1. Number of cases 4
2. Date of issue 24-8-

M.R.O. 1—30,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2237 Press
Mis.

Dated 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No 2. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 26th November 1857, No. 5532.

Read the following letter from Lieutenant Colonel R. HENDERSON, Chief Engineer of Hyderabad ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Bolarum, 19th November 1857, No. 1166.

SIR,

With reference to a letter from the Quarter Master General of the Army forwarding copy of an Extract from your Proceedings No. 4875, dated 2nd November 1857, together with a Contingent Bill amounting to Rupees Thirty, for certain work performed by the Assistant Quarter Master General, Hyderabad Subsidiary Force to one of the buildings in the Cantonment of Secunderabad, I have the honor to bring to your notice, that it is out of my power to make the disbursement, as this office is one of Check and Audit, and not of expenditure, and I therefore beg you will have the goodness to obtain the special orders of Government for the disposal of a charge which has been irregularly incurred out of my Department.

2. The Government is aware that Lieutenant Smith is appointed by the Government of India, Officiating Executive Engineer of the Secunderabad Division, Hyderabad Department Public Works under my orders, which includes the Executive charge of the Secunderabad Cantonment, the work therefore for which the Bill was forwarded ought to have been performed by that Officer, but ever since the misunderstanding between him and General Coffin reported to Government in my letter No. 648, of the 5th August 1857, the latter Officer refuses to recognise Lieutenant Smith as the Executive Officer of the Secunderabad Buildings, and systematically withholds from him all applications for repairs, or alterations to these Buildings, and in the present instance, has assigned the duty of altering one of them for the accommodation of the Sappers to his Assistant Quarter Master General, rather than to the Officer appointed by Government to the charge of the Public Works of the Cantonment.

3. I beg to bring to the notice of Government, that on receiving the decision of the Supreme Government on the misunderstanding above alluded to, dated 9th September 1857, No. 291, in which General Coffin's Proceedings were characterized as being entirely opposed to the Resolutions of Government in the D. P. W., No. 4106 dated 4th September 1856, and No. 4746 dated 8th October 1856, I addressed a letter to General Coffin, expressing a hope, that as the conduct of Lieutenant Smith was not blamed, the General would restore to Lieutenant Smith, the office together with the Furniture and Records, of which he took forcible possession when the misunderstanding first occurred, and also that all requisitions in the Public Works Department should be forwarded to Lieutenant Smith, as contemplated by Government in appointing that Officer to his present charge.

4. In reply, the General informed me, that he could hold no communication with Lieutenant Smith, as he had disobeyed his orders, and declined restoring to my Department the office and records, that were seized under an evident misunderstanding, Lieutenant Smith not being at the time under the General's orders, but under the Resident, his services having been previously so placed by General Coffin himself in his own Division* orders.

* Dated 16th June 1857.

5. I regret to say, that in consequence of General Coffin's proceedings, affairs still remain in a most unsatisfactory state, the records of my Department being accessible to myself even only through an application to Captain Scott of the Artillery in whose charge they were placed by General Coffin, and what is still more detrimental to the service, all requisitions for the improvement, cleansing &c., of public buildings are still withheld from this Department, although in a letter to General Coffin, I proposed in order to obviate the necessity for his addressing Lieutenant Smith, that he should make his requisitions to me, and that I would hand them over to Lieutenant Smith the Executive Officer for immediate attention.

6. The consequence of the retention of these requisitions is, that the representations from Commanding Officers and others occupying buildings are doubtless accumulating in the Assistant

Quarter Master General's office, without receiving any attention, and that the inconvenience now experienced from defects in the buildings &c., are allowed to remain without any remedy, and when handed over to this Department it will probably take a long time before the whole of the work can be executed.

7. I abstain here from bringing forward other instances of the aggressive proceedings of General Coffin towards the office I hold under the Government of India, my chief object in making this representation on the present occasion, being to shew, that there was no necessity for the work contained in Captain Peyton's Bill having been performed by an Officer totally unconnected with the Hyderabad Public Works Department.

8. It remains for me merely to notice an inadvertence in your Proceedings above alluded to, wherein I am designated the "Chief Engineer of the Hyderabad Subsidiary Force," which may perhaps have given rise to the Bill having been forwarded to me, and probably to the impression that I am under General Coffin's orders, which is not the case.

Resolved to submit the foregoing Despatch No. 1166 dated 19th November 1857, for the orders of Government, the Chief Engineer not being in a position to offer any opinion beyond that of recommending that the Bill* may be authorized for discharge.

* Amounting to Rupees 30.

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

No. 3. ORDER THEREON, No 2239; dated 2nd December 1857.

Ordered to be referred to the Military Department.

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

No 5532

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

Under date the 26 Nov. 1857

Read the following letter from

The Chief Engineer Hyderabad

State that he does not feel satisfied to disburse Rupees 30 - - - for works performed by the Assistant Quarter master General H.S.F. Force to one of the buildings in the Cantonment of Secunderabad and requests therefore that the special orders of Govt may be obtained for the disbursal of a charge irregularly incurred for

Enclosure one original letter

* amounts to Rs 30 - -

Resolved to submit the foregoing Despatch No 1166 dated 19 November 1857 for the orders of Government, the Chief Engineer not being in a position to offer any opinion beyond that of recommending that the Bill may be authorized for discharge.

W. E. Faber Colonel
Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government

No 2239.

(Ordered to be) referred to the Military Department

[illegible]

From Fort St George
2d Decr 1857

4 Copies to the Orig Dep Pays

No 2353.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engr to the Secy to Govt dated

From the Chief Engr 22 Jany 1858 No 754 in Cons

No 243.

Dated 26 Novr 1857
Recd 27th Novr
Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engr dated 24th Novr 1857 No 5532
Returned 21-1-58

Submitting for the orders of Govt a letter from the Chief Engineer Hyderabad stating that he does not feel authorized to disburse Rs 33 for work performed by the Asst Engr at Shorapore in connection with the Special Function of Govt

No 2239 with the order 2nd Dec