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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Rev DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2120	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated 29. 8. 1878.		197.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	Press
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1 chair only, which
happened to be in
the veranda.

No. 96. Deputy Conservator's office
Camp S'ani column depot
Muttacudut near Jingle
13th April 1878.

From the Deputy Conservator
of Forests
South Arcot Division
To the Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund

- Sir
- I regret to have report the Fuel
Reserve Managers' Quarters at this place
was set fire to by person or persons unknown
on night of 10th instant, and completely
burnt.
- 2 The Manager himself was not present
at the time. he, with Mr. Palmer having
gone to Tindivanam on evening of 5th instant
on casual leave, but his wife and family
were staying in the house.
 - 3 The fire was first observed by the woman
servant about 10 p.m. - She was sleeping
in the veranda - she awakened the rest
of the party. - the Maistry & watchman / gardener
and the gomasta were on the spot and some
bandy drivers were camped near by.
 - 4 The family, at the time consisting of the mother
and four young children were with difficulty
got out of the burning house without injury, except
no effects could be saved from the fire.
 - 5 The house was surrounded with a pandal
and was thatched with grass, it had just
been re-thatched in fact.

6. From

From the evidence of witnesses to the fire 6.
it would appear fire was applied to the roof
in two or even three places from the jungle
or South side of house.

By the time the people had been awakened of
the thatch of roof and pandal on two sides was
stated, to be burning fiercely, and fire beyond
control. There was a strong southerly wind blowing
at the time - the effect of the wind was directed
to prevent the fire spreading to the Reserve and
Managers house. - the wind carried the flames
and heat away from them in some degree or no
doubt greater damage would have occurred.

The news of the fire reached me by express 8.
on afternoon of the 11th instant. My camp was
then 30 miles off. I inspected the burn this
morning and held an enquiry. - there can be
no doubt the fire was applied from the outside
and first on the S.W. corner. - I did not observe
any trace of the offender, a torch or a bratty
might well have been the means of ignition &
have been thrown by the incendiary on the
burning roof when he retreated. - the Maistee
states he observed foot-marks as of one running
the morning following - these foot-marks lead
from the house towards the jungle along the
road-road, they might have been made by one of
the Reserve people. - there is no evidence as to who
set the house on fire.

But there is reason to suppose ill feeling exists 9.
towards

220
towards the Manager for upholding Conservancy
within boundaries, & noncondoning offences of encroach-
ment, trespass, illegal felling, & the like, which
have occurred within the past year since boundaries
have been marked. - I must here record however
that he has not acted with ^{or with animosity} undue severity,
all exceeded his orders or authority, not with

10 There was an exhibition of discontent on part
of a village head, one by name "Moonca Jounden"
who claimed sole right of user to some "vellal" grass
growing within reserve limits, and with which the
house had just been thatched, the action of
my department in using this grass had been
upheld by the Collector of the District, however -

11 The brick walls alone remain standing
even the door and window frames have been
burnt. - the whole of the Managers personal
effects together with his office records & other
Government property, & monies have been
destroyed.

12 The cost of the building was Rupees 320 -
the value of articles burnt are stated to be about
Rupees 1250. - the Sub-division Police Inspector who
came this morning has taken a list of articles
& value, a copy of which I enclose for your informa-
tion.

13 The family is left in great destitution by
this event. - have no clothes ^{or food} ~~even~~, and no other
resources or property ^{left them} ~~excepting~~ ^{his salary} a small house
at Mursingapuram, Madras, a bullock & pair of bullocks
& a couple of ponies (the latter used by the Manager for
his inspections.)

14 Mr Hendricks' family is a large one - the
eldest, a girl, is but 15 years, his expenses are of
course in proportion - his late salary scarcely sufficed,

I have reason to suppose him a thrifty, sensible person, and it is to be regretted his wife's jewelry was not kept in some other place -

15 - Considering the urgency of the case I have made him an advance of Rupees 50 - to enable him to meet immediate expenses, and beg that this sum be allowed to be deducted as outstanding against his pay for some months or till he is in less need.

16 - I would further recommend his sudden and complete loss of personal effects in performance of duty to your consideration, for compensation.

17 - Mr Hendricks had in his cash chest at time of fire Rupees 104-14-0 of revenue derived from sales of deadwood in current month, and Rupees 35-0-0 of Govt advances. - partly in currency notes & in coin awaiting instructions from my office to transmit to the Tudevannam taluk treasury.

18 - He also had currency notes and cash of his own but the memorandum of these notes has been burnt with other papers in his desk & in Govt record chest. and as he has no recollection of them I fear these notes will be lost to him.

19 - The Maistry and gomasta were aware of there being Government monies in the record chest and after the roof fell in, made great efforts to save the chest from being completely burnt, with the result that Rupees 100-0-0 worth of notes nearly burnt to a cinder but with numbers still readable and Rupees 25-0-0 in whole rupees not materially damaged, have been recovered from the ashes. - the balance of the Govt money viz Rupees

informed by Mr H. during the burning

P.S. does not Mr H. think another note for 10 Rs may have been lost getting it from the chest or having been burnt with the chest. In fact say this must have been the case. The total 104-14-0 is correct. It is of course perfect ready to make it good but perhaps some measurements for H.W.

