

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1	Press
		~~Mis.~~
1-5		
Dated	2 — 1 —	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 1. Read the following papers.

From E. G. R. FANE, Esq., Collector and Agent to the Governor of Vizagapatam; to
T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 22d December 1859,
No. 1292.

His Highness the Rajah of Vizianagram paid me his first visit since my arrival in this district as Agent, at 5 p. m. yesterday.

2. After the usual congratulations &c., he at once entered upon the subject of the enquiry ordered to be instituted against Kistna Rau, late Sarishtadár of this district, for having corruptly taken, every year previous to the late Agent's arrival, certain large sums of money, from the Raja. He (the Raja) declared most emphatically his inability to prove any one single payment, and imploringly begged that the enquiry might not be proceeded with. He states that if the case is at all entered upon, his having made the accusation would become public, and his not being able to prove it, would only make him the laughing stock of all classes. The allegations he states were quite true, but were made as far back as 1857, in a demi official form to Mr. Reade; the circumstances were reported to Chief Secretary to Government, and the then Government from its silence appeared to acquiesce in the species of amnesty, that was given for all past offences.

3. No one appears to have had any cognizance of the transactions; from the Raja's accounts nothing would be shewn, as monies drawn from his treasury for such purposes are entered as "Huzúr dakkal" or "private expenses," and how such monies are spent, it was no one's province to enquire into. The Raja's manager of that day is dead, but if alive, the Raja says, he would not have been able to give evidence, as he even knew not how the "Huzúr dakkal" monies were disposed of.

4. On my arrival here, I heard from the Raja that he would come over to Vizagapatam on the 21st and pay me his first visit, I therefore summoned Kistna Rau, and expected his appearance about the same date.

5. The Collector of Rajahmundry, however, telegraphed two or three days ago that he (Kistna Rau) would not be here before the 26th. I conclude, therefore, he does not start from Rajahmundry before the 23d and I have telegraphed now to stop his departure, and shall not again summon him until I get either an answer to my telegraphic message of last night to you on the same subject as this letter, or until an answer to this letter itself is received.

6. I request the Government will sanction the Raja's request and give orders to have no further proceedings taken in the matter.

No. 2. MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE E. MALTBY.

Mr. Fane was ordered* to institute "a searching enquiry" into the allegations made against D. Kristna Ráo, (lately Head Sheristedar of Vizagapatam and now a Deputy Collector in Rajahmundry),

* Order of Government, No. 1600, 24th November 1859.

by the Raja of Vizianagram in a letter which appeared in the Advertiser newspaper.

Mr. Fane now reports briefly by telegraph that the Raja is most unwilling to appear as a witness and declares that he cannot prove any thing against Kristna Ráo. Under these circumstances, Mr. Fane recommends that the enquiry be abandoned.

Having been requested in Council to give my opinion on the course to be pursued, I proceed to do so.

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It is to be remembered that the Raja acknowledges the letter in question and that the letter not only alleges specific payments to D. Kristna Ráo, but severely assails his general character. Accounts showing the payments are also alluded to, and the evidence of any respectable witness on oath, supported by such documents, would have great weight.

I do not therefore agree with Mr. Fane that the probable want of evidence is so great that it would be "folly" to proceed; nor do I think that the Raja's feelings are entitled to such deference that the enquiry ought to be stopped on account of his reluctance to give evidence.

But there are other considerations which may make a formal enquiry unnecessary. The letter of the Raja bears date 9th June 1857, and Mr. Reade, the late Collector, when bringing the circumstances alluded to in it to the notice of Government, advised that past occurrences should be condoned, and that he should be authorised to limit his exertions to putting down corruption in future.

The silence of Government implied assent to this course, and I presume therefore that the enquiry now ordered was with a view to test D. Kristna Ráo's fitness to remain in public employ, and not to inflict criminal punishment upon him if the condoned acts of corruption should be formally proved.

If therefore cause is seen on general grounds to remove D. Kristna Ráo from active employ either with or without a pension, no formal enquiry into the matters contained in the Raja's letter would be necessary.

