M.R.O. 1—89,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 12 Press Mis.

Dated 24-1-1870

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 24th January 1870.

No. 246. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 30th November 1869, No. 8,803.

Read the following letters:—

From the Collector of Kurnool, to the Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 11th October 1869, No. 358.

I HAVE the honour to bring the following information before the Board of Revenue, and trust the steps I have taken in the matter may meet with approval, and my recommendations be adopted.

2. The Deputy-Magistrate of Nundial reported to me on the 4th September 1869 that some jewels, seized under Section 130 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were stolen from the talook treasury, where they were locked up in a wooden box. The Deputy-Magistrate, on a personal inspection, found that the bottom of the box had been broken, and a broken bayonet lying near. The suspicion fell, of course, on the treasury-guard, who is now on trial. Besides jewels there were three bags of money in the box, containing Rupees 224-6-2; two of these bags were missing, in one was a sum of Rupees 68-14-6, compensation-money to be paid on account of lands taken up by the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, and the other Rupees 9-13-0, Permanent Fund. The total loss of Government money is Rupees 78-11-6.

3. Last year a similar theft took place, which ultimately resulted in the dismissal of some Government officials, regarding which the correspondence noted in the margin took place.

Board's Proceedings, No. 2,337, dated 7th April 1869.

4. The Board are aware that the house occupied at Nundial as the talook cutcherry is a hired building, for which Government pay the sum of 50 rupees a-month as rent. It was first rented in January 1866 on the representation of Mr. Minchin regarding the small accommodation afforded by the talook cutcherry, which is now occupied as a Police station and a subsidiary jail.

Board's Proceedings, No. 8,019, dated 15th December 1865.

5. The house is very ill-adapted for a cutcherry, but particularly as a treasury, for the room used as such, and which is the only one that can be so used, is small, has one weak wooden door, and a small wooden window. The whole building is surrounded by a high wall, and there are several trees and shrubs about the enclosure or compound, so that the treasure-guard, (three constables,) who alone are about the cutcherry at night, can do, without being overlooked, whatever they wish regarding the treasure and the property left in the cutcherry.

6. Seeing the insecurity of this treasure-room, I have had the treasure removed to the railed enclosure, which was built for the safety of treasure in the old cutcherry, which is now used as a Police station and a subsidiary jail. The only alteration necessary being the filling up with iron bars the opening between the top of the railings and the beams of the roof at a cost of 12 rupees.

7. This I request the Board to sanction. The case against the Police-guard will form materials for magisterial inquiry, the result of which shall be duly reported.

8. I regret to say that, from what has been brought since to light, I am unable to repose much confidence in the veracity of the Talook Tahsildar, Jaggarlapudi Venkatasubbayya. He told the Deputy-Magistrate, Sudarsana Row, that four months ago 270 rupees were missing from the treasury, and that he, the Sheristadar, and Nagadi Goomastah had quietly hushed up the matter by making good the sum lost among themselves, and that he had no confidence in the Shroff, Chender Row.

9. I requested the Deputy-Magistrate to take a declaration on the subject from the Tahsildar. He did so, and the Tahsildar, apparently frightened at finding the matter had become public, retracted what he formerly said, declared he had never said that 270 rupees had been lost from the treasury and refunded, and stated that he did not think the Shroff untrustworthy. The Nagadi Goomastah and Shroff also denied all knowledge of the loss and refund of Rupees 270.

The Tahsildar said, however, when he was absent, it had come to his knowledge that, on some treasure-bags being examined, 100 rupees was found in excess in one bag of 1,000 rupees, and deficient in another. This is acknowledged by the Shroff, but denied by Pillarisetti Narsimhulu Naidoo, at present Tahsildar of Hindupuram in the Bellary District, who was then the Talook Sheristadar in charge of the talook, during the Tahsildar's absence on leave.

10. Had nothing more happened, I might not have taken much more notice of this Rupees 270 story, but that, added to what has since taken place, further justify me in considering that the Tahsildar's veracity is not to be trusted, and places his conduct in a more unsatisfactory light.

11. On the 11th September 1869, a Peon, named Abay Naidoo, employed by Mr. Dodson of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, brought an Accountant-General's Bill to the treasury at Nundial for Rupees 20,000. Twenty bags, containing Rupees 1,000 each, were given to him, for which he gave a receipt, and took the money in a bandy to Vellapanur, about eighteen miles north of Nundial, which he reached that night at 7 P.M., and when the money was counted out on the 13th and 14th, there was a deficiency of Rupees 200.

12. When information reached Nundial, the whole balance of treasure was counted and found to be exactly correct; and from Abay Naidoo's own statement it appears he opened one of the bags and took 40 rupees out, and changed them in the bazaar at Nundial for copper, and went on to Vellapanur where the money was not counted till the 13th and 14th.

