M.R.O. 14—13,000—17-9-34

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 3142 — Press ~~Mis.~~

416-417

Dated 17 — 11 — 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department
17th November 1866.

No. 416. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th October 1866, No. 7,657 :—

Read again letter from the Collector of Tanjore, dated 10th August 1866, recorded in Board's Proceedings of 18th September 1866, No. 6,664.

Read also the following letter from the Collector of Tanjore, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vellum, 26th September 1866, No. 256.

With reference to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th September 1866, No. 6,664, I have the honor to forward, herewith, copy of Mr. Burnell's Report on the conduct of Mr. Melson in the case referred to by Mr. Banbury.

From the Head Assistant Collector, to the Officiating Collector of Tanjore, dated Mayaveram, 27th June 1866, No. 90.

1. In reply to your letter, dated June 16th, and the Government Order accompanying it, requesting my opinion as regards the conduct of Mr. Melson, I beg to make the following remarks.

2. Mr. Melson admits that he went on board the Jaffna in company with Mr. Potts to take tiffin with the Master. When I saw him on his coming off from the vessel, he certainly, as well as the Inspector, had been indulging in liquor.

3. He disappeared soon after I first saw him, and I next saw him early the morning after; I cannot find that he gave the best assistance towards procuring boats till the morning; the boats for unloading were procured by my Peons.

4. The Master told me that he had presented a sheep to Mr. Melson in return for assistance in getting stores. On my asking what he had got for him, he told me a leg of mutton. I was also told, and the Master admitted it, that Mr. Potts had received a bag of gram as a present.

5. There can be no doubt that the entertainment on board the "Jaffna" was the cause of that vessel being stranded, and I consider that Mr. Melson's presence was most improper. I have above given you an example of the acceptance, by Mr. Melson, of a present from the Master, and there can be little speculation as to what induces a Master of a ship to make presents to a Sea Custom Superintendent. But I have reason to believe, from very wide-spread rumours, that such presents are commonly made to him.

6. You will, doubtless, recollect a recent case in which a French Master of a ship applied to you for a refund of some dues improperly collected. He originally applied to me (I was then in Tranquebar), but I told him I had no authority in the case; however, I then heard enough from him to shew that Mr. Melson had neglected his work, and that in consequence the ship had been delayed some days. Merchants are very reluctant to make complaints in such cases; if they do, they are sure to be annoyed by the Manager.

7. I do not think that Mr. Melson is a fit person to remain as Superintendent of Sea Customs at Tranquebar. A very safe person, who will not take advantage of his position is required there. I also consider that an occasional enquiry, amongst the European and Native Merchants, regarding the Sea Custom Superintendent's conduct, would be advisable.

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1. Ordered that the above papers be submitted to Government, with reference to Government Order dated 7th June 1866, No. 1,371, Revenue Department.

2. The Board consider that Mr. Melson has been very leniently dealt with, and that his re-employment in any more important post than that to which he has been reduced is inexpedient, or at least should not be permitted without special sanction.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
17th November 1866.

No. 417. ORDER THEREON, 17th November 1866, No. 3,142.

Miscellaneous.

The Government agree with the Board in their remarks in paragraph 2 of the foregoing Proceedings. Mr. Melson's practice of receiving presents must be stopped, and must not on any account be re-employed at Negapatam, or be promoted without the Board's sanction.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant General

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Gr 3142.

Gr Order. Is the punishment sufficient?

The Government agree with the Board in their remarks in para 2 of the foregoing proceedings — Mr. Melson's practice of receiving presents must be stopped — and he must not on any account be re-employed at Negapatam, or be promoted without the Board's sanction.

17th Nov 66

Copies to the Board of Revenue and Accountant General

Pat No. 165-697-6.66