

(1) Number of pages 14
 (2) Date of repair 4 8 86
 (3) Initials of the Referencer lcwz

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2188 W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	17-5-1878	197-

28

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2183

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th May 1878, No. 2,183 W.

General.
Account.

Read the following paper —

No. 194 From Major J PENNYCUICK, R E, District Engineer, Salem, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Womalcree, 10th May 1878, No 41 SL.

I HAVE the honor to forward a copy of a report received from Mr. Assistant Engineer Wyatt of an attempt at robbery from his hut at Baroor

2. The cash-chest referred to is a large iron safe much too heavy to be carried off by any reasonable number of thieves, there is something admirably audacious in the man's first stealing Mr Wyatt's despatch box with the keys of the cash-chest in it and then coming back at his leisure to open the latter.

3 The Superintendent of Police has been addressed on the subject of furnishing a guard, it is to be hoped that Mr. Wyatt's anticipation of an attack by "an armed band" will not be realized

From J C WYATT Esq, Assistant Engineer in charge of Kistnagerry Sub-division, to the Executive Engineer, Ootacamund Division, dated Baroor, 4th May 1878, No 80

I HAVE the honor to report that this morning at about 2 o'clock a most daring attempt was made to rob the Government treasure chest. My bed was placed across the doorway of my hut, the cash-chest was at the other end of the room and a table in the centre

2 I was awakened from sleep by a strange noise and on looking towards cash-chest, the direction from which the sound came, observed a native with red turban head peeping over the table at me I must have attracted the man's attention in turning round in bed, for, as I was rising, the man jumped up, bounded across the room and leaped through the window I had no time to seize him, but pursued him through the doorway, while my alarm soon brought all the servants to the spot

3 Rain had fallen in the afternoon, and the night being dark and cloudy the man succeeded in effecting his escape

4 After a fruitless search I returned to my room to ascertain if anything was missing, and was astonished to find my despatch box had gone The thief's object in taking the box instantly struck me, and leaving two men to guard the cash-chest I set out in search of my box In about half an hour the box was found at the foot of the low hill behind my tent with its contents scattered all over the ground, the box had been cut open with a chisel or other sharp tool, it was certainly not smashed with a heavy stone, and several private valuables were stolen Most of my papers and the cheque books were, however, left untouched, the keys of the treasure chest were not to be found The bold villain, after forcing open the despatch box and gaining possession of the keys, had returned to open the cash-chest, and it was his unsuccessful attempt to turn the key (the lock is opened by a peculiar method) and the noise occasioned in his vain endeavors to turn the bolts that awoke me in the very nick of time

5 As far as I am aware the chest has not been opened, but the keys have not been recovered

6 The case is now in the hands of the Head Constable of Erramathur and four men are in custody

7 The lock of cash-chest was sealed by me this evening in the presence of the Head Constable who also placed four seals in the safe

2188
2

2 PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, 17TH MAY 1878, No. 2,188 W.

8 As the Head Constable at Errimuthur has refused to take charge of the chest and furthermore expressed his inability to furnish a suitable guard (he offered to send one Constable), I have determined to send the cash-chest to, and place it in charge of, the Police Inspector at Kistnagherry, it is impossible for me to retain any longer a cash-chest the keys of which have been stolen, at any moment an armed band may storm my hut and extract by force the treasure in chest

9 Meanwhile I beg you will supply me at once with another safe

10 I also beg to advise having arranged to entertain in anticipation of formal sanction a treasure guard composed of six pensioned sepoys I shall, however, feel obliged if you can procure for me a Police guard, as I sometimes have Rupees 4,000 in the chest

11 In conclusion, I beg to enclose a copy of my cash book showing the money transactions and cash balance to 3rd May 1878

12 A copy of this letter has been sent to the Superintendent of Police at Tripatore, who has been requested to make special inquiries into the case

No 195. ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1878, No. 2,188 W.

RECORDED pending further report

(True Extract)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Govt, P W D.

(True Copy.)

Major, R E.,
Under Secy. to Govt, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Salem
" Judicial Department.

Encd E. C. Slunker
Spare Copies

CENTRAL
ACCOUNT

Govt. of (1873) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

1. DISTRICT ENGINEER
Salem.

GOVT. OF MADRAS.

NO. 184155.

RECEIVED
GOVT. OF MADRAS
PUBLIC WORKS
1873

N^o 41 LB

District Engineer's Office,
Mamalore 16th May 1878.

From

The District Engineer,
Salem.

To

The Chief Engineer,
D. P. W.

