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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. Press Mis.—

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 16th December 1871.

No. 272. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Courtallum, 28th September 1871, No. 2,359.—

In reference to the G. O., dated 31st August 1871, No. 2,225, and in continuation of my letter printed therewith, I have now the honour to report the result of the investigation into the case of Talook Overseer Chockalingum Pillay recently in charge of No. 3 Range, Tinnevelly.

1 Report dated 18th September 1871, from Mr Sub-Engineer McNair
92 Enclosures to do
1 Petition from Chockalingum Pillay
1 Letter from the Assistant Engineer in charge, No 3 Range

2. Mr. Sub-Engineer McNair, who has conducted this investigation with great patience and care, has submitted the accompanying report, which, with its ninety-two enclosures, I forward for the consideration and orders of Government.

3. In this report Mr McNair states the issues with great clearness, and judging from the personal examinations made by me of many of the works referred to in the report, and from the enquiries that I have made into the various circumstances of the cases detailed, I have every reason to believe that Mr McNair's report is as fair and impartial and as little unfavourable to the parties concerned as it could well be.

4. It will be seen from this report that not only is the misconduct of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay brought to light, but that serious charges are proved against the majority of the subordinates of the range, to wit,—

Talook Overseer Ramasawmy Auchan.
Local Fund do, Sreenevassa Iyengar
Head Accountant Servarallum Sheriff Saib
Assistant Accountant Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay, and
Draughtsman Kanthimanatha Pillay.

5 With a view however of not adding unnecessarily to the length of this letter I have made, in blue pencil, on the margin of Mr. McNair's report, such few notes as appeared to me desirable, so as to enable me to limit myself here to the enumeration of the charges which I believe to be proved against the abovementioned individuals, together with the notice which I would recommend that the Government should take of their conduct

6 As regards Talook Overseer Chockalingum Pillay, the following delinquencies are clearly proved against him in the accompanying report, namely,—

a He has made a payment of Rupees 101-4-0 twice over, for rolling Road No 2, merely to favour the contractor.

b That he has improperly constructed several new tunnels on roads without authority, and has debited the cost of a few of them to the maintenance grants for the same

c That he has, without authority, made additions to certain works from private contributions, and has not credited in the accounts, or remitted to the treasury, such contributions.

d That he has maintained work establishments without necessity, and debited their salaries to works which they have not superintended.

e. That he has incurred an unnecessary expenditure of Rupees 250 on the Solaseri bridge.

f. That he has excluded from the register of lands submitted by him to me in May 1871 a piece of land purchased by him in June 1870 and now in his possession.

g. That he improperly directed his subordinates to furnish false certificated bills and measurements, and has falsely exhibited such works in the accounts as completed.

h. That he has accepted and used very inferior road materials and paid for them at high rates to favour the contractor

i. That he has constructed Police Station-houses and other works in the range of inferior materials and workmanship, and in an unsatisfactory manner, and furnished false completion certificates for them.

k. That he has submitted Inspection Reports which cannot be relied upon

l That he has drawn and paid travelling batta to a member of the Office Establishment, who was not entitled to any, for the months of September and October 1870; and,

m That he has committed many other irregularities.

7. As regards Talook Overseer Ramasawmy Auchari, the following delinquencies are proved against him, namely,—

a He has submitted a false bill for Rupees 12-3-10 for gravel work on Road No. 2, which had been previously executed and paid for, as per bill furnished by Local Fund Overseer Streenevassa Iyengar.

b. He has defrauded the Government and a ryot of Meenthully village of the sum of Rupees 31-4 9, charged for tamping the bund of Veparcolum tank; and,

c He has constructed five Police Station-houses and other works under his immediate supervision of inferior materials and workmanship, and in an unsatisfactory manner, and has furnished false certificated bills and measurements for some of them before they were fully completed.

8. As regards Local Fund Overseer Streenevassa Iyengar.

a. He has furnished a false certificated bill for Rupees 101-4-0 with measurements for rolling Road No 2 a second time, knowing that that work has not been executed, and that a sum of Rupees 168-13-0 has been paid for the identical work on the bill previously submitted by himself.

b. He has furnished two certificated bills with measurements for the Rengapanaikenkulam and Bodipithankulam tanks, which he had not seen or measured, and which were in an incomplete state at the time, and,

c He has submitted false bills and measurements for the Police Station-house at Vadugapatti, in March 1871, showing the building to have been fully completed then, while it was but partly constructed.

9. As regards the Head Accountant Serverallum Sheriff Saib.

a He connived with the other office subordinates and submitted false travelling allowance bills for one of them, who was not entitled to any batta, for the months of September and October 1870,

b. He fraudulently paid the batta Rupees 7-5-8 drawn in the name of

Draughtsman Kandimanatha Pillay for October 1870 to Assistant Accountant Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay, and obtained the latter's signature in the Acquittance Roll.

c He defrauded the Government of the sum of Rupees 7-7-6 by over-charging the salary of Maistry Gopala Pillay for the months of August to November 1870, and appropriated the money to himself, until the fraud was discovered in December 1870.

d He has forwarded anonymous petitions against Overseer Chockalingum Pillay and the contractors in the range; and,

e. He has instigated certain contractors to send false complaints against Overseer Chockalingum Pillay.

10. As regards the Assistant Accountant Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay.

a He connived with the other subordinates of the office to submit false travelling allowance bills and to share the batta thus drawn with them; and,

b He fraudulently received from the Head Accountant the batta Rupees 7-5-8, which had been drawn in the name of Draughtsman Kandimanatha Pillay, and signed the Acquittance Roll for the same, and subsequently, by order of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay, he returned the money and erased his signature in the roll.

