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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE. 7

Government of Madras.

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT.

*Con: 35/11/57*

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
for the month of November 1859.*

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No. 179. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer ;  
to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 12th November 1859,  
No. 7156.

With reference to the order of Government, as per margin,\* I have the honor to submit

\* No. 1972, dated 17th August 1859

3 Original letters, with 2 enclosures.  
1 From Captain Morgan, dated 3rd Sept. 1859, No. 64.  
1 From Captain Campbell, dated 13th Sept. 1859, No. 1287.  
1 From District Engineer, Coimbatore, dated 31st Oct. 1859,  
No. 164, forwarding Captain Dobbie's explanation, dated  
22nd September 1859, No. 173.

for the consideration of Government, the accompanying original letters received from Captains Campbell and Morgan, Nos. 64 and 1287, dated 3rd and 13th September, respectively.

2. In the order\* marginally noticed, the Government called for explanation as to

whether Captain Dobbie only continued, or followed practices prevailing in the office when he took charge of it from Captain Morgan, in regard to the drawing of funds, crediting money in the books though not received, keeping cash on hand in separate bags for several objects, and separate books for each also.

3. In reply to the foregoing points, Captain Morgan in the first place observes that he was never in the habit of keeping large cash balances in his chest, and this assertion he substantiates by explaining that when he gave over charge to Captain Dobbie, the cash in hand was less than 800 Rupees and only Rupees 100, when giving over charge of the Noyel range; 2ndly, that he often drew money twice a month from Captain Campbell in accordance with the existing rules; 3rdly, that it was not his system to keep money in separate bags for each charge; 4thly, that he reduced as expeditiously as possible the large cash balance made over to him by Captain Dobbie, and that he applied for no additional funds; 5thly, that the large amount stated to be in the cash chest on the date of the robbery was not placed there by him; 6thly, that the trustworthy cash peon who was formerly employed had been removed by Captain Dobbie, and a dishonest man placed in his stead; 7thly, that solely through the facilities afforded by this individual the cash chest was robbed; as the office in which the box was kept was not enclosed with glass only. Captain Morgan states that it was "a verandah room, with a door, which could be bolted from the inside, and was only glazed in front for the convenience of the writers," and that if the peon had not afforded a helping hand to the robbers by withdrawing the bolt, they could not possibly have carried off the chest without creating considerable noise.

4. Captain Morgan observes that he had no proper office, never having drawn office rent, and that if the cash chest had been placed in his tent, it might have been removed, with far less difficulty than when in the verandah room, and further that if the place had been ever so strong, the money could not have been saved from pillage, when the peon in charge had proved so unfaithful to his trust. He further adds that he had no guard, the cash balances with him being always very small and that Captain Dobbie originated the guard.

5. With regard to the explanation required from Captain Campbell as to his neglect in seeing to the accounts being properly kept, and the sums drawn not excessive; that officer explains in regard to the latter, in his letter quoted above, that his standing order while in charge of the Jackatalla works was, that a sum not less than 3,000 Rupees, per month should be expended in the Mudamulli forest with a view to full supplies of timber, being received therefrom, and that had this order been conformed to, the cash on hand on the day of the robbery would have been much smaller. He, moreover, brings to notice that in consequence of the non-compliance with this order, he was compelled to make weekly purchases in the open market with a view to prevent any stoppage in the works. Such being the facts of the case, Captain Campbell adds, that the cash balance of Rupees 4,415, cannot be regarded as excessive, if the executive officer in charge of the forest, attended to orders in expending the money received by him as rapidly as directed.

6. With regard to the 2nd point noticed in the preceding paragraph as to Captain Campbell's neglect to see to the accounts being properly kept, that officer admits that he did not examine the cash and accounts of Captain Dobbie, inasmuch as "he felt satisfied with the regular submission of the Executive Engineer's monthly statements, conceiving his standing ample

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for the month of November 1859.*

security for the correctness of the returns." Captain Campbell asserts that the loss of the sum stolen from Captain Morgan's cash chest did not result from his neglect to examine the same, as his non-examination had no connexion whatever with the robbery.

