

Public (189⁸) Department.

ORDINARY. MS.

G.O., No. 469

Dated 23 - 3 - 98

INDEXED.

[Despatch Abstract.]

Passing orders on letter
from the Supt. Govt. Press, submit
certain particulars regarding the loss
of articles worth Rs 107-12-0 from
the store-room of the Press.

T
23/3/98

Public (189 8) Department.

CURRENT No. 567

BACK PAPERS.

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

FURTHER PAPERS.

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

Order

From The Supt. Govt. Press,
Madras.

No. 471.

Dated 8th Feb 1898

Received }
Registered } 10th Feb 1898.

Enclosures two.

Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

Submit a further report
on the loss of articles from the
store room of the Govt. Press, Madras.

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
12 of 5/1/98			
1563 of 97			
1108 of 96			
632 of 96			
193 of 96			

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

and also the same of
the same

The Superintendent
General of the
Maiden.

Sir,

With reference to the loss of
stores amounting to Rs. 107.12.0
from the Store room, I beg to
submit the following ex-
planation:-

I have served in the capacity
of Troop Reader for 5 years
and 10 months from 17th
January 1887 and as Store-
keeper from 12th November
1892, during which period
of 11 years I have rendered
satisfaction in the dis-
charge of my duties and
my character has been
throughout blameless.

I was a Storekeeper my
hour of attendance is
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. I
receive all stores & plants
after they are approved by
the Superintendent, as well
as contingent articles and
issue them as indent passed
by the Superintendent, as
often as they are required
and maintain necessary
books of account and
submitted to other kindred work
from time to time. The consump-
tion

turn of binding materials as
against the receipt, the
type foundry and for painting
accounts are also checked
by me for information of
the Superintendent. I am
assisted by a clerk in enter-
ing up in the books the jobs
daily received from several
departments for printing.
During my absence, the
Overseer, who has a dupli-
cate key of my drawer wherein
are deposited the keys of the
almirah containing the
valuable stores, issues the
articles on demand, in the
usual way; and while I
am engaged out of store room,
the clerk and attendant issue
the articles and my responsibility.
In the evening the store room
key is left with the Overseer.
3. Having been engaged with
the Deputy Superintendent
in the plank stock taking
in April last, the stock of
the stores was verified in
May and on closing, the
store books were closed. Sep-
tember the Government was
informed that the stores
were ready for verification.
in receipt of C.O. appointing
Mr. G. M. Taylor to take
stock of the stores, while

This is quite wrong.
If the Store keeper
entrusts the key to
anyone it is at his
own risk.
M.A.
11.3.98

checking the stores on 10th
October preliminary to
stock taking, a usual
found the following de-
ficiencies

80 packs Goldleaf
12 lb Backlinder's sewing
thread
1 Skinner Skin
1 Piece of 40 yards Lang
flott 36 inch wide
and reported the same to
the Superintendent.

One of the book articles
viz Lang flott the stock of
which I checked on the 11th
August last, in connection
with an indent made by the
Binding Department for
160 yards for manufacturing
litho paper for arms
license forms, was found
to be correct and there
having been only 141 yards
in stock for the required,
an indent was made with the
Superintendent of stationery
and 1000 yards of the flott
36 inch wide, were obtained
on the 20th August. From this
it is evident that the articles
were missing between 20th
August & 30th September last.
4. The loss of stores could
not have taken place
during office hours either
while

while I was on duty or when
the Overseer was in charge of
the keys, during my absence,
for any article has been
abstracted from the store
room at the connivance of
my staff which I have no
reason to suppose, it could
not pass undetected at the
gate by the peon and duty as
there is a system in practice,
of searching the employees
of the Press at the gate and
every precaution is taken
by the Overseer to see that
no bona fide Government
property is passed out
without an authority from
the Superintendent. Further
of the articles lost, the Skiver
skin (1) and long flo the
(1 piece of 40 yards) are so
bulky things that it is quite
improbable that they could
have been taken out & com-
destined during office hours,
therefore they should have
been stolen out of office
hours at the connivance
of the watch peon and
duty as the following cir-
cumstances will explain.
5. The articles lost being
all binding materials use-
ful only for Binders.
The Magistrate's conviction
of

of the Office Binder, Saranga-
pam, for being in possession
of stolen property and the
suspicion on Devrajulu
another office Binder and
other information obtained
from Binder Sarangapam,
prior to his conviction, all
go to establish that the
articles should have been
robbed away by a Binder or
Binders at the connivance
of the watch peon or the
watch peon must have
committed the theft, employ-
ing the suspected Binder
for selling the stolen articles
as under the then existing
system of custody of Office
keys, it was possible to
abstract any particular
key from the bunch of keys,
a knowing the trust of the
Overseer.

