M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 24

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 596 Press / Mis.

54-55

Dated 31-12- 1868.

12/12

54-55

Not to be folded or roughly handled

R/5-10-09

No. 54. Read the following letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George ; dated Ootacamund, 4th December 1868, No. 13.

Eighteen merchants of this place sent me a petition (A), complaining of the way in which the Branch Bank here sells copper coin. I referred the petition to the Bank Agent with my letter (B), to which he replied with (C). Having occasion to ask him to return me the petition, I thought it my duty to write (D).

2. Unless the Government disapprove of my letters to the Agent, I hope that no notice will be taken of the correspondence, which I forward solely with reference to the last two lines of the Agent's letter, wherein he takes a view of his duty which seems to me hardly compatible with what I conceive to be mine.

3. Paragraph 2 of the Accountant General's Circular, No. 10, dated 31st May 1867, says—

"It is the wish of the Supreme and Local Governments that every encouragement should be "given to the free circulation of copper coins throughout the Provinces by selling them at a dis- "count."

* * *

"Collectors will, therefore, authorize the sale of copper coins at discount when fully satisfied "that such a measure will promote the circulation of these coins in their Districts."

4. I do not wish to call in question the propriety of the Agent's arrangements with Narayana Chetty in this instance ; it is very likely I should approve of them if I knew all the circumstances. All I wish to know is the course I ought to pursue if the public are dissatisfied with his arrangements in matters affecting the currency, and petition me thereupon.

5. In August last, two or three of the residents, here, brought to my notice that the Bank charged five-eighths per cent. upon the receipt of 10 and 20 Rupees notes, and three-fourths per cent. upon all notes above those denominations, and having paid in notes myself, and found this statement to be correct, I informed the Currency Commissioners of Madras. Considering that Government is a large shareholder in the Bank, and that the Government Treasury here has been transferred to the Bank, which in a greater or lesser degree enjoys the character of a Government Establishment, it seemed to me anomalous that the Bank should depreciate the value of the Government note, and restrict its circulation.

6. For the same reasons, and because large sums in silver and copper are remitted every month from the Coimbatore Treasury to the Branch Bank, on Government account, (see margin,) it seems to me that the public here have a right to expect that the Government will see to the free circulation of copper coins through the medium of the Bank, as before through the Taluq Treasury. If this be so, I should imagine that it is my duty to call upon the Agent for explanation of any *bona fide* complaint (similar to the petition under reference) that may be sent to me. This, however, is the point on which I should like to be informed for my future guidance.

List of remittances made to the Branch Bank, Ootacamund, from Coimbatore Treasury.

For what month.	Description of Copper Coins.	Number.	Amount.		
			Rs.	A	P.
1868.					
September	Half Annas..... ...	1,60,000	5,000	0	0
Do.	Quarter do.	3,20,000	5,000	0	0
October...	Half do.	96,000	3,000	0	0
Do.	Quarter do.	1,28,000	2,000	0	0
Do.	One pies.....	96,000	500	0	0
November	Half Annas.....	1,29,600	4,050	0	0
Do.	Quarter do.	60,800	950	0	0
			20,500	0	0

A.

(TRANSLATION).

To

J. W. BREEKS, Esq.,

Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills.

The humble petition of the undermentioned persons residing in the bazaar street, Ootacamund.

Respectfully Showeth,

That when Treasury was in charge of the Taluq all persons had an easy access to obtain copper coins that may be received from Madras with a discount of (6) six Pice per Rupee, and the

same method was followed by the Bank to which is now added the District Treasury until the close of the last month.

2. That during the current month your petitioners have tendered Rupees and demanded for copper coins in exchange, but met with a peremptory refusal; nevertheless to their greatest astonishment they find that one Chella Perooma Pillay, a dealer in piece-goods, obtained, on three different occasions, copper coins amounting to Rupees 1000, 2000, and 1000, respectively, and that with the usual discount of 6 Pice per Rupee, which, with a profit of 3 Pice, he parts to others, and they consequently allow no discount, but give only 16 Annas per Rupee.

3. That, as your petitioners are at a loss to understand the secret of this plan which stands a barrier to the advantages of many, a direct violation of the orders of the Accountant General and the rules of justice, they humbly disclose the matter to your kind consideration, and request to issue orders to the Bank for the discontinuance of this perilous system.

OOTACAMUND,
20*th November* 1868.

(Signed) JAVOOLY KADAY AMAJEE ROW,
and seventeen others.

From the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Agent of the Branch Bank, Ootacamund; dated Ootacamund, 1st December 1868, No. 126, B.

