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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	919	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	3.3.1877	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

21/3

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

No. 120. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1877, No. 630 :—

Read the following letter from J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 30th December 1876, No. 386 :—

I REGRET to bring to the notice of the Board a case of embezzlement by the late Salt Deputy Collector L. Venkatappiah, which has come to light since his death by some inquiry made under my orders.

2. A road was sanctioned for 4,000 Rupees under Petty Construction and Repairs, to facilitate salt traffic between Narasapur and Linganaboyanacherla (Mogaltur salt division). Of the amount, Rupees 2,672-10-11 were drawn from the Mogaltur Salt Treasury and all the money was spent on the road, except Rupees 208-7-2 which was left with the Superintendent. The estimate provided for 11,000 cubic yards of earth-work, but the Range Officer certified that only 4,500 yards of work was done. The work was done cheaper than was estimated, and therefore it would appear that the Deputy Collector drew the remainder of the estimate, viz., Rupees 1,327-5-1, from the other Salt Treasury at Penuguduru, and misappropriated Rupees 1,316-9-7 as shown by Memorandum D.

3. In another work, viz., the extension of the Ramamapalem channel, the estimate was for Rupees 2,150. Rupees 1,150 were drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury and were spent by the Superintendent on the work, under orders of the Deputy Collector. The Deputy Collector drew the other 1,000 Rupees from the Penuguduru Salt Treasury and misappropriated the same. The Superintendent of Mogaltur, however, also spent on this work Rupees 240-11-9 from the unexpended balance of other works.

4. I have therefore called on Venkatappiah's son and heir, Venkata Ramasastry, to refund the money overdrawn by his father, viz., Rupees 2,316-9-7, within a month, or show cause why it should not be so paid. If he fails to show cause or pay the money, I propose, with the Board's permission, filing a suit in the ordinary Civil Courts against him, as there is evidence to show that the money was paid into the hand of the late Venkatappiah, a portion of it being paid in the presence of his son above named, who is a clerk in my Cutcherry.

5. As detailed in Memorandum F, there was a balance of Rupees 515-5-1 unexpended under certain works, and Rupees 244-2-3 were utilized for some other works. The balance of Rupees 271-2-10 were, the Superintendent says, handed over to Venkatappiah when he went to Mogaltur, as he pretended that he had to send gravel for the amount. This would raise the late Deputy Collector's defalcations to Rupees 2,587-12-5, but the Superintendent cannot adduce any reliable proof of the payment. I have therefore called on him to repay the amount into the treasury.

6. It would appear that money was falsely debited in the accounts of the Mogaltur Superintendent in the name of a contractor who never existed. The Superintendent of Penuguduru remitted Rupees 2,000 to Venkatappiah without his written orders. I have directed explanation to be obtained from each of them, and I have no doubt my successor will take due notice of their conduct.

7. The present Salt Deputy Collector's report* which gives the details of the

* Dated 29th December 1876, No. 83, with enclosure marked A, B, C, D, E, and F. No. 1 to be returned.

† No. 2 to be returned.

‡ No. 3 do.

case, and the memoranda which accompanied it, as also the estimates† and completion‡ certificates of the two works mentioned, are enclosed for the Board's perusal.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From P. PUNDARIKAKSHUDU, Temporary Deputy Collector, to J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Cocanada, 29th December 1876, No. 88.

In the Budget of 1875-76, Rupees 4,000 were provided for constructing and gravelling portions of road between Narasapur and Langanaboyinacherla salt station, as the bandies going for salt were put to inconvenience in consequence of the soil being sandy.

2. On 4th November last, the late Deputy Collector, L. Venkatappiah Garu, wrote* to you stating that "the whole of the work was given to the contractor for the estimated amount for

which he bound himself to raise the road where necessary, and to collect and spread gravel over it," and that "the Range Officer is satisfied that the man had acted up to his contract in this respect as he says 'as much earthwork as is necessary has been done.'" The Deputy Collector therefore requested that the bill for Rupees 4,000 which he sent might be forwarded to the Board with your recommendation for the expenditure being passed, notwithstanding the Range Officer's remark in the completion certificate that the earthwork was not done to the full extent of the estimate.