6. In conclusion, I sub-
mit that as the articles have
been robbed away as will be
seen from the circumstances
explained above and not
through any drawback
in the discharge of my
duties, I solicit that
justice may be meted
out to me according to
the nature of my services

and the character I have

20-1-98

borne throughout.

I beg to remain
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servt.

Theromoo from
Narrow. } stockkeeper
21st Jan'y 1898 }

To.

Mr. Hill Esq
Superintendent
Gaol Press.

Honored Sir,

I beg to submit
my explanation for the
missing of things from stores

1 I beg to state that
I used to issue things
by the order of the
Storekeeper when he
is in the office on other
business.

2. I beg to state that
in the absence of the
Storekeeper from office
the Overseer is generally
in charge of the store
and he used to issue
things in his presence
and he will immediately
shut the almirahs
and take the key
with him.

3. I beg to state
that very real and
responsible business
to receive reports

and make entries in
the book and issue the
same to Campers.

4. Under these circum-
stances I am unable
to state how the articles
are missing the files

I beg remain
Honorably,
Yours most Obedient
Servant
W. Forsythe
Store Clerk

No. 471

Govt. Press, Madras,
8th February 1898Office Note

In reply to G.O. No. 12 Public,
dated 5th January 1898, the Supt.
submits the following particulars
regarding the loss of certain articles
from the Store-room.

2. The Store-room is a
separate building adjoining the
Machine-room and is in charge
of the Storekeeper, who is assisted
by the Store clerk, lascar and
attender. There are four almirahs
in the room containing articles
under lock. The Storekeeper is
responsible for the safety of all
articles under his charge. The room
is locked up on the outside by a
padlock (this was an ordinary
padlock, but now a patent padlock
is used, and it is sealed each
evening). The key of the room
is given each evening to the Overseer
who is in charge of all the keys of
the Press; the keys of the almirahs
are kept in the Storekeeper's table
drawer. Stock is taken of the
stores annually by a person
appointed by Government. Three
or four times during the year the
Storekeeper takes stock to ensure

<u>T. Arumuga Mudali</u>	200	same
as Proof-reader	2000	6 years
" Storekeeper	60	5 "
		<u>11 "</u>
<u>M. Gnanaveloo</u>		
Store clerk	14	10 "
<u>P. Pattachalam</u>		
Attender	10	15 "
<u>C. Allamikkannu</u>		
Lascar	8	5 "

But gives a duplicate
key to the Overseer!
M.A.

that the articles are correct with his books. The stores were verified by the storekeeper in May 1897 and found correct. As long cloth was running out of stock, the account was verified on the 11th August, and a supplemental indent on the Stationery Office was made for 1,000 yards, which was received on the 20th August. On closing the store books at the end of September preparatory to the annual stocktaking, it was discovered on 1st October that 80 gold leaf books, 12 lb of book binder's sewing thread, 1 skinner skin, and 1 piece of long cloth of 40 yards long, valued at Rs. 107-12-0 were missing; all these articles were in the almirahs. The Superintendent questioned the storekeeper, his subordinates and the binding foreman. These indent books were checked again to see if these articles had been omitted in entries in stock book, and on the 2nd October the matter was put into the hands of the Police.

3. On the 6th October, Sarungapany, a temporary binder, informed the Superintendent that Davarajulu** a temporary binder had some 15 or 20 days previously offered to sell to him 5 gold leaf books, and that he (Sarungapany) did not buy them. Ponnambalam†, the peon, was standing a little

x	Pay	Rs. 7
	Service	8 years
xx	Pay	Rs. 6
	Service	3 years
†	Pay	Rs. 7
	Service	6 years

* Mr. R.A. Gabell	Pay	Service
as Compositor	Rs. 8530	5½ years
" Foreman	40660	20 "
" Asst. Compositor	100	13¾ "
" Overseer	150	2¾ "
		* 42 "

* including 3 years apprentice service

distance off. Ponnambalam and Chingabrojan were the two night peons on duty during September. The Police were informed of this at once, and in the evening Davarajulu's house was searched, but none of the missing articles were found. On the 12th October a list of peons who were on duty on Sundays and at night during August and September was given to the Police for enquiry and observation.

