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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Pension DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

181

Press
Mis.

Dated

13-3-

18 80.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th February 1880.

Read the following letter from H. P. GORDON, Esq., Acting Collector of Bellary, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 6th February 1880, No. 404:—

WITH reference to the Board's footnote, Miscellaneous No. 1,293, on G.O., Revenue Department, of 31st ultimo, No. 119, I have the honor to report that, Mr. Blake having given in his written statement on the day upon which the Board's instructions were received by me, it was unnecessary to suspend him.

2. The statement received from him is now forwarded, together with copy of the order called for by the Board.

3. I proceed to report fully upon his qualifications.

4. He is extremely attentive in attendance at office, and, as will be seen from the copies of testimonials which accompany his written statement, has on several occasions obtained certificates of efficiency from superior officers. Looking to these, I am forced to the conclusion that increasing age and pecuniary cares have impaired his memory and capacity, for I am unable to say that, on the various occasions upon which I have had occasion to consult him as to the routine of his department, he has shown that intimate acquaintance with the subject which I expected from an officer of so good experience in it. I cannot now call to mind special instances, but I can assure the Board that it is with reluctance that I express the result of my general observation in this matter, for Mr. Blake has done long and, as his testimonials show, good service under Government and is very averse from the notion of retirement.

5. I cannot, however, conscientiously say that I consider him efficient as a treasury officer. Whatever checks may be introduced in matters of account, they will not dispense with the necessity of intelligent supervision. There will be always many cases unforeseen by the rules, and the discovery of these and attention to them require constant watchfulness.

6. It is probably long running in a groove which has induced Mr. Blake, as it seems to me, to consider that his whole duty is comprised in adherence to rule.

7. In the transactions which have given rise to this correspondence it will be seen from Mr. Blake's statement that he takes a very narrow view of the extent of his control over his department and a very wide one with regard to circumstances which may shift responsibility from his shoulders.

8. For instance, although he was in the habit of checking periodically the funds belonging to the Permanent Advance and to the Money Order Office in the cashkeeper's chest, it never occurred to him to make any inquiry about other moneys deposited in the same receptacle. He was content apparently to wait until the Sheristadar should prepare a memorandum for signature by the Collector directing him to take notice of the deposit. His argument that he could not know of the receipt of moneys sent to the cashkeeper (his subordinate) unless he was informed of the same by the Sheristadar seems to have little force when it is remembered that he was undoubtedly cognizant of the practice and took no steps to stop it or to get himself regularly informed of such transactions.

9. I do not mean to infer that the Deputy Collector was careless in the ordinary sense of the word, but that he took a very narrow view of the responsibility of his office. In matters which he conceives to fall clearly within his own province I believe him to be careful of performance.

10. I have before this, perhaps looking too exclusively to the result, characterized his conduct in the matter of deposits with the cashkeeper as "very culpable negligence," I think the explanation of it now given more accurately describes it.

11. I would finally say that Mr. Blake has earned a character for respectability and integrity, and that I trust that, if Government should think fit to direct retirement, he may be allowed the full pension which his service justifies.

12. He has a large family and is in embarrassed circumstances.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Mr. Blake's explanation.

ENCLOSURE No. 2.—Service Register with Testimonials.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.—Copy of Collector's Proceedings, dated 22nd April 1879.

THESE papers will be forwarded to Government with reference to G.O., Revenue Department, dated 31st January 1880, No. 119.

2. Mr. Blake's explanation amounts to this, that he looked upon the cashkeeper's custody of the funds, which have led to the recent inquiries, as something quite independent of the treasury business, and, being quite aware of the irregular manner in which it was kept in deposit, he thought to escape from the necessity of interfering and at the same time avoid all responsibility, by treating it as a matter with which he had no concern beyond directing the cashkeeper—or more correctly the storekeeper—to take the Collector's orders on the subject. It seems to be quite true that funds were sent to the storekeeper from the cutcherry in a very lax manner and with any reference to Mr. Blake's arrangements for the ordinary conduct of treasury business, but Mr. Blake was aware of what was going on, and, as it is quite impossible to hold the head of one department responsible for the conduct of a subordinate another, the Board had no alternative but to exonerate the Sheristadar when he showed that the money had been sent to the treasury. It would be impossible to maintain any departmental responsibility if a plea such as that now advanced by Mr. Blake were to be admitted, but the Board have no objection to follow Mr. Gordon in regard to Mr. Blake's action in the matter as being the result of a misconception of duty rather than "very culpable negligence" as at first described.

3. In paragraph 4 of his letter Mr. Gordon records his opinion that increased age and pecuniary cares have impaired Mr. Blake's memory and capacity, and the Board are therefore of opinion that this is a case in which the fifty-five years' order should be brought into force and Mr. Blake directed to retire upon a superannuation pension. His testimonials seem to leave no room for doubt that he is entitled to full pension which the length of his service justifies.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with three original enclosures to be returned.

Copy to the Collector of Bellary.

Exd. A. Grubert.

Mr. Blake—Treasury Deputy Collector, Bellary.—Submitting to Government letter from Collector forwarding explanation of— in connection with the recent defalcation in the Huzur Treasury.

FEBRUARY.
No. 236.

PROCEEDINGS, 14th FEBRUARY 1880, No. 236.

Dated February 14th.
Printed 23rd.
Received 6th March 1880

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

BOARD of Revenue,
MADRAS.

1880.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

27th February 1880, No. 247.

No. 344. READ THE FOLLOWING PAPER:—

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th February 1880, No. 236.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting to Government explanation from the Treasury Deputy Collector, Mr. Blake, regarding the embezzlement of Government money by Bhogappa, Cashkeeper in Bellary Collector's office, and stating that Mr. Blake be directed to retire upon a superannuation pension under fifty-five years' order.

No. 345. ORDER THEREON, 27th February 1880, No. 247.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government consider it is quite clear that Mr. Blake was cognisant of the irregular practice of the Cashkeeper receiving money from the Cutcherry for custody in breach of rule, and that he did not bring the irregularity to the notice of the Collector. The system of unauthorized and unvouched deposit is fertile of mischief, and has been repeatedly and positively forbidden by Government as Mr. Blake must be well aware.

2. The Government concur with the Collector and Board in thinking that Mr. Blake's defence shows laxness of practice and a disposition to rest on the letter of his instructions, although he was aware of the existence of irregularities which were calculated to facilitate fraud and ultimately resulted in it.

3. Without imputing any complicity to Mr. Blake, the Government think the Collector is entitled to expect that all his superior subordinates shall, to the utmost of their ability, assist him by bringing prominently to his notice all irregularities without fear or favor, and that Mr. Blake failed seriously in his duty in not doing this.

4. From the whole circumstances of the case, the Government infer that he is past work. He entered the service in 1843, aged 21, so that he is now some 58 years of age.

5. They therefore think it desirable that he should be transferred to the pension list on the superannuation pension to which his service entitles him, and direct his transfer accordingly.

(True Extract.)

[Signature]
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with three enclosures.
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Pension Department.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

30 Copies.

London 1880 Sept 21

Govt. of (1880) *India*
REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c.,

&c.,

&c.

No 228

Dated February 27th.

Printed March 4th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th February 1880, No. 247.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 344-345.

Mr. Blake, Treasury Deputy Collector, Bellary.
—Desiring, for the reasons stated within, that —
should be transferred to the pension list on the
superannuation pension to which his service
entitles him, and directing his transfer accord-
ingly.

Order No 131 March 1880 No 181.

Record B