

# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

*Revenue*  
*Public* DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 866

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Dated

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No. 311.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 19th January 1869.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Vallum, 23rd November 1868, No. 248:—

I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Board, copy of a letter\* from Srinivasa Row, Deputy Collector in charge of

\*Dated 14th instant, No. 71.

the Mannargudi Division, reporting the discovery of a deficiency of Rupees 746-11-6 in the Talook Treasury at Mannargudi. The circumstances under which this discovery was made, as well as the facts elicited during the inquiry held by the Deputy Collector into the matter, are as follow.

2. On the 2nd instant, the Deputy Collector received an anonymous Petition to the effect that the Shroffs of the Talook Treasury had themselves made good a deficiency of Rupees 7, which they found in the cash while closing the Treasury on the 29th October; and during the inquiry which he instituted into the matter, it was elicited that the allegation contained in the said Petition was in the main true. Both the Head and Deputy Shroffs were accordingly suspended by the Deputy Collector, for three months, for carelessness and irregularity in having adjusted a deficiency without bringing it to the notice of their superiors.

3. The Deputy Collector's order, suspending the Shroffs and appointing others to their posts, reached the Tahsildar on the 3rd instant. On the 4th, the suspended Shroffs made over a portion only of the cash in the Treasury, together with Currency Notes, Stamps, Postage labels, etc., to a man named Nana Row, who had been appointed to act for the Deputy Shroff, (the one appointed to the post of Head Shroff not having arrived); and Nana Row did that day's shroffing work, by receiving the monies that were brought into the Talook Treasury and making disbursements. On the 5th likewise, Nana Row did only the current shroffing work which was heavy that day. At about 8½ p. m. on that evening, when he and the suspended Shroffs were going to close the Treasury, Nana Row thought that out of the bags which he had not taken charge of, one full† bag, ostensibly containing silver coin, (being of

† The contents of a full bag of silver coin are Rs. 500.

cotton and not of gunny cloth, such as is used exclusively for keeping copper coin), sounded as if it contained copper, and suspecting that there was something wrong, reported the fact immediately to the Talook Sheristadar who was then in the Cutcherry. The Sheristadar had the bag opened, and finding not only that it contained copper coin, but also that a full bag of full Rupees was missing; and failing to obtain any satisfactory explanation from the suspended Head Shroff, whom he questioned about the matter, wrote a chit to the Tahsildar, who was then at home, stating the above fact, and begging him to come over to the Cutcherry. The Tahsildar did so immediately, and as it was 9½ o'clock p. m., had the Treasury room locked up and sealed in the presence of all the parties concerned, promising that the Treasury should be examined the next morning. He furthermore, the same night at 12 o'clock, reported the matter to the Deputy Collector who was at the Cusbah.

4. The next day—namely, the 6th instant, all the cash in the Treasury was examined in the presence of the Deputy Collector, the Tahsildar, the two Inspectors of Police, both the suspended Shroffs, the new Acting Deputy Shroff, the Sheristadar, and the Talook Gumastahs. The examination commenced at 6 a. m. in the morning, and continued up to 10 p. m., when a deficiency of Rupees 612-6-0 was found. The Treasury was then closed and sealed up by the Tahsildar, in which state it remained unopened till the 10th instant.

24th JAN 1869

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated April, 1st.

Recd.

G. O. 1st April 1869, No. 566.

APRIL.

Nos. 1-3.

Defalcation in Mannargudy Talook Treasury.—Proceedings of the Board of Revenue reporting on this subject, recorded.

\* Note.—This person, who was Head Shroff of the Tirupandi Talook, was transferred to Mannargudi as a permanent arrangement, and the suspended Head Shroff of the latter talook was, on the expiry of the period of suspension, to go to Tirupundi.

the former having himself made it over to the new Head Shroff in person. At this second examination a further deficiency of Rupees 134-5-6 was discovered, which being added to the deficiency mentioned in the next preceding paragraph, makes an aggregate of Rupees 746-11-6, as stated in the next paragraph of this letter.

5. With regard to the second deficiency of Rupees 134-5-6, it is to be observed that at the first examination on the 6th, the coins were counted by twelve persons—namely, the two suspended Shroffs, the new Acting Deputy Shroff, eight Gumastahs, and one Dufferbund; each taking a portion and giving its outturn. The two suspended Shroffs, however, did the greatest part of the counting the contents of the particular bags in which this second deficiency was found; and out of the half Anna copper pieces in which there was a deficiency of Rupees 119-15-0, they had counted three-fourths before three Gumastahs had done the remaining one-fourth. There is thus no doubt but that the two suspended Shroffs deceived the Deputy Collector and Tahsildar in whose presence the examination of the 6th instant was conducted.

7. It is to be regretted that the Deputy Collector allowed the suspended and suspected Shroffs to have anything to do with the counting on the 6th, and I have no hesitation in stating that he was not so vigilant on this occasion as he should have been; for it appears that the Police Inspector discovered a deficiency of no less than 64 pieces in each of the two last heaps of half Anna copper pieces counted by the Head Shroff, and said to contain 320 pieces each. This very significant fact should at any rate, have aroused the Deputy Collector's suspicion, and induced him to have the half Anna copper pieces carefully recounted. This he omitted to do. I therefore consider that the Deputy Collector should be reprimanded by the Board, and beg to request their orders on the subject.

8. The Tahsildar examined the cash balance on the 2nd instant, (the 1st being Sunday,) and sent the usual report to the Treasury Deputy Collector that it was correct; but according to his own statement, the following was the manner in which he conducted the examination.

