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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	264	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	19-2-1878	197

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives 1-5,806-24-2-78.

224
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

19th February 1878, No. 264.

Read the following paper :—

No. 221. From H. S. THOMAS, Esq., Collector of the Tanjore District, to
C. G. MASTER, Esq., Secretary to Government, Revenue Department,
dated Mannargudi, 15th February 1878, No. 453.

HEARING evil reports of General Deputy Collector P. Seshageri Row I have
come to his taluq head-quarters to make inquiries.

2. On arrival I found that not one of the Mirassidars came to meet me as
usual, but carefully absented themselves, the reason being that they feared being
punished for bribe-giving. Inquiry showed that the Deputy Collector had sent his
peons to call the wealthy Mirassidars to him alone in his house, and any Mirassidar
not coming was sent for again and again by different peons till they came. He
then told them in person, alone in his house, that he was going to retire shortly and
wanted to build a house and buy land in Combaconum, and that they must give
him sums which he specified—Rs. 300 to one, Rs. 700 to another, and so forth. Of
the few as yet examined, some testify to the pressure put upon them by authority,
others admit having yielded to it and paid. They were then told that the payer
was as punishable as the receiver and so they stayed away. I hold that it was
extortion, a bribe being a voluntary offering for the sake of good to be obtained
thereby, while these sums were not paid till after the fear of official power had been
brought to bear and pressed and repressed on them.

3. Again I find that the Deputy Collector has taken up an irrigation case
which was, to begin with, no business of his but of the District Engineer; for water
distribution beyond village limits is under the Engineer, not the Revenue Depart-
ment. Having taken it up he first decided it one way and then, secondly, in a
different way, and then, thirdly, the opposite way to the first decision. The last
decision was contrary to the report of the Public Works Department Overseer, of
the Tahsildar, and of the Revenue Inspector. About two months before he passed
this last decision, the names of the parties in whose favor he decided figure in the
Taluq Treasury as having got about Rs. 800 in notes. Efforts have yet to be made
to trace those notes. I may here mention that it is shown he took bribes in notes,
presumably because in that way only could large sums of over Rs. 500 or there-
abouts be brought to him unobserved.

4. Again he has himself drawn his pay from the Taluq Treasury almost entirely
in notes, and yet again in the same month sent cash as much as a month's salary
to be changed into notes. Where did he get this extra money from as much as a
month's salary? It cannot have been remitted to him from private property, for if
it had it would not have come by post in coin. It must seemingly have come to
him on the spot. This has to be inquired into. This sending for notes in excess
of legitimate income is frequent. Besides this, he seemingly—but it needs inquiry—
sends others to get notes for him in their names, and he lays by a great deal more
cash in the constant manufacture of jewelry.

5. He receives from the Mirassidars—seemingly it needs further inquiry—
such large quantities of grain that he has to keep a shopkeeper to store it for him
and sell for him the balance which is twice what he can use. This, too, during
the famine when grain was needed and was selling at high prices.

6. It seems he also sells vegetables similarly sent him in excess of all possible consumption of his family.

7. He sends his son and nephew round the town in procession on the Kaman or Holi festival to beg money from door to door for three days. This is a native custom. But the procession was made up almost solely of his under officials and their children, and it is demeaning that a Deputy Collector should have the procession start from his door, the officials being called to it by him and the balance of Rs. 115 out of Rs. 300, after defraying the feasting, handed to him. It shows his greed.

8. It should be remembered that this is the same Deputy Collector that was, I hear, deprived of magisterial powers by Government in the Madura District.

9. This much has come out during the short time I have been here—Mannargudi—but there are indications of more being forthcoming in the course of further inquiry.

10. But further inquiry I find it difficult to make under existing circumstances, for the Native Deputy Collector's local influence is by reason of the unscrupulous way it is used so much greater than mine that, as above seen, I can get no one to come near me while he is here; and he objects to stay away as shown by the enclosed memorandum of a conversation which has passed between us. He has deliberately disobeyed my written order sending him to Pattucottai, and he has verbally told me he is resolved to continue to disobey it. It follows that he sets my authority at defiance and is no servant of mine. I can give him no more orders, if he is to obey only those he likes and disobey those he dislikes.

11. In view of this collision of authority and of the desirability that the inquiry should proceed, and that he should, if he and the Government so wish, be present at it, not in defiant conflict with me, but as a private individual watching his own interests, I have the honor to request orders, by telegraph if possible, that he may be suspended and that other arrangements may be made for his charge till such time as I can complete the preliminary inquiry, on which I shall submit his case for the final orders of Government.