11. As regards the Draughtsman Kandimanatha Pillay.

a. He connived with the other subordinates of the office to submit false travelling allowance bills and to share the batta thus drawn with them; and,

b He fraudulently received travelling batta for the months of September and October 1870 to the extent of Rupees 19-5-8, knowing that he was not entitled to any batta for those two months

12. As regards the notice which the Government may feel disposed to take of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay's misconduct, as detailed in paragraph 6, I would venture to remark that—

a This individual is not of a type either by his education or his general form from which the Government can expect to obtain a competent and trustworthy Range Officer He has never qualified even for an Overseer, and it was only in the dearth, I should imagine, of a competent party that the accident of the Pillay's appointment as Range Officer occurred

b. Although several of the transactions which he has mismanaged bear a more or less fraudulent aspect, the whole of his proceedings exhibit rather departmental want of judgment and moral obliquity of vision than downright attempts to defraud the Government.

c It appears to me, however, that he has rendered himself personally and pecuniarily liable for the amounts necessary to complete the seven Station-houses enumerated in paragraphs 34 to 41 inclusive of the report. The total of these amounts is Rupees 265.

d He has also rendered himself personally and pecuniarily liable for the sum of Rupees 101-4-0 paid to the contractor for "the second rolling," which was never performed, of District Road No. 2, as brought to notice in paragraphs 2 and 5 of the report.

e. Chockalingum Pillay has presented me with the accompanying petition (marked C. P. and dated 27th instant) with its enclosures. In this petition he

offers his resignation of the service, and I would recommend that, under the circumstances, it be accepted on the condition, of course, that he first makes good the sum of Rupees 366 4-0 mentioned in paragraphs *c* and *d*, and which he has agreed to do.

f. As regards the pension solicited by Chockalingum Pillay, it will be for the Government to determine whether this question be considered or not, and on the receipt of their instructions I will submit such documents in this connection as may be required

13. In reference to Talook Overseer Ramasawmy Auchari, the case of this individual, *vide* paragraph 7, bears a distinct aspect of fraud, and I have therefore suspended him pending a reply to this my application, requesting the authority of Government for his prosecution before the Magistrate of the district on the charge referred to in paragraph 7 of this letter, namely, that he prepared a bill for Rupees 31-4-9 for tamping the Veppankulam tank, that he obtained the contractor's signature in token of receipt, but that he has not paid the contractor up to date.

As regards the sum of Rupees 12 3-10 overcharged by him for gravel, *vide* paragraph 7 *a*, I have directed the Range Officer to recover this sum from the Auchari's pay for the current month Ramasawmy Auchari is an unpassed candidate, and his conduct in the range is most unsatisfactory as will be seen from the enclosed letter marked W H of the 2nd instant, No 196, from the Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 3 Range.

14. Local Fund Overseer Streenevassa Iyengar, the third delinquent on the list (see paragraph 8), has been suspended from the 4th ultimo, as mentioned in my letter quoted in paragraph 1. As it appears that the Iyengar was more the tool of a party than anything else, that party being the then Acting Range Officer, I am not inclined to recommend that severe measures be resorted to in his case. As, however, I find that he has no qualifications whatever for an Overseer, I shall suggest to the President of the Local Fund Circle that Streenevassa Iyengar be not re-instated in his former position, but entertained as Local Fund Maistry.

15. In regard to the Head Accountant Serverallum Sheriff Saib, although his conduct has been extremely reprehensible (see paragraph 9), he has condoned it to a considerable extent, in my opinion, by bringing to notice the many irregularities committed in the range, and which but for him would, in all probability have been in full swing up to the present time. Under these circumstances it appears to me that if a reprimand be passed on him by Government, and his salary be slightly reduced, it will sufficiently meet the case. As, moreover, his continued presence in No 3 Range, Tinnevelly, is highly undesirable, I propose removing him to another range, at a salary reduced from Rupees 50 to 40

16. In regard to the case of the Assistant Accountant Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay, I find that, in addition to his misconduct as reported in paragraph 10, he is a man of no education and not qualified for the position he holds. And as he is said to be of little or no use in the office, and as he has been only a few years in the service, I have thought it better to discharge him at once, in anticipation of the approval of Government, rather than prosecute him for the crime he is alleged to have committed.

17. In reference to the Draughtsman Kanthimanatha Pillay's case, I have directed the Range Officer to recover the sum of Rupees 19-5-8 from the current month's pay of that individual, namely, the amount of batta fraudulently received by him I also propose, as a punishment for his misconduct, to suspend him for three months, to take effect from the date of his substitute reaching the range.

18. Considering the bad pre-eminence that this division has unfortunately attained in the way of departmental frauds, it appears eminently desirable that, as these are brought to light, the parties concerned therein shall receive such punishment as will deter others from attempting similar bold flights into the dazzling atmosphere of chicane, and I trust therefore that the above recommendations in this respect will meet with the approval of Government

19. Mr. Sub-Engineer McNair's report is so clear and comprehensive and shows such marked symptoms of the care, patience, and judgment with which he has conducted his inquiry, that I feel satisfied that the Government will concur with me in considering that he has served the Government honestly and well in exposing, as he has done, the fraudulent transactions that have recently occurred in No. 3 Range, Tinnevelly.

No. 273. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1871, No. 3,163.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 26.

Overseer Chockalingum Pillay
Do Ramasawmy Auchari
Local Fund Overseer Streenevassa Iyengar
Head Accountant Sheriff Saib
Assistant do. Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay
Draughtsman Kanthimanatha Pillay

WITH the foregoing letter the Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division submits, with his own remarks, a report by Mr. Sub-Engineer McNair, on the result of the investigation held into various charges of fraud and dishonesty against the individuals marginally noted The Government having given the papers their full consideration are of opinion that the guilt of the parties in a more or less degree has been fully established, and as the general state of the department in the Tinnevelly District calls for severe measures, His Excellency the Governor in Council directs the summary dismissal of all those above named. It does not appear to the Government that the culpability of Ramasawmy Auchari so greatly exceeds that of others as to warrant his selection for prosecution.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, with ninety-four original Enclosures.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd E. C. Shunker.

