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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	134 ^b	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	22.8.1878	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1346

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

22nd August 1878, No. 1,346.

Read the following papers:—

No. 270. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 16th January 1878,
No. 131.

Read the following letter from J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to
H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st
December 1877, No. 6,551.

With reference to my letter of the 30th October 1877, No. 5,680, reporting
that the Additional Sub-Collector had suspended Nandagiri Venkateshagiri Row,
Tahsildar of Atmakur, pending final orders about his apparent malversation in the
relief-camp of the taluk at Nellorepallem, I have now the honor to submit the
Additional Sub-Collector's report on the

Dated 2nd December 1877, No. 2,240. subject, in which he recommends that
the suspended Tahsildar shall be dismissed from the service and prosecuted
criminally on charges of forgery and cheating.

2. The Additional Sub-Collector's report seems to me to set forth the circum-
stances at once as clearly and as briefly as they can be set forth, so I propose not
to go over the same ground again.

3. In July a rapid increase took place in the strength of our relief-camps.
The quantity of food required for them soon became enormous and the expenditure
correspondingly great. The charges, of course, depended on the number of paupers
to be fed, and this offered a temptation to the officers in charge of camps to return
the numbers as larger than they really were, so as to retain rice or make a purse
for themselves. Some camps increased more rapidly than was justified by the
distress, and therefore became open to suspicion. Amongst them were the camps
at Nellore (mentioned by the Additional Sub-Collector in paragraph 7) and
Nellorepallem. About the Nellore camp I will say nothing more than that it is
almost certain that the numbers were over-stated, but that my inquiries failed to fix
the responsibility on any one, chiefly because the accounts had either not been
properly kept or had disappeared before my investigation commenced.

4. Taught by this experience, Mr. Crole took care to get possession of the
Nellorepallem accounts before it was known that he intended to hold an inquiry,
and the result is that there is conclusive evidence of fraud.

5. Obviously the best way to check errors in the numbers reported to have
been fed was to count them at feeding time. In the case of the Nellorepallem
camp this was done on three separate occasions.

6. On the 18th August 1877 Mr. Mackie, B.C.S., who had been sent out by
Mr. Crole, found 3,529 paupers being

No. 20. fed in the camp. To these, he says, have
to be added numbers for the hospital, for servants, and for Brahmins whom he did
No. 39. not see. According to the daily report
for the day the numbers to be added on
this account are—

Hospital	71
Workmen	111
Brahmins and Komaties	146
Total	328

Hence the total number could not have been much more than 3,857. Mr. Mackie did not communicate the result of his counting to the officers in charge, and the daily report gives the total as 3,234. There is a difference of 1,377; * but as it appeared from Mr. Mackie's report that the closure of the camp was laxly enforced, and that many irregularities were permitted which might have increased the numbers really fed beyond the numbers he counted, this could not be taken as sufficient proof of fraud. Still the facts leave no room for doubt, but that the total in the camp on the 18th August was over-rated by upwards of a thousand. The Tahsildar was asked for a report at once, but submitted none.

7. On the 27th August a Deputy Tahsildar (since dead), who had been directed by Mr. Crole to report direct to him if any fraud or irregularity occurred in the camp, counted the numbers fed, because he thought that the paper numbers were increasing, whilst the crowd in the feeding-yard was not. He found 3,397 present, and reported this result to the Tahsildar as well as to Mr. Crole.

No. 17. Accordingly the daily report for the same day states that 2,740 paupers "went away on their own accord," and that the total fed was 4,134. The number returned for the previous day was 6,949. It had been increasing up to that day, and would no doubt have continued to increase unless the Deputy Tahsildar had counted. On receiving this daily report Mr. Crole called on the Tahsildar for explanation without mentioning that the Deputy Tahsildar had reported the result of the counting direct to him. Even if no such exceptional counting had taken place, the sudden departure from the camp of 2,740 men would have been a surprising event, causing great suspicion, for it is impossible or, at all events, extremely improbable that so large a number of paupers should leave a camp of their own accord in a single day even if prices fell and famine ceased at the time which it did not. Moreover, the deficiency which had been reported by the Deputy Tahsildar was not fully explained, even if 2,740 had "gone away." The report was called for on the 3rd September. The Tahsildar did not reply till the 10th, and then he simply sent on an explanation by the Superintendent, which was obviously inadequate, without remarking on it, and without mentioning (what he was not aware of) the counting by the Deputy Tahsildar. In any case there must have been suspicion that a fraud was in progress, and, considering that the absconding of the 2,740 was a sequence of the counting by the Deputy Tahsildar, this suspicion must have approached certainty. The amount of Government expenditure involved was great. The Tahsildar (if he had been an honest officer) would have held a searching inquiry at once. He held no inquiry at all.

No. 21. No. 22. 8. On the 16th September the same Deputy Tahsildar counted the numbers fed again and found 1,445 present. He did not report this to the Tahsildar, though he reported it directly to Mr. Crole. Accordingly the total shown in the daily report is 2,952. This total could not have corresponded with the total number of paupers distributed to the several sheds in the camp (*vide* Mr. Crole's report). The correct total of the numbers at the several sheds was 1,697. The clerk who added up the sums made it 2,777, obviously with a fraudulent intent. 9. By the time the daily report of the 17th was prepared the officials in charge had got wind of the Deputy Tahsildar's inquiries, and 1,043 paupers are stated in that report to have "gone away of their own accord," just as after the previous counting 2,740 were said to have gone away.

Nos 28 and 9 (1). No. 142. No. 7 (G). No. 40.

10. The clerk who prepared the abstract of the hut registers has been convicted of fraud at the late Sessions and sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for four years and a fine of Rupees 500, or, in default, to rigorous imprisonment for one year more. Different totals to those I have mentioned are given in the judgment, but this is because the Judge did not take into account the "sick," &c.

11. Besides the fraudulent totals there was another fraud by which the officers in charge of the camp gained. According to the latest scale of diet for relief-camps laid down by Government 24 oz. of grain are to be given to adults and 12 oz. to children in hospitals, and 20 oz. and 10 oz. to other paupers. Two meals a day are given, and I have distributed to camps tin measures which hold on the average the cooked grain corresponding to 12 oz., 10 oz., 6 oz., and 5 oz. of raw grain. In the Nellorepallem camp, when the numbers were at their greatest, the 6 oz. tin was used instead of the 10 oz. tin. The 10 oz. were charged for when the 6 oz. measure was used, so that those concerned saved for themselves about 1½ oz. for each adult pauper not in hospital. With the numbers then in the camp the total saving must have been great. I have before me receipts which show that the Camp Superintendent received some 6 oz. measures on the 1st June, 5th July, and 14th August (six altogether), and some 10 oz. measures on the 20th April (four altogether), so that it is impossible that even if he had been the most careless of observers, he would not have known which of the measures was a 10 oz. tin and which a 6 oz. tin. They are, of course, of very different sizes, and one is half the 12 oz. tin, of which the Superintendent got one in June, one in July, and four in August.

12. There is abundant evidence that the Tahsildar knew of the improper use of the 6 oz. tin as well as of the other frauds which I have mentioned, but the particulars are fully set out in Mr. Crole's report and are summed up in paragraph 38.

13. I am strongly of opinion that the Tahsildar should be dismissed.

14. The Additional Sub-Collector recommends further that he should be prosecuted criminally for forgery and cheating, inasmuch as he signed reports which he must have known to be false, and his position with regard to the camp makes it certain that he profited by the proved frauds which occurred in its management. About the success of a prosecution I see some doubt, because the Tahsildar was outside of the camp, as it were, and none of the rice which has been plundered from Government has been traced to his possession. However, the Superintendent of the camp is now on trial. The evidence in the case is very much the same as it would be against the Tahsildar, except that the Deputy Tahsildar whose counting has been mentioned, and who gave a deposition in the Superintendent's case, is since dead. The defence is the same. The case has been adjourned to next Sessions for the production of further evidence. If the result is a conviction, I think the Tahsildar should be placed on his trial.

15. I have to regret the unavoidable delay which has occurred in submitting this report. The Tahsildar was suspended on the 27th October. The Sub-Collector's report, delayed, as he has mentioned, at the request of the defendant, did not reach me till the 8th instant. I had then to send to the Court and take copies of some of the documents on its records in the two trials mentioned above. I hope these copies will be sufficient to enable the Board and Government to come to a decision on the case. Other documents are alluded to in Mr. Crole's report, and are on the Court's records, but some of them are very voluminous and none seem to me to be material.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From C. S. CROLE, Esq., Additional Sub-Collector, to J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, dated 2nd December 1877, No. 2,210.

Is continuation of my No. 2,100, of the 27th October, I have the honor to submit a report on the conduct of the Tahsildar of Atmakur with reference to his malversation in the famine relief-camp at Nellorepallem.

2. This report has been delayed at his request for time to submit additional facts in defence. As, however, he has not done so, and a month has already elapsed since his suspension, further postponement seems uncalled for.

3. The relief-camp in question is situated close to Atmakur, and is a central one for the gratuitous relief of the whole taluk. It had, previous to the present frauds, last been inspected by me on the 15th June, and it then contained 756 paupers. The management of the camp, as far as my inspection showed, was then good.

4. In the latter part of July I was rendered *hors de combat* by sunstroke, and the numbers quickly rose from 1,100 on the 22nd July to 6,740 on the 26th August*.

* Document No. 16 (sent to Sessions Court).

5. The Tahsildar was in sole charge of the camp. He had a Superintendent on Rs. 40 and an ample establishment to assist him.

6. A very complete daily return signed by the Tahsildar had to be sent in to my Office every day. This showed every detail of strength and expenditure compiled from the accounts of the camp.

7. On my partial recovery, about the middle of August, the large numbers returned from this camp attracted my notice. Making every allowance for the increased pressure of famine, owing to the complete failure of the south-west monsoon in the Atmakur Taluk, my knowledge of its circumstances and the previous history of the Tahsildar's famine management gave rise to considerable doubt of the accuracy of the returns. This suspicion was increased owing to my having just discovered that advantage had been taken of my illness to perpetrate a similar fraud in the North Nellore camp.

8. Accordingly it was arranged that Mr. A. W. Mackie, B.C.S., should proceed to the spot and inspect the camp. This he did on the 18th August. The result was that a deficiency of 1,321 was discovered. Other irregularities were also brought to notice. This report was sent on the date of its receipt (22nd August) to the Tahsildar for explanation. Up to the time of my commencing this inquiry at Atmakur, viz., the beginning of October, the Tahsildar had submitted no such explanation.

+ Document No. 20 (herewith enclosed).

9. A few days after Mr. Mackie's inspection the Tahsildar called at my Office in Nellore. He was then and there distinctly warned that I considered the results of that inspection unsatisfactory and suspicious, and that he would be held personally responsible for any fraud.

10. An Additional Deputy Tahsildar, a Komati, had been some time previously posted at Atmakur with personal orders from me at once to report if any fraud or irregularity came to his notice. This man was, towards the end of August, deputed by the Tahsildar to attend to the feeding and sanitary arrangements.

11. On the 27th August it occurred to him to count the paupers, as his suspicions were aroused "because the numbers on the increasing very rapidly, whereas the crowd (in the feeding-yard) did not seem to be larger;" now the numbers on the day previous were rendered in the daily report as 3,397. There was, therefore, a discrepancy of some 3,400 paupers whose keep had been charged for.

12. This discovery was at once reported† by the Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, who took no notice of it. If you will be good enough to turn to his deposition§ given before me you will find that he accounts for this by alleging that the Deputy was doubtful. There is not the slightest evidence of this doubt anywhere on the record, for the thing was beyond doubt. Afterwards, however, the Tahsildar says he forgets whether he replied to the Deputy or not.

† Document No. 1 marked A (sent to Sessions Court).
‡ No. 23 (herewith sent).

13. The daily report for the 27th August || (signed by the Tahsildar) was not received by me till the 3rd September. It showed a total of 3,945 in camp and 2,740 as "went away on their own accord." On that very day the Tahsildar was called¶ on to "submit a special report by return of Post on this extraordinary event." He replied** on the 10th idem merely embodying an explanation of the Superintendent to the effect that the people had left owing to the satta harvest, and so forth. I happened at the time to show you this, and you justly characterised it as being marked by "disgraceful levity." There is no symptom in it of any attempt at investigation, and if doubt regarding its *mala fides* remained, it must be removed by the fact that the Tahsildar, both when he submitted it and when he sent in the daily report, was suppressing the fact that the Deputy had formally brought to his notice that the deficit was discovered owing to his having counted the paupers.

14. In his defence,* dated 25th October, the Tahsildar ceases to pretend that the figures entered in that and other daily reports were true figures. He contents himself with throwing the blame on the Superintendent. It is impossible to believe that he was not a party to the fraud, otherwise he would have made a proper personal inquiry, he would not have concealed the fact that the deficiency had been discovered and reported by the Deputy Tahsildar, and he would have without delay submitted to me the special report ordered under such circumstances.

* No. 25 (herewith sent).

15. The deposition† of the Superintendent before me is of a piece with the Tahsildar's. He says that he was absent from the camp from midday on the 27th; that it was left in charge of the Deputy Tahsildar; and that on returning in the evening and coming to understand that a deficiency of 3,400 paupers had been discovered, he presumed that they must have run away, and so entered in his daily report to the Tahsildar, who never made any inquiry into the matter. It should be noted that the camp in question was enclosed with a high and strong fence, the outlets being guarded by Police. We have, moreover, the Deputy Tahsildar's assertion that the crowd in the feeding-yard showed no sign of diminution. This, taken with the behavior of the Tahsildar and the Superintendent, can leave little room for doubt that had it not been for the accident of the Deputy Tahsildar's counting, the paupers would have been returned as 6,000 or so on the 27th as they had been on the 26th.

† No. 26 (herewith sent).

16. The Deputy Tahsildar fell sick after this, and the camp came again under the direct management of the Tahsildar, who, according to the Superintendent, attended every day, often holding office all day there. The Tahsildar admits personally supervising the camp between the 1st and 16th September. He was, in point of fact, in charge until the 19th, when the Additional Deputy Tahsildar took over charge by my orders. This order was too sudden and unexpected to admit of any destruction or manipulation of the accounts which, therefore, came into my hands almost intact, thus securing the proof of systematic fraud with which the Tahsildar now stands charged.

