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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 20-10-57

G.O. No. 1474 Press Mis.

Dated 20 — 10 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th October 1857.

No. 98. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 5th October 1857, No. 4202.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant E. R. BLAGRAVE, District Engineer of Ganjam; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Chetterpore, 14th September 1857, No. 933.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings No. 3071, under date the 21st August 1857, I have the honor to forward herewith, for your information, a Certificate from Major Tapp, commanding Russelcondah, accompanied by a copy of Lieutenant Harington's letter to my address, together with one of Sub Engineer Colquhoun, regarding the loss of Instruments &c. by fire.

From A. COLQUHOUN, Esq., Sub Engineer; to Lieutenant BLAGRAVE, District Engineer Ganjam, dated Camp Gara, 7th September 1857, No. 160.

SIR,

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 887, 31st August 1857, received this day; enclosing Chief Engineer's Proceedings, No. 3071, 21st August 1857.

I must confess, with regret, I have allowed too much time to elapse before reporting the destruction of Government property, but never having been placed in such a predicament before; I was ignorant of the course I should follow, until I elicited it from a conversation I had on the subject with Lieutenant Harington, more especially, as I never intended Government should suffer by the loss.

* Penknife.
Ruler.
Levelling rods.

I have already replaced the articles* named in the margin, and I have written to Vizagapatam for a tape.

Regarding the accounts destroyed, I beg to state, they were those belonging to works executed in these Talooks in 1854. Authenticated copies having *then been* furnished both to the Principal Assistant Collector and Acting Collector, so they may, if required be easily re-placed. They were retained merely to meet any reference that may be made, and *as 3 years* have elapsed since the Bills were submitted, I presume they will be considered unnecessary.

I beg to state, it was prefectly impossible to have saved these articles, the fire broke out 100 yards in rear of my house, my servants were in the town at their meals it being noon, and as a very strong land wind was blowing, I was compelled to vacate the house, rather hastily, leaving a large and valuable portion of my own property to the flames. I however did my best, and *some Government Articles*, consisting of Levelling Instruments, Circumferentor, and Office Box, were *saved*, I beg to refer you to Major Tapp, and Officers of the 23rd Regiment N. I. who most kindly endeavoured to rescue my property, but were unable to approach the house, owing to the violence of the flames.

In my private property, I met with a severe loss from which I have not yet recovered, valuable manuscript containing notes by Colonel Arthur Cotton, Lieutenant Haig, and myself, on the different works in Rajahmundry, and this District, and Plans &c. the labour of 6 years were all consumed, besides a large collection of Professional works received from Europe. An almost new Subaltern's Tent which I have purchased only 3 months prior to the fire was also destroyed. I may here state, I purposed applying to Government for relief, as the fire did not break out by my own act, or in my house, but originated in *the lines*, which were thatched while my house was tiled, but having observed from Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 4495, 18th March 1857, that persons in Civil employ were not entitled to such, I refrained from doing so.

I trust it will not be considered seeing I suffered severely myself, I had neglected to do my utmost to save the *whole* of the property of Government in my possession, indeed the confusion within and without was so great, that the existence of such articles escaped my memory.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th October 1857.

I beg to forward the accompanying copies of letters I addressed to Lieutenants Moberly, and Harington, and Station Staff Officer, for submission to the Chief Engineer.

With reference to my letter No. 69, to Lieutenant Harington's address applying for a month's leave, owing to the impossibility of my refitting myself in Goomsoor, I deem it right to state, Lieutenant Harington considered it unadvisable, as I was then employed on the Mahanuddy Project, but very kindly and considerately allowed me to go into Berhampore and perform indoor duty connected with the embankments until I was able to resume Field Operations.

From Lieutenant E. H. HARINGTON, Executive Engineer 3rd Class ; to Lieutenant E. R. BLAGRAVE, Acting District Engineer, Ganjam, dated Aska, 7th September 1857, No. 495.

SIR,

I have the honor with reference to your letter No. 892 of the 31st Ultimo, to forward a Certificate from the Officer Commanding Russelcondah, I was not there at the time of the fire, but from all I have heard, am of opinion, that Mr. Colquhoun is not to blame for the loss of the articles mentioned. I am aware that he lost much of his own property, books, tents, &c. It was a most violent distructive fire, and many lives were lost.

Certified, that Sub Engineer Colquhoun was at Russelcondah on the 19th May 1857, and that the house which he was living in was completely destroyed by fire on that day, and that in consequence of the rapidity of the flames, it was impossible to save his property.

Russelcondah,
4th September 1857.

(Signed) J. H. TAPP, Major,
Commanding Russelcondah.

Resolved, in continuation of Proceedings No. 3071, dated 21st August 1857, to submit for the information of Government copy of the foregoing letter from the Distrit Engineer Ganjam, No. 933 of the 14th Instant, with its accompaniments, regarding the loss of instruments &c. by fire, suffered by Sub Engineer A. Colquhoun at Russelcondah.

(A true Extract)

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

No. 99. ORDER THEREON, No. 1974 ; dated 20th October 1857.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

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

No. 4202

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

Under date the 5th October 1857.

Read the following

No. 933

From

Lieutenant E. R. Blagrave
District Engineer
Ganjam

To

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

Public

Sir,

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings No. 3071, under date the 21st August 1857, I have the honor to forward herewith for your information, a Certificate from Major Tapp, Commanding Russelcondah accompanied by a Copy of Lieutenant Harington's Letter to my address, together with one of Sub Engineer Colquhouns, regarding the loss of Instruments &c by fire.

