M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1528 Press ~~Mis.~~

103-104

Dated 9-11- 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 103. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 28th October 1859, No. 4415.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 22d September 1859, No. 369.

(In Con. 28th September 1859, No. 4838.)

The two Deputy Collectors appointed to the district of Tinnevelly, Mr. Boalth and Shungoony Menon, being unacquainted with the Mahratta language, the Acting Collector recommended that his late Head Serishtadar, Konary Row, appointed Deputy Collector of Coimbatore, should be transferred to Tinnevelly. The reason he assigned for this proposal was the state of his office records. The revenue records were stated to be written on loose cadjans, often much damaged, or on loose unnumbered sheets of paper in the Mahratta language, and not signed by any official. Mr. Levinge, therefore, thought that a portion of the time of a Deputy Collector, who might be well experienced in accounts, and have a knowledge of the district, and of the Mahratta language, all of which qualifications are possessed by Konary Row, would be very well employed in sorting, arranging, numbering and initialing these records. Besides which he might be employed in investigating cases of lapsed Inams, and in the magisterial and revenue duties of the Cusbah talook.

From Collr. 2d in Con. 7th June 1859, *No.* 2633.

2. In reply the Board informed the Acting Collector that there was no objection to his employing Konary Row, during his continuance in the district, in placing the records in proper order, but they requested him to report fully on the state of his records, after personally examining them, and to explain how they were allowed to fall into such disorder, and why measures where not sooner adopted to remedy the evil. The Board also stated that they were not disposed to recommend the retention of Konary Row, to rectify evils for which apparently he was himself partly answerable, and that they felt sure Government would animadvert severely on the reprehensible manner in which the local officers had neglected their records.

Board's Pro. 30th June 1859, *No.* 2513.

3. From the Acting Collector's reply, it appeared that the Board were under a misapprehension in regard to the state of the Tinnevelly records, which Mr. Levinge represents to be excellently arranged and in very fair preservation, but they are unsigned, unstamped, and unnumbered, and so lang as they remain so, there is nothing to prevent fraudulent interpolation. He wishes Konary Row, in whose efficiency and honesty he has respect and confidence to put them in such a state as to prevent future tampering, and to test some of the village accounts by comparison with them.

From Collr. 11th in Con. 16th July 1859, *No.* 3513.

4. The Board were still unwilling to recommend the permanent retention of Konary Row in the Tinnevelly District, but thought he might be employed for a limited period *solely* in putting the really important accounts in such a state as to prevent their being tampered with, and they requested Mr. Levinge to state how long this duty was likely to occupy Konary Row.

Board's Pro. 2d Sept. 1859, *No.* 3460.

5. In the letter recorded at the head of these proceedings, Mr. Levinge states that the services of Konary Row will be required till December next for the duty on which the Board proposed to employ him.

From Collr. 22d in Con. 28th Sept. 1859. *No.* 4838.

6. In now submitting the above correspondence for the orders of Government, the Board recommend that the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly be allowed to retain the services of Deputy Collector Konary Row until the end of the current year, by which time he is likely to complete the special duties proposed to be entrusted to him. In any case, however, the Board think that he should be required to join his new district at the expiration of the period mentioned.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Acting Secretary.*

No. 104. ORDER THEREON, 9th November 1859, No. 1528.

The Government fully approve the several orders of the Board as noticed in the proceeding above recorded. In accordance with the Board's recommendation, they permit Kónéri Ráo to remain in Tinnevelly till the end of December next, for the purpose of superintending the arrangement of the Records.

2. The Governor in Council cannot think, however, that the defects of arrangement described in these papers can be wholly remedied within the period mentioned; and the Board are requested to take care that the work is continued and brought to completion. Notwithstanding the Acting Collector's letter, the Governor in Council cannot but think that Kónéri Ráo, who has been Head Sheristadar of Tinnevelly for three years, is in some degree to blame for the neglected state of the Records of his department; which he appears only to have brought to the Acting Collector's notice when he found himself transferred to another district.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 4415.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 28th October 1859.

Read the following letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 22d September 1859, No. 369.

(In Con. 28th September 1859, No. 4838.)

The two Deputy Collectors appointed to the district of Tinnevelly, Mr. Boalth and Shungoony Menon, being unacquainted with the Mahratta language,

From Collr. 2d in Con. 7th June 1859, No. 2633.

the Acting Collector recommended that his late Head Serishtadar, Konary Row, appointed Deputy Collector of Coimbatore, should be transferred to Tinnevelly. The reason he assigned for this proposal was the state of his office records. The revenue records were stated to be written on loose cadjans, often much damaged, or on loose unnumbered sheets of paper in the Mahratta language, and not signed by any official. Mr. Levinge, therefore, thought that a portion of the time of a Deputy Collector, who might be well experienced in accounts, and have a knowledge of the district, and of the Mahratta language, all of which qualifications are possessed by Konary Row, would be very well employed in sorting, arranging, numbering and initialing these records. Besides which he might be employed in investigating cases of lapsed Inams, and in the magisterial and revenue duties of the Cusbah talook.