9. In one box there were forty full Rupee bags, of these the Tahsildar only counted the bags, the remaining silver and copper coins were lying on the floor of the Treasury room; of the silver coin, twenty-eight full bags, containing full Rupees as well as small change, were put into another box by his order, after having been examined by him, thus, one of the full Rupee bags, which were sixteen, was opened and its contents were counted by the Head Shroff who reported it to be correct, the Tahsildar then had the other full Rupee bags, as also six half Rupee full bags, opened to see whether they contained silver coin, and they were weighed with the bag of which the contents had been counted and declared by the Head Shroff to be correct. He also proceeded in the same way

|                            | Rs.   | A. | P. |
|----------------------------|-------|----|----|
| Full Rupees.....           | 184   | 0  | 0  |
| Half Rupees 415.....       | = 207 | 8  | 0  |
| Quarter Rupees 793.....    | = 198 | 4  | 0  |
| Two Anna pieces 8,086..... | = 405 | 12 | 0  |
|                            | 1,075 | 8  | 0  |

with the four and two Anna full bags (of which there were four and two respectively), with the exception that only one of each was opened. The remaining silver coins as per margin, which could not be packed in full bags, were counted by the Head Shroff by order of the Tahsildar, and were stated to be correct.

The copper coins, which amounted in value to Rupees 2,030-13-11, were examined in more or less the same way; that is to say, the Shroff himself instead of the Tahsildar counted the coins in one bag, and then weighed the other bags with this one.

10. This mode of examining the Treasury, even allowing that it took place, was certainly most reprehensible, since it practically allowed the Shroffs to use the cash as they pleased, and at the same time to pretend that it was in the Treasury. I have no hesitation, however, in stating

that the Tahsildar could not have even seen all the bags in box No. 2, weighed in his examination of the 2nd instant; for a deficiency of

| In box No. 2.                                        |      | Rs. | A. | P. |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|-----|----|----|
| In one bag of two Anna pieces, 100.....              | 12   | 8   | 0  |    |
| In another do. 100.....                              | 12   | 8   | 0  |    |
| In one bag of four Anna pieces, Do. Do. Do. Do. .... | 3    | 4   | 0  |    |
|                                                      | 1    | 12  | 0  |    |
|                                                      | 2    | 0   | 0  |    |
|                                                      | 3    | 0   | 0  |    |
| In four bags of half Rupees.....                     | 4    | 0   | 0  |    |
| Excess in another.....                               | 0    | 8   | 0  |    |
|                                                      | free |     |    |    |
|                                                      |      | 25  | 0  | 0  |
|                                                      |      | 8   | 0  | 0  |
|                                                      |      | 3   | 8  | 0  |
|                                                      |      | 30  | 8  | 0  |

Rupees 36-8-0, as per margin, was discovered in this box when it was re-examined on the 6th instant, and of this sum there were as many as 100 pieces of two Annas each missing in two bags in particular. I am afraid that Tambisami Pillay is not the only Tahsildar in this or any other district, who is and has been in the habit of only nominally examining his Treasury every month; but in the interests of the Public Service and as a warning to other Tahsildars, I do not

think that this case, since it has come to light, should be passed over without punishment, and I beg, therefore, to recommend that Tambisami Pillai be suspended for six months, for otherwise every Tahsildar will consider that he may also neglect this important part of his duty with impunity.

11. With regard to the whole deficiency of Rupees 746-11-6, there can be no doubt that it is the result of a systematic plan of embezzlement which the two suspended Shroffs have been carrying on for a long time. The new Acting Deputy Shroff only joined his appointment the day previous to the deficiency coming to light, and it is not for a moment to be supposed that he would have daringly abstracted and made away with such a large sum in a lump, from a Public Treasury, in such a short space of time. It is, moreover, clear from the evidence of the Tahsildar and the Sheristadar that he had taken charge of only the incomplete (or rather what were said to be incomplete) bags, the remainder of the cash having remained under the charge of the old Shroffs, until the first discovery of a deficiency on the evening of the 5th instant. The new Head Shroff had not joined, and the Acting Deputy Shroff, a new hand in shroffing, had to attend alone to the receipts and disbursements of the day. It is perfectly natural, therefore, that he should have asked and obtained the permission of the Tahsildar to be allowed to take charge only of the incomplete bags for the purpose of current disbursement, since it was simply impossible that a new man like himself would be able, single handed, to count out all the coins in the Treasury in one day; at the same time that he had to attend to the current business of the day. The old Shroffs were also present both when the Treasury was opened on the morning of the 4th, and when it was closed and sealed that evening; and again when it was opened in the next morning, as also when the receipts and disbursements were being conducted by the Acting Deputy Shroff on both days.

12. The balance of the Aiyar cash at the close of the Treasury Chittah on the 3rd instant, was Rupees 42,879-5-9. Of this sum, Rupees 34,000 were in two boxes under the Tahsildar's Seal, Rupees 4,870 were in Currency Notes, and the remainder—namely, Rupees 4,009-5-9, was lying on the ground in the Treasury room. Of this last mentioned sum, Rupees 989-5-9, consisting of different silver and copper coins in incomplete bags, were taken charge of by the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th instant. The remainder—namely, Rupees 3,020, consisting of both silver and copper coins in full bags, remained under the charge of the old Shroffs. Besides the Aiyar cash, there were Rupees 788-2-4 of Maramat money, of which Rupees 128-2-4, in incomplete bags, were taken charge of by the Acting Deputy Shroff, and the remainder—namely, Rupees 660, consisting of silver and copper coins, remained under the charge of the old Shroffs. The Acting Deputy Shroff took charge also of the Permanent Advance for Contingent charges, and certain other small sums, amounting in all to Rupees 378-7-11, as shown in the margin, which did not form part of the cash balance as per the Chittah. In addition to the two distinct items of Aiyar and Maramat, there was a sum of Rupees 4,309-10-6 belonging to the Civil Dispensary in a separate Box No. 3, under the Tahsildar's Seal. This