3. The estimate for the work provided for 1,000 cubic yards of earthwork at 1 Anna a yard, or Rupees 687-8-0 in all, and the total amount of the estimate was Rupees 4,000 inclusive of the above item. The Range Officer certified that "the amount of earthwork was only about 4,100 cubic yards. It certainly is not more than 4,500[†] cubic yards." You therefore

considered that the explanation given, viz., that as much earthwork as is necessary has been done, was not satisfactory, and you refused to pass the expenditure of the full allotment without further explanation,—vide your letter No. 35, dated 10th November 1876.

4. On the night of the 12th idem, Venkatappiah Garu died. Your letter was found, says my Head Clerk, in the Deputy Collector's house among other official papers which he had. The Assistant Collector was put in charge of the Salt Department, and Mr. Tate, on reading your letter, called for explanation from the Salt Superintendent at Mogaltur, and desired to know what the contractor had to say.

5. This inquiry disclosed an unpleasant state of things in the department. The Superintendent, P. Sayanna Puntulu, says that he never knew the amount of the sanctioned estimate, that he and his establishment had the work executed, that no contractors came and caused the work to be done, that no contract bond was sent to him, and that the late Deputy Collector, while at Mogaltur in March 1876, said that as the official year was coming to a close, the full amounts of the estimates of the several works sanctioned should be debited in the accounts, as otherwise the Budget allotments would lapse and fresh sanction would have to be obtained. The Deputy Collector dictated to him (Superintendent) the amounts to be so debited; and asked him to debit them in the names of Yelur Venkatareddi and others and to proceed with the works. He also told him that he would pay the balance to the contractors in his office and obtain their vouchers.

6. The Superintendent also stated that the actual expenditure amounted to Rupees 2,301-6-6, while the bill presented by the Deputy Collector was for Rupees 4,000.

7. Under your verbal orders, I have carefully gone into the accounts, vouchers and correspondence on the subject of the road, and the following are the results of my examination.

8. To begin with, I beg to refer you to memorandum marked A, showing the manner in which entries are made regarding the expenditure in the cash chittas and in the monthly accounts of the Salt Superintendent and in the progress reports of the Salt Deputy Collector, which are sent to the Collector's office every month. It will be observed that money (Rupees 1,910) was till March 1876 debited in the first two accounts as advances to Superintendent, Deputy Collector or one Tadimetu Virayya, a gumashta employed by the Deputy Collector. In March 1876, however, Rupees 762-10-11 were entered as paid to contractor Yelur Venkatareddi. The money drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury thus amounted to Rupees 2,672-10-11.

9. Rupees 1,327-5-1 were drawn by the Deputy Collector from the Salt Treasury at Penuguduru, as particularized in memorandum marked B. So the money drawn from the Government Treasuries for the road in question came to Rupees 4,000, the full amount of the estimate.

10. The Superintendent at Penuguduru knows nothing about the road or the expenditure thereon. He remitted to the Deputy Collector Rupees 327-5-1 under written orders, and Rupees 1,000 under oral orders of L. Venkatappiah Garu, and these sums are entered in the Deputy Collector's monthly progress reports as charges of the road. As directed by you, the Superintendent has been asked to explain why he did not demand written orders for issuing the money, and why he issued money without such orders. His explanation will be sent hereafter.

11. The following are the particulars of the money drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury:—

	RS.	A.	P.
As advance to Superintendent	1,060	0	0
As paid to Contractor Y. Venkatareddi	762	10	11
As advance to T. Virayya	200	0	0
As do. to Salt Deputy Collector	650	0	0
Total	2,672	10	11

The Superintendent, according to his own statement, kept the Rupees 762-10-11 with himself, though he debited it in the accounts in the name of Y. Venkatareddi. He received Rupees 78 back from T. Virayya, and he drew Rupees 1,060 in his own name. A to-
* 1,900-10-11. Memorandum marked C shows expenditure of Rupees 1,692-3-9, leaving a balance of Rupees 208-7-2, which the Superintendent says formed portion of Rupees 271-2-10, the amount of unexpended balance of this and other works carried away by the Deputy Collector on the pretence of sending gravel for the road. The Superintendent says he can adduce oral evidence to prove that the money was so taken away from him. He has no written vouchers and had therefore no business to have given money. I am therefore of opinion that the amount should be recovered from the Superintendent P. Sayanna.

