

(1) Number of pages 183(2) Date of repair 18.11.1943

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	1235	Press
		Mis.
Dated	18.11.1943	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th May 1865.*

No. 142. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Military Department:—

• Re-placing the services of Corporal J. Nicholson, lately dismissed from the Public Works Department, at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief. (Here enter 1st May 1865, No. 1,632.)

No. 143. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1865, No. 1,235.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 10.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. T. O'Connor:

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers:—

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Public Works Department.

Directing the removal of Taluk Overseer, Nicholson, from the Public Works Department, for carelessness in the matter of the robbery of his Cash-chest, and requesting that his services may be re-placed at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

Here enter 22nd April 1865, No. 1072.

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, Lower Coleroon Anicut, 27th February 1865, No. 2239; to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

1. I regret having to report, for the information of Government, a robbery on the night of the 3rd instant of the Cash-chest of the Taluk Overseer, John Nicholson of the Salem District, and the loss thereby of Rupees 726-9-4.

2 Letters from Lieut. Edgcome.

1 Letter from Overseer J. Nicholson.

2. From the Overseer's letter it will be seen, that so large a sum in cash came to be in the Cash chest under very peculiar circumstances. A Contractor who supplied wood for the Jail from Palghat on the day in question, had been bringing it from the Railway Station, and was anxious to leave by the early train next morning before the Treasury was open. To accommodate him, the Overseer instead of paying him, as is customary, by cheques, cashed the cheques at the Treasury himself with the intention of paying the Contractor when all the wood was received, and which would have been after office hours.

3. Unfortunately all the wood was not brought in that evening, so the Overseer put off paying the Contractor that evening, and locked the money up in his Cash chest. The cash Chest was put in charge of two Lascars, one on duty the other off. The one who should have been in charge of the Cash chest forsook his duty at 8-30 P. M., before being relieved by the other, and who appears to have come at 9-30, when he found that the Cash-chest had been carried away. The Police Authorities, it appears, were on the spot a short while after the robbery took place, and used their utmost endeavours, but up to this time nothing has been found but the empty Cash box.

4. In paragraph II, Chapter IV of the Public Works Code, it is laid down that Executive Officers shall be at liberty to entrust payments for materials to any subordinates above the grade of Sub-Overseer, 2nd class, but that they will be held personally responsible for any loss which Government may sustain, unless it shall be clearly proved that every possible caution had been taken.

5. The circumstances of the case fully warrant the Range Officer granting the cheque for the payment of the wood; and I think that under the peculiar circumstances that the Overseer was justified in cashing the cheque instead of giving the contractor the cheque, which was the proper course, but when he had so large a sum in cash, the Overseer was very much to blame in not taking more care of it either by not leaving the room in which it was kept, or giving the chest into the charge of the Police at the station.

6. I hope that Government will consider the anxiety of mind that the Overseer must have gone through at this loss, a sufficient punishment, particularly as I know him to be a most excellent hardworking man, and allow me to strike off this sum to "profit and loss."

ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1865, No. 809.

1. In this letter the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, reports the robbery of the large sum of Rupees 726-9-4 from Taluk Overseer, John Nicholson, at Salem. The circumstances connected with this singular case are as follows. It appears that, expecting to have to make a payment to a Contractor on the evening of the 3rd instant, for a large quantity of timber, the delivery of which he had undertaken to complete that day, and wishing to accommodate him with cash instead of cheques, which could not be presented for payment next morning before the departure of the train by which the Contractor intended to return to Palghat, Mr. Nicholson, in defiance

of the repeated orders that have been issued to caution disbursing Officers against the danger of keeping money in their possession, thought proper to cash a number of cheques that had been entrusted to him to meet his expenditure, and, neglecting to adopt the precaution of securing the money in the Police Station house close at hand, placed it in a box, which, with remarkable fatuity or recklessness, he left in his house under the custody of an ordinary Lascar, who had either received no instructions to maintain a special watch over it or was so untrustworthy as to have neglected them, while he, Mr. Nicholson, adjourned to a neighbour's quarters. The result that might have been looked for followed. The box containing the money was carried away, and after a long search was found broken open and empty.

2. Every thing connected with the description of this robbery bears the most suspicious appearance. The explanation given of the reason for cashing the cheques is far from satisfactory; no explanation is offered as to why the box was not lodged under the charge of the Police; no after mention is made of the Lascar whose abandonment of his post afforded the opportunity for the removal of the box; and lastly, it is not shown how it was that no servant happened to be present in the house at the time that the robbery was committed.

3. Looking at all the circumstances, as they have been laid before them, the Government cannot acquit the Taluk Overseer of the grossest carelessness, and, struck by the unconcern he has displayed, they will withhold their decision regarding him till they receive from the Superintending Engineer a further report of the result of the Police investigations, or of magisterial or judicial measures thereon.

(True Extract.)

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

ORDER, No. 1632, 1st May 1865.

Communicated to the Commander-in-Chief, at whose disposal the services of Corporal J. Nicholson, are re-placed.

(True Extract.)

Hamilton
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department. *With 10 copies*
,, Adjutant General.
,, Controller of Military Accounts.
,, Examiner Pay Department.
,, Military Accountant.

27/11/1856 2 D after
Thurs Good for allay
No 1837

22/12/35

To: of Good with
W. J. Daphne

Receives

2/1 May/65
22/4 " "

Spink & George
6th May 1865 }

22/10/22

Placing the
seams of L. & M. L.
Mickelson, lately
discovered from the
P. M. D. M. L. at the
disposal of this day
the 6th in-ship.

W. J. Daphne

Revised W. J.

27/11/2. 14.3

22/12/35 6th May 1865