

*SR SA*

EAST AFR. PROT.  
  
28460

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28460  
Recd  
Regd 21 JUN 15

Governor  
Belfield 381  
  
1915  
  
May  
  
Last previous Paper.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF RS 615.29  
BY POSTMAN FAZAL MOHAMMED SHAH

The copy of letter from P.M.G. respecting Executive Council consider no officer should be fined for insufficient supervision. Requests authority to write off loss of Rs500 cents 76.

*Mr. Stephenson*  
*Any obssns?*  
*H. J. R.*  
*2/6/15*

*Mr. Stephenson 30 June 15*

*M. Reed*

The amount involved is small but as the point of principle does come involved in something like this of the Gov. and Ex. Co. It is reported that after close personal inquiry the P.M.G. is convinced that the embezzlement was made possible owing to contributory negligence on the part of at least three of the staff of the Nairobi Post Office, and thus being the case, it appears to me that the circumstances fully justify his imposition of a disciplinary act. <sup>Personal</sup> Officers, which however

Next subsequent Paper  
*57827*

need not necessarily aggregate to the amount  
suggested by W. Gosling. It is that the  
circumstances may be reconsidered in the  
light of the above news.

B.A.  
22.6.15

5ft: common according  
to one.

W. J. R.

23/6/15

28460

GOVERNMENT HOUSE  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 381

May 6th 1915.

492

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of letter from the Postmaster General reporting a case of embezzlement of Government money amounting to Rs.615.29 by Postman Fazal Mohamed Shah during the months of June, July and August of last year.

2. This case has been carefully considered by my Executive Council and it was felt that it would not be proper or desirable to impose a fine upon any of the officers mentioned by Mr. Gosling for insufficient supervision. The Council were of opinion that your authority should be obtained to write off so much of the loss as could not be recovered from the balance of the postman's wages and his fidelity deposit. These latter items amount to Rs.114.53 and the net loss therefore is Rs.500 cents 76.

3. I

RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

From P.M.G.  
21. 4. 15

28160

12 JUN 15

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,  
NAIROBI,  
BRITISH EAST AFRICA.

EAST AFRICA PROTECTORATE

No. 381

May 6th 1915.

492

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THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,

DOWNING STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

3. I agree with the recommendation of Executive Council and shall be glad to receive sanction to write off the loss mentioned in due course.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant

*Alway, R. J.*

GOVERNOR.

28160  
24 JUN 15

Registered No. 2777/14.

Postmaster General's Office,  
N a i r o b i.

21st April, 1915. 494

CONFIDENTIAL.

The Honourable  
The Chief Secretary  
to the Government,  
N a i r o b i.

EMBEZZLEMENT OF GOVERNMENT MONEY BY FAZAL MOHAMED SHAH.

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I beg to apply for authority for the writing off of the sum of Rs.300/- being a portion of the total amount of Rs.615.29 cents embezzled by Postman Fazal Mohamed Shah during the months of June, July and August of last year.

2. Fazal Mohamed Shah was employed as Postman for the delivery of correspondence to the Indian bazaar at Nairobi. He had to collect Customs duty on parcels taken out by him for delivery. He withheld a proportion of his collections and no satisfactory action appears to have been taken in the matter until the amount outstanding amounted to over 240. He was arrested and tried. It was alleged, in his defence, that he had withheld a sum of Rs.500/- for some two years merely by delaying payment of monies received

for

for Customs duty. He was sentenced to six months rigorous imprisonment on the 23rd of October last.

3. In view of the fact that this case clearly arose from an obvious slackness in the supervision of Postmen at Nairobi, and considering also the allegations made at the trial, I have made it the subject of close personal enquiry which, mainly owing to the absence on leave of one of the Officers concerned, has extended over six months. I find:-

- (a). That the actual criminal holding back of money commenced in June last. It is proved that the statement that Rs.500/- had been withheld for two years is incorrect.
- (b). That the commencement of defalcations in June is clearly the fault of the Officer who should have supervised the bringing to account of the cash collections of the Postmen at that time, and obviously neglected to do so. The Officer concerned (Mr. R. M. Douglas) is one in respect of whom other representations have been made to me regarding the unsatisfactory nature of his work. Were it not that he is drawing a comparatively small salary, and had not been long in this Service when this case arose I should recommend that he be called upon to make good a large proportion of the money lost.
- (c). The Officer, who was in charge of the branch of the Nairobi Post Office in which the

loss occurred, viz:- Mr. H. B. Hayter, (Second Class Postmaster) is also implicated. He appears to have exercised satisfactory supervision up to about the end of May. His leave was then approaching and in connexion with this he seems to have devoted his attention to clearing up outstanding cases to the neglect of his general work. It was unfortunate that a new clerk (Douglas) should at that time have been entrusted with the supervision of the Postmen's collections.

and  
(4).

Mr. E. J. Letts, First Class Postmaster, or Mr. J. Youll, Senior Postal Clerk and Telegraphist, is also involved in that there was a failure to give prompt attention to the representations made by the Accounts Office in respect of the outstanding monies.

4. This is a case in which, in ordinary circumstances, I should call upon the Postmasters and clerks concerned to make good the loss. It is only because a considerable proportion of the defalcations occurred after the outbreak of war, and in view of the heavy strain and dislocation which the state of war threw on this Department, from the last days of July onwards, that I am asking that a portion of the loss, viz:- £.20, be met by the Government. If His

Excellency



Emallency is able to support this request the allocation of the loss will be as follows:-

	Rs.	Cts.	Rs.	Cts.
Total amount unaccounted for .....			615.	29
<b>LESS</b> Postman's Fidelity Deposit.....	90.	00		
Wages due to Postman and not paid .....	24.	53		
To be made good by Officers implicated.....	300.	76		
To be written off by Government .....	300.	00		
			<u>615.</u>	<u>29</u>
			<u>615.</u>	<u>29</u>

(Sd). J. GOELING.

POSTMASTER GENERAL,  
East Africa and Uganda Protectorates.

for 28460/1915

433

22 MIN  
20

592

30 June 1915

Sir,

DRAFT

I have the honour

E.A.P.

No 176

for Sir W. C. Belfield.

MINUTE.

Mr. Harper 26/6/15

Mr. Bottomley 26/6/15

Mr. Read 28/7

Mr.

Mr. G. Fiddle

Mr. H. Just

Mr. J. Anderson.

~~Mr. J. J. J.~~

~~Mr. J. J. J.~~

for comment.

Quoted 5782

to ackn. the receipt of your despatch No. 387 of the 6<sup>th</sup> of May relating to the loss incurred owing to the embezzlement of Govt. money by Abdman Fazal Mohamed Shah during the months of June July and August of last year.

2. Although the amount of the net loss is small I

Ben B.S.  
7-7-15

P.P.P.

feel some hesitation in  
appraising of its being written  
off in view of the fact  
that the P.M.G., as the  
result of close personal enquiry,  
is convinced that the embezzlement  
was made possible ~~and~~ <sup>by</sup> the  
contributory negligence on the  
part of at least three of the  
staff of the Navrote Post Office, it  
~~and this being the case, it~~  
would appear <sup>to me</sup> that the cir-  
cumstances fully justify the imposition of,  
only as a disciplinary measure,  
of personal fines on the officers  
concerned, <sup>but</sup> ~~such~~ <sup>these</sup> fines need not  
however aggregate to the amount  
suggested by the finding.

3 I have to request that  
you will re-consider the  
matter in the light of the  
above view and submit  
your further recommendations.

I (Signed) A. BONAB LAW.