M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1224 Press
~~Mis.~~

279-280

Dated 24 — 7 — 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th July 1860.

No. 279. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9ht July 1860, No. 3,160 :—

Read Proceedings of the Madras Government, dated 2nd July 1860, No. 1,087, Revenue Department, requesting the Board to report on the circumstances of the case connected with the offence and degradation of Shéshagiri Ráu from the Office of Tahsíldár of the Strívaiguntam Táluq in Tinnevelly.

(In Cons., 3rd July 1860, No. 3,219.)

Ordered that copy of the Board's Proceedings, dated 11th June 1860, No. 2,755, which contains a *resumé* of the facts of the case, and the grounds of the Board's decision, be submitted for the information of Government, as meeting the above requisition for a report on the case.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Sub-Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 11th June 1860, No. 2,755.

Read again letters from the Collector of Tinnevelly, dated 16th January, No. 20, and 24th February 1860, No. 67, reporting the suspension and recommending the degradation of Shéshagiri Ráu, Tahsíldár of Strívaiguntam Táluq.

(In Cons., 21st January and 29th February 1860, Nos. 293 and 947.)

Read also the following letters connected with the same subject, and from the same Officer, dated 31st March, No. 117, and 20th April 1860, No. 149.

(In Cons., 11th and 25th April 1860, Nos. 1,585 and 1,884.)

1. The case against the Tahsíldár and others concerned is as follows :—

2. In August 1859, one Narana Iyengar died leaving a widow and an adopted son, a young boy, and three married daughters by a former deceased wife. Narana Iyengar's landed property was valued at Rupees 10,000. On the 29th September following, the widow complained through her Vakil to the Police Amín of Alwar Tinnevelly in the Strívaiguntam Táluq within whose limits she was residing, that the husband of the eldest married daughter and others have prevented her from cultivating the lands, claiming a moiety of them as dowry for the three married daughters, and the Police Amín on inquiry decided on 3rd October that as the widow had been hitherto in possession, she and her adopted son should continue to enjoy the property, until the married daughters of the deceased should have established their claim through the Civil Courts.

3. On the 12th November following, the widow presented a Petition (to the Collector apparently) complaining that when paying the instalments of the Government demand on this land, she discovered that the Tahsíldár had without her consent ordered the transfer of the Registry of half of the lands to the names of her late husband's three married daughters. The Tahsíldár being called on for an explanation, stated on 16th November that it being represented to him that a moiety of the lands had been assigned as dowry to the daughters of the deceased, he had altered the Registry accordingly with the consent of all the parties concerned, the father of the widow acting on her behalf, and the husband of the eldest daughter on behalf of his wife and her three sisters. The proceedings held before the Police Amín were then called for, and the Tahsíldár being asked for further explanation of his conduct with reference to those proceedings, pleaded ignorance of their existence in his reply of 23rd November.

4. The Collector then commenced a personal inquiry into the matter, which was subsequently concluded by the Deputy Collector, and the results of the investigation are detailed in the letters above recorded.

5. The "Vakálat námás" said to have been filed in the case before the Tahsíldár bear date the 19th October, while the Petitions for the transfer purporting to be based on them are dated 18th October, and all four papers are marked in the Tahsíldár's own handwriting as having been filed before him on 18th October.

6. Both the widow and her father deny all knowledge of the execution of the Vakálat námás and of the whole transaction, which it is to be observed is said to have taken place only a fortnight after the Police Amín had by his decision maintained the widow in possession of the whole property, and referred the other parties to the Civil Courts for the establishment of their claims ; the real writer of the Vakálat námás as proved on inquiry—a Volunteer in the Tahsíldár's Kacherí—absconded on inquiries being instituted ; the evidence for the prosecution goes to show that the widow's father was present and transacted business in a distant part of the Táluq at the time he is said to have presented the power of Attorney and application on behalf of his daughter at the

Tahsíldár's Kacherí, the evidence for the defence is full of important discrepancies; and the Board agree with the Collector in condemning the whole transaction as a deliberate fraud on the widow and her infant orphan son.

7. As to the complicity active or passive of the Tahsíldár, it is stated in evidence that he was at the time of ordering the transfer reminded of the proceedings before the Police Amín. His conduct in regard to the explanation or defence that was required of him, which explanation amounts simply to an averment that the transaction was all done "*bonâ fidè*," has been marked by evasions and by futile attempts to explain away his acts; and on careful consideration of the detailed reports before them, the Board have come to the deliberate conclusion that although no corrupt motive is proved against him, he stands convicted of most irregular conduct in the matter, if not of having lent himself to the carrying out of a serious fraud on the property of a widow and her infant son. The transaction was a most barefaced one, and the Tahsíldár's subsequent evasions and quibbles preclude any more favorable conclusion on his conduct than that his culpable carelessness facilitated the perpetration of a gross fraud.

8. The Collector recommends that Shéshagiri Ráu be removed from the post of Tahsíldár to an inferior grade of Office, and the Board concurring in his conclusions, request him to carry out his proposal.

9. They reject the appeal preferred by the Karanam Mútt'ía Pillai who has been dismissed by the Collector for active complicity in this fraud, and whose Petition is reported on by him in his letter of 20th April above recorded, which Petition will be endorsed accordingly.

In Cons., 25th April 1860, *No.* 1,884.

Ordered, that the following Endorsements be passed on the Petitions named:

Nos. 622, 658 and 978 of 1860, from Shéshagiri Ráu.