|                                               | Rs. | A. | P. |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| Permanent Advance Fund.....                   | 11  | 0  | 0  |
| Undisbursed portion of salary.....            | 2   | 14 | 8  |
| Famine Relief Fund.....                       | 3   | 13 | 0  |
| Contingent amount of Nidamangalam Firska..... | 10  | 8  | 1  |
| Civil Dispensary Fund.....                    | 350 | 8  | 8  |
|                                               | 378 | 7  | 11 |

remained unopened, and its contents have been found correct at both the first and second examinations of the Treasury. The Currency Notes have also been found correct.

13. Now the deficiency, amounting to Rupees 612-6-0, discovered at the first examination on the 6th instant was as follows:—

|                                                                                                                                                    | Rs. | A. | P. |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| One full bag of full Rupees out of those outside the boxes, and under the charge of the old Shroffs, value                                         | 500 | 0  | 0  |
| Small silver change in Box No. 2, which contained silver coins, amounting to Rupees 14,000, value                                                  | 36  | 8  | 0  |
| Four Anna silver pieces out of the incomplete bags, taken charge of by the Acting Deputy Shroff, value                                             | 25  | 0  | 0  |
| Half Anna copper pieces in two bags (supposed to be full) of Maramat money on the ground which remained under the charge of the old Shroffs, value | 52  | 10 | 6  |
| Deduct excess found in bags of three Pie pieces                                                                                                    | 614 | 2  | 6  |
|                                                                                                                                                    | 1   | 12 | 0  |
| Remainder...                                                                                                                                       | 612 | 6  | 0  |

The deficiency of Rupees 134-5-6 discovered on the 11th instant was thus:—

|                                                                                                       | Rs. | A. | P. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----|----|
| In one full bag of 4,000 two Anna silver pieces                                                       | 12  | 8  | 0  |
| In twenty-three full bags of Half Anna copper pieces, minus excess of seven Annas found in two others | 113 | 15 | 0  |
| In four full bags of three Pie copper pieces                                                          | 1   | 14 | 6  |
|                                                                                                       | 134 | 5  | 6  |

14. Thus, with the exception of the single item of Rupees 25 in a bag of four Anna silver pieces, out of the incomplete ones taken charge of by the Acting Deputy Shroff, the whole of the deficiency is clearly traceable to the old Shroffs. The contents of the said four Anna bag, when it was taken charge of by the Acting Deputy Shroff, were, as the evidence of the Sheristadar shows, counted by him, and the old Shroffs together; and that the former was deceived by the latter, as he states, is consistent with the other established facts of the case. The responsibility for this deficiency of Rupees 25 must, however, rest with the Acting Deputy Shroff who admits that he took charge of the bag in which it has been found, and I beg to recommend that he be ordered to make it good.

15. The suspended Head Shroff, Ramasami Mudali, in his defence relies mainly on the Cash Balance Report submitted by the Tahsildar on the 2nd instant, to the effect that he examined the Treasury that day, and found the Cash Balance correct, as well as on the plea that he (the Head Shroff) made over charge to the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th. In support of the latter plea, he points to the Cash Chittah of the 4th, which has been signed by the Acting Deputy Shroff. This, however, signifies nothing, inasmuch as the Head Shroff himself admits that he had not made over to the Acting Deputy Shroff the contents of Boxes Nos. 1, 2, and 3, as also the full bags of copper coins lying outside. As to the Cash Balance Report made by the Tahsildar on the 2nd, I have already shown how the Tahsildar conducted this examination of his Cash Balance, and this has been admitted in the main by the Head Shroff himself.

16. There is another unfortunate circumstance connected with this case, which I must mention. The Cash Chittah, as above shown, was signed by the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th. There was another Chittah of the Maramat money, at the credit of the Public Works Department, with the Head Gumastah, and this also bears the Acting Deputy Shroff's signature. Above his signature in this second Chittah, there is a note to the effect that he had taken charge of tundu (incomplete) bags out of the balance therein shown, the words "tundu bags out of" having been interpolated. The fact, as explained by the Head Gumastah and the Acting Deputy Shroff, is,

that the note, as originally entered, which denoted that he had taken charge of the balance above specified, was objected to by the latter, on the ground that he had not taken charge of the whole sum; and that then, with the sanction of the Sheristadar, the interpolation was made by the Head Gumastah, and the note was signed by the Acting Deputy Shroff. It is to be much regretted that any interpolation at all was made, for it may give the accused party a handle for impugning it on its motive.

17. There is a discrepancy between the statements of the several parties as to whether the Head Shroff was actually present when it was first found that a full bag of Rupees was missing. The Talook Sheristadar, the Acting Deputy Shroff, and the Mashalchi, on the one hand, say that the Head Shroff was present, while the Head Gumastah supports the Head Shroff's statement, that he was at that time absent, having left the Cutcherry in the afternoon that day, and that he came again at about 9½ p. m. on being sent for by the Sheristadar. As the Deputy Collector observes, however, whether the Head Shroff was or was not present at that particular moment, in no way affects the case. No one, for an instant, supposes that the bag was made away with at that time or on that day.

