

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2660	<u>Press</u>
573-574	<u>Mis.</u>
Dated 30 th October	1865

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
30th October 1865.*

No. 573. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Public Works Department:—

Passing orders on certain correspondence on }
the subject of an altercation which occurred }
between the Superintending Engineer of the } (Here enter 25th October 1865, No. 3,213.)
8th Division and the Tahsildar of Teroo- }
mungalam Talook, in Madura District. }

No. 574. ORDER THEREON, 30th October 1865, No. 2,669.

Miscellaneous.

Communicated to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Works Department, No. 3,213.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 644. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Pulney, 3rd October 1865, No. 1,212 :—

1. I have the honor to enclose copy of a correspondence between the Collector of Madura and myself, as I cannot believe that the Government will allow that the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum may insult me because I am supposed to have interrupted him in Court, and because the subject did not concern this Department.

2. On neither point has the Collector obtained any evidence. I wanted the Natamgar, partly because he had refused to furnish me with supplies, but principally to procure information as to the position of a village in the neighbourhood (Peria Pulankolum), from which I had received, through the Secretary of the Revenue Board, a Petition; the Collector, as you will observe, considers that I was not entitled to the attendance of the Natamgar, because Kugalapuram is a Zemindary village, although he was therefore the only Government Officer in the place; and forgetful apparently of the fact that I was dependent on the Natamgar for this very information, regarding which I had been misled by Mr. McNair.

3. The simple facts are, that I went, as I thought, to the Natamgar's house, in consequence of a message which I was told he had sent. I found myself in the Tahsildar's presence, and was accosted by him; I explained my mistake, but was most offensively treated by him. It appeared afterwards that he was making a preliminary investigation into a charge of assault made by the Natamgar against my servant, of which, I, at that time, knew nothing. Till then he considered the matter very trifling; but to punish me (as I think is clear from the amount of fine as well as from his own words) he levied two months' pay from my servant, a regular appeal was made to the Collector, on the 8th or 9th ultimo, but his decision has not yet been received.

4. Several of my Subordinates complain of the offensive manner of the Tahsildar; and now that I have had experience of it myself, I cannot insist on their carrying on the personal intercourse so frequently expedient between the authorities of the two Departments.

From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Collector of Madura, dated Periapulankolum, 24th August 1865, No. 900.

1. I have the honor to enclose notes of a conversation, which took place yesterday morning between the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum and myself, for such notice as you may think proper.

2. I would observe that Mr. McNair had misled me by informing me that Kugalapuram was in the Tinnevely District, and I had every reason for knowing that the Streevelliputur Tahsildar was not there. I saw the Tirumungalum Tahsildar drive past, and when I enquired as to his presence there, I was told that he had been to Streevelliputur, and concluded that he was returning from some leave.

3. I may add that the Tahsildar's manner was still more objectionable than his language.

NOTES OF A CONVERSATION.

23rd August, about 10 A.M., I sent Baba Myah to call the Natamgar of Kugaluparam; he came back and said the Natamgar replied that he was busy with the Tahsildar, but would come when the enquiry was over. I went, as I thought, to the Natamgar's house door, passing some persons sitting near, I was stopped by a Peon saying "the Tahsildar," as I was asking for the Natamgar, who sent me an impertinent message. The Tahsildar said he was giving a deposition. I expressed my surprise, as I told him that Mr. McNair had informed me I was in Streevelliputur Taluq. The Tahsildar said I was mistaken, and that he had already sent me a message about the Natamgar. I said it was a pity he had not written two lines, as I had no idea of his being there. He cried out "am I a slave? Perhaps you would like to order me to your tent. I am your equal, the head of my Department, as you are head of yours. You did not write to me." I replied that "there might be some question as to our positions, but that had nothing to do with the matter. I had not sent any message to him, nor did I know till now that he had sent me the reply. I had sent for the Natamgar who, like many others, had not come, so that I should be driven to write to Government to enable me to do my work." He answered, "that I might make any complaint to Government; he would not allow of my coming into his Court and abusing him." I remarked

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1865.*

"that I had not complained of or abused him; and that if he perverted my words in this way the less personal intercourse that took place the better, and I must decline in future to receive him when he called." He said, "I had called him impertinent." I denied it, and repeated my first expression, which referred to the Natamgar's message, and further suggested a reference to Johnson's Dictionary, which he scornfully rejected. I remarked, that if he complained to me of any offensive language in a Tamil paper I should consider myself bound to refer it to some Tamil scholar, unless it was very glaring, and that, on the same principle, I claimed the right to interpret English; if he had written his message it would have saved my coming from my tent, and the conversation that had passed. He replied somewhat irrelevantly that "he had written to me on a former occasion." I said "I did not remember it." He again cried out. "You deny it! you deny it! shall I prove it to you. It was when you wanted toddy to make bread." I replied that "I required no proof." "He might have written, I had never denied it. I had simply said I did not remember. What had it to do with the present matter. I should have expected certain civilities from him as an educated man, and one who had mixed with English gentlemen. I had not expected to see him at all. If I had considered the message, which I thought came from the Natamgar, I should have supposed that the Streevelliputur Tahsildar was intended, and should not have looked for any note from him as he knew no English, but that in fact I had supposed it was a lying excuse on the part of the Natamgar."

