

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue* DEPARTMENT.

|          |           |                |
|----------|-----------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | 716       | Press          |
|          |           | <del>Mis</del> |
|          | 227.229   |                |
| Dated    | 28. 4. 49 | 1863           |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 227. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 13th March 1863,  
No. 1,626:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. J. WILSON, Commissioner of Police, to  
W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 16th  
March 1863, No. 1,052 of 1862-63.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 24th January 1863, with two enclosures (herewith returned), and to inform you that the steps which I immediately took upon the information therein contained have resulted in the committal on the 13th instant, of five individuals upon the charges, copies of which are herewith forwarded.

2. It would have been more satisfactory had I been able to watch the suspected parties for a few days before issuing the warrants in order that independent, or circumstantial evidence might be procured to corroborate that the Informers, but as Mr. Norfor had already been making inquiries which I had reason to believe would become known to the persons implicated, I did not think it prudent to delay immediate action.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Abstract copies of charges in the Stamp cases in which the Defendants were committed by Mr. T. G. Clarke on the 13th March 1863.

1. Ordered to be communicated to the Acting Collector of Madras and to the Superintendent of Stamps, and that copy be submitted for the information of Government.

2. The Board await Mr. Norfor's detailed report of the circumstances connected with the forgery.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 228. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1863.

Read the following letter from R. W. NORFOR, Esq., Superintendent of Stamps, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 26th March 1863, No. 844 of Fasli 1272.

SIR,

1. In compliance of the orders of the Board, dated 9th February 1863, that I should report upon the Proceedings in the cases lately brought to light of forgeries of stamped papers, I have the honor to state.

2. That on the 9th January 1863 I received from the Board of Revenue a Petition of Mooneapah Moodelly, dated 20th November 1862, addressed to His Excellency the Governor, offering to give information regarding Stamp forgeries. This Petition I was instructed to take such notice of as I might think proper, I accordingly sent for the writer of the Petition, Mooneapah Moodelly, who appeared at my Office on the 14th January 1863, and made certain statements referring to an old accusation for illegal Stamp vending that was brought before the Magistrates of the Mount and Sydapet in 1861, the man said that he would bring another who could give more information. He did not come again until the 20th January when he was accompanied by Ramasawmy Iyer, who stated that if he was taken before a Magistrate he would tell all he knew, that Warrants must be issued upon the information he would give, and that if he spoke at my Office the guilty parties might obtain information and escape.

3. It appeared to me that the men had really something important to divulge, and that the matter should be followed up. I accordingly addressed the Board with copies of the men's statements, recommending that the case should be referred to the Police.

21st January 1863, No. 592.

4. On the 24th January 1863, the Board referred the matter to Colonel W. J. Wilson, Commissioner of Police, who upon the depositions made before him by a Sowcar named Jaganada

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Pundy and others, issued Warrants for the search of the houses of certain Sowcars represented to be in possession of forged stamped papers and of materials for making them.

5. The man, Jaganada Pundy, it has afterwards been discovered by me, on his own declaration, was outside my Office when Ramasawmy Iyer and Mooneapah Moodelly came there, and he has been in fact the moving man in the whole matter.

6. The search ordered by Colonel Wilson resulted in the finding in certain Sowcars' houses of forged *fac similes* of Government dies and of papers impressed with forged imitations of most of the dies, in use, and out of use, and in the arrest of the persons marginally named, the man Roop Kishore Soojan Mull being the man of the highest standing among them, and a partner in the firm known by his name, the senior partner of which is Roop Kishore, the father, who is stated to be absent from Malabar on a pilgrimage, the others are of the class of money lenders often employed by richer men.

7. On the 27th January the prisoner beforenamed were sent by Colonel Wilson before Mr T. G. Clarke, Magistrate Town Police, and the investigations of the charges against the four first prisoners of having in their possession forged imitations of Government dies and forged imitations of Government stamped paper was commenced on the 20th January, the enquiry against

Rungasawmy\* was begun on the 17th February, I enclose notes of the depositions in each case on the days in which they were taken.

8. Kistnamah Charry, a witness who had been too ill and weak to give evidence earlier, was brought to the Police Office on the 13th March and into the Magistrate's room in a Palankeen, and gave evidence conformatory in every respect with the previous depositions regarding the habitual making of forged papers at Soojan Mull's house.

Roop Kishore Soojan Mull.  
Agnor Chund,  
Kooncer Chund,  
Sooltan Chund,  
Rungasawmy Naidoo.

9. After taking Kistnamah Charry's deposition the Magistrate committed all the accused for trial before the High Court at the approaching Criminal Sessions in April next.

10. It will be observed that the enquiry has not to this time elicited any substantial facts as to the outlets for the forged papers. Calooram sent some judicial papers to Bangalore, but whether forged or not, does not appear. This would indicate agencies in the Mofussil for the disposal of the forged judicial Stamps, and it is possible that the search that has been instituted into the records of all the Mofussil Courts may lead to some further results through the discovery of forged Stamps filed.