18. The Deputy Shroff, Visvanatha Chetty, states that he knows nothing about the defalcation, as he was only assisting the Head Shroff in writing the accounts and receiving and making over monies to him. This man does not seem to be so clever in the art of embezzling money and trying to evade detection as his comrade, but he has obviously been his accomplice throughout.

19. On the whole, the intervention of a new and inexperienced hand for two days, as well as other circumstances connected with this case, have rendered it rather complicated; but nevertheless there remain three distinct facts—namely, firstly, that the bulk of the cash outside the boxes remained under the charge of the old Shroffs, until the defalcation was discovered; secondly, that a deficiency of Rupees 36-8-0 was undoubtedly discovered in box No. 2, which had remained under the Tahsildar's Seal from the time it was locked by the Head Shroff in the Tahsildar's presence on the 2nd instant, till it was recounted on the 6th; and thirdly, that the Head Shroff and his Deputy, when counting the coins in the presence of the Deputy Collector and the Tahsildar on the 6th, effectually concealed a deficiency to the extent of no less than Rupees 134-5-6: all these facts taken together make out, in my judgment, a strong *prima facie* case against the old Shroffs as regards the whole defalcation.

20. The Deputy Collector, as the Board will observe in the concluding part of his letter, states that the Police Inspector is engaged in collecting evidence against the Shroffs, and that they will be prosecuted criminally in the event of sufficient evidence being forthcoming. I do not see, however, what more reliable evidence than what has been already collected in connection with the examination of the Treasury, can be possibly obtained. I have, therefore, directed the Deputy Collector to take steps forthwith for the Shroffs being prosecuted in regular course, and pointed out to him, at the same time, that if any further evidence is actually collected hereafter, there is nothing to prevent its being produced at the trial of the Shroffs. From the peculiar nature of the case, the conviction of the Shroffs is not an absolute certainty; but still the necessity for a regular trial is, on that account, not the less obvious.

21. The question as to how the whole of the deficiency is to be made good depends, in a great measure, on the result of the trial of the Shroffs, which will be reported to the Board in due course. In the meantime, the amount of the deficiency—namely, Rupees 746-11-6, must remain an outstanding balance. I have elsewhere stated that the Acting Deputy Shroff ought to be held responsible for the deficiency of Rupees 25 in a bag of four Annas taken charge of by him, as admitted by himself; but I think it will be a convenient arrangement to let the whole question lie over, till the result of the criminal prosecution of the Shroffs is known.

22. Before concluding, I beg to state that the first intimation of the discovery of a deficiency in the Talook Treasury at Mannargudi reached me on the 9th instant; but the report which I then received was so meagre that I waited for the further report which was promised by the Deputy Collector. This report reached me only on the 17th instant, and since then I have been occupied in examining and analysing it, as well as the record of the inquiries held before the Tahsildar and Deputy Collector, in order to lay the whole case clearly before the Board.

From A. SRINIVASA ROW, Deputy Collector, to the Collector of Tanjore, dated Mannargudi, 14th November 1868, No. 71.

In continuation of my letter of the 6th instant, No. 70, I have the honor to submit a report in detail on the subject of the defalcation of money in the Talook Treasury at Mannargudi.

2. On the 6th instant, the deficiency was ascertained to be Rupees 612-12-0; but on a subsequent examination, a further deficiency of Rupees 134-5-6 has been discovered in copper coin, and in a bag of 4,000 double Annas, by the Tahsildar, in personally making over charge of the Treasury to the new Head Shroff, Kanakasabai Pillai, who counted the whole of the coins singly in the presence of the Tahsildar and the Sheristadar. The following circumstances under which the further deficiency has been discovered are certainly beyond suspicion, and clearly go to show that the discrepancy in the counting of the coin on the 6th was caused by the tricks practised by the Head and Deputy Shroffs, who had a large share in counting the above-mentioned bag of 4,000 double Annas, and the copper coin which was counted only once on that day. On the evening of the 6th, the door of the Treasury room was closed, locked, and sealed by the Tahsildar, who retained the keys with him. On the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th, the Treasury room was kept unopened under seal, there having been no receipts and disbursements on those days, (vide Chittahs of those dates). On the 11th the Tahsildar, after examining the seal of the door in the presence of the Acting Deputy Shroff and the new Head Shroff, opened the room, and personally commenced to make over charge of the cash balance to the new Head Shroff, who singly counted the whole of the Aryan and Maramat Cash balance on the 11th and 12th, and found a deficiency of 100 double Anna pieces (12½ Rupees) in a full bag of that description of coin of the value of 500 Rupees, and of 119-15-0 in the twenty-seven bags of half Anna copper pieces at 6, 7, or 8 Rupees, copper pieces in each bag, and a quarter Anna piece in each of the two of the 30 Rupees bags of three Pie pieces, and sixty quarter Anna pieces in each of the two other bags of the same description, making a total of 122 pieces of the value of Rupees 1-14-6. The full bag of 4,000 double Anna pieces which was on the morning of the 6th on the floor in the Treasury room, was, on the morning of that day, counted by the Head and Deputy Shroffs and two Gumastahs of the Talook Cutcherry, who gave the number counted by each, the total being 4,000 pieces; but in so doing the Head and Deputy Shroffs, who had abstracted a round number therefrom, must have given the number as counted by them, including the 100 pieces abstracted by them. I had then no reason to suspect that they were up to such tricks in counting the money in the presence of myself, the Tahsildar, Sheristadar, and the Town and Talook Police Inspectors and other Gumastahs of the Cutcherry or at least, the villainous bold practice did not strike me at the time. The 6 Pie copper coin bags of the value of 2,000 Rupees were found on the floor of the Treasury room in so disorderly a condition that it was found impracticable to ascertain what each bag contained. It was, therefore, arranged that the whole quantity of coin should be counted into heaps of 10 Rupees each by the Head and Deputy Shroffs and three Gumastahs, putting five such heaps into a bag to contain coin of the value of 50 Rupees. The Head and Deputy Shroffs counted the coin so rapidly that they had counted three-fourths of the coin before the three Gumastahs counted the remainder. Two of the last heaps, counted by the Head Shroff, were suspected by the Police Inspector, Narahari Row, who, on recounting them, found each heap fall short of 10 Rupees by 2 Rupees, and corrected the heaps. Twenty-seven bags, purporting to contain 50 Rupees each, were filled in by this sort of counting. It was then 3 p. m. All went to take their meals, but the coin was not recounted on that day. Hence, the discrepancy in counting this coin. In regard to the small deficiency of Rupees 1-14-6 in the three Pie pieces found by the new Head Shroff in four bags out of the twenty-six bags of 30 Rupees each, I beg to state that on the 6th an increase of Rupees 1-12-6 over twenty-six bags of coins was brought out by the three Gumastahs that counted the coin. This sum was deducted from the actual deficiency of Rupees 614-2-6 found according to the counting of the 6th, and the next deficiency calculated as Rupees 612-6-0. This slight increase in twenty-six bags of three Pie pieces is no doubt the result of mistake on the part of the counters on the 6th. The net deficiency in this coin is only two Annas, being the difference between Rupees 1-14-6 and Rupees 1-12-6. The total defalcation found in the Treasury, as described above, is therefore Rupees 612-6-0, plus Rupees 134-5-6 which is equal to Rupees 746-11-6.