12. At the same time it is only a preliminary inquiry I am making to see if there is a *prima facie* case, and I believe it is against precedent that he should claim to be present, and it would delay it greatly if he were to cross-examine at that stage. Still, as he will not obey orders to do his ordinary work and insists on exercising his authority in conflict with mine, I think that in any case he should be suspended for deliberate disobedience.

13. He is at every advantage, for I cannot search his house for the wanting 800 Rs. notes and many others which look suspicious.

14. A copy of this report is being sent to the Board of Revenue, but this is sent direct because authority is at a stand-still by the Deputy Collector's disobedience.

15. I have to go to Tanjore to-morrow morning on duty, and I shall there await the Government reply.

16. If he is suspended, the Mannargudi and Pattucottai Divisions will both be without officers, for he now has both. For emergent arrangements my Huzur Sheristadar, T. Gopalakristna Pillay, is on the spot.

No. 222.

ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1878, No. 264.

Miscellaneous.

In the foregoing letter the Collector of Tanjore imputes to his General Deputy Collector P. Seshagiri Row certain offences of extortion, general corruption, and disobedience of a certain order.

2. The Collector asks that the Government will at once, by telegraph, suspend this Deputy.

3. His Grace the Governor in Council cannot on the information before him find sufficient justification for suspending the Deputy Collector. He awaits further report from the Collector and the Board's opinion thereon.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Collector of Tanjore.
" the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. J. Lewis.

Tanjore Collector's Office

Munnarsudj, 15th Feb'y/78

No. 433

284/
3

From

H. S. Thomas, Revenue
Collector of
Tanjore

To

A. Shechajiri Row
Deputy Collector
Munnarsudj Division

Sir,

In consequence of what has
come to my knowledge of your
conduct, I decide that you will
not return to your division but
do your duty in Tattuesalai till other-
wise ordered by me.

2. You will please explain
if you have left your division
without permission during the last
year and how often and where
you went.

I have re

Govt. of (1878) Mysore.

REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF TANJORE.

Ac. Ac. Ac.

Dated February 15th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 19th February 1878, No. 204.

P. Subajiri Row, General Deputy Collector
of Tanjore District,--intimating, with reference
to the charges of extortion, general corruption,
and disobedience imputed to -- that there is not
sufficient information to justify his suspension.
Awaiting further report from the Collector and
the Board's opinion thereon.

I have re
(Signed) H. S. Thomas
Collector

(True copy)
Mr. Minnis.

Camp J.

Collector

In a letter from the
Collector of Tanjore

To the Secretary
to Government
Rev. Dept.

Dated 15th February 1878

No 453

Enclosure No 2.

Copy of the letter to the
Deputy Collector P. Seshagiri
Row ordering him to stay
at Pattukottai.

2
Rev. 7/4/78

Memo

28/4

The Collector - Did you get my letter
ordering you to go to
Pattukottai?

By Collector Seshagiri Row - Yes, 2
miles this side of Kidamam-
alam.

Collector - Why then did you not
obey it?

By Collector - Because I had to
take meals & get infor-
-mation from the record
for replying the letter
past of your letter.

Collector - You have my distinct
order to go to Pattukottai
at once.

By Collector - I think it necessary
to stay here.

Collector - Am I to understand
that you deliberately
disobey my three re-
peated orders.

By Collector - With all deference I
submit that it is not

disobedience but the
necessity, because I
object to the manner
of the Enquiry now
proceeding behind
my back and as to
how information is
obtained in respect
thereto. I will put all
this in my letter &
submit to you.

Collector - How long do you
mean to deliberately
disobey my orders?

Dy Collector - I cannot define
the time. I cannot tell
how long the Enquiry will
last.

Collector - You know very well
that my Enquiry is
preliminary only to
a report to Government
and that full oppor-
tunity will afterwards
be given you for Exa-
mination and reply.

Dy Collector - But this Enquiry
will be used against

me.

W. S.

Collector - Then you decline to
go to Pattucottah or Paupre
Dy Collector - For this reason:

(signed) H. S. Thomas
Collector

15-2-78

(True copy)

Mr. Munro.

Collector

Compt. &

1878.

In a letter
from the Collector
of Tanjore

To
The Secretary
to Government
Rev. Dept
Madras

Dated 15th February 1878.

No 453.

Enclosure No 1.

Memo of a conversation
between the Collector of Tanjore
and the Deputy Collector
P. Seshagiri Row.

Rev 7/4/78

Tanjore Collector's office

269/6
Camp. Mannargudi

No 453

15th February 1878.