11. The greater number of the forged Stamps seized are Bill Stamps, and it is at Madras chiefly that these would be sold, and yet not one instance of the using of such forged Stamps has come to light. I have examined the records of the Court of Small Causes, but have not found one forgery, the Bill Stamps are numerous, but nearly all are upon the water-marked bill paper now in use.

12. There is also no evidence how the forged dies were made, whether from paper counter dies, or from genuine stamped papers, both methods are perfectly feasible, and it is much to be regretted that nothing has come out on this point, as, if the forged dies were made from stamped papers no suspicion of participating in the frauds need be entertained of any of those employed at the presses.

13. There must, in my opinion, be or have been more forged dies than those found, a proof sheet of forgeries, found among the Bill Stamps, bears impressions of some Stamps that are not upon the forged dies found.

14. The approvers though they have gone far, have evidently not told all; knowing what they have stated, they must also know how the forgeries were disposed of; the passing of bundles of stamped papers between certain parties shows only that the accomplices were dividing their forgeries for the purpose of sale, but does not set forth the sales themselves. As to the making of the dies it seems likely that the witnesses could speak positively if they would.

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25th April 1863.*

15. If in the High Court the Law Officers of Government can draw out anything on the above points, it is most desirable that it should be done.

16. In regard to Bill Stamps I would solicit the authority of the Board for refusing to stamp private papers intended to be used for the purpose, except in the case of partially printed documents used by Mercantile Firms and Banks. The depôts are well supplied with water-marked bill paper, and no inconvenience could result to the public were applicants referred to the depôts for the purchase of the water-marked bill paper.

17. I have reason to think that there is much of the old bill paper in the hands of the public, and I would suggest its being called in and water-marked bill stamps being offered in exchange for it.

18. I am convinced that a systematic evasion of the Stamp Act is daily being practised on the part of Native traders in transactions among themselves. Promissory Notes come to the surface occasionally that never would have been seen had not legal proceedings been necessary upon them. The penalties levied on these are as nothing compared with the loss to Government on the many unstamped documents that are in use, and it seems necessary that action should be taken first to set prominently forward the penal clauses of the Act, and afterwards to proceed against every person found with an unstamped document.

19. A published notice in the Gazette and by placards posted in suspected quarters would draw public attention to the requirements of the Law, and the present would be a good time for doing it. A reward to informers from the fines levied would very much help to put down the evil.

1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted for the information of Government. Mr. Norfor will please to communicate with the Government Solicitor (should he not already have done so) as to the point on which it is desirable if possible to elicit further evidence on the trial at the Sessions.

2. The Board cannot authorise the Superintendent to refuse to stamp private materials other than blank forms or partly drawn documents. His attention is called to the Government Order dated 23rd April 1862, No. 881, communicated to the Stamp Superintendent on 26th idem.

3. He is at liberty to notify that water-marked Bill Stamp papers will be given in exchange for ordinary paper bearing Stamps of the same value which may be presented for exchange, taking precautions against the receipt of any forged paper under this arrangement. It does not appear that legal means exist at present for calling in Stamps formerly issued on ordinary paper, so as to render their possession penal or evidence *prima facie* of illicit manufacture which the Board presume is the object that the Superintendent has in view.

4. The Board have no doubt whatever that the provisions of the Law relating to the use of Stamps are evaded by the Native community in money transactions to a very considerable extent, and they believe the cause to be that from the extreme rarity of legal proceedings to enforce payment on Hoondies and such like documents among the Native mercantile community the necessity of bills being on stamped paper for the security of the holder is not recognized.

5. They think it desirable that the provisions of Sections, 3, 54 and 55 of Act 10 of 1862, should be widely notified with Vernacular translations throughout the Presidency, and they request the Superintendent to take steps to have this done. Every Collector of Stamp Revenue throughout the country is competent under Section 52 of the Act to prosecute criminally at his discretion all persons guilty of breach of the Stamp Laws. No special sanction of the Board of Revenue is now needed.

6. The Superintendent will be good enough to arrange for legal evidence being recorded of the exact date on which the water-marked Stamp paper is substituted in each district for the ordinary paper now in use, the values of the Stamp being specified.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, Secretary.

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

No. 229.

ORDER THEREON, 25th April 1863, No. 716.

The Government will await the Board's final report when the case is disposed of by the High Court.

