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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3741 (N)	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	23.9.1878	197.

MSP

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

3741
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

23rd September 1878, No. 3,741 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 263. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, District Engineer, Malabar, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Calicut, 16th September 1878, No. 66.

I HAVE the honor to bring to your notice the circumstances detailed in accompanying copies of documents* the originals of which have been returned to Lieutenant Dobson for such use as may be necessary.

* Overseer Taylor's statements A and B.
Kotayam Taluk Writer's statement.
Lieutenant Dobson's letter No. 188, dated 14th September 1878.

2. You will see that the charges made by Lieutenant Dobson against Overseer Taylor are—

1st.—Breach of departmental rules and discipline in the following instances:—

For not having written up his cash book as required by rules between the 12th August and 14th September 1878.

For not having sent in his cash returns although overdue and after reminders on the subject.

For taking no notice of his letters on the subject, dated 5th and 9th instant.

For falsely alleging illness as a plea when he was proved to have been absent from his quarters and to have been walking about the town of Tellicherry.

For criminal breach of trust in making away with public money to the amount of Rupees 440-13-9, the difference between Rupees 885-11-8 the last cash balance entered in his books and the only payment for which vouchers are procurable subsequent to that date.

3. I have directed Lieutenant Dobson to have the case investigated by the Magistrate of Tellicherry with a view to the criminal charge being proceeded with should you think proper to direct that to be done, and I await further orders on the subject.

From Lieutenant A. E. DOBSON, R.E., Assistant Engineer, Malabar, to the District Engineer, Malabar, dated Cannanore, 14th September 1878, No. 188.

I HAVE the honor to report that I have suspended Overseer Taylor, who apparently, as you will see from the evidence which I enclose, has been guilty of criminal breach of trust to the amount of some 400 Rupees. I will briefly give you the history of the case and what led me to suspect and suspend him. At the beginning of this month I found that none of the returns, diary, cash balance, &c., were received from him up to the morning of the 5th. I immediately wrote a memorandum* calling his attention to this and telling him to be quick. No notice was taken of this memorandum and, as I received no answer up to the 9th, I thought he might be away and wrote him another† emergent telling him to send the returns in and report himself to me on Wednesday, 11th; no notice was taken of this, neither did he himself appear. I began to fear that he might have met with an accident in the district and was contemplating sending to

* No. 158, 6th September 1878.

† No. 161, of 9th September 1878.

the Police; but at the suggestion of my Accountant I wrote a memorandum to the Kotayam Writer ordering him to come over to Cannanore at once and bring all the papers, &c., to me so that the accounts could be made up in my office. The Writer presented himself at the office the next day, Thursday, the 12th. I asked him where the Overseer was, and was exceedingly surprised to hear that he had reached Tellicherry on the evening of the 4th; the Writer was unable to say why he had not sent in the account and was unaware of what the Overseer had been doing. I suspected something wrong and without saying anything to anybody I yesterday morning rode over to Tellicherry as fast as I could reaching there before 9, proceeded straight to the Overseer's Office, demanded his cash balance, cash book, &c., and informed him I should suspend him at any rate for a gross breach of departmental discipline. I then proceeded to take his statement for his reasons for behaving as he had done. These are given in the paper marked A and I do not think it at all satisfactory; the statement about the Doctor is certainly not the truth, for I immediately sent for Dr. Hyde and asked him. He said I was not aware of the rule, but if there is such a rule he can at any rate be treated at the Dispensary, and if the Dresser reported his case as a bad one I should most certainly have seen to it myself; but you will observe from the Writer's statement that the Overseer was out walking and in various places when he asserted to me he was too ill in bed even to sign his name. This part of the statement A is really more a departmental breach of discipline than a crime, but it is sufficient I think to prove that he is by no means a fit man for the Department Public Works.

