

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1680	Press
		Mis.
	160 161	
Dated	11-8-1918	1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
11th September 1863.*

No. 160. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Passing orders on a letter from the Director of Revenue }
Settlement, bringing to notice an over-charge made by } (Here enter 3rd September 1863, No. 983.)
the Superintendent of the Government Press for an }
article procured by him for the Settlement Department.

No. 161. ORDER THEREON, 11th September 1863, No. 1,680.
Communicated to the Board of Revenue for information and guidance.
(True Extract.)

Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue with Proceedings Public Department, No. 983.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

PUBLIC DEPARTMENT.
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from R. E. MASTER, Esq., Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement; to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 9th July 1863, No. ⁸⁵⁶47.

I have the honor to submit a correspondence which has passed between the Supervisor of the Government Press and myself on the subject of an over-charge made by the Superintendent of the Press for a Brass Inking Roller mould supplied with other articles for the use of the Kistna Settlement party. My reason for troubling the Government with the matter is

From Superintendent Government Printing Establishment,
27th April 1860, No. —
To Supervisor Government Press, 1st May 1863, No. 507.
From Superintendent Government Printing Establishment,
9th May 1863, No. —
To do. 13th May 1863, No. 548.
From do. 15th do. No. —
To do. 18th do. No. 564.
From Supervisor Government Press, 16th June 1863, No. —
To do. 30th do. No. 816.
From do. 4th July 1863, No. —

that Mr. Kerr distinctly states his opinion, that as the provision of Press material is additional to the Superintendent's proper duty, the latter is not amenable to the Supervisor for any negligence or carelessness in the execution of the commissions entrusted to him. I should at once have accepted as satisfactory the explanation afforded by the Superintendent, had the case been an isolated one; but two other instances in which a similar over-charge has been made within the last few months having come to my knowledge, I deemed it right to acquaint the Supervisor with them.

2. One of the main arguments adduced in favor of the system of Press supplies being furnished to Public Departments through the Superintendent, and of his being allowed to charge a commission on their value, was the superior economy of the arrangement, it being stated that articles of whatever description when ordered or purchased by parties who do not understand their manufacture, and especially when required by Government and obtained through Native agency, are always charged at higher rates than they otherwise should be. It will be seen that in the three instances which have thus casually come under my notice the employment of the Superintendent's agency has had an exactly contrary effect.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1863, No. 988.

The correspondence submitted with the foregoing letter relates to an over-charge made by the Superintendent of the Government Press for an article procured by him for the Revenue Settlement Department; Mr. Master at the same time bringing to notice other instances in which the interests of Government appear to have suffered by the employment of Mr. Smith's agency in making purchases for Public Offices.

2. The particular case which gave rise to the correspondence has been practically disposed of. Mr. Master having very properly returned the article and refused to pay more than what he had ascertained to be the real value, and Mr. Smith, on the other hand, owing to his having acted in the transaction as a mere paid commission agent, to be employed only as long as those who make use of his services find it advantageous to do so, having no ground of complaint.

3. It appears to the Government, however, that this is a position which it is neither right nor becoming that an Officer at the head of a large Public Department, and with the salary now drawn by Mr. Smith, should occupy. Mr. Smith was allowed

to charge a commission on purchases made by him for the use of other Public Offices in 1858, when his salary was only Rupees 350 per mensem, and the recent establishment of District Presses throughout the Presidency seemed likely to make the execution of these commissions a considerable addition to his proper duties as Superintendent of the Press; but circumstances are now very different, and the Government in directing that Mr. Smith shall in future execute the commissions he may receive from other Departments of the public service without charge, are requiring from him no more than has always been exacted without question from Officers of any other Department, whose position or duties rendered them especially qualified to perform or procure the performance of any work required for the public service.

4. The Government expect, moreover, that Mr. Smith will take every care to execute these commissions to the best advantage; any mistakes such as that reported by Mr. Master, which could never have occurred without great carelessness, will be severely noticed.

5. It will be optional with heads of Departments, as heretofore, to procure the articles they may require through the Superintendent of the Press or direct from private parties as they may deem most advisable.

(True Extract.)

C. J. Lubbock
Chief Secretary.

To the Supervisor Government Press.
,, Officiating Director of Revenue Settlement.
,, Revenue Department.

9/11/63
Exd. T. McMootry.