4. In the meantime the Superintendent questioned the Overseer* regarding the safety of the keys in his possession. The Overseer is responsible for the opening and locking up of the press premises, and is in charge of all the keys. There are 29 keys in use for locking up the several rooms in his charge, the double keys of the confidential room being separately locked up in a small wooden box and given into his charge. The Overseer usually takes one of the night peons round with him when locking up the rooms. The Overseer states that he has not neglected his regular duties when locking up the several rooms, and I have no reason to doubt his word.

5. On the 8th November, Sarungapany brought two gold leaf

books to the Superintendent and stated that a certain person, (Athemulan) a friend of Dwarajulu, had offered that morning these two books to him for sale, that he had bought them, but he had not paid for them. The Police were sent for, and the sub-inspector stated that Sarungapany had been to the station that morning, but gave them no information about these books. The Police then questioned Athemulan who denied all knowledge of Sarungapany and of the books. The Police then locked up Sarungapany for being in possession of stolen property, and Athemulan was a witness against him; he was tried on the 18th November and sentenced to one week's imprisonment.

6. It should be stated that the gold leaf books supplied by the India Office are different in shape to the gold leaf books usually sold in Madras, and there was no difficulty in identifying the two books as being Govt. Press property. Dwarajulu has not appeared at the press since his house was searched on the 6th October; he and Sarungapany have been struck off the establishment.

7. Letters of explanation from S. Arumuga Mudaliar, the Storekeeper, and Mr. Casavalo, the store clerk are attached.

The Lascar and Attender state that they cannot write anything, but declare that they did not remove the articles stolen, or assist in removing them, and they do not know how or where they were taken.

8. From the particulars stated above, the Superintendent came to the conclusion, (1) that one of the peons whilst assisting the Overseer in locking up, must have removed the store-room key from the bunch, and substituted another key, (as it is usual for the overseer to check his bunch to see that all his keys are with him), and then he restored the key when the store-room was opened in the morning, (2) that the loss must have occurred between the 20th August and 1st October, (3) that the removal of these articles must have occurred during the night, as it was hardly possible for a piece of long cloth of 40 yards long to pass the gate at any time during working hours, (4) that although there is strong reason to suspect Ponnambalam, the peon, and Dwarajulu, the bride and possibly Sarungapany as well, there was not sufficient evidence to prosecute either Ponnambalam or Dwarajulu.

9. The Superintendent submits that the Storekeeper has always borne a good character, and is considered a trustworthy servant of Government; the store clerk, lascar, and attendants have always borne good character, and the Superintendent has had no occasion to suspect them of any irregularity in their work. On these grounds the Superintendent solicits that Government will be pleased to sanction the writing off of the value of these articles.

R. K. V.
Superintendent

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

[G.]
25
1,000 - 22-11-07.

Public Department

C. No. 167.....

SUBJECT.

~~HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.~~

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

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

Loss of Stores at the Government Press

FOR ORDERS.

In his office note at *A* in G.O. No. 1563, Public, dated 26th November 1897 the Superintendent, Government Press, reported that when the stores ^{of the Press} were checked previous to the stock taking by Mr. Taylor the following deficiencies were brought to light:-

80 books gold leaf costing	Rs. 20- 0-
12 1/2 book binders sewing thread.)	" 15-12-
1 Silver skin	" 3- 8-
40 yards long cloth 36" wide	" 8- 8-
	Rs. 107-12- 0

