

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1274	Press
		~~Mis~~
<u>179-180</u>		
Dated	10th May	18.69

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
10th May 1869.*

No. 179. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the
Judicial Department:—

Concurring with the Acting Registrar-General in
considering, that the Registrar of Cuddapah
should be held personally responsible for the
sum stated to have been stolen from his office,
between the 24th and 30th ultimo. (Here enter 21st April 1869, No. 664.)

No. 180. ORDER THEREON, 10th May 1869, No. 1,274.

Miscellaneous.

COMMUNICATED to the Revenue Board.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. WELLESLEY,
Acting Under Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue, with Proceedings Judicial Department, No. 664.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
21st April 1869.*

0. Read the following letter from the Acting Registrar General of Assurances, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 12th April 1869, No. 28.

have the honor to submit, for the information and orders of Government, the enclosed copies of a correspondence between this office and the Registrar of Assurances, Cuddapah, relative to certain public money, amounting to Rs. 67-2-9, alleged to have been stolen from his office between the 24th and 30th ultimo.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Registration fees...	68	12	0
Proceeds of Registration Act and	3	6	9
	67	2	9

It appears that the missing money was kept in a teakwood box in the Registrar's office-room under the lock and key of the Registrar's clerk, Kristna, that the box was last opened by this clerk on the 24th of April, the day before office closed for the Easter holidays; that the clerk attended office on the 28th of the month which was a Sunday, but did not go into the Registrar's room in which the money was kept; that he again attended on the 30th, which was also the day of the vacation, and finding the teakwood box open, and the money missing, he reported the circumstance to the Registrar.

It will be seen from the Registrar's second letter, which is in answer to the letter of the 5th instant, that it has been usual to keep the registration fees in the box referred to in his office-room, and under the lock and key of his clerk, though he has now, at his own elbow, a fireproof safe furnished to him at the expense for securing wills in, and although the Collectors' treasury itself is a three hundred yards in which the wooden box could be safely deposited. Instead of observing either of these obvious modes of securing the collections, the Registrar leaves the money to be kept by his clerk in a wooden box, provided with a ordinary lock and key, and deposited in a room unprovided with a guard.

I am of opinion that the Registrar has made himself personally responsible for the loss by his neglect of the most ordinary precautions, and I beg accordingly to recommend that he be required to make good the missing money, viz., Rupees 67-2-9 sixty-seven, Annas two, and Pies nine.

I have communicated a copy of the Registrar's letter, and of my reply to the Acting Magistrate of Cuddapah, in view to his taking such steps as may be necessary for tracing the money. I am not satisfied with the Registrar's explanation as to why his clerk attended office twice during the vacation, and on those occasions on a Sunday.

I propose to issue instructions to the Registrars generally requiring them to deposit their daily collections in a separate box to be kept in the District Magistrate's Office, or Taluq Treasuries.

With reference to the 5th paragraph of the Cuddapah Registrar's letter of the 5th instant, I should explain that authority was given to his predecessor, back as the 2nd of July 1866, to have almirahs made up for the use of his own and of his Sub-Registry Offices, and the necessary funds were, at the time, placed at his disposal; but the present Registrar has only lately returned to the office with a request that I would get the furniture prepared here, as he could not get it made at Cuddapah. They are being made up, and will be supplied as soon as ready.

Madras, 21st April 1869

REVENUE.

To

THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated May, 10th.

Recd.

Per.

G. O., 10th May 1869, No. 1,274.

MAY.

Nos. 179-183.

Robbery in Cuddapah Registrar's Office.
Order holding the Registrar personally responsible for the money lost, communicated to Revenue Board.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
21st April 1869.*

From the Registrar of Cuddapah, to the Acting Registrar General of Assurances, Madras; dated Cuddapah, 1st April 1869, No. 12.

I have the honor to submit the following circumstance to your notice. My clerk Kristna Row and others came to me on the evening of the 30th ultimo, and informed me that a sum of Rupees 67-2-9, being the registration fees secured in a box in my office-room, was robbed away; I immediately proceeded to the office accompanied by the police, and made the necessary inquiry. The money had been locked as usual in a tolerably strong teakwood box; the box was last opened on the 24th ultimo, previous to the Easter holidays; the lock and the key are of the ordinary kind; the clerk attended the office on the 28th, but did not go into my room his seat being apart from it; he again came to the office on the 30th afternoon, and after doing some work in his usual seat, went into money-room for certain indexes, when he observed the box open, and on looking for the bag in which the money was secured, missed it. He immediately took the Vernacular Head Accountant and others, who were then in the office, and examined the box, but could not find the bag, thereupon he reported the matter to me.

