

(1) Number of pages 12
(2) Date of repair _____
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1470	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	18-4-1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1877.*

Famine Relief

No. 437. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 9th April 1877, No. 1,580:—

Read the following letter from J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Dhurmasaram, 23rd March 1877, No. 224.

WITH reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 6th instant, calling for further information with regard to the loss of money in the office of the Assistant Famine Officer, I have the honor now to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Howe, giving full explanation as required.

2. I beg to recommend that, under the circumstances, the amount lost, Rupees 214-12-0, be written off to profit and loss.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. HOWE, Esq., Sub-divisional Officer, to J. H. MASTER, Esq., Collector of Bellary, dated 20th March 1877, No. 700.

WITH reference to Board's Proceedings, No. —, dated 6th instant, and your foot-note thereon, I have the honor to report as follows.

2. Under the system of management in the Assistant's office at the time of the theft, it seems a matter of surprise that thefts were not of more frequent occurrence, and it is very difficult satisfactorily to fix the responsibility on any individual officer.

3. On 4th January 1877 Mr. Agar, the then Assistant, on removing the tools and stores from a temporary shed into the building opposite the Taluq Cutcherry, dispensed with the services of the four watchmen. But no orders were issued forbidding any money to be left in the building unguarded, and it appears that on several occasions, subsequent to the removal of the office, the pay for road establishment (sometimes amounting to Rupees 150) was kept in a similarly careless manner.

4. The Manager's duties and responsibilities were so vaguely defined that he cannot be held responsible. He was a kind of general Superintendent whose duty consisted in checking accounts, submitting statements called for, inspecting stores and generally (under the Assistant) supervising the office. But he was under the head of the office, i.e. (the Assistant Famine Officer), who alone can be held responsible for the faults in the system and who ought on 4th January, when he removed the office and dismissed the watchmen, to have prevented the possibility of money ever being kept in so careless a manner. Mr. Agar, however, cannot be held responsible as he was absent when the theft occurred, and had nothing to say to the arrangements on this special occasion. Mr. Lawford clearly is not to blame. He took over charge on 9th February, and it was hardly to be expected that he, a young and inexperienced (though an excellent and most promising) officer, should in a few days have reformed the system which he found to be in existence.

5. The Storekeeper is equally clearly not to blame. It is not the duty of a Storekeeper to keep money, but to look after stores. He, therefore, had never been called on for security, and his pay is only Rupees 30 a month. He bears an excellent character, and is an honest, hard-working man, and I think it would be very hard to blame him for what in reality was a fault in the system of management.

6. On taking over charge on 27th February, I immediately, with your sanction, broke up the Assistant's office, removed the stores and tools to a safe house within the Sadr Cutcherry compound, placed a guard over the Treasury which I put entirely under the Manager, holding him specially responsible, and transferred all the Assistant Famine Officer's account to my own

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
18th April 1877.*

office. Mr. Lawford now assists me by doing the current routine work, taking charge of the office in my absence, and looking after stores and tools. This is in addition to his new work. Lately I have, with the assistance of the Deputy Collector, taken a little room inside the Cutcher, (well secured with bars and strong doors), next to the stamp-room, so that the same guard can also protect our money. There is, therefore, no recurrence of a similar accident.

7. As, therefore, the responsibility attaches more to the system than to any individual officer, I would recommend that the sum of Rupees 214-12-0 be put down to profit and loss, and that of this Rupees 200 be refunded to the contractor. Although the amount was not credited to Government it was *bond fide* entrusted to Government officers, and by the fault of the system was lost to the contractors. They have, therefore, a strong legal and equitable claim upon us, and it would be, in my opinion, the best policy at once to admit the claim and pay the amount.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. H. MASTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with reference to the Board's Proceedings quoted and to G.O., No. 1,043, dated 12th March 1877.

2. The loss was due to some extent to the confusion incident to a change of officers, and in the circumstances the Board recommend that the Collector's proposal be accepted.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 438.

ORDER THEREON, 18th April 1877, No. 1,470.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government approve the Board's recommendation.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue:
,, the Accountant-General.
,, the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

Revenue Department
Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 9th April 1877

Read the following

Bd CR 13372

No. 224

From

The Collector of Bellary

To

The Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras

Sir With reference to the Proceedings of the Board, dated the 6th instant, calling for further information with regard to the loss of money in the office of the Assistant Famine Officer, I have the honor now to forward copy of a letter from Mr. Howe, giving full explanation as required.

2. I beg to recommend that under the circumstances the amount Rs (214-12-9) two hundred & fourteen annas twelve pies be written off to profit & loss.

