

MAADRAS RECORD OFFICE

MAADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 18

Dated

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 63. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of Public Works, dated 14th February 1857, No. 10299.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Negapatam 6th February 1857, No. 21.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 150 of the 21st January 1857, forwarded, with your Proceedings of the 23rd Idem, No. 9713, I have the honor to request you will be so good as to lay before Government, the following explanation, which may possibly induce a re-consideration of strictures which apply chiefly to myself, although my personal responsibility for the "complicated mistakes and oversights" in the Central office, as well as for the alleged mis-statement noticed in para. 3 is not declared.

2. Lieutenant Foord's *general* estimate for completing the Cuddalore and Salem road was received in the Central office, during the pressure attendant on the preparation of the Budget of 1856-57, and was like others sent up to Government in an incomplete shape, in the hope of avoiding a delay of twelve months, but no reply was received to the application till too late for any other estimate to be entered in that Budget.

3. The detailed estimates could not have passed through my hands till after the general one had gone up, and were sent by me to the Record Department of the Central office pending reply, but as ample time remained for their submission for entry in the Budget of 1857-58, subsequently to the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 157, of the 5th February 1856, it was thought necessary to call on Lieutenant Foord for more full information respecting the apparent neglect and mismanagement, which had led to the excess, and which it seemed to me, Government would expect to be explained. Thus there is no inaccuracy in the assertion, that the *estimate* properly so called was detained for want of information, but it has since unaccountably disappeared, and I was afterwards unable to obtain it from the Record Office.

4. In sending up his second estimate which exceeds his first by 3,000 Rupees, Lieutenant Foord failed to afford the explanation required as to the reason for changing the line, and for beginning that by Verdachellum, without any estimate at all, but as another year's exclusion must follow delay, it was deemed proper to send it up to Government with all the information available, which although now considered sufficient, was not in my opinion at all satisfactory, and I cannot but notice that in this case, as well as that of the Vellaur annicut, Lieutenant Foord has appeared to think he had nothing to do with the accounts of his predecessors. Responsibility for such accounts certainly could not attach to him, but in demanding such a large amount to complete a work sanctioned by the Government of India, it was surely the duty of the Chief Engineer to require a history of the entire operations.

5. Regarding the instructions sent to the District Officers to execute part of the work from the road fund, I certainly did not consider that fund entirely exempt from Departmental control, and my object in advising its expenditure was chiefly to save time. But I was, and am still of opinion, that the Verdachellum road is one to which the fund is properly applicable, as being of more local than general importance, especially since the line by Oolundoorpett, originally sanctioned as the Salem road, is actually under construction. That the money applied for is necessary for completing the road I do not question, but that the ample local fund should not furnish any assistance towards it, is in my opinion to be regretted.

6. I cannot conclude without expressing my regret at having been the means of drawing on the Chief Engineer a censure, which if deserved at all, is so by me alone, nor will I disguise my conviction, that the duties and responsibilities of a Superintending Engineer can never be satisfactorily or efficiently discharged, if merged in those of the Central office.

Resolved, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 150, dated 21st January 1857, to forward to Government for information, copy of the foregoing letter No. 21, dated 6th

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 10th March 1857.

February 1857, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, submitting explanation regarding the estimate for the Cuddalore and Salem road.

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

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, No. 435; dated 6th March 1857.

In Extract Minutes of Consultation of 21st January 1857, Government in passing orders upon a recommendation of the Chief Engineer that 10,000 Rupees should be entered in the Budget of 1857-58, for proceeding with the construction of the Masonry works of the Cuddalore and Salem road, called the particular attention of the Chief Engineer to what appeared to be a complication of mistakes that had taken place in his office respecting the abovementioned road and the estimates for it. These mistakes were as follows.

First—In his letter to Government of the 25th November 1856, Colonel Faber stated that he did not send up the original estimate submitted by Lieutenant Foord in 1855, because the information concerning it was incomplete, whereas plans and estimates, and an elaborate report on the road had been submitted to the Chief Engineer; but the estimates and plans were detained in the Central office and overlooked there, instead of being laid before Government.

Secondly—Although Colonel Faber, (in the supposed absence of estimates and plans) deemed the information supplied by the District Engineer insufficient to account for the additional demand of funds, yet, he held the information before him sufficient to warrant an application to Government for the money.

