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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3493	Press
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Dated 8-12-	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Q. 123-124

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th December 1864.*

No. 123. Read the following letter from Captain F. J. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madura, 28th November 1864, No. 1,941:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to report that some months ago I forwarded to the Head Assistant Magistrate, Tinnevely, a charge made by a villager against Tāluq Overseer Subramania Pillay, of having appropriated Rupees 21-4-7; this amount he asserted had been paid to the villager, and in proof thereof produced a receipt witnessed by his Writer and a Lascā on his establishment; the villager denied having received the money, and stated that the receipt was a forgery.

2. The Magistrate acquitted the Overseer; but in conclusion entered the following words:—
“I feel bound to remark here that the system of payments adopted by the Department of Public (sic.) is very unsatisfactory, placing the honest Contractor at the mercy of the dishonest Overseer, and rendering the honest Overseer at any time liable to be charged with embezzlement by any dishonest Contractor who may think fit to deny the genuineness of a receipt given by him.”

3. In consequence of this I applied to the Collectors of the two Districts to authorize my Overseers, &c., calling on one at least of the village servants to attest such receipt.

4. The Collector of Tinnevely assented immediately, and has issued orders accordingly. The Collector of Madura declines; giving as his reason that the village servants may be put to inconvenience by having to appear as witnesses to the prejudice of their legitimate duties, and that it will not always be practicable for village servants to be present; he further suggests that the Overseers should obtain the signatures of other respectable witnesses.

5. I urged in reply that these parties might very well give the first reason for declining to attest, and that if the Maistry or Overseer had sufficient influence over any body, to overcome this objection, it would leave room for the same suspicion that now exists. Mr. Levinge, however, still sees no reason to alter his views.

6. I submit the subject therefore for the consideration of Government, as I think that the remark of the Magistrate seems well deserving of some action.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 8th December 1864, No. 3,493.

The Government agree with the Collector of Madura that there should be no difficulty in obtaining the attestation of respectable villagers to ~~the~~ receipts for payments made within their cognizance by the Executive Agents of the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

” Collector of Madura.

” do. of Tinnevely.

Exd. S. T. Angustin.

