

EAST AFR. PROT

8249

REC'D
FRI 5 MAR 4

8244

Govt Ser 20

1914

Last previous Paper

14309
13

M. R. DIAZ
CHIEF OF POLICE

SPY(SA) Mr. Kattamant
Shun to the date 14309 please?
now attached GCS 7/7/14

~~Mr. Kattamant~~
Mr. Read }
M.R.
9/3

This is the man who had the custody
of the keys of the safe for which \$273
were stolen (14309/13) nothing apparently
could be proved when to implicate him,
& he took advantage of the period of
the enquiry to perpetrate some at
all events of the fraud show in question.

Pages 3(3), 4, & 5, read together, are
not altogether clear. As I understand
the matter, his use of the phrase
"some receipt book" enabled him to
be accepted as he accepts, so that

A receipt book of Mr. Kattamant
31 July 14

Next subsequent Paper

~~WEST AFRICA PROTECTORATE~~

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
NAIROBI,
BRITISH EAST AFRICA

~~CONFIDENTIAL No. 20~~

4th February 1914.

REC-
8249
MAR 4

Sir,

I have the honour to report the discovery of several cases of fraud, forgery and falsification of accounts by Mr M.F. Diaz, Clerk at Machakos.

14/2/14

2. This clerk tendered his resignation while the theft of Rs.2,273 from the safe in the office of the District Clerk at Machakos, reported to you in my despatch No. 209 of the 29th of March, was under investigation, and though at first detained until the enquiry was complete, he has now left the Protectorate and returned to India.

3. The frauds at present disclosed consist of

- (1) A forged receipt for the repayment of a Money Order for the amount of Rs.50.
- (2) The failure to account for the amount of a Treasury draft for Rs.68.31.
- (3) The failure to account for cash received from the public for Money Orders amounting, as far as has been estimated

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
LEWIS HARCOURT, P.C., M.P.,
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES,
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.

estimated at present, to Rs.1,528
(including Commission.)

The total loss disclosed, in claims which have been examined and which must be admitted, is therefore Rs.1,744.31 cents.

4. In this case, there can be no question either as to the fraud or the intention to defraud. Mr Diaz tore six pages out of a Money Order Receipt book so neatly that although the book had been under examination by the Assistant District Commissioner, the pages were not missed until the arrival of the Auditor at Machakos. Using the 30 receipt forms so obtained he gave receipts for money paid for the purchase of Money Orders of which no entry was made in his accounts, i.e. he suppressed the Money Orders and failed to account for the money. This occurred in May after he had tendered his resignation, and during his last month at Machakos.

5. The fraud seems to have been premeditated for some considerable time, as the spare Money Order Receipt book, which was issued to Machakos in March, 1911, seems to have been concealed by Mr Diaz when the Machakos office was last inspected by an officer of the Post Office Department, and the District Commissioner was apparently unaware of its existence until after Mr Diaz had left.

6. There is one other claim in which the receipt is stated to have been lost and a few more will probably also have to be considered, but none will be legally valid after the end of May next.

7. Mr Diaz was a Provincial clerk, and, as such, was not insured. Owing to the shortage of staff in the Postal Department it has been impossible to detail a clerk for purely postal work at Machakos, and these duties accordingly devolved upon Mr Diaz who was also engaged in the general work of Provincial Administration. Had he been occupied solely with Postal work he would have been required to furnish security for the efficient discharge of his duties.

8. I have given the whole case the fullest consideration in Executive Council, and am of opinion that no blame can properly be held to attach either to the Administrative or Postal Authorities. The falsification of accounts was of the most deliberate nature and I consider that all reasonable precautions were taken by the officer in charge of the station.

9. Full particulars of the case have been forwarded by the Police to Bombay with the request that every endeavour be made to trace Mr Diaz. It is probable, however, that he will remain in Goa, with which country there is no extradition treaty, and even if he were to be arrested I consider it unlikely that any of the sums stolen would be recovered.

10. I have therefore sanctioned the payment of all claims which are approved by the Postmaster General and have directed that they shall be charged finally to expenditure.

11. I trust that my action in this matter will meet with your approval, and that I may receive

receive in due course an intimation to that effect.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your humble, obedient servant,

[Handwritten Signature]
Deputy Governor.

(On instructions from the
Governor.)

8249/914
E.A.P.

DRAFT

Mr Read

Received
19 March 1914

19 March 1914.

E.A.P.

Confidential

Sir H. C. Belfield

Sir,

I have the honour to
acknowledge the receipt of your
conf. despatch
of the 4th of Feb^y and to
inform you that I approve
of the action taken by
you with regard to the
cases of fraud, forgery,
and falsification of accounts
by Mr. M. F. Diaz, Clerk
at ~~Manchester~~

12/4/3/1914

Bottomley 14/2/14

Mr Read 14

Mr. P. D. 16

I have however
to