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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 16 Dec 1857

G.O. No. 419 Press
Mis.

22-23

Dated, 11-6 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 16th June 1857.

No. 22. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 13th May 1857, No. 260.

SIR,

With reference to former correspondence noted in the margin, in regard to the damages sustained by the new Civil Dispensary at Chicacole in Ganjam, I have now the honor to forward Copies of a further correspondence* on the same subject.

* Letter from District Engineer Ganjam No. 832, dated 8th October 1856.
Letter from Chief Engineer No. 7381, 20th October 1856.
Extract from Proceedings No. 7429, 21st October 1856.
Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2014 3rd November 1856.
Extract from Proceedings No. 7877 7th November 1856.
Letter from District Engineer Ganjam No. 960, 1st November, 1856.
Extract from Proceedings No. 8245, 21st November 1856.
Letter from District Engineer Ganjam No. 1124, 9th December 1856.
Extract from Proceedings No. 9121, 23rd December 1856.
Extract Minutes Consultation No. 185, 24th January 1857.

No. 167 dated 13th April 1857, from the Acting Collector Ganjam.
No. 960 dated 1st November 1856, from Civil Engineer 9th Division.

2. The order conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 185, dated 24th January 1857, was communicated to the Collector of Ganjam, with Extract from Proceedings No. 9892, of 30th Idem, with an intimation, that in the absence of his report on the conduct of the Talook Maistry, and Head of Police, I was precluded from forwarding to Government, the District Engineer's letter of the 1st November 1856, a copy of which had been forwarded to the Collector, with Extract from Proceedings No. 8245, of the 21st Idem.

3. The points to be noticed in the District Engineer's letter of the 1st November, are.

1st. That the additional rooms (the surgery, and Medical Store room) have apparently been built on a portion of the site, where the Fort Ditch formerly existed, and which was filled in some time ago, and to this, the settlement of the building is in a great measure attributed, but principally to the hurried, and careless manner in which the work was carried on.

2nd. The terrace roof was laid on during the monsoon, and before the mortar had properly set, the consequence being, that cracks opened out in it, as the walls of the buildings settled.

3rd. The careless workmanship is evident in the way the terrace roof has been laid on, an irregular separation having taken place from the side walls, which of course causes the leakage complained of.

4th. The cracks in the walls are doubtless attributable to the bad foundation as before observed, the circumstance of the Fort Ditch having existed there some years ago, evidently not being known at the time the estimate was framed.

5th. The building was constructed solely under the supervision of the Collector's Department, and no member of the Engineer Department was called upon officially, to give an opinion, as to the quality of the materials used.

6th. Lieutenant Harrington occasionally visited the work when in Chicacole, and pointed out to the Head of Police, under whom the work was being executed, and to the principal Assistant Collector, the irregular supply, and bad quality of the materials, the carelessness, and inefficiency of the maistry, and the long period the work was under execution, the result being, that the maistry was transferred to the Kimedy District, and a nother man sent in his place.

4. The Statement contained in the Acting Collector's letter, No. 167, dated 13th April 1857, is widely at variance with the foregoing, and it is to be remarked, that, in the Extracts given from Lieutenant Harrington's General observations for the Months of June, July, and August 1855, no mention is made of either bad materials, or workmanship.

5. The false nature of the ground on which the building has been erected is noticed by the Acting Collector, and also by Lieutenant Palmer, in his general observation's for February last.

6. The Acting Collector states, that the maistry while employed on the foundations, "noticed the badness of the ground, to Mr. Foord, who wrote a note to Major Birdwood on "the subject" and tho' it is admitted, that complaints were made of the slow progress of the work, and that the maistry was punished by removal, the Collector observes, that no complaints were made of the inferiority of the materials supplied, and he considers, that no blame can be

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 16th June 1857.

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1st. That the additional rooms (the surgery, and Medical Store room) have apparently been built on a portion of the site, where the Fort Ditch formerly existed, and which was filled in some time ago, and to this, the settlement of the building is in a great measure attributed, but principally to the hurried, and careless manner in which the work was carried on.