On the whole I think the best course is to allow D. Kristna Ráo, who is a very aged servant, to retire on a pension. I am not acquainted with him personally, and my impressions which are founded on the official papers which have come under my cognizance are not favorable. But as he would have been allowed to retire on a pension had not the Raja's letter appeared in a newspaper, I do not think that this fortuitous circumstance should deprive him of his claim.

Permitting him to retire in this manner would also not be inconsistent with the course which Government has adopted in at least one other instance towards old Sheristadars whom it was deemed inadvisable to retain in public employ as Deputy Collectors. But if it is not deemed proper thus to let D. Kristna Ráo retire into private life, it seems to me an imperative duty to prove the Raja's allegations fully. Now that the public have seen this officer stigmatised both on general and particular grounds in a letter which an individual in the position of the Vizianagram Raja acknowledges to have written, his retention in active and high employ could only be tolerated after a searching enquiry and full acquittal. His holding the position and authority of a Deputy Collector and Magistrate, with such a cloud resting upon him would be most injurious and impolitic.

27th December 1859.

(Signed) E. MALTBY.

No. 3. *MINUTE BY THE HONORABLE THE PRESIDENT.*

On a consideration of all the circumstances, and especially adverting to the fact that Krishna Ráu's conduct was condoned by the Government on the recommendation of the Agent, I agree with Mr. Maltby that it would be advisable to confine ourselves to placing Krishna Ráu on the retired list with the pension to which he is entitled by his length of service.

Gindri, 28th December 1859.

(Signed) C. E. TREVELYAN.

I concur in the measure proposed.

28th December 1859.

(Signed) W. MOREHEAD.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 4. *MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY SIR P. GRANT.*

If further enquiry in the Civil Department is not to be made, I propose that the papers be transferred to the Military Department, in order that Major General Carpenter may have an opportunity afforded him of explaining his part in the transaction between the Sheristadar and the Rajah of Vizianagram as alleged by the Rajah in his letter to Mr. Reade of the 9th June 1857. The charge against Major General Carpenter has been published in a Madras newspaper and it is due to him and to the service that it should be either refuted or substantiated. Meanwhile, until this point is disposed of, I think it would be best to take no step with respect to the Sheristadar.

29th December 1859.

(Signed) PAT. GRANT.

No. 5. *ORDER THEREON, 2d January 1860, No. 1.*

The "Madras Advertiser" of the 28th September 1859 contained a letter purporting to have been written by the Rajah of Vizianagram to the Collector of Vizagapatam in 1857, stating, in reply to a question which had been put, that he had been in the habit of paying to D. Kistna Rau, the Head Sarishtadár of the district the sum of 3,000 Rupees a year; his motive to these payments being the constant importunities of the Sarishtadár and the fear of his power to injure him.

2. This letter having been brought to the notice of Government by the Board of Revenue, the Government called on the Raja of Vizianagram, through the acting Collector of the district, to say whether the letter in question was really a copy of one written by him; and he replied in the affirmative. The original letter was also laid before Government by Mr. Reade. The Government then called on D. Kistna Rau, through the Collector of Rajahmundry, in which district he is now serving, to state whether he admitted or denied the facts respecting himself stated in the letter; and Kistna Rau gave a positive denial of them.

3. It then appeared to Government that so serious a charge, thus authenticated, against an officer in the high position of D. Kistna Rau, could not be allowed to remain without full enquiry; and the recently appointed Collector of Vizagapatam was directed to make a searching investigation into the affair, and report the result. Mr. Fane now reports that the Raja, while affirming the allegations in the letter to be quite true, declares that it is not in his power to prove any one payment; that his manager at the time concerned is now dead, and even if living could not prove the payments; and that his accounts would not prove anything, because such transactions were always entered there under the vague term "Huzúr dakkal."