17. His own accounts show‡ that during this period (1st to 18th September) 8,971½ seers of rice, worth Rupees 1,708-14-1, were embezzled by exaggerating the number of paupers in the camp.

‡ Abstract prepared in this Office, No. 27 (herewith sent).

18. On the 1st September the registers of the paupers in camp began, under my orders, to be prepared hut by hut. The general register for the whole camp had turned out a failure, as it was too bulky to be properly kept up. I therefore established a register for each hut (holding 100 paupers or so), which register had to be kept up day by day. The correct number in camp was, therefore, always easily ascertainable. In addition the paupers had to be daily counted. Any *bona fide* mistake of any extent as to the total numbers present thus became absolutely impossible. These new registers were kept up from day to day by officers appointed for the purpose. An abstract of these registers was compiled showing total strength by an officer supervisor of Registers. These registers, the abstract§ for September are produced, and they show the true strength in the camp from day to day.

§ Documents marked E and F, Nos. 5 and 6 (sent to Sessions Court).

19. This true strength, however, was not adopted by the Superintendent and his Clerks, but a larger figure was substituted. The rice also was always charged for according to the larger numbers. The accounts themselves bear every evidence of fraud. They are contradictory, confused, and full of erasures. Regarding some of these the Superintendent was examined by me, and a reference to his deposition will show that he has nothing to advance in explanation, except to throw the responsibility on the Gamastahs. As this is the course adopted by the Tahsildar also, who asserts that he was hoodwinked by the Superintendent, it may be as well to say that neither the Tahsildar nor the Superintendent is the sort of man to allow himself to be deceived by a subordinate for a single moment, let alone weeks. The character of both is well known to me, and is notorious.

20. To return to the figures, it may be as well to place the true and false figures for the first part of September in juxtaposition.

Dates.	Number according to the Hut Registers.	Number according to the Daily Reports.	Remarks.
1st September 1877	2,274	4,420	
2nd "	2,294	4,253	
3rd "	2,396	4,263	
4th "	2,400	4,259	
5th "	2,365	4,362	
6th "	2,400	4,364	
7th "	2,298	2,938	
8th "	2,394	2,938	
9th "	2,208	3,130	
10th "	2,134	2,956	
11th "	2,025	2,950	
12th "	1,943	2,940	
13th "	1,913	2,895	
14th "	1,785	2,851	
15th "	1,713	2,952	
16th "	1,697	1,000	The Deputy Tahsildar found only 1,445 on counting.
17th "	1,447	2,474	
18th "	1,543		

21. The proof that in the daily reports submitted to me false figures were used is not exhausted by the examination and analysis of the accounts. The correction of hut registers is corroborated in a most complete manner by an enumeration of the paupers in camp made by the Additional Deputy Tahsildar on the 16th September (vide his deposition).

* No. 28 (herewith sent).

22. This officer was sick at the time, but as he began to mend he went over to the camp in the evening of that day and counted the paupers. According to the daily report for the 15th, the Deputy Tahsildar found only 1,445. The Deputy Tahsildar found only 1,445.

† No. 31 (sent to Sessions Court).

23. Warned by the result of letting the camp in the morning of that day and counting the paupers. The Superintendent and Tahsildar sent in to me a daily report for the 16th, actually showing an increase over the numbers of the 15th. The figure thus given was 2,952.

24. This means that Government kept of over 1,500 paupers who had been in charge, and there is ample evidence that the Tahsildar was at that time. The Deputy Tahsildar's charge, and there is ample evidence that nothing of this sort could have happened without his connivance. Moreover, this charge against him does not rest upon the mere word of the Deputy Tahsildar.

25. The abstracts of the hut registers, with taken possession of by me, and the figures for the 16th, taken hut by hut, aggregate 1,697 (200 or so in excess of the Deputy Tahsildar's total, but still wonderfully close it).

26. Fraud is still more indubitably marked on this transaction by the total affixed to the details under this date in the account in question. It has been remarked above that added together the details give 1,697. The number entered as a total below the details is 2,777, or 1,018 in excess.

27. Now it is admitted by the Superintendent and the Office Gumastah that this abstract was the keystone to the accounts in the camp; that it was from it that the figures for the daily report sent to me were taken; and that the issue of rice was also based upon it. Yet neither the Tahsildar nor the Superintendent has the slightest explanation to offer. All the latter "knows" is that "he gave out the rice on the date in question, and that none was over."

28. The steps taken by the Deputy after his discovery of the 16th seemed to have aroused suspicion. He began to call for accounts and so on. We therefore find an entry in the daily report for the 17th to the effect that 1,049 went away on that day of their own accord leaving a balance of 1,736.

29. It would uselessly swell this report were I to proceed to detail the other frauds and irregularities discovered during the inquiry. It seems better to allow the facts above set forth to decide the fate of the principal official concerned.

30. The Revenue Inspector Chollara Seshiah, Superintendent of the Camp, has been dismissed from the Government service, and has, along with Peddiraju Ramiah, Supervisor of Hut Registers, been committed by Mr. Mackie, B.C.S., to the Court of Session for trial for forgery and cheating.

31. Without anticipating a judicial decision, I would submit that whatever frauds may have been committed by these men, they could not have remained undiscovered for a day without the assistance of the Tahsildar. Whether that assistance was afforded through negligence or design was the point I had to consider before taking the serious steps of suspending the Tahsildar. His deposition, his written defence compiled with free access to all the documents, and the facts proved and admitted left no doubt in my mind that he was at the bottom of a systematic conspiracy to defraud Government, and was consequently much more guilty than his subordinates.

32. In the first place, I would call attention to the beginning of his deposition. He there states: "I received an order* (22nd August 1877) to explain on irregularities brought to light in Mr. Mackie's report of the 21st August. I have not yet replied to it. I have not replied to Takidst Nos. 1,140, 1,413, 1,742, and 1,853 regarding sudden increases and decreases in camp and other matters. I do not know why I have not replied."

* No. 20.

† Nos. 32, 33, 34, and 35.

33. Then, when the Deputy Tahsildar reported to him regarding the discovery of a deficiency of Rs. 3,400 on the 27th August, he says he took no notice of the matter, because the Deputy Tahsildar said he was "doubtful." There is not the least foundation for this assertion, but even if the Deputy Tahsildar were doubtful, surely that was a paramount reason not for indifference, but for an immediate and searching inquiry, and prompt report according to orders.

34. Even when he received an order, dated 5th September, from me to report on this very matter, instead of repairing the mistake he sent me a most careless and misleading reply, and withheld all mention of the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, merely stating that the Superintendent said so and so. The Superintendent himself contradicts the Tahsildar's statement that he ever came to the camp about the matter at all.

35. Again, take his behaviour when the next discovery was made as described by himself: "I did not reply to the Deputy Tahsildar's reports of 19th September bringing to notice a deficiency of 1,445, and complaining of the insubordination of the Superintendent. This deficiency was not specially reported to Additional Sub-Collector, even after that officer had sent order,† dated 21st September (to explain by return of Post). I reported‡ only when a special peon came with order,|| dated 23rd September, I had been repeatedly ordered to submit special reports whenever extraordinary fluctuations in numbers took place."

† No. 36 (herewith sent).

‡ No. 35 (herewith sent).

§ No. 37 (herewith sent).

36. Again, during one of my inspections of the camp in the beginning of October (the 3rd), it was discovered that the adult paupers being served with tin measures, which personal experiment subsequently proved to be eightths too small. These tin measures are made and issued by the Collector, and contain in cooked rice the equivalent of the ration of raw grain allowed by Government. The cooked rice is measured by these tins into the pot or leaf of each pauper with the view of securing that the full quantity reaches him. The result proved, however, that even this precaution was as naught in the hands of the finished swindlers at Atmakur.

37. The morning after this discovery I met the Tahsildar at the camp, and he told me that he did not know when these faulty measures had come, and that he did not even remember to have seen them before the Deputy Tahsildar took charge of the camp from the Superintendent, whom I removed on the 19th September (vide his deposition). Now the Deputy Tahsildar distinctly states in his deposition that they had been in use for weeks before that, and consequently the Tahsildar who attended every day for sixteen days must have seen them daily. Moreover, he admits that the Superintendent had, in fact, brought the subject to his notice in August, and the Deputy Tahsildar asserts that he did so also, and that the Tahsildar agreed to report on the matter. He admits this much, but says he awaited a formal report. Eventually the real 10 oz. measures were found in the camp, and it is only too clear that the Tahsildar and Superintendent between them had been for weeks systematically robbing the miserable creatures committed to their care of no less than three-eighths of their rations, while the full expenditure was charged to Government.

38. This disobedience of orders, this lurking of all inquiry into charges against the Superintendent, this concealment of deficiencies in the number of paupers thrice discovered by other officers, this matter of the false measure, all point to guilt alone.

39. The defence addressed to me, which took the Tahsildar three days to compile, is put up with this report. It contains no answer to the charges* against him set forth in my order of the 23rd October, unless a futile attempt to throw all the blame on the Superintendent, which the latter in turn passes on to Gumastahs, can be so called.

40. Much the same may be said of another defence filed before you and forwarded to me for perusal. The only difference is that in this letter, while not meeting the accusations made against him, the Tahsildar has indulged in a number of false statements, most of them quite irrelevant to the matter in hand.

41. Under these circumstances, I do not think that, should higher authority agree with the above estimate of the facts, mere removal from the Government service would be politic. A severe example is required in a case of fraud so systematic, so glaring, and so disgusting. The Tahsildar was necessarily entrusted with large powers in distributing the charity of Government to his starving fellow-countrymen, and he is clearly proved to have deliberately betrayed that sacred trust. I have the honor, therefore, to recommend that N. Venkataseshagiri Row be prosecuted for forgery and cheating under Sections 468 and 420, Indian Penal Code.

42. It is, perhaps, proper to add that the Tahsildar's conduct during the famine has not been satisfactory.

P.S.—Since the above was written the Additional Deputy Tahsildar, by whom the proof of these frauds has been much facilitated, has died, and Pedduraju Ramiah has been sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment, and a fine of Rupees 500 by the Sessions Court. The trial of the Superintendent will probably come on on the 10th instant.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 31.—Documents as per List annexed.

ENCLOSURE No. 32.

List of Papers.

No. Mark.		
1	(A). Copy of a yadast from the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, Extra No. 2, dated 1st September 1877 (copy sent herewith)	1
2	(B). Copy of a memorandum of rice expenditure and strength of the camp on 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th August 1877	1
3	(C). Another memorandum of strength for 27th August 1877	1
4	(D). Copy of a yadast from the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, dated 1st September 1877, Extra No. 1	1
5	(E). Abstract of Hut P. fair book	27
6	(F). Do. do rough	1
7	(G). Hut Register's bill to the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Superintendent of the Camp, dated 17th September, requesting to send bills, &c., of the strength (copy sent herewith)	2
9	(J). Pencil calculations of the Deputy Tahsildar (copy sent)	1
10	(K). Kyfest given by Vapa Kemma Ramiah before the Deputy Tahsildar on the 3rd October 1877	1
11	(L). Grain Account Book No. 1 from August 18th to 9th September 1877	1
12	(M). Do. do. 27th to 19th do.	1
13	(P2) (Q2). Office-copy of Daily Report Book	1
14	(Q). English Daily Report of 18th September 1877 (copy sent herewith)	1
15	(R). Bills of Daily Strength	1
16	English Daily Report of 25th August 1877 (copy sent herewith)	1
17	Do. of 27th do.	3
18	(B1). (B2). (B3). Original reports of the Daily report for 26th August signed by Chellera Seshiah, Camp Superintendent	3
19	(A1) (A2) (A3). Original reports of the Daily Report for 27th August 1877	2
20	Report of Mr. Mackie, dated 23rd August 1877 (sent herewith)	1
21	Docket No. 1,664, dated 5th September 1877, to the Tahsildar of Atmakur, calling upon to submit explanation as to the number 2,740 sent away from the camp (copy sent herewith)	1
22	Reply to the above order from the Tahsildar of Atmakur, dated 10th September 1877, No. 492 (copy sent herewith)	1

No. Mark.		
23	Deposition given by the Tahsildar of Atmakur before the Additional Sub-Collector, Nellore (sent herewith)	1
24	Memorandum of charges framed by the Additional Sub-Collector against the Tahsildar in view to his making his defence (sent herewith)	1
25	Defence of the Tahsildar, dated 25th October 1877 (do.)	14
26	Deposition given by the Camp Superintendent (do.)	2
27	Abstract Book of Accounts in the Camp (do.)	1
28	Deposition given by the Additional Deputy Tahsildar (do.)	2
29	Do. given by Soorapara Seetharamiah, Head Supervisor of the Camp (sent herewith)	1
30	Do. given by Vapa Kemma Ramiah, Office Gumastah (sent herewith)	1
31	English Daily Report for 15th September 1877 (copy sent herewith)	1
32	Docket No. 1,140 (sent herewith)	1
33	Do. No. 1,413 (do.)	1
34	Do. No. 1,742 (do.)	1
35	Do. No. 1,853 (do.)	1
36	Do. No. 1, dated 21st September 1877 (sent herewith)	1
37	Do. Extra No. 1, dated 23rd do. (do.)	1
38	Reports of Atmakur Tahsildar, Extra No. 1, dated 24th September, and No. 442, dated 23rd September 1877 (sent herewith)	5
39	Original Daily Report of the Nellorepallem Camp for the 28th August 1877 (sent herewith)	...
40	Original Daily Report of the Nellorepallem Camp for the 17th September 1877 (sent herewith)	...
41	Judgment of the Session Court in Calendar Case 180 of 1877 (copy sent herewith)	...
42	Letter from the suspended Tahsildar to the Collector, dated 27th November 1877, with a bundle of enclosures (sent herewith)	...

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

SENT for the orders of Government.

