

*Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th September 1857.*

No. 18. Read the following letter from M. MURRAY, Esq., Magistrate of Cuddapah; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 15th August 1857, No. 27.

SIR,

1. With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation dated the 8th Instant, No. 1549, I have the honor to inform you, that the first intimation I received of the ill-treatment said to have been received by the Wudders was, from a letter of Lieutenant Hemery dated 2nd June, wherein he says, in para. 7, that this case has been reported to the Chief Engineer for the information of Government, thereby shewing that he had brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer without bringing to the notice of the Magistrate in the first instance, which I think, he was bound to do, if not in duty certainly in courtesy, and this is what I complained of in para. 4 of my letter to the Chief Engineer under date the 16th June last No. 63.

2. In my letter to the Chief Engineer under date 18th April 1857, I brought to his notice other complaints preferred by him direct, which system was condemned by the Chief Engineer in his letter to the District Engineer of the 27th May last. The present is merely a repetition of the system which I complained of before and was objected to as above stated.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, No. 1676; dated 3rd September 1857.

From the correspondence recorded above, it appears that on the 25th of May last, a Wudder lost his life by the falling in of a large piece of rock beneath which he was at work. Some delay occurred in obtaining the presence of an Officer competent to hold an inquest, and as the corpse became offensive, permission was given to the relatives of the deceased, by the Overseer of the works, to inter it at once, the circumstances which had caused death were patent, and no doubt upon the subject could arise.

2. On the arrival of the Sheristadar of the Talook to hold the inquest, he is reported to have caused the relations of the deceased to be assaulted for having interred the body prior to his arrival, and marks of blows were seen on their persons by the Overseer, to whom they came at once to complain.

3. The charge of ill-treatment has been referred to the Judicial Department, and will be there disposed of.

4. The circumstances were reported to the Magistrate on the 2nd of June 1857 by the District Engineer, and at the same time were laid before the Chief Engineer, who requested the Magistrate on the 5th Idem, to inform him of what took place. Mr. Murray, in a reply dated the 16th June 1857, expressed his surprise that the District Engineer had not mentioned the fact of ill-treatment to him, when reporting the circumstances attending the Wudder's death, charged Lieutenant Hemery with keeping back from the knowledge of the Chief Engineer certain parts of the case, "for purposes of his own," and attributed that Officer's conduct in the matter, "to personal hostility" and "a desire to make mischief."

5. As the Magistrate's assertion that the District Engineer had not reported to him the ill-treatment met with by the Wudder's relations, was irreconcilable with the correspondence submitted by the Chief Engineer, which included a letter from Lieutenant Hemery to Mr. Murray, dated the 2nd June 1857, in which the fact was broadly stated, Mr. Murray was, in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 8th of August, called upon to explain the matter.

6. In his reply quoted at the head of these proceedings, Mr. Murray says, "the first intimation I received of the ill-treatment said to have been received by the Wudders was, from a letter of Lieutenant Hemery dated 2nd June, wherein he says, in para. 7, that this case has been reported to the Chief Engineer, for the information of Government, thereby shewing that he had brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer without bringing it to the notice of the Magistrate in the first instance, which I think, he was bound to do, if not in duty certainly in courtesy, and this is what I complained of in para. 4 of my letter to the Chief Engineer, under date the 16th June last No. 63."

7. This reply is not satisfactory. Mr. Murray, in his letter to the Chief Engineer of the 16th June 1857, did not complain that Lieutenant Hemery had reported the facts of the ill-treatment to his superior at the same moment that he reported them to the Magistrate, but that he had reported them to the Chief Engineer without informing the Magistrate at all. This assertion now turns out to have been groundless, and finding it to have been so, Mr. Murray should have at once retracted the charges of "personal hostility, and a desire to make mischief," which he had made against Lieutenant Hemery, unless he had other grounds for making so serious a charge.

