M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1267	Press Mis.
280-281	
Dated 27 — 6 — 1864	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th June 1861.

No. 280. Read the following letter from GOPARÁZ STRIRÁMULU, late Salt Tanadar of Conada, in the District of Vizagapatam, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Amulápúram, 1st April 1861:—

SIR,

I beg to enclose a Petition in triplicate addressed to Sir Charles Wood, Secretary of State for India, and to request you will be pleased to transmit the same, informing me of the date of despatch.

———

No. 281. ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1861, No. 1,267.

Ordered that the Memorial received with the foregoing letter, be forwarded to Home Authorities, and that an intimation of its despatch be given to the Memorialist.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

Circumstances are somewhat different -

To

The Honorable the Members of the

Board of Revenue

Madras

1363 M 18/5/60 Six Enc

The humble Petition of Joseramago Veeramachoo, late Sub Tanadar of Conadah, in the District of Vizagapatam.

Respectfully Sheweth,

1. That your Petitioner was employed in various situations since the Year 1836, and that the period of his Continuous Service Amounts to 23 Years.

2. That on the 9th June 1857, he was promoted to the Office of Salt Tanadar at Conadah, from the situation of Peishcar, in the Amany Salt of Survaiddy, in the District of Vizagapatam, and conducted himself to the satisfaction of his Superiors up to the End of the Year 1858, as acknowledged by Mr. Knox, the Principal Assistant, in his letter to the Collector, dated 9th January 1859 in the following terms;

Para 13. "I then proceeded to Conadah where "Circumstances are some what different - vide"

"The

"The Tanadar and Ryots are hostile, and unable to
"enter a Pleasant Office, the Tanadars character was
"good."

3. That in consequence of Mr. Knox's report contained in the said letter, Mr. Peacock was ordered to recommend to your Honorable Board the removal of your Petitioner from Office; and your Honorable Board were pleased to direct his removal, on proceedings of the 24th June 1859, on suspicion of having tampered with certain Salt heaps, previous to Mr. Knox's inspection, and on the ground, that he had thereby forfeited the Collector's confidence.

4. That your Honorable Board will observe that his appointment to the Salt Department occurred just about the close of the period of the receipt of Salt in 1857, and that he is not accused of any misconduct in connection with that year.

Vide Inclosures Nos. A & B

5. That in June 1858 he had occasion to bring to Notice the illegal practices of certain of the Manufacturers, who were prejudiced in consequence of his report, which circumstance created an ill feeling towards him on the part of the Manufacturers as already noticed in the foregoing

from Mr. Knox's letter.

6. That although this ill feeling exposed your Petitioner to the effects of the Malevolence of the Manufacturers, Mr. Knox himself acknowledges that not a single credible accusation was prepared against him. And your Honorable Board can easily imagine, how difficult it must have been for your Petitioner to have reverted to the illegal practices of which he has been accused, with any chance of concealment, watched as he was by hundreds of hostile Eyes.

7. With regard to the suspicions entertained by that Gentleman, Your Petitioner entertains the hope, that your Honorable Board will be pleased to admit, on reconsideration, that they are based on premises which do not satisfactorily support the conclusions drawn from them; and which, Your Petitioner submits, would scarcely have been deduced, had the suspicion of fraud being general, not been entertained, and had the examination been conducted at a time, when the mind was free from such suspicion. Your Petitioner need not dwell on the danger to which any person situated as he was, would be exposed,

in

in a Mind prepared to admit a foregone conclusion, and to draw inferences from indications, which would be Considered of no moment under Ordinary circumstances. Whether Mr. Knox's Mind was in this State or not on his arrival at Canadulo from Coffilly, Your Petitioner leaves it to your Honorable Board to determine, on consideration of that Gentlemans Report on Coffilly, in connection with his Report on Canadulo.

Vide Enclosure No. C, D, E, 8 Your Petitioner in September 1858, long before Mr. Reade appears to have entertained that he entertained any suspicion, [illegible] several Reports to his Superiors regarding the damage sustained by the Roofs from the great fall of Rain, and in consideration of the great length of time the Lower fourteen of a Heap of Salt is likely to retain and communicate Moisture to the surrounding portions, Your Petitioner submits to the determination of your Honorable Board, whether the Cause assigned by Mr. Knox for the appearance of the Moisture, is the only Cause that can possibly be assigned.