2. With the foregoing letter the Collector of Nellore submits a full report from the Additional Sub-Collector on the conduct of the Tahsildar of Atmakur in connection with malversation in the camp at Nellorepallem. The facts are fully set forth in the Collector's letters, and show that by false returns of numbers Government has been defrauded of considerable sums, whilst the paupers were shamefully cheated in the issue of rations by the improper use of the measures supplied. One of the Gumastahs employed in the camp has already been convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment; the Superintendent is shortly to be placed on his trial. The Tahsildar was in charge of the camp for a long time with a Superintendent and adequate establishment for efficient working, and it was during this period that these glaring frauds were perpetrated. His delay in submitting explanations when called upon to do so, his utter disregard of warnings, and omission to make any inquiry about the variations in numbers, &c., render it impossible to suppose that he was merely culpably careless. The Board recommend that he be dismissed from the public service and his future employment prohibited. The Board also think that there is sufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution, and sanction its being commenced irrespective of the result of the trial of the Superintendent. The case should be entrusted to a careful and intelligent officer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 271. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 18th May 1878, Miscellaneous No. 5,004.

Read again letter from Collector of Nellore, dated 2nd April 1878, No. 1,326, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 29th April 1878, Miscellaneous No. 4,257.

Read also Official Memorandum from Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated 15th May 1878, No. 103.

The Board regret that in disposing of the letter read above they omitted to notice that the papers connected with the trial of the Nellorepallem Relief Camp Superintendent had been called for by Government in the Revenue Department in Official Memorandum, dated 8th March 1878, No. 64. As the whole matter had been laid before Government in the Judicial Department in Mr. Grose's letter to the Chief Secretary of the same date, it was erroneously supposed that it was unnecessary to forward the papers; they will now be submitted, in original, to obviate further delay.

2. With reference to paragraph 4 of Mr. Grose's letter the Board concur with the Collector in considering that, under the circumstances, it would be useless to proceed further against the Tahsildar criminally. He is now under suspension, and the Board have already recommended that he should be dismissed and his employment in the Government service in future prohibited.

(True Extract.)

(Signed)

C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

No. 272. From J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to the Under-Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Nellore, 11th June 1878, No. 2,271.

With reference to your Official Memorandum of the 6th instant, No. 123, I have the honor to retransmit the records* returned to this Office with

* Records will follow.

Government Order, Judicial Department, dated 15th May 1878, No. 1,007. Copies of the following documents called for in Official Memorandum under reference are also submitted:—

- (a.) Two extracts from the Commencing Magistrate's Preliminary Register, showing grounds for committing Cases Nos. 67 and 71 of 1877.
- (b.) One copy and one translation of the Additional Deputy Tahsildar's depositions in Cases Nos. 67 and 71.

2. I request that if there be no objection I may be furnished with a copy of the Government Pleader's letter, No. 55, dated 4th May 1878, referred to in Government Order, Judicial Department, dated 15th May 1878, No. 1,007, and stated in that order to be communicated to me.

No. 273. ORDER THEREON, 22nd August 1878, No. 1,346.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council has given these papers careful consideration, and is of opinion that there is

little room to doubt the occurrence of extensive frauds at the Nellorepallem famine camp.

2. There is no direct evidence to show that these were carried on with the concurrence of the Tahsildar of Atmakur; but their extent was such as could not have escaped the notice of a fairly active and intelligent official of the position of a Tahsildar on the spot. Moreover, when warned of the suspected existence of wrong doing, he suffered it to continue by inattention and neglect of proper precautions.

3. Under these circumstances, the Government will not direct the dismissal of Seshagiri Row, but are forced to the conclusion that he is unfit for the office of Tahsildar, and the Board of Revenue will arrange for his reduction to a post of less responsibility and importance, allowing full weight to the loss he has already sustained by his lengthened suspension.

4. The petitioner will be referred to the Collector of Nellore.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Revenue (Famine) Department.
" the Petition Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

Rev. Sept.

1346

For Orders.

on Board's Proc: dated 16th January 1878 No 131.
 Board's Proc: dated 18th May 1878 No 51024
 Letter from the Coll^r of Nellore, of 11th June 1878 No 2271.
 regarding the conduct of Khandagiri Venkata Subba-
 Guni Rao, Tahsildar of Atmakur, in Nellore Dist,
 in connection with the relief camp at Nellore
 following.
 Petitions 254 & 843 from the Tahsildar of
 Atmakur.
 4940

On the 30th October last
 the Collector of Nellore reported
 to the Board that the additional
 Sub-Collector had suspended the
 Tahsildar of Atmakur in con-
 nection with certain serious
 frauds believed to have been
 discovered at the Nellore relief
 famine camp.

2 On the 21st of December
 a further report was sent to
 the Board in which an ac-
 count of the frauds was given.
 It was also stated that a clerk
 had

Note. This has been compiled
 from all the papers including
 the records in the case against
 the Sub-Collector the Tahsildar
 Govt. These last had however
 unfortunately been returned
 to the Coll^r 15th May 1878 No 1007
 and only received back on the
 17th. In original note have
 been appended to the papers
 Govt's letter where their
 statements seem to be
 supported by evidence.
 The case seems to be going into
 an extra legal service board. The
 Tahsildar was arrested & detained
 whether there is any ground
 to justify the making of a report
 See Board's 16th Jan 1878
 No 131.

"Morally certain" can be
 settled only for all
 J

Coll. of (1878) 300000.
 REVENUE.
 THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
 Secy. Secy. Secy.
 Dated August 22nd.
 Printed 10th.
 Secy.
 G.O. 22nd August 1878, No. 131.
 AUGUST.
 No. 270-271.
 S. Subbarao Rao, Tahsildar of Atmakur, in the
 Nellore District - Passing a warrant on 14th Jan
 relating to the conduct of - in connection with
 the suspected frauds at the relief camp at Nellore
 Khandagiri Venkata Subba Guni Rao, Tahsildar of Atmakur,
 in connection with the relief camp at Nellore
 to secure for the reduction to a post of his
 responsibility and insurance, allowing him to
 to the Coll^r has already obtained by his large
 and suspension.

had been convicted of fraud
and that the Supt. of the Camp
was on trial.

The Collector thought the
Tahsildar should be dismissed
and if the Supt. was convicted
should also "be placed on his
trial" as "the evidence in the case
is very much the same as it
would be against the Tahsildar."

The Board supported the
Collector's recommendation
but thought the Tahsildar
should be prosecuted irrespec-
tive of the result of the case
against the Supt.

3 The Tahsildar petitioned
Govt. and as the trial of the
Supt. was by this time over
the Board were asked by Offi-
cial Memo. to send in a report
from the Collector on the re-
sult and to accompany it with

Boards Memo No 50014.
18th May 78.

with copies of the Courts' judgments
and of the depositions most relied
on.

The Board did not reply im-
mediately on a reminder being sent they
said that "as the whole matter
had been laid before Govt in the
Judicial Department
it was erroneously supposed
it was unnecessary to for-
ward the papers."

They now think the Tah-
sildar should not be prose-
cuted but consider he should
be dismissed and his employ-
ment in Govt. service prohib-
ited.

4 This results from the fact
that the clerk convicted by the
Sessions Court has been released
on appeal by the High Court and
that the Sessions Court would
not convict the Supt. of the Camp.

The Collector was much dis-
turbed at this failure of the
criminal

So far as I can gather
the Tahsildar was in general
superior - The Superin-
tendent being personally ac-
countable - The prosecu-
tion of the latter has failed
Criml. prosecution of the
former is hopeless - The
matter is therefore Depart.

There has been great
casualty the question is
(1) did the Tahsildar par-
ticipate (2) was he un-
duly negligent

criminal trials and urged the
Govt to move for a revision but
the Govt. (Judicial Dept.) acting
on the advice of the Govt. Pleader
have declined to take any steps.

See GO (Judicial Dept.)
15th May 78 No: 1007

See letter in
Lanc. P. 485
d. 29th April 78 which
is an endorsement
in GO. Misc 5004
d. 18th May 78.

5 The Collector still thinks
that "gigantic frauds" were per-
petrated and that the Tahsil-
dar "ought to be held responsi-
ble for them." But "the evidence"
which has so far fouled —

— and in as much "
as he (the Tahsildar) was an
outsider and there is no proof"
that he shared in the profits "
the incriminating effects as "
regards him would be weaker."

Mr. Cross considers that "the
position of the Tahsildar which"
makes it certain if he did "
his duty he must have known "

of

"of the frauds and the inference
"from his behaviour especially
"in looking inquiry into the
"frauds would have less weight
"with a criminal Court than they
"must have with the administrators
"of the Country."

6. It thus becomes necessary
for Govt. to decide

(1) Whether there is reason to
believe that frauds were com-
mitted & (2) if so "how far the
Tahsildar is to be held respon-
sible for them."

7 It would appear that
the Villoripolhem Camp was
not visited by a European Of-
ficer from the 15th June to the
18th August. On the former date
it contained 756 paupers on
the 22nd July 1190 and on the 26th
August the return was 6769.

The S.W. Monsoon had in

a

a great measure failed but
the increase was considered
too large and Mr. Mackie B.C.S.
was sent to inspect.

8 This officer found "the inmates
wandering outside" and had
them "driven inside."

He then inquired on what
principle relief was given and
was told only those who had
tickets got food. Separating
these from the rest he calculated
that the numbers amounted
to 1300 fewer than the return
of the previous day but says
those outside were fully that
number and he found out that
people came in and out much
as they liked and got fed. He
recommended the Camp should
be doubled. This was on the 18th Sept.

There was nothing in this
report on which to found a
criminal

own returns of the 22nd, 23rd & 24th
September show that the in-
mates of the Camp went in
and out as there was no wall
in it and that emaciated per-
sons came and got fed and
refused to stay.

It is abundantly proved
that many more persons
were fed than were strictly
speaking inmates of the Camp
and the fact of the hut regis-
ters not being made to corre-
spond with the daily return
tends to show that no
deliberate and systematic
frauds were committed.

The Deputy Tahsildar is
supposed to have counted the
inmates on the 16th but there
is no clear evidence as to the
time or manner of his census
and he made the numbers
11445 against the hut regis-
ters total 1697 and the daily
return

return total 2952.

11 The Deputy Tahsildar is said to have kept his own counsel as to this counting but on the 17th he asked for some of the accounts. This Mr. Crole supposes was the cause of an entry in the 17th daily return that 1049 people went away of their own accord.

He also finds the total of the hut registers added up wrongly but it was not made to correspond with the daily return and it would have been a clumsy fraud to have the details and make the total only incorrect.

12 In addition to the above Mr. Crole states that on the 3rd October he found certain measures in use which were $\frac{3}{8}$ too small and that the Deputy Tahsildar who was then in charge said they had all along been used.

Thus

Note. The Tahsildar & Co. had had a meeting with the camp on the 19th Sept.

X 12. 1st Sept.

prepared the account in collusion why did they not return the Deputy Tahsildar's numbers instead of an excess of 500 persons? The Deputy Tahsildar unfortunately died before the accused were tried by the Sessions Court and his examinations at the preliminary inquiries were of a very meagre nature. There is therefore nothing but the above bare facts on which to go. The Deputy Tahsildar is said to have fallen sick about this time and is supposed not to have visited the Camp again until the 16th September. During these 16 days and until the 19th when Mr. Crole put the Deputy Tahsildar in charge it is supposed that frauds were committed by returning the numbers fed in excess of those in camp.

It

10. It seems that strictly speaking those who entered the Relief Camp and agreed to live there should alone have been fed and should not have been allowed to leave the enclosure. They lived in huts and a register was on the 1st September opened for each hut. The total therefore in the huts should have been the total fed. These hut registers were taken possession of by the Deputy Tahsildar on the 19th and it was found that their total was always far below that returned in the daily return as the number fed. The District Officers argue that there must have been cheating but the evidence taken before the Sessions Court, at Mr. Mackenzie's report and the Deputy Tahsildars

criminal charge but Mr. Cado warned the Tahsildar that he considered the results of that inspection "unsatisfactory and suspicious." He had also previously posted a Deputy Tahsildar a Khamati for merchant by caste, with orders to report to him, regarding "any irregularity or fraud."

The Tahsildar and Camp servants were therefore well aware that suspicion had been aroused but they are supposed to have continued deliberately to return the number fed in excess of their real amount.

This man is dead.

Q. This charge is based on a statement of the Deputy Tahsildar that he counted the numbers in the Camp on the 27th August and found them to be 3397 where as the previous days return amounted to 6769.

On

On the 1st September, and
not until then, the Deputy Tah-
sildar reported to the Tahsildar
that in accordance with his
(the Tahsildar's) instructions he
had inspected the Camp with
the above result. Mr. Crose
received the return for the 27th
on the 3rd September and in it
598 adult males - 1358 adult
females - 309 boys - 479 girls total
2744 persons are returned as
going away of their own accord
and 3945 as remaining. The
prosecution theory is that this
last entry was made because
of the Deputy Tahsildar's counting.
Now the statement is signed
by the Camp Supt. and Tahsildar.
If the former was ignorant of
the counting why did he return
so large a number of people
as going away and if he and
the Tahsildar knew of it and
prepared

Thus it is argued that they had
been systematically used by
the Tahsildar and Superintending
to rob "the miserable creatures
committed to their care."

Mr. Crose explains that
he had sent for use in the Camp
two holding "on the average the
"cooked grain corresponding to
"12-10-6 and 5 oz. of raw grain"
and that the bag was used
when the 10 oz. of rice should have
been. This point was not made
the ground of any of the crim-
inal charges and there is only
in its support the bare state-
ment of the Deputy Tahsildar.

Now as he kept on the
measures and apparently
used them after he was in
sole charge if there was fraud
in the matter, he must have been
"particeps criminis".

The above appears to be
all that can be said as to the
supposed frauds.

If

13. If they existed did the Tahsildar take part in them or was he simply careless?

It seems highly improbable that after Mr. Clarke warning he could have encouraged any frauds. Moreover he specially set the Deputy Tahsildar to watch and check irregularities. He seems at the outset to have been overworked, and the Camp left long without European superintendence and altogether beyond control. When called suddenly to account he temporized and shifted the responsibility on to other shoulders but though he had abundance of time he did not attempt to cook accounts.

Submitted that on the whole the Tahsildar does not deserve the penalty which the Collector and Board think should be inflicted.

I think Mr. Cole's letter printed in Board Pro: 16 January 1878 evidences great prejudice against the Tahsildar based on his opinion with reference to other matters not before Govt and that his summing up of the offence attributed to the Tahsildar is the reverse of impartial.

Every point which tells against the Tahsildar is made much of but while the object has arguments in the main favour of the Tahsildar, the main statement is "quite irrelevant" to the matter in hand. e.g. the paper submitted by the Tahsildar to the Collector & referred to Mr. Cole's para 40 - which seems to me a reasonable enough statement.

