M.R.O. 14—5,450—22-10-25.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1857
214-215

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated 10 — 8 — 18 67.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

215

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 10th August 1867.

No. 214. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 24th July 1867, No. 4,737.

Read the following letter from the Superintendent of Stamps, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 18th June 1867, No. 1,510, of Fusly 1276:—

1. I have the honor to reply to the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 21st March last, No. 1,761, calling upon me to furnish a report on the working of the checks now existing in this Office, to guard against any errors and prevent malpractices, and to suggest such improvements as may appear to me desirable in the mode of conducting the business of the Office.

2. Having in my letter of the 7th March 1867, No. 1,021, described the system in operation in this Office in the stamping and issue of papers both as regards private goods and what are called Judicial Stamps, and the same information having been repeatedly furnished on previous occasions by my predecessors, it is unnecessary now to go over the same ground. It is sufficient to state that the existing system of checks in the department was devised by the Honorable Mr. Robert Ellis in 1862, and, according to the opinions of successive Superintendents, it has worked most satisfactorily. Even before the introduction of this system, Mr. Crawford, the then Superintendent of Stamps at Calcutta, in reporting upon the system pursued in the administration of the Stamp Revenue of the United Kingdom, wrote of the Madras Stamp Office as follows:—"It

Paragraph 45.

"is evident from the correspondence of "the Government of Madras, that the checks on the manufacture and sale of Stamps "have been carried to much greater lengths than in Bengal, where some of the "checks referred to by the Madras authorities have never been in use.

3. In 1864, Mr. Mackey, the Acting Superintendent of Stamps here, confessed himself "unable to perceive how the "internal organization of the department "can be improved," adding that "the excellent arrangements made by Mr. Ellis "leave no room for further improvement or security."

From Acting Superintendent of Stamps, to Board of Revenue, 25th February 1864, No. 1,202, paragraph 10.

4. Mr. Ellis himself, after visiting the Calcutta Stamp Office under instructions from the Madras Government to ascertain whether the organization of that Office and the system of checks in force there could suggest any improvements to be made in the Madras Office, stated it as the result of his inspection, that he did not think "that the system observed "there for the custody of Stamp paper and "for preventing forgery of Stamp papers "is as complete as that at present in force in Madras."

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 27th July 1864.

5. Colonel Temple, my immediate predecessor, and Mr. Norfor, before him, appear to have thought that the system of checks in the department was complete, and that nothing was wanting to improve it.

6. My own experience of the working of the Stamp Office is still but short; but, as far as I can judge, I see in the present arrangements the necessary safeguards for the prevention of fraud, and the protection of the public revenue. It is an important feature of the system that a distinct Office, the Mint, is charged with affixing the value Stamps, and that the Stamp Office acts in turn as a check on the

Mint, by impressing on the Stamps a counterstamp of its own. Collusion, therefore, between two entirely distinct departments, one of which is not accessible to the public, would be necessary, before any Stamps could be improperly obtained; and such collusion, under present arrangements, appears to me most difficult, if not impossible.

7. We have in the next place primarily the greatest security in the Bi-color Stamps which have been introduced, though as yet but partially, within the last few days, and which, it is hoped, will defy successful forgery in this country.

8. Lastly, an additional security consists in the Mint, the Bank, and this Office sending independent returns, which are required to agree, and which are doubtless closely scrutinized.

9. While, however, I thus consider that the existing arrangements are calculated to reduce the risk of malpractices to a minimum, I am not insensible to the importance of exercising a close and vigilant supervision over the operations of the department to the minutest detail since I have assumed charge of the Office.

From Superintendent of Stamps, to Board of Revenue, 7th March 1867, No. 1,021.
Board's Proceedings, 1st April 1867, No. 2,055.
G. O., 17th April 1867, No. 904.

I. The Bi-color Stamp has been partially introduced both as regards private goods and Judicial Stamps.

II. The counterstamp of this Office, which was discontinued in September 1862, has been revived in the case of private materials.

From Superintendent of Stamps, to Board of Revenue, 16th February 1867, No. 333.
G. O., 10th May 1867, No. 1,065.

III. The periodical taking of stock which used to be confined to Judicial and Mercantile Stamps, has, at my request, been extended to Postage and Telegraph Stamps.

IV. The Clerks in the Private Goods Department, whose accounts are intended to check each others proceedings, but whom I found seated together so as to be able to copy from each others books, I have separated as much as the accommodation in the Office admitted, though I think a more complete separation is still desirable to ensure a stricter observance and enforcement of the prescribed routine of work.

