M.R.O. 14—18,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1769 Press ~~Mis.~~

337.338

Dated 25-9-~~19~~1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th September 1863.

No. 337. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th September 1863 :—

Read the following letter from G. A. BALLARD, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Fort Saint George, dated Calicut, 10th September 1863, No. 201.

SIR,

1. In continuation of my letter of the 28th July last, No. 154, I have the honor to report that Captain Hankin, Deputy Inspector General of Police, has lately been engaged in enquiring into the defalcation in the Civil Cash Chest at Cannanore.

He has, I believe, reported fully to the Inspector General of Police.

I have personally discussed matters with Captain Hankin, and been favored with notes of his enquiries.

2. Nothing definite, I regret to say, has transpired, but on a review of all that has passed, I am strongly of opinion, firstly, that the probabilities are decidedly against the moneys having been taken by the Sepoy guard, or indeed having been taken by any parties in the lump ; and secondly, that suspicion, as far as it attaches, particularly to any person or persons, whilst we have little but the bare fact of the loss of the money and surmises to go upon, falls on the Cash-keeper, Shroffs and Peons of the Office.

3. I am aware this was not the conclusion arrived at by the Court of Enquiry. But with all due deference to the opinion of that Court I must express my own opinion, firstly, that the Court's conclusion that some of the Sepoy guards were the culprits is not sustained by the evidence recorded before it; and secondly, that the assumption that the Pay Office subordinates were innocent is equally unsupported and gratuitous.

4. As far as the Sepoys were concerned, a most searching and able enquiry was made by Captain Blomfield without discovering one tittle of evidence, or even raising the faintest tangible suspicion against them.

I feel very sure that if they had been the culprits, Captain Blomfield's inquiries would have brought the matter to light.

5. Although Captain Hankin's enquiry has not fixed tangible suspicion on any of the Pay Office subordinates in particular, it certainly tends to show that the abstraction of money by them was not impossible, even with no want of ordinary care on the part of the Paymaster.

Assuredly Native suspicion points most distinctly to the Pay Office subordinates, and although this of course could not in any way be allowed to influence a judicial enquiry, it may in some degree indicate the course that should be pursued from an entirely extra-judicial point of view.

6. Captain Hankin has suggested.

That the offered reward of Rupees 500 be increased to Rupees 1,000.

That a free pardon be offered to any one of the minor agents who will give information leading to the conviction of the principal criminals.

That the securities of the Pay Office officials be called upon at once to make good the missing amount to the extent of their Security bonds.

7. I quite approve of the two first suggestions.

The only doubt that exists in my mind is whether, as the deficiency is in the Civil Cash Chest, the securities furnished in the Military Department of the Pay Office officials are liable ; a question which communication with the Military Auditor General's Office will probably best determine. The only Civil employé is the Civil Shroff, whose proper appointment is second Shroff of the Cherakel Talook ; and whose services were lent to the Pay Office as a temporary accommodation. He was appointed in February last, and I regret to say has not yet furnished security. I am unwilling to take steps with regard to him till the general course of action with regard to the subordinates is determined.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 25th September 1863.

8. In my opinion the Cash-keeper, Shroffs, Peons, in fact every Subordinate connected with the Office, should each and all be suspended until further orders.

1. Submitted for the information of Government and for such orders as they may think fit to pass.

2. The Board do not understand that the Collector desires instructions from them or that indeed the matter comes within their province, but the course suggested by the Collector commends itself to the Board's judgment.

3. With reference to the doubt expressed by Mr. Ballard whether, as the deficiency is in the Civil Cash Chest, the securities furnished in the Military Department of the Pay Office officials are liable, the Board would direct the Collector's attention to the Order of Government, dated 19th February 1861, No. 386, paragraphs 3 and 7, in which the Government pointed out the wholly faulty arrangement which then seemed to be contemplated of keeping the Civil Cash distinct from the Military, and directed that there should be but one Cash Chest for all funds and one cash account.

No. 338. ORDER THEREON, 25th September 1863, No. 1,769.

