M.R.O./1—77,000—8-8-57.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 26-11-71

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1622	Press Mis.
21 22		
Dated	7 11	1873.

S/L

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 21. Read the following letter from R. W. LODWICK, Esq., Accountant-General, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort St. George, 3rd November 1873, No. 648 :—

Currency Department.

I have the honour to report that, on the 30th ultimo, from certain information received from an employé in the Stamping Department of my office, I had reason to believe that great irregularities were taking place in that Department, and, being assured that water-marked paper used for stamp papers was secreted in a certain desk, I suddenly, and without giving any notice of my intention, entered the stamping room and demanded the desk key.

2. On the desk being opened, and a search being made by myself in the presence of my Assistant, Mr. Kissun Sing, nine sheets of water-marked paper were found concealed under a quantity of old papers, and the Headman of the Department, Theroovengada, being unable to account for their presence there, I gave him at once into the custody of the Police.

3. Further inquiries which I instituted on the 31st ultimo resulted in my learning that, not only had water-marked paper been for a long time past abstracted from the rolls which come in from the Stamp Office and secreted, but that Government brass, iron, and other articles had been from time to time converted to their own use by Iyasami and Rungasami, two brothers at the head of the Department.

4. As I considered it was necessary to act without delay in order to find this stolen property, after suspending these two men I at once proceeded to the office of the Senior Magistrate of Police, and laid the facts as I had taken them down before him.

5. Mr. Clarke was of opinion that search-warrants should at once be issued, and expressed his regret that I had permitted the men to go home, as they would probably, immediately on getting there, secrete everything likely to convict them.

6. These warrants were issued, and the men taken into custody.

7. On the 1st, I was sent for to the Police Office, and Mr. Clarke advised me to place the matter in the hands of the Government Solicitor, which I did, and by his advice consented to the men being bailed.

8. I have since been busily engaged in collecting evidence, and have, I think, obtained sufficient to make out a strong case against all the accused. This evidence I am about to place before Mr. Barclay.

9. There appears to have been a regular system of organized robbery going on for years past, into the particulars of which, for obvious reasons, I do not enter in this letter.

10. I regret that, from ignorance of the G.Os., No. 1817, dated 30th November 1868, and No. 1446, dated 1st September 1869, I have acted to some extent in opposition to the orders of Government, but, I trust, on the grounds stated, my having done so will be excused, and that Government will be pleased to accord sanction to the case being taken in hand by the Solicitor to Government.

P.S.—Since writing the above, I have seen Mr. Barclay, who expresses a desire to have the assistance of a Barrister, as the case is an intricate one, and the parties wealthy and certain to be defended. Mr. Barclay would, he says, prefer to employ either Mr. O'Sullivan or Mr. Miller.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department, 7th November 1873.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1873, No. 1622.

The Governor in Council approves of the case being placed in the hands of the Government Solicitor, who is authorized to secure Mr. O'Sullivan's services for the prosecution, if required.

2. The papers will be communicated to the Revenue Department, in view to further inquiry into the system which allows of water-marked paper sent from the Stamp Superintendent's Office to the Stamping Office being abstracted without detection.

(True Extract.)

W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

To the Revenue Department.
,, Accountant-General.
,, Government Solicitor.

Rxd. J. H. Burns.

Govt. of India Records.

FINANCIAL.

To

The REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c, &c, &c.

Dated November, 73.

Read,

do do 7th November 1873, No. 1632.

Ordered,

NOVEMBER.
Nos 21 22.

Paper Stamping Department—Approval expressed of the steps taken against certain employés of this Department being addressed to the Government Solicitor, and this officer authorized to arrest Mr. O'Sullivan's services for the prosecution, if required. The papers referred to this Revenue Department, for inquiry into the system which allows of water-marked papers seen from the Stamp Superintendent's Office to the Stamping Department being abstracted without detection.

Copy

Currency Department.

No. 648

Fort Saint George,
Accountant General's Office,
3rd November 1873.

From The ACCOUNTANT GENERAL
to the GOVERNMENT of MADRAS,

To The Chief Secretary to Government

Sir,

I have the honor to report that on the 30th ultimo from certain information received from an Employé in the Stamping Department of my Office I had reason to believe that great irregularities were taking place in that Department and having observed that water marked papers used for Stamp papers were secreted in a certain desk I suddenly and without giving any notice of my intention entered the Stamping room and demanded the desk key.

2 On the desk being opened and a search being made by myself in the presence of my Assistant the 2nd November 9 sheets of water marked paper were found concealed under a quantity of old papers and the headman of the department thereupon being unable to account for their presence there I ordered them at once into the custody of the Police

3 Further enquiries which I instituted on the 31st Ultimo resulted in my learning that not only had water-marked paper been for a long time past abstracted from the rolls which come in from the Stamp Office and secreted but that Government Brass iron and other articles had been from time to time converted to their own use by Superintendent and Storekeeper 2 brothers at the head of the Department.

4 As I considered it was necessary to act without delay in order to find these stolen property often disappearing there I 2 men I at once proceeded to the Office of the Senior Magistrate of Police and laid the facts as I had taken them down before him.

5 Mr. Clarke was of opinion that a warrant should at once be issued and expressed his regret that I had permitted the men to go home as they would probably immediately on getting there, secrete every thing likely to connect them.

6 These warrants were issued and the men taken into custody.

7 On the 1st June sent for to the Police Office and Mr. Clarke advised me to place the matter in the hands of the Government Solicitor which I did and by his advice consented to the men being bailed.

8 I have since been busily engaged in collecting evidence and have I think obtained sufficient to make out a strong case against all the accused. This evidence I am about to place before Mr. Barclay.

9 There appears to have been a regular system of organized robbery going on for years past and to the particulars of which I refer for obvious reasons I do not allude in this letter.

10 I regret that from ignorance of the G.O. No. 1817 dated 30th November and No. 1446 dated 1st September 1869, I have acted to some extent in opposition to the orders of Government but I trust on the grounds stated I may have done so and will be excused and that Government will be pleased to record sanction to the course being taken in hand by the Solicitor to Government.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your obedient Servt
Peter Rodwick
Accountant General

P.S. Since writing the above I have seen

Mr. Barclay who expresses a desire to have the assistance of a barrister as the case is an intricate one and the parties wealthy and certain to be defended. Mr. Barclay would he says prefer to employ either Mr. Sullivan or Mr. Miller.

Wm.

13/8/98. 6

Fol. 1873 Document
No 2060
From Commissioner Inland Revenue
To The Chief Secretary to Government
Dated 3rd November 1873
Recd 5th do
Nil.

Reporting Case from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Ackd. 7 November /73. — No. 1622. —

His Excy. approves of the case being placed in the hands of the Govt. Solicitor who is authorised to secure Mr. O'Sullivan's services for the prosecution if required. — The papers will be commd. to the Rev. Dept. in view to further enquiry into the system [illegible] of watermarked paper sent from the Stamp Inspr's office to the Stamping Office being abstracted without detection. — [illegible]