M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	647	Press ~~Misc~~
138-139.		
Dated	14 - 5 - 1873.	

617

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1-14-3-14

No. 138. Read the following letter from J. W. HANDLEY, Esq., Government Pleader, to the Hon. W. HUDLESTON, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Madras, 3rd May 1873, No. 70 :—

With reference to the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin I have the honour to report that in accordance with the instructions therein contained I proceeded to Cuddalore on the 5th ultimo to conduct the prosecution before the Sessions Court of the employés of the Tindevanum Post Office charged with theft of the mails.

Finl. Dept., G. O., 15th March 1873, No. 355.

2. The trial commenced on the 7th April and occupied eight days. The prisoners were the writer and delivery peon in the Tindevanum Post Office, who constituted with the Deputy Postmaster the whole establishment of that office. The Deputy Postmaster also was charged before the Magistrate with being concerned in the crime but was discharged. He is an old and feeble man of many years' service, and from these facts and what came out in evidence there can be little doubt that he knew nothing of the matter but was the dupe of his younger subordinates. The thefts charged took place on the 30th January and 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th February last and were of the most audacious kind, being the abstraction of entire packets and bags of letters and parcels. On the 10th and 11th February the whole letter mail from Pondicherry to Madras was abstracted, and on the 12th the whole banghy mail between the same places. The latter contained, amongst other things, a parcel of gold coins of the value of about Rupees 1,500. Besides the above there was a charge of theft of a letter containing a 5-Rupee Note entrusted to the peon for delivery. The plan adopted by the prisoners in most instances was to substitute for the abstracted packet or bag a sham one containing old newspapers, and with the seals of other offices, taken from old covers and stuck on, to divert suspicion from their own office.

3. The Sessions Judge reserved judgment, and had not delivered it when I left Cuddalore on the 18th ultimo ; but I have since heard that the first prisoner (the writer) was acquitted on four out of the six charges, probably on some technical ground, and convicted on the two remaining charges and sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment, and that the second prisoner (the peon) was found guilty on all the charges and sentenced to five years' rigorous imprisonment. He is a mere boy, and there is no doubt the writer was the prime mover in the crime, though it was more difficult to bring it home to him.

4. Deducting Sundays and two days of the Easter holidays, on which the Court did not sit, I was necessarily absent from Madras ten working days. My fee according to the scale sanctioned in G. O., Revenue Department, dated 20th November 1872, No. 1593, is 500 Pagodas, or Rupees 1,750. My expenses amounted to Rupees 250. There was no steamer about the time of my going or returning so I was obliged to travel by road, and Messrs. Taylor and Co. charged me Rupees 225 for a transit there and back. I request sanction, therefore, for payment to me of Rupees 2,000 altogether for fee and expenses.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
14th May 1873.

No. 139. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1873, No. 647.

The Governor in Council sanctions the payment to the Government Pleader of the sum of Rupees (2,000) two thousand being his fee and expenses in the prosecution of the case referred to.

(True Extract.)

Acting Under Secretary,
for *Chief Secretary.*

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

No 70

Madras
3rd May 1873

From J. H. Garstin Esqre
Government Pleader
Madras

To The Hon'ble H. Stokes
Chief Secretary to Govt.

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government noted in the margin I have the honor to report that in accordance with the instructions therein contained Shreedee to Cuddalore on the 5th Ultimo to conduct the prosecution before the Sessions Court of the complaint of the Assistant Post Office Clerk with theft of the mails.

2 The trial Commenced on the 7th April & occupied 8 days. The prisoners were defended by Vakeels & Vakeels Clerk in the Suite. The Writer & Vakeels Clerk in the Suite.

-vanum Post Office who constituted with the Cuddalore Postmaster, the whole establishment of that Office. The Cuddalore Court.

-master also was charged before the

Magistrate, with having Concerned in the Crime

Financial Dept
G. O. 15th March 1873
No 353

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

FINANCIAL.

To

THE GOVERNMENT PLEADER,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated May, 14th.

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 14th May 1873, No. 647.

MAY.
Nos. 138-139.

Sanctioning a fee of Rupees 2,000 to the Government Pleader for prosecuting the writer and peon of the Tindevanum Post Office before the Cuddalore Sessions Court.

Crime, but was discharged. He is an old & feeble man of many years service & from these facts & what Came out in evidence, there Can be little doubt that he knew nothing of the matter, but was the dupe of his younger subordinates. The thefts Charged took place on the 30th January & 9th 10th, 11th & 12th February last & were of the most audacious kind, being the abstraction of entire packets & bags of letters & parcels. On the 10th & 11th February the whole letter mail from Pondicherry to Madras was abstracted, & on the 12th the whole bangly mail between the same places. The latter contained amongst other things a parcel of gold Coins of the value of about Rs 1500. Besides the above there was a Charge of theft of a letter containing a £5 note entrusted to the pron for delivery. The plan adopted by the prisoners in most instances was to substitute for the abstracted packet or bag a sham one containing old newspapers & with the seals of other offices, taken from old Covers & stuck on, to divert suspicion from their own office.

3. The Sessions Judge reserved

Judgment & has not delivered it when I left Cuddalore on the 18th Inst; but I have since heard that the 1st prisoner (the Writer) was acquitted on four out of the six Charges, probably on some technical ground, & Convicted on the two remaining Charges & sentenced to 7 years' rigorous imprisonment, & that the 2nd prisoner (the pron) was found guilty on all the Charges & sentenced to 5 years' rigorous imprisonment. He is a mere boy & there is no doubt the writer was the prime mover in the Crime, though it was more difficult to bring it home to him.

4. Deducting Sundays & two days of the Easter holidays on which the Court did not sit, I was necessarily absent from Madras 10 working days. My fee according to the scale sanctioned in G. O. Judicial Department dated 20th November 1872 No 1593 is 500 pagodas or Rs 1750. My expenses amounted to Rs 250. There was no steamer about the time of my going or returning, so I was obliged to travel by road & Messrs Taylor & Co charged me Rs 225 for a

travel

transit thence & back. I request sanction thereof me for payment to me of Rs 2,000 altogether for fee & expences.

I have the honour & be
Sir
Your most obed Servt.

J. W. Handley
Government Pleader

Colombo 14th May 1873.

Attacammud. 14th May 1873. No 647.

His Excellency in Council sanctions the payment to the Govt. Pleader of the sum of Rupees (2,000) two thousand - being his fee & expenses in the prosecution of the case referred to -

By the Government Pleader - 3 days 23/5
- " Secretary to Government
- " Postmaster General

Colombo 14th May 1873.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith for your information a Return of Evidence taken before the Police Court of Kurunegala in the case of Queen against Kiri Banda & others.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Colombo Cadet Corps
7th May 1873.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

Financial

To The Govt. Pleader
Jea.

Dated May 14
Read.

G. O. 14 May, 1873. No. 647.

Nos. 138. 139.

Sanctioning a fee of Rs. 200
to the Govt. Pleader for prose-
-cuting the Writer & Peon
of the Tindevanam Post-
Office before the Cuddа-
lore Session Court.