9. Although Your Petitioner humbly submits that the Suspicions entertained by that Gentleman and acted upon by Mr. Reade, are by far too vague and uncertain to justify the dismissal of a Servant of fifteen Years standing, he readily admits that grounds exist for suspicion in consequence of a certain excise having been Superintended and subsequently conducted in the absence of Your Petitioner. Your Petitioner further admits, that those grounds for Suspicion would Amount to absolute certainty had Your Petitioner been present when those subsequent Sales were conducted.

Vide Enclosure No. F 10. But as Your Petitioners request to have the Subsequent Sales Conducted in his presence was disregarded, and as the Subsequent Sales were conducted by a person, who is exposed to the Suspicion of being desirous of ingratiating himself with his Superiors, by showing the correctness of a conclusion, founded on Suspicion, unsupported by any attempts at proof, Your Petitioner humbly submits, that even the representation of such excess, under such circumstances Amounts to nothing but bare Suspicion.

Your

11

Your Honorable Board in the 22 [illegible]
of proceedings of the 21st June 1859 (Rec. 24th) Your Ho
remarks, "that a considerable difference was found
in the quantity of Salt measured according to the
farce with which it is thrown into the Parcel."
If this remark be true with respect to the quantity
of Salt received into Store, Your Petitioner submits
that it is equally true with respect to the quantity
of Salt sold, and in consequence of the Salt being
sold in the absence of Your Petitioner, and in the
absence of any of the European Officers of the
District, any person who is suspected
Suspension of being desirous of recommending
himself to the good will of his Superior, and
who may, on the removal of Your Petitioner, be
granted to his solicitation, the bare representation
of an Assistant could in an Article, admitting
of such an uncertain Representation of quantity,
according to the mode of measurement, under
the circumstances. Your Petitioner
Submits, Have an Amount of Suspension
sufficient to justify the extreme penalty of the
dismissal of a Servant whose previous Conduct
has

has been acknowledged to have been good.

12 Your Petitioner has based his claims to consideration upon the simplest and most reasonable grounds, on the hope that the benefit of doubt which has been extended to other servants, whose conduct and the subject of report at the same time, may be extended to him, and that, in consideration of the distress he has endured by the privation of Office and Salary during the last Sixteen Months, an Order may be passed granting his reemployment in the public Service.

Your Petitioner shall ever pray.

Dacca 18 Oct

To

The Right Honorable

The Governor in Council

Fort St. George.

The humble Petition of Goparauze Sreeramooloo, late Salt Jamadar of Conadah, in the District of Vizagapatam.

Respectfully Sheweth,

1st That your Petitioner was dismissed from the situation of Salt Jamadar of Conadah in the District of Vizagapatam, on the 24th June 1859, by the Board of Revenue, upon the recommendation of Mr. Reade, late Collector of Vizagapatam.

2nd That on the 18th May 1860 Your Petitioner presented a petition to the Board of Revenue, setting forth that the grounds of his dismissal were entirely founded upon suspicion which he had no opportunity of proving to be baseless, and praying for an order permitting his reemployment in the public service.

3rd That on the 25th May, the Board of Revenue endorsed his Petition, declining to interfere with the decision already passed in Petitioner's case.

4th That the said Petition with its enclosures is herewith submitted, and your Petitioner earnestly entreats that your Government will be pleased to accord to his statements therein set forth, the consideration due to a public Servant, however humble, who solicits justice at the hands of your Government.

5th That your Government will perceive that Mr. Knox himself bears testimony to the character of your Petitioner; that that Gentleman acknowledges a hostile feeling existed between your Petitioner and the Salt Manufacturers; and that although your Petitioner was instrumental in bringing some of them to punishment for malpractices, he further acknowledges that not a single well grounded Complaint was preferred against him: nevertheless, your Petitioner has been condemned on Mr. Knox's Report on the supposition entertained without Hob proof holes had been made and water poured into the heaps for the purpose of destroying a portion of the Salt and allowing no excuse "quantity to appear" and in support of the inference deduced from the fact assumed, no more

was discovered in the two heaps sold in presence of your Petitioner by Mr. Knox's Assistant Sheristadar and Sanabeens.

That in the 8th para of his petition to the Board of Revenue your Petitioner accounted for the appearance of the indications noticed by Mr. Knox and to shew that those indications are not to be relied on as conclusive evidence of guilt, your Petitioner begs to enclose copy of an Order dated 28th February 1838, addressed by Mr. W. A. Arbuthnot late Collector of Vizagapatam, to a Sanadar of that District, wherefrom your Government will perceive, that the damage occasioned by rain is of itself sufficient to produce the appearance which Mr. Knox held to be no significant of guilt; and which damage and appearances in every respect, as they subsequently proceeded themselves to Mr. Knox, had been reported by your Petitioner to Mr. Petty the Assistant Collector, in the Months of September and October 1838 before Mr. Reade commenced his enquiry above, and Months before Mr. Knox inspected the heaps.