2. As no police guard is allowed to watch the office as before, the attenders on the Collector's Establishment were directed to sleep by rotation in the office during nights; and attender Mohideen Khan's turn was to sleep on Monday night (29th). This individual did not do so on the excuse that he was not well that night. The padlock of the outer door of the office was missed the next morning, and most probably the registration money must have been stolen away that night. It would, however, be impossible for a stranger to have got into the room and committed the act, unless with the connivance or knowledge of the office attenders. The police are hard endeavouring to find out the culprit, but no clue has as yet been forthcoming.

3. Of the sum of Rupees 67-2-9 robbed away, quite unforeseen, Rupees 63-12-0 are the registration fees, and the remainder the sale proceeds of the Registration Act and Rules. This being the 1st of the month, the money should, under Registration Rules, be paid into the treasury this day.

4. Under these circumstances, I request you will be good enough to instruct me how to act in the matter.

5. I take this opportunity to submit that the Indexes, Registers, and other Books of the office are kept quite exposed in the room, and unless almirahs are supplied shortly, I am afraid of their safety.

6. I beg to suggest that the registration fees be hereafter remitted to the treasury, at least once a week, instead of a month, as hitherto.

From the Acting Registrar General of Assurances, Madras, to the Registrar of Cuddapah; dated Madras, 5th April 1869, No. 76.

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, No. 12, I have the honor to request you will inform me by return of post—

1st.—Under whose lock and key the money was kept.

2ndly.—Whether since the creation of the Registry Office the fees collected have invariably been kept in the manner stated by you in the room to which you refer, which, I presume, is the room in which you hold your office.

3rdly.—Who generally opens and locks up the chest, and who did so on the 24th ultimo, when the box is said to have been opened for the last time before the Easter holidays.

4thly.—What the distance is between your room in which the teakwood box containing the money is said to have been kept and the Collector's treasury.

5thly.—Where the fireproof safe furnished to your office is kept.

6thly.—Why the box containing the fees was not placed in the Collector's treasury for safe custody, or the money secured in the iron safe belonging to your office, in neither of which cases can the money have disappeared.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
21st April 1869.*

7thly.—Who the clerk Kristna Row is; how long he has been in your office, who first employed him, whether you were in the office on the 28th ultimo, at the time that he was in attendance, and what led to his being in the office on that day, which, I observe, was a Sunday.

2. I request full explanation on these points by return of post.

From the Registrar of Cuddapah, to the Acting Registrar General of Assurances, Madras; dated Cuddapah, 7th April 1869, No. 14.

In reply to your letter of the 5th instant, I have the honor to answer the queries therein contained as follows:—

1st.—The money was kept under the lock and key of Kristna Row, Registration Clerk.

2nd.—Yes: it is the room in which I hold my office.

3rd.—Kristna Row, Clerk, generally opens the chest in which are also secured the Registration Guide, Acts for sale, &c., and he did so on the 24th ultimo, or the last day before the Easter holidays.

4th.—The distance between my room in which the box containing the money is kept, and the Collector's treasury, is about 300 yards.

5th.—The fireproof safe is kept just near my table in the room in which I hold my office.

6th.—Since the creation of the Registry Office in this District the fees are invariably secured in the chest in question; in the iron safe, wills and other testamentary documents are preserved. It is most inconvenient to open it every time money has to be put in and taken out. There is no separate chest in which the fees might be secured and the chest sent to the Collector's Treasury for custody, as the fees were kept in this manner also by my two predecessors.

Kristna Row is the Registration Clerk: he was employed on 1st March 1866, by Mr. Ward, former Treasury Deputy Collector, (now pensioned,) and he is since holding this appointment. I did not attend the office on the 28th ultimo. Kristna Row attended the office on that day (although Sunday) in order to prepare half-yearly and yearly returns, &c. There were also some other servants in attendance at the office that day.

No. 271. ORDER THEREON, 21st April 1869, No. 664.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs with the Acting Registrar General of Assurances in considering that the Registrar of Cuddapah should be held personally responsible for the sum of Rupees 67-2-9 stated to have been stolen from his office between the 24th and 30th ultimo, from a box which was in charge of the Registrar's Clerk, Kristna Row.

2. His Excellency in Council also approves of the instructions which the Acting Registrar General proposes to issue to the several Registrars, to deposit their cash boxes in the Collectorate, or Taluq Treasuries.

(True Extract).

R. M. V.
Chief Secretary.

To the Acting Registrar General of Assurances.

Accountant General.

Revenue Department.

Ed. J. Wright.

*Comm. to the
Revenue Board.*

5-30 the Prof. Rev. & with 12: 1st & 2nd Dept. 1869

Revenue of 1866
Genl. of 1866

JUDICIAL.

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THE ACTS, RESOLUTIONS,
GENERAL AND SPECIAL.

Dated April, 21st.

Recd. 3^d Aug.

G. O. 21st April 1866, No. 681.

ALBANY,
JULY 20, 1866.

10 Aug 27/24

Overcoming with the Act of 1866, the Court
and in considering that the Department of October
should be held generally to be the Court
to have been held to be the Court of the
the 24th and 25th of the month.

With 1866