M.R.O. 14—10,000—21-4-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1037 Press ~~Mis.~~

217. 218

Dated 10. 5. 1862.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1862.

No. 217. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 8th April 1862, No. 2,315:—

Read the following letter from H. A. BRETT, Esq., Collector of Salem, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 27th March 1862, No. 68.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to request the Board of Revenue will obtain the sanction of the Government to my writing off in my accounts to "Profit and Loss" a sum of money, amounting to one thousand Rupees, which was stolen in the month of May last from a Táluq remittance belonging to the Kistnageri Táluq in this District, at some place between Kistnageri and Salem, while the remittance was being conveyed to the Salem Treasury.

2. The Kistnageri remittance for April 1861, amounting to Rupees 14,600 was packed, first in fifteen small bags, and again in three large gunny bags, stitched at the four sides, and sealed at intervals of 4 or 5 inches. The three large bags supposed to contain the 15 smaller bags were delivered at the Salem Treasury on the 6th of May 1861, but, on their being opened, one of the smaller bags that should have contained a thousand Rupees was found to be missing. It also appeared, when the three gunny bags were minutely examined, that in one of the bags part of the original sewing had been removed for some inches, and the space re-sewed. It was, therefore, supposed that some of the guard had tampered with the bag while they were conveying the remittance to Salem.

3. The guard who delivered the bags at Salem stated that they had brought the Kistnageri remittance from Dharmapuri only. It appeared that another guard, consisting of one Deputy Constable and two privates, assisted by other Constables on the way, had accompanied the treasure from Kistnageri as far as Dharmapuri, when they delivered up their charge; that the Kistnageri remittance was detained at the Táluq Kacheri at Dharmapuri, from the 2nd to the 4th; and that it was then forwarded, with the Dharmapuri remittance (amounting to Rupees 20,100, packed in a similar way), to the Salem Treasury, in charge of a guard, consisting of one Deputy Constable and four Constables.

4. Information was immediately given to the two Tahsíldárs who had sent the above mentioned remittances, and to the Assistant Superintendent of Police, who was in immediate charge of the two Táluqs. The guard who brought the two remittances to Salem was also placed in custody.

5. Both the Superintendent of Police, and his Assistant, took up the inquiry at the Cusbah stations, and questioned all the persons who had been in any way concerned in the custody of the money, either at the Cusbah stations, or on the road between Kistnageri and Salem; but no evidence could be obtained to prove at what place, or by what individual persons, the missing bag was abstracted.

6. It appeared that the Táluq remittance from Kistnageri was conveyed on a bullock cart from Kistnageri to Dharmapuri (27 miles) in two stages; and on its arrival at Dharmapuri, was placed in the Táluq Treasury, in charge of the Treasury guard. On the morning of the 4th of May the Kistnageri and the Dharmapuri remittances were forwarded together on two carts from Dharmapuri, and were conveyed in three stages (42 miles) to Salem. No Revenue Peon, or any Táluq servant was sent with the remittance from Kistnageri; but this was, I believe, owing to a mistake on the part of the Tahsíldár of that Táluq in thinking that under the new Police system it was unnecessary to send any Peon.

7. The Police inquiry did not elicit any evidence tending to show that any persons belonging to the Revenue Establishment were concerned in the theft. The money was duly despatched from Kistnageri; but owing to the unfortunate circumstance that the Kisnageri remittance was placed while on its way to Salem under three separate guards, viz., the guard that conveyed the remittance to Dharmapuri, the guard over the Treasury at Dharmapuri, and the guard that escorted it to Salem, it was impossible for the Police to prove whether the theft was committed

before the remittance arrived at Dharmapuri; or at Dharmapuri; or subsequently, on its way to Salem.

8. It was, therefore, proposed by the Superintendent of Police to watch for some time the movements of all the parties, who it was thought, might have been concerned in the theft. I also offered a reward of one hundred Rupees to any person giving information that would lead to the conviction of the offenders. I regret to say that up to this date the Police have not succeeded in discovering the parties who abstracted the bag. I, therefore, believe that the lost sum will never be recovered; and under the circumstances am compelled to advise that the amount should be written off the accounts.