No. 664 of 1860, from certain Raiyats in favor of Shéshagiri Ráu; and

No. 710 of 1860, from certain Raiyats against Shéshagiri Ráu.

"The Board of Revenue on mature consideration of the facts of the case and of the Collector's report have directed that Shéshaghiri Ráu, late Tahsíldár of Strívaiguntam, be reduced to "an inferior grade of Office for serious misconduct."

Nos. 876 and 1,511 of 1860, from the Vakil of the daughters of Narana Iyengar.

"The Board of Revenue have confirmed the Collector's decision of which Petitioners "complain."

(A true Extract.)
(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Sub-Secretary.*

No. 280. ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1860, No. 1,224.

1. In compliance with the Order of July 2nd, No. 1,087, the Board of Revenue report the particulars of the case of Shéshagiri Ráu late Thasíldár of Strívaiguntam Táluq in Tinnevelly, who was ordered by them to be reduced to an inferior grade, for serious misconduct in having facilitated the perpetration of a gross fraud on the property of a widow and her infant son.

2. The details of the offence are given in the Board's Proceedings of June 11th 1860, No. 2,755. Shéshagiri Ráu was guilty of a gross and complicated fraud, combined with a fraudulent and unauthorized alteration of an official record, and apparent implication in the forgery of Vakálat námás (Powers of Attorney). The village Karanam who was concerned in the same fraud has been dismissed. The guilt of the Tahsíldár was much greater; yet he has only been degraded to an inferior post.

3. A Tahsíldár has great opportunities of evil; and it is necessary to punish severely all cases of fraud or corruption detected. This is necessary not only on general grounds, but also in justice to the honest and highminded among the Tahsíldárs, who will otherwise be mixed up in the ignominy brought on the whole body. The present is a very aggravated case; and the offender is unfit for any employment in the Government service. The Government accordingly direct that Shéshagiri Ráu shall be forthwith dismissed from any post which he now holds, and be publicly declared incapable of re-employment in any Department.

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

Memo. re Rev. 2d. 1414.

The Tahsildar in the case here referred to was guilty of a gross & complicated fraud, combined with a fraudulent alteration of an official record, & the forgery of vakálatnamahs. (Powers of attorney) — the village Curnam who was concerned in the same fraud has been dismissed.

See the enclosure 6th Board's Proceedings.

The Tahsildar was degraded to an inferior post.

And declared incapacitated for re-employment

JDB
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Secretary

-misped. The guilt of the Tahsildar was much greater, yet he has only been degraded to an inferior post. I think he ought certainly to be dismissed, & declared incapable of re-employment.

2. A Tahsildar has great opportunities of evil: and if it necessary to punish severely all cases of fraud or connivance detected - the present is a most aggravated case: a dismissal seems necessary

that the Tahsildar should be dismissed & declared incapable of re-employment - The Members of the Board N.S. should be called to their sentences & be severally asked to show cause why they should not be dismissed from the Govt service -

not only for example, but also for the protection of the Public, & for the credit of the Govt service.

The Tahsildar might have been dealt with leniently, if it does not appear that this was merely an

Will

Duenas

Rev: Dept. 4

№ 1224.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 24th July 1860

Read the following

Proceedings of the Board

of Revenue.

Submitting for information with reference to the order of 2nd July 1860 a copy of the Board's Proceedings dated 11th June № 2755 containing a resume of the facts of the case connected with the degradation of Shéshagiri Rán from the office of Tahsildár of the Striviguntam Táluq in Tinnevelly.

(Here enter 9th July 1860 № 3160)

1. In compliance with the order of July 2nd ult. № 1087, the Board of Revenue report the particulars of the case of Shéshagiri Rán late Tahsildar of Striviguntam Táluq in Tinnevelly, who was ordered by them to be reduced to an inferior grade, for serious misconduct in having facilitated the perpetration of a gross

fraud

fraud on the property of a widow and her infant son.

2. The details of the ~~last~~ offence are given in the Board's Proceedings of June 11th 1860, No. 2755. He was guilty of a gross and complicated fraud, combined with a fraudulent and unauthorized alteration of an official record, and apparent implication in the forgery of Valat Kánádi Powers of attorney. The village Curnam who was concerned in the same fraud has been dismissed. The guilt of the Tahsildar was much greater, yet he has only been degraded to an inferior post.

S Sheshagiri Rau

Curnam

3. A Tahsildar has great opportunities of evil: and it is necessary to punish severely all cases of fraud

or

or corruption detected. This is necessary not only on general grounds, but also in justice to the honest and highminded among the Tahsildars, who will otherwise be mixed up in the ignominy brought on the whole body. The present is a very aggravated case, and the offender is unfit for any employment in the Government service. I therefore direct that Sheshagiri Rau be forthwith dismissed from any Post which he now holds, and be publicly declared incapable of re-employment in any Department.

the Govt. accordingly shall

12 Copies
Board of Revenue - Dispt. 25/10

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Dismissal of Sheshagiri Rau
Taluqdar

7
July 1860

Revenue 1860 Departt
Frs: of Govt for July.

No 1224.

Frs: of the Madras
Government.

Dt 24th July 1860.

Ordering that Sheshagiri
Rau who was degraded from
the Office of Taluqdar of
Sivvaigumlam Taluq in
Tinnevelly be dismissed
forthwith and publicly de-
clared incapable for re-
employment in any
Department.

No 279 & 280.

Presidt

Lieut Under

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