12. Rupees 2,099-5-1 were received by the Deputy Collector and his gumashta T. Virayya as per Memorandum D. Virayya says that Venkatappiah Garu employed him as a gumashta to supply gravel from Badampudi to Mogaltur for the road. He kept accounts of the money received and spent by him, but when the work was completed, he made over the accounts to the Deputy Collector. He files, however, an account now written by him from memory. The said memorandum shows that Rupees 782-11-6 were spent by Virayya and the Deputy Collector from the Rupees 2,099-5-1 they received. The remainder Rupees 1,316-9-7 has to be accounted for by the Deputy Collector.

13. All the earthwork was paid for by the Superintendent, and the gravel by him and T. Virayya. There is therefore no reason to suppose that any further expenditure was incurred. I have been told (there is nothing on record) that the Deputy Collector obtained from the Head Assistant Collector a piece of Government waste land in Badampudi in the Tanuku taluq to excavate gravel in, and I think that either the saving thereby effected was large or that the rates provided in the estimate were exorbitant.

14. When you were in charge of this office, you came across a letter from the late Deputy Collector to the Range Officer regarding the inspection by that officer of the extension of the Ramapalem (channel, a work executed by the Deputy Collector), and as it appeared that water was let into the channel before inspection, you directed that the accounts of this work also should

be scrutinized. This has been done now, and it would appear that Rupees 1,000 have been misappropriated.

15. In their Proceedings of the 26th November 1875, No. 3,231, the Board of Revenue sanctioned the extension of the said Ramamapalem channel to the Parra Makam Platform at Langanaboyinacherla at a cost of Rupees 2,150. Of this, Rupees 600 were drawn in January last by the Superintendent as advance for the work, and on 24th March last, Rupees 550 were drawn in the name of Yelur Venkataraddi; total Rupees 1,150 as per Memorandum E. Rupees 240-11-9 were spent on the Ramamapalem channel from the unexpended balance under other works in addition to the Rupees 1,150 debited to the work, thereby making the expenditure Rupees 1,390-11-9. Here it must be remembered that the sanctioned estimate for extending the channel amounted to Rupees 2,150, and that only Rupees 1,150 were debited to the work in the Mogaltur Treasury. The Deputy Collector therefore drew 1,000 Rupees from Penuguduru Salt Treasury in the last month of the past official year. This money again was sent by the Superintendent under, it is alleged, the oral orders of the Deputy Collector. It is not possible to imagine that the money was spent on the channel, for from the Superintendent's accounts, it is clear that all the work was paid for, and that the payments amounted to only Rupees 1,390-11-9.

16. I beg to draw your attention to Memorandum F, from which you will observe that the actuals of many works executed by the Deputy Collector fell far below the estimates, and yet that bills were sent for the full amounts. There was a balance of *Rupees 515-5-1 under the said

works with the Superintendent, and Rupees 244-2-3 were spent on Ramamapalem channel and bridges across salt creek, leaving a balance of Rupees 271-2-10. It is this balance, the Superintendent says, that the Deputy Collector took away from him.

17. I have examined the so-called Contractor, Yelur Venkataraddi. He is an ordinary man, and indeed, he denies that he ever was so. He is the relation of one Goddam Rajayya, a favorite, it is said, of the Deputy Collector. Three witnesses, (a peon and two vettians of the Penuguduru salt station) deposed to the facts that Rupees 1,000 were sent by the Superintendent at Penuguduru to the Deputy Collector, that the latter received the money in cash on one occasion in the presence of his son Venkata Ramasastri, a clerk of your office, and that he obtained a Currency Note on the second occasion through the salt peon, Kondalrayodu, from the Currency Department at Cocanada. On reference to the accounts in that office, I found that on 7th March last a note was issued to the peon for Rupees 1,000.

18. From the foregoing paragraphs it will be observed (1) that money was drawn by the Salt Superintendent and Deputy Collector as advances for the works (a course wholly unauthorized and inexpedient) (2) that the money drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury (Rupees 271-2-10 excepted) was actually expended, and (3) that money drawn from the Penuguduru Treasury was, as a rule, misappropriated. It seems to me impossible to reconcile the circumstances with any other presumption. For the road one might say that gravel was bought at Cocanada, but why Rupees 1,000 were spent at Penuguduru for earthwork at Mogaltur? I have no doubt that the Superintendent at Mogaltur never saw the sanctioned estimates of the two works, as the Deputy Collector in his private letter to the Superintendent, dated 15th August 1876, gives the measurements of the road. This view is confirmed by the fact that the difference between the estimates and the actuals was always drawn from another treasury.

