

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	855	<u>Press</u> ~~Mis.~~
	208.209	
Dated	18.5-	191864

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th May 1864.*

No. 208. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 6th May 1864,
No. 2,728.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Tanjore, dated Vellum, 24th March 1864, No. 96.

1. I have the honor to report for the information of the Board, that in the case of a late remittance from the Salt Division at Neidavasal to the Talook Cutcherry at Shialli there was found to be a deficiency of no less than Rupees 1,150.
2. The Shroff of the Salt Division who came with the remittance was of course immediately arrested and was committed to take his trial at Tranquebar at the late Sessions for the embezzlement of the sum found to be wanting. The trial has however now been postponed till the next Sessions, and I have waited thus long in reporting the circumstance in the hope that I should have been able to communicate the result of the trial. I may however here mention that the security given by the Salt Shroff is ample enough to cover the full amount of the deficiency.
3. I have directed the Government Vakeel to report fully on the trial when completed, and shall request the Court to favour me with their views in respect to the facts which may be elicited on the trial and as affecting other parties. Meanwhile I deem it my duty to report the matter, and to state that from what has come to my knowledge there are more parties to blame than the Shroff who has been committed.
4. A singular circumstance connected with the discovery of the deficiency is that the money was being shroffed late at night in defiance of repeated orders to the contrary, and that when the deficiency was reported to have been ascertained several other parties were paying in money, and no attempt appears to have been made by the Tahsildar to ascertain whether the other monies in the Treasury were right and whether the Salt Shroff was the only party to blame.
5. It is further difficult to conceive that a man in his position would deliberately go to the Talook with a remittance known to be deficient to such an extent, unless he expected some connivance on the part of the Talook authorities, and it has come to my knowledge that for some five or six years past, the Salt Shroff and the Talook Head Shroff have had dealings between themselves, and there is reason to fear have occasionally helped themselves to the public money committed to their charge. Until the result of the trial is known it seems however unnecessary for me at present to enter further into the matter. I shall report fully to the Board when the trial is concluded: meanwhile I have thought it my duty to suspend the Head Shroff, and I may add that both the Tahsildar and the Treasury Gumashta have been summoned to attend at the next Sessions.
6. I would further observe that I had intended myself personally to examine into the state of the Talook Treasury at Shialli, but on my way there, and when at Tranquebar, I was suddenly summoned back to Tanjore, owing to the dangerous illness of H. H. M. Avusahiba. I would however take this opportunity of urging on the Board whether it would not be advisable to make some alteration in the rule regarding the appointment of Shroffs. I see by an order lately issued that even in the Talooks in charge of Deputy and Assistant Collectors the nomination of Shroffs is left to those Officers. I beg however to submit that as many of these Officers must necessarily possess little local experience, and as none of them are vested with any money responsibility, and further as that responsibility rests solely and entirely with the Collector, it seems to me but fit and proper that appointments to those offices should be vested entirely with the latter Officer: when lately at Negapatam I may observe that I had occasion to cause the cancelment of the appointment of a Shroff who had been previously dismissed for improper conduct, but who had managed to get himself again recommended for a vacancy, and looking to the very large sums of money with which Shroffs in a District like this must necessarily be entrusted, I would beg earnestly to recommend that in the appointment of Shroffs and as in the case of all other

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th May 1864.*

departments when there is money responsibility, the nomination should rest solely and entirely with the responsible Officer, the Collector, and not with any of his subordinates.

From the same Officer, dated Combaconum, 9th April 1864, No. 112.

1. With reference to my letter of the 24th ultimo, No. 96, I have the honor to report for the information of the Board, that the Shroff of the Salt Division of Neidavasal, who was committed to the Sessions Court for Criminal breach of trust, has been convicted and sentenced to transportation for seven years, and also to pay a fine of Rupees 1,150, being the amount of the deficiency found in the remittance made to the Talook Treasury.

2. I have not yet received a copy of the Court's sentence, and on receipt thereof, I shall submit a fuller report on the subject, and lay before the Board any further facts which may have transpired at the trial of the case at the Sessions beyond those immediately bearing on the conviction of the prisoner who was committed on the charge abovementioned.

1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted for the information of Government. The Board await the Collector's further report on the details of the case, and the conduct of other parties implicated.

2. As regards the appointment of Talook and Sub-divisional Shroffs, the Board observe that in their Order dated 24th February 1864, Government specified Shroffs among the other servants whose appointment vests in the Officer in immediate charge of the Division, and the Board see no reason to advocate a change in this respect.

3. The Collector has a veto on all improper appointments, and to vest the appointment of the Shroffs in the Collector when the nomination of his immediate superior, as for instance a Salt Superintendent is left in the hands of the Collector's subordinate would be subversive of all discipline.

No. 200.

ORDER THEREON, 18th May 1864, No. 855.