2nd. The terrace roof was laid on during the monsoon, and before the mortar had properly set, the consequence being, that cracks opened out in it, as the walls of the buildings settled.

3rd. The careless workmanship is evident in the way the terrace roof has been laid on, an irregular separation having taken place from the side walls, which of course causes the leakage complained of.

4th. The cracks in the walls are doubtless attributable to the bad foundation as before observed, the circumstance of the Fort Ditch having existed there some years ago, evidently not being known at the time the estimate was framed.

5th. The building was constructed solely under the supervision of the Collector's Department, and no member of the Engineer Department was called upon officially, to give an opinion, as to the quality of the materials used.

6th. Lieutenant Harrington occasionally visited the work when in Chicacole, and pointed out to the Head of Police, under whom the work was being executed, and to the principal Assistant Collector, the irregular supply, and bad quality of the materials, the carelessness, and inefficiency of the maistry, and the long period the work was under execution, the result being, that the maistry was transferred to the Kimedy District, and a nother man sent in his place.

4. The Statement contained in the Acting Collector's letter, No. 167, dated 13th April 1857, is widely at variance with the foregoing, and it is to be remarked, that, in the Extracts given from Lieutenant Harrington's General observations for the Months of June, July, and August 1855, no mention is made of either bad materials, or workmanship.

5. The false nature of the ground on which the building has been erected is noticed by the Acting Collector, and also by Lieutenant Palmer, in his general observation's for February last.

6. The Acting Collector states, that the maistry while employed on the foundations, "noticed the badness of the ground, to Mr. Foord, who wrote a note to Major Birdwood on "the subject" and tho' it is admitted, that complaints were made of the slow progress of the work, and that the maistry was punished by removal, the Collector observes, that no complaints were made of the inferiority of the materials supplied, and he considers, that no blame can be

thrown on the native subordinates, or on his Department generally, the Executive Officers of the Engineer Department having frequently visited the work.

7. The Acting Collector in concluding his letter states, that an alteration in the plan was urged by the Engineer, whose writer, the Talook maistry says, marked out the site of the new rooms.

8. Judging from the conflicting statements of Mr. Knox, and Major Birdwood, and from the circumstance of Lieutenant Harrington having frequently visited the work while in progress, my opinion is, that very great blame attaches to the Engineer Department, but considering it unadvisable that any prolonged correspondence should be carried on, which could only result in an unpleasant misunderstanding between two Departments, the hearty co-operation of which is so very desirable, I have not thought it necessary to send Mr. Knox's, letter for the further rejoinder of Major Birdwood.

No. 23. ORDER THEREON, No. 1119; dated 11th June 1857.

With reference to Extract Minutes Consultation of the 21th January last, the Chief Engineer submits, with the letter above recorded, two reports, one from the Civil Engineer, and the other from the Collector of Ganjam, relative to the damages sustained by the new Civil Dispensary at Chicacole.

2. The Government remark that both the Engineer's and Collector's Departments are in fault. The latter were fully aware that the place selected for the building in question was formerly a Fort ditch; and Lieutenant Harrington, who frequently visited the work, made no remark in his Diaries as to the unsuitableness of the locality where the Surgery and Medical Store rooms now stand, nor to the bad workmanship. The Engineer Department cannot therefore be exonerated from blame. The Government however consider that it is needless at this period to pursue the subject any further.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

3

Ganjam District

No. 23. Read the letter from Central Office of Pub: Works
Fort St. George 13th May 1857.

No. 266

Revenue
Civil Dispensaries

From The Chief Engineer
To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.
Sir,

Letter from D. Engr. Ganjam
No. 832 8/8th Octr. 56.
Letter from Chief Engineer
No. 381. 20th October 1856.
Extract from Proceedings
No. 7429. 21st Octr. 1856.
Extract Minutes Consn.
No. 2034. 3d Nov. 1856.
Extract from Proceedings
No. 7877. 7th Nov. 1856.
Letter from D. Engr. Ganjam
No. 960. 1st Nov. 1856.
Extract from Proceedings
No. 8245. 21st Nov. 1856.
Letter from D. Engr. Ganjam
No. 1124. 9th December 1856.
Extract from Proceedings
No. 9121. 23d Dec. 1856.
Extract Minutes Consn.
No. 185. 24th January 1857.