2. I next examined his cash book, which I retain with me; it is written up to the 18th August only, and there is a balance against him on that date of Rupees 885-11-8. I asked him for his balance; he produced Annas 2 and Pies 9. I checked the entries with the aid of Kurambranad Accountant from voucher 27 down to voucher 72 which vouchers he gave to me, and found them tally with the entries in the book, but I have not yet had the amount checked. I took all the vouchers from him that he could give me and went through them with him. On asking I found that several nominal rolls he produced had not been paid and therefore credit could not be given to him. These vouchers I went through and checked with the aid of the Kurambranad Accountant and in Kurambranad office and in Overseer Taylor's presence, their total amount giving him credit for some items, the payment of which I consider very doubtful, reached Rupees 444-11-9, thus leaving a balance of (885-11-8, 444-11-9) 440-15-11 or Rupees 440-15-2 (giving credit for cash balance 2 Annas 9 Pies) unaccounted for. I asked him about this; he said the vouchers probably were mislaid. His statements on that head are enclosed. (I may mention that before I left the office after taking first statement, I locked all cupboards, &c., and removed two boxes to the Kurambranad office.) I proceeded then to examine the boxes with him and the Accountant and also went to his office, and I saw him search the almirah and table-drawers, but no more vouchers were forthcoming, and he simply said he could not account for it. I warned him that it was probable he would be charged with criminal breach of trust and placed him under suspension. I did not like to lay an information against him before the Magistrate without authority. After the inquiry I returned to Cannanore immediately to send in the report; but as I am now afraid he may abscond, I have telegraphed to the Assistant Superintendent, Police, to keep an eye on him, and have also telegraphed to you for authority to arrest him. All the papers are enclosed and I beg you will return them marked confidential to me.

No. 264. ORDER THEREON, 23rd September 1878, No. 3,741 W.

ORDERED that the following telegram be sent:—
"Overseer Taylor's prosecution for criminal breach of trust authorised."

2. The District Engineer will report the result of the trial.

(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, Malabar.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies.

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MALABAR.

Dated September 1878.

10/10/78

10/10/78

Encl.

G. O. 2504 September 1878. No. 2741 W.

SEPTEMBER.

No. 203-204.

George Taylor, Master Engineer. The
original presentation of — authorised by
the Board.

P 1 -

3741

Malabar D. Engr's Office
Calicut, 16th Sept 1878.

He. bb.

From

Sir. Lt. Colonel R. B. Kennedy,
D. Engr. Malabar.

To

Colonel E. W. Ford R. E.
Chief Engr. D. P. Co.

Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring
to your notice the circumstances de-
tailed in accompanying copies of
Memoranda A & B. Documents the originals of which
written statement have been returned to Mr. Dobson
Mr. Dobson's letter
3/188 d/14th Sept 1878. - 2.

You will see that the
charges made by Mr. Dobson against
Messrs Taylor are

1st Breach of departmental
rules and discipline in the
following instances

For not having written
up his Cash Book as re-
quired by rules between
the 19th August & 14th September

1878

1878.

For not having
sent in his Cash returns
although over due and
after perquisitions on the
subject.

For taking no
notice of his letters on
the subject dated 5th
& 9th Instant.

For falsely al-
leging illness as a
plea when he was
proved to have been
absent from his quar-
ters & to have been
walking about the
Town of Salisbury.

2. For Criminal breach
of Trust in ^{away} making
with public money
to the amount of
Rs. 440. 13. 9 the dif-
ference between
Rs. 985. 11. 8 the last
Cash.

P 2

Cash balances entered in his
book that the only payment for
which vouchers are pre-
sented subsequent to that
date.

314
24

3. I have directed S. Watson
to have the case investigated
by the Magistrate of Salisbury
with a view to the criminal charge
being proceeded with should
you think proper to direct that
to be done, and I await fur-
ther orders on the subject.

I am, Sir,
Yours most obedt. Servt.

W. B. Keene, Esq.

At W. Keene, Esq.

At Exr. Bealabad.

Public Works Department

From No. 1026/13

The District Engineer,
Malabar.

Dated 16th September 1878.
No. 66. 1878/19

Encls: 3

Coroner Taylor—submit
for order certain documents
detailing the circumstances
under which Lt. Robson
charges—
(1) Breach of departmental
rules and discipline and
(2) with Criminal Breach
of Trust.

To Acty 19-9-78
C. 20-9-78. P. H. 327

Canimannur, D. O. Office

No. 158.

14th September 1878

From

The officer in charge

Canimannur D. O. P. O.

To

The District Engineer

Malabar D. P. O.