Summary of Evidence on Charges preferred against Chokalingam Pillay & others by the Sup. Engineer S. Division.

Charge No 1

Chokalingam Pillay: - charged in No. 3 Range Umiriliy. -

I last Chokalingam Pillay made a payment of Rs 101"4. three over, for Pilling Road No. 2; thereby to favor the Contractor.

Pilling Road No. 2. Overpayment

The charge as stated by the Sup. Engineer is not quite correct. Chokalingam Pillay on the last of March 71. made a payment of Rs 168"13 to the Contractor for rolling and again paid to the same Contractor for rolling: a sum of Rs 101"4 in May. which was in respect of the Instalment last The Officer who investigated the case is of opinion that the ? payment was unnecessary The Overseer asserts that the road required this 2nd Rolling & that it was actually carried out in April and a Magistrate called Rs

I think that a little under reported the latter has merely described as being guilty in various degrees of fraud or leading to it does not affect the fact that the responsibility of Ramasamy Asthana is clearly so much more than the others as to warrant his selection for prosecution

V.

I agree with the Sanitary Inspector in thinking that these are not sufficient grounds for making a disbursement to Chinna Ibrahim Saib & Ahmed Saib.

Chinna Ibrahim Saib & Ahmed Saib denies that there was any rolling in April & refuses to disburse.

The Local fund Overseer states that the road was not satisfactorily completed till the months of April. If this was the case the first payment in March should not have been made. The Local fund Maistry & the Contractor of the adjoining portions of road state that they did not see any rolling in April.

Adjoining portions of road on similar soil do not appear to have suffered by rain in April so as to require later rolling or outlay.

The conclusion is that the payment was improperly made by Chockalingum Pillay to favor the contractor.

Chockalingum Pillay

Charge No. 2.

That Chockalingum Pillay improperly Constructed several new tunnels on roads, without Authority & has debited the cost of a few of them to the maintenance grants for the same.

The fact is indisputable that the tunnels were constructed by the Overseer though they were not included in the original estimate. His defence is:

That they are necessary, indeed essential.

That he did send an estimate for the tunnels & reported & requested a transfer of funds.

That the Sup. Engineer approved & general terms of the proposed transfers of funds. That he commenced the work on the implied Authority that it was subsequently to this that the Sup. Engineer explained that the approval of transfers only referred to suspension funds.

That he then again requested Authority to expend the

Constructing tunnels without Authority & debiting to Minor heads

Defence

the Tunnels - out of a saving in the Or: Est: & asked if his suggestion was approved to have the Estimate returned for revision. That the Estimate was returned with Sup. Engineers Memo in which no Exception was taken to his proposal & that he held it as sufficient Guarantee for the Construction of the Tunnels -

The facts of the case as stated by the Overseer are admitted to be generally Correct.

Admits wrong debit to other Heads

In regard The Overseer Admits that in certain cases, when allotments or Estimates for Construction were expended or were insufficient - he charged the cost of the Construction of certain Tunnels to the Grant for Maintenance & makes the general Excuse that it was the General Custom to do so. Construct Small tunnels & portions of Road whenever urgently required out of such Grant.

Chockalingam Pillay.

Charge No 3.

Additions to Works from Private Contributions without Authority Admitted

That Chockalingam Pillay has without authority made additions to certain works from private Contributions & has not credited in the Accounts or remitted to the Treasury Such Contributions.

The facts appears to be admitted by Chockalingam Pillay - There is no imputation of fraud. It would appear that the Rents promised Contributions to defray the Cost of the Extra Work in the one case amounting to R. 35. in the other to R 46.9.6 The former sum has been paid. The latter is now withheld. The Overseer should, according to rule, have obtained the

Contributions in the first instance, paid them into the training & obtained the sanction of the Sup Engineer for the sanction of the work.

Charge No 4.

Chockalingum Pillay

That Chockalingum Pillay has maintained work ~~established~~ without necessity and debited their Salaries to works which they have not Superintended.

Maintaining work Estabt without authority.

Debit to wrong heads

It appears to be indisputable that these irregularities were committed

proved

Maistries employed in irrigation works had their Salaries charged against an estimate of R. 7000 for the repairs of Solasiri bridge. A Boatsman was employed without authority, during March April & May 1871.

Irrigation Maistries were kept up during the months of April and May 1871. tho' there had been no appropriation of funds & no irrigation works were executed during those months & their Salaries were charged to roads already provided with Maistries.

Road Maistries employed on one road had their Salaries changed to another

A Maistrie was employed apparently to watch the Overseers house during his absence on a Special duty & his Salary Charged against a Grant for Road Construction.

These are some of the instances adduced in Mr Wickrama's report & they are sufficient to establish the charge.

Charge No 5.

Chockalingum Pillay

Unnecessary Expenditure Solasiri Bridge

proved

That Chockalingum Pillay incurred an unnecessary Expenditure of Rs. 250 on Solasiri bridge.

It appears that 12 out of 24 centering beams were washed away from under the bridge. The estimate for making good the damage accordingly provided for the purchase of 12 new timbers Subsequently 10 beams were restored nevertheless the Overseer purchased 12 new beams instead of 2 which were all then required / because as he says - that number were provided in the Estimate. The beams were purchased of the bridge Contractors timely.

Charge No 6.

Chockalingum Pillay.

Concealing Lands & property from Register.

That Chockalingum Pillay has concealed from the Register of Lands Submitted by him to the Superintending Engineer in May 1871., a piece of Land purchased by him in June 1870 And now in his possession.

It appeares that this piece of Land was not bought by Chockalingum Pillay with a view to Registering Landed property. It was pledged to him in 1856 as security for a Loan of Rs 130 Made by him to a Contractor & as the Contractor was unable to repay him, he obtained a deed of sale, intending to dispose of the Land to others & thus recover his money. He was nevertheless bound to include the Land in the Return forwarded to the Sup Engineer.