2. In reply to the abovementioned order, Captain Johnston, in charge of the Central office of Public Works, submits a letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, in which explanation is afforded respecting the mistakes and oversights animadverted upon; and in offering the remarks he does, Major Lawford states, that if any censure be deserved, he is to blame, and not the Chief Engineer.

3. The Superintending Engineer begins by shewing that Lieutenant Foord's general estimate for completing the Cuddalore and Salem road was received in the Central office during the preparation of the Budget of 1856-57, and was sent up to Government in an incomplete state in the hope of avoiding delay. After its submission to Government, the detailed estimate, were received in the Central office, and were sent by Major Lawford to the Record Departments. Subsequently to the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 157 of 5th February 1856, (after which date there was no time to prepare another estimate in time for the Budget of 1856-57,) Lieutenant Foord was called upon for fuller information respecting the apparent mismanagement which had led to the excess. Thus Major Lawford says, there is no inaccuracy in having said that the estimate properly so called was detained for want of information, his meaning apparently is, that though the abstract estimate was submitted to Government incomplete, in the hope of avoiding delay, yet the *detailed* estimate was detained in the Central office pending the receipt of further information from Lieutenant Foord which was called for when the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation of 5th February 1856, rendered the insertion of the project in the Budget of 1856-57 hopeless.

4. This explanation is, as far as it goes, satisfactory, but the Superintending Engineer admits that the estimates so detained in the Central office have since "unaccountably disappeared."

5. In para. 5 of his letter, Major Lawford expresses his opinion that the road fund should not be considered exempted from Departmental control in general and that the fund is applicable to the case of this particular road.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 10th March 1857.

6. In para. 4 of their former order, the Government observed that the Chief Engineer had no power to direct that a sum of money should be allotted to the road in question from the local road fund, by which they meant that

the Chief Engineer had no power to originate such an order; such power being exclusively vested in the Collector and District Engineer. As to Departmental control, the Governor in Council considers that inasmuch as any expression of opinion by the Chief Engineer as to how these funds should be applied with the District Engineer, must have in some measure the force of an order, any interference with the fund on the part of the Chief Engineer is to be deprecated.

7. In para. 5, Major Lawford states that the road in question is one to which the fund is properly applicable as being of more local than general importance, and he thinks it matter of regret that no part of that fund may be applied to it.

8. The Government are unable to share in this regret. The road is a first class one, and Government has expressly charged itself with its maintenance out of the general revenues of the State, whatever sums therefore Major Lawford would apply to it from the road fund will now be available for other purposes within the District.

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

5

N^o 10299

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

Under date the 14th February 1857

Read the following
N^o 21

From

Major E. Lawford
Superintending Engineer South Circle

To

Colonel L. E. Faber
Chief Engineer Dept^o of Public Works

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of the
Extract Minutes of Consultation N^o 150 of
the 21st January 1857, forwarded with your Pro-
ceedings of the 23rd Idem N^o 9713, I have the
honor to request you will be so good as to lay it
before Government the following explanation,
which may possibly induce a reconsideration of
strictures which apply chiefly to myself, although
my personal responsibility for the "complicated mis-
takes and oversights" in the Central Office, as
well as for the alleged misstatement noticed in
Para 3 is not declared.

2.

Lieutenant Foord's general estimate
for

for completing the Guddalore and Salem Road was received in the Central Office, during the pressure attendant on the preparation of the Budget of 1856/57, and was like others sent up to Government in an incomplete shape, in the hope of avoiding a delay of twelve months, but no reply was received to the application till too late for any other estimate to be entered in that budget.

3. The detailed estimates could not have passed through my hands till after the general one had gone up, and were sent by me to the Record Department of the Central Office pending reply, but as ample time remained for their submission for entry in the Budget of 1857/58, subsequently to the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 157 of the 5th February 1856, it was thought necessary to call on Lieutenant Ford for more full information respecting the apparent neglect and mismanagement, which had led to the excess, and which it seemed to me Government would expect to be explained. Thus there is no inaccuracy in the assertion, that the estimate properly so called was detained for want of information, but it has since unaccountably disappeared, and I was afterwards unable to obtain it from the Record Office.

4. In sending up his second estimate which exceeds his first by 3000 Rupees, Lieutenant Ford

20
The estimate of 1856/57
was not sent up
till after the
11/2/56

The order of
Nov 1856 Oct 1876
is not yet high
enough. It is the
one particularly
mentioned. The
one in question
calls for the
reconstruction of

the road.