4. The Governor in Council has now carefully reconsidered the circumstances. There appears no rational room for doubt as to the truth of the allegations contained in the Raja's letter. But it is evident that legal proof would be difficult, if not impossible; and it appears also that the late Government having been apprized by Mr. Reade of the facts as stated in the letter, took no action thereon, and so tacitly assented to the Collectors policy of condoning the past offences of the Sarishtadár. Under these circumstances the Government now resolve to abandon the intention of instituting criminal proceedings against Kistna Rau; but regarding him as wholly undeserving of future confidence, and unfit for the honorable post which he holds as Deputy Collector, they resolve that he be removed from the public service, on the pension to which he is entitled under the rules. This order will take effect from the date of its reaching the Collector of Rajahmundry.

5. As the name of Colonel (now Major General) Carpenter appears in the Raja's letter, in connection with the payments to Kistna Rau, the Government resolve to transmit the papers, through the Military Department to the Commander-in-Chief for such action as he may see fit to take thereon.

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

Mr. Fane was⁺ ordered to institute "a
1600 "searching enquiry" into the allegations
made against D. Kristna Rao (late
Head Sheristadar of Vizagapatnam & now
a Deputy Collector in Rajahmundry) by
the Raja of Vizianagram in a letter
which appeared in the Advertiser News-
paper -

Mr. Fane now reports briefly by Telegraph
H. & the Raja is most unwilling to appear
as a witness & declares that he cannot
prove anything against Kristna Rao -
Under these circumstances Mr. Fane re-
commends that the enquiry be abandoned.

Having been requested in Council to
give my opinion on the ^{course to be pursued} ~~case~~ I proceed
to do so -

It is to be remembered that the Raja ac-
knowledges the letter in question & that the
letter not only alleges specific payments to
D. Kristna Rao, but severely attacks his ge-
neral character. - Account showing the
payments are also alluded to, & the cir-

- dence of any respectable witnesses on oath sup-
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I do not therefore agree with Mr. Fane that
the probable want of evidence is so great
that it would be "folly" to proceed, nor
do I think that the Raja's feelings are
subtlety to such deference that the enquiry
ought to be stopped on account of his reluctance
to give evidence. -

- But there are other considerations which
may make a formal enquiry unnecessary.

The letter of the Raja bears date 9th June
1857, and Mr. Beade, the late Collector when
bringing the circumstances attended to in
it to the notice of Govt. advised that past
occurrences should be condoned, & that
he should be authorised to limit his
insertions to putting down corruption in
future. -

The silence of Govt. implied assent to this
course, & I presume therefore that the
enquiry now ordered was with a view
to test D. Kristna Rao's fitness to remain

in public employ, & not to inflict
criminal punishment upon him if
the condoned acts of corruption should
be formally proved. -

- If therefore ^{on general grounds} cause is seen to ^{be} ~~unwarranted~~
D. Kristna Rao from active employ is
then with or without a pension, so formal
enquiry into the matter contained in
the Raja's letter would be necessary.

- On the whole I think the best course
is to allow D. Kristna Rao, who is a
very aged servant, to retire on a
pension - I am not acquainted

with him personally, & my impressions
which are founded on the official papers
which have come under my cognisance
are not favourable. - But as he would
have been allowed to retire on a pension
had not the Raja's letter appeared in
the newspaper, I do not think that this
fortuitous circumstance should deprive
him of his claim -

Permitting him to retire in this manner
would ^{also} not be inconsistent with the course
which Govt. has adopted ^{in at least one} ~~in at least one~~ ^{instance} towards old Sheristahs who
was deemed inadvisable to retain

On a consideration of all the circumstances and especially adverting to the fact that Krishna Rao's conduct was condoned by the Government on the recommendation of the Agent I agree with Mr. Malby that it could be desirable to confine ourselves to ~~his~~ placing Krishna Rao on the Retired list with the Pension to which he is entitled for his length of service.

Edinburgh 20 Dec 1859.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

Wm. Dalrymple

N. 1
 Proceedings of the Madras Government.
 dated 2 January 1860.

From the Collector Vizaga.
 -prasant. -

Informing that the Rajah of Visia-
 nagaram is not desirous that
 the late Sheristadar should be
 tried as he is unable to prove his
 charge. -

Minute by the Hon. Mr. E. D. Halliday.
 Here enter 27 Dec 59.

