

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	911	Press
102-103		~~Mis.~~
Dated	11. 6. 1863	~~11~~

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
11th June 1863.

No. 102. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department, dated 4th June 1863, No. 960.

Directing the adoption of certain precautions to prevent the forgery of Stamps, in reference to the late fraudulent attempts which have been made in this behalf. (Vide Proceedings Revenue Department, dated 4th June 1863, Nos. 62—64.)

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, 11th June 1863, No. 911.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1863.*

No. 227. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th March 1863,
No. 1,626:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, to
W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 16th
March 1863, No. 1,052 of 1862-63.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 24th January 1863, with two enclosures (herewith returned), and to inform you that the steps which I immediately took upon the information therein contained have resulted in the committal on the 13th instant, of five individuals upon the charges, copies of which are herewith forwarded.

2. It would have been more satisfactory had I been able to watch the suspected parties for a few days before issuing the warrants in order that independent or circumstantial evidence might be procured to corroborate that of the Informers, but as Mr. Norfor had already been making inquiries which I had reason to believe would become known to the persons implicated, I did not think it prudent to delay immediate action.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract copies of charges in the Stamp cases in which the Defendants were committed by Mr. T. G. Clarke on the 13th March 1863.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Acting Collector of Madras and to the Superintendent of Stamps, and that copy be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board await Mr. Norfor's detailed report of the circumstances connected with the forgery.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

No. 228. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1863.

Read the following letter from R. W. NORFOR, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 26th March 1863, No. 844 of Fasli 1272.

SIR,

1. In compliance of the orders of the Board, dated 9th February 1863; that I should report upon the Proceedings in the cases lately brought to light of forgeries of stamped papers, I have the honor to state.

2. That on the 9th January 1863 I received from the Board of Revenue a Petition of Mooneapah Moodelly, dated 20th November 1862, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, offering to give information regarding Stamp forgeries. This Petition I was instructed to take such notice of as I might think proper, I accordingly sent for the writer of the Petition, Mooneapah Moodelly, who appeared at my Office on the 14th January 1863, and made certain statements referring to an old accusation for illegal Stamp vending that was brought before the Magistrates of the Mount and Sydapet in 1861, the man said that he would bring another who could give more information. He did not come again until the 20th January when he was accompanied by Ramasawmy Iyer, who stated that if he was taken before a Magistrate he would tell all he knew, that Warrants must be issued upon the information he would give, and that if he spoke at my Office the guilty parties might obtain information and escape.

3. It appeared to me that the men had really something important to divulge, and that the matter should be followed up. I accordingly addressed the Board with copies of the men's statements, recommending that the case should be referred to the Police.

4. On the 24th January 1863, the Board referred the matter to Colonel W. J. Wilson, Commissioner of Police, who upon the depositions made before him by a Sowcar named Jaganada

21st January 1863, No. 592.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1863.*

Pundy and others, issued Warrants for the search of the houses of certain Sowcars represented to be in possession of forged stamped papers and of materials for making them.

5. The man, Jaganada Pundy, it has afterwards been discovered by me, on his own declaration, was outside my Office when Ramasawmy Iyer and Moonesapah Moodelly came there, and he has been in fact the moving man in the whole matter.

6. The search ordered by Colonel Wilson resulted in the finding in certain Sowcars' houses of forged *fas similes* of Government dies and of papers impressed with forged imitations of most of the dies, in use, and out of use, and in the arrest of the persons marginally named, the man Roop Kisshore Soojan Mull being the man of the highest standing among them, and a partner in the firm known by his name, the senior partner of which is Roop Kisshore, the father, who is stated to be absent from Madras on a pilgrimage, the others are of the class of money lenders often employed by richer men.

7. On the 27th January the prisoner beforenamed were sent by Colonel Wilson before Mr. T. G. Clarke, Magistrate Town Police, and the investigations of the charges against the four first prisoners of having in their possession forged imitations of Government dies and forged imitations of Government stamped paper was commenced on the 30th January, the enquiry against Rungasawmy* was begun on the 17th February, I enclose notes of the depositions in each case on the days in which they were taken.

8. Kistnamah Charry, a witness who had been too ill and weak to give evidence earlier, was brought to the Police Office on the 13th March and into the Magistrate's room in a Palankeen, and gave evidence conformatory in every respect with the previous depositions regarding the habitual making of forged papers at Soojan Mull's house.

9. After taking Kistnamah Charry's deposition the Magistrate committed all the accused for trial before the High Court at the approaching Criminal Sessions in April next.

10. It will be observed that the enquiry has not to this time elicited any substantial facts as to the outlets for the forged papers. Calooram sent some judicial papers to Bangalore, but whether forged or not, does not appear. This would indicate agencies in the Mofussil for the disposal of the forged judicial Stamps, and it is possible that the search that has been instituted into the records of all the Mofussil Courts may lead to some further results through the discovery of forged Stamps filed.

