M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 777	Press Mis.
108–109	
Dated 8—4—	1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 8th April 1861.

No. 108. Read the following letter from W. WATERFIELD, Esq., Officiating Civil Auditor, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 26th March 1861, No. 201 :—

SIR,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government that from an extract of a letter communicated to me, I observe that Mr. M. Murray, Madras Civil Service, draws his absentee allowances in England. I do not understand on what authority they have been passed to him. No report to that effect was issued from this Office and no last pay certificate given. On the contrary, Mr. Murray left a Power of Attorney in favor of Messrs. Binny & Co., appointing them to draw his salary here, to whom it was passed accordingly from 1st May 1859 to 31st December 1860. The matter, I think, requires investigation, as it seems a mere accident, that the double payment has been discovered in this case before Mr. Murray's retirement; and in another it might escape detection altogether. If the above facts are correct, as stated by my subordinates, there must be some fault in the system. I wish also to be informed whether the double payment should be adjusted by Messrs. Binny & Co. as they have offered to do, or by Mr. Murray. In the former case the Income Tax, &c., would be refunded, but I have of course no information of the date from which Mr. Murray began to draw at Home, or the sum he has received there.

No. 109. ORDER THEREON, 8th April 1861, No. 777.

1. The Civil Auditor brings to notice that the absentee allowance of Mr. M. Murray, Collector of Cuddapah, now on leave, is drawn both by himself in England and by his Agent at Madras; and he remarks that it is deserving of inquiry how this has happened.

2. Inquiry made in the Government Office shows clearly how the double payment was practicable, and also suggests easy and simple means of preventing the like mistake for the future.

3. According to the established course of proceeding, the Civil Auditor, on the occasion of a Civil Servant going Home on sick certificate, furnishes to the Secretary to Government a certificate stating the amount of monthly pay to which he is entitled during his absence, and mentioning where he will draw it; one copy of this certificate is transmitted to the Secretary of State, and another is delivered to the individual.

4. It has, however, become the frequent practice at the Civil Audit Office, with the view of saving time, to send up these certificates without stating the intended place of drawing pay, leaving that particular to be inserted in the Government Office. This course was followed in Mr. Murray's case; the certificate was even unsigned by the Civil Auditor, but having been received with his report on the application for leave, it was accepted and dealt with as usual. Mr. Murray having by some inadvertence left powers with his Agents to draw his pay; and that having been passed to them at the Civil Audit Office without previous care to ascertain the tenor of the certificate as sent to the Home Authorities, the pay has been drawn twice over.

5. In order to prevent such mistakes for the future, the Civil Auditor will now be directed never to send up a pay certificate without specifying in it where the absentee wishes to draw his pay. All such certificates received in disregard of this rule will be returned to the Civil Audit Office.

6. With respect to the question in the latter part of Mr. Waterfield's letter, as Messrs. Binny & Co. offer to adjust the overpayment, the Government are of opinion that the simplest course will be to accept that offer. The whole of the payments made here since Mr. Murray's departure should be refunded.

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

how

Rev. Dept.

No. 7707

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 8th April 1861

Read the following letter
from the Offg. Civil Audr

Brings to notice that Mr Murray's absentee allowances were drawn both by his agent at Madras and by him in England

Here enter 28th March/61 No 1320

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4 It has, however, become the frequent practice at the Civil Auditor's Office, with the view of saving time, to send up these certificates without stating the intended place of drawing pay, leaving that particular to be inserted in the Govt Office. This course was followed in Mr Murray's case; the certificate was even unsigned by the Civil Auditor,

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5 In order to prevent such mistakes for the future, the Civil Audit will now be directed never to send up a pay certificate without specifying when & where the absentee wishes to draw his pay. All such certificates received in disregard of this rule will be returned to the Civil Audit Office.

6 With respect to the question in the latter part of Mr. Waterfield's letter, as Messrs. Binny & Co. offer to adjust the overpayment, the Govt are of opinion that the simplest course will be to

to accept that offer.
The whole of the payments made here since Mr Murrays departure should be refunded.

3 Copies to the Chief Auditor. Office
Civil Papers
Pub Doc 3

Mr. Murray's Absentee Allowance

Revenue 1861 Department
Pro: of Govt. for April.

No. 777.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dated 8th April 1861.

Messrs Binny & Co. to refund the amount of absentee allowance of Mr. Murray, which they have drawn, the same being received by him in England. The Civil Auditor to follow the course pointed out in order to prevent the recurrence of such double payments.

No. 108 & 109.