1. Immediate orders will be issued in the Judicial Department to carry into effect the first* and second of the suggestions referred to in paragraph 6 of the Collector's letter.

* Vide G. O. 28th July 1863, No. 1,210, Judicial Department.

2. Before passing orders on the third suggestion, noticed in the same paragraph, the Government request to be furnished with a copy of one of the Security Bonds therein referred to.

3. The servants specified in paragraph 8 of Mr. Ballard's letter should be suspended from office until further orders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.
" Judicial Department.
" Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

be pursued from an entirely extra-judicial point of view.

6. Captn Hankin has suggested.

That the offered reward of Rupees 500 be increased to Rupees 1000.

That a free pardon be offered to any one of the minor agents who will give information leading to the conviction of the principal criminals.

That the securities of the Pay Office Officials be called upon at once to make good the missing amount to the extent of their security bonds.

7. I quite approve of the 2 first suggestions.

The only doubt that exists in my mind is whether as the deficiency is in the Civil Cash Chest the securities furnished in the Military Department of the Pay Office Officials are liable, a question which communication with the Military Auditor General's Office will probably best determine. The only Civil employé is the Civil Shroff whose proper appointment is 2d Shroff of the Cherakel Taluk, and whose services were lent to the Pay Office as a temporary accommodation. He was appointed in February last and I regret to say has not yet furnished security. I am unwilling to take steps with regard to him till the general course of action

action with regard to the Subordinates is determined.

8. In my opinion the Cash keeper, Sheriffs, Peons, in fact every Subordinate connected with the Office, should each and all be suspended until further orders.

Malabar Collr's Office
Calicut 10th Septr 1863.

Shame &c &c
pp/ J. A. Ballard
Collector

Submitted for the information of Government and for such orders as they may think fit to pass.

2. The Board do not understand that the Collector desires instructions from them or that indeed the matter comes within their province, but the course suggested by the Collector commends itself to the Board's judgment.

3. With reference to the doubt expressed by Mr Ballard whether, as the deficiency is in the Civil Cash chest, the securities furnished in the Military Department of the Pay Office Officials are liable, the Board would direct the Collector's attention to the Order of Government dated 19th February 1861 No 356, paras 3 and 7, in which the Government pointed out the wholly faulty arrangement which then seemed to be contemplated of keeping the Civil Cash distinct from the Military, and directed that

that there should be but one Cash Chest for all funds and one cash account.

/ True Copy & Extract /

Secretary.

To
J. D. Sim Esqr
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department.

No 1769.

Immediate orders will be issued in the Judicial Department to carry into effect the first and second of the suggestions referred to in para 6 of the Collector's letter.

2. Before passing orders on the third suggestion noticed in the same para, the Govt request to be furnished with a copy of one of the security bonds therein referred to.

3. The servants specified in para 8 of Mr Ballard's letter should be suspended from office until further orders.

Vide G.O. 28th July 1863 No 1210. J. D

25 Sept 63.
Mr Bd of Revenue Cash 25 Sept &c &c Cash 29
Judicial Depart 5 &c Cash
Military Depart 7 &c &c

Pro 24 August/63 n° 47-24
19 February 1841 — 254-257
Ind° — 17 July " — 466
Ind° — 28 " — " 1210 "

Rec'd 1863
Pro: of Govt Rec'd Sept.
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Dated 16th
Rec'd 16 } September/63.
Rec'd 17th

Pro: of Hate Madras Govt
N° 29 Sept 63 C N° 2335
Transmitting C/Rs of Board
& 5th Oct/63 C N° 2432
Submitting with remarks
Letter from the Collr of Hate
-bar forwarding his views on
the late theft of 12000 Rs
from the Civil Cash chest
at Cauveripc.
Further C N° 2966/63
N° 1709 - 25th Sept
From Fort Depty 29th July/63
C N° 576
Written Order

C 24 Sept/63 R 24"

N° 337 & 338.

For Order

Mr Ballard's Suggestions seem good - but as to the Security bonds a copy of one had better be called for, before we give any opinion

L & L