3. To proceed in regard to the defalcation of Rupees 746-11-6 found in the Treasury, I beg to annex a Statement showing the cash balance as per Chittah of the 5th instant, and the deficiency found in each description of coin.

4. On the morning of the 6th, the cash balance was found partly in three boxes, and partly on the floor of the Treasury room. The contents of the box No. 1, in which forty full bags of full Rupees, containing 500 Rupees each, all of the value of 20,000 Rupees, were kept in the month of August last, were, on examination, found to be correct on the 6th as well as on the 11th. In the box No. 2, twenty-eight full bags, as follows:—

|                                             | Rs.          |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 16 bags of full Rupees of the value of..... | 8,000        |
| 6 bags of half do.....                      | 3,000        |
| 4 bags of quarter do.....                   | 2,000        |
| 2 bags of one-eighth do.....                | 1,000        |
|                                             | <hr/> 14,000 |

appear to have been kept by the Head Shroff on the 2nd instant under the orders of the Tahsildar, who, according to his own showing, and the admission of the Head Shroff himself, allowed the bags to be kept in the box No. 2 without counting the coin as he ought to have done. On examination, the full Rupee bags were found correct, but in the two bags of double Anna pieces there was a

|                   | Rs.     | A. |
|-------------------|---------|----|
| In one bag... 2 4 | 1       | 12 |
| " one bag... 1 12 | 3       | 0  |
| " one bag... 3 0  | 3       | 0  |
| " one bag... 3 0  | 3       | 0  |
|                   | <hr/> 8 | 0  |

deficiency of 100 pieces, or 12½ Rupees in each. In the quarter Rupee four bags there was a deficiency of 8 Rupees, as shown in the margin. In the half Rupee bags, six in number, there was an increase of half a Rupee in one bag, and a deficiency of 4 Rupees in four bags,

and the remaining bag was correct, the net deficiency being Rupees 3-8-0. The total net deficiency in the box No. 2 is Rupees 36-8-0. This box does not appear to have been opened up to the 6th, having been locked up on the evening of the 2nd by the Head Shroff himself. The same deficiency was found in recounting the money by the new Head Shroff on the 11th, that is, the contents of the box No. 2 were correct according to the examination of the 6th. The contents of the box No. 3, containing the Hospital subscriptions to the extent of Rupees 4,309-10-6, were found correct on the 6th as well as on the 13th, on which date it was recounted by the new Head Shroff in the presence of the Tahsildar. As regards the money that was found on the floor of the Treasury room on the morning of the 6th, I beg to state that a full Rupee bag, containing 500 Rupees, was missing. A deficiency of 100 quarter Rupees, or Rupees 25, was found in a bag which was said to contain 1,330 quarter Rupee pieces of the value of Rupees 332½. This bag, the Head Shroff says, he made over to the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th, and the Acting Deputy Shroff, in admitting the same, states that the Head and Deputy Shroffs who counted the coin, and delivered it to him as correct, must have deceived him by including the 100 pieces abstracted by them from the bag with the number actually counted by them. In the full bag of 4,000 double Anna pieces, referred to in paragraph 2, a deficiency of 100 pieces of the value of 12½ Rupees was found by the new Head Shroff in recounting the coin on the 11th. The total deficiency in silver coin is as follows:—

|                                                          | Rs.       | A. | P. |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|----|----|
| One full bag containing full Rupees.....                 | 500       | 0  | 0  |
| In the box No. 2, (vide detail above).....               | 36        | 8  | 0  |
| Quarter Rupees 100.....                                  | 25        | 0  | 0  |
| One-eighth Rupees 100, deficiency found on the 11th..... | 12        | 8  | 0  |
|                                                          | <hr/> 574 | 0  | 0  |
| Of the remaining deficiency of Rupees.....               | 172       | 11 | 6  |
| The deficiency in 6 Pie coin is.....                     | 172       | 9  | 6  |
| Do. in 3 do.....                                         | 0         | 2  | 0  |
|                                                          | <hr/> 172 | 11 | 6  |
| Total deficiency in silver and copper coins ...          | 746       | 11 | 6  |

as shown in paragraph 2.