Calicut

Sir,

I have the honor to re-
port that I have suspended Mr
Taylor, who apparently, as you
will see from the evidence which
I enclose has been guilty of Criminal
Breach of Trust to the amount
of some 400 Rs. I will briefly give
you the history of the case and
what led me to suspend him
and proceed him; At the be-
ginning of this month I found
that none of the returns, diary,
Cash balance &c were received
from him up to the morning
of the 5th. I immediately wrote
a cheque calling his attention
to this and telling him to be
quick

No. 158 5/9/78

gentle; no notice was taken
of this memo, and as I received
no answer up to the 9th I thought
he might be away, and wrote
him another message and ^{to 161 of 9th}
telling him to send the returns ^{Sept: 1878}
in and report himself to me
on Wednesday 11th, no notice
was taken of this neither did
he himself appear. I began to
fear that he might have met
with an accident in the district
and was contemplating sending
to the police; but at the sugges-
tion of my friend and friend
a memo to the Stationer
ordering him to come and
Cummings at once and bring
all the papers to me so
that the accounts could be
made up in my office. The
writer presented himself at
the office the next day Thursday
the 12th. I asked him where the
Quenee was and was exceedingly
surprised to hear that he had
not heard of Tellcherry in the even-
ing

⁵⁷⁴¹
Evening of the 11th the Quenee was
unable to pay so he had not
put in the account trans-
-action of what the Quenee
had been doing. I suspected
something was up, and with-
out paying anything to
any body. I yesterday morn-
-ing rode over to Tellcherry
as fast as I could reaching
there before 9 proceeded straight
to the Quenee's office, de-
-manded his cash balance,
Cash book &c and informed
him I should suspend him
at any rate for a gross breach
of fundamental discipline. Then
proceeded to take his state-
-ment for his reasons for
behaving as he had done,
there was given in the paper
mailed A and do not think
it at all satisfactory. The sta-
-tement about the doctor is
certainly not the truth, for
I immediately sent for Dr. Hyde
and

and asked him, he said I
was not aware of the rule,
but if there is such a rule,
he can at any rate be treated
at the dispensary, and if the
doctors reported his case as
a bad one I should most cer-
tainly see it to myself, but
you will observe from the
writer's statement that the
Quercus was out walking
in various places when he
saw he was too ill
or had gone to sign his name.
This part of the statement is
really more a departmental
breach of discipline than a crime
but it is sufficient I think
to prove that he is by no means
a fit man for the D. P. B.

I next examined his
cash book which I retain
with me is written up to the 18th
August only, and there is a
balance against him on that
date of Rs 85. 11. 8. I asked him
for

875
874 1/2
for his balance, he produced
annas 2. & pie 9, two annas &
nine pie, I checked the entries
with the aid of the Kumbhakar
Accountant from Vouchers 27 down
to Voucher 72 which vouchers he
gave to me and found them
tally with the entries in the
book, but I have not yet had
the amount checked I took
all the vouchers from him that
he could give me and went
through them with him, on ask-
ing I found that several no-
minal bills he produced
had not been paid and there-
fore credit could not be
given to him. These vouchers
I went through and checked
with the aid of the Kumbhakar
Accountant and in Kumbhakar's
office and in Quercus Lajpat's
presence their total amount
giving him credit for some
items the payment of which
I consider very doubtful, reached

Rs 444. 11. 9 Thus leaving a bal-
ance of (885. 11. 8 - 444. 11. 9)
440. 15. 11 or Rs 440. 15. 2 (going
credit for cash balance 2. 9)
unaccounted for. I asked him
about this, he said the vouchers
probably were mislaid, his
statement on that head was
erroneous (I may mention
that before I left the office after
taking his statement, I called
two boxes to the Home Secretary
office) I procured them to examine
the boxes with him and the
accountant and also went
to his office & saw him search
the drawers & table drawers
but no more vouchers were
forthcoming, and he simply
said he could not account
for it. I warned him that it
was probable he would be
charged with criminal breach
of trust and placed him under
arrest. I did not talk to
any

974
I gave an information against him
before the Magistrate without
authority, after the inquiry I
permitted to Commence im-
mediately to send in the report
but as I was afraid he
may abscond I have telegraphed
to the Asst. Magistrate Police to keep
an eye on him & have also tele-
graphed to you for authority to
arrest him, all the papers
are enclosed & they will
return them marked "Confidential to you."