Proved.

Charge No 7.

Chockalingum Pillay.

Fabricating false bills & Certificates &.

That Chockalingum Pillay improperly directed his Sub-Ordinates to furnish false Certificated bills and measurements & falsely exhibited such works in the Accounts as completed

1st Instance

A Calingulah & Slave in the Aliyadi Tank were included in a Completion Certificate furnished by the Overseer in September 1870. In making the last payment in Sep. the Overseer returned Rs 10 because the pointing was not completed. The Certificate was therefore a false one

proved

2nd Instance

In the repair of Rengapanaken Channel a certificated bill for Rs 68-8 was furnished by the Local fund Overseer in the name of a Contractor Sorkanamia Pillai & the Overseer Chockalingum furnished a completion certificate in April 1871. The transactions are falsely represented. The work was not executed by Sorkanamia but by Maistries in his employ? / Paramaseven Pillai, who only made use of Sorkanamia's name to obtain the Money. The Local Fund Overseer did not measure or inspect the work, but took the measurements from the Maistri who executed it

The work was not fully Completed

proved

till the middle of April, this charged for to the full extent in March. The provisions of the Estimate are consequently large & the work has been executed as provided for.
The Local fund Overseers Certificate & Chockalingum Pillai's Certificate are both false. The charge for Superintendence is also false.

3d instance

proved

In the Repair Bodipitiken Kolam A Sum of R32 was charged in the accounts for March and a Certificated bill furnished by Local fund Overseer Shunmuga Iyer. The work was not completed till April and the bills are false as in the previous case.

Charge No 8

Chockalingum Pillay

That Chockalingum Pillay has accepted & used Kay inferior Road Materials and paid for them at high rates to favor the Contractor.

Accepting bad materials paying high rates

The practice in the Range had been to require Contractors to supply 1½ Cubyards of Loose Gravel for every Cubic Yard paid for as Solid Gravel. ie; after screening — This practice the Overseer has continued in many instances

proved

Chockalingum Pillay

Police station Houses
Constructing of bad materials &
furnishing false certificates
& measurements.

And paid for the Loose Gravel at the rates allowed for Solid gravel. The Road Materials deposited on Roads 1 & 15 are of inferior quality

Charge No 9

That Chockalingum Pillay has Constructed police station houses & other works in the Range of inferior Materials & Workmanship and in an unsatisfactory manner and furnished false completion Certificates for them.

Seven Police Stations Constructed in the Range during the last Official year are shown to have been built in a more or less unsatisfactory manner The seven stations were sanctioned at an estimated Cost of R350 each and were commenced in June & completed in April 1891. H W Nevill reports that they require partial reconstruction & that their present value is R250 less than the sum charged for ie R2450.
The whole expenditure as per Estimate was charged in the Accounts for March - but they were not completed till April as already stated & the Certificated bills & Measurements furnished

by Local fund Overseer Strumors for one St house Thurgar under orders from Chockalingum Pillay are false as are also those supplied under similar circumstances by Overseer Ramasamy Asaree for the other six.

Charge No 10.

Chockalingum Pillay.

Submitting false Inspection reports.

That Chockalingum Pillay has submitted inspection reports which cannot be relied on.

The Overseer admits that he was absent from his head Quarters for only 4 days in Sept but his Inspection report would indicate that he was absent for 11 days in that month.

Again he admits that he was away for 10 days in October while his inspection report makes out that he was absent 16 days

He attempts to explain the discrepancy by asserting that he travelled out to the works by night from his Office & returned after inspection on the succeeding day

The explanation is unsatisfactory. & the inference to be drawn is that the reports are made up to enable him to draw full travelling allowance during the month.

forwarded.

Charge No 11.

Chockalingum Pillay:-

Drawing Batta & paying to a subordinate who was not entitled to.

That Chockalingum Pillay has drawn and paid travelling Batta to a member of the Office establishment: who was not entitled to any, for the months of September and October 1870 & that he has committed many other irregularities.

Batta was drawn & paid to the Peon attached to the Range Office for the whole of September & for 19 days in October 1870 on the plea that he was accompanying the Overseer on Inspection.

But it has been admitted by the latter that he was absent from head quarters only for 4 days in September & 10 days in October.

The Overseer pleads ignorance of the rules & that he was guided by the Head Accountant.

With regard to the commission of numerous other irregularities These are entered in the report by W. W. Nair & it is unnecessary to detail them in this abstract.

Talaivar Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree.

Submitting a false bill for Grant work

Record not proved.

Charge No. 1.

That Tal. Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree has Submitted a false bill for Rupees 12.3.10 for Grant work on Road No 2 which had been previously executed & paid for as per bill furnished by Local fund Overseer Sheneraya Iyengar. There is no absolute proof that the 2nd bill was sent in by Ramasawmy Asaree with intent to defraud, that in fact he knew that the work had already been paid for. It is not clearly shown what means the accused had of knowing this.

There is no question that the 2nd bill was sent & a 2nd payment made.

Tal. Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree.

Defrauding a sum of Rs. 31-4-9

Charge No. 2.

Ramasawmy Asaree has defrauded the Government and a sum of Mainthully Village of the sum of Rupees 31.4.9 charged for tampering the bund of Veparcolum Tank.

Chockalingum Pillay says that the bill was furnished by Ramasawmy Asaree & that he gave him the amount Rs. 31-4-9. in Cash to pay to the Contractor, who Subsequently gave evidence that the accused induced him to sign the bill, pleading that the money would be sent to him as soon as it was received from the Charge Officer. That the Overseer afterwards refused to pay him on the plea that the Earth work had not been properly tamped.

Ramasawmy Asaree admits that he paid the Contractor in Cash in April last, but the bill was stamped and receipted on the 25 March. The case is strong against the Accused.

Tal. Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree.