The same thing is observable in regard to the comments Mr. Cole makes on the District Judge's decision in Case No 183 in which the Camp

Enclosure No 42.

Superintendent was re-
sulted. Mr Goldingham's
decision seems most
reasonable but it is quite
possible to understand
that such a failure of
justice" & throw great
difficulties in the way
of checking irregularities
in financial expenditure
& cause much an-
noyance to officers charged
with the administration
of the country.

But the assumptions
of strong language in
which the Additional
Sub-Collector indulged
owing no doubt to his
firm belief that there
had been swindling
going on should not,
it is submitted, pre-
judice the case against
the Talukdar who
however dilatory he
may have been and
unequal to cope with
the task imposed upon
him of tracking famine
in addition to the ordi-
ary thousand & one
duties connected with
the Taluk is not proved
to have been wilfully
dishonest in the matter
which occurred in this
particular case.

The papers leave the con-
viction that swindling
was going on - and that the
Talukdar on all to have
known it - but the connection
link is wanting - & I can-
not say that the defence has
strong points of fallacy
- & one is that the Talukdar
was expected to do that
kind of any man -

I am inclined to take this
view - He cannot in the
face of the release of the
more responsible parties
convict the Talukdar - on
evidence of the feeble kind
in fact, no conjecturally
strong - and I confess
that I don't like moral
conviction" VM
8/10

I am afraid I feel that
the judgment of the local
officers as to the passive
of obstructive complicity
of the Talukdar in the
obstructive of funds &c.

It would have been
much better for the
man if the collector's
original proposal
to prosecute him had
been carried out.
However that has
been with reason
in consequence of the
failure in the Super-
intendent's case.

The Talukdar
was suspended in
October 1877 - nine
months ago - The
short coming of
which he may have
been guilty will, if
it is submitted, be
amplified, if he
loses half his
pay (Rs 175) during
this period and is
remitted with
an intimation that
the period of his suspension is
not to count as
service - He might
further be reduced
to a lower grade
(Rs 150) among the
Talukdarship if this
fine of nearly Rs
800 is not con-
sidered enough pun-
ishment. VM

him seems to come &
don't think occurs. is
more likely the court
than the opinion to be
drawn from documents
evidence alone. & I suspect
that the W. H. is
properly to view as the
most direct exposure of
party fall concerned.

Assuming known that
was guilty of more
than gross neglect. is
assumption appears to
be very difficult.
or admitting that to
purpose of vision of
the Camp because
that it has been
expected of him is not
his other duties.
I think the result of
the probable fraud

I can come to no other
conclusion on these papers
but that fraud or
swindling as W. H. terms
it - was a fact -

The evidence ^{weakness}
of the death of the ^{deputy}
Tahsildar - does not justify
the fraud clearly in any
one individual -

The question remains
what is the position in
the matter held by the
Tahsildar?

He was in general charge
responsible to Govt. that
the Camp was properly
conducted - His position
responsibility was not

that which would make
him blameable because a
subordinate Camp official
state some pretty amount
of vice or other things. But
he was in a position - in
accord with his official
status - in which he was
responsible that Govt was
not systematically defrauded
by illusive returns being
returned - or by the Camp
arrangements being allowed
to continue such that
proper control which became
impossible - which was of
these cases happened. - He
was responsible for taking prompt
measures to stop - and to bring
inward the offenders -
He was warned of suspected
fraud - but fraudulent.

has been accused and
have decided to turn to
the knowledge of a
fairly ~~competent~~ intelligent
Govt. official in the position
of a Govt. or the Govt.
I think him for that to
draw him the accusation
I have been in the an
accomplice. or the
impetus for his position
from negligence or
want of intelligence

I do not wish to urge his
dismissal in opposition
to his Govt. view. but
I do certainly expect
him to be much more
careful. & to be for
him to and this place
allowing full weight
to be put on the inspection
he has had to give. so
far as the rules of Govt.

14. 8. 78

Number - or involved
 access to the land for
 continued -
 I attach no importance to
 there being no European
 supervision - the want
 of general supervision was
 not an unreasonable one to
 impose on a Tahildar - nor
 one which an upright &
 intelligent ^{native} officer could not
 discharge as well as a European

This seems to me that there is
 other conclusion than that
 the Tahildar - possibly not an
 actual recipient of plunder
 permitted by inattention &
 neglect of precautions. The
 continued perpetration of
 fraud on part of which he
 was duly warned -

That he is unfit for his position
 of trust - & should be removed
 from his Tahildari - but

I would not object to

Case of the Tahildar
 of the District
 of the District

His remaining in service
 in some other office

No 1/10

MB
 21/10

Revenue Department.

Do 1874

Proceedings of the Madras Government.
 Under date the 22nd July 1878

Read the following

papers:-

Board's Proceedings dated
16th January 1878 N^o 131.

Board's Proceedings dated
18th May 1878 M^{is} N^o 5004.

Letter from the collector
 of Kollon dated 11 June 1878
 forwarding N^o 3341 - regarding the con-
 sideration of papers relating to
 the case of Pandajin Lunkoby -
 they suspected frauds
 committed by the Tahildar of
 Abnathur in Kollon district,
 in connection with the relief
 camp at Kollonpollam.

No 273 order given

His Grace the Governor
 in Council has given these
 papers.

papers careful consideration and is of opinion that there is little reason to doubt the occurrence of extensive frauds at the Kallorpollur famine camp.

2. There is no direct evidence to show that these were carried on with the concurrence of the Tahsildar of Abnathur but their extent was such as could not have escaped the notice of a fairly active and intelligent official of the position of a Tahsildar on the spot. Moreover when warned of the suspected existence of wrong doing he suffered it to continue

by inattention & neglect of proper precautions.

3. Under these circumstances the Govt will not direct the dismissal of Sahagiri Row but are forced to the conclusion that he is unfit for the office of Tahsildar and the Board of Revenue will arrange for his reduction to a post of less responsibility and importance allowing full weight to the loss he has already sustained by his lengthened suspension.

4. The Petitioner will be referred to the Collector of Kallor.

CPH

14. To the Board of Revenue for Kallor
6. The District and Prov. Secy.
5. The Revenue Secretary
1. The Collector

22 August 1878, No. 1346

Read the following papers - 1346/19

No. 131.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE, dated 16th January 1878.

Read the following letter from J. GROSE, Esq., Collector of Nellore, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 21st December 1877, No. 6,551 :—

With reference to my letter of the 30th October 1877, No. 5,680, reporting that the Additional Sub-Collector had suspended Nandagiri Venkataseshagiri Row, Tahsildar of Atmakur, pending final orders about his apparent malversation in the relief-camp of the taluq at Nellorepallem, I have now the honor to submit the Additional Sub-Collector's report on the subject, in

Dated 2nd December 1877, No. 2,240. which he recommends that the suspended Tahsildar shall be dismissed from the service and prosecuted criminally on charges of forgery and cheating.

2. The Additional Sub-Collector's report seems to me to set forth the circumstances at once as clearly and as briefly as they can be set forth, so I propose not to go over the same ground again.

3. In July a rapid increase took place in the strength of our relief-camps. The quantity of food required for them soon became enormous and the expenditure correspondingly great. The charges, of course, depended on the number of paupers to be fed, and this offered a temptation to the officers in charge of camps to return the numbers as larger than they really were, so as to retain rice or make a purse for themselves. Some camps increased more rapidly than was justified by the distress, and therefore became open to suspicion. Amongst them were the camps at Nellore (mentioned by the Additional Sub-Collector in paragraph 7) and Nellorepallem. About the Nellore Camp I will say nothing more than that it is almost certain that the numbers were overrated, but that my inquiries failed to fix the responsibility on any one, chiefly because the accounts had either not been properly kept or had disappeared before my investigation commenced.

4. Taught by this experience, Mr. Crole took care to get possession of the Nellorepallem accounts before it was known that he intended to hold an inquiry, and the result is that there is conclusive evidence of fraud.

5. Obviously the best way to check errors in the numbers reported to have been fed was to count them at feeding time. In the case of the Nellorepallem Camp this was done on three separate occasions.

6. On the 18th August 1877 Mr. Mackie, B.C.S., who had been sent out by Mr. Crole, found 3,529 paupers being fed in the camp. To these, he says, have to be added numbers for the hospital, for servants, and for Brahmans, whom he did not see. According to the daily report for the day the numbers to be added on this account are—

Hospital	71
Workmen	111
Brahmins and Komaties	146
Total ...	328

2. This report has been delayed at his request for time to submit additional facts in defence. As, however, he has not done so, and a month has already elapsed since his suspension, further postponement seems uncalled for.

3. The relief-camp in question is situated close to Atmakur, and is a central one for the gratuitous relief of the whole taluq. It had, previous to the present frauds, last been inspected by me on the 15th June, and it then contained 756 paupers. The management of the camp, as far as my inspection showed, was then good.

4. In the latter part of July I was rendered *hors d' combat* by sunstroke, and the numbers quickly rose from 1,190 on the 22nd July to 6,769 on the 26th* August.

5. The Tahsildar was in sole charge of the camp. He had a Superintendent on Rs. 40 and an ample establishment to assist him.

6. A very complete daily return signed by the Tahsildar had to be sent in to my office every day. This showed every detail of strength and expenditure compiled from the accounts of the camp.

7. On my partial recovery, about the middle of August, the large numbers returned from this camp attracted my notice. Making every allowance for the increased pressure of famine, owing to the complete failure of the south-west monsoon in the Atmakur Taluq, my knowledge of its circumstances and the previous history of the Tahsildar's famine management gave rise to considerable doubt of the accuracy of the returns. This suspicion was increased owing to my having just discovered that advantage had been taken of my illness to perpetrate a similar fraud in the North Nellore Camp.

8. Accordingly it was arranged that Mr. A. W. Mackie, B.C.S., should proceed to the spot and inspect the camp. This he did on the 18th August. The result was that a deficiency of 1,321 was discovered. Other irregularities were also brought to notice. This report* was sent on the date of its receipt (22nd August) to the Tahsildar for explanation. Up to the time of my commencing this inquiry at Atmakur, viz., the beginning of October, the Tahsildar had submitted no explanation.

9. Mackie's inspection the Tahsildar called at my office in Nellore. He was informed that I considered the results of that inspection unsatisfactory, and that he would be held personally responsible for any fraud.

10. The Deputy Tahsildar, A. Kuntal, had been some time previously at Atmakur with personal orders from me at once to report if any fraud or irregularity came to his notice. This man was, towards the end of August, deputed by the Tahsildar to attend to the feeding and sanitary arrangements.

11. On the 27th August it occurred to him to count the paupers, as his suspicions were aroused "because the numbers on paper were increasing very rapidly, whereas the crowd (in the feeding-yard) did not seem to be getting larger;" now the numbers on the day previous were rendered in the daily report as 6,769. The Deputy Tahsildar accordingly counted and found 3,397. There was, therefore, a deficiency of some 3,400 paupers whose keep had been charged for.

12. This discovery was at once reported† by the Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, who took no notice of it. If you will be good enough to turn to his deposition† given before me you will find that he accounts for this by alleging that the Deputy was doubtful. There is not the slightest evidence of this doubt anywhere on the record, for the thing was beyond doubt. Afterwards, however, the Tahsildar says he forgets whether he replied to the Deputy or not.

13. The daily report for the 27th August § (signed by the Tahsildar) was not received by me till the 3rd September. It showed a total of 3,945 in camp and 2,740 as "sent away on their own accord." On that very day the Tahsildar was called‡ onto "submit a special report by return of post on this extraordinary event." He replied¶ on the 10th idem merely

embodying an explanation of the Superintendent to the effect that the people had left owing to the rajja harvest, and so forth. I happened at the time to show you this, and you justly characterized it as being marked by "disgraceful levity." There is no symptom in it of any attempt at investigation, and if doubt regarding its *ma fides* remained, it must be removed by the fact that the Tahsildar, both when he submitted it and when he sent in the daily report, was suppressing the fact that the Deputy had formally brought to his notice that the deficit was discovered owing to his having counted the paupers.

14. In his defence,** dated 25th October, the Tahsildar ceases to pretend that the figures entered in that and other daily reports were true figures. He contents himself with throwing the blame on the Superintendent. It is impossible to believe that he was not a party to the fraud, otherwise he would have made a proper personal inquiry, he would not have concealed the fact that the deficiency had been discovered and reported by the Deputy Tahsildar, and he would have without delay submitted to me the special report ordered under such circumstances.

15. The deposition†† of the Superintendent before me is of a piece with the Tahsildar's. He says that he was absent from the camp from midday on the 27th; that it was left in charge of the Deputy Tahsildar; and that on returning in the evening and coming to understand that a deficiency of 3,400 paupers had been discovered, he presumed that they must have run away, and so entered in his daily report to the Tahsildar, who never made any inquiry into the matter. It should be noted that the camp in question was enclosed with a high and strong fence, the outlets being guarded by Police. We have, moreover, the Deputy Tahsildar's assertion that the crowd in the feeding-yard showed no sign of diminution. This, taken with the behavior of the Tahsildar and the Superintendent, can leave little room for doubt that had it not been for the accident of the Deputy Tahsildar's counting, the paupers would have been returned as 6,000 or so on the 27th as they had been on the 26th.

16. The Deputy Tahsildar fell sick after this, and the camp came again under the direct management of the Tahsildar, who, according to the Superintendent, attended every day, often holding office all day there. The Tahsildar admits personally supervising the camp between the 1st and 16th September. He was, in point of fact, in charge until the 19th, when the Additional Deputy Tahsildar took over charge by my orders. This order was too sudden and unexpected to admit of any destruction or manipulation of the accounts which, therefore, came into my hands almost intact, thus securing the proof of systematic fraud with which the Tahsildar now stands charged.

17. His own accounts show* that during this period (1st to 18th September) 8,971‡‡ seers of rice, worth Rupees 1,708-14-1, were embezzled by exaggerating the number of paupers in the camp.