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

Copy

Madras Police, (Daily Case Report Sheet of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Division) and

| No. | Persons charged: name, address, and occupation. | Persons charging: name, address, and occupation. | Witness: name, address, and occupation. | Charge.                                                                                                                                             |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1   | 1. Raju Chinn<br>2. Raju Chinn                  | "                                                | "                                       | For being in possession of<br>street Madras on the 26<br>of instruments or mat<br>of being used to Count.<br>by Government for 4<br>256 Penal Code. |
| 2   | 1. Sathur Chinn                                 | "                                                | "                                       | 25. 25. at the Kotar of<br>Chinn, and also of Count.<br>256 Penal Code.                                                                             |
| 3   | 1. Raju Chinn<br>2. Raju Chinn                  | "                                                | "                                       | 25. at the Kotar in<br>27 <sup>th</sup> January 1863 of Co<br>259 Pen.                                                                              |
| 4   | 1. Angasamy Chinn                               | "                                                | "                                       | For having on different<br>the months of May & July<br>counterfeited stamps<br>255 Pen.                                                             |

For the Information of the  
Revenue Board.

Signed/ H. J. Wilson.

*[Signature]*

1<sup>st</sup> Magistrate's District 27<sup>th</sup> January & 13<sup>th</sup> February 1863.

| Age. | By whom taken into custody, when and where on person lodged.                                                                                       | Property found on person.                     | How admitted to Bail. | Magistrate's Award                       | Remarks |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|
|      | his House in Salay<br>day of January 1863<br>trials for the purpose<br>of counterfeit stamps issued<br>for purposes of Revenue.<br>256 Penal Code. | Dis made of fine<br>clay or Lac               |                       | Committed<br>13 <sup>th</sup> March 1863 |         |
|      | fisher Chinn Sabar<br>counterfeits of stamps<br>V. V. V.<br>Penal Code.                                                                            | Dis. and<br>Several<br>Counterfeit<br>Stamps. |                       | Dis.                                     |         |
|      | Salay Street on the<br>underfeits of stamps V. V.<br>Penal Code.                                                                                   | Bundle of<br>Counterfeit<br>Stamps.           |                       | Dis.                                     |         |
|      | occasions between<br>1852 at Madras.<br>V. V. V.<br>Penal Code.                                                                                    |                                               |                       | Dis.                                     |         |

Signed/ H. J. Wilson.

Commissioner of Police. 16<sup>th</sup> March 1863.

/ True Copy/

*[Signature]*  
Secretary

Roop Kiphore Soogan Mull Soucar.  
Charge. 27<sup>th</sup> January 1863.

Will having in his possession forged dies  
in imitation of Government Dies used;  
for purposes of Reversing  
Depositions.

30<sup>th</sup> July/63 Mr R. W. Norfor Superintendent of Stamps  
deposes to certain dies found in the well  
of Soogan Mulls house being false,  
and fraudulent imitations of Government  
Dies now in use at the Stamp Office,  
and Mint, and of others formerly used  
at the Stamp Office and Treasury

30<sup>th</sup> July/63 Mr Scriven head Stamps at the Mint  
deposes to the same, & affirms

2<sup>nd</sup> Feby/63 Ramasamy Iyer. Constable deposes to  
having searched Soogan Mulls house  
and to the finding of the forged Stamps  
in a well apart from the usual traffic  
of the house, in an enclosed yard

3<sup>rd</sup> Feby/63. Villooanum Talliar deposes as above  
Rangia

Copy made & attested to  
27<sup>th</sup> July 1863

Enclosure No 1 in the Pro-  
ceedings of the Board of  
Revenue to the Secretary to  
Government D. O. dated 18  
March 1863 No 1626.

Decr 709/63.

Copy.

Muchras Police daily  
case Report Head of the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Division and 1<sup>st</sup> Magistrate  
District 27<sup>th</sup> January 8<sup>th</sup> Feby  
1863.

15 Feb. 1863. Rungiah Chetty saw stamped paper making  
Roope Kipore Sogan in Sogan Mull's house has also seen  
Mull.  
Augur Chund. Stamps sold, the parties in the margin  
Roomier Chund.  
Rungasamy Sadoo were present at the making of the stamps.

11 Feb. 1863. Soganada Pandey has seen stamps making  
in Sogan Mull's house, he and the others  
last mentioned present, has seen sales made,  
saw stamped papers in the house, saw  
the dies found in the well.

Augur Chund and Roomier Chund Soucars.

### Charge.

Bring in papers, at their Kotir, of  
counterfeit stamped papers.

163 Mr R. H. Porson Superintendent of Stamps  
deposes to forged dies as before.

163 Mr Scriven. does the same.

163 Rungiah Chetty Soucar has often seen  
forged stamped papers made in Sogan  
Mull's house the prisoners being present.  
He told Soganada Pandey about it.

163 Calooram Soucar knows Ramasamy,  
Iyer Bramine (Informers) went to Augur  
Chund's house after he had been bailed,  
but said nothing to him about their  
proceedings. Never bought stamped paper  
from Augur Chund, Roomier Chund  
or any one else.