6 Extraordinary as it may appear your Petitioner

Vide Enclosures A B

Marked G

Vide Enclosures D. D.

Mr. Reade commenced the enquiry in November and Mr. Knox inspected the heaps in December 1838.

Petitioner has been condemned on the one hand, because he is alleged to have adopted unusual measures to prevent the appearance of any excess; and on the other, because an excess was alleged to have existed by an expectant for Office who eventually succeeded to the situation of your Petitioner.

Vide Enclosure F.

7th That your Petitioner's repeated prayers to have the Salt examined and sold in his presence, and in presence of an European Officer, were disregarded, and the reports of an individual, interested in creating a vacancy, by which he expected to benefit, and by which he did benefit were received as true and infallible to the detriment of your Petitioner, notwithstanding the circumstance of there existing many to the report of Mr. Knox.

8th That under any circumstances, reports of such a nature, founded on an Examination made in the absence of your Petitioner, and of any of the European Officers of the District, concerning an Article admitting of such variation in quantity according to the mode of measurement, should be received with caution; but coming as they did from an individual in the possession of the Examiner, and repugnant as they were to the impression based on Mr. Knox's report, on which he was chiefly condemned, Your Petitioner humbly submits that they should not have been relied on unless subjected to the test selected by your Petitioner.

9th That the above facts are supported by the Proceedings connected with the Case in the Office of the Board of Revenue.

10th That your Government will perceive that the grounds on which he has been condemned, even if they can be reconciled one with the other, are based on the vaguest possible suspicion, a suspicion, which at any other time could scarcely have been entertained for a moment, on such grounds against a man whose character had hitherto been unblemished, had not the

Vide Petition
To test the Indian
dual in Consequence
of Whose Ill-
Counsel the Head
has prejudiced
to entertain
Suspicion that
Natives existed
in the District

unfortunate circumstance of frauds in their Salt Agencies, created doubts regarding the integrity of every Salt Agent, and prejudiced the minds of the Officers who had to decide his case, to view with

with suspicion any imputation, however slenderly supported.

11th Your Petitioner most respectfully submits that no individual in the public Service, whether in a high or in a low position, would consider himself treated with justice were he to be deprived of Office and reputation upon similar grounds; and as the removal of public Servants upon sheer vague suspicion, is opposed to the orders of Your Government; and your Petitioner has been removed solely upon such suspicion, Your Petitioner most earnestly and humbly solicits, that his reemployment in the public Service may be permitted.

For which as in duty bound

your Petitioner shall ever pray &c

Madras
Triplicane
19th August 1860

Copy m: a Letter to England to
Govt 6th July 1861 N°88

N°. 2549 of 1860.

The Govern:
=ment decline to re=
= open the case refer=
=red to.—

Fort St. George 1st. Oct. 1860.

By Order

C. Macleod

Dy. Secy. to Govt.

R 913/61.

Rec'd 9th Dec. 1861

the Petitioner has sent repeated
reports to the Hon'ble that
by the heavy fall of rain
that fell in September &
October of the same year,
such holes have formed
themselves, that the copies
of such Petitioners reports
are herewith kept, & that
on reference thereto it would
appear that he is guiltless
& praying that the Government
will order his reemployment
in the circar—

From Goparaujoo Sheo
ramoloo late Salt Sarad
of Conaudah Zillah Viza
gapatam——

Dated 27th August 1860
Rec'd 9th October 1860
Enclosures 8

Stating that in Nov. 18
when the Principal Agis
Mr. J. S. Knox came &
inspected the salt heap
of Conaudah Division in
holes having appeared & the
Gentleman having submit
a report that those holes
may have been made by
some one by pouring wat
in to the heaps, Mr. Read
without any Enquiry hi
dismissed the Petitioner wh
is 15 years servant, that

Copies & letters to Engd
of 6th July 61 No 88.

Revenue 1861 Depart.
Pro. of Govt for Quinte
No 913

No 1267

Ordered that the Memorial
received with the foregoing letter,
be forwarded to Home Authorities
and that an intimation of its des-
patch be given to the Memorialist

C.G.W.

Inf. to Govt
27th June 1861

15th April

Forwards Memorial
to the Secretary of State appealing
against the orders of this
Government declining to permit
his re-employment in the
Public Service.

No 1267. 27th June

With an order

No 280 & 281.

C 20th June R 24th