M.R.O. 1—38,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 24.11.51

G.O. No. 2165 Press Mis.

156.57

Dated 22—11— 1951

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th November 1857.

No. 156. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 17th November 1857, No. 5282.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant J. MULLINS, District Engineer Nellore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Cancoopully, 10th November 1857, No. 2300.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract from your Proceedings No. 4993 of the 5th Instant, annexing copy of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1969, under date the 20th October 1857.

2. On referring to my letter book, I find that the letter No. 1707 bringing to your notice the probable loss of Revenue which would result from the restricted expenditure on Irrigation works, and to which Government refer, was dated 31st August, while the letter No. 1946, stating that, according to the accounts received up to the 30th September, the probable expenditure, up to the time when the tanks might be expected to be full, would be about Rs. 5,000, less than the sum allotted in the Tabular Statement which accompanied your Circular No. XCIII of 1857-58, was dated the 3rd October.

3. In the first letter, I stated what sum I believed, from a knowledge of the state of the Irrigation works of the District, and the amount which had been expended upon their imperfect repair for several years past, would be required to place the tanks, &c., in a fit state to hold water for this year's cultivation, and as the sum allotted appeared to me to fall far short of the requirements of the case, I applied, as it was clearly my duty to do, for a credit in proportion to the magnitude of the work to be done. It was a matter of but little moment whether 10, 20, or 30,000 Rupees more than was required, were placed at my disposal, provided proper measures were taken to guard against unnecessary expenditure, but it was of great consequence that works should not be left unrepaired, owing to the insufficiency of the credit already given.

The additional information which I now possess fully bears out every statement that Rupees 53,780, the sum allotted, was not sufficient for the repair of the Irrigation works to the extent necessary to make them efficient. Up to the 30th September, 252 ordinary estimates amounting to Rupees 1,17,067 had been sanctioned and of this amount, as reported in my letter No. 2,158 of the 29th October 1857, the Officers of the several ranges reported that an expenditure of Rupees 65,915, would be necessary; since the 1st October, 66 ordinary estimates amounting altogether to Rupees 17,331, providing in each case for nothing but work emergently required, have been submitted to the Collector, and sanction has been received for all except a few estimates sent in only 3 or 4 days ago. This makes a total of Rupees 83,246 and estimates for other works are coming in from the several ranges almost every day. The knowledge which I had then of the requirements of the Irrigation works, and the amount of the estimates sent in and sanctioned, I submit, fully establish the general correctness of the statement made in the first letter noticed by Government.

4. The second letter dated a little more than a month subsequently, and which Government consider to be inconsistant with the statement I had made in the first letter, contains information as to the actual progress made, and, judging by that progress, an estimate of the outlay that would be incurred up to the time the tanks might be expected to be full in this month. It also showed that the deficient expenditure in preventive repairs would probably render a large expenditure in remedial repairs necessary, and it showed that the reduction in the strength of the department had affected its efficiency, and rendered it impossible to push forward the Irrigation repairs with the necessary rapidity, but it in no way impregned the correctness of the statement previously made, regarding the amount of expenditure that the state of the Irrigation works would render necessary.

5. It must be remembered that when the first letter was written, the reduction of the establishment had only been recently made, and therefore I had no actual facts, showing the inefficiency of the reduced establishment, upon which to ground an application for even a partial increase, I therefore did not waste time in what I felt would be a useless endeavour to show

To Secretary to Government & P. D.

that the executive agency at my disposal was inadequate to the work to be done, but I applied for money sufficient for the object to be attained, and thus prevented any chance of the establishment being of less use, than it might have been, had the funds run short.

6. In conclusion it only remains for me to reply to the 2nd sentence of para. 3 of the Minutes Consultation above quoted. The repairs executed during this year have all been emergent and not ordinary, for nothing has been attempted, since the receipt of the orders restricting the expenditure, but such works as was absolutely necessary to enable the tanks to hold a full supply of water, and I admit that when writing the second letter I did contemplate the necessity for a large expenditure in stopping up breaches, caused by the greater portion of the tanks being in a very inefficient state, and, as far as I am aware, it was necessary that the credit for the repairs of Irrigation works during 1857-58, should be of sufficient amount to afford funds for this purpose, for had such not been the case, the Collector would have declined placing the requisite funds at my disposal without a reference to Government, no separate credits having been given on this account.

Resolved that the foregoing letter from the District Engineer Nellore, No. 2300, dated 10th Instant, be forwarded for the information of Government, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1969, dated 20th Ultimo, and with the Chief Engineer's confident expectation, that the explanation given therein by Lieutenant Mullins, of the apparent inconsistency of the representations in the letters forwarded with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings No. 4181 and 4303, dated 3rd and 8th October 1857, will prove fully satisfactory to the Government.

1 Original letter.

(True Extract.)

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

No. 157. ORDER THEREON, No. 2169; dated 24th November 1857.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

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

No. 52583

3

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort Saint George
Under date the 17th November 1857.

Read the following letter

From the Assistant Engineer Nellore
Furnishing explanation with regard to the inconsistency noticed in Con. Minds. Sept 69, dated 20th October 1857, in the statements contained in two letters forwarded by him regarding the Irrigation works in his District.

(Here Enter No. 2300 d/ 10th Nov.r)

Resolved that the forgoing letter from the Assistant Engineer Nellore No. 2300, dated 10th Instant, be forwarded for the information of Government, with reference to Con. Minds. Consn. No. 1969, dated 20th Ultimo; and with the Chief Engineer's confident expectation, that the explanation given therein by Lieutenant Mullins, of the apparent inconsistency of the representations in the letters forwarded with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings No. 4181, and 4303, dated 3rd and 8th October 1857, will prove fully satisfactory to the Government.

J. A. True Extract

Chief Engineer

To, The Secretary to Government F. W. D.

Encl 1

Circular 1.

1 Original Letter

... 22nd Oct 57 ...

To be recorded
No. 2169
Fort St. George
24th Nov 1857.

No 156 & 157

Rec'd Nov 24th

Public Works Department
Irrigation
No. 2777

Extract from the Proceedings of
the Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
F. W. C.

Dated 17th November 1857
Received 17th November 1857

No. 3282.

Enclosure 1 Returned
9/11/58.

Submits for the information of
Government a letter from the District
Engineer Nellore, explaining the supposed
inconsistencies noticed in E. in C.
No 1959 dated 23rd October in the
representations made by him relative
to the Irrigation Works in the
District. To be Recorded

... 2169 of ...

Index ... Collector ... Enclosure