Board's Pro. 30th June 1859, No. 2513.

2. In reply the Board informed the Acting Collector that there was no objection to his employing Konary Row, during his continuance in the district, in placing the records in proper order, but they requested him to report fully on the state of his records, after personally examining them, and to explain how they were allowed to fall into such disorder, and why measures were not sooner adopted to remedy the evil. The Board also stated that they were not disposed to recommend the retention of Konary Row, to rectify evils for which apparently he was himself partly answerable, and that they felt sure Government would animadvert severely on the reprehensible manner in which the local officers had neglected their records.

From Collr. 11th in Con. 16th July 1859, No. 3513.

3. From the Acting Collector's reply, it appeared that the Board were under a misapprehension in regard to the state of the Tinnevelly records, which Mr. Levinge represents to be excellently arranged and in very fair preservation, but they are unsigned, unstamped, and unnumbered, and so long as they remain so, there is nothing to prevent fraudulent interpolation. He wishes Konary Row, in whose efficiency and honesty he has respect and confidence to put them in such a state as to prevent future tampering, and to test some of the village accounts by comparison with them.

Board's Pro. 2d September 1859, No. 3460.

4. The Board were still unwilling to recommend the permanent retention of Konary Row in the Tinnevelly district, but thought he might be employed for a limited period *solely* in putting the really important accounts in such a state as to prevent their being tampered with, and they requested Mr. Levinge to state how long this duty was likely to occupy Konary Row.

From Collr. 22d in Con. 28th September 1859, No. 4838.

5. In the letter recorded at the head of these proceedings, Mr. Levinge states that the services of Konary Row will be required till December next for the duty on which the Board proposed to employ him.

6. In now submitting the above correspondence for the orders of Government, the Board recommend that the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly be allowed to retain the services of Deputy Collector Konary Row until the end of the current year, by which time he is likely to complete the special duties proposed to be entrusted to him. In any case, however, the Board think that he should be required to join his new district at the expiration of the period mentioned.

(A true Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To

J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.

Exd. J. Wright.

In Con. 7th June 1859, No. 2633.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector of TINNEVELLY,
dated Nangoonary, 2nd June 1859, No. 218.

With reference to the instructions contained in the Board's Circular, No. 1689, dated 10th May 1859, I have the honor to report that as respects the Deputy Collector, Mr. Boalth, appointed to the charge of the Treasury, I have conformed to the instructions contained in paras. 4, 5, and 6 of the above Circular.

2. Maps of the District are being prepared and I hope next week to forward one, shewing the Talooks I propose placing in charge of the Deputy Collector and Magistrate, T. Shungoony Menon.

3. I beg to be instructed as to whether I am to entertain at once the establishment granted for his office as detailed in para. 8, amounting to Rs. 64¾.

4. When his office is located in the District the number of Peons allowed will not be sufficient to execute his Magisterial summons and warrants, and notices and summons under Regulation V. and IX. of 1822 and Regulation VI. of 1831. I can supply him with extra Peons of my own at present, but when the new Police arrangements are effected and the reduction in the Revenue and Magisterial offices attendant on them are carried out, this point will have to be considered.

5. I take the liberty of requesting the Board to take into consideration the propriety of recommending Government to transfer the services of the present Head Sheristadar of this District, Konary Row, from his office of Deputy Collector in Coimbatore to be a Deputy Collector in this, District. My reason for making the proposal is the state of my Record office. The Revenue records are all on loose cadjans often much damaged, or on loose unnumbered sheets of paper in the Maratta language and not signed by any Official. Under such circumstances it is next to an impossibility for me or any European officer to prevent or to discover an attempt at imposition. For the security of the interests of Government and of individuals I consider that a portion of the time of a Deputy Collector who is well experienced in accounts, has a knowledge of the District and of Maratta, all of which qualifications are possessed by Konary Row, might be very well employed in sorting, arranging, numbering and initialing these records. T. Shungoony Menon has no knowledge of Maratta and I have no officer on the establishmen who I could spare for this purpose ; the Inam accounts of all sorts are in much the same state, and as the village registers are being prepared it is absolutely necessary that they should be properly compared on completion and signed, as they are a ready reference and are likely to be appealed to hereafter as conclusive evidence in all disputed cases of Inam, &c. Besides the above duty he could, if the proposal meets with approval, be employed in investigating cases of lapsed Inams and in the Magisterial and Revenue duties of the Cusbah Talook, the Revenue of which amounts to Rs. 3,14,469, to which will be added probably, when the Police arrangements are effected, the Vedoogramum Talook, amounting to Rupees 1,64,846, or for the whole Cusbah Talook a Revenue of 4,79,315.

No. 2513.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 30th June 1859.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 2d June 1859, No. 218.

(In Con. 7th June 1859, No. 2633.)

The Acting Collector is informed that an establishment is not to be entertained for a Deputy Collector, until he is prepared to enter upon his duty.

Para. 9 Board's C. O. 10th ultimo, No. 1689.