18. On the 1st September the registers of the paupers in camp began, under my orders, to be prepared but by hut. The general register for the whole camp was turned out a failure, as it was too bulky to be properly kept up. I therefore established a register for each hut (holding 100 paupers or so), which register had to be kept up day by day. The correct number in camp was therefore always easily ascertainable. In addition the paupers had to be daily counted. Any bona fide mistake of any extent as to actual numbers present thus became absolutely impossible. These new registers were kept up from day to day by officers appointed for the purpose. An abstract of these registers was compiled showing total strength by an officer termed Supervisor of Registers. These registers and the abstract† for September are produced, and they show the true strength in the camp from day to day.

19. This true strength, however, was not adopted by the Superintendent and his Clerks, but a larger figure was substituted. The rice also was always charged for according to the larger numbers. The accounts themselves betray every evidence of fraud. They are contradictory, confused, and full of erasures. Regarding some of these the Superintendent was examined by me, and a reference to his deposition will show that he has nothing to advance in explanation, except to throw the responsibility on the Gumastahs. As this is the course adopted by the Tahsildar also, who asserts that he was hoodwinked by the Superintendent, it may be as well to say that neither the Tahsildar nor the Superintendent is the sort of man to allow himself to be deceived by a subordinate for a single moment, let alone weeks. The character of both is well known to me, and is notorious.

20. To return to the figures, it may be as well to place the true and false figures for the first part of September in juxtaposition.

In the Tahsildar's deposition, he says that he was absent from the camp from midday on the 27th; that it was left in charge of the Deputy Tahsildar; and that on returning in the evening and coming to understand that a deficiency of 3,400 paupers had been discovered, he presumed that they must have run away, and so entered in his daily report to the Tahsildar, who never made any inquiry into the matter. It should be noted that the camp in question was enclosed with a high and strong fence, the outlets being guarded by Police. We have, moreover, the Deputy Tahsildar's assertion that the crowd in the feeding-yard showed no sign of diminution. This, taken with the behavior of the Tahsildar and the Superintendent, can leave little room for doubt that had it not been for the accident of the Deputy Tahsildar's counting, the paupers would have been returned as 6,000 or so on the 27th as they had been on the 26th.

X No. 1 his deposition dated 1st Sept.

* Document No. 1 marked A (sent to Sessions Court).
† No. 22 (herewith sent).

§ No. 17 (sent to Sessions Court).
‡ No. 21 (sent to Sessions Court).
¶ No. 22 (sent to Sessions Court).

deposition dated 1st Sept.

Dates.	Number according to the Hut Registers.	Number according to the Daily Reports.	Remarks.
1st September 1877.	2,374	4,420	
2nd "	2,294	4,253	
3rd "	2,336	4,263	
4th "	2,460	4,259	
5th "	2,365	4,362	
6th "	2,400	4,994	
7th "	2,308	2,938	
8th "	2,290	2,938	
9th "	2,208	3,130	
10th "	2,133	3,120	
11th "	2,025	2,956	
12th "	1,918	2,959	
13th "	1,918	2,949	
14th "	1,780	2,895	
15th "	1,712	2,881	
16th "	1,697	2,952	The Deputy Tahsildar found only 1,445 on counting.
17th "	1,647	1,900	
18th "	1,548	2,171	

21. The proof that in the daily reports submitted to me false figures were used is not exhausted by the examination and analysis of the accounts. The correction of hut registers is corroborated in a most complete manner by an enumeration of the paupers in camp made by the Additional Deputy Tahsildar on the 16th September (*vide* his deposition).
+ No. 28 (*herewith sent*).

22. This officer was sick at the time, but as he began to mend he went over to the camp in the evening of that day and counted the paupers. According to the daily report for the day before (*15th*), 2,881 should have been there. The Deputy Tahsildar found only 1,445.
+ No. 31 (*sent to Sessions Court*).

23. Warned by the result of letting the fact of his counting on the 27th August be known and of prematurely reporting the result for this time kept his own counsel. The consequence was that on this occasion the day of enumeration was not marked by a wholesale stampede of paupers. The Superintendent and Tahsildar sent in to me a daily report for the 16th, actually showing an increase over the numbers of the 15th. The figure then given was 2,952.

24. This means that Government was saddled by the Tahsildar for that date with the keep of over 1,500 paupers who had no existence except on paper. It must be remembered that the sort could have happened without his connivance. Moreover, this charge against him does not rest upon the mere assertion of the Deputy Tahsildar.

25. The abstracts of the hut registers were taken possession of by me, and the figures for the 16th, taken but by hut, aggregate 1,697 (200 or so in excess of the Deputy Tahsildar's total, but still wonderfully close it).

26. Fraud is still more indelibly marked on this transaction by the total affixed to the details under this date in the account in question. It has been remarked above that added together the details give 1,697. The number entered as a total below the details is 2,777, or 1,018 in excess.

27. Now it is admitted by the Superintendent and the Office *Gumastah* that this abstract was the keystone to the accounts in the camp; that it was from it that the figures for the daily report sent to me were taken; and that the issue of rice was also based upon it. Yet neither the Tahsildar nor the Superintendent has the slightest explanation to offer. All the latter "knows" is that "he gave out the rice on the date in question, and that none was over."

28. The steps taken by the Deputy after his discovery of the 16th seemed to have aroused suspicion. He began to call for accounts and so on. We therefore find an entry in the daily report for the 17th to the effect that 1,949 went away on that day of their own accord, leaving a balance of 1,736.
+ *File Exhibit I, No. 8.*

29. It would uselessly swell this report were I to proceed to detail the other frauds and irregularities discovered during the inquiry. It seems better to allow the facts above set forth to decide the fate of the principal official concerned.

30. The Revenue Inspector Chellara Seshiah, Superintendent of the Camp, has been dismissed from the Government service, and has, along with Peddiraju Ramiah, Supervisor of Hut Registers, been committed by Mr. Mackie, B.C.S., to the Court of Session for trial for forgery and cheating.

31. Without anticipating a judicial decision I would submit that whatever frauds may have been committed by these men, they could have not remained undiscovered for a day without the assistance of the Tahsildar. Whether that assistance was afforded through negligence or design was the point I had to consider before taking the serious steps of suspending the Tahsildar. His deposition, his written defence compiled with free access to all the documents, and the facts proved and admitted left no doubt in my mind that he was at the bottom of a systematic conspiracy to defraud Government, and was consequently much more guilty than his subordinates.

32. In the first place I would call attention to the beginning of his deposition. He there states "I received an order (22nd August 1877) to explain on irregularities brought to light in Mr Mackie's report of the 21st August. I have not yet replied to it. I have not replied to *lakids* Nos. 1,140, 1,413, 1,742, and 1,853 regarding sudden increases and decreases in camp and other matters. I do not know why I have not replied."
+ No. 20.
+ Nos. 32, 33, 34, and 35.

33. Then, when the Deputy Tahsildar reported to him regarding the discovery of a deficiency of Rupees 3,400 on the 27th August, he says he took no notice of the matter because the Deputy Tahsildar said he was "doubtful." There is not the least foundation for this assertion; but even if the Deputy Tahsildar were doubtful, surely that was a paramount reason not for indifference, but for an immediate and searching inquiry, and prompt report according to orders.

34. Even when he received an order, dated 5th September, from me to report on this very matter, instead of replying the mistake he sent me a most careless and misleading reply, and withheld all mention of the report of the Deputy Tahsildar, merely stating that the Superintendent said so and so. The Superintendent himself contradicts the Tahsildar's statement that he ever came to the camp about the matter at all.

35. Again, take his behavior when the next discovery was made *recounted by* *the same*. "I did not reply to the Deputy Tahsildar's reports of 19th September bringing to notice a deficiency of 1,545, and complaining of the insubordination of the Superintendent. This deficiency was not specially reported to Additional Sub-Collector, even after that officer had sent order" dated 21st September (to explain by return of post). I reported only when a special peon came with order dated 23rd September I had been repeatedly ordered to submit special reports whenever extraordinary fluctuations in numbers took place."

+ No. 26 (*herewith sent*).
+ No. 28 (*herewith sent*).
+ No. 37 (*herewith sent*).

36. Again, during one of my inspections of this camp in the beginning of October (the 3rd), it was discovered that the adult paupers were being served with tin measures, which personal experiment subsequently proved to be three-eighths too small. These tin measures are made and issued by the Collector, and contained in cooked rice the equivalent of the ration of raw grain allowed by Government. The cooked rice is measured by these tins into the pot or leaf of each pauper with the view of securing that the full quantity reaches him. The result proved, however, that even this precaution was as naught in the hands of the finished swindlers at *Atmakur*.

37. The morning after this discovery I met the Tahsildar at the camp and he told me that he did not know when these faulty measures had come, and that he did not even remember to have seen them before the Deputy Tahsildar took charge of the camp from the Superintendent, whom I removed on the 19th September (*vide* his deposition). Now the Deputy Tahsildar distinctly states in his deposition that they had been in use for weeks before that, and consequently the Tahsildar who attended every day for sixteen days must have seen them daily. Moreover, he admits that the Superintendent had in fact brought the subject to his notice in August, and the Deputy Tahsildar asserts that he did so also, and that the Tahsildar agreed to report on the matter. He admits this much, but says he awaited a formal report. Eventually the real 10 oz. measures were found in the camp, and it is only too clear that the Tahsildar and Superintendent between them had been for weeks systematically robbing the miserable creatures committed to their care of no less than three-eighths of their rations, while the full expenditure was charged to Government.

38. This disobedience of orders, this lurking of all inquiry into charges against the Superintendent, this concealment of deficiencies in the number of paupers thrice discovered by other Officers, this matter of the false measure, all point to guilt alone.

39. The defence addressed to me, which took the Tahsildar three days to compile, is put up with this report. It contains no answer to the charges against him set forth in my order of the 23rd October, unless a futile attempt to throw all the blame on the Superintendent, which the latter in turn passes on to Gumastahs, can be so called.

40. Much the same may be said of another defence filed before you and forwarded to me for perusal. The only difference is that in this letter, while not meeting the accusations made against him, the Tahsildar has indulged in a number of false statements, most of them quite irrelevant to the matter in hand.

41. Under these circumstances, I do not think that, should higher authority agree with the above estimate of the facts, mere removal from the Government service would be politic. A severe example is required in a case of fraud so systematic, so glaring, and so disgusting. The Tahsildar was necessarily entrusted with large powers in distributing the charity of Government to his starving fellow countrymen, and he is clearly proved to have deliberately betrayed that sacred trust. I have the honor, therefore, to recommend that N. Venkatasubagiri Row be prosecuted for forgery and cheating under Sections 468 and 420, Indian Penal Code.

42. It is, perhaps, proper to add that the Tahsildar's conduct during the famine has not been satisfactory.

P.S.—Since the above was written the Additional Deputy Tahsildar, by whom the proof of these frauds has been much facilitated, has died, and Peddiraju Ramiiah has been sentenced to four years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rupees 500 by the Sessions Court. The trial of the Superintendent will probably come on on the 10th instant.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Collector.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 2 to 31.—Documents as per List annexed.

ENCLOSURE No. 32.

List of Papers

Sent to the Court of Sessions.	No.	Description	No.
Sent to the Court of Sessions.	1	(A). Copy of a yadast from the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, Extra No. 2, dated 1st September 1877 (copy sent herewith).	1
	2	(B). Copy of a memorandum of rice expenditure and strength of the camp on 25th, 26th, 27th, and 28th August 1877.	1
	3	(C). Another memorandum of strength for 27th August 1877.	1
	4	(D). Copy of a yadast from the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, dated 1st September 1877, Extra No. 1.	1
	5	(E). Abstract of Hut Register's bill, fair book.	1
	6	(F). Do. do. rough.	1
	7	(G). Hut Register's bills for 16th September 1877 (copy sent herewith).	27
	8	(I). Yadast from the Additional Deputy Tahsildar to the Superintendent of the Camp, dated 17th September, requesting to send bills, &c., of the strength (copy sent herewith).	1
	9	(J). Pencil calculations of the Deputy Tahsildar (copy sent).	2
	10	(K). Kyofeit given by Vapa Komma Ramiiah before the Deputy Tahsildar on the 3rd October 1877.	1
	11	(L). Grain Account Book No. 1 from August 18th to 9th September 1877.	1
	12	(M). Do. do. 27th to 19th do.	1
	13	(P2) (Q2). Office copy of Daily Report Book.	1
	14	(Q). English Daily Report of 16th September 1877 (copy sent herewith).	1
	15	(R). Bills of Daily Strength.	1
	16	English Daily Report of 26th August 1877 (copy sent herewith).	1
	17	Do. of 27th do. do.	1
Sent to the Court of Sessions.	18	(B1) (B2) (B3). Original reports of the Daily Report for 26th August signed by Chellara Seshiah, Camp Superintendent.	3
	19	(A1) (A2) (A3). Original reports of the Daily Report for 27th August 1877.	3
	20	Report of Mr. Mackie, dated 22nd August 1877 (sent herewith).	2
	21	Docket No. 1,684, dated 5th September 1877, to the Tahsildar of Atmakur, calling upon to submit explanation as to the number 2,740 sent away from the camp (copy sent herewith).	1
	22	Reply to the above order from the Tahsildar of Atmakur, dated 10th September 1877, No. 432 (copy sent herewith).	1

Sent to the Court of Sessions.	23	Deposition given by the Tahsildar of Atmakur before the Additional Sub-Collector, Nellore (sent herewith).	1
	24	Memorandum of charges framed by the Additional Sub-Collector against the Tahsildar in view to his making his defence (sent herewith).	1
	25	Defence of the Tahsildar, dated 25th October 1877 (do.).	14
	26	Deposition given by the Camp Superintendent (do.).	2
	27	Abstract Book of Accounts in the Camp (do.).	1
	28	Deposition given by the Additional Deputy Tahsildar (do.).	2
	29	Do. given by Sooraparapa Seetharamiah, Head Supervisor of the Camp (sent herewith).	1
	30	Do. given by Vapa Komma Ramiiah, Office Gumastah (sent herewith).	1
	31	English Daily Report for 15th September 1877 (copy sent herewith).	1
	32	Docket No. 1,140 (sent herewith).	1
	33	Do. No. 1,413 (do.).	1
	34	Do. No. 1,742 (do.).	1
	35	Do. No. 1,853 (do.).	1
	36	Do. No. 1, dated 21st September 1877 (sent herewith).	1
	37	Do. Extra No. 1, dated 23rd do. (do.).	1
	38	Reports of Atmakur Tahsildar, Extra No. 1, dated 24th September, and No. 442, dated 23rd September, 1877 (sent herewith).	5
	39	Original Daily Report of the Nellorepalem Camp for the 28th August 1877 (sent herewith).	1
	40	Original Daily Report of the Nellorepalem Camp for the 17th September 1877 (sent herewith).	1
	41	Judgment of the Session Court in Calendar Case 180 of 1877 (copy sent herewith).	1
	42	Letter from the suspended Tahsildar to the Collector, dated 27th November 1877, with a bundle of enclosures (sent herewith).	1
		(Signed) J. GROSE, Collector.	