Minute by the Hon. Mr. D. Halliday.
 by the Hon. Mr. D. Halliday.
 Here enter 28 Dec 59.

Minute by His Exy. the C. in C.
 Here enter 29 Dec 59.

Read the following paper
 dated 28 Dec 59.

All the minutes have
 been recorded.

The "Madras Observer"

of the 28th Sept. 59 contained
 a letter purporting to have
 been written by the Raja
 of Vizianagaram to the
 Col^l of Vizagapatnam in
 1854, stating, in reply to
 a question which had been
 put, that he had been in
 the habit of paying to
 D. Krishna Rao, the Asst
 Serishtadar of the Dist
 the sum of 3000 Rupees a
 year; his motive to these
 payments being the constant
 importunities of the Serishtadar
 & the fear of his power
 to injure him.

m
 L

Will

R. M.

2 This letter having been brought to the notice of Govt by the Bd. of Revenue, the Govt called on the Majist of Vizianagarum, through the acting Colr of the Dist, to say whether the letter in question was really a copy of one written by him; & he replied in the affirmative. The Govt then called on D. Krishna Rao, through the Colr of Rajahmundry, in which Dist he is now serving, to state whether he admitted or denied the facts respecting himself stated in the letter; & Krishna Rao gave a positive denial of them.

3. It then appeared to Govt that so serious a charge, thus authenticated, against an officer in the high position of D. Krishna Rao, could not be allowed to remain without full enquiry; & the revenue

The original letter was also laid before Govt by Mr. Beade.

appointed Colr of Vizianagarum was directed to make a searching investigation into the affair, & report the result. Mr. Fane now reports that the Majist, while affirming the allegations in the letter to be quite true, declares that it is not in his power to prove any one payment; that his manager at the time concerned is now dead, & even if living could not prove the payments; & that his accounts would not prove anything, because such transactions were always entered there under the vague term "Angur dakkal".

4 The Govt in C. has now carefully reconsidered the circumstances. There appears no ^{rational} ~~material~~ room for doubt as to the truth of the allegations contained in the Majist's letter.

But it is evident that legal
proof would be difficult, if
not impossible; & it appears
also that the late Govt
having been apprized by
Mr. Meade of the facts as
stated in the letter, took
no action thereon, & so
tacitly assented to the
Col's policy of condoning
the past offences of the
Sriestadar. Under these
circumstances the Govt
now resolve to abandon
the intention of instituting
criminal proceedings
against Kistnah & Co.,
but regarding him as
wholly unworthy of
future confidence, &
unfit for the honorable
post which he holds as
Depr. Colr, they resolve
that he be removed from
the public service, on
the pension to which he
is entitled under the
rules. This order will
take effect from the date

of its reaching the Colr of
Rajahmundry.

5 As the name of Col.
(now Major Genl) Carpenter
appears in the Rajah's
letter, in connection with
the payments to Kistnah
Now, the Govt resolve to
transmit the papers, through
the Mil. Dept to the C. in C.
for such action as he
may see fit to take
thereon.

JA

Copy to Colr of Rajahmundry. M.S.
" " Colr Vizagapatam. 4
5 " Genl of Res.
5 " Mil. Dept
73 " Civil Addition. 4

Rev. Cons. 30 Nov/59-4245.

Revenue 1860 Sept.
Pro: of Govt. 10th January.

Copy in a Letter to England
of 8th May/60 No. 42.

No. 1.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
of 2nd January/60.

From the Coll^r of Vijaya Patnam
of 17 January/60 No. 102 in - Retiring
Indulgence - Files.

From the Collector of the 7th 2nd 7th
60 C. No. 259 in con, 20th No. 10-11

Observing that the
by Coll^r D. Krishna Rao is
undeserving of future confi-
dence and ordering that he be
removed from the public
service on the pension to which
he is entitled under the rules.

No. 1 at 5.