From

A. S. Thomas Esquire.

Collector of Tanjore

To

C. L. Master Esquire

Secretary to Government

Revenue Department

Madras.

Sir,

Inaringvil reports of
General Deputy Collector P. Seshagiri Row
I have come to his Taluk
Head Quarters to make enquiries

2. On arrival I found
that not one of the misapioos
came to meet me as usual but
carefully absented themselves the
reason being that they feared

being punished for bribe giving.
Enquiry showed that the Deputy
Collector had sent his peons to
call the wealthy mirasidars to
him alone in his house, and any
mirasidars not coming was sent
for again and again by different
peons till they came. He then
told them in person alone in his
house that he was going to take
shortly and wanted to build a house
and buy land in Combarum
and that they must give him sums
which he specified Rs 300 to one,
Rs 100 to another, and so for the
few as yet examined, some
testify to the purpose put upon
them by authority, others admit
having yielded to it and paid.

264
They were then told that the
payer was as punishable as
the receiver and so they stayed away.
I hold that it was extortion, a bribe
being a voluntary offering for the
sake of good to be obtained thereby
while these sums were not paid
till after the fear of official power
had been brought to bear and pro-
cessed and reprocessed on them.

3. Again I find that the
Deputy Collector has taken up an
irrigation case which was to
begin with no business of his but
of the District Engineer for water dis-
tribution beyond village limits
is under the Engineer, not the Re-
venue Department. Having
taken it up he first decided it one
way and then secondly in a different

way, and then the other by the opposite way to the first decision. The last decision was contrary to the report of the Department Public Works Engineer, of the Sasildar, and of the Revenue Inspector. About 2 months before he passed this last decision, the names of the parties in whose favour he decided figure in the Salary Treasury as having got about Rs 800 in notes. Efforts have yet to be made to trace these notes. I may here mention that it is shown he took bribes in notes presumably because in that way only could large sums of over Rs 500 or thereabouts be brought to him unobserved.

4 Again he has himself drawn his pay from the Salary Treasury

at almost entirely in notes, and yet again in the same month sent cash as much as a month's salary to be changed into notes. Where did he get this extra money from as much as a month's salary. It cannot have been remitted to him from private property, for if it had it would not have come by post in coin. It must seemingly have come to him on the spot. This has to be enquired into. This sending for notes in case of legitimate income is frequent. Besides this, he seemingly but it needs enquiring, sends others to get notes for him in their names and he lays by a great deal more cash in the constant manufacture of jewelry.

5 He receives from the Durafidari seemingly it needs further enquiry

such large quantities of grain
that he has to keep a shopkeeper
to store it for him and sell for him
the balance which is twice what
he can use. This too during the famine
when grain was needed and was
selling ^{at} high prices.

6. It seems he also sells rice.
taller similarly sent him in
excess of all possible consumption
of his family. X

7. He sends his son and
nephew round the town in procession
on the Karmant or Aoli festival to
beg money from door to door for
three days. This is a native custom.

But the procession was made
up almost solely of his underofficials
and their children and it is demean-
ing that a Deputy Collector should

have the procession start from
his door the officials being called to
it by him and the balance of Rs. 115
out of Rs. 300 after defraying the
feasting handed to him: It shows his greed.

8. It should be remembered
that this is the same Deputy Collector
that was I hear deprived of magis-
terial powers by Government
in the Madura District

9. This much has come out
during the short time I have been
here, Mamargudi, but there are
indications of more being to be
coming in the course of further
enquiry.

10. But further enquiry I find
it difficult to make under existing
circumstances for the native Deputy
Collector's local influence is very

reason of the unscrupulous way
it is used so much greater than mine
that as above seen. I can get no one
to come near me while he is here and
he objects to stay away as shown
by the enclosed memo of a conversation
which has passed between us. He
has deliberately disobeyed my
written order sending him to Pat
McCottan and he has recently
told me he is resolved to con-
tinue to disobey it. It follows
that he sets my authority at defiance
and is no servant of mine. I
can give him no more orders
if he is to obey only those he likes
and disobey those he dislikes.

11 In view of this collision
of authority ^{and} of the desirability that
the inquiry should proceed and

20/0 5
that he should if he and the Govern-
ment so wish. I am present at it
not in defiant conflict with me but as a
private individual watching his
own interests. I have the honor to
request orders by telegraph if pos-
sible that he may be suspended
and that other arrangements may
be made for his charge till such time
as I can complete the preliminary
inquiry on which I shall submit
his case for the final orders of Govern-
ment

12 At the same time it is
only a preliminary inquiry I am
making to see if there is a prima
facie case, and I believe it is
against precedent that he should
claim to be present and it would
delay it greatly if he were to cross

Examine at that stage. Still as he
will not obey orders to do his ordinary
work and insists on exercising his
authority in conflict with mine I
think that in any case he should
be suspended for deliberate disobe-
dience.