I have &c

/s/ J. H. Kester
Collector

Bellary Collector's office

Dated 23 March 1877

Camp Kundapee, Dharmas-
licraia Taluk

Enclosure

Cost of (1877) 31/10/1877

REVENUE

THE BOARD OF REVENUE

Dated 9th April 1877

G.O. 18th April 1877, No. 1470

APRIL

No. 437-438

FAMINE RELIEF No. 982

Many had in the Famine Office
Office in Bellary District. Approving the recom-
mendation of the Board of Revenue to write off
the — to profit & loss.

Enclosure

No 700.

To

Mr. Master Esquire.

Collector of Bellary.

Sir

With reference to Board's Proceedings
No. dated 6th instant and your footnote
thereon, I have the honor to report as follows:-

2. Under the system of management in
the Asstt. Office at the time of the theft,
it seems a matter of surprise that thefts
were not of more frequent occurrence and
it is very difficult satisfactorily to fix the
responsibility on any individual officer.
3. On 4th January 1877 Mr. Agar the then
Asstt. on removing the tools and stones
from a temporary shed into the building
opposite the Taluk Cutcherry, dispensed with
the services of the four watchmen. But no
orders were issued for bidding any money
to be left in the building unguarded and
it appears that on several occasions subsequent
to

to the removal of the office, the key for road
establishment, (sometimes in writing B.R. 182)
was kept in a similarly careless manner.

4. The manager's duties and responsibilities
were so vaguely defined that he cannot be
held responsible. He was a kind of General
Superintendent whose duty consisted in
checking accounts, submitting statements
called for, inspecting stores and generally (under
the Asstt.) supervising the office. But
he was under the head of the office, i.e. (the
Asstt. Training officer who alone can be
held responsible for the faults in the Sys-
tem and who ought on 4th January, when
he removed the office and dismissed the
watchmen, to have prevented the possibility
of money ever being kept in so careless a
manner. Mr. Agar however cannot be held
responsible as he was absent when the theft
occurred and had nothing to say to the
arrangements on this special occasion.
Mr. Lawford clearly is not to blame. He
took

took over charge on 9th February
and it was ^{to be} expected that he,
a young and inexperienced (though an ex-
cellent and most promising officer), should
in a few days have reformed the system
which he found to be in existence—

5. The storekeeper is equally clearly not
to blame. It is not the duty of a store-
keeper to keep money but to look after
stores. He therefore had never been called on
for security and his pay is only Rs 30/2
month. He has an excellent character
and is an honest hardworking man, and
I think it would be very hard to blame
him, for what in reality, was a fault
in the system of management.

6. On taking over charge on 27th
February, immediately with your
sanction, broke up the assistant's office,
removed the stores and tools to a safe house
within the Sudder Katcheri Compound,
placed

placed a guard over the Treasury, which
I put entirely under the manager holding
him specially responsible, and transferred
all the assistant's office account to
my own office. Mr. Lawford now assists
me by doing the current routine work, taking
charge of the office in my absence, and looking
after stores and tools. This is in addition to
his field work. — Latterly I have with the
assistance of the Deputy Collector, taken a
little room, inside the Catchery (well se-
cured with bars and strong doors) next
to the stamp room, so that the same guard
can also protect our money. There cannot
therefore be a recurrence of a similar
accident.

7. As, therefore, the responsibility attaches
more to the system than to any individual
officer, I would recommend that the sum
of Rs 214-12-0 be put down to profit and
loss and that of this 200/ be refunded to
the Contractor. Although the amount
was

was not credited to Government it
was ~~being~~ entrusted to Government
Officers, and by the fault of the System
was lost to the Contractors. They have there-
fore a strong legal and equitable claim
upon us, and it would be in my opinion
the best policy at once to admit the claim
and pay the amount.

Bellamy }
20th March 1877 }

I have &
W A Home
Sub Division Officer
(True Copy) J H Master
Collector

Submitted for the orders of Government, with
reference to the Board's Proceedings quoted and
to G. O. No 1043 dated 12th March 1877.

2. The loss was due to some extent to the
confusion incident to a change of officers,
and in the circumstances the Board re-
commends that the Collector's proposal
be accepted. (True Copy and Extract)

W H R

Secretary

To The Additional Secretary, P. & F. D.

L.D.

Recd 10/11/84
No 2331
Proceedings of the
Board of Revenue
dated 9th April 1874
Refd 9th 11/84
Need to be
sent 11/84
Submitting for the order
of Govt Copy of C.M.O.
letter forwarding Appli-
cation in regard to the
stop of money in the office
of Revenue Officer's Office.

Pa. Richard 77 N^o 1470