M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 846 Press Mis.

183-184

Dated 27.5.1862 ~~H~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 27th May 1862.

No. 183. Read the following letter from E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Bellary; to A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Esq., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Ramandrúg, 12th May 1862, No. 21.

1. I have the honor to forward a report from my Assistant Mr. Foster, bringing to notice the deficiency of Rupees 108, discovered in the Cash Chest belonging to the Pension Department; and to request that you will be pleased to obtain the sanction of Government for the amount in question being repaid to the Pension Department from the Treasury.

2. Enclosed is a letter from the Superintendent of Police, from which it appears that the thief has not yet been discovered. I do not concur in the opinions expressed in Major McMaster's letter, nor do I see that the Policemen were exposed to such temptation as to extenuate the guilt of the offender. An imperfect impression on a seal is no excuse for breaking that seal.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Assistant Collector of Bellary; to E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, dated 3rd May 1862, No. 585.

I have the honor to inform you that in my letter to the Collector of Bellary, No. 543, dated 7th April 1862, I brought to his notice a deficiency of Rupees 108 found in the Cash Chest belonging to the Pension Department. As the letter was sent to the Superintendent of Police, you may not be aware of the circumstances of the case. The Chest is kept at the Cutcherry under the charge of the Police Guard there: and on its being brought to me on April 4th it was found the seal had been tampered with: the box was opened and the amount in it counted in the presence of two Inspectors of Police, who were both of opinion that the seal was not correct; and the amount was found to be Rupees 731-2-10, and having afterwards carefully examined the accounts and compared them with the amount in the box, I found there was a deficiency of Rupees 108.

The Police Guard, previous to the discovery of this loss was not changed for months together: so that they had ample time for planning the abstraction of the money, and indeed it must have been with their connivance or at least through their negligence that the money was taken. Under these circumstances, I have the honor to request you will report the loss to Government and obtain their sanction for its being repaid to the Pension Department from the Treasury.

With reference to the time that has elapsed since my discovery of the loss before requesting you to report to Government, I beg to observe that I have been awaiting the issue of the enquiry made by the Superintendent of Police about this matter; now he informs me that the Police are keeping a strict watch on one of the Guard who is suspected of the robbery: but that the evidence is not sufficient to warrant his apprehension. As the money is required to pay the Pensioners and as it is doubtful when the enquiry will be ended and whether any of the money will be recovered, I have thought it right to make this application without further delay.

From Major A. C. McMASTER, Superintendent of Police; to E. B. FOORD, Esq., Acting Magistrate of Bellary, dated Bellary, 9th May 1862, No. 227.

Letter No. 543.
" " 553.
" " 585.

I have the honor in reply to your letter No. 134, dated 7th instant, to return those marginally noted* from your Assistant W. S. Foster, Esq.

The history of the case is as follows:—

On the 4th April, Mr. Foster suspected that some one had been tampering with the seal of the money box, the Head Quarters and Coule Bazar Police Inspectors were sent for by the Head Constable of Bruce Pettah who was then at the Cutcherry on duty, the seal appeared to have been tampered with and the box was opened, but instead of its contents being short of, they were supposed by Mr. Foster to be about 100 Rupees over the sum that should have been in it. On this Mr. Foster was satisfied and dismissed the Inspectors; however on the 7th April, he discovered that he had lost Rupees 108 and reported it at once to your predecessor, whose letter I did not get until the 11th, the first official intimation the Police had that the money was missing. I went to Mr. Foster on the matter, he could tell me little that the Inspectors had not done, the box the money is kept in, is a common one with a common key which Mr.

upon

Foster himself told me he had on one occasion forgotten to bring home with him, I had up all the men and took their statements separately but without success; but the entire system of sealing and locking the box appeared so faulty that the only wonder is that it had not been robbed before; it was, I believe always sealed so to speak, with common wax often in a hurry and if the seal was removed too soon all trace of impression was lost, the seal was, I believe a very small one and this would of course make a bad impression if impression there is and one of my Inspectors reports that the seal he saw is to the best of his belief, a blank one.

The box was left in a small room where the sentry had only to put forth his arm to get a light to melt this indistinct seal, and as it appears to have been often indistinct it must have been often handed over from one sentry to the other in a very doubtful condition.

My own impression as I remarked to Mr. Foster on the 12th, is that some one had from the time he left his key out, been in the habit of abstracting small sums from time to time.

However without data to go on, I could do little but watch the men, and one of them is I suspect the thief, for he has been proved to have had some money in his possession that he should not well have, but it has been in small sums at a time and at a *prior* date to the first discovery of the seal having been tampered with. The only thing I can do is to dismiss him.

A constant relief of Guard could not have taken place there, more than with any other guard in the District, for every available man has been worked up to take up the last three new Taluqs, however, though reliefs are of course most advisable they would not have effected the matter in this case.

I have not in this intended to remove the blame from the Police party at all, it is a crime I should be only too glad to bring home and to see punished, but I do protest against the temptation to which the men were for days exposed and which has proved too much for one of them.

I believe that one of the Policemen stole the money but I do not think that Government should be charged with the loss.

No. 184.

ORDER THEREON, 27th May 1862, No. 816.

The Governor in Council authorizes the Acting Collector of Bellary to repay from his Treasury the sum referred to in the foregoing letter, Rupees (108) one hundred and eight, which appears to have been stolen from the Pension Cash Chest.

2. Before deciding whether the loss of this money shall be borne by Government, His Excellency in Council desires that Mr. Foster be called upon to submit any explanation he may be able to afford with reference to the remarks made in the letter of the Superintendent of Police, from which it would appear that the commission of the theft is in a great measure attributable to the careless manner in which the money was kept.

3. Mr. Foord will state what precautions he has taken for preventing a similar occurrence in future.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Acting Chief Secretary.

Edd. F. Cartledge.

6 12

Judicial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Acting Magistrate of Bellary—

Rec^d Enter 12^th May 1862.

Order thereon 27^th May 1862 N^o 846.

The Governor in Council Authorizes the Acting Collector of Bellary to repay from his Treasury the sum referred to in the foregoing letter Rs/108/ one hundred and Eight which appears to have been stolen from the Pension Cash Chest—

2. Before deciding whether the loss of this money shall be borne by Government, His Excellency in Council desires that Mr Foster be called upon

upon to submit any explanation he may be able to afford with reference to the remarks made in the letter of the Superintendent of Police, from which it would appear that the commission of the theft is in a great measure attributable to the careless manner in which the money was kept—

3. Mr Foord will state what precautions he has taken for preventing a similar occurrence in future—

W/M

To The Acting Collector of Bellary
Civil Paymaster
} Despo 28th

E/M

Pigot of Bray
Lieut. 1862. Department.

No. 846.

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 27 May 1862

Fort 199.

Authorizing the retaining Collr. of Bellary to repay from his Treasury Rs. 108 stated to have been stolen from the Pension Cash Chest — Calling upon Mr. Forster to submit an explanation with reference to the remarks of the Superintt. of Police as to the Careless manner in which the money was Kept. —

183 & 184

7693] Madras—Printed at the Government Press.