19. In conclusion, I would remind you that Rupees 2,316-9-7 are to be accounted for by the late Deputy Collector, and Rupees 271-2-10 by the Salt Superintendent at Mogaltur.

† In the road	Rs.	A.	P.
In the channel	1,316	9	7
Add with Superintendent	1,000	0	0
	271	2	10
	2,587	12	6

20. I may remark that from the many vouchers as per separate list, it would appear that the money spent on the other unimportant works was entered item after item in the

accounts, but as the last month of the official year came in, so much of the estimated amount as was not drawn was debited in the accounts, in the name of a contractor, though the Superintendent knew beyond a doubt that no such contractor existed. The only explanation that the Superintendent, P. Sayanna, was able to give when he came here the other day was that he obeyed the orders of the Deputy Collector. I have called on him, as directed by you, to send in his written explanation, and I will forward it on as soon as it is received.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 7.—Memoranda of Temporary Salt Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 8.—Estimate.

ENCLOSURE No. 9.—Completion Certificate.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It is clear that the late Salt Deputy Collector L. Venkatappiah embezzled a sum of Rupees 2,316-9-7 in connection with the execution of the works specified, and the Board concur in thinking that an endeavour should be made to recover the same from the estate of the late Deputy Collector.

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

No. 121. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1877, No. 919.

Miscellaneous.

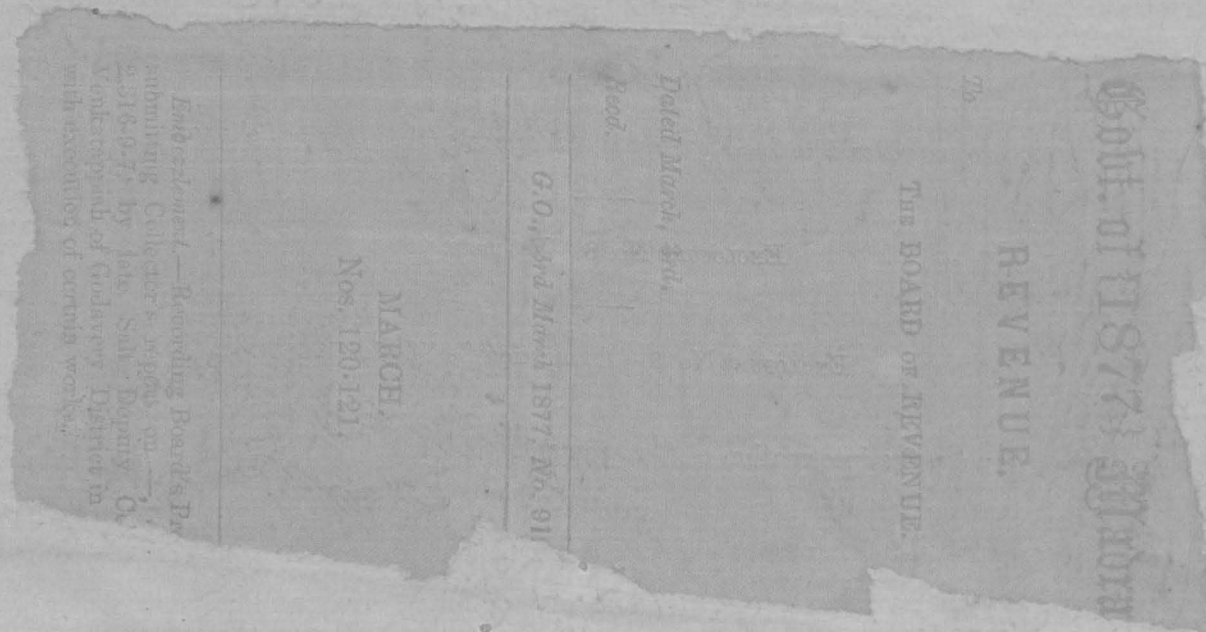
RECORDED.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Board of Revenue.

Exd. L. F. Zephir.



No. 630.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 15th February 1877.

