M.R.O. 1—21466—27-11-40

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. Press Mis.

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 3rd March 1857.

Read the following papers.

No. 35. Extract from the Proceedings of the Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of Public Works, dated 10th February 1857, No. 10196.

Read the following letter from Major G. SELBY, Executive Engineer.

Replying to charges preferred by the Civil Engineer of Malabar against his official conduct. } (Here enter 10th February 1857.)

Resolved to forward for the consideration of Government the foregoing explanation furnished by Major Selby, in reply to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 272, dated 6th February 1857, relative to the report of the District Engineer of Malabar on the subject of the accounts of the Mundoor road.

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON, Captain,
Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle.

No. 36. Minute by the Honorable Sir H. C. MONTGOMERY, Bart, dated 12th February 1857.

I think Major Selby clearly shows that great allowance should be made for deficiency of work in Malabar. It was impossible for him, deprived of all assistance and utterly without the ordinary establishment, to carry on his duties vigorously, and I think the Chief Engineer has been very unjust in his complaints against him on this score. Major Selby served under me in the Maramut Department in Tinnevelly, and I can vouch for his great devotion to his duties. I know he was well thought of by the late Mr. Conolly, also by Mr. Thomas, the Collector of Coimbatore, also by Captains Ludlow and Francis, under all of whom he has served as an Assistant Civil Engineer. I have no doubt his accounts will ultimately be found correct. Perhaps the best way to have them settled would be to send Colonel Faber's, and Captain Ouchterlony's letters with Major Selby's reply to Mr. Robinson the Collector of Malabar, whose Head Assistant Mr. Thomas took charge of the works when Major Selby was prevented by ill-health returning to his station.

Major Selby will of course have to give security for any deficiency that may be proved.

Major Selby, it appears to me, explains sufficiently his employment of the dismissed writer and gives reason for delay to pay the salary of Mr. Scott. In my opinion the Chief Engineer has very unnecessarily troubled the Government with these matters. They might easily have been adjusted by himself as Head of the Department instead of making them the ground work of representations unfavorable to the character of an Officer of long standing and of unimpeached integrity.

No. 37. ORDER THEREON, No. 383; dated 28th February 1857.

In pursuance of the orders of Government of the 6th Instant, No. 272, the Officer in charge of the Central office D. P. W., submits Major Selby's reply to the charges preferred against him by the District Engineer of Malabar. Those charges as extracted by Major Selby from Captain Ouchterlony's letters of the 17th and 19th January last, are as follow:

1st. Great laxity and irregularity in all matters relating to the keeping of accounts.

2nd. Want of ingenuousness in his remark in para. 3, of his letter to Captain Ouchterlony 31st December 1856, No. 141.

3rd. Regarding his remark as to the tenor of Captain Ouchterlony's letters.

4th. Unsettled claim of Mr. Scott, writer, Mundoor road.

5th. Insufficient information afforded to Mr. Thomas regarding the Mundoor road.

6th. Re-entertainment of discharged writer Chinniah Pillay. And

7th. Balance of cash not duly lodged in the Treasury.

letter

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has carefully read Captain Ouchterlony's letters in which the above charges are contained, as well as the replies to them furnished by Major Selby; and he is of opinion that the latter Officer has sufficiently under the circumstances in which he was placed met the allegations preferred against him. Major Selby's explanations are frank and straightforward; and the few errors which have been pointed out in his Accounts, are excusable in consequence of the difficulty in which he was placed, deprived as he was of all assistance on the occasion of the separation of Malabar from the 7th Division. The Government therefore consider Major Selby entitled to exculpation on the charges (of laxity and disingenuousness) alleged by Captain Ouchterlony, (as well as on the general charge of want of activity and energy brought against him) and by the Chief Engineer.*

* To Government 27th January 1857, No. 9783, para. 12.

3. The Government resolve to forward Colonel Faber's and Captain Ouchterlony's letters noted in the margin, with Major Selby's explanation, to Mr. Robinson the Acting Collector of Malabar, with a request that he will communicate them to his Head Assistant Mr. Thomas, now in charge of the works, in view to the examination and adjustment of Major Selby's accounts. Meanwhile security will be taken from the latter for any deficiency that may be proved against him.

From Chief Engineer 27th January 1857, No. 9783.
From Captain Ouchterlony 17th January 1857, No. 895.
" " " 19th " " " 899.

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

P W No 293 of 1857. 3 No 1496

Major Selby explanation of the errors in his accounts. Lease, Surrender &c. &c. &c. can not be explained without reference to books which are now at Laud. Further Enquiry before that can be done will be necessary. Security to be taken before Major Selby can be cleared.

I want of activity
brought about
chiefly by the
Cf Ry.

E.R.

I think the general
Change in the papel cur-
-ency for any depreciation
to current & the other
specie current to invite
[illegible] attempt-
-ing any abridgement
[illegible]

[illegible] satisfactory with Major Tobby's explanations. They are frank & straightforward and the few slight errors in his accounts which have been pointed out are explained in my judgment by the circumstances of the case in which he was placed.

The charges of corruption & dishonesty brought against Major Tobby are unsupported by evidence & entitled to full credit in this respect.

I must say that both the Turkish & English have shown a desire to prefer with unusual severity against Major Tobby a degree [illegible] unmerited.

