1. [illegible]
2. [illegible]
3. [illegible]

M.R.O. 1—32,400—22-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 8) 29-9-1857

G.O. No.	1853	Press Mis.
85-86 Dated	29-9-1857	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 85. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 19th September 1857, No. 3818.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, No. 222.

SIR,

I have just read your letter to Government of the 26th Ultimo, No. 3166, and feel that however painful the subject may be, I am not only justified in affording an explanation of my conduct so severely criticised by you, but that I am liable to most serious reprehension if I fail to do so satisfactorily.

2. In all the earlier cases of projects sent up to the Central office, the papers were with scarcely any exception received from you with the words "For submission to Government" on the label, and the inference unavoidably was, that the opinion of the Superintending Engineer was not required, except in details, which I did not fail to scrutinize as closely as possible. As regards the projects themselves, their expediency or otherwise, I believe that my views were neither sought nor would have been received if at variance with your own.

3. I always stated to my Colleagues my opinion of the hurried and imperfect manner in which such papers were sent up, and complained, as they too did, of the extreme difficulty of obtaining proper information regarding them, but with the not unfrequent imputation of delay proceeding from you, I admit most fully, that I felt myself merely an agent for the submission of the projects of the District Engineers, in which capacity I assert that I acted with fidelity, to the extent of my powers.

4. That there is no record of my dissent from your views is easily accounted for by your own positive prohibition of any such action on my part, of which I am sure you need not be reminded, but you will find in my letter of the 9th March 1857, No. 89, reporting my visit to Nerinjepett, a distinct renunciation of responsibility for the annicut project, except in one respect, viz, the interference with the Tanjore irrigation, when drafting the report, I knew nothing personally, of the work, and could not give an opinion of its merits, but stated to you verbally my belief that the project was not in a fit state for submission to Government. You said you wished it to go up, and I drew up such a paper as I thought you would approve.

5. I cannot admit that the "professional treatment of the Southern Circle" has had injustice done to it by me, unless it can be shewn that I have been consulted either by yourself or the District Engineers, but has this been the case? The papers have it is true been sent to me, but in scarcely a single instance have you considered my views, except as before observed in mere constructive details. I have all along felt my position not one of authority over the local Officers, and am convinced that such has been their feeling also, instances have moreover occurred of your directly overruling in a needlessly painful manner my proceedings in trivial matters, which you had a perfect right to do, on the footing you have so plainly declared me to be placed, but under such conditions you could not expect independent opinions to be given by one who as you *expressly* and *pointedly* remarked, held only the Office of Secretary.

6. The difficulties referred to in para. 6, are, I now find not such as I had believed, and I have ascertained that all papers are entered in the Register which is brought to the Superintending Engineers. But in making this admission of an error which I greatly regret, I must also observe, that the bundles of papers are usually so quickly removed, that their careful perusal is impracticable, and important subjects are so mixed up with others of mere form, that I have overlooked the former, and was under the impression, that there must be a separate Register, although I have always endeavoured to see all Government orders.

7. I repudiate however the charge of want "candour" in alluding to my having been kept so long in ignorance of your application for my being sent on Circuit, as it was under the belief that your official letter was not entered in the General Register, that I referred to it. I made no allusion whatever to your private note which was the paper accidentally withheld. But in that note itself there is no direct reference to your official application, and my first impression was, that the order had originated with Government.

8. I shall not follow you in the notes which have accompanied my minute, but I must remark on that relating to Para. 10, by saying that I am aware of only one order that I did not obey, viz. that for visiting Madura, and Tinnevelly which was afterwards rescinded. My instructions on leaving Madras were to proceed as quickly as possible to Jackatella and Malabar, after attending to the works in Tanjore, and these orders I strictly carried out, you were aware of my being far on my way to the Hills when you sent me the order to proceed to Tinnevelly, and therefore it was not owing to any defective information that I did not go there I reported my movements every week, and my general route was known to you, as well as to Government.

9. I request you will do me the favor to submit this letter to Government.

Resolved, that in compliance with the application of the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle of Public Works, and in conformity with the spirit of the late orders of Government, as conveyed in the latter part of para. 3 of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1526 of 10th August 1857, the foregoing letter be transcribed from Major Lawford, and forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of the Chief Engineer's communications Nos. 3002 and 3166, respectively of the 17th and 29th Ultimo.

2. Resolved also, that the wishes of Government as understood by the head of the Department Public Works, will be best consulted by his refraining from offering any further remarks on the present rejoinder from the Superintending Engineer, but with the distinct understanding of there being no lack of ability or readiness to do on the part of the Chief Engineer.

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

No. 16. ORDER THEREON, No. 1854, dated 30th September 1857.

Ordered that the foregoing letter be recorded.

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

No. 3854

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort St George Under date the 21st September 1857.

Read the following.

North Arcot

No. 1225 — District Engineers Office

From, Lieutenant J. O'Shaynessy,
Acting District Engineer.

To, Colonel C. E. Faber,
Chief Engineer Dept. of Public Works

Sir,

I have the honor to report, that the Agaram Bridge on Trunk Road No. 1, was opened to the Public for traffic on the 10th Instant.

I have &c.

North Arcot, District Engineer's Office,
Camp Vellore, 16th September 1857. } Signed J. O'Shaynessy Lieut.
Acting District Engineer

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter from the Acting District Engineer North Arcot

Nos 3002 and 3166, respectively of the 17th and 20th Ultimo.

2. Resolved also, that the wishes of Government, as understood by the Head of the Department Public Works, will be best consulted by his refraining from offering any further remarks on the present rejoinder from the Superintending Engineer, but with the distinct understanding of there being no lack of ability or readiness to do on the part of the Chief Engineer

/True Extract/

A.H. Sinclair Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
PW Department

Lt Bruce

First St Maitland, the Despatches be forwarded to the Quarter Master General for the information of Government.—

/True Extract/

A.H. Sinclair Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
PW Department

Lieut Birch.

Public Works
Comm. 29th Sept. 1877
No 1816.

Extract from the Proceedings
of the Chief Engineer
&c.

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.

Dated 1st
Received 3rd September 1877.

Estimate for clearing
formation of Port in continu-
ation of the Chief Engineer's
communications Nos 3022 &
3160 respectively of the 19th
and 24th ultimo with plan
letter from the Superintend-
ing Engineer South Circle,
offering remarks on the
Estimate submitted with the
above mentioned letters
No 1885.
29th September
1877.

Sidney Powell.

Dated 22nd Sept. 1877 No 2503

625 Feb. 1878