9. It has been stated that the money was packed in gunny bags. From the days of the Native Government, up to the time when the present loss was incurred, it was in this District the invariable practice to pack the Táluq remittances in bags and not in boxes. This practice may probably be traced to the fact that in the former times the bad state of the public roads connecting one Táluq station with another, made it most convenient to transmit treasure on bullocks rather than on carts. The remittances sent from some of the Táluqs have been forwarded on bullocks up to a very recent period; and, in consequence of the perfect security with which remittances packed in bags had been forwarded previous to the present occasion, it never occurred to myself, nor apparently to any of my predecessors, that any other mode of packing need be adopted. From the time, however, that the present case was reported, the old practice has been abandoned, and the Táluq remittances have been forwarded in boxes, padlocked and sealed.

10. It happens that I have been able to supply suitable boxes for the purpose from a number used in my Treasury for forwarding remittances to the general Treasury at Madras.

Vide Police Order, No. 126, dated 23rd February 1861.

11. I should also mention that the Inspector General of Police issued instructions a few weeks before the case on which I am now reporting happened, prohibiting the Police from "taking charge of any money or valuable property unless secured in a well locked box, and "sealed in such a manner as to prevent the contents being tampered with."

12. On the 19th April 1861, I wrote to the Inspector General, requesting him to inform me whether he intended the above order to apply to remittances sent from the Táluq Treasuries. I explained in what way Táluq remittances had hitherto been packed, and requested he would communicate with the Board, if it should be decided that boxes were in future to be used. The necessity, therefore, of making some change in the old practice was under consideration when the theft occurred. The Inspector General has not yet replied to the above letter.

13. The Inspector General of Police has directed, since the present case occurred, that escorts in charge of treasure should not be changed at each station, but should go right through to the chief station. In this respect, therefore, he has returned to the old practice; for formerly at least a portion of the guard (consisting of pensioned sepoys) was always required to accompany the remittance from one end of the line of road to the other.

14. I also ordered, subsequent to the present loss, that every Táluq remittance should invariably be accompanied by a Revenue Peon. This practice was observed before the introduction of the present Police, and was enjoined by the Board of Revenue in a Circular Order, dated 9th December 1833, but was discontinued by some of the Tahsíldárs from the time the Police was placed under separate authority, under the mistaken idea that there was no further occasion to depute any one to accompany the money, after it had been once placed in charge of the Police guard.

---

1. Ordered to be submittted to Government, with the Board's recommendation that under the circumstances stated sanction be granted for writing off Rupees 1,090 to Profit and Loss in the accounts of the Salem District.

2. Government are aware that measures are now being taken in all the Districts for remitting Treasure in locked and sealed boxes instead of in bags.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL, *Sub-Secretary.*

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1862.

No. 218. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1862, No. 1,037.

1. Under the circumstances the Government grant sanction for writing off the sum in question to Profit and Loss.

2. They do not see the utility of sending a Revenue Peon along with remittances escorted by the Police. It would be better to arrange for the Constable commanding the escort to be present when the boxes are packed with the Treasure, and to hold him answerable for their safe delivery.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

From Ag: Acctt Genl
27 Augt. 62 Cnr. 2229

Rev= 1862. Department.
Proc: of Govt for May.

No. 1212.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Dated 8th April 1862.
Despatched. 26 do
Received. 28 do

No. 2,315.

Submitting letter from the Collector of Salem with the Board's recommendation that sanction be granted for writing off to profit and loss, in the accounts of the Salem District, Rupees 1000 amount of remittance from Kistnageri Taluk stolen in the month of May.

No 1037, 10 May.

With an Order

Copy April & 9 May

Nos 217 & 218

No 1037 No 1037.

Under the circumstances the Government grant sanction for writing off the sum in question to profit and loss -

They do not see the utility of sending a Revenue person along with remittances Escorted by the Police - It would be better to arrange for the Civil Officer Commanding the Escort to be present when the boxes are packed with the Treasure, and to hold him answerable for their safe delivery -

Wm

J Pr -

From Sr. Geo. Sec.
10th May 1862

14 Copies to the Bd. of Rev Disp.
3 - Acct Genl
3 - Civil Paymasters