Charge No. 3.

Ramasawmy Asaree has Constructed five Police Station Houses & other works, under his immediate Supervision, of inferior Materials and workmanship and in an un-

Ramanadapuram Board —

Constructing Police Stations of bad materials &c

proved.

Other works badly built

proved.

satisfactory manner and has furnished false certificated bills and measurements for some of them, before they were fully completed.

These Police Station Houses are referred to in this abstract of Evidence as the 9th Charge against Chockalingam Pillay. They have been inspected by Mr Wilkes who states that they have been constructed more or less in a slovenly manner & of inferior Materials &c They were not completed till April 1871. But the whole estimated amount was charged in Bills & Measurements made out in March 71. Of course the Measurements were fictitious.

Certain Tunnels & Drains on the road between Sankaranayanal & Shevilliputtur, Constructed in the beginning of this year are reported by Mr Wilkes to be Slovenly Built & Satisfactory & the Materials Suspected for the Maintenance of the Same Road are of a very inferior description. And other works also Superintended

Local Fund Overseer Sheneerasa Iyengar

Furnishing false certificated bill for Rolling Road No 2

proved.

by Overseer Ramanadapuram Board is shown to have been badly Executed

Charge No 1 2

Sheneerasa Iyengar has furnished a false certificated Bill for Rs 101-4 with Measurements for Rolling Road No 2 a Second time knowing that that work had not been Executed & that a sum of Rs 160-13 had been paid for the Identical Work in the bill previously Submitted by himself —

This transaction is entered in the Abstract of Evidence as the 1st Charge against Chockalingam Pillay. The Accused furnished both bills & of Course is involved in the Charge of fraud Equally with the former. The same Evidence Applies in Each Case

Local Fund Overseer

Furnishing false bills & measurements for tanks & wells.

Proved.

Local Fund Overseer

furnishing false bills and measurements for Police Stations 11 cases

proved.

2nd Charge.

Sheneresa Iyengar furnished two certificated bills with measurements for the Rayapuram Kukulam Tanks and Bodipattam Kulam tanks which he had not seen or measured and which were in an incomplete state at the time.

This Case is referred to in the Abstract of Evidence in the 4th Charge against Chokalingam Pillay & the charge against the Accused rests on the same Evidence

3rd Charge.

Sheneresa Iyengar has submitted false bills and measurements for the Police Station House at Vadagapatta in March 1871, showing the building to have been fully completed then, while it was but partly constructed.

This is shown to be the case in dealing into the 4th Charge against Chokalingam Pillay.

Head Accountant Serveralum Sheriff Sait

Submitting false travelling allowance bills

proved.

Head Accountant

fraudulently paying Cabbas to Subordinate to which not entitled.

1st Charge A 253

Serveralum Sheriff Sait Commits with the Other Superintendents and submitted false travelling & allowance bills for one of them who was not entitled to any Cabbas for the months of September & October 1870.

This charge refers to the case included in the 11th charge against Chokalingam Pillay, of the payment of Cabbas to the Draftsman, for September & October 1870 to which the Cabbas as shown, was not entitled. There is no doubt of the culpability of the Accountant

2nd Charge.

The Head Accountant fraudulently paid the Cabbas Rs 7-5-8. drawn in the name of Draftsman Kandaswamy Pillay for October 1870 to Assistant Accountant Menachisoorndum Pillay and obtained the Cabbas Signature in the Acquittance Roll

Head Accountant.

Charge No 3.

The Head Accountant defrauded the Government of the sum of Rs. 4-7-6 by overcharging the Salary of Maistry Sopala Pillay for the months of August to Nov. 1870 and appropriated the Money to himself until the fraud was discovered in Feb. 1870.

The Salary of the Maistri was Rs 20 per month. The sum due to him for August & September 70 less a fine of Rs 5 imposed by Mr Mahon was therefore Rs 35. This amount was paid to him by the Accountant & his Signature obtained on their Acquittance Rolls. These however show a total Charge of Rs 35-12-1 or Rs 0-12-1 in excess of the proper Salary. The Maistry denies the Accountant of adding the odd money to the Rolls after he had signed & appropriating the sum.

The Accountant denies the charge states that he prepared the Rolls in accordance with the orders of Chockalingum Pillay - paid the Maistri Rs 20 Gorden of the Overseer & retained the balance which he subsequently returned to the Overseer.

This charge rests principally on the evidence of two draftsmen & the whole of the circumstances are detailed in the 27. para: of Mr Mahon's Report which in regards this case can hardly be condensed without omitting facts of importance. However it may be stated that the Overcharge of Rs 5 for Sept & October appears to have been made by mutual agreement amongst the members of the Range Office Establishment who were to share the proceeds. The draftsman states that the Accountant found the Bills to the Aff Accountant: But subsequently as he objected, the Signature of the draftsman was erased - he signed the Acquittance Roll himself before the erasure. There is the erasure on the Roll.*

The Accountant denies the charge & says he did not make out the Bill nor has he known the Circumstances & yet entered the charge in the Cash Book & disbursed the Money.

proved

*. In the duplicate Roll Sent to the Contractor, which has been obtained the Aff. Accountants Signature is still legible though partially erased

herewith the Sum overcharged was subsequently (after discovery of the fact) deducted from the Hd Accountant Salary at his own request & paid to the Monitor.

The Salary of the same Monitor for October & November was similarly overcharged by the Accountant in the Cash book of Rs 6-11-5. It is shown that payment to the Monitors was made by the Hd. Accountant & that the entries could be arranged by him so as to enable him to appropriate the Money overcharged.

In this case the Accountant went on Leave and handed over the Requisitions rolls & Money to Chockalingam pillay in order that he might pay the Monitors & obtain their Signatures.