From the Collector of Madura, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Madura, 30th August 1865, No. 1,479.

1. Referring to your letter No. 900, dated the 24th August, and its enclosure, I have the honor to inform you that the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum has sent me an account of the altercation which occurred between you and him at Goovalapooram. I cannot see that the Tahsildar is in any way to blame for having sent a verbal message through the Peon, and am of opinion you should not have gone into his Court and interrupted his proceedings, and as the altercation between you and him occurred on a point not concerned with your Department, I see no reason to interfere at all in the matter.

2. With reference to your letter No. 901, dated 24th August, I have to observe that the village officers have been directed to attend your office, and up to this date have never heard from you that they did not do so; if you would complain at the time of such neglect, notice would be taken of their delinquency at once. However, to ensure their attendance, another order on the subject will be sent them.

3. The village of Goovalapooram is a Zemindary village, and therefore I fail to see you had any grounds to require the attendance of the Natamagar, or in what way his non-attendance interfered with the carrying on of your duties.

From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 1st September 1865, No. 971.

1. I have the honor to request that you will re-consider your letter of the 30th August, No. 1,479.

2. In it you justify the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum for using objectionable language, first, because I should not have gone into his Court and interrupted his proceedings; and second, because it did not concern my Department.

3. I have already repeatedly said that, until the Tahsildar told me, I knew nothing of the Court or the jurisdiction at that place of the officer; but even if I had known it, I submit that the Court is public, and that I had a right to enter it; but I never went beyond the verandah post, and was stopped by the Peon and Tahsildar, for aught I did or said the latter might have continued his proceedings without any further notice from me.

4. I submit that even if I did interrupt the Court, I explained on the spot how it occurred, and that the Tahsildar was not justified in either his words or his behaviour. I have since heard that few of my Subordinates will run the risk of personal intercourse, and after what I have experienced I certainly cannot order them to go to him.

5. I learn for the first time from your paragraph 3, that Kugalapuram is a Zemindary village. This itself, I think, shows the necessity of attendance on the part of the Natamgar, who is or should be a Government servant, under the provisions of Act XXIX. of 1802, and should as such, in my opinion, attend upon an Officer of Government travelling on duty.

From the Collector of Madura, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Madura, 6th September 1865, No. 1,533.

Referring to your letter No. 971, dated the 1st September, I have the honor to inform you that I decline to re-consider my letter 1,479, dated the 30th August.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1865.*

From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Collector of Madura, dated Madura, 5th September 1865, No. 1,012.

1. Referring to my Nos. 900 and 971, dated 24th August and 1st September, I have the honor to bring to your notice, that the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum informed my Clerk Sooba Naick, in the presence of my servant (who understands English) that "the charge for assault made by the Natamgar of Kugalapuram was so trifling, that if I had not refused to receive him he intended to have mentioned it to me as a matter, in which I should warn my servant; but after my conduct in his Court, he thought it right to inflict a fine of Rupees 20 on a man receiving Rupees 10 per month."

2. The two subjects, I would observe, are totally distinct, and my servant pleads against my recovering the advance, which I made to enable him to pay the fine, on the ground that it is really me whom the Tahsildar is punishing.

From the Collector of Madura, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Madura, 13th September 1865, No. 1,580.

In reply to your letter No. 1,012, dated the 5th September, I have the honor to inform you that as Collector I have no authority to interfere in the matter referred to, and as Magistrate I decline noticing your communication.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) F. J. MOBERLY, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,

Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

No. 645. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1865, No. 3,213.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 55.

1. Before passing orders on these papers, the Government resolve to request the Collector of Madura to submit, for their consideration, the explanation which the Tahsildar of Tirumungalum appears, from paragraph 1 of the letter* marginally noted, to have laid before him on the subject of the complaint made by Lieutenant Colonel Moberly.

* From Collector of Madura, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated 30th August 1865.

2. The Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division will likewise be requested to furnish a copy of the docket of the Board of Revenue on the Petition from the Peria Pulankolum villagers, and to state in what language the conversation between himself and the Tirumungalum Tahsildar was held.

(True Extract.)

Colonel R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

8-2660.

*Communicated to
the Revenue Board.*

To the Collector of Madura.
" Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*14 To the Board of Revenue
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