

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 817

Press
Mis.

Dated 10. 4. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th April 1866.*

No. 87. Read the following letter from Messrs. ARBUTHNOT & Co., to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated Madras, 29th March 1866 :—

1. We have the honor to request the attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council to the delay which frequently takes place in the payment of the acknowledged obligations of Government, even after the necessary papers have been examined and passed for payment by all the Departments of control, the reason given for such delay being the want of funds appropriated to the purpose.

2. To explain our complaint we will proceed to cite three recent instances, and we beg to refer you to documents annexed.

3. On the 5th July 1864, one of the partners of our firm, the Honorable W. R. Arbuthnot, as Attorney for a party resident in Ceylon, entered into a contract with the Government, represented by E. Fane, Esq., Collector of Madras, of which we enclose original, for the supply of Arrack; by the 12th Article of which it is provided that on the fifth day of every month the purchaser should pay the contractor for all Arrack delivered and accepted during the preceding month. In fulfilment of this contract we, as Agents for the contractor, delivered to the Collector of Madras in the months of September, October, and November last, quantities of Arrack for which we sent in Bills in the regular way on the 2nd October, 1st November, and 1st December—*vide* copies of letters of those dates. We also made intermediate application on the 12th and 20th October and 14th November as per copies enclosed. The replies of the Deputy Collector, dated 12th and 24th October, allege as a reason for failure in payment, the preparation of a supplemental Budget, pending which no funds were available.

4. On the 14th November we handed to the Deputy Collector a letter from S. Saravana Mootoo, requesting him to hold at our disposal the sum of Rupees 21,000. On the 4th December the Deputy Collector acknowledged that the sum of Rupees 16,000 was payable under this order, but again alleged the want of the supplementary Budget as a reason for not paying.

5. The three months' Arrack Bills in arrears in December amounted to Rupees 37,468-14-4, which with the amount acknowledged by the Deputy Collector as due under Saravana's letter, make a total of Rupees 53,468-14-4 over-due to us by Government, acknowledged to be due but not paid under the excuse of want of funds until the 20th December.

6. On the 23rd February we sent in to the Superintendent of Marine a Bill for passage money of Troops per "Lord Warden." It was returned to us passed for payment at the Presidency Pay Office on the 23rd instant. On the same day we sent it in to the Presidency Paymaster duly receipted. That Officer retained the passed and receipted Bill, and returned to us the enclosed Memorandum, dated 23rd instant, promising us payment on receipt of additional funds. It was only paid on the 27th.

7. We know that the Government of India is well able to meet all its engagements, and we would most respectfully submit that it is hardly just or creditable that individuals holding acknowledged claims should experience delay

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and difficulty in their settlement, owing to purely internal and departmental arrangement such as the preparation of Budgets.

8. The claims we have referred to were not of an unexpected nature. The Arrack contract was made in July 1864, and in October, November, and December 1865 funds were not available to meet the liabilities of Government under it. The shipment of troops and invalids to England is an annual operation; in this instance tenders were advertised for on the 12th January, and ten weeks afterwards the Officer whose duty it is to pay their passage money is unprovided with funds for the purpose.

9. We know full well the consequences to ourselves, and other houses of business were we to plead inability to meet our engagements, and we would respectfully urge upon Government the desirableness for its own credit of taking such measures as may prevent the recurrence of similar failures.

10. It may also be at times productive of serious inconvenience to a house of business to be kept out of half a lac of Rupees, on the receipt of which it had just reason to reckon.

11. Having thus stated our case we leave it to the appreciation of His Excellency the Governor in Council, and we have the honor to be.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 10th April 1866, No. 817.

Miscellaneous.

1. Paragraphs 3 and 5 of this letter will be referred to the Board of Revenue, for early report on the cause of the delay complained of by Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.

2. Paragraph 6 will be communicated to the Marine Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. D. SIM,

Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

the Secretary to the Marine Department,
Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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(True Extract.)

[Signature]

Secretary to Government.

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Cm to the Marine Dept

To the Board of Revenue.
the Superintendent of Marine.
Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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10th April 1866

14 To the Board of Revenue Dec 13 April
5 to the Marine Dept
3 Messrs Arbuthnot & Co

Rec^d P. No. 924 of 1866
 Rec^d 1866. Depart^{ure}
 Pro of Govt for April
 No. 934.

From
Messrs. Arbuthnot
& Co.

Noted 29th March.

Received 4². Apr.
1866.

3 enclosures

6-3. 1 Per. to the Insurance Co.
2 to the Board of the

Bringing to notice the delay, which frequently takes place in the payment of the acknowledge obligations of Govt and requesting that measures may be taken to prevent the recurrence of similar failures.

May 10 - April

Wardell

Pro. Miley, Dep. Secy
14 Mar 1966 Cmo 1414

Rs Board of Review
21 June 66 ¹⁰⁰ 1832

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