I have &c
Yrs/ R. E. Robinson Esq
Asst. Commr. Calcutta

1/2
Yours truly
R. E. Robinson Esq
Asst. Commr. Calcutta

2370443/12

3741
3/9
N. Soobraymanian: Writer of Polyan
Salug. I am acquainted with the
returns that should be sent to the
Range Officer at the beginning of
each month. I know that the cash
balance return and other papers are
due on that date. The Overseer arrived
at Tellicherry from circuit on the night
of the 4th evening. I saw him about 10
A. M. on the 5th in the next room to the
Office - where he lives - he was in bed.
The Overseer did not state to me at
that time that he was sick. I went
to salute him, and then he the Overseer
said. you can go away. I will come
to the Office; he didn't come to the Office -
he didn't come to the Office after that
at all. I had three days leave for the
Onam feast 7th 8th 9th September. On the
10th I went to the Office again. I didn't
see the Overseer. I looked at the door
of the room, it was locked on the
outside. The window was at that
time not locked when I went there first;
the window was open; Ramoney lascar
shut

shut the windows from the outside.
I asked him why he was shutting
them, "when the Sahib comes I will
open them" he said. I remained at
Office that day till half past four. The
Overseer had not returned up to that time.
I saw the Overseer next morning at about
4 A.M. in the house of our Diodale/East
Indian/a cositer of Jaffer Ali. I spoke
to him; I said "the time for sending in the
account has elapsed - if you give me the
papers I will make them out quickly".
He said tomorrow I am going to Cannanore
with all the accounts, you can go to
your house early. After that I went
to the Office, I went away at half past
two, and he had not come up to that
time; by the time I had been home and
taken my meals, I received your order
to come to Cannanore; I set out immediate-
ly, but before that, I went to the place
where the Overseer was living, I saw
Mr Diodale's house. I didn't find him
there. I went then to another place, I at
last found him in a house on the sea
beach. I told him I was ordered to
come

374!
come over to Cannanore with all the accounts.
I asked him for the books, he didn't give me
any proper reply, but said, 'Go. Go.' I showed
him your Memo. he didn't read it, but put
it into his pocket. I begged him for it.
Diodale also recommended him to relieve it
and he gave it back. I could not get
the books from him.

I never heard the Overseer complain
about having fever. I can confidently
assert that when I went to the Office
for two days, that the Overseer was not
in his room.

I was on circuit with the Overseer
two days last month, I went to Kadur
on the 22^d. I got there about 5 P.M., I
remained there till 5 P.M. next day,
then I came to Tellicherry. I checked the
rolls and made entries into the book, the
original Cash Book, I made the dupli-
cate next day in the Office. I then sent it
to the Overseer with the Voucher list and
have not seen it since. The last entry
shown to me in the Cash book is the work
I did at that time. The date of entry is
the date of payment, not the date of entry.

W. H. W.

104437

Signed/ W. E. Dobson L.R.E.

perhaps no correct signed of A. E. Robson L. R. C.

~~324~~

I was unwell after
31st August.

They are to be entered every day.

4. I had to check the rolls.

He is not on circuit
with me.

I do that work myself

I could never do it.

I don't decline to answer the question, but I can't answer.

The call book was
not written up and
I couldn't therefore see
it in.

I thought it could
be done by itself.

I haven't written.
I write it on the la-
day of the month and
ever yours.

to I was too unwell
and I wasn't here the
last day of the month.

Have you been too unwell since then to dictate it?

Where do you live?

Did you go to see Mr. Scott a short time ago?

Then you were sufficiently well to ride up to Mr. Scott but couldn't write your diary or send your Cash account?

Did you count your cash on the last day of the month?

Have you made any payment this month September

Then the balance on the table represents the Cash balance at the end of the month

Have you been living in the Office during all the month or were you absent some three days?

Have you a bathroom attached to your room?

Now during all the days that you have been here did you send for the doctor?

Where is the order about this?

I have been too unwell to come to Office.

I live in one of the rooms of the Office.

Yes, I went riding. I don't remember, I think it was the 5th.

I can't answer the question.

No. I didn't.

No.

Yes it amounts to annas two and pice nine.

I was always in the next Room. except some parts of the day I was out in the compound. I mean for purposes of necessity.

Yes but I vomited and went out.

No. I sent for the doctor as I am on a salary of less than Rs. 150. and am not entitled to his services.

I believe it is the case.

Did you send for an apothecary or dresser or any body?

Did you get a memo. from me calling for Cash balance, please?

Why didn't you answer it?

Did you get another one dated 9th marked "urgent" calling for same things?

Why didn't you answer that and take some notice of it?

Did your writer tell you that he was ordered to come over to Cannanore and bring the Cash Book &c. with him?

Why didn't you send some report that you were ill either before or when ordered to Cannanore?

When?

Why couldn't you on the receipt of either the first or 2nd memo tell your writer to say you were ill and sign the letter?

Have you no rough diary - of where you have been and what you have

No, Sir.

Yes.

I had no reason.

