Secrt. I (i)-I—10,006—7-10-70.

(1) Number of pages 8

(2) Date of repair 4.8.72

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	918	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	3. 3. 1971	197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 118. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1877, No. 669 :—

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 6th January 1877, No. 4 :—

With reference to the Board's Proceedings, No. 11,349, dated 22nd December last, I have the honor to submit copies of correspondence with Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co., from which it will be observed that they are perfectly certain of the trustworthiness of their clerk and that no fraud has been committed. The illegal practice referred to in their letter of the 17th ultimo will also be discontinued. As Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. appear to have been ignorant of the precise provisions of the stamp law on the subject, and as they guarantee the trustworthiness of their stamp clerk who has been thirty years in their employ, I think that their explanation may be accepted as satisfactory.

To Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.,	4th Dec.	1876.	
From do.	19th	do.	
To do.	21st	do.	
From do.	22nd	do.	

2. With regard to the refund of the stamps under reference, I beg the Board will inform me whether I can refund their value or not.

Enclosure No. 1.

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to Messrs. ARBUTHNOT and Co., Madras, dated 4th December 1876, No. 772.

Of the several spoiled stamps received with your application, dated 23rd ultimo, soliciting refund of their value, the eight stamps noted in the margin appear to have been tampered with. The stamps have been already shown to the Hon'ble P. Macfadyen, and there is no doubt that they are not genuine, as the stamp of the Superintendent of Stamps is not impressed on the paper itself as in the case of genuine stamps. I have therefore the honor to request you will be good enough to inquire and report with the least practicable delay how these stamps were brought into use, and who is responsible for the fraud. The offender should be prosecuted by you as was done by Messrs. Lecot and Co. in the case of the fraud committed by their late cashkeeper.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Six stamps at 5 Rupees each	30	0	0
One stamp for 3 Annas	0	3	0
One stamp for Rupee 1-8-0	1	8	0
Total...	31	11	0

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Madras.

Enclosure No. 2.

From Messrs. ARBUTHNOT and Co., Madras, to J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, dated 19th December 1876.

We have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your docket, No. 793, of the 13th instant.

2. The subject of your letter of the 4th instant has been inquired into. It does not appear that there has been any fraud perpetrated.

3. It not unfrequently happens that just as we are about to close our English mail, and when it is impossible to procure stamps from the Superintendent, a demand for bills comes in upon us. We have not at the moment any of the *required forms* properly stamped, and we have not considered it improper to remove an adhesive stamp from one form and place it on another. By

such a process Government is not in any way a loser, and the stamps which we submitted to you for refund of value with our application of the 23rd ultimo are no doubt perfectly genuine.

4. The absence of the Superintendent's stamp on the draft paper being thus accounted for, we beg leave to request that you will send us the usual order for refund of Rupees 31-11-0, the amount mentioned in the margin of your letter of the 4th.

5. In conclusion, we would state that it is only in cases of the utmost emergency we resort to the system now explained.

6. If it is to be understood that there is implied in the practice any contravention of the Stamp Act, we shall feel obliged by your directing our attention to that portion of the Act which bears upon the point.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Madras.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

From J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to Messrs. ARBUTHNOT and Co., Madras, dated 21st December 1876, No. 814.

IN reply to your letter, dated 19th instant, I have the honor to refer you to Clause b, Section 5, of Act XVIII of 1869, wherein it is laid down that the stamp on instruments like those referred to in your letter ought to be denoted by the Collector or the Superintendent of Stamps and not by any one else. You will therefore see that the practice hitherto pursued by you is illegal, and I must request that it be stopped.

2. With regard to your statement that Government is not in any way a loser [illegible] practice. I beg to observe that the adhesive stamps *may* have been removed from [illegible] other bills of exchange after the first and second have been despatched by you [illegible] made thereon. It is, therefore, quite possible Government has been defrauded, and I cannot [illegible] dispose of the matter without further explanation from you on this point, which I beg you will forward immediately as the matter is important.