8. The Government have already had to express their disapprobation of the hostile attitude assumed by the Collector of Cuddapah towards the Public Works Department and they cannot but regret to find in the correspondence now before them, much to justify the opinion they had already formed.

(Signed) H. FORBES,

Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 27.

From W. Murray Esq  
Magistrate of Cuddapah  
To H. Forbes Esq  
Acting Secretary to Government  
Fort Saint George

1. With reference to extract minutes of consultation dated the 8<sup>th</sup> Instant, No. 1549, I have the honor to inform you, that the first intimation I received of the ill-treatment said to have been received by the Madders was, from a letter of Lieutenant Hemery dated 2<sup>d</sup> June, wherein he says, in Para 7, that this case has been reported to the Chief Engineer for the information of Government, thereby showing that he had brought the matter to the notice of the Chief Engineer without bringing it to the notice of the Magistrate in the first instance, which I think, he was bound to do, if not in duty, certainly in courtesy, and this is what I complained of in Para 4 of my letter to the Chief Engineer under date the 16<sup>th</sup> June last No. 63. —

2. In my letter to the Chief Engineer under date 18<sup>th</sup> April 1857, I brought to his notice other complaints preferred by him direct,

Engineer in his letter to the District Engineer  
of the 27<sup>th</sup> May last. The present is merely a  
repetition of the system which I explained  
of before & was objected to as above stated —

Thru the honorble

Cuddapah  
Magistrate's Office  
15<sup>th</sup> August 1857

Sir  
Your most Obedt Servt

M. S. S. S.  
Magistrate

To  
H. Jones Esq  
Acting Secretary to Government  
Fort St. George

Recd  
M. S.  
A. H.

Pullis Works Dept

No. 1676

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation  
Under date the 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1857.

Read the follow-  
ing letter from the  
Magistrate of Cuddalore

Received 15<sup>th</sup> August 1857  
No. 271

From the corres-  
pondence recorded  
above, it appears that  
on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May last,  
a waddler lost his  
life by the falling in  
of a large piece of  
rock beneath which  
he was at work. Some  
delay occurred in  
obtaining

A  
No

11 August 57. 1857-70  
23 June 57. 1857-70

From the Works Dept  
No. 1676. 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1857  
Magistrate of Cuddalore

The Magistrate of Cuddalore  
to the Works Dept  
to Government  
to Government  
to Government

Under date the 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1857.

No. 271

No. 1676. 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1857

No. 18.

From the Works Dept  
No. 1676. 3<sup>d</sup> of August 1857  
Magistrate of Cuddalore

No. 1676.

obtaining the presence  
of an Officer competent  
to hold an inquest,  
and as the Corpse be-  
came offensive, per-  
mission was given  
to the relatives of the  
deceased, by the Overseer  
of the works, to inter  
it at once. The cir-  
cumstances which  
had caused death were  
patent, and no doubt  
upon the subject could  
arise.

On the arrival  
of the Sheristadar  
of the Talook to hold  
the inquest, he is re-  
ported to have caused  
the relations of the  
deceased to be assaulted  
for

for having interred  
the body prior to his  
arrival, and marks  
of blows were seen  
on their persons by  
the Overseer, to whom  
they came at once  
to complain.

The charge of  
ill-treatment has been  
referred to the Judicial  
Department, and will  
be there disposed of.

The circum-  
stances were reported  
to the Magistrate  
on the 2<sup>d</sup> of June 1857  
by the District Engineer,  
and at the same  
time were laid before  
the Chief Engineer,  
who requested the  
Magistrate

Magistrate on the 5<sup>th</sup>  
of Idem, to inform  
to him of what took  
place. Mr. Murray,  
in a reply dated the  
16<sup>th</sup> June 1857, expressed  
to his surprise that the  
District Engineer had  
not mentioned the  
fact of ill-treatment  
to him, when report-  
ing the circumstan-  
ces attending the  
Wholders' death. He  
charged ~~Murray~~ Lieutenant  
Hemery with keeping  
back from the know-  
ledge of the Chief  
of Engineers certain parts  
of the case, "for pur-  
poses of his own," and  
he attributed that Officers  
conduct in the matter,  
to personal hostility,  
and

and "a desire to make  
"mischief."