Read the following letter from J. HOPE, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 30th December 1876, No. 386 :—

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2. A road was sanctioned for 4,000 Rupees under Petty Construction and Repairs, to facilitate salt traffic between Narasapur and Linganaboyanacherla (Mogaltur salt division). Of the amount, Rupees 2,672-10-11 were drawn from the Mogaltur Salt Treasury and all the money was spent on the road, except Rupees 208-7-2 which was left with the Superintendent. The estimate provided for 11,000 cubic yards of earth-work, but the Range Officer certified that only 4,500 yards of work was done. The work was done cheaper than was estimated, and therefore it would appear that the Deputy Collector drew the remainder of the estimate, viz., Rupees 1,327-5-1, from the other Salt Treasury at Penuguduru, and misappropriated Rupees 1,316-9-7 as shown by Memorandum D.

3. In another work, viz., the extension of the Ramamapalem channel, the estimate was for Rupees 2,150. Rupees 1,150 were drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury and were spent by the Superintendent on the work, under orders of the Deputy Collector. The Deputy Collector drew the other 1,000 Rupees from the Penuguduru Salt Treasury and misappropriated the same. The Superintendent of Mogaltur, however, also spent on this work Rupees 240-11-9 from the unexpended balance of other works.

4. I have therefore called on Venkatappiah's son and heir, Venkata Ramasastri, to refund the money overdrawn by his father, viz., Rupees 2,316-9-7, within a month, or show cause why it should not be so paid. If he fails to show cause or pay the money, I propose, with the Board's permission, filing a suit in the ordinary Civil Courts against him, as there is evidence to show that the money was paid into the hand of the late Venkatappiah, a portion of it being paid in the presence of his son above named, who is a clerk in my Cutcherry.

5. As detailed in Memorandum F, there was a balance of Rupees 515-5-1 unexpended under certain works, and Rupees 244-2-3 were utilized for some other works. The balance of Rupees 271-2-10 were, the Superintendent says, handed over to Venkatappiah when he went to Mogaltur, as he pretended that he had to send gravel for the amount. This would raise the late Deputy Collector's defalcations to Rupees 2,587-12-5, but the Superintendent cannot adduce any reliable proof of the payment. I have therefore called on him to repay the amount into the treasury.

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to the contractor for the estimated amount for which he bound himself to raise the road where necessary, and to collect and spread gravel over it," and that "the Range Officer is satisfied that the man had acted up to his contract in this respect as he says 'as much earthwork as is necessary has been done.'" The Deputy Collector therefore requested that the bill for Rupees 4,000 which he sent might be forwarded to the Board with your recommendation for the expenditure being passed, notwithstanding the Range Officer's remark in the completion certificate that the earthwork was not done to the full extent of the estimate.

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4,100 cubic yards. It certainly is not more than 4,500† cubic yards." You therefore considered that the explanation given, viz., that as much earthwork as is necessary has been done, was not satisfactory, and you refused to pass the expenditure of the full allotment without further explanation,—vide your letter No. 35, dated 10th November 1876.

4. On the night of the 12th idem, Venkatappiah Garu died. Your letter was found, says my Head Clerk, in the Deputy Collector's house among other official papers which he had. The Assistant Collector was put in charge of the Salt Department, and Mr. Tate, on reading your letter, called for explanation from the Salt Superintendent at Mogaltur, and desired to know what the contractor had to say.

5. This inquiry disclosed an unpleasant state of things in the department. The Superintendent, P. Sayanna Puntulu, says that he never knew the amount of the sanctioned estimate, that he and his establishment had the work executed, that no contractors came and caused the work to be done, that no contract bond was sent to him, and that the late Deputy Collector, while at Mogaltur in March 1876, said that as the official year was coming to a close, the full amounts of the estimates of the several works sanctioned should be debited in the accounts, as otherwise the Budget allotments would lapse and fresh sanction would have to be obtained. The Deputy Collector dictated to him (Superintendent) the amounts to be so debited, and asked him to debit them in the names of Yelur Venkatarreddi and others and to proceed with the works. He also told him that he would pay the balance to the contractors in his office and obtain their vouchers.