I beg to forward a Tamil petition (with translation) received by me from certain merchants of this place, complaining of the irregular issue of copper coins from the Bank in exchange for silver tendered, and to request you will favor me with your remarks as to the cause of the issue in one case and not generally.

From the Agent Bank of Madras, Ootacamund, to the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills; dated Ootacamund, 2nd December 1868, No. 5-1084, C.

With reference to your letter of 1st instant, and its enclosures, I beg to inform you that, of your sixteen petitioners, four applied for copper during the past month, and met with a refusal as the others would have done if they had applied. I made arrangements at the beginning of last month with Narayana Chetty of this place to take all the copper of me at six pie discount, and to undertake to retail it at 3 pie discount per Rupee, as it had been brought to my notice that several of your petitioners made it a point of clubbing together and taking the copper from the bank as soon as it came to hand, knowing that a limited monthly remittance was all that was received, and then retailed the copper to the public at 3 pie premium, a mode of proceeding which I am sure you will agree with me, is not to the advantage of the public.

In the times of the good old Taluq Treasury that your petitioners are sighing after, copper was sold at 6 pie premium in the bazaar.

I regret that you should have deemed it your province to take notice of a petition of this nature, and to have called upon me for explanations which it is my *duty* to render to my Head Office *only*.

From the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, to the Agent to the Branch Bank of Ootacamund; dated Ootacamund, 3rd December 1868, No. 130, D.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd instant, regarding a petition presented to me by some merchants of this place. Will you be good enough to return the petition and the translation?

2. With regard to the last paragraph of your letter, I beg to say that all petitions (not anonymous) addressed to me must be noticed and replied to by me; your expression of regret, therefore, that I should take notice of the petition under reference is out of place.

3. Moreover, you express your regret that I deemed it my province to call upon you for explanation. I did not do so. If you will refer to my letter you will see that I requested to be favored with your remarks. I think, therefore, that, on re-consideration, you will see cause to regret the tone of your reply.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
31*st December* 1868.

No. 55. ORDER THEREON, 31st December 1868, No. 596.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Commissioner of the Neilgherry Hills, and the petition and correspondence to which it refers, be forwarded to the Directors of the Bank of Madras for disposal, and that their attention be expressly drawn to the objectionable tone of the letter addressed by the Agent of the Bank at Ootacamund to the Commissioner.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Directors of the Bank of Madras.

Ed. J. Wright.

Govt. of 1868 Madras

FINANCIAL.

To

THE DIRECTORS OF THE
BANK OF MADRAS.

Dated December, 31st. Read,

Recd.

G. O., 31st December 1868, No. 596.

DESPATCH.

Nos. 54-55.

Forwarding, for disposal, letter from the C... the Com-
missioner of the Neilgherry Hills, and the p... the peti-
tion and correspondence to which it refers, relative ... re, relative
to the arrangements made by the Ootacamund ... otacamund
Branch Bank for the sale of copper coins; and ... coins; and
drawing the attention of the Directors to the ... to the ob-
jectionable tone of the letter addressed by the ... d by the
Agent at Ootacamund to the Commissioner.

A

20th November 1868
Cottacammund

(Translation)

A

To

J. W. Brooks Esqre
Commissioner Neilgherries

The humble petition of the under mentioned persons residing in the Bazaar street Cottacammund.

Humbly sheweth.

1st That when Treasury was in charge of the Paling all persons had an easy access to obtain Copper Coins that were received from Madras with a discount of (6) six pice per Rupee. and the same method was followed by the Bank to which institution added the District Treasury until the close of the last month.

2nd That during the current month your petitioners have tendered Rupees and demanded for copper coins in exchange, but met with a peremptory refusal; Nevertheless to their greatest astonishment they found that one Chella Jeroona Pillay a dealer in piece goods obtain on three different occasions Copper coins amounting to Rs 1000, 2000, and 1000 respectively and that with the usual discount of 6 pice per Rupee which

with.

received and when demanded the copper

to

Taporeme

with a profit of 3 pie he sells to others and they (illegible) allow us discount but give only 16 annas per rupee.

3. That as your petitioners are at a loss to understand the secret of this plan which stands a barrier to the advantages of many, a direct violation of the orders of the Accountant General and the rules of Justice, they humbly disclose the matter to your kind consideration and request to issue order to the Bank for the discontinuence of this pernicious system.

