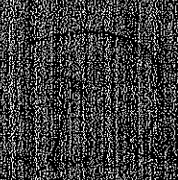


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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.



DEPARTMENT

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

No. 68. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 27th August 1857, No. 3195.

Read again letter, from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle of Public Works commenting upon the explanation of the District Engineer, South Arcot, regarding the latter officer's neglect of Major Lawfords instructions in respect to the regulation of the bed of the river Vellaur Streamward of the annicut of Shatiah tope.

(Here enter No. 210 of the 25th August 1857.)

Resolved, that in conformity to the wishes now again urged by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, the several documents, explanatory of Lieutenant Foords neglect, and disobedience of Major Lawfords orders, be sent up to Government, for the information and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, agreeably also to the instructions contained in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 377, of the 27th February last.

2. The Chief Engineer, observes, that a recapitulation of the whole correspondence, regarding the non-fulfilment of Major Lawfords orders, for clearing the Streamward bed of the river Vellaur is unnecessary, inasmuch, as the latter officer has desired, that all Lieutenant Foords letters, together with his own instructions, shall be forwarded direct, for the consideration of Government.

3. Under these circumstances, Colonel Faber is of opinion, that it is only necessary for him to state, that the culpable inattention of the orders of his superior officer, by the District Engineer of South Arcot, is aggravated, rather than palliated, by the explanations he has sent in, and that, if he had at once admitted his neglect, or oversight, and had offered the customary assurances, of a more careful future discharge of duty, and conformity to the instructions of the Professional officers of the Circle, there seems no reason to doubt, that Major Lawford would have accepted such assurances, instead of considering, as he now does, that an expression of the sentiments, of His Lordship in Council is essential, to the vindication of his own authority, and to the due admonition of Lieutenant Foord.

4. Resolved, to report in conclusion, that the Chief Engineer concurs, unreservedly, in the professional opinions of Major Lawford, and completely agrees with that officer, as to the advantage, not to say necessity, of a most careful observation, and regulation, of the River Vellaur, above the annicut and bridge, not only now, but for many years to come.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,  
*Chief Engineer.*

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, No. 1701; dated 8th September 1857.

It is unnecessary for Government to review in detail the voluminous correspondence submitted with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 27th Ultimo, No. 3195. It will be sufficient to remark that it has reference mainly to certain instructions for clearing the bed of the river above the Vellaur annicut, given by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle when lately on a professional tour of inspection, and most inadequately carried into effect by the District Engineer Lieutenant Foord.

2. The Government cannot too strongly condemn the inattention to the orders he received from the Superintending Engineer which was shewn by Lieutenant Foord. Major Lawford visited the work with the great advantage of many years familiarity with the rivers of Tanjore, with the prestige of a successful administration of the professional Department in that Province extending over fourteen years, and an accurate knowledge of the effect of obstructions in river beds, upon weirs and bridges, that of necessity gives the greatest weight to all his opinions on the subject. These considerations should have led the District Engineer to be forward to avail himself of any suggestion that Major Lawford might offer for the safety of the annicut and bridge, but when the Government observe that the Superintending Engineer, did not content himself with suggestions, but gave the most pointed, direct, and positive, orders for certain works, marking them out himself that there might be no room for mistake, and that these works

*proceeding regarding their own fulfilment*

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

were systematically neglected by the District Engineer, they feel that they cannot too strongly animadvert on Lieutenant Ford's omission, or too emphatically warn that Officer, of the heavy responsibility he incurs, by neglecting to apply to the important Public Works committed to his charge, the protective measures ordered by his official superiors.

3. It has been already laid down by Government in para. 5, Section 2 of the Rules passed on the 17th June 1856, No. 893 that, when on tour of inspection, the Superintending Engineers are invested with the authority of the Chief Engineer, and the Government now direct that Colonel Faber will recall the attention of all District Engineers to this order, and will inform them that the Government will visit with marked displeasure the conduct of any Officer who either disobeys, neglects, or questions, the order he may receive from a Superintending Engineer when on a professional tour.