Major T. will of course [illegible] for the discrepancy in the amount of discrepancy is such as to [illegible] which [illegible] the charges is strongly urged [illegible]

I think Major Tobby [illegible] allowance should be made for deficiency [illegible] he was not bound to [illegible] & that the ordinary [illegible] must carry [illegible] & I understand [illegible] has [illegible] [illegible]

delicacy to keep the
relations of Mr Secretary
& my Chief Engineer has
my mind perpetually
troubled. I have spoke
with these matters
which might easily
have been adjusted
by Mr Wolff as head
of the Dept instead
of making them the
groundwork of re-
=presentations unfa-
=vorable to the

Character of any
Piece of Land, Stump
and of mine Receipts
attached

12/2/57 J. M. Gill

Copy in a L. to C. of 30th Nov. 57 No 22

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Dto Dno 3d March.
No 412

Minute by the Honble Sir H. C. Montgomery Esq.re
Dated 12th Feby. } 1857.
Recd 2d March }
S.C. No 383 - 28 Feb.

Hon.ble Major Selby shows that great allowance should be made for deficiency of work in Malabar: it was impossible for him, deprived of all assistance & utterly without the ordinary establishments to carry on his duties vigorously. Mr. Ch: Eng.r has been very unjust in his Complaints against him: states that Major Selby served under him in the Maraimalai Dep.t in Jennelly & that he can vouch for his great devotion to his duties.

No 96.

Known he was well thought of by the late Mr. Chelley also by Mr. Thomas the Collr. of Coimbatore also by Capt.n Ludlow & Francis under all of whom he has served as an Ass.t to Civil Engr.

P. W. D.

No 383

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 28th February, 1857.

Read the following Papers-
Extract from the Proceedings of the Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle, in charge of the Central Office of Public Works.

Minute by the Hon.ble Sir H. C. Montgomery Bt.

Hereenter 10th February 1857 No 1019
Hereenter 12 do

I have pursuance of the orders of Government of the 6th February last No 272, the Officer in charge of the Central Office D. P. W. submits Major Selby's reply to the charges preferred against him by the District Engr of Malabar. Those charges as extracted by Major Selby from Captain Ouchterlony

lette

I have the honor to submit a Minute on the Proceedings - but I would wish to send my note of the 12th Inst as a Minute —

H Montgomery

letters of the 17th and 19th January last, are as follow.

1st Great laxity and irregularity in all matters relating to the keeping of accounts.

2d Want of ingenuousness in his remark in para 3 of his letter to Captain Ouchterlony 31st December 1856, No 141.

3d Regarding his remark as to the tenor of Captain Ouchterlony's letter.

4th Unsettled claim of Mr Scott, writer, Nuwaraeliya Road.

5th Insufficient information afforded to Mr Thomas regarding the Nuwaraeliya Road.

6th Re-entertainment of discharged writer Chinniah Pillay. And

7th Balances of Cash not duly lodged in the Treasury.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council has carefully read Captain

Captain Ouchterlony's letters in which the above charges are contained, as well as the replies to them furnished by Major Selby; and he is of opinion that the latter ~~sufficiently~~ ~~under the circumstances~~ ~~explained away~~ ~~& explained away~~ Officer has ~~satisfactorily~~ met the allegations preferred against him. Major Selby's explanations are frank and straightforward, and the few ~~slight~~ errors which have been pointed out in his accounts, are excusable ~~& his circumstances~~ of the difficulty in which he was placed, deprived as he was of all assistance on the occasion of the separation of Malabar from the 7th Division. The Government therefore consider Major Selby entitled to exculpation

on the charges of cowardly
and disingenuousness
alleged by Captain Ouchterlony,
(as well as on the general
charge of want of activity
and energy brought against
him) by the Chief Engineer.
The circumstances under
which the discharged writer
Chimmink Pillay was re-
entertained, are sufficiently
explained by Major Selby;
as are also the delay in
adjusting the pay of Mr
Stall and lodging the
cash balance in the Treasury.
The other charges are unim-
portant, and call for
no remark.

The Government
resolve to forward Colonel
Fraser's and Captain Ouchterlony's
letters noted in the Margin,
with Major Selby's explana-
tion, to Mr Robinson the
Acting

+ No 9783 27th Jany 1857
Para 12.

From Chief Engr 27th Jany 57 No 9783.
From Capt Ouchterlony 17th Jany 57 No 895
" " 19th " " 899

19

Acting Collector of Malabar,
with a request that he
will communicate them
to his Head Assistant
Mr Thomas, now in
charge of the works, in
view to the examination
and adjustment of Major
Selby's accounts. Meanwhile
security will be taken
from the latter for any
deficiency that may be
proved against him.

The Government
cannot conclude these
remarks without expressing
their opinion that both
Colonel Fraser and Captain
Ouchterlony appear to have
shown a desire to press
these charges against
Major Selby with a severity
uncalled for by the circ
umstances. And they
regre

regret this therefore, as it was competent to the Chief Engineer as the head of the Department to adjust the complaints, without formally making them the ground work of representations unfavorable to the character of an officer of long standing and of unimpeached integrity.

J.T.

2 Copies to the
Chief Engr Diff-28
1 — Asst Engrs
1 — to the Collr of Diff-6 Branch
Malabar — with Copies of the Petition & Encls

Cons: 6th July /57 No 1184 1119.
Copy in a L to S
of 30th Nov /57 No 22

Public Works 1857 Sept.
D to Cons 3 March.

No 383.

Extract Mins of Cons:
of 28th February /57.
Ex Chief Engr 3rd March 57
& No 662 in 6 21st April

Forwarding to Mr Robinson the Acting Collector of Madras Collr Forbes & Captn Wauchope's letter with Major Selby's explanations, and requesting that he will communicate them to his Head Assistant Mr Thomas, now in charge of the Mandapam road works, in view to the examination and adjustment of Major Selby's accounts

From Chief Engr 12th May /57 & 1760.

No 35 at 37.