The Paper Currency Notes were found correct.

5 On the 2nd instant, the Tahsildar despatched the usual cash balance report to the Treasury Deputy Collector, reporting the same to this Office on the 3rd, in reference to the irregularities practised by the Head and Deputy Shroffs in the last month, in regard to a small deficiency made good by themselves without bringing the matter to the notice of the Tahsildar. For this irregularity, the Head and Deputy Shroffs were suspended for three months each on the 3rd, and the Head Shroff of Tritrapundi transferred to the Mannargudi Talook, and Nanasami Row, a man of substance, was appointed to act as Deputy Shroff during the suspension of Deputy Shroff Visvanatha Chetty. The order of the Shroff's suspension reached the Tahsildar on the evening of the 3rd, and on the 4th, he gave orders to the Sheristadar to see that the tundu bags alone (incomplete bags) out of the sum to which the suspended Shroffs had access, and the sum that was in their immediate charge, are made over by the suspended Shroffs to the Acting Deputy Shroff, he having expressed his inability to count and take charge of the whole cash balance without the aid of the new Head Shroff Kanakasabai Pillai. Accordingly, the suspended Shroffs appear to have on the 4th made over to the Acting Deputy Shroff a small sum of sundry money, noted in the margin,

|                                              |             |                                                  |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| Allyan money Rupees.....                     | Rs. 4. 0. 0 | to enable him to make disbursements, together    |
| Do. Notes No. 78.....                        | 4,870 0 0   | with Paper Currency Notes, Stamps, Adhesive      |
| Maramat money.....                           | 125 0 0     | Stamps, Postage labels, etc. The Acting Deputy   |
| Permanent Advance Fund.....                  | 11 0 0      | Shroff on that date received money and made      |
| Undisbursed portion of salary.....           | 2 14 0      | disbursements in the presence of the suspended   |
| Famine Relief Fund.....                      | 8 12 0      | Shroffs on the evening; the door of the Treasury |
| Contingent amount of Nidamungalam Firka..... | 10 0 0      | room was locked and sealed in the presence of    |
| Civil Dispensary Fund.....                   | 850 0 0     | the Acting Deputy Shroff, the suspended Shroffs  |
| Total.....                                   | 6,368 0 0   |                                                  |

and the Sheristadar. On the 5th, the Treasury room was opened by the Sheristadar in the presence of the Acting Deputy Shroff and the suspended Shroffs; but no money was made over to the charge of the Acting Deputy Shroff by the suspended Shroffs, as the Acting Deputy Shroff had on that day, to attend to large receipts and disbursements. At 1 p. m. the suspended Head Shroff made over to the Acting Deputy Shroff, Act books, etc., that were for sale. The Sheristadar says, that at 8 p. m. the Cash Chittah was closed and compared with the Shroff's Chitta, when the Acting Deputy Shroff put all the money that was in his charge in a bag, and carried it into the Treasury room; and observing that the money bags, that were in charge of the suspended Shroffs, were scattered on the floor, asked him (the Sheristadar) to order the suspended Shroffs to keep them separately; that accordingly the suspended Shroffs entered the Treasury room and placed two full bags separately, saying they were Rupee bags; upon which, the Acting Deputy Shroff suspecting one of the bags, by the noise of the coin, as a copper coin bag, informed the Sheristadar of the same, who entered the room and asked the suspended Head Shroff to open the bag, which was, on examination, found to contain copper coin, the bag being one in which silver coin is generally kept; upon which the suspended Head Shroff said the silver coin bag might have been mixed up with copper coin bags, which were placed side by side. The copper coin bags were searched in vain up to 10 p. m. The Sheristadar thereupon wrote a chit to the Tahsildar informing him that a bag of 500 Rupees was missing, and asking him to come over. The chit is enclosed. The Tahsildar came to the Cutcherry at 11 p. m. closed and sealed the Treasury door, and carried the keys with him, promising to examine the Treasury on the next morning. The Acting Deputy Shroff and the Maahalchi Raman both support the statement of the Sheristadar, as to the suspended Head Shroff being present while the bag of Rupees 500 was missing; but the Nagadi Gumastah, Streenivasa Row, contradicts the statements of the Sheristadar, the Acting Deputy Shroff, and the Maahalchi, and says that the suspended Head Shroff was absent at the time; that the suspended Deputy Shroff was present; and that the Sheristadar sent for him (suspended Head Shroff) at 9 1/2 p. m. after finding the bag missing, and inquired of him as to the whereabouts of the bag, when the suspended Head Shroff entered the room, and searched for it among the copper coin bags, and said it was not forthcoming, while he states that the suspended Head Shroff, after making over the Act books, etc., to the Acting Deputy Shroff, left the Cutcherry at 5 p. m. on that day. As for my part, I do not believe that the suspended Head Shroff was present at the time; but I do not see why that point is misrepresented by the Sheristadar. Whether he was or not at the time, does not

in the least affect the case. Perhaps the Sheristadar attempts to show that everything was right up to the 4th, and that the suspended Head Shroff had made away with the bag on that day. Enough that the suspended Deputy Shroff was present at the time, as he himself admits that he was present, and that the Acting Deputy Shroff, after entering the room, reported that one of the bags, kept on the floor as a Rupee bag, appeared to him to be a copper coin bag by the noise caused in moving it. The suspended Deputy Shroff says that he knows nothing about the defalcation, as he had been assisting the suspended Head Shroff in writing business and receiving and making over the money to him. The suspended Head Shroff lays much stress on two points,—

1stly.—On the usual cash balance report despatched to the Treasury Deputy Collector on the 2nd after examination; and

2ndly.—On the alleged fact that he made over charge of all the money to the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th, with the exception of the copper coin; and the money that was kept in boxes Nos. 1, 2, and 3, of which the Tahsildar and the Sheristadar took charge, on the two previous days, that is, on the 2nd and 3rd; and as a proof of his having made over charge of all the money alluded to above to the Acting Deputy Shroff on the 4th, he states that he did not sign the cash Chittah of that date, while the Acting Deputy Shroff signed it.