The Monitor received Rs 40 due to him for Oct & November both disbursed on signing the several Requisitions Rolls, three in number, in which his pay was debited to the same number of workers; that the aggregate entries represented a sum of Rs 46-11-5 and reported the circumstance to the Overseer, who then investigated the Pay the Office cash book & Subordinate

& threatened to report the Hd Accountant for the fraud.

The Accountant then attempted to explain the circumstances away & requested the Overseer to debit the Overcharge of his Salary.

The Amount of Overcharges As shown is Rs 7-7-6.

Charge No 4.

The Head Accountant has forwarded anonymous petitions against Chockalingam Pillay & the Contractors in the Range.

The petitions are in the handwriting of Arumugam Pillai a Lad in the Range Office as Supernumerary.

Arumugam Pillai has deposed in writing, that the one addressed to Mr Wilson was written by him from a draft given by the Head Accountant

Arulappen, An Office Coolie testifies that he saw Arumugam write the petitions [illegible] Chockalingam in the Office.

Moisty Paramesivan Pillay states that he saw a petition addressed to Mr Wilson lying on the Hd Accountants

letter in August 1870.

The Head Accountant does in his charge - states that the above witnesses are not to be relied on for various reasons Unless some contradicts his former evidence, but the 1st Accountant had promised & actually did get them employments as a Road Ministry.

The subject alluded to in the anonymous petitions against the Contractors in the Range could only have been known in the Range Office.

Charge No 5.

The Head Accountant has instigated certain Contractors to send false Complaints against Chockalingam Pillay

The Only evidence against the Accountant is merely presumptive Various petitions have been forwarded, to the Collector the purport ~~of~~ ~~which~~ ~~against~~ Chockalingam against Chockalingam & as the statements in some of them bears upon matters

could only be known in the Range Office, but When Considers that the Office Subordinates & the H. Accountant in particular were the instigators,

Charge No 1.

The Assistant Accountant Nemachisvindrum Pillay

Conniving with others to Subscribe false travelling allowance bills &c.

The Assistant Accountant Connived with the other Subordinates of the Office to Submit false travelling allowance bills and to share the batta thus drawn with them.

The evidence relating to this charge is detailed in the Summary on the 1st Charge against Chockalingam Pillay & the 1st 22 Charges against the Head Accountant. It has been shown that the Assistant Accountant signed the aforesaid bill for batta for October 1870 which had been drawn on behalf of the Draftsman & that is the strongest proof that he did actually receive the batta in the first instance & that the Draftsmans evidence is true.

Wch

Charge No 2.

Assistant Accountant

Fraudulently received
Batta.

proved.

Draftsman

Fraudulently receiving
batta.

proved.

The Assistant Accountant fraudulently received from the Head Accountant the Batta Rs 1-4-5-8 which had been drawn in the name of Draftsman Kandimanatha Pillay, and signed the requisition bill for the same and subsequently by Order of Boreas Chockalingum Pillay, he returned the Money & erased his signature in the bill.

The above charge rests on the same evidence as the previous one & the two are so connected that it seems hardly necessary to have separated them. The proof seems to be conclusive.

1 Charge

Draftsman Kandimanatha Pillai Combined with the Other Office Subordinates to Submit false travelling allowance bills and to Share the Batta thus drawn with them.

The Evidence on Charges 1 & 2 against Chockalingum Pillai Assistant Accountant & 1 & 2 against the Assistant Accountant fully explained to Draftsman.

2nd Charge.

The Draftsman fraudulently received travelling batta for the months of September & October 1870 to the extent of Rs. 19-6-8 knowing that he was not entitled to any batta for those two months.

The accused admits having received the money & Sign in the Evidence on the charges referred to Against the Boreas Chockalingum, the Head & Assistant Accountants, that he was not entitled to it.

In Connection with the foregoing summary attention is requested to Col. Roberts report of 28 Sept 1871, and as the Connection & dishonesty of all practices

† This is not in the packet.

is clear, and the general state of the Department in the Tinnevelly District calls for severe measures. I would recommend that Overseer Chockalingum Pillay, Local Fund Overseer Sheveraja Iyengar Head Accountant Sheriff Caib, Assistant Accountant Srinivatchi Soondrum Pillay & Draughtsman Kanshi-maniatha Pillay, be summarily dismissed, & Overseer Ramaswamy Ayachari promoted as proposed by the S. Engr.

No. 6

P.W. 4814/71
Recd 16 Dec 1871

No. 2359 Superintg Engineer's Office 8th Dn
Camp Courtallum 28th Sept 1871

From
Lieut Colonel R. A. Roberts RE
Superintg Engineer 8th Dn.

To
Colonel J. Carpendale RE
Secretary to Government Dpt

Sir,

In reference to G.O. dated 31st August 1871 No 2225, and in continuation of my letter printed thereunto I have now the honor to report the result of the investigation into the case of Jalock Overseer Chockalingum Pillay recently in charge of No 3 Range Tinnevelly.

2. Mr Sub Engineer McNair who has conducted this investigation with great patience and care has submitted the accompanying report, which, with its 92 enclosures, I forward for the consideration and orders of Government.

3. In this report Mr McNair

states the issues with great clearness and judging from the personal examinations made by me of many of the works referred to in the report and from the enquiries that I have made into the various circumstances of the cases detailed, I have every reason to believe that Mr Mc Nairs report is as fair and impartial and as little unfavorable to the parties concerned as it could well be.

It will be seen from this report that not only is the mis-conduct of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay brought to light but that serious charges are proved against the majority of the Subordinates of the Range, to-wit

Talook Overseer, Ramasawmy Asaree.—
Local Fund Do, Struivass Iyengar.—
Head Accountant Servaraliam Sheriff Saib.—
Asstt Accountant, Meenatchisoondrum Pillay—
& Draughtsman, Kanthimanathan Pillay.