13. He is at every advantage
for I cannot search his house for
the wanted Rs 800 notes and many
others which look suspicious

14. A copy of this report
is being sent to the Board of Revenue
but this is sent direct because authority
is at a stand still by the Deputy Collector
of disobedience.

15. I have to go to Tanjore
tomorrow morning on duty and I
shall there await the Government reply.

16. If he is suspended the

²⁰⁸
Mannargudi and Pattucottai
divisions will both be without officers
for he now has both. For emergent
arrangements my Angu's Shero
Tadar Ilopala Krishna Pillai
is on the spot.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

H. M. M. M.

Collector.

Recd. 1878 Depart 2
No. 7/14

From

The Collector of
Tanjore

To The Secretary to Government
Revenue Dept.
Madras.

Dated 15th

Recd. 17th

February

No 453 810
Encl. 2

Dec. 264. 19 February 1878

Reporting on the corrupt
practices of the Deputy
Collector Seshagiri Row
at Mammargudi and
his deliberate disobedience of
orders and requesting
that he may be suspended
pending enquiry

For orders with
telegram & letters
from the Deputy
Collector C. M.

No 221-

C. 18 7/178

No. 66.]

SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY.
TELEGRAPH MESSAGE No. 21

From

Tanjore

From

Seshagiri Row
By Collector Words 39/32 P.M.P.

To Madras
To Revenue
Secretary Govt

Collector prejudiced making enquiry
against me in my station Mammargudi
sending me away enquiry & hear
not fair please order officers
unconnected with this district to enquire
particulars by post. M. Subramanian

Date 15/2 1878

Signature

Recd 1878 Depara

Tanjore 14th February

C. G. Master Esquire
Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Honored Sir

I most respectfully beg
inform you that Mr. Thomas, the C. of
the District, having gone with his Es-
tablishment to my Division, Manargoodi
is, with a biassed mind, making
enquiries apparently upon some anony-
mous petition against me. Before
commencing the enquiry, he ordered me
not to remain at the station and
sent me to Puttucotta and other places
20 and 30 miles off. The inquiry I am
given to understand is not fairly

mass, and official influence is brought
to bear upon the parties from whom
statements are taken. That Mr. Thomas
is prejudiced against me is, I believe,
already known by his correspondence.
I am afraid I shall not get justice
his hands. Anonymous Petitions.

not uncommon, especially in
Lancashire District, and Mr. Thomas
who has not noticed many such
Petitions against other officials of
position, is so seriously dealing
with this matter, apparently to
create a vacancy for his protest.

unconnected with this District. and
Mr. Thomas may be immediately directed
by a Telegram to stop any further engagement.

Honored Sir

Your most obedt humble Servt
P. Schuyler Row

Tanjore District.

26/2
Lebienne Secretariat, Madras,

16 Feb 1878.

Dear Sir William,

Please see en-
closures. The telegram
came yesterday.
I showed it to Mr
Michael who said
hold hard till
further details
come. Of course
if there is any
thing fishy in a
Deputy Collector's

conduct or pro-
ceedings some pre-
liminary enquiry
is necessary on
a collector's part
before he can make
a report - but the
sending the man
out of the way - if
it be the case -
is curious 264/16

Yours truly
G. H. H. H.

16/2
My dear Maisto
I don't think
Karn can move at
once - Thomas is un-
safe - but he must
move -

On Tuesday men
tioned in Council if
no report is sent in
the mean time of
1672. D. Thomas

1672
The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Madras.

Honoured Sir.
In continuation of my letter

of the 14 Instant and this morning's telegram
from Tanjore, I have the honor to state
that I returned to the station this afternoon
when I was met by the Collector Mr Thomas
who asked me to leave the station at once,
to which effect I also received ^{a letter} this noon.

I told him in reply that from the manner
in which the enquiry was conducted and
statements collected, my presence was very
important at the station, and respectfully
begged to be excused, whereupon he threatened
to report to me to Government for disobedience.

I have served the Government for 27 years
in various Districts, and I have never been
charged with disobedience. The enquiry seems
deliberately unfair, and I am purposely
ordered to be away. The moment is delicate -

From the way in which the Collector acts,
which if required, I will report in detail,
I am much confused, and I entirely depend
on the mercy of Government for an impartial
enquiry.