While he himself admits that he had not made over charge of the copper coin and the contents of the boxes Nos. 1, 2, and 3 to the Acting Deputy Shroff, as he ought to have done, even though the Tahsildar had examined the cash balance on the 2nd; the fact of his not having signed the Chittah of the 4th cannot, in my opinion, relieve him from responsibility; and the fact of the Acting Deputy Shroff having signed the cash Chittah is no proof of his having received the charge of all the money from the suspended Shroffs. The suspended Head Shroff produced on the morning of the 6th the paper A., in which the Acting Deputy Shroff noted down certain items of money, inclusive of full bags, that was in the immediate charge of the suspended Shroffs, alleging that the Acting Deputy Shroff took charge of all the items of money therein specified. But the paper A. bears neither date nor the signature of the Acting Deputy Shroff, and the Acting Deputy Shroff admits having noted down the items in the paper A., as told by the suspended Head Shroff, desiring him to take charge; but says as he had orders only to take charge of the tundu money, he refused to take charge of the full bags, and put the paper A. aside as useless, which the suspended Head Shroff appears to have picked up and produced. This paper A., does not in the least show that the Acting Deputy Shroff had taken charge of all the items specified therein, in the face of the statements of the Sheristadar and the Nagadi Gumastah Streenivasa Row. It further appears that in the Maramat Chittah of the 4th, the Nagadi Gumastah, Streenivasa Row, entered a remark, in the first instance, to the effect that the Acting Deputy Shroff received charge of all the Maramat money "Melkanda tugai oppukonden," and asked the Acting Deputy Shroff to sign the Chittah, which the Acting Deputy Shroff refused to sign on the ground that he had not received the full bags of the Maramat money; upon which, with the sanction of the Sheristadar, he altered the remark to the effect that out of the Maramat money, the Acting Deputy Shroff took charge of the tundu bags, and obtained the signature of the Acting Deputy Shroff to the Chittah.

6. In regard to the deficiency of 100 quarter Rupees in a bag containing 1,330 pieces, which the Acting Deputy Shroff himself admits having taken charge of on the 4th instant from the suspended Shroffs, the Acting Deputy Shroff says, the suspended Shroffs deceived him in counting the coin, and he will make good the amount, if he is called upon to do so. He may be held responsible for the deficiency which occurred in the bag which he has taken charge of according to his own showing, but I am of opinion that he being a new hand, just taken charge of the Office on that very day, was clearly deceived by the suspended Head Shroff. As a proof of this, I beg to state that, on the morning of the 6th, the suspended Head Shroff himself counted the said quarter Rupee bag, and said there was a deficiency of 100 quarter Rupees, declaring that he had made over charge of the bag on the 4th to the Acting Deputy Shroff, who at once admitted having taken charge of the bag, representing that he was deceived by the suspended Head Shroff, who must have given the number as counted by him with the 100 pieces abstracted by him from the bag some time ago. This is highly probable. The suspended Head Shroff seems to me to be an expert hand in such matters.

7. In regard to the deficiency of 36½ Rupees in the box No. 2, in which twenty-eight bags were put in on the 2nd, without being counted by the Tahsildar as admitted by himself and the suspected Head Shroff, the suspected Head Shroff has no way of explaining it away; but he attempted in his deposition before the Tahsildar to say that it might have been made away with by the counters on the 6th, and at last admitted that it must have been the result of a mistake in his counting the money on the 2nd instant. Before me he deposes that he cannot account for the deficiency in box No. 2, and that it must have been caused by his having wrongly counted the coin in putting it in the box on the 2nd instant. It is no wonder that a man, who is capable of embezzling money so successfully for months, should impugn the counters of the 6th. The fact of the exact number of 100 silver pieces in each of the four bags being found deficient, with a deficiency of a large quantity of copper coin, clearly lead me to suspect that the suspected Head Shroff has been embezzling the money for months, if not for years, successfully deceiving the examiners by his tact in handling the money in the Treasury room, by actually counting the coin before the examiners and giving the number, as counted by him including the sum abstracted by him from each bag.

8. The Talook Sheristadar had up to 6th a high opinion of the suspected Head Shroff, and as such, he had implicit confidence in him and had in consequence, I believe, left the cash affairs quietly to the suspected Head Shroff. This, as well as the superficial and careless manner in which the Tahsildar, who is new to the people of this talook, appears to have examined the Treasury monthly, as described by him in his deposition, has, in a great measure, encouraged the suspected Head Shroff in carrying on his embezzlement successfully.

9. The suspected Deputy Shroff, Visvanatha Chetty, is no doubt but a cypher, when compared with the tact and intelligence of the suspected Head Shroff; but I fully suspect that Visvanatha Chetty has all along connived at the malpractices of his Head, and is perfectly cognisant of the embezzlement.