7. In conclusion, Captain Campbell brings to notice his originally unauthorized but subsequently sanctioned measure of securing the Mudamulli forest lease, and observes that had that step not been adopted by him, the Public Works Department would have lost the control of the timber market, and the native dealers would have fixed their own prices on this commodity. Captain Campbell attempts to draw a comparison between the large saving thus effected, which he sets down at Rupees 1½ lacs, and the sum stolen Rupees 1,611.

8. Captain Dobbie's explanation which has been only recently received is as follows:— That the method of keeping the accounts did not originate with him, and that he only continued a practice prevailing in the office prior to his assuming charge from Captain Morgan. That the large cash balance on hand was not more than was really necessary to carry on the works efficiently. That the practice of drawing and crediting money in his cash book existed prior to his taking charge of the works. That as money was required only at the beginning of each month, he applied for it, but once during that period. That he was in no way responsible for the robbery of the cash chest.

9. With regard to the 1st point, Captain Dobbie states, that as it was Captain Campbell's duty frequently to examine the accounts, and as he had no grounds to suppose that officer omitted doing so previous to his taking charge, he was under the impression that they were fully approved of by him.

10. On the 2nd point, Captain Dobbie remarks, that Captain Morgan expended, within three weeks from the date of his taking over charge, all the available cash on hand, a balance of Rupees 300, that is a balance upon the forest money excepted; he further intimates that in consequence of the manner in which the accounts were kept, he was obliged to keep distinct the cash in hand for the lime works, and Gundulpett workshops which amounted to about Rupees 1,500. This he observes should be deducted from the sum of Rupees 4,415, (the entire balance), leaving then about Rupees 3,000 as the balance on account of the forest works. As Captain Morgan, therefore, spent a larger sum than Rupees 2,500, (the maximum monthly expenditure), previous to the robbery, Captain Dobbie urges that he was justified in having the balance above mentioned in his cash chest and refers to an accompaniment to a letter from this office to Government, dated 4th February 1859, No. 7608.

11. With regard to the 3rd point, Captain Dobbie brings to notice that as he had payments to make at Mysore and Gundulpett it was much safer, more convenient, and tended to the good of the service to pay drafts than by cash; with a view of following this course he applied for bills on the Commissioner of Mysore, requesting that the amounts might be paid to the Tahsildars mentioned to be held at his credit. This is reported to have invariably been done by letter, and replies were always received from the Mysore Government, advising him of these sums having been placed at his disposal. By the adoption of this course, Captain Dobbie states, that no person but himself could touch the money, and consequently that he had virtually as much received it as if it had been paid by cash into his hands.

12. On the 4th point, Captain Dobbie remarks, that although the practice of drawing money for works only once each month was not in strict accordance with the rules, yet it was not a neglect that could have contributed to the loss sustained by Government.

13. With regard to the 5th point, Captain Dobbie remarks, that from the examination made of the chest, he is quite convinced that it must have been left unlocked, and that although Captain Morgan repudiates the idea of his having left the chest unlocked, yet he has not satisfied the Government, that in the interval between the time of the locking of the chest by him and the robbery, no other person had access thereto. Captain Dobbie further mentions, that had the chest been placed in the custody of the Tahsildar, the robbery would never have occurred, and that he cannot, therefore, be held responsible, for Captain Morgan's negligence in adopting this course.

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for the month of November 1859.*

14. In conclusion, Captain Dobbie states in his justification, that although his accounts had been kept contrary to rule and although a large balance was left in his cash chest when delivering over charge to Captain Morgan, it was clearly the duty of that officer to have refused taking charge, or on doing so to have corrected the accounts, and placed in safe custody the cash delivered over to him. Failing to adopt these precautions, he was himself responsible for the robbery that afterwards occurred, as if he had declined to take charge of the large balance then in the cash chest, Captain Dobbie states, he would have returned or portion of it to Captain Campbell.