I received a letter but didn't notice the "urgent".

I have no answer to give.

No. I didn't know he was going.

Intended doing so.

I thought to do so today the 13th. I knew the memo. was important.

I have no answer.

No I write it all from memory.

3241/12

have been doing during the month?

How is that possible?

When you go along Road, don't you take a note book for notes?

Then are the places where you have been to mentioned in your measurement book?

Then you have no book showing where you were last month?

Do you keep any private diary of what you have been doing?

I do it.

No. the measurement book is the only book.

The Roads are mentioned, and name of majority, and work done. This helps me to write up my diary.

No. but I can fill up the gaps in the measurement book from memory. I don't write measurement from memory but I am able to fill up the intervening days when there are no measurements.

Read over before Mr. Taylor who says it is correct.

Sallie Henry
13th Sept. 1878.

(Signed) A. S. Dobson L.R.

Canavan. Gomastrah.

The Arriver arrived here on 4th Sept. morning. I saw him on the fifth. I saw him in the office in his room. I don't know whether he was sick or not. The other writer makes all the statements. The other writer asked him about the statements.

(Signed) A. S. Dobson L.R.
Read over and says it is correct
A. S. Dobson L.R.

22nd Statement by Mr. Taylor. 13

Again answered that he would answer my question if he doesn't like.

From the vouchers you gave me I find on checking with the brandad Accountant that the balance to be accounted for by you is some Rs. 4634 7 11. Can you account for the discrepancy?

You stated to me that you sent no vouchers to writer how do you account for this discrepancy?

You stated just now that your duplicate, imprest was made out but destroyed who made it and who destroyed it, and when was it destroyed and why?

What possible difference could that make about reconciling your imprest?

In the previous month you had extra money given to you for making payments, yet I received your account to Rs. in due time

After loading in my office. They may have been mislaid either by me or by my writer.

The vouchers might have been mislaid.

The writer made it out. I destroyed it about the 23rd because I knew that if I sent it I couldn't get a cheque back in time to have it cashed. I mean up to the date of the 18th. The cash duplicate was made up.

I thought my cash balance would be over Rs. 1000.

I don't know.

and you also received a
Cheque dated 26th how
do you reconcile that
with your previous state-
ment?

How is that there
are no entries made
after the 18th August in
your Cash Book?

Between 18th and 31st
why are no entries made - heads out.

How you have done
this before?

Have you changed
your machines?

Then why should
there be the sudden
difficulty?

Has your writer
with you in the district
during last month?

What did he do
when he came out?

Did the writer
take away any vouchers
with him?

Then where are
these missing Vouchers?

Where do you
generally put the Vouchers
when you have paid them?

I had to check rolls
I fell ill on the 31st.

I couldn't get the
previously they were
put in fairly enough
by the machine.

I do not know.

I do not know.

Yes. at Kaduna
about the 21st and
22nd.

He made those
entries up to 72 Vouchers.

I don't know. I don't
think he did.

I shall have to look
up.

Sometimes in my
Cash Book. Sometimes
in an envelope. They
are put into the Cash
Book at times, at other
times in any official
book and I leave
them on a table.

Read over my statement to be correct.

Having proceeded
to the Office with
Mr. Taylor and having
seen him examine
the drawers in the
Choirah &c. and
asked him if he
can produce the
Vouchers?

Answer I can't find
them and I can't
explain their deficiency

3741
14

(Signed) A. E. Dobson Lt. R. S.

13 September
1878.

(True Copies)

P. H. B. Kennedy Lt. Col.
1st Engineer

No 3741 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23rd Sept 78

Read the following:—

3741
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From,

The District Engineer
Malabar

(N.E. Dec 66 of 16th Sept 78)

Ordered that the
following telegram be
sent:—

"Oversee Taylor's prosecution
for criminal breach
of trust authorized."

2. The District Engineer
will report the result
of the trial.

W.H.
20.9.78

G.M.F. 20/9

D.E. Malabar
Exr. P. W. Acctd.

11.11.78
11.11.78
11.11.78

Malabar
P.W. Acctd.
3
3741 W-23-9-78

16

Aug 19-78
Cir 20-78. Pittsburg

10463
Govt. of (1878) Madras,

PUBLIC WORKS

To

D. I. Malabar

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 23 "Sep" 1878, No. 37412

Nos. 263 @ 264

Overseer Taylor, Malabar
district

The criminal prosecutions
of — authorized by telegrams

Intd. in B. G. R.