I have the honor to submit for the consideration and orders of Government the correspondence,[x] therein referred to, as having passed between the Acting Sub Collector of Salem and the Controller of the Money Order Office attached to my Department:-

2 The first point to which I would draw attention, is the refusal of the Acting Sub Collector to carry out the instructions conveyed to him by the Controller by correcting an error in his Accounts. In this matter, however, I do not consider the Acting Sub Collector so much to blame, as he was at that time new to his work and does not appear to have rightly apprehended what was required of him, altho' the discrepancy between the Monthly and Weekly Accounts, I may remark, could not possibly have happened, had the Acting Sub Collector conformed to the instructions

[x] The Original Letter returned - Returned to the Accountant's Office vide Post Master Johnston of the said Office -

instructions issued by the Controller in his Circular № 132 dated 13th June 1867, which strictly prohibit the blending of the transactions of two months in one weekly Statement.-

3 The second point is the refusal of the Act Sub Collector to pay the price of 12 Annas, to which he had rendered himself liable, in consequence of his neglect to recover the second commission, amounting to that sum, due on a Money order paid by him.- In this matter Mr Price was clearly wrong and as the Controller in making the claim was simply enforcing one of the rules of the Department which he is bound to obey, I consider that Mr Price should have expressed his unwillingness to comply with the Controller's requisition in less objectionable terms, especially as he is an Officer who, as will be observed, from his subsequent correspondence with me, is disposed to weigh with very great nicety the terms in which he is himself officially addressed.-

4 The third and last point is the unwarrantable censure which the Acting Sub Collector passed upon the Controller for his omission to notice the appointment of the Deputy Post Master to the Cossipore Agency in the Gazette. Mr Hewson has

has explained, and as I consider satisfactorily, the cause of this omission, and certainly, if Mr Price had not neglected the obvious duty which he owed to the Head of the Department of reporting the fact of his having delivered over charge of the Money Order Agency to the Deputy Post-Master, in my letter of the 25th Ultimo to which Mr Price takes so much, and as it seems to me unnecessary Exception, would never have been written.-

5 In conclusion, I must express my regret in having had occasion to occupy the time and attention of Government on a matter of such insignificance, as this may perhaps appear to be. But I believe the Government are warmly interested in the working of the Money Order Department and it must be obvious that if every Money Order Agent is to consider himself at liberty to call in question and finally to disobey the orders issued by the Controller in the manner Mr Price has done, the business of the Department must come to a stand still, as the Establishment allotted to it is a very small one and quite unequal to the labor of lengthy correspondence of this nature.- I have the honor to be,

Sir

Your most obedt. Servt.

F. Auckland

Accountant General

Compd. P.M.C.

Copd. C. Naga Pattinam

Fwarded
1868. Department.
From Tho. Pearse.
The Acctt. General
Fort Saint George
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Fort St. George
No. 618
Dated 6th
Rect. 8th July 1868

No. 94
No 327
Encl. 18
Forwards correspondence
between the Ag. Sub-Collr.
of Salem & the Controller of Buruse
Order Department with the
marks thereon for the consid
ration and orders of Govt.
with an order

5th August 1868 No. 361.
Recorded
Rds

23 July
A. 27 14
14—15
~~14. 57.~~