1. Number of pages. 8
2. Date of repair. 1-8-23
3. Initials of Repairer.

M.E.O. 1—89,000—16-1-22.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1224 Press Mis.

Dated 19

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 6. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 19th November 1857, No. 5329.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith, for the purpose of being laid before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter No. 237 dated the 17th November 1857, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle of Public Works; and there seems to be no reason, why I should not solicit the early most favorable consideration of Government towards the Superintending Engineer's application, either to have his Staff salary re-augmented, to have his position de-centralized, or to be favored with a transcript of the despatch to the Government of India, No. 2073, of the 6th Instant, with a view to his appeal by Memorial to the Honorable Court of Directors; one or other of these three postulates forming, so far as I can see, the subject of his present application.

Letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 17th November 1857, No. 237.

SIR,

With their order No. 2072, the Government have communicated to this Department part of a Despatch from the Honorable the Court of Directors paras. 6 and 7, dated 6th May 1857, relative to the duties and emoluments of Superintending Engineers, wherein the views of the Home Authorities are so explicitly laid down that I feel myself at full liberty to appeal to them on the subject of that reduction of my salary recently carried out under their authority.

Dated 6th November 1857.

2. The description of the duties of the Superintending Engineers afforded by the Madras Government to the Government of India, as quoted in para. 6, is new to me, and had I been aware that such was to be my position under the altered system of Public Works, I have no hesitation in saying that I should have preferred the Office of District Engineer as one of greater honor as well as emolument. I was however under the impression that an uniform system was to be established throughout India, and knowing that the Office of Superintending Engineer in Bengal and Bombay was not that of a Secretary, I did not anticipate the nature of the functions ascribed here to the post I was invited to fill. Had I been acquainted with the views of the Madras Government, I should either have requested permission to remain in the Provinces, or I should not have offered the remonstrances I have done on the actual circumstances of my Official position.

3. But in truth I neither did, nor could suppose that the Government would propose to allot a salary of 1000 Rupees to a Secretary for one third of the Presidency, independently of those of one Commissioned and two Uncovenanted Assistants, which would be to charge the Ministerial office, of Public Works as much as, if not more than belongs to the Revenue Department, nor is there any thing in the past working of the Central office to show me that such salary or even the lesser one of Rupees 800 is necessary except on the ground that the Officers who fill the posts have claims to that amount.

4. It is to be observed that in the Civil Departments the Presidency offices corresponding to that of Secretary are held by men looking forward to rise in the service, and the emoluments both in the Revenue and Judicial branches are inferior to those of the Provincial offices to which their occupants aspire, while with us the selections for these Secretariat appointments have been made from Officers of long standing and established charcter, accustomed to the independent exercise of opinion and authority in the sphere of their duties. There is no analogy between the cases of Superintending Engineers and Secretaries to Government who are raised both in stations and emolument by their appointment.

5. By their orders quoted in the margin the Government have however materially altered the positions of the Superintending Engineers and given to those Officers a degree of responsibility incompatible with the duties of a Secretary. They are now the Consulting Officers of Government under the Chief Engineer for territories each division of which is larger than Mysore, and therefore if their services are still required at the Presidency, it cannot be merely for the transaction of ordinary business which could be just as well performed by junior Officers. They are responsible for their opinions and the principle of the service has always been to attach emolument to responsibility. Thus then the objections of the Honorable Court to the larger salary no longer apply to the circumstances under which Superintending Engineers are now placed by the authority of the Madras Government.

Nos. 1556,1770 and 2062, dated 10th August, 17th September and 4th November 1857.

6. It is satisfactory to find that my opinions have coincided almost entirely not only with the actual practice throughout India (except the lower provinces of Bengal where the Superintending Engineers still reside in Calcutta though with very different functions to ours) but with the plainly declared intentions of the Honorable Court, who manifestly supposed that the Bengal Code Committee in fixing 800 Rupees as the salary of a Superintending Engineer did not contemplate inflicting on any Officers appointed to that situation a positive loss, such as I have undoubtedly sustained by being stationed at the Presidency except during the period in which I received the increased salary.

7. I held the appointment of Civil Engineer from January 1838, receiving a Staff salary of 700 Rupees per month, and tent allowance of 4 Rupees a day which under the old rules became nearly permanent, so that my Civil salary might be fairly calculated at 820 Rupees a month. The expense of travelling was partly compensated by the cheapness of living and on the whole I consider that my income was more available than it is now with a Civil salary of 800 Rupees, plus full batta, making a receipt of 815 Rupees due to my Civil appointment.