3. I beg also to bring to your notice that, if the practice reported had been a regular one in your office, the information should have been furnished immediately by your clerk to you. This apparently was not done, and, with reference to this point, I shall be obliged by your informing me why there was so much delay in answering my first letter.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Madras.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
3rd March 1877.

2. A misconception of the precise terms of the Stamp Act, or perhaps, to speak more correctly, the absence of a perfect acquaintance with its details, has led the clerk to adopt in all good faith a practice which we now learn with regret is irregular.

3. The delay in replying to your "first letter" was unavoidable. We are at present very short-handed, and the amount of correspondence to be disposed of is moreover unusually heavy.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. HUNTER-BLAIR,
Collector of Madras.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, dated 22nd December 1876, No. 11,349.

2. Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. explain that a demand for bill stamps often arises just as the time of closing the English mail is at hand and stamps cannot be procured from the Stamp Office. Under such circumstances, it has been the practice in their office to remove adhesive labels from one form and make use of them to meet the emergency, the clerk employed on this duty not being aware of the illegality of this procedure. As the Board are convinced that there was no attempt at fraud under the explanation furnished, they sanction the refund applied for.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 119. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1877, No. 918.

Separate Revenue, No. 2.
Stamps.

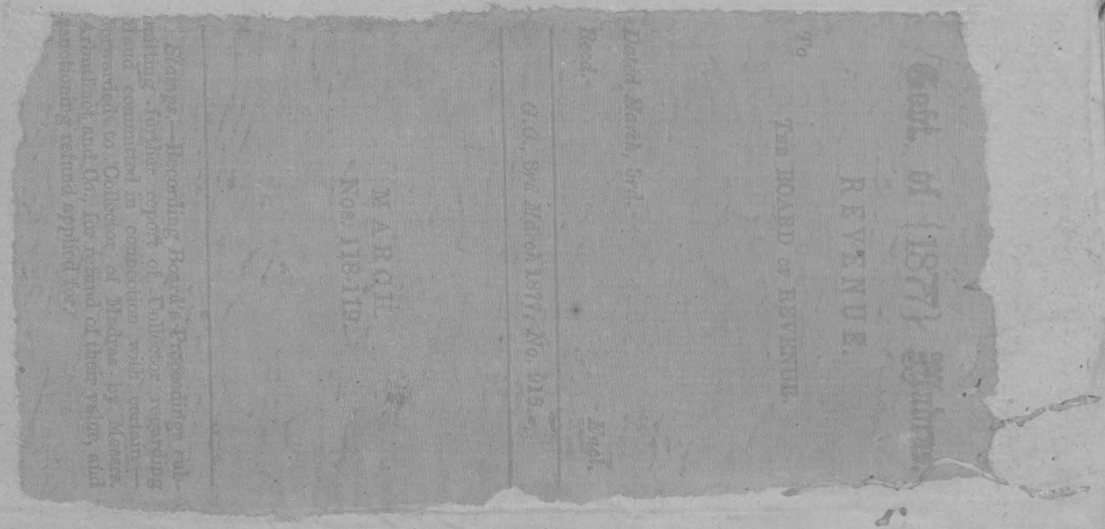
RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. A. Raitt.



No. 669.

PROCEEDINGS OF TH BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 17th February 1877.

Read the following letter from J. HUNTER-BLAIR, Esq., Collector of Madras, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Madras, 6th January 1877, No. 4:—

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To Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co.,	4th Dec.	1876.	
From do.	19th	do.	
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(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

[illegible]overnme[illegible] Revenue Departm[illegible]
Sea Customs, Madras.
[illegible]opy to the Accountant-General,
with copy of Board's Proceeding[illegible]s, 22nd December 1876, Mis. No. 11,349.

Erd. W. J. Lewis.

1877, Dec 1

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 17TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 669.

Dupd 24 Feb 1877.

Encl.

Received 26 Febry

FEBRUARY.

No. 669.

Stamps—forwarded to Collector of Madras by Messrs. Arbuthnot and Co. for refund of their value.—Submitting to Government further report of Collector regarding fraud committed in connection with certain —, and sanctioning refund applied for.

3-3-77