13. I do not think that any one of the Government officials can be responsible for this loss. The money passed out of their hands, and they received a receipt for it, and it was conveyed to Vellapanur where it stayed several hours from 7 P.M. of the 11th to some hours of the 13th and 14th. I am only surprised more was not lost. There was no guard, and had the bandy been attacked on the road and plundered, there was no assistance at hand.

14. I ordered an inquiry regarding the method of giving over the money to Abay Naidoo, and from that it appeared that the last time the money was counted was the 14th August; in fact, it had not then been counted, for, as most of it had been received from the Kurnool treasury, it was taken for granted that it was all correct.

15. As the Sheristadar and Shroff but stated that the treasure was not examined since the 14th August, I examined the Account Current, dated 30th August, signed by the Tahsildar Bellary Venkat Row, Sheristadar, and Pasupalla Sheshappa Nagadi Goomastah, certifying that the treasure had been examined and found correct. They were each questioned on this matter, and the following is the abstract of their replies:—

16. The Tahsildar says he signed the Account Current on the word of Sheristadar and Shroff whom he saw weighing the bags, and that he did not certify on the Account Current that he had personally examined the treasure, but "that everything is correct according to accounts."

The Sheristadar says he did not weigh the bags, but counted the bags which were full, and counted all the change in small bags.

The Acting Nagadi Goomastah says he does not remember signing the certificate on the copy of the Account Current, which was sent to the Huzoor on the 30th August; he remembers a certificate at the foot, to the effect that "I examined the treasure, and found all correct;" that the Office-copy was signed by himself alone, and that he was not present when treasure was examined.

The Shroff says almost the same as the Sheristadar, and that some months ago there was an excess of 100 rupees in some bags, and a corresponding deficiency in others.

17. In reviewing the whole of the part the Tahsildar has taken in the matter, I cannot but state, as my deliberate opinion, that I consider he has told many falsehoods. He told the Deputy-Collector that he had found a deficiency of Rupees 270 about four months ago in the treasure which he and others refunded, and that he had no confidence in the Shroff; he then denied he had ever said so. I have very great confidence in Sudarsana Row, the Deputy-Collector, and am convinced that his statement is correct, and that it was impossible for him, so upright a man as I know him to be, to have invented the story with the intention of damaging the Tahsildar. He stated he had not examined the treasure since the 10th August, and when asked how it was he certified on the 30th August on the Account Current that he had examined it and found it correct, he stated he saw the Sheristadar weigh it, and that he never certified he had made personally an examination of the treasure.

The Sheristadar and Shroff both declare that the money was not weighed, but that the bags and small coins were counted.

18. Besides the Tahsildar's untruthfulness, I consider his method of carrying out his work connected with the treasury most lax. For in addition to what may be gathered from the whole of this report, I must bring to notice that in the Account Current sent to the Huzoor, dated 30th August, (instead of the word August being entered July is written) he certifies that he examined the treasure and found it correct, while to the talook copy I find no certificate whatever appended.

The Huzoor copy was signed by the Tahsildar, the Sheristadar, and the Nagadi Goomastah, but the original copy in the talook was signed only by the Nagadi Goomastah.

19. The Tahsildar's service is a long one, and previous to this, he has invariably pleased me. I regret therefore that he should now have lost my confidence, and were it not that I consider a comparatively lenient punishment will deter him in future from such carelessness, I would be inclined to recommend his removal from the service. I therefore recommend that he should be removed from Nundial, the pay of which is Rupees 200 a month, to Cumbum the pay of which is Rupees 150. The Tahsildar of Cumbum is a good man, and deserving of promotion. I therefore request he may be transferred to Nundial.

Number of years 16.

Kanchi Kistna Row.

20. Regarding the Sheristadar I think, being a new man and not guilty of falsehood, but only of carelessness, I shall remove him to Sirwell, the work of which is light, and transfer the Sheristadar of Sirwell, Hindupuram Venkat Row, to Nundial, where the work is heavier, and the responsibility far greater, on account of the large sums of money which have frequently to be paid out to the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.

Bellary Venkat Row.

21. The Shroff, Chender Row, I shall dismiss, for only last year he was transferred from the Ramalkota Talook, where his conduct was most unsatisfactory.

22. The Nagadi Goomastah, Pasupalla Seshappa, I will reprimand, and trust that having a new Tahsildar over him in the talook cutcherry will be a sufficient safe-guard for his working more carefully in future.

