M.R.O. 1—8-1-60—16,20-29.

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 28 Press ~~His.~~

Dated 11— 1— 1839

***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

No. 34. From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR, Government Agent at Chepauk; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 17th December 1858, No. 2020 of G. A.

Sir,

I have the honor to report to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, with reference to para: 2 of the order in Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 815 of 16th Instant, that the Almirah, on the second Shelf of which was placed the box containing the Seals, contained, besides that box, a small one of old papers, and in the various Shelves of the Almirah were placed a portion of the Records of the Department, E, styled the Darool Insha-i-Farsee or the Persian Department.

2. The whole of the Records of this Department, as also those of the Department, D, the Badshai-i-Bukshi, were under the care of the Carnatic Stipendiary, No. 2533, Rajah Hoolas Rae Daya Bahadoor.

3. This Officer has had charge of these Records from the time that Government gave permission for an Establishment for the Records except for a short interval of sickness, during which his Uncle Carnatic Stipendiary, No. 2472, Raja Lochun Roy Kirpavunt Bahadoor was performing his Nephew's duties, a period extending from the 11th of August to the 19th November last, and I have no doubt that Rajah Hoolas Rae was really sick.

4. The only means of access to the box was by starting the planks of the Almirah, or opening his doors, and as the Almirah does not present any trace of injury, it is presumed that the doors were opened.

5. I would explain that I myself have most carefully abstained and, by repeated injunctions, have commanded every Record Officer to abstain from all interference with any Records but those Records to which it was their individual duty to attend. My injunctions were so earnest and oft repeated, that I sometimes felt the Record Officers might feel hurt at the frequent repetition of this request. On two or three occasions where, in the absence from sickness of a Record Officer, information was necessary from the Records of his Department, I have named two or three Record Officers to collectively obtain the necessary documents.

6. The Records are lodged in two rooms of the Hamayoon Mahal, in which they occupy 1365 superficial feet. The doors of the rooms are all carefully secured, and, at the only door kept for entrance, is a Guard.

7. After the discharge, in October 1856, of the Soldiery, this Guard was at first of the Native Infantry, but on their being relieved in 1857, the Guard was formed from amongst the undischarged Sircar Servants, and visited by Officers of the Sircar in their rounds. The Keys of this Door, and of the Departments, Almirahs, Cases, &c., are taken generally by myself or sent to my house every night, and sent back the following morning and placed in the charge of the Guard. Some one or other of the Officers of the Agency comes to duty about 8 in the morning: by 9 many, perhaps most of us, are here, and when the Record Officers come in near 11, the Keys are given for the door to be opened.

8. The above explanation was necessary to show that every care has been taken alike to guard the Records and protect the character of the Record Officers, and it is only known that the doors have been twice opened since the Records were lodged in their present site. The first occasion occurred a few days after the location of the Records in the rooms they now occupy, when one, the fastenings of which had been imperfect, was blown open on a boisterous night and the Dewan had the goodness immediately to send a Guard till secured the next day. The next occasion occurred on the night of the 10th September last, on which occasion about 11 o'Clock at night the Guard became aware of the opening of a door and the Dewan whose house is the neighbourhood again kindly took measures for guarding it. The following morning on my being informed of the occurrence, it had been ascertained that the door had been opened by a young man who had, as was then thought, accidentally fallen asleep and been locked in and had opened one of the doors to let himself out. Amongst these Officers the custom is to bring from their Almirahs, Boxes, &c., the Records required for their day's work, bringing them out in the common Hall where we all sit, returning them again to their proper places on their quitting

for their homes at night, but these Officers never themselves bring out any of their bundles, but have Calassees who bring and take at their Officers' commands, performing also any other duties which in our Offices are done by ourselves.

9. The Calassees under the Record Officers have been of the undischarged Sircar Servants whom the Dewan allowed for the purpose, and the young man alluded to as having been locked in Syed Ahmud, a Chuprassee, was one of those Calassees.

10. When the Record Officers had assembled on the following day I commanded all, as often before, to see that all their Records were right, and commanded them to make lists, and the reports were all correct: there was no report made to the contrary.

11. The opening of that door, however, in September last immediately on the loss of the Seal becoming known, drew the attention towards that Lad, and when taken by the Police he confessed he had stolen the Seals and given them to another person who has since been arrested and as the matter is receiving Colonel Boulderson's fullest attention, I will only here say that his Statement* of having opened the Almirah by slipping its bolt with a knife, does not explain how the box containing the Seals was opened without the slightest injury. Of course it must have been opened by a key which fitted it; it was common lock which hundreds of keys could be easily found to open or could be easily opened by a person accustomed to pick a lock. There is however no mark observed to indicate that the lock was picked, and as the box was in a cover, which was sealed, with Dubeer Ood Dowlah Bahadoor's Seal, and so far as I know that cover was never off the box, but the once alluded to in para 3 of my letter of the 13th Instant, I see the idea that only some one acquainted with the contents of the box which contained the seal and kind of lock upon it, could have been prepared to place his hand upon the box in the Almirah with keys fitted to open it.

*So intimated to me.

*I am informed that he states he started the bottom of the box.*

12. It would be observed from the above detail that the confessed robbery occurred when Rajah Lochun Roy Kirpavant Bahadoor, on account of his Nephew's sickness, was attending to that Nephew's duties. The nephew, the Record Officer, Rajah Hoolas Rae Bahdaoor, since resuming his duties did not report any incorrectness in his Department, and, on the 11th Instant, he reminded me in the presence of the Dewan and the Treasury Record Officer that Dubeer Ood Dowlah Bahadoor's Seal was on the box.

13. The box was large and occupied the Shelf so that the Almirah door could not be open without, if desired, the person who opened the Almirah satisfying himself that the box was all secured. It is true that the Records of the Persian Department are very voluminous, along with those of the Badshahi Bukshee Department, they require four Almirahs and twenty-two boxes, many of the boxes very large, and he retained the keys himself which it was his custom to lock up in a box, of which he kept the key in the bunch of keys, 50 in number, which I have alluded to as being daily taken to and sent from my house. Rajah Hoolas Rae was accustomed to open that Almirah irregularly every second to tenth day, but Rajah Lochun Rae states he never opened it during the whole time he was acting for his sick Nephew.

14. I have the honor to mention that Rajah Hoolas Rae has not been allowed by me to resume his duties, since the discovery of his robbery, and I think it prudent to recommend that the Stipends of the Nephew and Uncle be not issued until further orders of Government.

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No. 35. ORDER THEREON, No. 28; dated 11th January 1859.

The payment of their Stipends to Rajah Lochun Roy Kirpavunt Bahadoor and to Rajah Hoolas Rae will, as recommended by the Agent, be suspended, pending the further orders of Government.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
*Chief Secretary.*

Exd. J. A. Wilson.

No 28.

The payment of the Stipends to Rajah Lochun Roy Kinjaroon Bahadoor and to Rajah Hoolas Rae will as recommended by the Agent be suspended pending the further orders of Govt.

Fort St George.
11 January 1859.

Govt Agent Chittoor. Dispd 14th

Madras:—Printed at the Government Press.

POLITICAL 1859 DEPARTMENT.

From Surgeon E. G. BALFOUR,

*Government Agent at Chepauk.*

To

*Chief Secretary to Government*

*Fort St. George*

Dated 1st December 1858

Received " 1859

No. 2050 of 1858

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