11. The greater number of the forged Stamps seized are Bill Stamps, and it is at Madras chiefly that these would be sold, and yet not one instance of the using of such forged Stamps has come to light. I have examined the records of the Court of Small Causes, but have not found one forgery, the Bill Stamps are numerous, but nearly all are upon the water-marked bill paper now in use.

12. There is also no evidence how the forged dies were made, whether from paper counter dies, or from genuine stamped papers, both methods are perfectly feasible, and it is much to be regretted that nothing has come out on this point, as, if the forged dies were made from stamped papers no suspicion of participating in the frauds need be entertained of any of those employed at the presses.

13. There must, in my opinion, be or have been more forged dies than those found, a proof sheet of forgeries, found among the Bill Stamps, bears impressions of some Stamps that are not upon the forged dies found.

14. The approvers though they have gone far, have evidently not told all; knowing what they have stated, they must also know how the forgeries were disposed of; the passing of bundles of stamped papers between certain parties shows only that the accomplices were dividing their forgeries for the purpose of sale, but does not set forth the sales themselves. As to the making of the dies it seems likely that the witnesses could speak positively if they would.

*the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1863.*

Court the Law Officers of Government can draw out anything on so desirable that it should be done.

Bill Stamps I would solicit the authority of the Board for refusing to add to be used for the purpose, except in the case of partially printed antile Firms and Banks. The depôts are well supplied with water-ink and inconvenience could result to the public were applicants referred to use of the water-marked bill paper.

to think that there is much of the old bill paper in the hands of suggest its being called in and water-marked bill stamps being offered in

that a systematic evasion of the Stamp Act is daily being practised on ers in transactions among themselves. Promissory Notes come to the never would have been seen had not legal proceedings been necessary ies levied on these are as nothing compared with the loss to Government documents that are in use, and it seems necessary that action should be ently forward the penal clauses of the Act, and afterwards to proceed and with an unstamped document.

notice in the Gazette and by placards posted in suspected quarters tion to the requirements of the Law, and the present would be a good ward to informers from the fines levied would very much help to put

the above letter be submitted for the information of Government. Mr. communicate with the Government Solicitor (should he not already have on which it is desirable if possible to elicit further evidence on the trial

not authorise the Superintendent to refuse to stamp private materials or partly drawn documents. His attention is called to the Government il 1862, No. 881, communicated to the Stamp Superintendent on

y to notify that water-marked Bill Stamp papers will be given in exchange ing Stamps of the same value which may be presented for exchange, not the receipt of any forged paper under this arrangement. It does not exist at present for calling in Stamps formerly issued on ordinary or their possession penal or evidence *prima facie* of illicit manufacture me is the object that the Superintendent has in view.

no doubt whatever that the provisions of the Law relating to the use by the Native community in money transactions to a very considerable re the cause to be that from the extreme rarity of legal proceedings to, Joondies and such like documents among the Native mercantile community being on stamped paper for the security of the holder is not recognized. t desirable that the provisions of Sections, 3, 54 and 55 of Act 10 of 1862, ified with Vernacular translations throughout the Presidency, and they ndent to take steps to have this done. Every Collector of Stamp Revenue ry is competent under Section 52 of the Act to prosecute criminally at his guilty of breach of the Stamp Laws. No special sanction of the Board eded.

tendent will be good enough to arrange for legal evidence being recorded hich the water-marked Stamp paper is substituted in each District for the use, the values of the Stamp being specified.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
25th April 1863.*

No. 229.

ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1863, No. 716.

The Government will await the Board's final report when the case is disposed of by the High Court.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th May 1863.

Read the following letter from R. W. NORFOR, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 1st May 1863, No. 1,027 of Fasil 1272.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the Board's Order of the 28th April, communicating Order of Government of 25th April 1863, No. 716, calling for a further report upon the Stamp forgery cases.

2. I should on the termination of these cases have submitted a report, but knowing that the Advocate General was furnishing one to Government, I did not do so. I find upon enquiry that the report of the Advocate General went in to Government on the 24th April.

3. The witnesses for the prosecution are charged with perjury, the matter is before the Town Magistrate, Mr. T. G. Clarke, and has been so for some days.

4. There are two remarks that arise out of the Stamp cases, one of which is that for the defence of Soojan Mull; not one principal Soucar appeared or was called as a witness to character, though there were several in Court. The other remark is that among the exhibits in one of the cases not tried, that of Augur Chund, there are three sheets of forged Judicial paper, very well executed, of the present dies, and calculated to deceive the public, these forged stamps are on Goa paper, clean and smooth, and altogether of much better appearance than any other forgery produced.