Ford failed to afford the explanation required as to the reasons for changing the line, and for beginning that by Verdachellum without any estimate at all, but as another year's exclusion must follow delay, it was deemed proper to send it up to Government with all the information available, which although now considered sufficient, was not in my opinion at all satisfactory, and I cannot but notice that in this case, as well as that of the Vellaur Annicut. Lieutenant Ford has appeared to think he had nothing to do with the accounts of his predecessors. Responsibility for such accounts certainly could not attach to him, but in demanding such a large amount to complete a work sanctioned by the Government of India, it was surely the duty of the Chief Engineer to require a history of the entire operations.

5. Regarding the instructions sent to the District Officers to execute part of the work from the Road Fund, I certainly did not consider that Fund entirely exempt from Departmental control, and my object in advising its expenditure was chiefly to save time. But I was, and am still of opinion, that the Verdachellum Road is one to which the Fund is properly applicable, as being of more local than general importance, especially since the line by Colundoorpett, originally sanctioned as the Salem Road,

is

is actually under construction. That the money applied for is necessary for completing the road I do not question, but that the ample local fund should not furnish any assistance towards it, is in my opinion to be regretted.

I cannot conclude without expressing my regret at having been the means of drawing on the Chief Engineer a censure, which if deserved at all, is so by me alone, nor will I disguise my conviction, that the duties and responsibilities of a Superintending Engineer can never be satisfactorily or efficiently discharged, if merged in those of the Central Office.

Nagapatam—
6th February 1857. } I have the honor to be Dear
(Signed) E. Lawford.
Sup^{ts} Eng^s Southern Circle

Resolved, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 150, dated 21st January 1857, to forward to Government for information, copy of the foregoing letter No. 21, dated 6th February 1857, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, submitting explanation regarding the estimate for the Cuddalore and

and Salem Road.

(True Extract)

W^m Trusten Captain
Asst. Sup^{ts} Eng^s Northern Circle
in charge of the Central Office of P.W.

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Comp^d Shree

Public Works Dept.

N^o 435
 Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
 of 21st January, 1857.
 Under date the

Read the following
 Extract from the Proceedings
 of the Chief Engineer.

(Here enter 14th February 1857.
 N^o 10294)

In Extract Mi-
 nutes of Consultation of
 21st January 1857, Govern-
 ment, in passing orders
 upon a recommendation
 of the Chief Engineer
 that 10,000 Rupees should
 be entered in the Budget
 of 1857-8 for proceeding
 with

Major Cunningham
 of the 10th Madras
 Infantry, he said, he
 was of the opinion
 that the Government
 should not be
 dissatisfied with

H
 G
 M
 M. G. L.

From 21st Jan'y 1857 to 1858
 51st Feb'y 1857 - 47454
 21st March 1857 - 5814
 15th Jan'y 1858 - 145
 20th April 1858 - 145

P. L. M. 1857
 20th Jan'y 1857
 21st March 1857
 15th Jan'y 1858
 20th April 1858

Chief Engineer
 14th Feb'y 1857
 21st March 1857
 15th Jan'y 1858
 20th April 1858

1857-58. 6th March
 1857-58.

Manufacturing and
 Engineering works
 1857-58. 10th Feb'y 1857
 21st March 1857
 15th Jan'y 1858
 20th April 1858
 1857-58. 10th Feb'y 1857
 21st March 1857
 15th Jan'y 1858
 20th April 1858

Cell No. 13

1857

with the construction of the
Masonry works of the
Cuddalore & Salem Road,
called the particular
attention of the Chief
Engineer to what appeared
to be a complication of
mistakes that had taken
place in his Office respecting
the abovementioned road
and the estimates for it.
These mistakes were

as follows.

First in his ^{to Govt.} letter of 25th
November 1856, ~~to Govt.~~

Colonel Faber stated that
he did not send up
the original Estimate
submitted by Lieutenant
Ford in 1855, because
the information concerning
it

it was incomplete, ^{whereas}
~~full information, in~~
~~the shape of plans and~~
estimates, and an elabo-
rate report on the road
had been submitted to
the Chief Engineer; but
the estimates and plans
were detained in the
Central Office and over-
looked ~~there~~, instead of
being laid before Govern-
ment.

Secondly - although Colonel
Faber, in the supposed
absence of Estimates
and plans, deemed
the information supplied
by the District Engi-
neer insufficient to
account for the
additional

additional demand of funds,
yet, he held the information
before him sufficient to
warrant an application
to Government for the
money.