Sir,

Enclosure 1 I have the honor to forward
1 copy of letter a copy of a report received from
Mr Assistant Engineer Bryant of
an attempt at robbery from his
hut at Baroor.

2. The cash chest referred to is a
large iron safe, much too heavy
to be carried off by any reason-
able number of thieves; there is
something admirably audacious in
the man's first stealing Mr Bryant's
despatch

despatch boy with the key of the
cash chest in it, and then coming
back at his leisure to open the
latter.

3. The Superintendent of Police
has been addressed on the
subject of furnishing a guard;
it is to be hoped that Mr.
Wyatt's anticipation of an attack
by an armed band will not
be realized.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

your most obedt. servant

Major, &c.,

District Engineer.

Recd 2188 Hapt 17th May 1878
Recorded pending
further report.

sent
14/5

From
The District Engineer,
Salem.

To
The Chief Engineer,
E. P. R.

Dated 10th 3 May 1878.
Recd 3

N^o 4152

Enc 1

Reporting regarding an
attempt at robbery on
Mr. A. H. Engineer Wyatts
Cash Chest, & stating
that the Capt. of Police
has been addressed
on the subject of furnish-
ing a guard.

With order

Cir 16.5.78. Pl 2.17.5.78

N^o 80 Assistant Engineer's Office,
Camp Baroor, 4th May 1878.

From
The Officer in charge of
Tistnagherry Sub Division.
By
The Executive Engineer,
Baroor Division.

Sir,

I have the honor to report
that this morning at about 2 O'clock
a most daring attempt was made
to rob the Government Treasure
Chest. My bed was placed across
the doorway of my hut, the Cash
Chest was at the other end of the
room and a table in the centre.

I was awakened from sleep by
a strange noise and on looking
towards Cash Chest, the direction
from which the sound came, ob-
served a native with red turband
head peeping over the table at
me. I must have attracted the
man's attention in turning round
in bed, for, as I was rising, the
man jumped up bounded across
the

the room and leaped through the window. I have no time to seize him but pursued him through the doorway, while my alarm soon brought all the servants to the spot.

Rain had fallen in the afternoon, and the night being dark and cloudy the man succeeded in effecting his escape.

After a fruitless search I returned to my room to ascertain if any thing was missing and was astonished to find my despatch box had gone. The thief's object in taking the box instantly struck me, and leaving 2 men to guard the Cash Chest, I set out in search of my box. In about half an hour the box was found at the foot of the low hill behind my tent with its contents scattered all over the ground, the box had been cut open with a chisel or other sharp tool, it was certainly not smashed with a heavy stone and several private valuables were stolen. Most of my papers and the Cheque books were however

left

left untouched the Keys of the Treasure Chest were not to be found. The bold villain after forcing open the despatch box and gaining possession of the Keys, had returned to open the Cash Chest, and it was his unsuccessful attempt to turn the Key (the lock is opened by a peculiar method) and the noise occasioned in his vain endeavours to turn the bolts, that awaked me in the very nick of time.

As far as I am aware the Chest has not been opened, but the Keys have not been recovered. The case is now in the hands of the Head Constable of Erromithur and 4 men are in custody.

The lock of Cash Chest was sealed by me this evening in the presence of the Head Constable who also placed 4 seals in the safe.

As the Head Constable at Erromithur has refused to take charge of the chest and further more expressed his inability to furnish

furnish a suitable guard (he offered to send one Constable) I have determined to send the Cash Chest to, and place it in charge of the Police Inspector at Distdurgheerij. it is impossible for me to retain any longer a Cash Chest, the Keys of which have been stolen, at any moment an armed band may storm my hut and extract by force the treasure in chest.

Meanwhile, I beg you will supply me at once with another safe.

I also beg to advise having arranged to entertain in anticipation of formal sanction a treasure guard composed of six Pensioned Sepoys. I shall however feel obliged if you can procure for me a Police guard, as I sometimes have Rs. 1000 in the Chest.

In conclusion, I beg to enclose a copy of my Cash book showing the money transactions and Cash balance to 3/5/78.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Supt. of Police at Tripatore who has been requested to make special enquiries into the case.

(True Copy)
(Signed) R. J. Lowry
Secy. Engineer.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. C. Wyatt
Asst. Engineer.

(True Copy)
Major R. R.
Asst. Comm.

5457

Gubt. of (1878) Salween
PUBLIC WORKS

A. J. Salween

For

At

Recd.

21-2

O O, 17 May 1878, No 2188h

100

Mr. Asst. Engineer Myatts Cash
Check Letter from the D. E. Salween
Reporting the attempt
made to rob —, recorded
pending further report.

Subs. 100

District Engineer Salween.