15. I would here beg to observe, that Captain Dobbie's explanation\* appears to have been detained by the District Engineer of Coimbatore for upwards of a month† and some days, without the least necessity, since he has offered no remarks upon the letter. Two telegraph messages were despatched, requesting that officer to expedite its transmission, and no explanation of the cause of the delay having been furnished by Mr. Fraser, he has now been called upon to supply the omission.

\* Dated 22nd September 1859.  
† Letter from District Engineer, dated 31st October 1859.

16. I do not see any thing in the foregoing letters that requires particular comment from me, since they contain no material facts or arguments additional to those on which I have already reported.

No. 180. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1859, No. 2793.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Engineer, in paragraph 17 of his letter of 29th July, recorded in the order of the 17th August 1859 No. 1972, the Honorable the Governor in Council grants authority for writing off to profit and loss the unrecovered balance of the sum robbed from Captain Morgan's cash chest, being Rupees one thousand four hundred and eleven annas six and pice eight.

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

Central Office of P.W.  
Fort St. George  
13 November 1857

No. 7156

From,  
The Chief Engineer

To,  
The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Public

Sir,  
With reference to the order of Government, as per margin, I have the honor to submit for the consideration of Government, the accompanying original letters received from Captains Campbell and Morgan Nos. 64 and 1287, dated 3<sup>rd</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September respectively.

11/11/57  
Encl. 3  
orig.  
1. From Capt. Morgan  
2/3 Sept/57 No. 64  
1. From Capt. Campbell  
2/13 Sept/57 No. 1287  
1. From Mr. Supt. Construction  
8/31 Oct/57  
9/16/57 forwarding  
Capt. Robb's explanation 9/22  
Oct/57 10/17/57

2 In the order marginally noticed the Government called for explanation as to whether Captain Robbie only continued, or followed practices prevailing in the Office when he took charge of it from Captain Morgan, in regard to the

the drawing of funds, crediting money in the books though not received - keeping Cash on hand in separate bags for several objects, and separate books for each also.

3. In reply to the foregoing points Captain Morgan in the first place observes that he was never in the habit of keeping large Cash balances in his Chest and this assertion is substantiated by explaining that when he gave over charge to Captain Dobbie the Cash in hand was less than 800 Rs. and only Rs. 100, when giving over charge of the Royal Range. 2<sup>nd</sup> That he often drew money twice a month from Captain Campbell in accordance with the existing Rules. 3<sup>rd</sup> That it was not his system to keep money in separate bags for each charge. 4<sup>th</sup> That he received as expeditiously as possible the large Cash balance made over to him by Captain Dobbie, and that he applied for no additional funds. 5<sup>th</sup> That the large amount stated

stated to be in the Cash Chest on the date of the robbery was not placed there by him. 6<sup>th</sup> That the trustworthy Cash Room who was formerly employed has been removed by Captain Dobbie and a dishonest man placed in his stead. 7<sup>th</sup> That solely through the facilities afforded by this individual the Cash Chest was robbed, as the Office in which the box was kept was not enclosed with glass only. Captain Morgan states that it was a verandah room, with a door, which could be bolted from the inside, and was only closed in front for the convenience of the writer, and that if the person had not afforded a helping hand to the robbers by withdrawing the bolt, they could not possibly have carried off the Chest without creating considerable noise.

4. Captain Morgan observes that he has no proper Office, never having drawn Office Rent, and that if the Cash Chest had been placed in

in his tent, it might have been removed  
with far less difficulty than when in  
the Verandah Room, and further that  
if the place had been even so strong,  
the money could not have been saved  
from pillage, when the person in charge  
has proved so unfaithful to his trust.  
No further adds that he had no  
guard, the Cash balances with him  
being always very small and that  
Captain Bobbie organizes the Guard.