Savady Kadaya Amajee Row
Yakier Meera Rawuthen (Merchant)
Ahmad Kauee Rawuthen (Merchant)
Audy Appa Pillay (Cloth Merchant)
Gangajee Row
Abdul Rahiman Rawuthen
Kaderaee Rawuthen
Venkata Raya Pillay
Asan Mohomed Rawuthen
Ibrahim Saib
Ahmed Saw. Rawuthen
Pella Meera Rawuthen
Abdalla Saheb
Rajoo Moodely
Veeraua Rawuthen

Madar Saw
Nagoor Rawthen
Cossa Meera Rawthen

B

Commissioner's Office
Cotacamund
1st December 1868

No. 126

From

J. W. Breeks Esquire
Commissioner
Neilgherries

To

The Agent
Branch Bank
Cotacamund

Sir,

I beg to forward a Tamil petition with translation received by me from certain merchants of this place complaining of the irregular issue of Copper Coins from the Bank in exchange for silver tendered, and to request you will favor me with your remarks as to the cause of the issue in one case and not generally

I have &c.

(signed) J. W. Breeks
Commissioner

(True Copy)

J. Breeks
Commissioner

received and when returned the copies to

Supreme

C

No 5/1084

(346)

Bank of Madras
Ootacamund 2nd Dec. 1865.

5

11/

From
The Agent
Bank of Madras
Ootacamund

To
The Commissioner
Neilgherries.

Sir

With reference to your letter of 1st Inst. with enclosures, beg to inform you that of your 16 petitioners - four applied for Copper during the past Month and met with a refusal as the others would have done if they had applied - I made arrangements at the beginning of last Month with Narayana Chetty of this place to take all the Copper I got @ 6 pie discount, and to undertake to retail it @ 3 pie discount per Rupee, as it had been brought to my notice that several of your petitioners made it a point of clubbing together and taking the Copper from the Bank as soon as it came to hand knowing that a limited Monthly remittance was all that was received and then retailed the Copper

to

(Supreme

to the public & 3 pie premium a mode of proceeding which I am sure you will agree with me, is not to the advantage of the public.

In the times of the good old ruling Treasury that your petitioners are sighing after - Copper was sold a 6 pie premium in the Bazaar.

I regret that you should have deemed it your province to take notice of a petition of this nature and to have called upon me for explanations which it is my duty to furnish to my Head Office only.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

J. H. Dickens
Agent.

D.

Commissioner's Office
Cotacamund
3rd December 1867

No. 1130

13

From
J. P. Brooks Esquire
Commissioner
Nilgherries

To
The Agent
Branch Bank
Cotacamund

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2nd Instant regarding a petition presented to me by some of this place. Will you be good enough to return the Petition and the translation.

2. With regard to the last para of your letter I beg to say that all petitions (not anonymous) addressed to me must be noticed and replied to by me, your expression of regret therefore that I should take notice of the petition under reference is out of place.

3. Moreover you express your

May 1867 says -

"It is the wish of the"

Supreme

[illegible] that I deemed it my province
to call upon you for explanation.
I did not do so. If you will refer
to my letter you will see that
I requested to be favored with your
remarks. I think therefore that
on reconsideration you will see
cause to regret the tone of your
reply.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. F. Brooks.

Commissioner

[illegible]

[illegible]

Commissioner's Office
Cotacamund
4th December 1868

No. 13

From,

J. F. Brooks Esquire
Commissioner
Nilgheries

To,

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Sir,

Eighteen Merchants of this place sent me a Petition (A), complaining of the way in which the Branch Bank here, pells copper coin - I referred the petition to the Bank Agent with my letter (B), to which he replied with (C). Having occasion to ask him to return me the Petition, I thought it my duty to write (D).

2. Unless the Government disapprove of my letters to the Agent, I hope that no notice will be taken of the correspondence, which I forward solely with reference to the last two lines of the Agents letter, wherein he takes a view of his duty which seems to me hardly compatible with what I conceive to be mine.

3. Para 2 of the Accountant General's Circular No. 10 dated 31st May 1867 says -

"It is the wish of the"

Supreme

Accountant General's Office,

Madras, 7. Dec^r. 1868

19

My dear Ellis.

Mr. Darling altogether misapprehends his position with regard to the Commissioners, and requires correction. The whole of the Government balance in the Branch Bank is at the absolute disposal of the Commissioners, who can issue any orders he may see fit respecting it. I

No. 596.

Dated Fort St. George, the 4th December 1868.

From The Chief Secretary to Government,

To The Accountant General.

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith, for your information, a copy of a letter from the Commissioners for the Relief of Distress in Orissa, dated the 1st instant, and to request that you will arrange to meet the drafts of the Commissioners on account of the Famine Relief Fund, to the extent to which they can be met from the balance standing to the credit of the Famine Relief Fund in the Bank of Bengal, Madras Branch.

