

1. Number of pages *20*
2. Date *15-6-37*
3. Initials of the officer *[Signature]*

M.R.O. 1-32,400-22-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 6-2-1857

G.O. No.	<i>272</i>	Press ~~Mis.~~
<i>118-19</i>		
Dated	<i>6-2-</i>	<i>1857.</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 118. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer ; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, D. P. W., dated 27th January 1857, No. 9783.

SIR,

The 1st Assistant Civil Engineer in Malabar having already left that Province, and being on his way to the Presidency to embark for England on sick Certificate under the new Rules, which admit of his Staff Appointment being retained, the District Engineer has felt it to be a duty belonging to his own position to place before the Government, a representation of the manner in which his Subordinate Officer has conducted his official duties generally, and particularly in his capacity of carrying on the new road via Mundoor from Palghaut to Calicut as its Executive Officer.

2. Major Selby, having been employed for considerably more than the average period of Officers in the Department Public Works ; he has become entitled by his standing and experience to a high position in any general Departmental gradation list that may be drawn up ; and the District Engineer represents himself as desirous of affording the Government such authentic information respecting that Officer's defective habits of business, and reprehensible manner of keeping his accounts of public expenditure as may lead to Major Selby, having the professional position assigned to him which may be considered suitable to an Officer whose own failure he considers to have been so signal, instead of that which Major Selby, might have claimed and the Government have conceded, through simple length of service.

3. It being highly desirable that the sentiments of Government should be expressed, if it be practicable, *previous* to Major Selby's embarkation. I do myself the honor to forward the two letters respectively of the 17th and 19th Instant with annexments from the District Engineer of Malabar *in original* (to be obligingly returned when no longer required.)

4. Captain Ouchterlony's letter No. 895, dated 17th January contains a correct account of the correspondence and clearly shews that the road accounts were kept in a very careless manner. It is accompanied by a series of accounts in original, marked "a" "b" "c" "d" "e" "f" and "g."

5. The first and second are accounts Current for the same month of September 1856, the first an erroneous and the second a corrected one the second differs from the first in having (1000) one thousand Rupees additional in the receipts, and an entirely new balance of Rupees 223-5-3 in the debit side of the account, on the credit side the first account has

	Rs. A. P.
Expended - - - - -	261 14 1
Balance in hand - - - - -	66 1 11
while the second account has	
Expended - - - - -	923 6 7
Balance on hand - - - - -	627 14 8

6. The District Engineer having to render his monthly statements to the Central office, justly complains that the second of these accounts was forwarded without any explanation respecting the first one beyond that contained in the note.

" An error was discovered in the accounts forwarded 4 days ago."

7. The second point complained of is that after a lapse of two months, Major Selby, submitted by way of explanation two other documents marked E. and F. neither of which really did contain any explanation ; the first being a mere Abstract account affording fewer particulars than the accounts Current previously received, while the second was drawn up incorrectly shewing a balance of only Rupees 375, instead of 475, in the hands of the Wollawanaud Tahsildar. It also appears to have been prepared under a misapprehension leading (apparently) to an attempt to balance two sums totally unconnected with each other. It is possible however that there was no such attempt, but that it was an error arising from carelessness or ignorance on the part of the writer, who made up the accounts. But whatever the explanation of this particular may be, it is evident that both the documents E. and F. were useless to the District Engineer.

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8. I must confess that the circumstance since brought forward by Captain Ouchterlony, in the second para. of his letter No. 899, dated 19th January 1857, viz., that all these accounts were kept by a writer named Chinniah Pillay employed by Mr. Hobbs on the same road, and accused by him of destroying all the accounts particulars &c., relating to the road, and further misappropriating money, would throw a doubt on the correctness of the second account Current for September 1856, if it were not so extremely simple.

9. The whole correspondence fully proves, that the management of the accounts was left too entirely in the hands of this writer of more than equivocal character, yet even this would scarcely account for the confusion, for with the exception of sundries as per day book 188-4-6, the whole of the credits in the account for September were payments for advances and salary made almost entirely in round numbers of 50 and 100, the only exception being the payment of Rupees 135-2-1, for Superintendence.

10. In para. 8, of his letter No. 895, Captain Ouchterlony brings forward the subject of a correspondence between Major Selby, and himself respecting arrears of pay amounting to Rupees 49-4-5, supposed to be due in the following proportions to the members of the Establishment employed by Mr. Hobbs, Major Selby's predecessor viz.

Writers pay	Rs.	A.	P.
Peon	44	12	0
Lascar	2	5	0
	2	3	5
	49	4	5

This correspondence commenced on the 16th October 1856, in a letter from Captain Ouchterlony No. 50, in which Major Selby's attention is called to a request made by V. Scott, Mr. Hobbs writer to the above sum of Rupees 44-12 and Rupees 10 for 15 days work performed under Major Selby's orders in writing up Mr. Hobbs' accounts.