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

N<sup>o</sup> 3195

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer  
in the Department of Public Works.*

Under date the 27<sup>th</sup> August, 1857.

Perceat again letter, from the Superintending Engineer S. O. of (P.W.) concerning upon the explanation of the District Engineer South Arcot, regarding the latter officer's neglect of Major Safford's instructions in respect to the regulation of the bed of the river Valluvar's treamound of the Anicut of Shattah top.

The enclosed  
5

Here Enter N<sup>o</sup> 210 of the 25<sup>th</sup> August 1857.

Resolved, that in conformity to the wishes now again urged by the Superintending Southern Circle, the enclosed documents, explanatory of South Arcot's neglect and disobedience of Major Safford's orders, be sent up to Government, for the information and orders of the Right Honourable the Governor in Council, agreeably also to the instructions contained in Extract Minister's Consultation, N<sup>o</sup> 377 of the 27<sup>th</sup> February last.

2 The Chief Engineer, observes, that a recapitulation of the whole correspondence, regarding the non-fulfilment

of Major Sanford's orders, for clearing the  
mainward bed of the river Villavieja is un-  
necessary, inasmuch, as the latter officer  
has directed, that all Lieutenant Ford's letter,  
together with his own instructions, shall  
be forwarded direct, for the consideration  
of Government.

3. Under these circumstances, Colonel  
Faber is of opinion, that it is only necessary  
for him to state, that the culpable imputation  
of the orders of his superior officer, by the  
District Engineer of South West, is exagger-  
ated, rather than palliated, by the expla-  
nations he has sent in, and that, if he  
had at once admitted his neglect, or over-  
sight, and had offered the customary  
assurances, of a more careful future dis-  
charge of duty, and conformity to the instruc-  
tions of the Professional Officers of the  
Peru, there seems no reason to doubt,  
that Major Sanford would have accepted  
such assurances, instead of considering,  
as he now does, that an expression of  
the sentiments, of His Lordship in Council  
is essential, to the vindication of his own  
authority, and to the due admonition of  
Lieutenant Ford.

Resolved to report in conclusion,

that the Chief Engineer concurs, unreservedly,  
in the professional opinions of Major  
Sanford, and completely agrees with that  
Officer, as to the advantage, not to say ne-  
cessity, of a most careful observation, and  
reparation, of the river Villavieja, above the  
Anicuit and bridge, not only now, but  
as many years to come.

True Extract  
Wm. Faber, Colonel  
Chief Engineer

To  
The Secretary to Government  
Peru Department

Extract of Reports in works visited  
by Major Sanford Deputy Chief  
Engineer, Southern Division in April  
1856.

\* \* \* \* \*

Another however will regret that  
the American has received some further  
injury since I last saw it, the second  
Arch from the North end having been  
taken down, and the arch adjoining  
the South abutment being cracked  
though not so seriously as to require  
rebuilding. I can see no other cause  
for these damages than the neglect  
to remove the obstructions which  
filled the river bed, and produced  
an unequal discharge of the freshes  
in the North East monsoon over the  
works. Indeed, I found the bed oppo-  
-site the fine Southern arches still  
obstructed by the earth removed  
in building the front apron and  
I was told that through these arches  
and the two Northern ones, not 1/3rd  
of the most perfect parts of the weir  
being nearly one third of the whole  
extent, no water flowed during the  
heavy freshes. The current was then  
concentrated in the central portion,  
which was new and lowered by the  
injury received in September and  
the

Memorandum

October 11th 1857

Extract from the Proceedings

The Chief Engineer

To Mr. Deery 6th + 17th

Dated 27th Aug 1857

Enclo 15

1858

Forwarded in conformity  
to the wishes of the Chief Eng.  
J.C. & with reference to J.C.  
No 577 of the 27th Aug 1857 for infor-  
mation and review some of the  
relating to the works, viz. the  
of Major Sanford's instructions  
in respect to the regulation of  
the level of the bellows river  
at the falls. To be used in the  
present operation, the same of course  
the instructions of the Chief Eng.  
The same is also forwarded  
contained in the Chief Eng.

copy May 1858

the water after its overfall swept  
along the rear of the apron, under-  
mining the foundations, though  
not I believe to any serious extent.