163 Cootoom Chund bought stamped papers  
from Augur Chund more than 12  
months ago, but returned them Augur  
Chund.

Chund having shortly after been in  
trouble about stamped papers, did not  
get his money back.

5 Feb/63. Answer Chund Throff Mount has bought  
stamped papers from Angur Chund,  
has been fined 20 on 25 Rupees for  
dealing in stamped papers. Sold papers  
to Caloram, but after he was fined,  
told Caloram to get them back.

5 Feb/63. Caloram bought stamped papers from  
Answer Chund for the purpose of  
sending them to Bangalore was asked  
to get them back as Answer Chund  
had got into trouble (On the above  
evidence Caloram was held to bail  
for perjury) see 16 Feb. entry.

2 Feb/63 Ramasamy Iyer. (Informant) received stamped  
papers from Angur Chund paid nothing  
for them Jayanada Panday got the papers  
for him, he suspected Angur Chund,  
and

and therefore got the papers. Rumor  
that there was a case against Angur  
Chund concerning stamps before  
the Magistrate at Sydapet. The  
stamped papers that he received from  
Angur Chund he gave to Ramachandra Rao.

11 Feb/63. Jayanada Panday has seen stamped  
papers made at Sogaw Mull's house,  
Sogaw Mull, Angur Chund, Roomer  
Chund, and Rangasamy Panday sent.  
Got four stamps for Ramasamy Iyer,  
knew they were false, never used such  
stamps himself because he knew they  
were false, Ramasamy Iyer took the  
stamps to Ramachandra Rao. Saw  
Angur Chund and Roomer Chund's  
houses searched.

11 Feb/63. Ramachandra Rao received certain stamped  
papers from Ramasamy Iyer (Informant)  
producers & has another at the Police Bazar  
at the searching of Angur Chund  
and Roomer Chund's houses.

Soltan Chund Soucar, in the Hotel of  
Kipernchund Sobachund

Charge  
Having in his possession forged im-  
itations of Government dies and forged  
imitations of Government Stamped paper

Depositions

30<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 63 Mr. R. W. Porfor, Superintendent of Stamps  
deposes to certain dies of Gum Saes being  
false, and fraudulent imitations of Government  
dies also to certain papers being false  
and fraudulent imitations of Government  
Stamped Paper

30<sup>th</sup> Jan'y 63 Mr. Scriver head Stamps <sup>same</sup> Stint evidence  
as to dies, declares also all the papers  
to be forged, including some regarding  
which Mr. Porfor had some scruples

2<sup>nd</sup> Feby 63 Ramavarny Iyer Bramine, Informer of  
Law dies and papers found

3<sup>rd</sup> Feby 63 Chinavarny Darogah and Mooltheetoo Fathia  
found dies and papers in Soltan Chund's house

Dec: 824/63.

Rungasamy Naidoo.

Charge

Fabricating false stamped papers

17<sup>th</sup> Feb/63 Mr R. W. Norfor Superintendent of Stamps

deposes again to the forged ones -

before exhibited

17<sup>th</sup> Feb/63 Rungiah Chetty Shroff, has seen

forged stamps made in Soogan Mulli's

house by Rungasamy Naidoo, describes

process there were present Soogan Mulli,

Angur Chund, Koomen Chund,

17<sup>th</sup> Feb/63. Jagannado Panday gives the same

evidence has frequently witnessed the

making of stamps in Soogan Mulli's house

by Rungasamy Naidoo

Rev Depart

N<sup>o</sup> 716

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 25<sup>th</sup> April 1863.

Read the following Proceedings  
of the Board of Revenue.

Communicating a  
letter from the Commissioner (Here enter 18<sup>th</sup> March 1863 & 1864)  
of Police, stating the steps taken  
in the matter of the stamp  
forgery.

Submitting with  
remarks to Govt a letter from  
the Superintendent of Stamps (Here enter 9<sup>th</sup> April --)  
forwarding a report on the pro-  
ceedings in the cases connected  
with the forgery of stamped  
papers.

The Government

will await the Board's  
final report when the case  
is disposed of by the High  
Court.

We shall have a  
report from the Advocate  
General in due  
course. J. J.

14 Copies taken by Rev. Secy. 27

Copy to a letter to Govt  
of 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1863

Let 18<sup>th</sup> 1863 of 1864  
Let for 27 March

Let to 18<sup>th</sup>

Let to 26<sup>th</sup>

Let to 18<sup>th</sup> 1863 No 814  
of 1863.

Let to 824.

Copywa Letter to England  
23<sup>rd</sup> July 1863.

Revenue 1863 Dept<sup>to</sup>.  
Pro: of Govt. for April  
N. 716.

Pro: of the Madras Govt.  
25 April 1863.

Letters from Superintendent  
of Stamps and Commissioner of  
Police, relating to the forgery  
of Stamp, in press to await the  
Board's final report.

N. 227 @ 229.