2420/3
Rupees 14-14-0. has not yet been found. (I believe or accounted for either Mr or the Maistry to be trustworthy) - there was no trace

of Mr Hendricks desk or of his wife's jewelry case but from among the debris within the walls, we have collected the remnants of what must have represented over Rupees 50- worth of ornaments, as brooches, earrings, necklaces, &c, and several lumps from 2 to 4 dots in weight of melted gold - the door hinges & nails fastening couples of roof also collected. - strange to say the family, did not think of searching the ruins for valuables before I reached this morning. it is possible, visitors (of which I learn about 20-30 came) may have ransacked the building & picked up something - the day after the fire was a market day & many people passed along the public road. and the Maistry failed to keep a strict watch over the ruins.

for money.

20 The value of the charred currency notes saved, - can I believe be recovered from the Accountant General's department. I request instructions on the matter. - I attach a memorandum of the numbers and values of each. - I also request permission to submit an estimate for repairs & for placing a tiled roof to the dwelling, not to exceed a cost of 500 Rs. - I would also suggest that the work should be undertaken with all despatch as the monsoon is before us. and the presence of the blaugers on the Reserves is very desirous.

21. Conservancy is well attended to - the monthly revenue is rapidly improving - there is more promise of a steady revenue now than formerly when a native Maistry was in immediate charge, various causes conduce to this result. The revenue is now about Rupees 200-0-0

Rupces 200-0-0 monthly. And the Establishment
exclusive of the Managers Salary, has been reduced
under your late instructions by Rupces 23-0-0
per month & is now therefore a cost of Rupces
70-0-0. I think however a few extra men
should be entertained for a month or two, on account
of risk of fire to the jungles this season.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

R Woodridge
Deputy Commissioner of Forests
S. arcot division

April 78.

List of Property destroyed by fire at Shannin
Kulam Depot Manager's Quarters on the
night of the 10th Instant between the hours
of 10 to 11 O'Clock at night.

Jewels of myself, wife & Children	250	"	"
Clothing of myself, wife & Children made up from time to time	500	"	"
Currency Notes Revenue money (3/4 this destroyed.)	100	"	"
Permanent Advance (Government money)	35	"	"
Furniture (Government property.)	50	"	"
Government Box containing Office records	20	"	"
Do Gun	10	"	"
Do Pistol with plate (Barley)	15	"	"
10. Feet measuring tape	7	"	"
Private money in Currency notes & gold destroyed. No report known	237	"	"
Medicines (Private property.)	40	"	"
Brass & Copper cooking utensils	15	"	"
Saddle for pony &c.	25	"	"
Grain for food paddy &c.	25	"	"
Crockery ware & glass ware.	15	"	"
Spoons, knives & forks	10	"	"
Boots and shoes	15	"	"
Mrs. Palmer's pen making machine	5	"	"

Carried over. 1237-0-0

Brought forward, Rs 1237 ..
 Mr. Palmer's letter weighing scale. 5 ..
 Total. 1242 ..
 Value of the House 320 ..
 Grand Total 1562 ..

Shannon's Indian Depot
 Manager's Office
 13th April 1848
 H. W. Widdie
 97 Court

Value of lost articles in above list Rs 187-00
 Deduct since recovered from
 gain in notes & coin } 125 00
 Lost loss (?) 62

Value of Mr. Hendrick's property
 wholly destroyed. as
 per above list Rs 1045-00
 Value of Mr. Palmer's in 10-00

T.W.

2620
 List showing numbers of notes & their
 values recovered from fire
 being lost money

No. 13	50931	dated 8 th June 1874	Madras	Rs. 10
Do. 64258			Do	Do value 10
4 Ten Rupees	48757		Do	Do 10
No. 13	7010		Do	Do 1
40-00				
No. 13	09424	1 st March 1874	Do	Value 5
Do. 09423			Do	Do 5
Do. 13	65148	11 th March 1872	Do	5
Do. 65137			Do	5
Do. 73829			Do	5
Do. 98133			Do	5
12 Five Rupees	21817	1 st March 1872	Do	5
Notes. -	78404	24 th June 1871	Calcutta	5
Do. 13	16952	1 st March 1872	Madras	5
Do. 13	24928		Do	5
Do. 13	95725	11 th March 1872	Do	5
Do. 7	74849	24 th June 1871	Calcutta	5
60-00				
100-00				

Total Rupees 10

Shannon's Indian Depot
 Manager's Office
 13th April 1848
 H. W. Widdie
 97 Court

2130
6

No. 540.

Office of Conservator of Forests
Ootacamund, 26th June 1898.

From,
Lieut. Col. R. S. Beddome,
Conservator of Forests.

To, Lorne. A. Campbell Esquire,
Under Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department,
Ootacamund.

Sir,
With reference to your
Official Memorandum dated 26th Inst.
etc. 132, I have the honor to for-
ward herewith the documents there-
in referred to.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obed. Servt.
R. S. Beddome Lt. Col.
Conservator of Forests.

Enclosure
In letter No. 129 of 25th April 98 from the
Conservator of Forests
to the Secy: of Govt. No. 138.

Recd. 20.10.64/79
27 May 1898

Recd. 1803/98
From
The Deputy Conservator
of Forests
South Arcot Division
Dor 2705/98
To the Conservator
of Forests
Ootacamund
Dy. 4.6.98. dt. 5th of June
Date 13th
dy. 12th } April 98
Recd.

No 96
Enclosure. 2

Reporting the Truck
Revenue Managers house
in Shavastan district that
Cada Revenue has been burnt
down on night of 10th inst.
being the act of you, accompanied
to private property to value of
Rs 1050 destroyed besides the house
and 600 Rupees of your property.

Revenue 1878-79 Sept

Revenue - Sept

Sept 27/85

The (Revenue) Report

to the Auditor, Secretary

& Government,

the Report.

and names

of the

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