

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	970	Press Mis.
3-4		
Dated	/ - 8.	1964

3/4

Not to be folded or roughly handled

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer :—

Reports with reference to Orders Nos. 269, 347, 549 and 859,
dated 8th and 21st February, 18th March, and 29th April
1861, on the repairs executed to the Jail and Court
Buildings at Tranquebar, in the District of Tanjore. } (Here enter 8th May 1861, No. 280.)

ORDER THEREON, 25th July 1861, No. 1,383.

1. In their Proceedings in the Judicial Department, dated 15th September 1860, No. 1,191,* Government sanctioned an estimate of Rupees 3,000 for adapting certain buildings and the Citadel at Tranquebar to judicial purposes, as Court Houses and Jails, and ordered the work to be commenced at once, so as to admit of the Courts being opened on 1st October 1860.

* P. W. D., 21st idem, No. 1,972.
No. 42, in Judicial Proceedings, 5th February 1861, No. 148.

Judicial Proceedings, 13th March 1861, No. 359.

Paragraph 3.

"down, the rafters being generally rotten; there is much of the rest of the roof in the same state." Again, "much of the other work required was left undone, and, as I have already said, what was done, was done badly; the roof repaired in the autumn was rotten, the floors where new, were badly laid; and the delay seems endless."

Judicial Proceedings, 26th April 1861, No. 689.

† Dated 1st April 1861, No. 210.

3. On the 22nd April last, Mr. Rohde forwarded a letter from the Session Judge on the same subject, adding, "seven months have now been occupied in doing badly what should have been done well in seven weeks." The Judge, in his letter† to Mr. Rohde says, "you had an opportunity of observing the style in which the repairs to the Jail were being executed. Since then but little more has been done, and that little is far from satisfactory work;" and finally, he urges that "some competent Superintendent be located at Tranquebar" till all the work be done.

4. Thus there were two distinct complaints, viz., excessive delay, and bad work; the Chief Engineer now forwards two reports from the District Engineer, Captain Oakes, on the subject.

5. As regards the delay, the explanation is that the work was hurriedly undertaken during the monsoon; that the Public Works Department could not in consequence provide the necessary materials so as to be independent of extraneous aid; that many changes were made during the progress of the work at the instance of the Judge; that scientific labor is extremely difficult to procure at Tranquebar; and that the Overseer in charge allowed himself to be placed in the awkward position of having two masters to serve, viz., the Judge and Engineer. As regards bad work, the District Engineer says that with the exception of the flooring of one room, he has "no fault to find with the repairs executed."

6. There seems to be no doubt but that considerable delay did occur in the execution of these works, allowance being made for the circumstances under which they were undertaken. The Chief Engineer gives no opinion as to the sufficiency or otherwise of the reasons assigned by the District Engineer, but he blames Mr. Hayes, the Overseer in charge, more, however, for

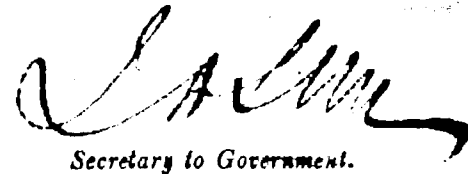
an error of judgment than any thing else. There seem to have been two other Officers, Lieutenants Hunter and Whish, in the range, so that there could have been no want of local superintendence; and every thing considered, the time occupied in the work seems to have been much greater than under proper arrangements it should have been.

7. As regards the bad work, the Government are not in a position to decide, and they are not satisfied with Captain Oakes' explanation. Mr. Rohde's complaints are specific, and Captain Oakes will be desired to visit Tranquebar as soon as possible and report distinctly on each item objected to by Mr. Rohde and the Judge.

8. In perusing the correspondence before them, the attention of Government has been attracted to a letter from Lieutenant Hunter, the First Assistant District Engineer, to the Session Judge, dated 30th March 1861, No. 657, which the Chief Engineer has not noticed. In this letter, Lieutenant Hunter informs the Judge that it has been reported to him that the Jailor had interfered with his work people, and that he has therefore "*directed the stoppage of all work until explanation is afforded.*" The Judge's reply shows the little foundation there was for the report; but even had it been otherwise, Lieutenant Hunter's conduct cannot be too severely commented upon. His business was to see the work done, not to stop it; and if he had any idea that undue interference was being exercised with his work people, he should have visited the spot immediately, made proper inquiry, and settled the matter at once, without writing to the Judge, which he was not justified in doing. The Chief Engineer will warn his Officers that they must work in harmony with other Departments, and he will reprimand Lieutenant Hunter for his conduct in the matter, and admonish him not to act so improperly again.

8. The rest of the Chief Engineer's letter referring to a small excess over the estimate of Rupees 134, requires no orders at present.

(True Extract.)


Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.

„ Judicial Department. ✓

Rem 31st July 1860 at 193.
 " 31st Aug 1860 at 194.
 " 31st Sept 1860 at 195.
 " 31st Oct 1860 at 196.
 " 31st Nov 1860 at 197.
 " 31st Dec 1860 at 198.
 " 31st Jan 1861 at 199.
 " 31st Feb 1861 at 200.
 " 31st Mar 1861 at 201.
 " 31st Apr 1861 at 202.
 " 31st May 1861 at 203.
 " 31st Jun 1861 at 204.
 " 31st Jul 1861 at 205.
 " 31st Aug 1861 at 206.
 " 31st Sep 1861 at 207.
 " 31st Oct 1861 at 208.
 " 31st Nov 1861 at 209.
 " 31st Dec 1861 at 210.

10th of Aug.

Official 1861 at 194

Pro: 1861 in the
 P. 192 24 1863.

25th July 1861.
 26th July 1861.

2nd of Aug.

1238

1861 1862

1861 1862
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With an Order.

No 970-104 August 1861.
 Communicated to
 the Inspector General
 of Sails, 8 to the Civil
 & Sponson Judge of
 Vegetation.

1861

The Inspector General.
 of Sails.
 Civil & Sponson Judge
 of Vegetation.