8. In proposing 800 Rupees as the salary of a Superintending Engineer the Bengal Code Committee probably, if not certainly, overlooked the unfortunate difference in Regimental standing between the Engineer Officers of the three Presidencies, those of Madras having been left far behind by their brethren of Bengal and Bombay and though I am far from complaining of this as a misfortune *per se*, I think that it should have induced greater consideration to the proposition by the Madras Government, for fixing the salaries of Superintending Engineers on the same principle as that observed in the case of first class Chief Engineers irrespectively of Regimental rank. If the Committee thought that 800 Rupees with Field Officer's allowances was a fair rate of remuneration in Bengal and Bombay, why should they not have allotted an equivalent to Madras Officers for services of a purely Civil nature. They must also have been aware of the Presidency House rent enjoyed in Calcutta but denied at Madras, and thus the apparent uniformity and equality of system avowedly established becomes null in effect and the orders of the Honorable Court, however just and conclusive in Bengal, tend to the grievous disparagement of their Madras Officers, which can scarcely have been intended, on such grounds as these I think that the execution of their decree for the reduction of salaries might justly have been suspended in this Presidency pending a further reference.

9. It is remarkble that the increase of emolument granted under the G. O. G. G. 17th June 1856, No. 117, to all grades of the Department has been objected to by the Honorable Court in that of Superintending Engineer alone, and though I am not prepared to say that any one class of fully qualified members is over paid, I think that considering how little selection there has been in the appointment of Executive Officers generally, their advantages are comparatively much greater than those of the Superintending Engineers who have all passed a lifetime in a profession to which they were educated.

10. Even the prsent District Engineers have acquired considerable advantages over the former Civil Engineer, and have for the most part attained their positions much earlier, and though in some respects their responsibilities are enhanced, yet their superior travelling allowance with an extent of range not more than 5000 or 6000 square miles (while my first was 25,000) full batta, carriage of their Records, and office rent give them a decided superiority. The pay and allowances of the subordinates are also liberal beyond question. Thus the infliction

of actual pecuniary loss under the new arrangement has fallen only on three Officers of the longest service, who had the option of accepting their present situations or submitting to supersession which must have derogated from their reputations.

11. Nothing can be more evident than the intention of the Honorable Court to make their orders of the 6th May 1857, para. 7 of complete effect so that if any part were to be suspended in operation, the whole ought to be equally re-considered and I cannot but feel it as a hardship that while in obedience to those orders I am deprived of one-fifth of my salary, I am not even led to hope for any change in the system which entails on me the heavy expenses of habitual residence at the Presidency. Under these circumstances I trust that I may be permitted to solicit such an explanation of the views of the Madras Government as may enable me with their sanction to memorialize the Honorable Court with a view to obtain either the restoration of my former salary, or the entire fulfilment of their instructions.

No. 7. ORDER THEREON, No. 2241; dated 2nd December 1857.

The matter to which this letter refers being still under discussion with the Government of India and the Honorable Court, the Government do not consider it desirable that they should communicate their views upon it to Major Lawford.

2. The permission of Government is not necessary to the address of a Memorial to the Honorable Court, and on that matter Major Lawford will exercise his own discretion.

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

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 19 Nov 1857

No. 5329.

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

D O W.

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith, for the purpose of being laid before the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, a letter No 237 dated the 17 November 1857 from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle of Public Works. And there seems to be no reason, why I should not solicit the early most favorable consideration of Government towards the Superintending Engineer's application

Enclosure Circular from the Chief Engineer

application, either to have his Staff salary re-augmented, to have his position de-centralized, or to be favored with a transcript of the despatch to the Government of India, No 2073 of the 6th instant, with a view to his appeal by Memorial to the Honorable Court of Directors; one or other of these three postulates forming, so far as I can see, the subject of his present application.-

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed.t Servant
A.H. Fraser Colonel
Chief Engineer

Fort St. George
19th Nov.r 1857

To
The Secretary to Government
&c &c &c

A. Mallahan

Comm 10th Nov 57 No 89-90 632
" 23d S.F.C. " 256 27
" 11th Mag. " 826 56
" 16th Lady " 726 74

P. Works 1857 Dept
D to Com 18th Decr
No 2305

From
The Chief Engineer
To The Secy to Govt of Bombay

Dated 19th November 57
Recd 24th "

No 5329
Enclosure 1
Quintupl 1

Transmits letter from the Supg Engr SC of P Works relating an Explanation of the views of Govt respecting the recent reduction of the salary of Supg Engrs, & requesting that it may receive the early favorable consideration of Government

No 2241. 2nd Decr
With an Order

No 647

Comm 24th Nov 30th

No 2241.

The matter to which this letter refers being still under discussion with the Govt of India and the Honorable Court, the Government do not consider it desirable that they should communicate their views upon it to Major Sanford

2 The permission of Government is not necessary to the address of a Memorial to the Honorable Court, and on that matter Major Sanford will exercise his own discretion.

Fort St George
2d Dec 1857

Copies to the Chief Engr Civil Dept