5. These papers were said to have been procured by Jaganada Ponday for Ramasawmy Iyer from Augur Chund. The inference here is that if Augur Chund did not forge the papers in question, Jaganada Ponday did, and that he and his witnesses are, in fact, the forgers. It may be considered desirable that, if not already being done, a very strict watch should be kept upon all the parties concerned both accused and witnesses. The present issue of water-marked Stamps, will stop the forgery of Judicial Stamps, but Promissory Note paper is still open to fraudulent attempts.

6. I have lately sent to Colonel Wilson a Promissory Note with the head of a stamped paper pasted on it, and have charged the parties to the note with having used a stamp that had been previously used, the proof is difficult, and the case may not go to the Magistrate, but I have this day laid charges against the parties in the margin* of having drawn, endorsed, and been parties to, an unstamped Promissory Note. The date of the Note is 1st October 1860, the day on which Act 36 of 1860 came into operation.

7. Augur Chund is the old offender in the Sydapet cases and one of the accused in the late forgery cases. Winter made the Note in favor of Augur Chund, he endorsed it to Eduljee Dinsaw, who applied to me to stamp it, I hope this case will be tried on Monday next.

8. I submit herewith for the Board's approval an English copy of a Hand Bill that I propose circulating. I have Tamil and Telugu copies, but I wish to circulate a Hindoostanee copy also. I beg to know if I am at liberty to apply to the Translator to Government for it, I am desirous of obtaining large type bills for posting, but there is I fear no type in the Native characters sufficiently large.

1. Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to their Proceedings, 25th April 1863, No. 716, Revenue Department. The Board request that if no objection exists, the report of the Advocate General may be communicated to them.

2. Mr. Norfor will communicate with the Police as to any arrangements that he may consider necessary in connection with the late forgery cases.

3. The Board observe that the facilities for fraudulent attempts in connection with Promissory Note paper or Bill Stamps is no greater than what exists in connection with all stamps on blank private material. They do not see sufficient reason at present for proposing the withdrawal of this concession to the public convenience, but the Superintendent will keep them informed of any facts which may come to his knowledge, and induce the belief that the convenience is abused, or that additional checks are needed.

4. They understand that the Police charge alluded to in the Superintendent's letter was rejected with reference to Act 40 of 1860, which suspended till 1st January 1861 the operation of Act 36 of 1860, so far as regarded Bills of Exchange, &c., which fact was accidentally overlooked in preferring the charge.

11/10/63
J. G. M.
11/10/63

5. The Board approve the Notice which Mr. Norfor proposes to issue. They will request of Government that the Government Translators may be authorized to furnish the Superintendent with a Hindoostanee version.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Judicial Department.

Referring a letter from the Advocate General, remarking as to the facility with which impressions can be taken from genuine well executed Stamps upon common country sealing wax so as to make moulds or dies from which forged impressions can be obtained.

(Here enter 22nd May 1863, No. 790.)

ORDER THEREON, 4th June 1863, No. 960.

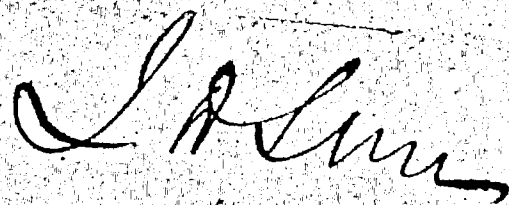
1. The Board of Revenue will be furnished with a copy of paragraphs 4 to 11 of the Advocate General's report on the Stamp cases referred to in the correspondence above recorded.

2. The Board will communicate with Colonel Orr and report what additional precautions can be adopted to prevent the forgery of Stamps. The preparation of stamps on plain paper will entirely cease as soon as a sufficient supply of water-marked paper is on hand, and all plain paper in the hands of Vendors will then be re-called. In Bengal a bi-coloured stamp is used, but the time required to dry each stamp, and the impossibility of stamping more than one paper at a time, are practically serious objections to this expedient. The Government would, however, wish to have Colonel Orr's opinion based on the experience he has now had, and the undoubted fact that stamps can be and are forged. It occurs to the Government that a bi-colored stamp might at all events be used when private material is stamped, as in such cases the security which the water-mark affords is lost.

3. The Government would also wish to have Colonel Orr's opinion on the advisability of using numbering machines and having the stamps consecutively numbered as Banks' Notes are.

4. The Board are authorized to apply to the Government Translators for translations of the Notice which the Superintendent proposes to issue. The language should be as simple as possible.

(True Extract.)



Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue with Proceedings Judicial Department, No. 790.
,, Judicial Department. ✓

Exd: S. T. Augustin.

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Directing the adoption
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to the late President.
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have been made
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11th June 1843 1844

Recorded.

W. H.