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

Regarding letter the Collector of Nellore submits a request to the Collector regarding the conduct of the Tahsildar of Atmakur in connection with misadministration in the relief-camp at Nellorepalem. The facts are fully set forth in the Collector's and Sub-Collector's letters, and show that by false returns of numbers Government have been defrauded of considerable sums, whilst the paupers were shamefully cheated in the issue of rations by the improper use of the measures supplied. One of the Gumastahs employed in the camp has already been convicted and sentenced to a long term of imprisonment; the Superintendent is shortly to be placed on his trial. The Tahsildar was in charge of the camp for a long time with a Superintendent and adequate establishment for efficient working, and it was during this period that these glaring frauds were perpetrated. His delay in submitting explanations when called upon to do so, his utter disregard of warnings, and omission to make any inquiry about the variations in numbers, &c., render it impossible to suppose that he was merely culpably careless. The Board recommend that he be dismissed from the public service and his future employment prohibited. The Board also think that there is sufficient evidence to warrant a criminal prosecution, and sanction its being commenced irrespective of the result of the trial of the Superintendent. The case should be entrusted to a careful and intelligent officer.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
with 30 original enclosures to be returned,
list of enclosures, and Board's Proceedings, dated
6th November 1877, Miscellaneous No. 15,322.

Collector of Nellore.
A. F. Goodall.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 6th November 1877.

Read the following

No. 567.
Encls. 2.

FROM

J. Grose Esq. Collector of Nellore.

TO

H. E. M. Esq. Secretary to the Board of Revenue Madras.

SIR,

I have the honor to submit to the Board a letter just received from the additional Sub-Collector at Rapur, which states that he has suspended the Tahsildar of Atmakur. The interruption in the tappel, which was resulted from the recent burst of the monsoon is no doubt the cause of the delay.

I am not in possession of any further particulars with reference to the case than are given in the Sub-Collector's letter and its enclosure, but I have long suspected serious frauds at the Atmakur (Nellorepallam) Camp.

Nellore Coll. Office 2
30th Oct. 1877

I have &c.
J. Grose
Collector.

Enclosure.

Ad. Sub-Collector's Office
Camp Rapur
27th October 1877.

No. 2100.
Encls. 1.

From J. S. Esq. Ad. Sub-Collector Nellore
To J. Grose Esq. Collector of Nellore.

Sr,

I have the honor to report that

1878.
Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS, 16TH JANUARY 1878, No. 131.

Encl.

Received

JANUARY.
No. 131.

Nandagiri Venkataswami Esq., Tahsildar of Atmakur, in Nellore District. - Submitting to Government report from Collector regarding the conduct of the - in connection with malversation in the relief-camp at Nellorepallam, recommending that he be dismissed from public service and his future employment prohibited, and sanctioning a criminal prosecution against him.

Recd
4.0.26.1878

134
25

I have suspended this day N. Venkata Subashini
Rao, Tahsildar of Atmakur, and to enclose
a copy of my order issued to that officer
for your information. I have directed the
addl. Deputy Tahsildar of Atmakur to be
in charge of the Taluk as a temporary measure.

I am Sir
S. B. L. Cole.
addl. Sub Collector

(True copy)
S. B. L. Cole
Collector

No. 2078.

Order

I have considered the Tahsildar's
Explanation received yesterday, and found
it so unsatisfactory and the evidence of fraud
in the Nellorepatnam Camp of which the Tahsildar
could not have been ignorant, so overruling
that I resolve to suspend him pending the
result of a report to the Collector and the
Board of Revenue. Additional Deputy Tah-
sildar to take charge of Taluk from Tahsildar.

S. B. L. Cole
addl. Sub Collector

addl. Sub Collector
Camp Raper
27th October 1873 (True copy)

S. B. L. Cole
addl. Sub Collector

(True copy)
S. B. L. Cole
Collector

The Board await for my report.
(True copy & receipt)
S. B. L. Cole
Sub Secretary.

To the Collector of Nellore

(True copy)

Cole

S. B. L. Cole
Sub Secretary

Mid no 5004

No. 271

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue
Dated 18th May 1878.

Read again letter from Collector of
Nellore dated 2nd April 1878, no 1326, recorded
in Board's C.O. dated 29th April 1878 mis no 4257.
Read also C.O. from Secretary
to Gov^t Rev Dep^t, dated 15th May 1878, no 103.

The Board regret that in disposing
of the letter read above they omitted to notice that
the papers connected with the trial of the Nellore pallan
Relief Camp Superintendent had been called for by
Gov^t in the Rev Dep^t in C.O. dated 8th March
1878, no 64. As the whole matter had been laid
before Gov^t in the Judicial Dep^t in Mr. Cross's
letter to the Chief Secretary of the same date it was
erroneously supposed that it was unnecessary to for-
ward the papers; they will now be submitted in
original to obviate further delay.

With reference to para 4 of Mr. Cross's
letter the Board ^{containing} the Collector in considering
that under the circumstances it would be useless to
proceed further against the Tahsildar. Criminally.
He is now under suspension and the Board have
already recommended that he should be dismissed
and his employment in the Gov^t service in future
prohibited.

(True Extract)

To. The Secretary to Government Rev Dep^t
With orig^l Encls. to be read and copy
of Board's Rev^t Mis no 4257 of 29th April '78.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD
OF REVENUE.

Frederick

To the Secy to Gov^t

Dated
1878

Rev Dep^t

4-10-26-1878

SL

No. 4257
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.
 Dated 29th April 1878.
 Read the following:—

From
 J. G. Esquire
 Collector of Madras
 To C. A. Esquire
 Secy to the Bd. of Rev.
 Madras.

Sir,
 With reference to Bd. P. 2000 of the 11th Session, I have the honor to submit a copy of my letter to Secy of this date no. 775 in which I request that an appeal may be made in which I request that an appeal may be made against the judgments of acquittal. One is the appeal judgment of the High Court in the case referred to in para 9 and the other the acquittal of the Session Judge in the case referred to in para 15 of my letter of the 22nd December 1877 no. 6557.

2. I enclose copies of the judgments of the Session Judge in the two cases and of a letter from the late Addl. Sub Collector dated the 1st Instant, no. 772.

3. I do not think it possible even for those who may share the opinion of the Session Judge that the evidence was not sufficient for a Criminal Court to doubt either that there were fictitious demands presented, or that the Tahsildar to whose divisional was held responsible ought to be held responsible for them.

4. In this P.W. of the 16th Jan. 1878 the Board ordered that the Tahsildar should be prosecuted. I directed the Joint Magistrate to

Revenue 1878 Bd. 11

Apr 27/78

J. G. Esquire
 Secy to the Bd. of Rev.
 Madras.

Encd. 7-11

2000 1146 1878

Forwarded by P. A.
 to Secy to the Bd. of Rev.
 Madras.

22-9-78
 22-9-78
 22-9-78

13/16
28

to hold the preliminary inquiry, but before
it could be commenced, the acquittal in
Case 83 was pronounced, and I now venture
to request the Board to reconsider their order.
The evidence which has so far failed in the
case of the Camp Superintendent could not
be improved upon in the case of the Sub-
-Sindar and inasmuch as he was an
officer and there is no proof that he
shared in the profits the incriminating effect
as regards him would be weaker. The principal
witness is dead so that his evidence is no
longer available. The position of the Sub-sindar
which makes it certain that if he did his
duty he must have known of the frauds
and the inference from his behavior, especially
in looking inquiry into the frauds, would
have less weight with a Criminal Court than
it must have with the Administrators of the
Country. Moreover, a prosecution in this
District would obviously be useless.

Collector's Office
2^d April 1878
J. Hume & Co.
Sd. J. Hume
Collector

Recorded

1 Inc copy & Subsd
Sd. J. Hume & Co.
as Subsd
cc. The Collector of Bellary.
Inc copy

A. L. G. G. G.
A. L. G. G. G.

24

No.	mark			
1.	(A)	Copy of an Sadast from the add. Dy Tahsildar to the Tahsildar, Patna no. 2 dated 1 st September 1877. — 1		
2.	(B)	Copy of a Memo. of civil Repudition and strength of the Camp on 25 th , 26 th , 27 th and 28 th August 1877. — 1		
3.	(C)	And no Memo. of strength for 27 th Aug 1877. — 1		
4.	(D)	Copy of an Sadast from the add. Dy Tah. to the Tah. dated 1 st September 1877 Patna no. 1. — 1		
5.	(E)	Abstract of Sub Registers Bill this week		
6.	(F)	do do do		
7.	(G)	Sub Registers Bills for 16 th September, 1877. — 27		
8.	(H)	Sadast from the add. Dy Tah. to the Dy. of the Camp dated 17 th September no. requesting to send bills for the strength. — 1		
9.	(I)	Partial calculations of the Deputy Tahsildar. — 2		
10.	(J)	Request from by Vapa Simma Samant before the Dy. Tah. on the 30 th October 1877. — 1		
11.	(K)	Grain account Book no. 1 from August 18 th to 9 th September 1877. — 1		
12.	(M)	do from August 27 th to 19 th September 1877. — 1		
13.	(P/L2)	Office Copy of daily Report Book no. — 1		
14.	(Q)	English daily Report of 16 th September 1877. — 1		
15.	(R)	Bills of daily strength. — 1		
16.		English daily Report of 26 th August 1877. — 1		
17.		do of 27 th August 1877. — 1		
18.	B1 B2 B3	Original reports of the daily report for 26 th August received by Chellara Seshank Camp Superintendent. — 3		
19.	A1 A2 A3	do 27 th August 1877. — 3		
20.		Report of Mr. Markie dated 22 nd August 1877. — 2		
21.		Docket no. 166 dated 5 th September 1877 The Tah. of Almora - the calling upon to submit explanation as to the number 2740 went away from the Camp. — 1		
22.		Refd to the above order from the Tah. of Almora dated 10 th September 1877 no. 432. — 1		

London to the Court of

Dr. Geo. P. M. no 5004
of 1811 Aug 1890

40. 22 Aug 1890. L. 1891

1346
31

23. Sent herewith. Deposition given by the Tahiti of Ahmatar before the ad. Sub-Collector. — 1
24. do. Vows of chastity framed by the ad. Sub-Collector against the Tahiti in view to his making his defence. — 1
25. do. Defence of the Tahiti dated 25th Oct. 177. — 14
26. do. Deposition given by the Camp Supt. — 2
27. do. Abstract Book of Accounts in the camp. — 1
28. do. Deposition given by the ad. Sub-Collector. — 2
29. do. Deposition given by Sarapania Satharamiah Head Supervisor of the Camp. — 1
30. do. do. by Vapakkomma Ramayya Office Assistant. — 1
31. Updo. Sup. Daily Report for 16th Sept. 177. — 1 Sent to Sessions Court
32. do. Docket No. 1140. — 1
33. do. Docket No. 1142. — 1
34. do. do. — No. 1742. — 1
35. do. do. — No. 1851. — 1
36. do. do. — No. dated 27th Sept. 177. — 1
37. do. do. Extra No. 1 dated 28th do. — 1
38. do. Report of Ahmatar Tahiti Pichan. No. 1 of 24th Septembers and No. 442 of 23rd September. — 5
39. do. Original Daily Report of the Mellinapallam Camp for the 28th Sept. 177. — 1
40. do. do. do. 17th September 177. — 1
41. Updo. Judgment of the Sessions Court in Calcutty Case 180 of 1877. — 1
42. do. Letter from the suspended Tahildar to the Collector dated 27th September 177 with a bundle of Enclosures. — 1

S. J. S. G. S.
Collector.

J. M. C. P.

Sub-Secretary.

Collyer

and this offered a temptation to the
Officers in Charge of Camps to return the
numbers as large as they really were
so as to obtain rice or make a purse
for themselves. Some Camps increased
more rapidly than was justified by the
distress and therefore became open to sus-
picion. Amongst them were the Camps
at Nellore (mentioned by Mr. Adl. Col. in
para 7) and Nellore. About the
Nellore Camp I will say nothing more than that
it is almost certain that the numbers were
overrated, but that my inquiries failed to fix
the responsibility on any one, chiefly because
the accounts had either not been properly kept
or had disappeared before my investigation
commenced.

4. Taught by this experience, Mr. Crole
took care to take possession of the Nellore pattern
accounts before it was known that he inter-
-ed to hold an inquiry and the result is
that there is conclusive evidence of fraud.

5. Obviously the best way to check errors
in the numbers reported to have been fed
was to count them at feeding time. In the case
of the Nellore pattern Camp, this was done on
three separate occasions.

6. On the 18th August 1877, Mr. Mackie
B. C. S. who had been sent out by Mr. Crole
found 3539 paupers being fed in the Camp.
He also found there to be added numbers
for the hospital, for servants and for pri-
-vates whom he did not see. According to
the daily report for the day the numbers to
be added on his account are

Hospital 71
Work men 111
Orphan & Female 146

328

Mr. Mackie gives the difference
as 1321, but he compares
the total with that reported
for the previous day.

been much more than 3857. Mr. Mackie
did not communicate the result of his
counting to the officers in charge and the
daily report gives the total as 5234. There is
a difference of 1377, but as it appeared
from Mr. Mackie's report that the closure
of the Camp was last enforced and that
many irregularities were permitted which
might have increased the numbers really fed
beyond the number he counted, this could
not be taken as sufficient proof of fraud.
Still the facts leave no room for doubt
but that the total in the Camp on the
18th August was overrated by upwards of
a thousand. The Tahsildar was asked
for a report at once but submitted none.