In conclusion I most respectfully request
that the matter may be taken into favorable
consideration, and I will abide by any orders
that may be given me.

I beg to remain
Yours truly
H. D. Sri

Yours truly
H. D. Sri
H. D. Sri

Deputy Collector's Office
Mummaquda 16 February 1878

264
19

The Secretary to Government
Revenue Department
Madras

Honored Sir,

In continuation of my previous representations I respectfully beg to submit for the kind consideration of Government the following circumstances which have come to my notice—

The Collector issues criminal summonses and warrants to the persons he wishes to examine, and as soon as these persons arrive they are first taken to the Collector, Shikardar, Tahsildar, and Police Inspector where they are both by threats and promises induced to say something against me and are then taken to the Collector before whom verbal enquiry is made and if they say against me their statements are not taken down and they are told to think well and come another appointed day.

Telegram from the D^r
Coll^r dated 5 Feb^r 1878

Letter from - D^r - dated
14 February 1878.

D. O. Note from Sec^r to
Honble Sir W. Robinson
dated 16 February 1878

Letter from the Dep^r Coll^r
dated 15 February 1878

Letter from - D^r - dated
16 February 1878

964
21
It will be necessary to
ascertain what action
the Board intend to
take upon passing on the
Dep^r Coll^r. Mr Thomas suggested the
(1) by tortion - requisition
on retirement
(2) by tortion in a case of conflict
of actions -
(3) General corruption as
endurance of corruption
of action - receipt of paper
as charges him further
with the evidence of an order
designed to remove him
from the scene of enquiry
- the Dep^r Coll^r's head
quarters.
Also suspension of

No. 714

From Collector of Bangalore

Dated 15 February 1878.

FOR ORDERS.

I agree to the order

both Col. & Mr. Col.

are practically trying

"I have now found"

make us play a

particular case

in fact. The truth

information. No.

not accept the position

OK

on the papers

had sent them as

no sufficient justification

in suspension -

I do so in person (Col)

and that sort of account

his further report on

Review May 1872

telegraph. The Sep. Col. writes that the memory is by no means conducted behind his back. I do not consider the an audience un- reasonable. I will the lesson before us - viz: inquiry behind the at ease back - or can not suspect without some prima facie evidence of criminality. I do not think that this is a clerical little supplies sufficient grounds - with the same. The truth is that we do not act in a

learn from the above 17/12

FOR ORDERS.

Revenue Dept^{mt}

No 244

26/2/78

Proceedings of the Madras Government.

Under date the 19th February 1878

Read the following
Letter from the Collector of
Tanjore dated 15th February 1878
No 453 reporting on the corrupt
practices of the Deputy Coll:
Seshagiri Ram at Channarayana
and his deliberate disobe-
dience of Orders & requesting
that he may be suspended
pending enquiry.

M 19/2

M 19/2

L.S.

1. In the foregoing
Letter the Collector of Tanjore
imputes to his General De-
puty Collector P. Seshagiri
Ram ^{certain} [the] offences of extortion,
[bribery]

Barbery, general corruption
and disobedience of ^{a certain} positive
orders, [the last being in
connection with the Deputy
Collector's refusal to leave
Marmargudi, his head-quarters,
and the supposed scene
of his misbehaviour].

^{The Collector}
2. [Mr Thomas] asks
that the Gov^t will at
^{by telegraph}
once suspend this Deputy.

3. [P. Lashagiri Rau
on the other hand, in
several petitions, complains
of the method adopted
by the Collector of
enquiring]

^{26/25}
enquiring into charges
against him behind his
back, and asks for an
investigation by an official
unconnected with the
District.]

3 A His Grace the Governor
in Council cannot on the
information before him find
sufficient justification
for suspending the Deputy
Collector. He awaits further
report from the Collector
and the Board's opinion
thereon.

YLL

Recd Sept
The Collector of Tanjore 24/19
The Board of Resⁿ
Boarded Capt. Deraboe
404

G.O.
Deputy Collector
P. Leshagiri Rao
✓
Revenue 1878 ^{Departments}
No. 264. —

Proceedings of the
Madras Government. —

Dated 19th February 1878. —

No. 221 + 222. —

P. Leshagiri Rao, General
Deputy Collector of Tanjore
District. — Intimating
with reference to the charges
of extortion, general cor-
ruption, and disobedience
imputed to, that there
is not sufficient infor-
-mation to justify his
suspension. Awaiting
further report from the
Collector and the Board's
opinion thereon. —