1. Enclosures
No. 167 dated 13th April 1857, from the Actg Collector Ganjam.
No. 960 dated 1st Nov. 1856 Ga. Civil Engr. 9 Drs.

With reference to former correspondence noted in the Margin, in regard to the damages sustained by the new Civil Dispensary at Chicacole in Ganjam, I have now the honor to forward Copies of a further correspondence on the same Subject.—

2. The order conveyed in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 185. dated 24th January 1857, was communicated to the Collector of Ganjam, with Extract from Proceedings No. 9892, of 30th Idem, with an intimation, that in the Absence of his report on the conduct of the Talook Maistry, and Head of Police, I was precluded from forwarding to Government, the District Engineer's letter of the 1st November 1856, a Copy of which had been forwarded to the Collector, with Extract from Proceedings, No. 8245. of the 21st Idem.—

I

3. The points to be noticed in the District Engineer's letter of the 1st. November, are,

1st. That the additional rooms [the Surgery, and Medical Store rooms] have apparently been built on a portion of the site, where the Fort Ditch formerly existed, and which was filled in some time ago, and to this, the settlement of the building is in a great measure attributed, but principally to the hurried, and careless manner in which the work was carried on.—

2d. The terrace roof was laid on during the Monsoon, and before the Mortar had properly set, the consequence being, that cracks opened out in it, as the walls of the building settled.—

3d. The careless workmanship is evident in the way the terrace roof has been laid on, an irregular separation having taken place from the side walls, which of course causes the leakage complained of.—

4th. The cracks in the walls are doubtless attributable to the bad foundation as before observed, the circumstance of the Fort Ditch having existed there some Years ago, evidently not being known at the time the Estimate was framed.—

5th. The building was constructed solely under the

the superintendence of the Collector's Department, and no member of the Engineer Department was called upon Officially, to give an opinion, as to the quality of the Materials used.—

6th. Lieut. Harington occasionally visited the work when in Chicacole, and pointed out to the Head of Police, under whom the work was being executed, and to the Principal Assistant Collector, the irregular supply, and bad quality of the Materials, the carelessness, and inefficiency of the Maistry, and the long period the work was under execution, the result being, that the Maistry was transferred to the Kimedy District, and another man sent in his place.—

4. The Statement contained in the Acting Collector's letter, No. 167, dated 13th April 1857, is widely at variance with the foregoing, and it is to be remarked, that, in the Extracts given from Lieut. Harington's General Observations for the Months of June, July, and August 1855, no mention is made of either bad Materials, or workmanship.—

5. The false nature of the ground on which the building has been erected, is noticed by the Acting Collector, and also by Lieut. Palmer, in his

his General Observations for February last.—

6. The Acting Collector states, that the Maistry while employed on the foundations, "noticed the badness of the ground, to Mr. Foord, "who wrote a note to Major Birdwood on the "Subject:- and tho' it is admitted, that complaints were made of the slow progress of the work, and that the Maistry was punished by removal, the Collector observes, that no complaints were made of the inferiority of the Materials supplied, and he considers, that no blame can be thrown on the Native Subordinates, or on his Department generally, the Executive Officers of the Engineer Department having frequently visited the work.—

7. The Acting Collector in concluding his letter states, that an alteration in the plan was urged by the Engineer, whose writer, the Talook Maistry says, marked out the site of the new rooms.—