On the 27th August, a Deputy
Tahsildar (since dead) who had been direct-
-ed by Mr. Crole to report to him if
any fraud or irregularity occurred in the
Camp counted the numbers fed, because
he thought that the paper numbers
were increasing whilst the crowd in the
feeding yard was not. He found 3397
present and reported this result to the
Tahsildar as well as to Mr. Crole. Ac-
-cording to the Daily Report for the same
day it is stated that 2740 paupers "went
away on their own account" and that
the total fed was 4137. The number
for the previous day was 4949. It had
been increasing up to that day and
would no doubt have continued to
increase unless the Deputy Tahsildar
had counted. On receiving this daily
Report Mr. Crole called on the Tahsildar
for explanation, without mentioning that

no 7

no 16

no 21

no 20

no 39

no

The Deputy Tahsildar had reported the result of the Committee direct to him. Even if no such exceptional Committee had taken place the sudden departure from the Camp of 2740 men would have been a surprising event, causing great suspicion, for it is impossible or at all events extremely improbable that so large a number of paupers should have a camp of their own accord in a single day even if prices fell and famine ceased at the time, which it did not. Moreover the deficiency which had been reported by the Deputy Tahsildar was not fully explained even if 2740 had "gone away". The report was called for on the 3rd September. The Tahsildar did not reply till the 10th and then he simply sent an explanation by the Superintendent which was obviously inadequate without remarking on it and without mentioning what he was not aware Mr. Crole knew the Committee by the Deputy Tahsildar. In any case there must have been suspicion that a fraud was in progress and consequently that the abatement of the 2740 was a sequence to the Committee by the Deputy Tahsildar, this suspicion must have approached certainty. The amount of Govt. expenditure involved was great. The Tahsildar, if he had been an honest officer, would have held a long inquiry at once. He held no inquiry at all.

8. On the 16th September, the same Deputy Tahsildar committed the numbers fed again and found 1445 present. He did not report this to the Tahsildar though he reported it direct to Mr. Crole.

Accordingly the total shown in the Daily Report

No. 22

28 and 48

142

7-6.

40

41

C.O. 26th July 1877
No. 2872

Report is 2952. The total ought to have corresponded with the total number of paupers distributed to the several Sheds in the Camp (vide Mr. Crole's report). The correct total of the numbers at the several Sheds was 1697. The clerk who added up the sums made it 2777 obviously with a fraudulent intent.

9. By the time the daily Report of the 17th was prepared the officials in charge had got wind of the Deputy Tahsildar's inquiries and 1049 paupers are stated in that Report to have "gone away on their own accord" just as after the previous Committee 2740 were said to have gone away.

10. The clerk who prepared the Abstract of the Hospital Registers has been convicted of fraud at the late Sessions and sentenced to reformative imprisonment for 4 years and a fine of Rs. 500 or in default to reformative imprisonment for one year more. Deficient totals to those I have mentioned are given in the judgment; but this is because the Judge did not take into account the "Sick men".

11. I decide the fraudulent totals were caused by fraud by which the officials in charge of the Camp failed. According to the latest Scale of diet for Relief Camps laid down by Govt., 24 ounces of grain are to be given to adults and 12 ounces to children in hospitals, and 20 ounces and 10 ounces to other paupers. Two meals a day are given and I have distributed to Camps two measures which hold on the average the cooked grain corresponding to 12 Oz 10 Oz, 6 Oz and 5 Oz of raw grain. In the Nelloripallam Camp when the numbers were at their greatest the 6 Oz tin was used instead of the 10 Oz tin. The 10 Oz were charged for when the 6 Oz measure was used, so that there was concerned saved for themselves about 1 1/2 Oz for each adult pauper not in hospital. With the numbers then in the Camp the total saving must have been great. I have before me receipts which show that the Camp Superintendent received some 6 Oz measures on the 1st June, 5th July and 14th August (i.e. altogether) and some 10 Oz measures

measures on the 20th April (from all of them)
So that it is impossible that even if he had
been the most careless of observers he would
not have known which of the measures
was a ten of tin and which a six of
tin. They are of course of very different sizes,
and one is half the 12 of tin of which the
Superintendent got one in April, one in July
and one in August.

13. There is abundant evidence that
the Tahsildar knew of the improper use of the
six of tin as well as of the other frauds which
I have mentioned, but the particulars are fully
set out in Mr. Cole's report, and are summed
up in para 38.

14. I am strongly of opinion that the
Tahsildar should be dismissed.

15. The adl. Sub collector recommends further
that he should be prosecuted criminally for
forgery and cheating inasmuch as he signed
reports which he must have known to be
false. and his position with regard to the
Camp makes it certain that he profited by the
purged frauds which occurred in its manage-
ment. About the success of a prosecution I
feel some doubt because the Tahsildar was
outside of the Camp, as it were, and none
of the rice which has been plundered from
Govt. has been traced to his possession.
However, the Superintendent of the Camp
is now on trial. The evidence of the case
is very much the same as it would be
against the Tahsildar except that the
Deputy Tahsildar whose counting has been
mentioned and who gave a deposition in
the Superintendent's case is since dead. The
defence is the same. The case has been
adjourned to next sessions for the pro-
duction of further evidence. If the result

see telegram
from the sub-
collector
Tahsildar

is a conviction, I think the Tahsildar
should be placed on his trial.

16. I have to report the unavoidable
delay which has occurred in submitting this
report. The Tahsildar was suspended on the
27th October. The Sub collector's report
delayed, as he has mentioned, at the
request of the Defendant, did not reach
me till the 8th Instant. I had then
to send to the Court and take copies
of some of the documents on its
records in the two trials mentioned above.
I hope these copies will be sufficient to
enable the Board and Govt. to come to
a decision on the case. The documents
are alluded to in Mr. Cole's report and
are in the Court's records, but some of
them are very voluminous and none seem
to me to be material.

Collector's Office
Mellor
21st December 1877

I have &c
B. J. Gross
Collector

Enclosure.

adl. Sub Collector's Office
Mellor
2nd December 1877

No. 2240
Enclosure 16.
(Containing 36 papers)

From

C. J. Cole Esq.
adl. Sub Collector
Mellor.

To. J. Gross Esq.
Collector of Mellor.

Sir

In continuation of my No. 2100
of the 27th October, I have the honor to
Submit

Submit a report on the conduct of the
Tahsildar of Atmakur with reference to his
malversation in the Famine Relief Camp at
Nellore pallam.

2. This report has been delayed at his
request for time to submit additional facts
in defense. As, however, he has not done
so, and a month has already elapsed
since his suspension, further postponement
seems uncalled for.

3. The Relief Camp in question is situated
close to Atmakur, and is a central one for
the gratuitous relief of the whole Taluk. It
had previous to the present frauds last been
inspected by me on the 15th June and
it then contained 756 paupers. The manage-
ment of the Camp, as far as my inspection
showed, was then good.

4. In the latter part of July, I was
sent to Lore de Combat, by mistake,
and the number quickly rose from 1100
on the 22nd July to 6769 on the 26th August.

* Document No. 16
(sent to Secy. Govt.
Cmty.)

5. The Tahsildar was in sole charge
of the Camp. He had a Superintendent
on Rs. 40 and an ample establishment
to assist him.

6. A very complete daily return signed
by the Tahsildar had to be sent in to
my Office every day. This showed every
detail of the daily expenditure compiled
from the accounts of the Camp.

7. On my partial recovery about the
middle of August, the large number
returned from this Camp attracted my
notice. Making every allowance for the
increased pressure of famine owing to
the complete failure of the South West
monsoon

* Document No. 20
(herein enclosed)

monsoon in the Atmakur Taluk. My
knowledge of its circumstances and the pre-
vious history of the Tahsildar's financial
management, gave rise to considerable
doubt of the accuracy of the returns. This
suspicion was increased owing to my having
just discovered that advantage had been
taken of my illness to perpetrate a simi-
lar fraud in the North Nellore Camp.

8. Accordingly it was arranged that Mr.
O. N. Mackie P. O. S. should proceed to the
Spot and inspect the Camp. This he did
on the 18th August. The result was
that a deficiency of 1321 was discovered.
Other irregularities were also brought to notice.
His report was sent on the date of its receipt
[22nd August] to the Tahsildar for explanation.
Up to the time of my commencing this enquiry
at Atmakur, viz. the beginning of October,
the Tahsildar had submitted no explanation.

9. A few days after Mr. Mackie's in-
spection, the Tahsildar called at my Office
in Nellore. He was then and there distinctly
warned that I considered the results of
that inspection unsatisfactory and suspicious,
and that he would be held personally re-
sponsible for any fraud.

10. An additional Deputy Tahsildar, Mr.
Komat, had been sometime previously posted
at Atmakur with personal orders from me
at once to report if any fraud or irregu-
larity came to his notice. This man was,
towards the end of August, deputed by the
Tahsildar to attend to the feeding and sani-
tary arrangements.

11. On the 27th August, it occurred to
him to count the paupers, as his suspicions
were aroused "because the numbers on paper
were increasing very rapidly, whereas the crowd
(in the feeding-yard) did not seem to be
getting larger." Now, the numbers on the day
previous

previous was rendered in the daily report
as by 69. The Deputy Tahsil dar accordingly
consulted and found 3297. That was, however,
a deficiency of 3000 paupers whose keep
had been charged for.

12. This discovery was at once reported by the
Deputy Tahsil dar to the Tahsil dar, who
took no notice of it. If you will be good
enough to return to his deposition from before
me, you will find that he accuses for his
by alleging that the Deputy was doubtful-
less as to the slight possibility of his death
anywhere on the record, for the King was
beyond doubt. Afterwards, however, the Tah-
sil dar says he forgot where he applied to
the Deputy or not.

13. The daily report for the 27th Sept.
prepared by the Tahsil dar was not reviewed
by me till the 3rd Sept. I should
a total of 3245 in Camp and 37th as "want
a way on their own record". On that day the
Tahsil dar was called on to submit a separate
report by return of post on his extraordinary
event. He replied on the 10th Sept. much
emboldened by explanation of the Superintendent
to the effect that the people had left owing
to the large harvest and to frost. I happened
at the time to show you this, and you
first characterized it as being marked by
disfranchisement. There is no temptation
if of any attempt at investigation, and if
don't regarding its main facts remained, it
must be removed by the fact that the Tahsil dar
both when he submitted it, and when he sent
in the daily report, was suppressing the fact
that the Deputy had formally brought to his
notice that the deficit was discovered owing
to his having counted the paupers.

14. In his defence dated 25th October, the
Tahsil dar

Document No. 1
marked A (sent to Secy
Court)

re 23 (new with Sub)

re 17 sent to
Secy Court

re 14 (sent to Secy
Court)

re 22 sent to Secy
Court

re 25 new with
Sub

also older cases to prove that the figures
entered in that and other daily reports were
true figures. He contends himself with
throwing the blame on the Superintendent. It
is impossible to believe that he was not
a party to the fraud, otherwise he would
have made a proper personal enquiry,
he would not have concealed the fact that
the deficiency had been discovered and re-
ported by the Deputy Tahsil dar, and he
would have without delay, submitted to me
the special report ordered under such
circumstances.

re 26 (new with
Sub)

15. The deposition of the Superintendent before
is of a piece with the Tahsil dar. He says
that he was absent from the Camp from
midday on the 27th, that it was left in
charge of the Deputy Tahsil dar, and that
on returning in the evening and coming
to understand that a deficiency of 3000
paupers had been discovered, he presumed
that they must have run away, and he
entered in his daily report to the Tahsil dar,
who never made any enquiry into the matter.
It should be noted that the Camp in
question was enclosed with a high and
strong fence, the outlets being guarded by
Police. We have, moreover, the Deputy
Tahsil dar's assertion that the crowd in the
feeding-yard showed no signs of diminution.
This, taken with the behaviour of the Tahsil dar
and the Superintendent, can leave little room
for doubt that had it not been for the
accident of the Deputy Tahsil dar's coming
the paupers would have been returned as
been on the 27th, as they had
been on the 26th.

16. The Deputy Tahsil dar fell sick
after this, and the Camp came again under
the direct management of the Tahsil dar
who, according to the Superintendent, attended
every day of his holding office all day long. The
Tahsil dar

Tahsildar admits personally supervising the Camp between the 1st and 16th September. He was in point of fact in charge until the 19th, when the ad^l. Deputy Tahsildar took over charge by my orders. This order was too sudden and unexpected to admit of any destruction or manipulation of the accounts which, therefore, came into my hands almost intact, thus securing the proof of systematic fraud with which the Tahsildar now stands charged.

17. His own accounts show that during this period 1st to 18th September 1877 1/2 Sars of rice were R.R. 1808 - 14-1 were distributed, by ransporting the number of paupers in the Camp.

18. On the 1st September, the Register of the paupers in Camp began, under my orders, to be prepared but by him. The General Register for the whole Camp had turned out a failure, as it was too bulky to be properly kept up. I therefore established a Register for each tent (holding 100 paupers or so) which Registers had to be kept up day by day. The correct number in Camp was therefore always easily ascertainable. In addition, the paupers had to be daily counted.

Any bona fide mistake of any Register, as to the actual numbers present, thus became absolutely impossible. These new Registers were kept up from day to day by officers appointed for the purpose. An Abstract of these Registers was compiled showing total strength by an officer named Supervisor of Registers. These Registers and the Abstract for September are produced and they show the true strength in the Camp from day to day.

19. This true strength, however, was not adopted by the Superintendent and his clerks, but a large figure was substituted. The rice also was always charged according to the large numbers. The accounts themselves betray every evidence of fraud. They are contradictory, con-

Abstract in his office with the

Documents in the E.V.F. No. 1 to 100

fused and full of errors. Regarding some of these, the Superintendent was examined by me, and a reference to his deposition with show that he has nothing to advance in explanation, except to throw the responsibility on the Jannas taluk. As this is the course adopted by the Tahsildar also, who asserts that he was underwritten by the Superintendent, it may be as well to say, that neither the Tahsildar nor the Superintendent is the sort of man to allow himself to be deceived by a subordinate for a single moment, let alone a week. The character of both is well known to me and is notorious.

20. To return to the figures, it may be as well to place the true and false figures for the first part of September in juxtaposition.