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) E. R. Blagrave
Distt. Engr. Ganjam

Ganjam District
Engineers Office
Camp Chetterpore
14th September 1857

To

From Lt. Col. Cotton No. 166 Engr. Secy

To

Lieutenant Blagrave

District Engineer

Sangam

Sir

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 887. 31st August 1857, received this day, enclosing Chief Engineers Proceedings No. 3041. 21st August 1857.

I must confess, with regret, I have allowed too much time to elapse before reporting the destruction of Government property. But, never having been placed in such a predicament before, I was ignorant of the course I should follow, until I elicited it from a conversation had on the subject with Lieutenant Harington, more especially, as I never intended Government should suffer by the loss.

I have already replaced the Articles named in the Margin, and have written to Jyagunpatam for a Stapes.

Regarding the accounts destroyed, I beg to state, they were those belonging to works executed in these Talooks in 1854. Authenticated copies having been furnished both to the Principal Assistant Collector, and Acting Collector, so they may, if required, be easily replaced. They were retained merely to meet any reference that may be made, and as 3 years have elapsed since the Bills were submitted, I presume they will be considered unnecessary.

I beg to state it was perfectly impossible to have saved these articles. The fire broke out 100 yards in rear of my house, my Servants were in the town at their meals, it being noon, and as a very strong land wind was blowing, I was compelled to vacate the house rather hastily, leaving a large and valuable portion of my own property to the flames. However did my best, and some Government Articles, consisting of Levelling Instruments, Circumferentor, and Office Box, were saved. I beg to refer you to Major Dash, and Officers of the 33rd Regiment N.I. who most kindly endeavoured to rescue my property, but were unable to approach the house, owing to the violence of the flames.

In my Private property, I met with a severe loss from which I have not yet recovered, valuable manuscript containing notes by Colonel Arthur Cotton,

Lieut.

× Penknife
Ruler
Levelling rods

2 1

Lieutenant Haig and myself, on the different works in Rajahmundry, and this District and Plans &c., the labour of 6 years were all consumed. Besides a large collection of Professional works received from Europe. An almost new Subalterns tent which I have purchased only 3 Months prior to the fire was also destroyed. I may here state, I purposed applying to Government for relief, as the fire did not break out by my own act, or in my house, but originated in the lines, which were thatched while my house was tiled. but having observed from E. M. C. No. 449 18th March 1857 that persons in Civil employ were not entitled to such, I restrained from doing so.

I trust it will not be considered, seeing I suffered severely myself. I had neglected to do my utmost to save the whole of the property of Government in my possession, indeed the confusion within and without was so great, that the existence of such articles escaped my memory.

I beg to forward the accompanying copies of letters addressed to Lieutenants Moberly and Harington and Station Staff Officer, for submission to the Chief Engineer.

Wd

With reference to my letter No. 69 to Lieutenant Harington addressed applying for a months leave, owing to the impossibility of my repitting myself in Goomsoor, I deem it right to state Lieutenant Harington considered it inadvisable, as I was then employed on the Mahanuddy Project, but very kindly and considerately allowed me to go into Berhampore and perform indoor duty connected with the embankments until I was able to resume Field Operations.

I remain

Sir

Your Most Obedient Servant

(Signed) A. Colquhoun

Sub Engr. 2d Work

Sub Engrs Office

Camp Sara

7th September 1857

(A true Copy)

(Signed) E. R. Blagrave Lieut.

District Engineer Ganjam

No. 495.

To

Lieutenant E. R. Blagrave

Acting District Engineer

Ganjam

dated 7th Sept 1857

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to your

your letter N.o 892 of the 31.st Ultimo, to forward a certificate from the Officer Commanding Rajseleondah. I was not there at the time of the fire, but from all I have heard am of opinion that Mr. Colquhoun is not to blame for the loss of the articles mentioned. I am aware that he lost much of his own property, books, tents, &.c It was a most violent destructive fire, and many lives were lost.

I have the honor to be &.c
(Signed) E. H. Harington Lt.
Executive Engr. 3.rd Class.
(Signed) E. R. Blagrave
Asst. Engineer Jangam

Asha
7.th September 1857.

Certified that Sub Engineer Colquhoun was at Rajseleondah on the 19.th May 1857 and that the house which he was living in was completely destroyed by fire on that day, and that in consequence of the rapidity of the flames, it was impossible to save his property.

(Signed) H.t Tapp. Major
Commanding Rajseleondah

Rajseleondah
4.th September 1857.

Resolved

Resolved in continuation of Proceedings N.o 3071 dated 21.st August 1857 to submit for the information of Government a copy of the foregoing Letter from the Asst. Engineer Jangam, N.o 933 of the 14.th Instant, with its accompaniments, regarding the loss of instruments &.c by fire suffered by Sub Engineer A. Colquhoun at Rajseleondah.

(A true Extract)
Wd Faber Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Acting Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

190

Corrs 8th Octr 57 Nos 88-89.

Public Works 1857 Departt
Corrs 20th October
No: 1972

Extt from the Proceedings
of the Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Dated 5th
Recd 15th October 1857

No: 4202

Submits copies of
correspondence from the
District Engineer of
Cuttack regarding loss of
instruments &c by fire.

No: 1974

To be recorded
20th Octr/57.

12 Octr 1857