The Board should call upon the Collector to state by whom and under what circumstances the Shroff alluded to in paragraph 2 of the Collector's letter, dated 24th March, was appointed. In vesting Assistant and Deputy Collectors with the power of appointing their own subordinates subject to the Collector's veto, it was the intention of Government to enforce due responsibility for the manner in which that power is exercised.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 2,728.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 6th May 1864.

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3. I have directed the Government Vakeel to report fully on the trial when completed, and shall request the Court to favor me with their views in respect to the facts which may be elicited on the trial and as affecting other parties. Meanwhile I deem it my duty to report the matter, and to state that from what has come to my knowledge there are more parties to blame than the Shroff who has been committed.

4. A singular circumstance connected with the discovery of the deficiency is that the money was being shroffed late at night in defiance of repeated orders to the contrary, and that when the deficiency was reported to have been ascertained several other parties were paying in money, and no attempt appears to have been made by the Tahsildar to ascertain whether the other monies in the Treasury were right and whether the Salt Shroff was the only party to blame.

5. It is further difficult to conceive that a man in his position would deliberately go to the Taluk with a remittance known to be deficient to such an extent, unless he expected some connivance on the part of the Taluk authorities, and it has come to my knowledge that for some five or six years past, the Salt Shroff and the Taluk Head Shroff have had dealings between themselves, and there is reason to fear have occasionally helped themselves to the public money committed to their charge. Until the result of the trial is known it seems however unnecessary for me at present to enter further into the matter. I shall report fully to the Board when the trial is concluded: meanwhile I have thought it my duty to suspend the Head Shroff, and I may add that both the Tahsildar and the Treasury Gunastah have been summoned to attend at the next sessions.

6. I would further observe that I had intended myself personally to examine into the state of the Taluk Treasury at Shialli, but on my way there, and when at Tranquebar, I was suddenly summoned back to Tanjore, owing to the dangerous illness of H. H. M. Avusahiba. I would however take this opportunity of urging on the Board whether it would not be advisable to make some alteration in the rule regarding the appointment of Shroffs. I see by an order lately issued that even in the Taluks in charge of Deputy and Assistant Collectors the nomination of Shroffs is left to those officers. I beg however to submit that as many of these officers must necessarily possess little local experience, and as none of them are vested with any money responsibility, and further as that responsibility rests solely and entirely with the Collector, it seems to me but fit and proper that appointments to those offices should be vested entirely with the latter officer: when lately at Negapatam I may observe that I had occasion to cause the cancelment of the appointment of a Shroff who had been previously dismissed for improper conduct, but who had managed to get himself again recommended for a vacancy, and looking to the very large sums of money with which Shroffs in a District like this must necessarily be entrusted, I would beg earnestly to recommend that in the appointment of Shroffs and as in the case of all other departments when there is money responsibility, the nomination should rest solely and entirely with the responsible officer, the Collector, and not with any of his subordinates.

From the same Officer, dated Combaconum, 9th April 1864, No. 112.

1. With reference to my letter of the 24th ultimo, No. 96, I have the honor to report for the information of the Board, that the Shroff of the Salt Division of Neilavasal, who was committed to the Sessions Court for Criminal breach of trust, has been convicted and sentenced to transportation for seven years, and also to pay a fine of Rupees 1,150, being the amount of the deficiency found in the remittance made to the Taluk Treasury.

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1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted for the information of Government. The Board await the Collector's further report on the details of the case, and the conduct of other parties implicated.

2. As regards the appointment of Taluk and Sub-divisional Shroffs, the Board observe that in their Order dated 24th February 1864, Government specified Shroffs among the other servants whose appointment vests in the Officer in immediate charge of the Division, and the Board see no reason to advocate a change in this respect.

3. The Collector has a veto on all improper appointments, and to vest the appointment of the Shroffs in the Collector when the nomination of his immediate superior, as for instance a Salt Superintendent is left in the hands of the Collector's subordinate would be subversive of all discipline.

(True Copies and Extract.)

[Signature]
Secretary.

To J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to W. M. Cadell, Esq., Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. J. Wright.

Recd 24 Feb 1864 No 945-146

Recd 1864 Department

No. 1205.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Exd. J. Wright 29 Sept 1864

Dated 6th May 1864.

Recd 29 May 1864

No. 2728.

Submitting for information letter from the Collector of Tanjore reporting that the Shroff of the Salt Division was the party who embezzled the sum of Rupees 1,150 in the case of a late remittance and has been sentenced.

With an order

21 May 1864

Col. Wright's order

No. 855

The Board should call upon the Collector to state by whom and under what circumstances the draft ^{was} added to his power & was appointed. In meeting Assistant & Deputy Collectors with the power of appointing their own subordinates subject to the Collector's veto, it was the intention of Govt. to enforce due responsibility for the manner in which that power is exercised.

Thos. W. Greer Esq. R.
182 May 1841

in reply to the Board's Resolution of May 1841