From Superintendent of Stamps, to Board of Revenue, 12th March 1867, No. 1,053.
Board's Proceedings, 28th March 1867, No. 1,974.

V. The Permanent Advance Fund of the Office, which was insufficient to defray the contingent charges and used to be supplemented by advances out of the daily collections in the Private Goods Department, has been increased, and the necessity for meddling with the collections obviated.

From Superintendent of Stamps, to Board of Revenue, 8th May 1867, No. 1,250.
Board's Proceedings, 11th May 1867.
G. O., 22nd May 1867, No. 1,541, Public Works Department.

VI. The Store-room which contains the water-marked paper received from England appearing unsafe, and the strong room partially so, have been ordered to be improved.

VII. The stock of single stamp paper is, under arrangements I have made, now being examined once a week.

10. Anything more which on further experience may strike me as faulty and requiring correction, shall receive my immediate attention.

11. One more point to which it will not perhaps be deemed out of place to advert here, is the want which I feel of sufficient protection against errors in the counting of Stamps before they are packed for despatch to districts. Of course, every care is taken to ensure accuracy, but mistakes occur notwithstanding. Last year, a deficiency of three rolls of the value of 2 Annas each was reported in a consignment sent to Cuddapah. In February of this year, a similar deficiency of three rolls of 1 Rupee each is reported from the same district and by the same Officer, the Treasury Deputy Collector. In neither case has a corresponding excess been found in this Office, or traced in the consignments sent to other districts. Doubtless, similar instances occurred in previous years and may occur again occasionally. Some mechanical means, such as that referred to in the Resolution noted in the margin, of securing a thoroughly independent and trustworthy check on the counting of the Stamps despatched to districts would be very desirable, and prove a most useful addition to the Stamp Office. Perhaps the Mint Master will be able to suggest such a check.

Vide paragraph 10, Resolution of the Supreme Government, recorded in G. O., 10th June 1862, No. 1,279.

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1. Submitted to Government, with reference to their Order, dated 5th March 1867, No. 545.

2. The Board concur with the Superintendent that the system devised by Mr. Ellis is all that can be desired.

3. The registering machine, referred to by the Supreme Government which the Superintendent notices in the concluding paragraph of his letter, would hardly assist him in counting Stamps for despatch, as it is intended only as a check upon the number of impressions struck off by a machine. The Board do not see why weighing the bundles should not effect the object the Superintendent desires. The Board are under the impression that scales sufficiently accurate for the purpose could be devised.

No. 215. ORDER THEREON, 10th August 1867, No. 1,857.

Separate Revenue, No. 13.
Stamps.

1. The Board will cause some experiments to be made in view to ascertaining whether a system of weighing the packets of Stamp paper would be likely to lead to detection of inaccuracies in packing. Accurate scales can doubtless be borrowed from the Mint or Public Works Stores for the trial.

2. The Collector of Cuddapah should have his attention directed to the fact that the sole deficiencies reported have occurred in his district.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Mint Master.
,, the Department Public Works.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

8th 1857.

On the 15th Inst. came on
for examination before the under-
signed to ascertain
whether a system of pilfering
the packets of stamped paper
by the clerks had been detected
in the course of investigations
recently made, and to
whom the loss was to be attributed
in the event of such detection
having taken place.

The Commissioners having
been informed by the Clerk of
the Peace that no such
discovery had been made.

The Commissioners
then directed their attention
to the fact that the deficiencies
reported had occurred in
this District.

W. B.
10th August 1857.

11 Copies to the Bds of Revenue &c &c
2 Copies to Mint Authority
20 — to S.D.W.D.

1/4

Pro 10th June/62 pp. 144-145
27 July/64 " 463-464
30 Sept. " " 453-4
17 April/67 " 303-302
10 Aug. " " 167-8
27 " " " 416-411
5 March. 1867 " 84. 86

Rev. 1867. Department.
Pro of Cont for August

No. 2059.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

V C A 780/74

Dated 24th July 1867.
Pes Pickup
Rec 2 Aug

Submitting with remarks letter from Superintendent of Stamps reporting on the working of the checks in his office, to guard against any errors and prevent Malpractices and requesting that something may be done to ensure protection against errors in the counting of stamps before despatch to Districts.

Further Pro. Board of Rev. of 30th 1867 C No. 2058.

No. 4,737.

V P. 214-215.