8. Judging from the conflicting statements of Mr. Knox, and Major Birdwood, and from the circumstance of Lieut. Harington having frequently visited the work while in progress, my opinion is, that very great blame attaches to the Engineer Depart:ment. but considering it inadvisable that any

prolonged

prolonged correspondence should be carried on, which could only result in an unpleasant misunderstanding between two Departments, the hearty co-operation of which is so very desirable, I have not thought it necessary to send Mr. Knox's letter for the further rejoinder of Major Birdwood.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant.
A. Fraser Colonel
Chief Engineer

Central Office of W.
Fort Saint George
13 May 1857

A. Sup. Engr. N. C.

R. W. P.

No. 960

From

Major W. Birdwood

Civil Engineer 9th Division

To

Colonel C. E. Faber

Chief Engineer

Depart. Public Works

Fort St. George

Sir

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings, No. 4429. dated 21st October 1856, I have the honor to inform you, that the additional rooms [Surgery and Medical store room] at Chicacole have been erected on a portion of the site where I am informed the Fort Ditch formerly existed, and which was filled in some time ago. — I imagine therefore this may have in a measure operated towards the settlement, but I am of opinion, that much is to be ascribed to the hurried and careless manner in which the work was proceeded with. —

Public Buildings

The

P.S. Works Dept. Copies 16th June 1857

No. 957

From The Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Dated 13th May 1857

Rec'd 14th

Madras Office

S.G. No. 1112. 11th June

Forwarded for further enquiries

Formation Collector in Extract Mem. Cons. 7th 1857, dated 24th January 1857. in regard to the damage sustained by the new Civil Dispensary Buildings at Chicacole in the Ganjam District.

No. 22

Extract Mem.

6th June

No. 6.

The roof having been laid on while the Mortar has scarcely set, and in the heart of the Monsoon.-

The cracks in the terrace roof may be also ascribed to the hurried construction of the Buildings - the lower courses not having settled before the upper courses were laid on.)

The careless Workmanships is also evident in the ways the terrace has been joined on to the side wall of the other room, which, instead of having been let in, was merely joined with ½ and inch in thickness of Mortar - the consequence has been, when the Mortar had dried, it shrunk - and caused an irregular separation along the line of contact, which now is the cause of leakage.-

The cause of the cracks in the walls, I am of opinion, in the two additional rooms, is to be attributed in a great measure to the foundation, and that not of a regular depths - verging from 2' 3" to 3'.-

When

When the Plan and Estimate was framed, it was evidently not known, that the Site was a portion of the Fort Ditch filled in many Years ago, as I have been given to understand, when of course had it been a greater depth and breadth of foundation would have been allowed for, to the want of which now, the weight of the roof on walls just built, may be mainly attributed the Cracks in the walls.-

The Buildings were constructed under the Supervision of the Collector's Department, and were solely managed by that.-

No Member of the Engineer Department was Officially called upon to give an opinion as to the quality of the Materials, nor does this seem to be a practice in this District.-

Lieutenant Harrington occasionally visited the work during the short time he was at Chicacole, before

proceeding

proceeding with me to Vizagapatam - and represented both to the Head of Police, under whom the work was being executed, and to the Principal Assistant Collector - the irregular supply of Material, and badness thereof — the carelessness, and inefficiency of the Maistry, and the long period it was under execution - The result was, that the Maistry was transferred to the Kimedy District, and another sent up in his stead. —

A Plan and description of a lighter roof as proposed in my former letter, with an Estimate, will be furnished shortly. —

I have &c.

Civil Engineer's Office
9th Division
Camp Chicacole
1st November 1857

(Signed) W. J. Birdwood Major
Civil Engineer
9th Division

No. 67.

From

William Knox Esquire
Acting Collector of Ganjam

To,

Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer D. P. Works
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor in obedience to the instructions contained in Extract Minutes of Consultations, dated 3d November last, No. 2034. to state, that I have made every enquiry about the repairs of the Civil Dispensary at this station, I find that the work was frequently visited by Mr. Ford, then Acting Principal Assistant Collector, that Dr. Rogers was in the habit of watching its progress from day to day, it had also the advantage of Lieut. Harington's constant Supervision, as will be seen from the Extracts from his diaries for June, July, and August 1856. and it also appears, that Major Birdwood was consulted about it while in progress. The cause of the crack is now very evident, the whole of the ground on which the house is built is false - There is from 6 to 9 ft. below the surface a layer of Ashes, tiles, &c. which sinks immediately, when any extra weight is imposed, in this way there is a fresh crack apparent in one of the buildings caused by

Vide Lieut. Palmer's diary for February last.

by the weight of the earth dug out of the excavation for the well.

