P. W.

~~Marine~~ (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 2844 W

DATED 8th Nov '98

[Despatch Abstract.]

Theft of Govt money

Ordering that the sum of Rs 61-7-1 stolen from Mr H. E. Lafontaine, overseer, Godavari Western Dn, be written off the accounts.

D/C.S.

Ed 11/11

[M. 6. 2,000—23-10-96.]

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

1

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 8433

B

Fromorders.

Read C Nos. 7414

& 8433.

To sectional

220 W 24.1.94

3087 W 3.12.94

714 W of 16.3.98

From W. C. De Morgan, Esqr. M.I.C
Supdg. Engr. I Circle.

Order

No: 2844 W d 8.11.98.

The amount stolen, viz: Rs 61-7-1, will be written off the accounts.

ACK
2.11.98.
DW.

Rw.

No. 1428 G.D.

Dated 4.10.98

Received
Registered 10.10.98

Enclosures nil.

Spare copies

To

The Supdg. Engr., I Circle
" Examr., P.W. Accts.

✓ D
10/11/98

SUBJECT.

Theft case at Dallapuram of Imprest Rs 63.7.1 from Overseer Mr. La Fontaine — reports that the Station House officer at Vengatur states that the — has not yet been detected & there seems therefore no chance of the offenders being traced and money recovered.

To be retd. to J. A. W. after issue with reference to W's orders about the issue of a circular.

Rw 2.11.98

Vide Memo No. 4735C d 31.10.9

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
Memdm 4008 C dy	13-9-98 ✓
G.O. 714 W „	16-3-98 ✓
Mem 264 C „	17-1-98 ✓
G.O. 3088 W „	3-12-94 ✓
„ 2866 W „	10-11-94 ✓

8

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

S. E. I. / 2 500—15-1-98.

8

No. 1428 G.D

Enclosures.

FROM

W. C. DeMorgan Esq. M.I.C.E.
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FIRST CIRCLE.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WALTAIR, 4/6. 10. 1898.
Camp.

SIR,

With reference to your memorandum No: 4008 C of 13.9.98, I have the honour to report that the Station house Officer at Ungutur states that the theft has not yet been detected and that there is no probability of its being detected. There seems therefore to be no chance of the offenders being traced and the money recovered.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. servt.

W. DeMorgan
4.10
Supdg Engineer 1st Circle

8233

OW

These papers relate to a theft of Govt. money from Overseer LaFontaine. The Police report has now been received, & there is no chance of detection.

The point to be decided is whether the loss (Rs 61-7-1) may be written off, or recovered from the Overseer.

The S. E., in his first letter, considers that Mr La Fontaine has made himself responsible for the loss, but x in the last para of his letter, he asks for sanction to write off the amount.

For orders.

13-10-98

S.A.W.

Better have a For Orders note prepared quoting the Code Rules applicable. The Overseer is to blame in not attending strictly to these rules, but it is somewhat a severe punishment to make him liable for the ~~[illegible]~~ whole loss, no precautions will prevent theft ~~as the strict observance~~

ACK

14-10-98.

G. Sastri

Please prepare note for orders.

14-10-98

S.A.W.

Note for orders submitted.

20/10/98.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

C. No. 7414 + 8433.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

~~THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.~~

~~THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E.~~

SUBJECT.

Theft of Government money in charge of Overseer Mr La Fontaine.

FOR ORDERS.

On the night of 17th June last, a wooden cash chest containing Rs. 63-7-1 and an office box, belonging to ~~Mr~~ Mr H. E. La Fontaine, Overseer, were stolen, while he was asleep in an open shed at Tollapavaram village in the Western Subdivision of the Godavari Western Dn. According to the Overseer's report, it would appear that, on the night in question, his tent kanâts were fixed round the shed, and that the cash chest was placed against his cot near ~~the~~ his feet. ~~Himself~~ He being near, he did not consider it necessary to order his lascar to sleep near the chest. Early in the morning, on finding the cash chest and the office box missing, the Overseer made a search, and

[P. W. 43. / 500—24-3-98.]

[illegible] 31-10-98 Noted on 5-11-98.

found both thrown open in a field about a furlong off the shed. All the money and some petty private articles had been taken away; the only thing left untouched was an uncashed cheque for Rs. 133-15-5. The result of the Police investigation, ~~which was awaited~~, has turned out fruitless, and there seems to be no chance of the offenders being traced & the money recovered. The question now to be decided is whether the loss to Government of Rs. 61-7-1* is to be written off or recovered from the Overseer.