Date.	Number according to the Register	Number according to the Daily Reports	Remarks.
1 st September 1877	2244	2244	
2 nd	2294	2250	
3 rd	2336	2360	
4 th	2460	2359	
5 th	2365	2362	
6 th	2400	2364	
7 th	2298	2238	
8 th	2299	2238	
9 th	2208	2130	
10 th	2138	3120	
11 th	2025	2956	
12 th	1948	2950	
13 th	1918	2949	
14 th	1780	2805	
15 th	1712	2781	
16 th	1697	2952	The Deputy Tahsildar found out this on consulting
17 th	1647	1900	
18 th	1548	2171	

21. The proof that in the Daily Reports submitted to me false figures were used is not exhausted by the examination and analysis of the accounts. The correction of the Register is corroborated in a most

Additional Deputy Tahsildar

Complete manner by an enumeration of the
 paupers in Camp made by an Act. Dep.
 Tahsildar on the 16th September (vide his
 deposition) x 2228

22. This Officer was sick at the time
 but as he before to mind he went over
 to the Camp in the evening of that day
 and counted the paupers. According to the
 daily report for the day (No. 2887) sent to the
 only 1445. The Tahsildar found

23. Warranted by the result of letting the fact
 of his coming on the 17th August he knew
 and of preparation of reporting the result he
 his time kept his own counsel. The consequence
 was that on this occasion the day of enu-
 meration was not marked by a wholesale
 stampede of paupers. The Superintendent and
 Tahsildar sent in to me a daily report
 for the 16th actually showing an increase
 over the number of the 15th. The figures
 were given were 2900.

24. This means that Govt. was saddled
 by the Tahsildar for that date with the
 keep of over 1500 paupers who had no
 existence except on paper. It must be
 remembered that the Tahsildar was at
 that time in immediate charge and was
 in ample evidence that nothing of this
 sort could have happened without his con-
 -vivial. Moreover his charge against
 him does not rest upon the mere statement
 of the Tahsildar.

25. The abstracts of the hut registers
 were taken possession of by me and the
 figures for the 16th taken but by the
 affixate 1697. Two hundred or so in
 excess of the Deputy Tahsildar's total
 but still wonderful close to it.

26. Fraud is still more indelibly marked
 on the transaction by the total affixed

Telangana
 Collector (P. P. P.)
 4th June 1878
 Camp de la

2271
 No 272 From

The Collector Telangana.

The Union Secretary to Government
 Revenue Department
 Fort Saint George

Sir,

With reference to your official
 Memorandum of the 6th Instant No 123,
 I have the honor to retransmit the
 records returned to this Office with Govt.
 Order Judicial Department 15th May
 1878 No 1007. Copies of the following
 documents called for in the Official
 Memorandum under reference are also
 submitted

(a) Two extracts from the Committee
 Magistrate's Preliminary Register showing
 grounds for committing cases Nos 67 & 71 of 1877.

(b) One copy and one translation
 of the Additional Deputy Tahsildar's

Depositions in cover box 67 and 71

2 I request that if there be no

objection I may be furnished with

by the Government Pleaser &

letter No 55 dated 4th May 1878, referred

to in Government Order Judicial

Department, dated 15th May 1878 No 1007

and stated in that order to be communi-

cated to me.

I am, Sir, Your obedient servant

Sir,

Your most obedt servant

John
Collector

two figures are in his hand-writing and look
other figures. I feel no doubt in committing

W. L. L. and
Divisional Magistrate
Office
29th November 1877

Extract from the
 Register of preliminary inquiries held before A. W. Buckle, Divisional Magistrate for November 1977

Number of the case	Name of the accused	Substance of the Complaint	Name of Complainant	Name of witness for prosecution	Name of witness for defence	Summary of the facts proved or confessed.	Result of the enquiry	Date of offence	Date of Complaint	Date of apprehension of accused or of offence	Date of closing enquiry	Explanation of delay
67 3	Paddirazze Rammaya	Committing forgery for the purpose of cheating under Section 408 I.P.C.	Rejima	Sirabharay (S. Rammaya) S. Rammaya S. Rammaya S. Rammaya	Chandur Narayana Chetty	File	This defendant has been committed to Sessions for trial on a charge of forgery for the purpose of cheating.	16 th September 1977	8 th October 1977	14 th October 1977	29 November 1977	

on the 16th September. He admits he filed 9 details for 25 huts; at the foot of these we find the totals 217, 776, 781, 796 giving a grand total of 2570. If added the results are really 107,483, 278, 276 giving a grand total of 1164 and that 2570 as shown in the return. At this false total is the number for which rice is charged, it is clear that it was forged for the purpose of cheating. But not only is the total false on the face of it, the Additional Dy. Magistrate personally counted the people in camp on that date and only found 1440. And moreover it is clearly proved beyond a doubt that the tin measures which were supposed to contain 100 raw grain when boiled, contained much less, so that there was a further loss on their head. There is thus almost conclusive evidence that there were not 2788 people in camp on the 16th September and that 1370 less the proper allowance could not have been consumed.

The prisoner denies he filed in the totals referred to but all the witnesses swear

ing to this and his admission that he wrote the
claim under Section 468 Indian Penal Code.

1346
59

/s/ A. W. Mackie
Divisional Magistrate

/s/ True Copy/

J. G. Groll
District Magistrate

I
Enclosure in folio
to the No 2271, dated
11 June 1878.

Recd 27/7/78
H. G. Groll 1/10/78

EB
H

Register of preliminary enquiries held beyond the District Esro Divisional Magistrate of Alenore, Orissa
November 1877

Number of the Case	Name of the accused	Substance of the Complaint	Name of Complainant	Name of witnesses for Prosecution	Name of witnesses for defence	Summary of the facts proved or confessed	Result of the enquiry	Date of offence	Date of Complaint	Date of apprehension or appearance	Date of closing enquiry	Explanation of delay
114	Chellara Sakharya	Committing Forgery for the purpose of Cheating and Cheating Government under Section 468 & 420 I. P. Code	Rejina	1 Chundar Naraindas Selly 2 Suraprasad Saktaranyan (Prisoner in case 72)	(1) Police H. J. Constable Giffy (6) Bogaraba Sakhya (2) Constable Naraindas Brahma (3) Adur R. S. Sakhya (4) Chellara Sakhya (5) Bogaraba Sakhya	This defendant has been committed to Session for trial on charges of Forgery under Section 468 and of Cheating under Section 420 I. P. Code.	Committed for trial	27-8-77 16-9-77	27-10-77	30	30-11-77	

It seems he was Superintendent of the Alenore Police Camp and the charges relate to two dates the 27th August and the 16th September. On the former date the returns marked A, A2 A3 B, B2 B3 signed by him show there were 3945 persons in Camp, and 47 1/2 Sers rice were charged for. The additional number shown are only found 3397. Allowing the food quantity for a child; the actual expenditure of 1 Patta 17 Sers 39 Sers or 7 Sers less than the fact that the adult tin measures used, were clear a good deal of rice must have been misapplied. must have been a large quantity left over. increased in the numbers from the previous day and in grain, it is difficult to see how these even

that 1 Patta Deputy Tahsil Dar however actual ration of 20 oz. raw grain to an adult and half of rice even for the larger number 3945, would quantity this defendant charged for. Add to this, the fact that the adult tin measures used, were short by a good deal of their proper size and it is clear a good deal of rice must have been misapplied. If the quantity charged for was served out, there must have been a large quantity left over. Further there is a very large and unaccounted as there was a fence round the Camp, and

he cannot explain the above facts long & can

in that date he charged rice at the usual rate
together to pages A & B show there were in Cal
also can be the people and only found 1445.
largely deficient. Yet the full amount of 2200
the total of 2788 and not for 1445 or 1365, and
acts, it is impossible to suppose he was not
therefore committed suicide.

Divisional Magistrate's
Office.
30th November 1878
192

30th November 1878

Dec 26/10/98

Ly. Co. 22⁷, Aug 1/88 L. 22/2

Adh. Co 2271, Data

11 June 1898

Regie d' A. A. Macleay
Division of Magistrate

1 True copy!

Grove
District Magistrate

1348
Deposition given on oath on the 28th November 1877

M. J. Hoyle
1877

Name Maximilian Chetty

Surname Chundee

Father's name Rameswar Chetty

Residence Tellor

Profession Deputy Tahsil-dar of Amatur

Age 31 years (present)

Religion Savanite

Cast of Hindu Khat

I know the Prisoner. I recollect to have enumerated the Paupers in the Tellor Taluk Relief Camp on the 16th September 1877. There were 1445 souls according to my enumeration. I have just seen, before the Court, Register marked (G 2). The total number as entered in this is 2788 and the quantity of rice given them for consumption was 1 Paddy 4 Sars and 26 $\frac{1}{4}$ Sars. The Prisoner signed the Register. The daily rations given are 20 oz. for each adult and 10 for each child. Rice is measured by a good number of measures.

The prescribed measures are 10 oz and 5 oz for every adult and child respectively. The one used for children holds 5 oz; but that for adults holds only 7 or 7½ oz. The distribution to every adult is therefore less by 2½ oz. There is a Hoag all around the Camp with a Police guard.

Replies to the Defendant's Pleas and questions:

I enumerated the inmates of the Camp in the months of August and September; the inspections under reference being 2nd time. I took delight on a Sunday while at leisure, in inspecting the Camp. I visited the Camp at about 3 P.M. to make use of my leisure hours. I did not know if the Paupers had gone out. I did count the inmates only for the time being. It was on the 18th I first saw the items of the 16th date in the Register (G 2). I saw the Prisoner in the Camp on the 16th and 17th but I did not on the same day question him as to the number of the day.

I spoke to him on the 17th and 18th but I did not ask him to explain the difference between his enumeration and mine. It was on the 19th September that the Government measures were received. It was

after taking my present charge that it was found by me that 10 oz scale does not actually hold 7½ oz only. I used it was when I was in the Camp that evening rations were distributed. It was the day of my inspection.

The Witness was recalled.

Replies to the Defendant's Pleas and questions

I did not ask the Police on the day saying "do you carry rice out of the Camp in violation of the rules"! Nor did I ask the Defendant to give food to my private servants in the Camp. There was no unity between the Prisoner & myself.

I enumerated all the Paupers as per Register in the feeding yard, Sickly Paupers in huts and the Brahmins. It is usual for the Paupers to get in and out of the Camp at their pleasure. There is no restriction about their Tickets are distributed to Paupers at the time of their admission. No tickets are given to those who always remained in the Camp. The Order directing me to take charge of the Relief Camp reached me on the 18th September.

Reply to the Defendant's Pleader's questions.

The Deferoant went to Arcomaxam and
on the evening of the 26th August.

Reply to the Court's questions

He returned the next morning.

Witnes de Surinam

I have seen the Register marked (D), according to which the quantity of rice consumed on the 2^d August is 1 Putty 19 Tooms and $4\frac{1}{2}$ Saers.

I have seen the general return of the 27th Nov. according to which the total number of adult paupers

in the Camp is 1915 and children 2030.
The dole for each adult is $5\frac{1}{8}$ ¹⁶ Seers of rice
boiled and for each child $5\frac{1}{16}$ ¹⁶ Seers and
the actual quantity expended as per
General Return of the 27th August is 1196 $\frac{7}{8}$ Seers
for adults and 634 $\frac{3}{8}$ for children, the total
being 1831 Seers; i.e., 1 Putty, 12 rooms and
39 ¹⁶ Seers. This is quite inconsistent with
the quantity of rice entered in (S) Register
of the same day; viz:—
Rooms 42 $\frac{1}{2}$ Seers. The quantity

of the same day; viz.
1 Paddy 19 Coones $4\frac{1}{2}$ Seers. The quantity
of rice distributed to the Camp Coolies
at $\frac{3}{4}$ Seer for each on that day should
probably be $14\frac{3}{4}$ Seers.

legum / C. Narissimbas

By Tabular & 3 Blaw
Magistrate

Taken down in my presence and hearing read
to the Witness in English and acknowledged by
him to be correct.

Correct.
29-11-77 / Signed / A. W. Mackie
Divisional Magistrate

(True Translation)

J. G. Rose

District Magistrate

3rd Witness

1877

Case No 67 of 27th November 1877

Carke Banian

Religion Siva

Age 31 years

Profession Deputy Tahsilदार Atmakur

Residence Tell one

Father's name Rameswamy Chetty

Surname Chinnar

Name Narisimulu Chetty

I know the Defendant. He was Supervisor
of a hut in the Tellonepalem Camp. I am of
opinion that the figures names and amounts
entered in into at page 16 of the Register marked
B are the writing of the Defendant. These figures
show the number of paupers in each hut.
The daily report and the general return are
prepared with reference to these figures.
I saw the daily report of the 16th. The number
entered therein is 2788 exclusive of servants.
The total number entered in Register B of
the 16th is 2570 and 201 which added together
comes to 2771, which corresponds more or

Endowment

Collector's Office

No 271-2420 to

11 June 1878.

Done 4th July 1878.

4-0-22 Deputy Tahsilदार

less with the figure 2788. On the 16th
September I counted the paupers of the Bellefleur
Camp in the feeding yard, sick patients in
their huts and Brahmins as per register.
They were all about 1500 which added to the
number entered in page A of the Register E
came to 1164 exclusive of sick patients entered
in the other page of the register which according
to my account there should have been 2788.
Hence the difference between the General return
and the Register marked E was 1400 for
whose rice was charged in excess. I think
the sick figures showing the total marked
A in page dated the 16th in Register E and
those of the Defendant. I saw the tin measures
used on the 16th September but I never examined
them. The measures were of two different
sorts, viz one for adults and the other for young;
the former holding 10 ounces of boiled rice and
the latter 5 ounces. From my experience I say
that the measures of the 16th September used
for the young do not when doubled correspond
with the one used for adults so that there

should have been room for much of the boiled
or raw rice being stolen away. (Gullappa Seshaiya
was in charge of the camp and he gets rice
for the camp from Tellico and Panchara
from merchants. The daily return shows an
expenditure of 370 1/4 Seers of rice on the 16th Septem-
ber.

Defendant has no question.

Answer to Court's question. The correct total
of the figures in page A of the Register E
comes to 1164 which plus 201, entered in page B
makes 1365.

Signed/ C. Narasimulu

Dy Subilean & 3^d Class
Magistrate.

Sworn again.

The number in the camp on the 16th September
was according to my counting was 1445 paupers.
Defendant has no question.

Signed/ C. Narasimulu

(Dy Subilean & 3^d Class
Translation) Magistrate

J. G. Rose
District Magistrate