5 With a view however

of not adding unnecessarily to the length of this letter I have made, in blue pencil, on the margin of Mr Mc Nairs report, such few notes as appeared to me desirable, so as to enable me to limit myself here to the enumeration of the charges which I believe to be proved against the above-mentioned individuals together with the notice which I would recommend that the Government should take of their conduct-

6 As regards Talook Overseer Chockalingum Pillay, the following deliquencies are clearly proved against him in the accompanying report viz:

a ..... He has made a payment of Rupees 101 4 - thrice over, for rolling Road No 2, merely to favor the contractor

b. That he has improperly constructed several new Tunnels on roads, without authority, and has debited the cost of a few of them to the maintenance grants for the same.

c. That he has, without authority made additions to certain works, from private contributions, and has not credited in the accounts, or remitted to the Treasury, such contributions

d That he has maintained work establishments, without necessity, and debited their salaries to works which they have not superintended;

e That he has incurred an unnecessary expenditure of Rupees 250 on the Solaseri Bridge,

f. That he has excluded from the Register of lands submitted by him to me in May 1871, a piece of land purchased by him in June 1870 and now in his possession.

g. That he improperly directed his subordinates to furnish false certificated bills, and measurements, and has falsely exhibited such works in the accounts as completed.

h That he has accepted and used very inferior road materials and paid for them at high rates to favor the contractor.

i That he has constructed Police Station Houses, and other works, in the Range, of inferior materials and workmanship, and in an unsatisfactory manner, and furnished false completion certificates for them.

k That he has submitted Inspection Reports which cannot be relied upon.

l. That he has drawn and paid Travelling Batta to a member of the Office Establishment, who was not entitled to any, for three months of September and October 1870, and

m That he has committed many other irregularities.

7 As regards Talook Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree the following delinquencies are proved against him:—

a He has submitted a false bill for Rupees 12·3 10, for gravel work on Road No 2, which had been previously executed and paid for,

as per bill furnished by Local-Fund Overseer Sriniwasa Iyengar -

b. He has defrauded the Government and a ryot of Meenthully village of the sum of Rupees 31-4-9 charged for banking the bund of Veparcolum tank; and

c He has constructed five Police Station Houses and other works, under his immediate supervision, of inferior materials and workmanship, and in an unsatisfactory manner and has furnished false certificated bills and measurements for some of them before they were fully completed.

8 As regards Local-Fund Overseer Sriniwasa Iyengar -

a. He has furnished a false certificated Bill for Rs. 101-4-- with measurements for rolling road No 2 a second time, knowing that that work has not been executed, and that a sum of Rupees 168-13--

has been paid for the identical work on the Bill previously submitted by himself -

b He has furnished two certificated bills, with measurements for the Rengapanaiken Kulam and Bodupithan Kulam tanks, which he had not seen or measured, and which were in an incomplete state at the time, and

c He has submitted false Bills and measurements for the Police Station House at Vadugapatte, in March 1871, shewing the building to have been fully completed then, while it was but partly constructed.-

9. as regards the Head Accountant Seveerallum Sheriff said-

a He connived with the other office subordinates, and submitted false Travelling Allowance Bills for one of them, who was not entitled to any batta, for the months of September and October 1870

b He fraudulently paid the

batta Rupees 7-5-8 drawn in the name of Draughtsman Kandiamuda Pillay for October 1870, to Assistant Accountant Meenatchisoondrum Pillay, and obtained the latters signature in the acquittance Roll.

C. He defranded the Govern-ment of the sum of Rupees 7-7-6 by over-charging the salary of Maistry Gopala Pillay for the months of August to November 1870, and appropriated the money to himself, until the fraud was discovered in December 1870.-

d. He has forwarded anonymous petitions against Overseer Chockalingum Pillay and the contractors in the charges

e. He has instigated certain contractors to send false complaints against Overseer Chockalingum Pillay-

10 As regards the Assistant Accountant Meenatchisoondrum Pillay

a He connived with the other subordinates of the office to submit false Travelling allowance bills and to share the batta thus drawn with them, and

b He fraudulently received from the Head Accountant the batta Rupees 7-5-8 which had been drawn in the name of Draughts-man Kandiamuthoo Pillay, and signed the acquittance Roll for the same, and subsequently, by order of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay, he returned the money and erased his signature in the Roll.

11. As regards the Draughtsman Kandiamuthoo Pillay-

a He connived with the other subordinates of the office to submit false travelling allowance bills, and to share the batta thus drawn with them, and

b He fraudulently received travelling batta for the months of September and October 1870 to the extent of Rupees 19-5-8, knowing that he was not entitled to any batta for these two months.

12/ As regards the notice which the Government may feel disposed to take of Overseer Chockalingum Pillay's misconduct, as detailed in Para 6, I would venture to remark that

A This individual is not of a type either by his education or his general form, from which the Government can expect to obtain a competent and trustworthy Range Officer. He has never qualified, even for an Overseer, and it was only in the dearth, I should imagine, of a competent party that the accident of the Pillay's appointment as Range Officer occurred.

B Although several of the transactions which he has mismanaged bear a more or less fraudulent aspect, the whole of his proceedings exhibit rather departmental want of judgment and moral obliquity of vision, than downright attempts to defraud the Government

C It appears to me, however that he has rendered himself personally and pecuniarily liable for the amounts necessary to complete the 7 station houses enumerated in Paras 34 to 41 inclusive of the report.— The total of these amounts is Rupees 265.—

D He has also rendered himself personally and pecuniarily liable for the sum of Rs 101. 1. -, paid to the Contractor for "the 2nd polling" which was never performed, of District road No 21, as brought to notice in Paras 2 & 3 of the report.—

E Chockalingum Pillay has presented me with the accompanying Petition (marked "E") dated 27th instant) with its enclosures In this Petition he offers his resignation of the service, and I would recommend that, under the circumstances, it be accepted on the condition, of course, that he first makes good the sum of Rupees 366 4. - mentioned in Paras C & D, and which he has agreed to do.—

F As regards the pension—

solicited by Chockalingum Pillay, it will be for the Government to determine whether this question be considered, or not, and on the receipt of their instructions I will submit such documents in this connection as may be required.