I have &c.

(Signed) C. Brown,

Chief Secretary to Government.

No. 113 A of 1868.

From H. Ricketts, Esq., C.S.,

Secretary to the Commissioners for the Relief of Distress in Orissa,

To C. Brown, Esq.,

Chief Secretary to Government.

Dated Cuttack, the 1st December 1868.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners for the Relief of Distress in Orissa to forward herewith, for the information of the Government, a copy of a letter addressed to the Accountant General, and to request that the Government will be pleased to issue such orders as they may think fit, relative to the arrangements to be made for meeting the drafts of the Commissioners on account of the Famine Relief Fund, from the balance standing to the credit of that fund in the Bank of Bengal, Madras Branch.

I have &c.

(Signed) H. Ricketts,

Secretary to the Commissioners for the Relief of Distress in Orissa.

"Supreme and Local Governments that"
"every encouragement should be given"
"to the free circulation of copper coins"
"throughout the provinces by selling"
"them at a discount."

× × ×

"Collectors will therefore authorize"
"the sale of copper coins at discount"
"when fully satisfied that such a"
"measure will promote the circulation"
"of these coins in their Districts"

4. I do not wish to call in question the propriety of the Agents arrangements with Narayana Chetty in this instance - it is very likely I should approve of them if I knew all the circumstances - All I wish to know is the course I ought to pursue if the Public are dissatisfied with his arrangements in matters affecting the currency and petition me thereupon

5. In August last two or three of the residents here brought to my notice that the Bank charged 5/8 per cent upon the receipt of ten and twenty Rupees notes and 3/4 per cent upon all notes above those denominations, and having paid in notes myself and found this Statement to be correct I informed the Currency Commissioners of Madras - Considering that Government is a large shareholder in the Bank and

List of remittances made to the Branch Bank at Coimbatore from Cuddalore & Trichy

Month	Description	Amount	
1858 October	Rupees	150,000	"
		220,000	"
		96,000	"
		125,000	"
		96,000	"
		200	"
		129,600	"
		69,800	"
		9,250	"

and that the Government treasury here has been transferred to the Bank, which in a greater or lesser degree enjoys the character of a Government Establishment it seemed to me anomalous that the Bank should depreciate the value of the Government note and restrict its circulation.

6- For the same reasons, and because large sums in silver and copper are permitted every month from the Coimbatore Treasury to the Branch Bank, on Government Account, (see margin) it seems to me that the Public here have a right to expect that the Government will see to the free circulation of copper coins through the medium of the Bank, as before through the Salt & Treasury - If this be so, I should imagine that it were my duty to call upon the Agent for explanation of any bonâ fide complaint (similar to the Petition under reference) that may be sent to me - This however is the point on which I should like to be informed for my future guidance

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant
Madras
Commissioner

N.G.D

No 9

these orders the Branch Agent is bound implicitly to obey. I have once before had occasion to fine Mr. Darling a setting down, and I think it would be well if Government were to send his letter to the Directors of the Bank for disposal - If Brooks had addressed me instead of

Government, as he might & have done, I should have certainly instructed the Secr to the Bank to have censured Mr. Darling severely for his flippancy to the Commissioners.

J. Mc-

Fr. Kirkpatrick

Financial Department.

23

PROCEEDINGS *of the* **MADRAS GOVERNMENT.**

Read the following letter from the Commr of the Neilgherries (Rec'd 4th Dec 1868 No 13)

Order thereon - No 536 - 31 Dec 1868.

Ordered that the foregoing letter from the Commr of the Neilgherry Hills & the Petition & Correspondence to which it refers, be forwarded to the Directors of the Bank of Madras for disposal and that their attention be expressly drawn to the objectionable tone of the letter addressed by the Agent of the Bank, at Ootacamund to the Commissioner

To Directors of Bank Madras
Com Neilgherry Hills — 3 encls

15 Dec 68

Govt. of {186} Madras.

Financial

To

The Directors of the Bank of Madras.

Dated Dec. 31. } 186
Recd.

G. O., 31 Dec. 186, No. 596.

Nos. 54. 55

Forwarding, for disposal, letter from the Commr. of the Neilgherry Hills, & the Petition & correspondence to which it refers, relative to the arrangements made by the Ootacamund Branch Bank for the Sale

Sale of copper Coins: and drawing ~~their~~ attention of the Directors to the objectionable tone of the letter addressed by the agent at Ootacamund to the Commissioner.