2. The Ministry attributes the bad state of the buildings to the fact, that the new walls and repairs were done with bricks and Chunam, and would not bond with the Old bricks and mud ones, but I do not consider this a valid excuse, the true reason of the walls cracking, and the building so soon requiring repair, is the treacherous nature of the soil far below the depth at which the foundation was excavated. he states further, that while employed on the foundation, he noticed the badness of the ground to Mr. Foord, who wrote a note to Major Birdwood on the subject, and though complaints were made of the slowness with which the work went on, and the Ministry was furnished by removals. I cannot find that there were any regarding the inferiority of the Materials supplied, and it appears to me, that had they been so bad, this should have been at once notified, and therefore the blame cannot now be thrown on the Natives subordinates.—

3. Mr. Foord had left the District before I received the Order of Government, but I think enough has been shown to exonerate him, and this Department generally, but I cannot allow Major Birdwood's remarks to pass unnoticed. I must say, that I think it was written without his usual consideration; Lieut. Harington's diaries already quoted show, that in this case, the Executive Officers did visit the work, and I will only instance the last repairs to the Court House, the Jail, and Jail Hospital, as works executed by the Collector's department, in which the services of the Engineer were sought for, and taken advantage of. Unfortunately for Ganjam, it is only of late Years that an Engineer has been resident in the district, and therefore it was not often the Collector could secure his inspection of works, or Materials, but I have no hesitation in saying, that this Co-operation of the Engineer has been anxiously sought for whenever it could be obtained.—

4. The Estimate I should also add, was not abided by, I was not consulted about this, but I feel certain, that neither Mr. Foord, or the Ministry, would have ventured to alter a plan without my sanction, had it not been urged on them by the Engr. whose writer the Ministry says marked out the site for the new rooms. I send herewith a Memo: of the Estimate, and the work actually performed.—

I have &c.
Signed W. Knox
Acting Collector

Ganjam District —
Collr.s Circuit Office —
Chicacole 13th April 1854

[True Copies]
W. Taylor Colonel
Chief Engineer

P.W.D. 17

No 1119

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 4th June 1857

Read the following letter

from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 13th May 1857 No 260)

1 With reference to
Extract Minutes Consultation
of the 26th January last the
Chief Engineer submits, with
the letter above recorded, two
reports, one from the Civil
Engineer, and the other from
the Collector of Ganjam, re-
lative to the damages sus-
tained by the new Civil
Dispensary at Chicacole.

2 The Government
remarks that both the
Engineer's & Collector's
Departments are in fault.
The latter were fully aware
that the place selected
for

1857 Dckt No

Enclosures in a Letter from
the Chief Engineer D.P.W.
To
The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

Dated 13th May 1857
Rec'd

Read
P.W. 26/5/57

Copies of Correspondence from
the Acting Collector of Ganjam
Enquiries relative to the damages of the
Civil Dispensary at Chicacole

for the building in question was formerly a Fort ditch; and Lieutenant Harrington who frequently visited the work, made no remarks in his Diaries as to the unsuitableness of the locality where the Surgery and Medical Store rooms now stand, nor to the bad workmanship. The Engineer Department cannot therefore be exonerated from blame. The Government however consider that it is needless at this period to pursue the subject any further.

J.J. B.G.

J. Copied to the Chief Engr Dec. 12.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dy. to Cons: 16th June.

No. 1119.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 11th June/57.

Observing that both the Engrs. & Collrs. Depts. are in fault, relative to the damages sustained by the recent Civil Disturbances at Chicoutimi.

No 22 + 23.

6th June A10 +