13. In reference to Taluk Overseer Ramasawmy Asaree, the case of this individual, vide para 7, bears a distinct aspect of fraud, and I have therefore suspended him pending a reply to this my application, requesting the authority of Government for his prosecution before the Magistrate of the District, on the charge referred to in para 7 of this letter viz that he prepared a bill for Rupees. 31-4-9 for stamping the Veppankulam tank, that he obtained the Contractor's signature in token of receipt, but that he has not paid the Contractor up to date.—

As regards the sum of Rs. 12-3-10 overcharged by him for gravel, vide para 7 a, I have directed

the Range Officer to recover this sum from the Asaree's pay for the current month.

Ramasawmy Asaree is an unpaised candidate, and his conduct in the Range is most unsatisfactory as will be seen from the enclosed letter marked W. H. of the 2nd instant to me from the Assistant Engineer in charge of No 3 Range.—

Local Fund Overseer Srinivasa Iyengar, the third delinquent on the List (see para 8), has been suspended from the 4th ultimo, as mentioned in my letter quoted in para 1.— As it appears that the Iyengar was more the tool of a party than anything else, that party being the then acting Range Officer, I am not inclined to recommend that severe measures be resorted to in his case. As, however, I find that he has no qualifications whatever for an Overseer, I shall suggest to the President of the Local Fund Circle, that Srinivasa Iyengar be not reinstated in his former

position, but entertained as Local Fund Ministry.

15 In regard to the Head Accountant Serveralleum Sheriff Sahib, although his conduct has been exchernely reprehensible (see Para 9) he has condoned it to a considerable extent, in my opinion, by bringing to notice the many irregularities committed in the Range, and which but for him would, in all probability, have been in full swing up to the present time. - Under these circumstances, it appears to me that if a reprimand be passed on him by Government, and his salary be slightly reduced, it will sufficiently meet the case - As, moreover, his continued presence in No 3 Range Trincvelly is highly undesirable, I propose removing him to another Range, at a salary reduced from Rs 550 to Rs 450 -

16 In regard to the case of the Assistant Accountant Meenatchi Soondrum Pillay, I find that in addition to his mis-conduct as reported on Para 10, he is a man of no education, and not qualified for the position he holds. And as he is said to be of little or no use in the office, and as he has been only a few years in the service, I have thought it better to discharge him at once, in anticipation of the approval of Government, rather than prosecute him for the crime he is alleged to have committed. -

17 In reference to the Draughtsman Thanthimanadal Pillay's case, I have directed the Range Officer to recover the sum of Rupees 19 - 5 - 8, from the current month's pay of that individual, on the amount of batta fraudulently received by him. I also propose, as a punishment for his misconduct, to suspend him for 3 months, to take effect from the date of his substitute reaching the Range.

18 Considering the bad pre-eminence that this Division has, unfortunately attained in the way of

Departmental frauds it appears emi-
nently desirable that as these are
brought to light, the parties concerned
therein shall receive such punishment
as will deter others from attempting
similar bold flights into the dazzling
atmosphere of chicane, and I trust
therefore that the above recommendations
in this respect will meet with the
approval of Government.—

19. Mr Sub-Engineer McNairs
report is so clear and comprehensive
and shows such marked symptoms
of the care, patience, and judgment
with which he has conducted
his enquiry, that I feel satis-
fied that the Government will
concur with me in considering
that he has served the
Government honestly and
well, in exposing, as he
has done, the fraudulent
transactions that have
recently occurred in No. 3

Range/

Range Tinnevelly

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obt. servant

Rice & Roberts, Lieut. Col. &c/
Superintg Engineer 8th Dn.

P. W. 1871 Depart.
Fm Ofg Gl for Chgr
No 2359

From No 4814.

The Supdg Engineer
8 Division

To

The Secretary to
Govt PW
Madras

Dated 28 September 71
Received 9 October 71

× Sub Engr. Mr Mechan's report returned
vide Cf 1330/72 × 15-3-72

Enclosures. 95

No 3163 - 16 December 71

Reports the result
of the investigation
into the case of
Taloor Overseer
Chockalingam
Pillay, recently in charge
of 3rd Range Immediately
required, vr by O No
2225 dated 31 August
1871.

No 27

6 Dec 71
Cont 12 Oct 71

No 3163

Dated the 16 December 71.

With the foregoing
letter the Superintending
Engineer of the 8th Division
submits with his own
remarks, a report by Mr
Sub Engineer McNair,
on the result of the inves-
-tigation held into various
charges of fraud and
dishonesty against the
individuals marginally
noted

Overseer Chocalingum Pillay
Dr Ramasawmy Auchary.
Local Fund Overseer Sreenivasa Iyengar
Head Accountant Meriff Sahib
1st — do Meenakshi Soondrum Pillay
Draftsman Ram Rinanathan Pillay —

noted. The Government having given the papers their full consideration are of opinion that the guilt of the parties in a more or less degree has been fully established, and as the general state of the District calls for severe measures, His Excellency the Governor in Council directs the summary dismissal of all those above named It does not appear to the Government that the culpability of Ramasawmy Aucharee so greatly exceeds that of others as to warrant his selection for

for prosecution.

15 Nov

23

S. Engr & Ors with [illegible]
Contractors

Ld-s Depch 16/12/72.
Ld. " 12-1-73.

C. f°. 4811/1

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Superintending Engineer
S. th Division

Dated

Rec.d. Encl. /

G O, /- Dated 1872, No. 2172

Nos. 272 & 273

Transmitting Petition of Sankari Narayana
Iyengar, Head Accountant
Office, and Assistant Accountant
Venkata Subramanian, Public
Works Department, Tinnevelly District,
praying that Certificates of Character
may be granted to them.