The further report on the matter promised in that office note was furnished in office note at *Q* with G.O., No. 12, Public, dated 6th January 1898. From this it appeared that a binder named Sarungapany was ^{or the} found in possession of some stolen article and was sentenced to one week's imprisonment; that Devaragulu who apparently had a hand in the ^{robbery} matter was dismissed for irregular attendance. Both these were temporary binders. A third man - peon Ponnambalam - was strongly suspected of being

dated

implicated, but the Superintendent considered he had not sufficient grounds for recommending his dismissal. Mr. Hill represented that there had never been a robbery of stores before and that he had no reason to suspect the Store-keeper, Store-clerk, attender and lascar employed in connection with the store room of being implicated in any way in the robbery. He solicited sanction for writing of the value of the articles (Rs. 107-12) from the stock book. This report of the Superintendent was considered inadequate and his treatment of the case perfunctory. He was required to take a statement from the store-keeper with any reasons the latter might have to urge against being called on to pay the value of the stores missing. Mr. Hill was also required to furnish an explanation as to how the frauds could have taken place and through whose negligence. Statements were required from the store-clerk, lascar and attender as to their connection with the matter- *vide*

G.O., No. 12, Public, dated 5th January 1898. C

Mr. Hill's reply to the above G.O. is Current 567, with which he forwards letters of explanation from T. Arumage Mudali the store-keeper and M. Casavaloo the store-clerk. He states that the lascar and the attender ~~cannot~~ declare that they did not remove the articles stolen or assist in removing them and that they do not know how or when they were taken.

It

The Supt's present note does not throw much light on the manner in which the theft was committed. The conclusion which is however a mere

surmise - is that one of the clerks must have ^{temporarily} removed the store-room key from his hands in the possession of Mr. Gabell. The overseer charged with the duty of locking up. If this is the real explanation it seems to argue some carelessness on the part of Mr. Gabell.

He will also think that the articles must have been removed from the press at night - because it would not be ~~easy~~ possible to carry out unnoticed in the daytime so large an article as a 40 lb. roll of long cloth. But it is submitted that the system which leaves the gate unwatched as long as there are employees inside is bad: if on the other hand Mr. Hill means

C. No. 567

TELEPHONE MESSAGE.

From

W.S.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT,

To

Supdt. Govt. Press

Dated 2 1898

that his cloth must have been removed otherwise than by the gate, then it is submitted that steps must be taken to prevent recurrence of such a case.

Altogether the incident is unsatisfactory, but it is submitted that there is nothing more to be done but to strike off his amount from the accounts.

AK
16/2/98

Office.
Does the Storekeeper give security? and if so, how much?
At 17.2.98.

The Supdt. Govt. Press, reports that the Storekeeper does not give security. The only ^{employee} who gives security of stores in hand averages in the Cashkeeper, who over Rs 20000, and that deposits Rs 20000 stores to the value of (vide telephone below) Rs 82000, also through the Storekeeper's hands in the year.

I see that the balance should like the Supdt's opinion as to whether the Storekeeper ought not to give security. What is his pay? n.b.
At 22.2.98.

AK
19/2/98

Yours 428
471 8th instant
Does the Storekeeper give security? If so, how much?

AK
17.2.98
18/2/98

Code
Class.

INDIAN  TELEGRAPHS. Monthly
Number.

To
(Office)

From
(Office)

Words.

Day.

Hour.

Minute.

Official
Instructions.

To
(Person)

From
(Person)

64 Word Form.

UNDER SECRETARY
18 FEB 98
PUBLIC ET

F. C. 2.

Recd from

LN.

Sent to

LN.

At

Hrs

Mts by

At

Hrs.

Mts by

Telegraph Master.

Pub C 567

Memo no 505 d/23-2-98

From the annual report
on the working of the Govt Press
recorded in G.O. 1409 Pub d/26
26th Oct 1897 it appears that
during the year the Store Keeper whose
pay is Rs 60⁰⁰ per mensem
is in charge of stores to the
value of considerably over
Rs 80,000. The Suptt, Govt
Press, is requested to report
whether in view of the
above fact the Storekeeper
should not be required
to give security.

- (1) vide current at B
and p. 6 of list put
up.
(2) Rs 82373 is the figure
for 1895-96; Rs 88843
is the figure for 1896-97
(X)

Civ.
23.2.98

AK
23/2/98

To the Suptt Govt Press (C)

no 505 d/23-2-98

2.14/3
Public (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 892

H.M.



CS
For Orders

From The Superintendent,
Government Press,
Madras
No. 818.

Submitted with ref
to the order at A² and the
memo at O.

Dated 3rd March 1898.

Received 4 - 3 - 98

Registered 4 - 3 - 98

Enclosures nil.

