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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	218	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	30.5.	196-824

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 850.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 14th April 1874.

Read the following letter from F. PRICE, Esq., Acting Collector of Salem, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Salem, 25th February 1874, No. 57 :—

I HAVE the honour to submit, for the perusal and orders of the Board of Revenue, a letter addressed by Corporal Wilkinson, Overseer, Department Public Works of Namkul, to the Tahsildar of that taluq, and copies of the correspondence which has passed thereon.

2. I do so with the concurrence of the District Engineer, but in so doing, I beg that the second point raised by Major Hunter may be eliminated from consideration, as being a matter which has no bearing upon the subject under discussion, and as being further one, which I have expressed my readiness to enter upon when the question of Corporal Wilkinson's letter is disposed of.

3. The facts of the case are as follows :—

4. The compounds of the Cutcherry at Namkul and the Taluq Department Public Works Office adjoin. Both these are the property of Government, and in planting the former as a tope, Mr. Longley with the consent of Mr. Hiscox, who was at the time Overseer, planted the latter also. When building the Taluq Cutcherry, it became necessary to put up, in the compound of the Overseer's Office, sheds for material, etc., and at the request of Mr. Hiscox, the trees destroyed in doing this were not replaced, there being an understanding, so I learn, that this might be done afterwards. When the Cutcherry was finished and handed over to the Revenue Department, the Tahsildar sent his usual Progress Statement regarding topes, and on this Mr. Pritchard, the Divisional Officer, wrote—"Tahsildar in communication with the Overseer should have these (the sheds and debris) removed without delay." An order to this effect was sent to the Tahsildar, who wrote a yadast in the ordinary form to Corporal Wilkinson. I fail to see in this, a translation of which is enclosed, anything to warrant the extremely insolent letter of which I complain.

5. Corporal Wilkinson, when writing it, could not have been but aware that it would be sent on to Mr. Pritchard, and my view is that, whether right or wrong, he was not justified in writing as he did, and that the case is one in which it is not sufficient that he should simply withdraw his letter, but that he should be required to apologize to Mr. Pritchard for it.

6. Corporal Wilkinson holds a very subordinate post in the department in which he is employed, and Mr. Pritchard is in the position of a Covenanted Assistant to the Collector, and is personally an officer who carefully avoids anything discourteous or which can be construed into an overstepping of his authority.

7. The Board will doubtless remember a case in the Bellary District, where Government made a Superintending Engineer apologize to a Sessions Judge, regarding a discussion which took place in the matter of a docket written by the former. There, the relative official and social position of the two officers was much nearer than in the present instance, and I doubt whether the communication, upon which Government passed orders, was so offensive in its tone as that which I now lay before the Board.

8. I cannot accept Major Hunter's arguments as logical. The gist of what he advances is that because he considers that Mr. Pritchard was "discourteous" to him, therefore Corporal

Wilkinson was justified in writing a highly improper letter. I cannot admit either that, because Corporal Wilkinson happens to be allowed to occupy a portion of his office as a residence, he has thereby license to write as he has, upon the Tahsildar's civilly asking him to remove some kilns and sheds standing upon ground, which, though included in the compound, formed part of a tope in the Tahsildar's charge. Major Hunter's contention that the former Overseer had no authority to allow the tope to be planted, and that Mr. Fritchard had no right to tell the Tahsildar to, in consultation with the Overseer, have sheds, etc., knocked down, has nothing whatever to do with the style of Corporal Wilkinson's letter, which is the only point to which I, at present, take exception.

9. I was at first under the impression that this reference should be made to Government direct, but upon further consideration changed my mind. I am sorry to have to trouble the Board with it, but Major Hunter has personally contended so strongly that he is right in not making Corporal Wilkinson apologize, and is himself so unwilling to promote a friendly feeling between the officers of the two departments, that I feel it my duty to bring this case to notice. If Taluq Overseers are to be permitted to write officially as Corporal Wilkinson has and have only to curtly withdraw their letters, when made the subject of correspondence, I do not see how things are to go smoothly in the district. The example set is a very bad one, and, in my opinion, the sooner it is checked the better.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Letter addressed by Corporal Wilkinson to Tahsildar of Namkul Taluq.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 10.—Copies of correspondence.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. In this case the Department Public Works Overseer of the Namkul Taluq has written a letter to the Tahsildar of that taluq, which is expressed objectionably with regard to the Deputy Collector on General Duties. He has withdrawn the letter, but justifies the language used in it. The Collector and District Engineer differ as to whether he should further be called upon to apologize, and wish the matter to be referred to Government.

3. The subject of the correspondence is the removal of a certain shed and brick-kiln in the compound of the Department Public Works Taluq Office, part of which is rented as a private residence by the Overseer. Whether the buildings should be removed or not is a doubtful question which should be settled hereafter by the Collector and the District Engineer, but the doubtfulness of it has nothing to do with the question whether Mr. Wilkinson should apologize or not. All that need be said here is that the Deputy Collector had good reasons for thinking that it was agreed between the two departments that the shed and brick-kiln should be removed as interfering with a tope under his charge.