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11. The following are the particulars of the money drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury:—

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16. I beg to draw your attention to Memorandum F, from which you will observe that the actuals of many works executed by the Deputy Collector fell far below the estimates, and yet that bills were sent for the full amounts. There was a balance of *Rupees 515-5-1 under the said works with the Superintendent, and Rupees 244-2-3 were spent on Ramamapalem channel and bridges across salt creek, leaving a balance of Rupees 271-2-10. It is this balance, the Superintendent says, that the Deputy Collector took away from him.

17. I have examined the so-called Contractor, Yelur Venkatarreddi. He is an ordinary carpenter living on daily hire, and it is absurd to believe that he ever was the contractor of a road or channel. Indeed, he denies that he ever was so. He is the relation of one Geddam Rajayya, a favorite, it is said, of the Deputy Collector. Three witnesses, (a peon and two vettians of the Penuguduru salt station) deposed to the facts that Rupees 1,000 were sent by the Superintendent at Penuguduru to the Deputy Collector, that the latter received the money in cash on one occasion in the presence of his son Venkata Ramasastri, a clerk of your office, and that he obtained a Currency Note on the second occasion through the salt peon, Kondalrayudu, from the Currency Department at Cocanada. On reference to the accounts in that office, I found that on 7th March last a note was issued to the peon for Rupees 1,000.

18. From the foregoing paragraphs it will be observed (1) that money was drawn by the Salt Superintendent and Deputy Collector as advances for the works (a course wholly unauthorized and inexpedient) (2) that the money drawn from the Mogaltur Treasury (Rupees 271-2-10 excepted) was actually expended, and (3) that money drawn from the Penuguduru Treasury was, as a rule, misappropriated. It seems to me impossible to reconcile the circumstances with any other presumption. For the road one might say that gravel was bought at Cocanada, but why Rupees 1,000 were spent at Penuguduru for earthwork at Mogaltur? I have no doubt that the Superintendent at Mogaltur never saw the sanctioned estimates of the two works, as the Deputy Collector in his private letter to the Superintendent, dated 15th August 1876, gives the measurements of the road. This view is confirmed by the fact that the difference between the estimates and the actuals was always drawn from another treasury.

19. In conclusion, I would remind you that Rupees 2,316-9-7 are to be accounted for by the late Deputy Collector, and Rupees 271-2-10 by the Salt Superintendent at Mogaltur.

	Rs.	A.	P.
* In the road	1,316	9	7
In the channel	1,000	0	0
Add with Superintendent	271	2	10
	2,587	12	5

20. I may remark that from the many vouchers as per separate list, it would appear that the money spent on the other unimportant works was entered item after item in the

accounts, but as the last month of the official year came in, so much of the estimated amount as was not drawn was debited in the accounts in the name of a contractor, though the Superintendent knew beyond a doubt that no such contractor existed. The only explanation that the Superintendent, P. Sayanna, was able to give when he came here the other day was that he obeyed the orders of the Deputy Collector. I have called on him, as directed by you, to send in his written explanation, and I will forward it on as soon as it is received.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 7.—Memoranda of Temporary Salt Deputy Collector.

ENCLOSURE No. 8.—Estimate.

ENCLOSURE No. 9.—Completion Certificate.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

2. It is clear that the late Salt Deputy Collector L. Venkatappiah embezzled a sum of Rupees 2,316-9-7 in connection with the execution of the works specified, and the Board concur in thinking that an endeavour should be made to recover the amount from deceased's estate. They await the result of the demand which has been made, and of the explanation called for from the Superintendents of Mogaltur and Penuguduru, the former of whom must have been aware of the fraud which was being perpetrated.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Sub-Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with eight enclosures to be returned.
Collector of the Godavary District.

Encl. W. H. French.

See L. the W. of Rensselaer with 8 June 1822

1801877. Defut

Board of Revenue.

MADRAS. No. 1441

PROCEEDINGS, 15TH FEBRUARY 1877, No. 630.

Augo. 24 Feb 1777

Encl. 8 B-12

Received. 26 July

FEBRUARY.
No. 630.

Embezzlement.—of Rupees 2,316-9-7 by late Salt Deputy Collector, L. Venkateshiah, of Godavary District, in connection with extension of certain works.—Submitting to Government Collector's report on —, and awaiting result of demand made on the deceased's son to refund the amount, and of explanation called for from Superintendents of *Muzaffar* and *Panagandur*.

2.9.19

Is cork

2-2-77

$$\frac{116}{27.27}$$