23. As regards the safety of the treasure, I need only mention the necessity of the new cutcherry being completed. The foundations are laid and the site procured, but the building has been stopped owing to the late orders from the Supreme Government. The hired house used as a cutcherry is not secure enough for treasure, and the sub-jail, owing to the number of constables about, and the railed enclosure formerly built for treasure, though sufficiently secure, presents many difficulties, owing to its being in a building separate from the cutcherry where the Tahsildar, Sheristadar, and others work. I trust the Board will represent this matter regarding the new cutcherry built at Nundial to Government as a special case.

Government Order, Nos. 2,059, 2,221, and 2,273, dated 24th June, 8th and 12th July 1869.

From the same officer, dated 8th November 1869, No. 394.

Referring to my letter, No. 358, dated 11th October 1869, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Board of Revenue, copy of the Deputy-Magistrate's Calendar in the case against the Police-guard for theft of jewels from the talook treasury at Nundial.

Enclosure No. 1.—Calendar.

In the first letter the Collector of Kurnool brings to notice a theft of jewels and ...y in deposit in the Nundial Tahsildar's Office, valued at Rupees 78-11-6, the ...s and money were kept in a wooden box which had been broken open. From ...econd letter, it appears that two constables of the Police-guard have been ...icted of the theft.

2. The Collector notices the insecure character of the rented premises now ... as a Talook Office, and reports that he has transferred the treasure to the ...her place of custody in the old cutcherry now used as a Police Office.

3. This measure is approved, and the expenditure of Rupees 12, which is ...uired to make the place secure, is sanctioned.

4. The Collector further reports that on a recent occasion, 20,000 rupees ...e handed over to an employé of the Irrigation Company, who removed them ...thout counting the money, and that when it was counted the next day at Vella...nur, 200 rupees were found to be missing.

5. In connection with these and other circumstances, the Collector reports ...at his belief in the veracity and trustworthiness of the Tahsildar has been shaken. ... appears that the Deputy-Collector mentioned to Mr. Chase that the Tahsildar had ...old him (apparently after the theft was discovered) that Rupees 270 had been ...ecently missing, and had been quietly made good by the Sheristadar and others. The Tahsildar denies ever having made such a statement to the Deputy-Collector, ...nd in his Arzi to the Board gives reasons to show the improbability of his having ...ndulged in such confidences. The fact of the defalcation having ever occurred is denied, and there is no evidence whatever of their having been ground in fact for the alleged information. It seems probable that some misapprehension has taken place.

(*Note.*—The Deputy-Collector seems to have told the Collector at once or very soon afterwards.)

6. An unimportant adjustment of money in a remittance is noticed in paragraph 9 of the Collector's first letter. It appears further that the Tahsildar signed at the end of August the usual certificate of having examined the treasure and found it correct, when, as a matter of fact, the full bags were only counted, and that the broken sums in small bags were the only ones actually examined by the Sheristadar. The money and accounts are, however, correct.

7. The Collector proposes to reduce the Tahsildar, and remove him to an inferior talook.

8. The Tahsildar has served sixteen years, and Mr. Chase states has, previous to this, invariably pleased him. He submits very favourable testimonials from competent judges.

9. The Board having carefully considered the whole case, see no reason for adopting the Collector's recommendation in respect to the Tahsildar, but they consider that both he and the Sheristadar are deserving of severe censure for the lax manner in which the examination of their treasury has been conducted by them. The loss of Rupees 200 on the money paid to the employé of the Irrigation Com-

pany suggests suspicions with regard to the Shroff. His conduct should be carefully watched.

10. The Board resolve to lay the Collector's remarks on the urgent want of the new buildings for the Nundial Talook Cutcherry, which has been already commenced before Government.

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1870, No. 121.

Miscellaneous.

THE orders of the Board of Revenue as issued in the foregoing Proceedings are approved.

2. The concluding paragraph of the Collector's letter, which is adverted to in the last paragraph of the Board's Proceedings, will be considered in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. A. DALYELL,
Acting Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
,, the Public Works Department.
,, the Accountant-General.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. Dept.

No. 721-

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 26th Jany. 1870.
Read the following
Rep. of the Bd of Revenue
B. 30 Nov. 1869.

The rules of the
Board of Revenue
as issued in the foregoing
Proceedings are approved.

The concluding paragraph
of the Collectors letter
which is submitted to
in the last para of the
Bds Proc. will be con-
sidered in P.W.D.

N.

A.J.P.

B.L.

12 Tobacco Rep. Dept. 26
24 — Do Depts
6a — Revenue

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated January, 24th.

Read.

Encl.

G. O., 24th *January* 1870, No. 121.

Francis B. Pauli, Esq., C.S.

JANUARY.

Nos. 246-247.

Tuloor Cutcherries in Bellary District.—Collector's remarks on the urgent want of new buildings, to be considered in the Public Works Department.