11. Major Selby appears throughout the correspondence to have avoided making these payments until he had received from Mr. Hobbs a complete statement of his accounts, and omitting the while to take any of the obvious steps for expediting this end; but as the whole series of letters is now before Government, it can answer no good end to further scrutinize a matter which in itself, however discreditable to the 1st Assistant Civil Engineer in Malabar, is of no particular moment, and has apparently only been brought forward to further exhibit the peculiarly unsatisfactory relation in which the District Engineer and his Subordinate Officer were placed towards each other.

12. In conclusion I am concerned to express my careful opinion that it is not desirable to place Major Selby in a high grade in the permanent D. P. W.; there has been a lamentable deficiency in activity and energy in the District of Malabar throughout the year, the progress that has been made in the Chetwye Dam and on the Mundoor Road has been most unsatisfactory, and during the period that in compliance with a recommendation founded on the high character. I had previously assigned to Major Selby, he was placed in sole professional charge of the District, the course of Public business seemed to be entirely suspended with this brief notice of the voluminous papers now forwarded, I do myself the honor to request the early orders of Government.

No. 119.

ORDER THEREON, No. 272; dated 6th February 1857.

The Chief Engineer submits for the orders of Government two letters from Captain Ouchterlony, Civil Engineer in charge of Malabar, with his correspondence with Major Selby, First Assistant Civil Engineer in that District, and the accounts of the latter Officer of the Murdoor and Malliappooram road funds; these papers being designed to shew the careless manner in which Major Selby discharged his duties, in regard to bringing to account public money for which he was responsible.

2. Although the discrepancies in Major Selby's accounts do not extend to any great amount, the Government are constrained to observe that that Officer seems to have been impres-

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sed with no proper sense of the indispensable necessity of keeping correct accounts of all public expenditure. Major Selby's inability to explain the discrepancies pointed out to him by Captain Ouchterlony may have been partly owing to his being unable to inspect his books, owing to his absence on Medical Certificate; but the Government would have expected that the matter should not have been treated otherwise than as one of great importance, and that greater endeavours should have been made by Major Selby to explain the inaccuracy of his accounts.

3. In para. 12 of his letter, the Chief Engineer alludes to the general backwardness of work in the Malabar District, during the time that Major Selby held charge of it, and expresses his opinion that it is not desirable to place that Officer in any high grade on the permanent establishment of the Public Works Department; but before giving any opinion on this point, the Governor in Council directs that Major Selby who is now in Madras, be afforded a full opportunity of replying to the charges brought against him in the correspondence referred to above. In the mean time a certificate of "no demands" will be withheld from Major Selby; and if compelled by ill health to quit Madras, he will be required to give security for any deficit which may be eventually found in his accounts.

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

Letter Officer of

1777 No. 175.

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submitted for the
order of the

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27/10/1911
 in his capacity as a
 its case especially
 being out of his
 power to command
 or his office records.
 The Govt may
 be surprised to
 order that before
 any such publication
 he shall give re-
 sponse for all
 public records

7
 against him.
 The 12th para of
 the Cf. Exp. letter
 contains his main
 charge against
 Major Selby, &
 on it can be seen.
 The Govt of the Province
 of Govt is requested
 to be

in the amount of time and
 of no great amount and
 not worth notice. Had
 a proper idea of the necessity
 of connecting them. Some have
 listed by Major Selby.
 It was difficult to
 inspect the books - but I
 must confess after looking
 at the anti - that appearing
 the correspondence that
 Major Selby had appeared

imposed within the estate in
furtherance of recovery, and these
brother's which cannot be dis-
posed with

and Major Selby should not
get him an opportunity of
dismissing the charges made
against him - & in case of
having - as suggested
by Mr Porter he required to
give security for default
in his anti

11
The Capt Selby has frequently
& for many months suffered
some dissatisfaction with
Major Selby's performance of
his duties - more especially
when he was in charge of the
district. But time is looking
for the records on this subject
& at the same time I do not
opinion until Major S.
is sure is true.

I quite concur ^{At}
M. G.

Public Works Dept.

No. 272

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Order dated the 6th February 1857

Read the following

letter from the Chief Engineer.

(Here enter 27th January 1857
1857/83)

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RH

9 Copies to the Chief Engr.
with 6 Orig. Encls. Dis. B. 6
1 - Accts. Genl. 1

Com. 23^d Decr 88 - 10 89 - 90.

Public Works Dept
Com 6th February 1891

Copy in L 100
27 30th Decr 89 - 1922

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27 29 22.
Retained this of Am.
27 6th February 1891.

L.H. 10 28 Feb 91.
N. 383.

10/11/84 19.

Copy to the Com. of
Mediterranean 1891

Thinking that Mayor
elects who is now in charge
be offered a full opportunity
of reflecting to the change
in his position of the
Council of the American
the City of the American
very much more than
had read before we will
these questions of
the American and
the time he had
and

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