

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	800	Press Ms.
13-16 Dated	2-6-1870	12

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
2nd June 1870.*

Read the following papers:—

No. 13. From the Acting Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 22nd April 1870, No. 307.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a Memorial from Mr. T. G. Blake, Acting Appraiser of this Office, which he requests (copy of letter enclosed) may be submitted to the Secretary of State for India.

REFERRED to the Collector of Sea Customs for report on paragraphs 7, 8, and 11 of the Memorial.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
2nd May 1870.

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

No. 14. From the Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, to the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, Fort Saint George, dated 13th May 1870, No. 380.

WITH reference to endorsement on Petition No. 1,262 of 1870 from the Deputy-Appraiser, I have the honour to report, with reference to paragraphs 7, 8 and 11, that I applied to Mr. Crawford to send me one of his Assistant Appraisers to fill the appointment. I also probably informed him that the Deputy-Appraiser would in all likelihood be promoted to the Appraisership, and I may also have said possibly to the Deputy-Collectorship, but I could not have made any definite promise as I knew neither of the appointments was in my gift.

2. I append copy of a Memorandum from the Deputy-Appraiser as to the conversations between Mr. Crawford and himself.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

Memorandum from the Deputy-Appraiser, Madras Sea Custom House.

Paragraph 11 of the Memorial.

AGREEABLY to the request of the Collector the undersigned begs to state, to the best of his knowledge, the conversation which took place between himself and Mr. Crawford, when the post of Deputy-Appraiser was offered to the undersigned. Mr. Crawford, on receipt of a telegram from Madras, sent for the undersigned, and said, "Mr. Blake, a new appointment has been created in the Madras Sea Custom House, that of Deputy-Appraiser on Rupees 300 per mensem, and I have just received a telegram from Mr. Blair, the Collector of Sea Customs at Madras, offering you the appointment; will you accept it?"

2. The undersigned requested twenty-four hours to take the matter into consideration, which Mr. Crawford acceded to. When the time had expired the undersigned went to Mr. Crawford and asked him if he considered it would be advantageous for the undersigned to take service in Madras Sea Custom House. Mr. Crawford replied, "Certainly I do Mr. Blake; I believe there are only two uncovenanted appointments senior to the one now offered you in the Madras Custom House, and you can look for those appointments." On these conditions the undersigned accepted of the post of Deputy-Appraiser in the Madras Sea Custom House.

(Signed) T. G. BLAKE,
Deputy-Appraiser.

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No. 15. MINUTE BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE PRESIDENT.

In transmitting Mr. Blake's memorial to the Secretary of State, I think it right that I should add some words of explanation in regard to the position and claims of the Memorialist, and the motives which induced me to propose the nomination of Mr. Loch to the appointment of Deputy Collector of Sea Customs.

2. Mr. Blake was invited to come to the Madras Custom House on account of his supposed technical experience and ability as an appraiser of goods. He has only served seven years in India, and only three in the Madras Presidency. His natural course of promotion will be to the office of appraiser, and should he attain that post at the retirement of the present incumbent, Mr. Shaw, I consider that he will have no just cause for complaint. I have never considered, nor do I now think after reading his memorial, that Mr. Blake will have any claim to be made Deputy Collector of Sea Customs at any time in virtue of his employment as deputy appraiser and appraiser. He might, of course, be promoted on general grounds of merit and service to the post of Deputy Collector, but not in virtue of seniority or of position in the Department, the duties of Deputy Collector being entirely different from those of appraiser, and requiring, in my opinion, a different position and a different kind of capacity. If Mr. Loch had not been appointed to the post of Deputy Collector, Mr. Shaw would in all probability not have been appointed; certainly I could never have thought of proposing Mr. Blake. Mr. Shaw was rewarded for his meritorious service by being permitted to retain his office for three years beyond the usual period. Mr. Blake had no claim whatever from previous service, from previous occupations, or from proved fitness in any way for the appointment of Deputy Collector.

3. It was entirely open to Government to name any one whom they deemed most competent to the office of Deputy Collector of Sea Customs, and in proposing the appointment of Mr. Loch, I acted under a conscientious conviction that he was the best man for the employment. He is a gentleman who has had a long experience of commercial business as Agent for the P. and O. Company at Madras; and as a partner in one of the leading Firms in the place, he is intimately acquainted with all the interests of Madras trade and all the persons concerned in it; he has a conciliatory and popular character. His nomination has been acceptable to the mercantile community, and will no doubt be useful to Government. It was particularly desirable at the present time that a gentleman with the qualifications of Mr. Loch and of his position should be placed in the office of Deputy Collector, for the Collector will shortly be invested with new and more extensive duties as Collector of Income Tax, Abkarry, and Land Revenue in the Municipality, making him, in fact, Collector of Madras city, and leaving him less time for the performance of his specific duties as Collector of Sea Customs. Practically the Deputy Collector will be hereafter in a great measure the representative of Government in its relations with the mercantile body.

4. It is true that I was happy to be able to offer the appointment in question to Mr. Loch in connection with his position at the time. Owing to misunderstandings with his partners, he had been obliged to leave the Firm with which he was connected. and I have no doubt that employment in the public service was very

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welcome to him. But this was a coincidence. The fact that he was in necessity did not impair his ability for the public service. It merely afforded me an opportunity of recognizing it.

5. I think it right to add that the nomination of Mr. Loch was not in contradiction of any existing regulations of Government, as has been alleged by writers in the public press. The Government of Madras have recently framed and published certain rules respecting the nomination of Deputy Collectors and Magistrates in the Revenue Department, prescribing that none shall be eligible to those appointments without having passed certain examinations and served Government for a certain number of years. But those rules had no reference to the Deputy Collectorate of Sea Customs, an office entirely by itself, which existed long before the others were created, and which has nothing in common with them except the name.

MADRAS, 28th May 1870.

(Signed) NAPIER.

No. 16.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd June 1870, No. 800.

Miscellaneous.

RESOLVED that the Memorial be despatched to His Grace the Secretary of State.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

10/1

1st June 1871.

Resolved that the
Memorial be dispatched
to his grace the Sec
of State

MD.

Let / m ask

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REVIEW

March 11, 1913

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De:

G. O. Tildens 1870, No. 80.

SECRET

10-13-10

Memorial from Mr. Blake, Deputy-Appraiser, complaining of supersession.—Its transmission to the Secretary of State, ordered.