4. On the 27th October 1873, No. 673, the Tahsildar wrote to the Overseer, Mr. Wilkinson, thus: "As the Deputy Collector of the division has in his Order No. 570, dated 23rd instant, directed that the shed and brick-kiln erected in the Overseer's compound at the time of building the Cutcherry should, in communication with you, be immediately removed, it is requested that the same may be caused to be removed."

5. On the 29th October, Mr. Wilkinson replied as follows: "I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Yadast No. 673, dated 27th October 1873, and request to be informed by what authority the Deputy Collector issues an order to me, touching my materials, work-shed, etc., but more especially my private affairs? Is the Deputy Collector aware I pay rent for bungalow and compound? Perhaps he is ignorant of this; however, let me assure him of such being the fact, and any order emanating from the same source will be considered null and void."

6. All that the Overseer need have done (supposing the removal of the buildings was inexpedient or ought not to be effected without the orders of the District Engineer) was to request

that the District Engineer might be referred to, and the Board are of opinion that he should be censured and required to apologize to the Deputy Collector for the objectless insolence of his letter.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

To the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with ten original enclosures to be returned.

Copy to the Acting Collector of Salem.

Exd. W. H. French.

No. 511. Read the following endorsement of the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 1st May 1874.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 14th April 1874, No. 850.

ABSTRACT.—Overseer—Mr. Wilkinson of Public Works Department—in Namkul Taluq, Salem District.—Letter from Collector, forwarding copies of correspondence with District Engineer, regarding improper tone of a letter addressed by — to Namkul Tahsildar with reference to Deputy Collector Mr. Pritchard's order to Tahsildar for removal of a shed and a brick-kiln in compound of Department Public Works Taluq Office, submitted for orders of Government, and opinion expressed that Overseer should be censured and required to apologize to Deputy Collector.

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government, R.D.

No. 512. ORDER THEREON, 26th May 1874, No. 1,397.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 29.

THE Taluq Overseer having withdrawn his letter is not required to make further apology than is implied by such withdrawal, but is severely reprimanded for the insolent tone of his communication.

2. The District Engineer is greatly to blame for not having administered such reprimand as would, in connection with the withdrawal of the cause of offence, have made amends for the breach of courtesy, not to say insolence, of which the Overseer had been guilty towards an official of much higher rank in another department, to whom doubtless he was aware, and intended, the words that he used would be made known. The further consequence of Major Hunter's inaction in the matter is the removal of a useful Overseer to another district, which he will effect at once, ascertaining from officers of adjoining districts, and from the Principal of the Civil Engineering College, where there is a vacancy.

3. To avoid further dispute the Overseer's Office compound will be excluded from the limits of the tope.

(True Extract.)

C. G. Master Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Salem.
Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin,
23 Spare Copies

1874.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 14TH APRIL 1874, No. 850.

Received

Encl.

APRIL.

No. 850.

Overseer Mr. Wilkinson of Public Works Department—in Namkul Taluq, Salem District.—Letter from Collector, forwarding copies of correspondence with District Engineer regarding improper tone of a letter addressed by — to Namkul Tahsildar with reference to Deputy Collector Mr. Pritchard's order to Tahsildar for removal of a shed and a brick-kiln in compound of Department Public Works Taluq Office, submitted for orders of Government, and opinion expressed that Overseer should be censured and required to apologize to Deputy Collector.

Revenue Department
 Govt. of India
 PUBLIC WORKS.

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, RAJAHMUNDRY.

Ac., No., 10.

Recd. May 10/74.

30 May. 10

G. O., No. 1814, No. 1837.

MAY
 No. 511-512

Original B.M. 1837 reproduced for the Govt. of India communication to the Public Works Department, and to be removed to the Public Works Department, and steps to be taken for excluding the Public Works Office from the Public Works Department.

Communicated to the
 Board of Revenue.

30 May 1874.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

C No. 1271

from The Board of Revenue
 Dated 14th April 1874.

FOR ORDERS.

I am inclined to think that, as
 Mr. Williamson has written me
 his letter, he need to be
 reproved to apologise - but should
 be reprimanded for the recalcitrant
 tone of his letter.

14 Apr 26/74

I do not like the reprimanding

— on

Revenue Department - 10 Public Works Department

apologies - especially
from men who ~~are~~ not
being for them or do
not feel the humiliation
they put upon the other side
if advised, Mr W. will
apologize boldly & make
himself as disagreeable as
he safely can, even after -

I can see with this I think
therefore that he should
be severely reprimanded,
but I would in addition
remove him from the Board
otherwise he will only have
a continuance of ill feeling.

I ^{think} ~~think~~ Maria knows too
I should be told also that
he ought to be ^{at least} advised
the reason & apologize for

his long in hospital to receive of
 letters - and that ^{FOR ORDERS.}

if he had done
 it, there would
 have been no need
 of the
 intercession of
 the
 Lord of the
 Sea - I know
 from long expe-
 rience that the
 ordinaries rarely
 observe any of

- few rise & out of the water
 unless they feel they will
 lose the benefit of the
 & it would be to risk that our time
 & the of the ship should be taken up
 in the open water like this lost 27-6

C 23? April 1794 R 24th