Spare copies -

CS
9.3.98

MC
9/3/98

See below sheet before
page A².

Items to the value of
Rs 107.12 have been stolen
from the stores of the Press.

Submitting reply to memo
A temporary binder was SD5, dated 23rd February 1898
prosecuted & convicted regarding the security to be
and another temporary furnished by the Storekeeper
binder was dismissed of the Government Press.
The wonder is that no
thefts have occurred before
as the storekeeper has been

SUBJECT.

3rd March 1898.

OFFICE NOTE.

In reply to memorandum No. 505, Public, dated 23rd February 1898, the Superintendent, Government Press, submits that the values of the stores in charge of the storekeeper when the annual audit was taken in November 1897 was Rs. 25,776,* and that he has not in his charge at any one time stores to the value of Rs. 80,000, as they are received in part only from time to time and are issued daily for use.

2. The previous storekeepers were careful men, and the present storekeeper has always been most careful with his receipts and issues, the Superintendent has therefore not felt it necessary to demand a security deposit.

3. The Superintendent considers that if a security of Rs. 700 is taken, it will be quite sufficient, and will be proportionate to the responsibility and salary paid

BACK PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

FURTHER PAPERS.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

	Rupces.
* In 1892 -	17,142
1893 -	16,373
1894 -	22,052
1895 -	19,475
1896 -	19,629

in the habit of allowing the Overseer a duplicate key. The storekeeper I find gives no security though the stores average in value about Rs 20,000. Mr Hill proposes a security of Rs 700. It will be safer to make it Rs 1000 and hold the storekeeper personally responsible for the stores. If he cannot furnish the security he must be removed to a lower post & another man must be appointed.

In either case this will be equivalent to a fine, and I think that the ^{value} ~~amount~~ of the missing stores Rs 107-12 may therefore be written off.

MA 11.3.98.

Is it right to be so lenient? I should say he ought to pay

RS

12/3/98

4. The Storekeeper states that it is not in his power to provide this security money. He was formerly a proof-reader at the Penitentiary Branch on Rs. 40 before being promoted as Storekeeper on Rs. 60 at the Government Press, and his service and conduct have been most satisfactory. If Government will be pleased to permit him to retain his position as Storekeeper without security until there is a vacancy of Rs. 60 in the Enamining Department, when he will be transferred to it, no hardships will be inflicted upon him. He passed the general Test Examinations in May 1876, and was in service prior to June 1894.

Office

Superintendent.

The Chief Secretary
to Government.

Age - - - 42 years
Service - - - 11 "
(6 years as Proof-reader on 40 rupees
and 5 years as Storekeeper on 60 rupees)

[G
24
1,000-18 0-07.

Public DEPARTMENT.

Papers to be read in proceedings:--

1. Again G.O., No. 1563^{Pub} dated 26. 11 1897
2. Again G.O., No. 12^{Pub} dated 5. 1 1898.
3. Current No. 567 of 1898, dated 8. 2, from the Supdt of Press
4. " " 892 " 1898, " 23. 3, " " "
5. " " " 189 " " " " "

C

CS

ORDER No 469723-3-98
This

The Supdt, Govt Press,
will be informed that the Storekeeper should be required to furnish a security of Rs 1,000 and be held personally responsible for the stores in his charge. If unable to furnish the security the Storekeeper must be removed to a lower post and another ^{man} appointed in his place.

TP. 2. Rs 107-12 - the value of the missing stores will be written off.

At 19.3.98

Note

As to the writing off or otherwise orders are solicited with ref to the H.M.'s note of 12.3.98

CW
15/3/98

Mc
15/3/98

I have spoken to H.M.

At

Supdt Govt Press 9999
Atk End 9 p.p. in the extra of 20.3.98

Then given for copying 23/2/68
Then copied 24
Then examined 25
Then signed _____

189

REAN AGAIN G.O., No.
189

DATED

RENT No.

ENCLOSURES TO O. No

ORDER OF GOVERNMENT

A A A A A A A

LETTERS OF GOVERNMENT.

STAT. ENT WITH DITTO.

PAPERS NOT FILED UP, BEING MEANT FOR DESPATCH
IN ORIGINAL.

N.B.-

- A = Copy in full.
- B = Not to be copied.
- P = Copy abstract only.
- Q = Copy heading only.