* Amount of money in the Cash Chest	Rs. a. p. 63-7-1
Overseer's private money	2-0-0
Balance of Govt. money lost	61-7-1.

×2laffed R

The Supdg: Engineer's recommendation on the subject is not clear. In para 3 of his first letter, the Supdg: Engineer states that the Overseer "has rendered himself responsible for the loss of the money"; in para 5 he requests "permission to write off Rs. 61-7-1." The former recommendation is based on the supposition that it was open to the Overseer to have refused to accept responsibility for the money and chest, if he had not, at the same time, been provided with

---

3 proper padlocks and chains. Para 70 Chapter I, Volume II of the Code, indeed, provides that "Public money in the custody of the department shall be kept in strong treasure chests and secured by two locks of different patterns." The provision, however, applicable to the present case is not para 70 which apparently refers to divisional and sub-divisional cash chests, but para 62 of the same chapter which refers to imprest holders, of whom Overseer Mr Ladontan is one. Under that para "the arrangements for the safe custody of the money rest entirely with the imprest holder, but he must at all times be ready to produce the total amount of imprest in vouchers or in cash."

It is thus apparent that the Overseer is responsible for the loss of his imprest cash; but it remains to be decided whether, in view of the Supdg: Engineer's recommendation in the last of the para of his letter, the [illegible] quoted

4

mount may be written off,
of the fact that it would
a somewhat severe punish-
ment to make the Overseer ~~him~~ liable
for the whole loss, the recovery
a less amount than that
actually lost, should be
made.

ASK
26.10.98.

These thefts of cash chests
containing Govt money are
invariably due to the fact
that the simple precaution
of attaching the chest at
night to the bedstead or
other object sufficient to
move is seldom taken, &
to the fact that chains
are not always sufficient for
the purpose. I propose
issuing a circular on the
subject, which will, I hope,
put an end to such thefts.
It will, at any rate, fix the
responsibility for loss of Govt
money individually on the
officer or subordinate in
charge thereof. Meanwhile
I recommend that the present

and
same time

Memo No: 4735C
d/ 31.10.98.

loss be written off

W. B.
28.10.98

Very well. Let it be so.
A.S.K.
1.11.98

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 7414

No: 4008C d/13-9-98

C/

From W. C. De Morgan, Engr. M.I.C.E.
Supg. Engr. I Circle.

No. 1149 G.O.

Dated 31-8-98.
Received } 6-9-98
Registered }
Enclosures One
Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Mr H. E. La Fontaine Overseer
— reports that a sum of Rs 63-7-1 has been ~~was~~ stolen while — was asleep in an open shed at Tallapuram; of the amount stolen Rs 51-7-1 is Imp: balance; Rs 10-0-0 amount recovered from a Raohari Boat owner & Rs 2 Overseer's own cash; requesting orders on the case & permission to write off Rs 61-7-1 from the accounts; the result of the Police Enquiry will be reported when known.

~~Order~~ memo

With reference to letter from the S.E. I Circle No 1149 G.D. dated 31st August 1898, the undersigned has the honour to state that a report of the result of the Police inquiry into the loss of Rs 63-7-1 by Overseer LaFontaine will be awaited before orders are passed on the subject.

ASK
7.9.98.

Cn

W. A. H.
9.9.98

S. E. I Circle
14/9/98
16/9/98

LS 361. R12/9

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Encls: 1 to SET

Cus 7414

OW

~~For orders.~~

The result of the Police inquiry might perhaps be awaited, before orders are passed.

Cl
6/9/38

S.A.W

Pse inform S.P.

AKW
7.9.38.

9.9.38

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.

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f (No 618 G. D
26. 8. 98

Encl: 1 to SEI No 1149

No 56 of 18-8-98

To

The officer in charge
Western Subdivision

Sir,

With reference to your no $\frac{134\ E}{16\text{-}8\text{-}98}$ on Executive Engineer's no $\frac{268\ W}{15/8/98}$ I have the honor to inform you that my lascar did not sleep near the cash chest as I myself slept near the chest. The chest was placed against my cot towards my feet on the night of the theft as was reported in my letter no $\frac{17}{2.7.98}$.