I am the more bound to  
notice this fact because a similar  
cause produced the destruction of the  
Huricut in 1853, and so long as the  
bed of the Vellam remains uncleared  
of islands at least as high up as  
the Head, since there must always  
exist a source of extreme danger.

The work necessary for clear-  
ing the river should have been  
performed earlier. I have however  
now communicated my views  
to Mr. Doones, with orders that  
he should make estimates,  
and submit them to Lieutenant  
Foord.

x x x x

N<sup>o</sup> 19

To Lieutenant F. A. Foord.  
Asst. Civil Engineer in charge  
South Arcot

In my remarks on the Vellam  
Huricut recorded on the occasion of  
my visit in April last which  
were

were communicated to you from  
the Central Office, I expressed a  
decided opinion of the necessity  
of clearing the bed of the river  
above the weir, but on my late  
inspection I found my suggestion had  
received little or no attention of  
or at least had led to no practical  
results.

2. I have now the honor again  
to draw your particular notice to  
the subject and to inform you that  
I personally instructed Acting  
Preston to estimate the cost of  
opening a cut along the south bank  
of the river originally made at  
my desire, but which has been allow-  
ed to become silted up.

3. In the event of your as-  
suming charge of the Conservancy  
of Public Works in this District the  
Vellam Huricut should ~~be~~ form  
a principal object of your care, and  
while I fully believe in its perfect  
security if properly attended to,  
I have no hesitation in foretelling  
its second destruction as the result  
of neglect or unskilful manage-  
ment.

Yours &c.  
17<sup>th</sup> August 1856

I have &c.  
Signed J. S. Sanford  
Super. Eng. South Arcot  
District

No. 1701

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation  
Under date the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 1857

Recd the following  
Extract from the Proceedings of the  
Chief Engineer.

(Memorandum 27<sup>th</sup> August 57. No. 5195.)

It is unnecessary  
for Government to review in  
detail the voluminous corres-  
pondence submitted with the  
Chief Engineer's Proceedings of  
the 27<sup>th</sup> Instant No. 5195. It  
will be sufficient to remark  
that it has reference mainly  
to certain instructions for clear-  
ing the bed of the river above  
the Villar's Aqueduct, given by  
the Superintending Engineer  
of the Southern Circle when  
lastly

*[Handwritten initials]*

No. 5195 - 27 August 57

Reference is made  
of the report No. 5195  
of the 27<sup>th</sup> August 57

No. 5195 - 27 August 57

27/8/57

Copy of the report  
on the works of the  
Southern Circle  
sent to the  
Superintendent  
of the Southern Circle  
on the 27<sup>th</sup> August 57

lately on a professional tour of inspection, and most inadequately carried into effect by the District Engineer Lieutenant Flood.

The Government cannot too strongly condemn the inattention to the orders he received from the Superintending Engineer which was shown by Lt. Flood. Major Langford visited the works with the great advantage of many years familiarity with the rivers of Tanjore, with the prestige of a successful administration of the professional Department in that Province extending over four years, and an accurate knowledge of the effect of obstructions on river beds, upon rivers and bridges, that of necessity gives greatest weight to

to all his opinions on the subject. These considerations should have led the District Engineer to be forward to avail himself of any suggestion that Major Langford might offer for the safety of the Arnicut and bridge, but when the Government observes that this Supp. Engineer did not content himself with suggestions, but gave the most pointed, direct and positive orders for certain works, insisting them out himself that there might be no room for mistake, and that these works were systematically neglected by the District Engineer, they feel that they cannot too strongly animadvert on Lt. Flood's omission, or too emphatically insist that officers of the heavy responsibility incurred by neglecting to apply to

