(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair 16-7-1984

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / ~~B.P. No.~~	1535	Press. / Mis.
Dated	20-9-1878	~~197~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Archives I—5,806—24-2-78.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

20th September 1878, No. 1,535.

Read the following paper:—

No. 240. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1878, No. 2,452.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1878, No. 172:—

I HAVE the honor to report that on the morning of the 27th March last, at 8 A.M., one of the rooms in the Taluk Cutcherry at Pollachi was discovered to be on fire. The Tahsildar immediately proceeded to the spot and found that the fire had broken out in a room in which some famine records were kept. The fire was extinguished before any serious damage occurred. The articles destroyed were certain famine records, some empty gunny bags, two wooden boxes, and five lanterns. At the time of the Tahsildar's inspection the door was locked, and the key was with one Paramaswariah, a Taluk Goomastah, who was temporarily in charge of the room during the absence on leave of the Famine Clerk Krishniah.

2. There is an open ventilating grating above the door, about eight feet from the ground, and it seems probable that the incendiary—for the fire was not accidental—threw some lighted substance through the grating.

3. As the contents of the room might have been set on fire to conceal some defalcation in the famine accounts, I requested the Head Assistant Collector to institute careful inquiries. He has done so, and reports that the accounts of famine expenditure are generally supported by vouchers, and that the expenditure not so supported is proved by the number of persons in the camp receiving relief.

4. I enclose a copy of the Head Assistant Collector's report for the information of the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From H. TREMENHERE, Esq., Acting Head Assistant Collector, to A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, dated Karoomathamputty, 24th July 1878.

WITH reference to your letter, No. 1,406, dated 29th May 1878, concerning the burning of certain records in the Pollachi Taluk Cutcherry, I have the honor to inform you that I have taken all the steps pointed out by you.

2. The fire could not have been accidental. Whether the intention was to destroy the cutcherry or to destroy the famine records cannot be certainly determined.

3. The following records were burnt:—

		No. of Books.
1.	Relief store chittahs from May to 21st October 1877	3
2.	Do. for November	1
3.	Relief averza from May to November 1877	4
4.	File books of yadasts from other taluks	1
5.	Do. of yadasts sent to different taluks	1
6.	Do. of indents of grain, &c., from the village officials ...	2
7.	Do. of orders sent to the village officials	2
8.	Do. of copies of bills sent to the treasury for payment ...	2

And a few note papers.

4. Of these the most important are the relief store chittahs and averzas.

5. I have done my best to ascertain whether there had been any fraud, which might remain undetected in the absence of these accounts. From the nature of the case this was very difficult.

6. To take rice as an instance, 130,000 measures were received into the taluk up to last December; the checked expenditure of the eighteen village camps was 115,000 measures, and 75,000 were left on hand; but, as the actual balance was only 2,000, the remaining 73,000 represents the expenditure in the cusba, for the camp, and two relief-houses. As all the accounts relating to these last have been burnt, it is necessary to make a calculation from the daily roll. By th[illegible] measures would have been issued. [illegible] the camp.

7. Nor could it be said, from looking into the other items, besides rice, that any fraud was committed.

8. I have also overhauled the whole famine accounts of the taluk and looked through the accounts of two camps and several relief-houses as you desired. All was correct, but there is no document left to show that the balance of grain remaining in any village was duly returned to the taluk.

9. In conclusion, though it is very possible that frauds were committed and that this fire was due to a desire to destroy evidence on the subject, yet the examination I have now made shows that they cannot now be detected, that they certainly did not attain any magnitude, and that all the accounts which now remain are correct.

10. That there has been no delay in answering your letter will be plain if consideration be had of the immense mass of correspondence and accounts which had to be examined and checked, a work in which I have been most zealously assisted by Kristna Iyengar, the Famine Auditor attached to this office.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. Mc. WEBSTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

No. 241. ORDER THEREON, 20th September 1878, No. 1,535.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue (Famine) Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) L. A. CAMPBELL,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue (Famine) Department.
„ the Board of Revenue.

Exd. W. H. French.

REVENUE.

THE REVENUE (FAMINE) DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c.

SEPTEMBER.
Nos. 240-241.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 4th September 1878, No. 1535.

Read the following letter from A. McC. WEBSTER, Esq., Collector of Coimbatore, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd August 1878, No. 172:—

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2. There is an open ventilating grating above the door, about eight feet from the ground, and it seems probable that the incendiary—for the fire was not accidental—threw some lighted substance through the grating.

3. As the contents of the room might have been set on fire to conceal some defalcation in the famine accounts, I requested the Head Assistant Collector to institute careful inquiries. He has done so, and reports that the accounts of famine expenditure are generally supported by vouchers, and that the expenditure not so supported is proved by the number of persons in the camp receiving relief.

4. I enclose a copy of the Head Assistant Collector's report for the information of the Board.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

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And a few note papers.

4. Of these the most important are the relief store chittahs and averzas.

5. I have done my best to ascertain whether there had been any fraud, which might remain undetected in the absence of these accounts. From the nature of the case this was very difficult.

6. To take rice as an instance, 190,000 measures were received into the taluk up to last December; the checked expenditure of the eighteen village camps was 115,000 measures, and 75,000 were left on hand; but, as the actual balance was only 2,000, the remaining 73,000 represents the expenditure in the cusba, for the camp, and two relief-houses. As all the accounts relating to these last have been burnt, it is necessary to make a calculation from the daily roll. By this calculation, had the proper rates been observed, 73,200 measures would have been issued. The difference is thus comparatively small and in favor of the camp.

7. Nor could it be said, from looking into the other items, besides rice, that any fraud was committed.

8. I have also overhauled the whole famine accounts of the taluk and looked through the accounts of two camps and several relief-houses as you desired. All was correct, but there is no document left to show that the balance of grain remaining in any village was duly returned to the taluk.

9. In conclusion, though it is very possible that frauds were committed and that this fire was due to a desire to destroy evidence on the subject, yet the examination I have now made shows that they cannot now be detected, that they certainly did not attain any magnitude, and that all the accounts which now remain are correct.

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(True Copy.)

(Signed) A. Mc. WEBSTER,
Collector.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government.

(True Copies and Extract.)

Acting Secretary.

To the Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.
Copy to the Collector of Coimbatore.

Exd. J. W. Fischer.

Revenue Department
No 4116.

1878.

Board of Revenue,
MADRAS.

To

THE SECRETARY TO GOVT.,
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

Dated Sept. 4th.

Printed 11th.

Read. 17 "

PROCEEDINGS, 4TH SEPTEMBER, 1878, No. 2,452.

Dept. No. 19118.

SEPTEMBER.
No. 2,452.

Five — in one of the rooms in the Taluk Cutcherry at Pollachi in Coimbatore District — Submitting to Government letter from Collector reporting on the occurrence of a —,
do 19/09 — 20 September 1878