As the Magis-  
trate's assertion that  
the District Engineer  
had not reported  
to him the ill-treat-  
ment met with by  
the Wholders' relations,  
was irreconcilable  
with the correspondence  
submitted by the Chief  
Engineer, which in-  
cluded a letter from  
Lieutenant Hemery  
to Mr. Murray, dated  
the 2<sup>d</sup> June 1857, in  
which the fact was  
broadly stated, Mr.  
Murray was, in Extract  
Illus. Com. of the 8<sup>th</sup>  
August, called upon  
to explain the matter.  
In his reply quoted  
at

proceedings, Mr. Murray  
says, "the first intima-  
tion I received of the  
ill-treatment said to  
have been received by  
the Wholder was, from  
a letter of St. Henry,  
of 2<sup>nd</sup> June, wherein  
he says, in Para 7, that  
in this case has been  
reported to the Chief  
Engineer, for the in-  
formation of Govt.,  
thereby shewing that  
he had brought the  
matter to the notice  
of the Chief Engineer  
without bringing it to  
the notice of the Mag-  
istrate in the first  
instance, which I think  
he was bound to do, if  
not in duty, certainly  
in

in courtesy, and this is  
what I complained of  
in Para 4 of my letter  
to the Chief Engineer  
under date the 16<sup>th</sup> June  
last at 60."

This reply is  
not ~~satisfactory~~ <sup>satisfactory</sup>. Mr.  
Murray, in his letter  
to the Chief Engineer  
of the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1857,  
did not complain that  
St. Henry had reported  
the facts of the ill-treat-  
ment to his superior  
at the same moment  
that he reported them  
to the Magistrate, but  
that he had reported  
them to the Chief  
Engineer without in-  
forming the Magis-  
trate at all. This  
assertion now turns  
out

out to have been ground-  
less, and finding it to  
have been so, Mr. Mur-  
ray should have at  
once retracted the  
charges of "personal  
hostility, and a desire  
to make mischief,"  
which he had made

against Lieut. Henry, <sup>unless he had other grounds</sup>

The Government for making so serious  
have already had to <sup>for charges</sup> a charge  
express their disap-  
probation of the hostile  
attitude assumed by  
the Collector of Bud-  
dapest towards the  
Pub. Works Depart.  
and they can <sup>not but</sup> regret to find  
in the  
correspondence now  
before them, ~~as~~ much

to justify the opinion  
they had already formed.

(The Government  
are

9 Copies to the Chief Insp.  
Disp. 4

1 - " Magte of Budapest,  
3 - " Ind. Dep. 5

omit  
D

are of opinion that Mr.  
Murray's language re-  
garding St. Henry is  
wholly without excuse,  
and they must express  
their great regret, <sup>that</sup> an  
officer of the age, the  
standing, and the position  
of the present Collector  
of Budapest, should  
so frequently place  
himself before the Pub.  
in disadvantageous con-  
trast with the other  
Public servants of his  
District, as regards  
judgment, discretion,  
and temper.

EL

Public Works 1857 Dep't.  
D<sup>to</sup> Com. 8<sup>th</sup> September.

N. 1676.

Extract Minis of Com.

D<sup>y</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> September 1857.

From Chief Engr 16<sup>th</sup> Sept<sup>r</sup> / 56 / 1857  
in Com. 29<sup>th</sup>

Respecting the ill treatment met with from the Tahitians at Papeete, by the Mudders' relations who lost his life by the falling in upon a large piece of rock beneath which he was at work & the hostile attitude assumed by the folks towards the A. M. S.

N. 18119.

26<sup>th</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1857