M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1557 Press ~~Mis.~~

62-63

Dated 2nd June ~~19~~ 1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 2nd June 1869.

No. 62. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Public Department:—

Removing Mr. Sharp, Acting Sub-Collector in the Bellary District, on his confession of having violated a most important standing order of Government, from his present appointment to that of Head Assistant of the Salem District. (Here enter 22nd May 1869, No. 690.)

No. 63. ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1869, No. 1,557.

Miscellaneous. COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,

Acting Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Public Department, No. 690.

Erd. E. C. Shunker.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department, 22nd May 1869.

No. 181. Read the following letter from F. H. SHARP, Esq., Madras Civil Service, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Penconda, 30th April 1869.

I have the honour to address you on the following subject.

2. The Government have in repeated orders prohibited monetary dealings between Civilians and Indians resident in their jurisdiction. I regret to state that, when resident at Cumbum, Kurnool District, as Acting Head Assistant to the Collector and Magistrate of that district, I acted contrary to the letter of those orders in the following instances. But I would here record that my errors arose from heedlessness or ignorance, and not from any wilful intention to disobey the orders of Government; and that my conduct was free from any corrupt motive or from any desire to obtain any improper pecuniary advantage from my official position.

3. Some time in July—November 1865, a large party of police marched into Cumbum on their return from duty at some distant station, and represented to the Assistant Superintendent of Police and myself that they were totally destitute of money wherewith to purchase provisions, &c., on the remaining part of their march (nearly 100 miles) to their head-quarters. As it was undoubtedly unadvisable that a large body of Government servants should be marching about the country without money for their daily food, and as a sum of one hundred rupees appeared to be necessary to them, I borrowed that sum from one Bhowanassi Gurumurti, a wealthy and independent merchant resident at Bestarapett, a village about a mile from my head-quarters, and advanced the money to the police, informing their District Superintendent thereof. That Officer shortly afterwards entrusted the amount to a person travelling up to Cumbum to hand over to me. But that person found it necessary to spend some of the money on his journey, and handed none of it over to me, paying the Soucar direct a short time afterwards, whether with interest or not I do not know.

4. Some time in April or May 1866, as the pay of my office did not arrive at the usual time, and I was going out into the district, I borrowed five hundred rupees from the same Soucar, repaying the amount without interest a few days afterwards.

5. In June or July 1866, on being emergently summoned into Kurnool on Government business, I borrowed from the same lender, I think, one hundred rupees, which was also repaid shortly afterwards, *i. e.*, within a few days, or a week or two.

6. In November or December 1866, I, on a pressing demi-official emergency, which admitted of no delay, paid one hundred and fifty rupees to the same Soucar, and obtained from him a hoondee payable in Madras for six hundred and fifty rupees. The balance of five hundred rupees I repaid two or three months afterwards. I endeavoured to obtain from the Soucar an account of the cost of the loan; but, failing to do so, remitted to him fifty rupees, if I remember right, beyond his dues.

7. I made another attempt recently to obtain from the Soucar an account of my monetary transactions with him, but failed to do so. I have, therefore, to trust to my memory in laying these details before you.

8. All the above loans were made without interest, without the taking from me of any bond or receipt, and on verbal messages sent through the subordinate

officials about me. At the same time they were contracted without any corrupt motive or sense of obligation on my side, with the utmost publicity, and without a thought, to the best of my memory, of any impropriety in them. And if I was not entirely ignorant of any Government orders on the subject, I probably thought such to be obsolete and unnecessary at the time alluded to.

9. And I may add that, to the best of my belief, no one in Cumbum saw any impropriety in these matters, and that Bhowanassi Gurumurti had no thoughts of placing me under any obligation to him, that he probably considered it in the light of an honour to lend to me, and that from this motive he refused to take any interest.

10. At the same time, while attempting to record motives as well as acts in this matter, the impropriety of my conduct has long since forced itself upon me; and I have felt that, whether conscious or ignorant of Government orders on the subject, a sense of what was due to my official position, and of the duty of guarding against even the appearance of compromising myself, ought to have made me careful to avoid any pecuniary obligation to those around me.

11. But I would respectfully ask the Government to take into consideration, in reviewing this matter, that at the time at which these transactions occurred, I was inexperienced as to the duties and responsibilities of Revenue Officers, that I had been recently transferred from the post of Assistant to the Collector of Trichinopoly, where, as a resident in a large station, I had no experience of official influence.

12. While, as stated above, a sense of the impropriety of my conduct has long since forced itself upon me, I have refrained from bringing it to notice, arguing with myself that the absence of any improper motive on my part excused me from blame. But I now consider that this is a subject of which Government, and not I, should judge.

13. As this is a matter which concerns me personally with Government, I take the liberty of addressing you direct on the subject.

No. 182.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd May 1869, No. 690.

In the letter above recorded, Mr. Sharp, the Acting Sub-Collector of Bellary, reports to Government the fact that on two occasions, when he was Acting Head Assistant in the Kurnool District, he borrowed on his own private account money from a Native Soucar resident within his jurisdiction. These loans, amounting to Rupees 100 and Rupees 500, were repaid by Mr. Sharp with a sum of 50 Rupees as interest very shortly after they were contracted.

2. In borrowing money in the manner described, Mr. Sharp violated a most important standing order of the Government, with which Mr. Sharp, as are all Civilians on entering the Government Service, was made acquainted.

3. The Government are unable, therefore, to admit that Mr. Sharp, in borrowing this money, acted in ignorance of this standing order; but they recognize with satisfaction the candour with which Mr. Sharp has of his own accord acquainted the Government with his transgression of the rule, and are satisfied that he had no unworthy motive or intention in the transactions which he has reported to Government.

4. They deem it, however, necessary to mark their disapprobation of Mr. Sharp's conduct on this occasion, and the importance which they attach to the strict observance by all public officers of the rule published in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 23rd May 1856, by removing Mr. Sharp from his present appointment as Acting Sub-Collector of Bellary.

5. Mr. Sharp will be appointed as Head Assistant of the Salem District, it not being desirable to allow him to revert to his substantive appointment as Head Assistant in the Kurnool District.

(True Extract).

Henry E. Stokes
Offg Under ~~Chief~~ Secretary.

To F. H. Sharp, Esq.
the Revenue Department

Com.r to the Revenue Board
WD
2 Inwd 69
5=To the Bd of Rev.e with Proc.s Dd 22/5/69
Des: 2 Inwd 69

Exd. A. S. Rodgers.

Revenue Ap: 1733 &c &c

Genl. of 1860 Madras.

PUBLIC.

To

F. H. SHARP, Esq.

Dated May, 22nd.

Recd. 28th. —— Encl.

G. O., 22nd May 1860, No. 699.

MAY.

Nos. 181-182.

Removing Mr. Sharp, Acting Sub-Collector in the Dollary District, on his confession of having violated a most important standing order of Government, from his present appointment to that of Head Assistant of the Salem District.

Writ C. F. Cox

R. 1559 92 June 16