5. With regard to the explanation  
required from Captain Campbell  
as to his neglect in seeing to the  
accounts being properly kept, and  
the sums drawn not excessive; that  
the Officer explains in regard to the latter  
in his letter quoted above, that his  
standing order while in charge of  
the Dachtatalla works was, that  
a sum not less than 3,000 Rupees  
per month should be expended  
in the Mudamulli Forest with a  
view to full supplies of timber  
being received therefrom, and that  
has this order been conformed to.

the Cash on hand on the day of the robbery  
would have been much smaller. He  
moreover brings to notice that in conse-  
quence of the non-compliance with this  
order, he was compelled to make  
weekly purchases in the open market  
with a view to prevent any stoppage  
in the works. Such being the facts  
of the case Captain Campbell adds  
that the Cash balance of Rupees 4,415,  
cannot be regarded as excessive, if the  
Executive Officer in charge of the Forest,  
attended to orders in expending the money  
received by him as rapidly as directed.

6. With regard to the 2<sup>d</sup> point  
noticed in the preceding para as  
to Captain Campbell's neglect to see  
the accounts being properly kept,  
that Officer admits that he is  
not to blame the Cash and accounts  
of Captain Bobbie, inasmuch as he  
felt satisfied with the regular submission  
of the Executive Engineer's monthly  
statements, concerning his standing  
accounts.

ample security for the correctness of  
the Returns. Captain Campbell asserts  
that the loss of the sum stolen from  
Captain Morgan's Cash Chest did not  
Result from his neglect to examine the  
same, as his non-examination had no  
connection whatever with the robbery.

7. In conclusion, Captain Campbell  
brings to notice his originally unauthorized  
but subsequently sanctioned measure  
of securing the Mundanelli Forest land,  
and observes that had that step not been  
adopted by him, the P.T.D. would  
have lost the control of the Timber  
Market and the Native dealers would  
have fixed their own prices on this  
Commodity. Captain Campbell attempts  
to draw a comparison between the  
large saving thus effected, which he  
sets down at Rupees 15 Lacs, and  
the sum stolen Rupees 1,61,11-4.

8. Captain Dobbie's explanation  
which has been only slightly reviewed  
is as follows— That the method  
of keeping the accounts did not  
originate

original with him, and that he only  
continued a practice prevailing in the  
Office prior to his assuming charge from  
Captain Morgan. That the large Cash  
balance on hand was not more than  
was really necessary to carry on the  
works efficiently. That the practice  
of drawing and crediting money in  
his Cash book existed prior to his  
taking charge of the works. That  
no money was required only at the  
beginning of each month, he applied  
for it, but once during that period.  
That he was in no way responsible  
for the robbery of the Cash Chest.

9. With regard to the 1st point—  
Captain Dobbie states that as it  
was Captain Campbell's duty fre-  
quently to examine the Accounts, and  
as he had no grounds to suppose  
that Officer omitted doing so previous  
to his taking charge he was under  
the impression that they were fully  
approved of by him.

10. On the 2d point Captain  
Dobbie

Dobbie remarks that Captain Morgan  
expended, within three weeks from the  
date of his taking over charge, all  
the available Cash on hand, a balance  
of Rupees 300, that is a balance  
upon the Fresh Money accepted. He  
further intimates that in consequence  
of the manner in which the Accounts  
were kept, he was obliged to keep  
distinct the Cash on hand for the  
Sind works, and Gundulpett workshops  
which amounted to about Rupees 1500.  
This he observes should be deducted  
from the sum of Rupees 4415/- the  
entire balance leaving then about Rupees  
3000 as the balance on account of the  
Sind works. As Captain Morgan  
therefore spent a larger sum than  
Rupees 2500/- the maximum monthly  
expenditure previous to the Robbery,  
Captain Dobbie urges that he was  
justified in having the balance  
above mentioned in his Cash Chest  
and refers to an accompaniment to  
a letter from this Office to Government  
dated