2. My own private money Rs 2 was not mixed up with Government cash. The Rs 2 were in my own plush purse as was already reported in my original report no $\frac{6e}{18/6/98}$ and also in my letter no $\frac{43}{1\text{-}8\text{-}98}$. The purse was left in the cash chest for safety, but the 2 Rupees were not mixed up with Government cash.

3. The 10 Rupees that were recovered from a Rahadari boat owner were received by me from the owner in accordance with the Sub Officer's no $\frac{3108}{16\text{-}6\text{-}98}$ on the 17th Instant on my way from

Alugatur

Nugator to Sallapuram and was stolen the same night. I could not send the money on the 17th to the Sub Off ier as there was no tappal from Keylearam to Sallapuram on that day. The tappal from Kylearam was brought to me on the 18th morning after the theft.

4. I was not at all aware that at Sade-pelligudem and its neighbouring villages thefts are frequently committed and this theft took place at Sallapuram which is about 12 miles from Sadepelligudem.

I have etc

Sd H E LaFontaine
17/8/98 overseer

No 484 S.D. 19-8-98

Submitted to the Executive Engineer Goda-vari Western Division with reference to his no $\frac{268W}{15/8/98}$

B

Sd P Ranganailanlee
19/8/98 W.W.D.

No. 160 G. of 22/8/98

Copy forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for information with reference to his no 1024 G.D. of 10-8-98.

2. The Result of Police enquiry will be reported as soon as it is received.

Assistant Engineer
Godavari Western

$\frac{No.}{22/8/98}$

S. E. I. / 2 500—15-1-98.

No. 1149 GD

FROM

W. C. De Morgan Esqr. M.I.C.E.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

FIRST CIRCLE.

Enclosures. one

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

WALTAIR, 31 Augt 1898.

Camp. Dspd 2-9-98.

Imprest Cash balance Rs 51-7-1

Amount recovered from the owner of a Radhari boat as ordered by the Sub Dn officer on account of the damages done to the Ballacut at Dingatur Rs 10-0-0

Overseer's private money kept in his own plush purse Rs 2-0-0

" 63-7-1

SIR,

I have the honour to bring to your notice that at night of the 17th June last at Jallapuram village in the Weston Sub Division of the Godavari Western Dn., the wooden Cash Chest containing the marginally noted cash and the office box in Charge of Overseer Mr. A. E. La Fontaine are reported to have been stolen while he was asleep in an open shed which he occupied. He states that he had his tent kanats fixed round the shed and placed the Cash Chest against his Cot near his feet. As he was himself sleeping there, he did not consider it necessary to order his laxar to sleep near the Chest. Soon after he discovered the theft in the morning, he made a search and found the Cash Chest and the box thrown open in a field about a furlong from the shed he occupied. The locks of the Chest was broken, and all the moneys in it taken away together with some other petty-private articles. Only one un-cashed cheque for Rs 133-15-5 was left untouched

2. As regards the Rs 10 recovered, as ordered, from the owner of a Radhari boat

the

The Overseer explains that on the 17th June last, he received the moneys on his way to Tallapuram, and could not send it to his Sub Division Officer the same day, as there was no tappal to Tallapuram.

2

3. The Overseer has disregarded Code rules in having kept his private moneys in the Cash Chest. His explanation is that he kept it in a plush purse, quite separate from the Government Cash. Copy of his explanation[x] is herewith forwarded. The Overseer states that there was only one padlock to the Cash Chest, whereas there should have been two. He further states that the padlock supplied to him was an old iron one 4" x 4½" which did not open or close easily, and that he therefore had

d brass padlock of his own. The

s that the Chest was not chained

in was supplied him, and he had

s own. I therefore consider that he has

elf responsible for the loss of the moneys. He ought to have refused to accept the responsibility of the Chest and moneys unless provided with a Cash chest with proper padlocks and chains, and in doing so, he would have been perfectly justified.

[x] No 56 / 18.5.98

4. This theft case is under enquiry by the Police and the result thereof will be reported to you as soon as it is known

5. I have therefore the honour to request your orders on the case and permission to write off Rs 61.7.1 (the amount of cash stolen) from the accounts.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt.

W De Morgan
31.8

WD 30/8

Supdt Engineer T'vele