2. In reply to the
abovementioned order,
Captain Johnston, in
charge of the Central Office
of Public Works, submits
a letter from the Super-
intending Engineer Southern
Circle, in which explanation
is afforded respecting
the mistakes and over-
sights animadverted
upon; and in offering
the remarks he does,
Major Lawford states
that - if any censure be
deemed

^{deserved}
~~be deemed to be due~~, he
is ~~also~~ to blame, and
not the Chief Engineer.

3. The Superintending
Engineer begins by show-
ing that Lieutenant
Ford's general Estimate
for completing the Cuddalore
and Salem Road was
received in the Central
Office during the prepara-
tion of the Budget of
1856-7 and was sent up
to Govt in an incomplete
state in the hope of
avoiding delay. After
~~its~~ ^{the} submission to
Government, the ~~detailed~~ ^{detailed}
Estimates were received
in the Central Office, and
were sent by Major
Lawford,

Sawford to the Record
Department. Subsequently
to the receipt of Extract
Minutes of Consultation
Ch. 157 of 5th February 1856
(after which date there
was no time to prepare
another Estimate in time
for the budget of 1856-7/
Lieutenant Ford was
called upon for fuller in-
formation respecting the
apparent mismanage-
ment which had led to
the defects. Thus Major
Sawford says there is
no inaccuracy in having
said that the Estimate
properly so called was
detained for want of
information - his meaning

~~that~~

meaning apparently is
that though the abstract
Estimate was submitted
to Government incom-
plete, in the hope of
avoiding delay, yet the
detailed Estimate was
detained in the Central
Office pending the
receipt of further infor-
mation from Lieut. Ford
which was called for
when the receipt of
Extract Minutes Comd
of February 5th 1856 rendered
the insertion of the
project in the Budget
of 1856-7 hopeless.
4. This explanation is,
as far as it goes, satis-
factory, but the
Superintending

Superintending Engineer
admits that the estimates
so detained in the Com-
mutal Office have since
"unaccountably disap-
peared"

~~A. From Paragraph of
Major Sawford's letter
it would seem that a
desire to avoid delay,
induced Colonel Faber to
send them up to Govt.
with all the information
available.~~

B. In Para 5 of
his letter, Major Sawford
expresses his opinion that
the Road Fund should
not be considered exempted
from Departmental
control in general
and

and that the Fund is
applicable to ^{the case of} this partic-
ular case road.

In para 4 of their
former order the Govt
observed that the Chief
Engineer had no power
to direct that a sum of
money should be allotted
to the road in question
from the local road
fund. by which they
meant that the Chief
Engineer had no power
to ~~originate~~ such an
order; such power being
exclusively vested in
the Collectors and
District Engineers etc
to Departmental con-
trol, the Governor
in

E. M. C 11 April 1886
Rule V.

in Council considers that
inasmuch as any ex-
pression of opinion ^{by the Chief Engineer} as
to how these funds should
be applied ~~from the Chief~~
~~Engineer~~ ^{with the District Engineer,} must, ~~accepting~~
have in some measure
the force of an order
~~given by a Superior~~
~~Officer~~, any interference
with the fund on the
part of the Chief Engineer
is to be deprecated.

7. In Para. 5 Major
Sawford states that the
road in question is one
to which the fund is pro-
perly applicable as being
^{more} of ~~some~~ local than general
importance, and he thinks
it matter of regret that
no part of that fund may

L. M. 100: 5th July 1864. 139.

Copy to the Chief Engr.
Dip. 7.
L. M. Act. Cont.

be applied to it.

The Government are
~~not~~ unable to share
in this regret. The
road is a first class
one, and Government
has expressly charged
itself with its main-
tenance out of the
general revenues of the
State, whatever sum
therefore Major Sawford
would apply to it from
the road fund, will ^{not} be
available for other
purposes ^{within} the Dis-
trict, ~~and~~ this, would seem
to be rather matter for
congratulation than
regret.

W. H.

Feb. 24

Public Works 1857 Department.
Df 6 Cons 10th March.

10435.

Extract of Memoirs of Cons.
Df 6th March 1857.

From Chief by 26th March 1857
Chs 605-Cons.
18 April

Passing orders on the construction
the Cuddalore and La Lorne road.

10436.

1068+69.

26th Feb 1857