2. The Acting Collector can employ Conary Row, during his continuance in the District, in placing the records in proper order, and must afford him the necessary assistance from his general establishment. Mr. Levinge will report fully on the state of his records, after personally examining them, and explain how they have been allowed to fall into such disorder, and why measures were not sooner adopted to remedy the evil.

3. The Board are not disposed to recommend the retention of Conary Row, to rectify evils for which, apparently, he is himself partly answerable, and they feel sure that Government will animadvert severely on the reprehensible manner in which the local Officers have neglected their records.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.

th the records of the new village registers to ensure their correctness, and if his services are al-
for this purpose as well as the duties of a Deputy Collector and Magistrate, I can spare him
nce from my own establishment.

In Con. 16th July 1859, No. 3513.

From V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector of TINNEVELLY,
dated Tencausey, 11th July 1859, No. 279.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated the 30th June 1859, No. 2518, I have the honor to report that, before writing my letter of 2nd June 1859, No. 218, I inspected my records and that they are not in disorder as the Board suppose, but in excellent arrangement and in very fair preservation.

2. I cannot explain why my predecessors allowed many important revenue accounts to be unstamped, unsigned or unnumbered; whilst they are so, there is nothing to prevent cadjans, or slips, or sheets of them being abstracted, altered or destroyed and re-written for any purpose. To go through the accounts and to perform those offices, and to bring to notice any interlineations or suspicious circumstances, and so to prevent, as far as possible, any future tampering with them, is the purpose for which I applied for the service of Konary Row and not to put them in order.

3. The survey accounts were written on cadjans, these are strung together on strings passing through holes bored in them, there being no other way of securing them, from their great bulk, and age—many being 50 years old; it has been impossible to wholly prevent decay by dry, rot and devastation by insects. Some of the accounts are not stampt yet; it is from these or from comparison with them and other accounts that the new village registers with their enclosures have to be prepared.

4. The Maratta Revenue accounts, copies of the above and other important Maratta accounts and documents are in good order; they were written on slips and sheets of paper are folded and tied up in bundles, a number of which are tied up in cloths and arranged on racks and shelves; these loose sheets are not numbered, signed or initialed. I cannot now say why they were kept in such an insecure state or not pasted in books. Important rights are often determined by entries in these insecure records, sometimes on entries found in unsigned Maratta manuscript books, regarding the compilation or history of which no one can give any information. I consider this state of the record to be most unsatisfactory for both Government and private individuals and requested that Konary Row, an efficient and honest Maratta accountant, should be partly employed in putting the accounts in such a state as to prevent any future tampering with them, and that he should also make a sufficient examination and comparison with the records of the new village registers to ensure their correctness, and if his services are allowed for this purpose as well as the duties of a Deputy Collector and Magistrate, I can spare him assistance from my own establishment.

No. 3460.

PROCEEDINGS of the BOARD of REVENUE, dated 2d September 1859.

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 11th July 1859, No. 279.

(In Con. 16th July 1859, No. 3513.)

The Board are not prepared to recommend the permanent retention of Konary Row in the Tinnevelly district, and think it better that he should be employed for a limited period, *solely* in putting the really important accounts in such a state as to prevent their being tampered with, &c.

2. Mr. Levinge is requested to state how long this duty is likely to occupy Konary Row, and on receipt of his reply, the Board will address Government.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary.

To V. H. LEVINGE, Esq., Acting Collector of Tinnevelly.

Revenue Department

No. 1528.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 9th November 1859

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue

(Here enter 28th October 1859 No 4415)

Submitting correspondence from the Collector of Tinnevelly, and recommending that he be allowed to retain the services of Deputy Collector Rénière Row until the end of the current year for the purpose of putting the records in such a state as to prevent their being tampered with

The Government fully approve the several orders of the Board as noticed in the Proceedings above recorded. In accordance with the Board's recommendation, they permit Rénière Row to remain in Tinnevelly till the end of December next, for the purpose

will

Copy Despatch
Govt No 1528 dated 9th Nov 1859
Rec'd 16th Nov 1859
Rec'd Despatch Rec'd
25 Octr 1859 No 4415.

Board's Rec to the Govt Tinnevelly dated 3 Septr 1859 & Govt Rec'd Kenny Row

purpose of superintending the arrangement of the records.

2 The Governor in Council cannot think, however, that the defects of arrangement described in these papers can be wholly remedied within the period mentioned; and the Board are requested to take care that the work is continued and brought to completion. Notwithstanding the acting Collector's letter, the Governor in Council cannot but think that Kónière Row, who has been Head Sheristadar of Tinnevelly for three years, is in some degree to blame for the neglected state

78

state of the records of his Department; which he appears only to have brought to the acting Collector's notice when he found himself transferred to another District.

6 Copies
To the Board of Revenue.
3 " " Civil Auditor.

Revenue 1859 Deptt.
Pro: of Govt. 10th Novr.

No 1528.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 9th November 59.

Permitting Kôneri
Rão, Deputy Collector to
remain in Tinnevelly
till the end of December
next for superintending
the arrangement of the
records.

No 1034-104-