dated 11<sup>th</sup> February 1859 No. 7688.  
11. With regard to the 3<sup>d</sup> point, Captain  
Dobbie brings to notice that as he had  
payments to make at Mysore and  
Gundulpett it was much safer, more  
convenient, and kindred to the good of  
the service to pay draughts than by  
Cash. With a view of following  
this course he applied for bills  
on the Commissioners of Mysore,  
requesting that the amounts might  
be paid to the Taxildars mentioned  
to be held at his credit. This is  
reported to have invariably been done  
by letter, and replies were always  
received from the Mysore Government,  
advising him of these sums having  
been placed at his disposal. By  
the adoption of this course Captain  
Dobbie states that no person but  
himself could touch the money,  
and consequently that he had  
virtually as much received it as  
if it had been paid by Cash into  
his hands.

On

12<sup>th</sup> On the 14<sup>th</sup> month Captain  
Dobbie remarks that although the  
a practice of drawing money for wages  
only once each month was not in  
strict accordance with the Rules,  
yet it was not a neglect that could  
have contributed to the loss sustained  
by Government.

13. With regard to the 5<sup>th</sup>  
month Captain Dobbie remarks  
that from the examination made of  
the Chest, he is quite convinced  
that it must have been left un-  
locked; and that although Captain  
Morgan repudiates the idea of  
his having left the Chest unlocked,  
yet he has not satisfied the  
Government, that in the interval  
between the time of the locking  
of the Chest by him and the robbery  
no other person had access thereto.  
Captain Dobbie further mentions  
that had the Chest been placed  
in the custody of the Tahildar  
the robbery would never have

occurred, and that he cannot therefore  
be held responsible, for Captain Morgan's  
negligence in adopting this course.

14. In conclusion Captain Dobbie  
states in his justification that although  
his accounts had been kept contrary  
to Rule and although a large balance  
was left in his Cash Chest when  
delivering over charge to Captain  
Morgan, it was clearly the duty  
of that officer to have refused  
taking charge, or on doing so to  
have corrected the accounts, and  
placed in safe custody the Cash  
delivered over to him. Failing to  
adopt these precautions he was  
himself responsible for the robbery  
that afterwards occurred, as if he  
had declined to take charge of the  
large balance then in the Cash Chest,  
Captain Dobbie states he would  
have returned or portion of it to  
Captain Campbell.

15. I would here beg to observe  
7/22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 1859 that Captain Dobbie's explanation

appears to have been detained by the  
District Engineer of Combators for a period of  
month and some days without the  
least necessity since he has offered  
Remarks upon the letter. Two  
Telegraph Messages were despatched  
requesting that Officer to expedite  
the transmission, and no explanation  
of the cause of the delay having  
been furnished by Mr. Graver, he  
has now been called upon to supply  
the omission.

Letter from Mr.  
Graver  
Sep 21<sup>st</sup> 1874

16. I do not see any thing in the  
foregoing letters that requires particu-  
lar comment from me since they  
contain no material facts or arguments  
additional to those in which I have  
already reported.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your most obedient  
servant  
A. L. W. St. Paul  
Chief Engineer  
To the Secretary to  
Government 1874  
John G. ...  
H. B. ...  
S. H. ...

*Am. de l'Inde*, t. 10, August 6, 1817, p. 163.  
The name is given as 55° 50'.

Dr 1859 Cash  
to 2948

1847  
Jan 29

From the Direct Infusion.

My dear Mr. Jackson

Ende 1877 Nov. 1889

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4/7/56

FD-24-1-60

Chief Clerk - 123

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Август. 30. 2. Нормаль.

Confidence.

Armen and David H. H. 2

17. *Dasyl. dendroides* ex. Hornem.

Letter from Sir John G. G. G.

can't read nor phonograph.

Indebted to you for the

Added Program: French Culture

John Anderson

The same must accord  
 to Colonel Wells' recommendation  
 except the sum retained from the  
 bank interest should be written  
 off to profits and loss  
 L. C. Mumford  
 Lyndle 21 Nov 1859

Hyndale 21 Mar 1851



16th Nov 1925

Apr 179

[illegible]

Ms. 2793