10. Under all the circumstances of the case, I am of opinion that the suspected Head and Deputy Shroffs should be held responsible for the defalcation of Rupees 740-11-6 now discovered.

11. The suspected Head and Deputy Shroffs are now on remand in the custody of the Police on suspicion, and the Town Police Inspector is engaged in collecting evidence against them. In the event of his succeeding in collecting sufficient evidence, they will be prosecuted criminally.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. L. MORRIS,

Collector.

Tax Board owe their acknowledgments to Mr. Morris for the clear and complete manner in which this case has been laid before them.

2. They consider that the conduct both of the Tahsildar and of the Deputy Collector calls for severe notice. When a Tahsildar, who has to perform the important duty of examining a Treasury, trusts so entirely to the subordinates whom his examination is expressly intended to check, that a large deficiency can pass undiscovered, it is evident that the property of Government is in no safe keeping. Tambisami Pillai will be suspended for six months.

3. The Board must also express the grave displeasure with which they have heard of the carelessness of Srinivasa Row, the Deputy Collector, who allowed himself to be deceived in counting the money in the Treasury by the delinquent Shroffs, even after his attention had been called to the fact that there was ground for suspecting them.

4. The Collector's intention of prosecuting the late Head Shroff and Deputy Shroff of Mannargudi is approved. The Board will await his further report before adjusting the deficiency of Rupees 746-11-6.

(True Copies and Extract.)

*G. L. Morris*  
Sub-Secretary.

To the Collector of Tanjore.

Copy to the Acting Secretary to Government, Rev. Dept.  
.. to the Accountant General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

No. 1,526.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 8th March 1869.

Read the following letter from G. L. MORRIS, Esq., Collector of Tanjore, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Tanjore, 18th February 1869, No. 31:—

With reference to paragraph 4 of the Board's Proceedings, dated the 19th January 1869, No. 311, I have the honor to report, for their information, that both the Head and Deputy Sheriffs of the Mannargudi Talook were committed by Deputy Magistrate Srinivasa Row on charges of embezzlement of public money and falsifying public accounts, under Sections 409 and 167, respectively, of the Indian Penal Code; it having been subsequently discovered that they had largely tampered with the statements of coins (No. 2, Appendix C. of the Talook Manual) in their charge. They have each been convicted by the Sessions Court of the offences specified in Sections 409 and 167 of the Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to seven years' transportation, and to pay a fine equal to half the amount of the deficiency, which sum has been recovered by the sale of their property. There is accordingly no deficiency in the Mannargudi Talook Treasury to be adjusted.

COMMUNICATED to Government, in continuation of the subject of Proceedings of 19th January 1869, No. 311.

2. It will be observed that there is no deficiency to be adjusted.  
(A true Copy and Extract.)

*W. H. ...*  
Acting Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.

Copy to the Collector of Tanjore.

Exd. T. Cartledge.

*Revenue Office*

*18-231*

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.  
1869.

PROCEEDINGS, 19TH JANUARY 1869, NO. 311.

*Recd. 25/January/1869*  
*Encl*

JANUARY.  
No. 311.

*Case 266. Refuse 1/5*

*Delegation in Mannargudi Talook Treasury—*  
*in Tanjore District.—Collector's proposal to pro-*  
*secute late Head Sheriff and Deputy Sheriff of*  
*Treasury for, approved.—Tahsildar to be sus-*  
*pended for six months for his carelessness in*  
*matter.*

*24. July 19. 1869*

Rev<sup>d</sup> Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the

Read the following  
Proceedings of the Board  
of Revenue.

Approving Sanjoo  
to Mr. proposal to prosecute late  
H. C. Chetty & Co. of Manager by  
Saloo's Treasury; for defaulting  
in the Treasury and ordering  
the suspension of the Salwildar  
for six months for culpability  
in the matter.

(H.C. 19<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, 1869 No. 311)

Ordered to be recorded  
The Govt request to be fur-  
nished with a copy of the  
Further Report promised  
by Mr. Morris, and the  
Board's Proceedings thereon.

W.D.H.  
M.P.

I would await the  
further report before  
recommending the case -  
W.D.H.  
N.P.

H.W.

Revenue Office  
18-807

BOARD OF REVENUE, MADRAS.  
1869.

PROCEEDINGS 8TH MARCH 1869, No. 1,592.

Copy to the  
Revenue 13<sup>th</sup> - 80 - Encl

MARCH  
No. 1,586.

Memorandum Talook Treasury in Tanjore Dis-  
trict—Collector's report that there is no def-  
ciency in, to be adjusted on, account of money  
embezzled by Head and Deputy Shroff, commu-  
nicated to Government.

See to 876. 18<sup>th</sup> April 1869.

29th Nov 1869

Depalcation in the  
University of Tokyo  
Library

Cir

1-1-1

W. 886.  
Proceedings of the Madras Government  
Under date the 1<sup>st</sup>. <sup>apt.</sup> March 1869.

Approving Ex. jure L<sup>o</sup> Col<sup>o</sup>  
proposed to prosecute late Mr  
Shroff<sup>th</sup> & Shroff of Managory  
Tulook Treasury, for defalcation  
in the Treasury & ordering the sus-  
pension of the Sub.ilsar for  
six months for carelessness, in  
the matter

Reporting that there is no de-  
ficiency in management of Talooki Treas-  
ury to be adjusted on account of  
money embezzled by, Shroffs.

W.D. H.

Ordered to be recorded.

Ms. Papers to the B<sup>y</sup> Rev. Dr. D. 20 Apr

*Leitch*

*Journal of Management Studies*, 19(6), 701-718.

2. 6. 1991