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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 21-4-57

G.O. No. 742

Press
Mis.

173-80
Dated

21-4-

1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

18
22/6/37

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 21st April 1857.

No. 179. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 31st March 1857, No. 11442.

Read the following letter from Captain J. OUCHTERLONY, late Civil Engineer, Malabar; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated on Board the Schooner V. M. Santa Anna off Tutacurin Coast 17th March 1857.

SIR,

I have the honor to request the favor of your obtaining sanction for supplying me with a copy of the letter addressed to you by Major Selby, referred to in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 383, under date 28th February 1857, as judging by the tenor of the remarks made by Government, it seems to me impossible either, that all the Statements made by Major Selby can be correct, or that a correct impression as to facts can have been conveyed by the document in question.

2. I allude particularly to the ground on which Major Selby's errors in accounts are held excusable, viz. his "having been deprived of all assistance when the 7th Division was separated." This I confess perplexes and astonishes me, as the "allegations made in my letter No. 895, all with the solitary exception of Major Selby's unduly retaining possession for a long period of Public money belonging to the Chetwye Dam, bore reference to transactions which occurred in September, October and November 1856, anterior" to the period of his relief from the charge of

the District of Malabar,† at a time when he had no Public accounts to keep, but those of the Mundoor road, and when he was drawing an allowance for office establishment, fully sufficient for the discharge of such duties of detail as devolved upon him being in fact double of that which I myself drew, and more than I have drawn during any period of my charge of the District, excepting the last month, February.

3. I trust therefore Government will consider it due to me that I should be furnished with a document, by the Agency of which Major Selby has been exculpated from charges which it seemed to me, I had no alternative but to advance; whether regard is had to the imperative orders of Government, as to the monthly Account Current of all Public money drawn by the Officers of the D. P. W., to the circumstance of Major Selby's abrupt departure from the District, without an effort to remedy the evil he had effected, or to that justice and impartiality which are demanded from a Public servant in his relations with all his Subordinates, whether Officers of Commissioned rank or of the grade of a simple Corporal, Overseer.

4. The course which I pursued in regard to Major Selby, I adopted under a clear and firm conviction and sense of duty; and I am pained to be compelled to gather from the tenor of the remarks of Government, that I stand virtually reprehended for having undertaken the most invidious and least acceptable task which an Officer at the head of a Department, and responsible that no bad example shall go forth unchecked from the higher to the less favored grades of his Subordinates, can possibly impose upon himself.

5. If it is not in accordance with regulation that the document applied for be sent to me in a Dispatch for the India House, I shall feel obliged if you will do me the favor to forward it under cover to my brother James Ouchterlony, Esq., Ootacamund, by whom it will be transcribed and transmitted to me in Europe.

Resolved that in forwarding a copy of the foregoing letter from Captain Ouchterlony, late Civil Engineer in Malabar, for the information of Government, it be reported, that a copy of Major Selby's letter to the Chief Engineer has been duly forwarded, in compliance with the within application.

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

No. 180. ORDER THEREON, No. 742; dated 21st April 1857.

Ordered that the foregoing Extract be recorded.

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

the (the type) Dam, bore reference to transactions

N. 11442.

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

Under date the 31st March 1857.

To Read the following.

The Chief Engineer D. D. W.

I have the honor to request the favor
of your obtaining sanction for supplying me
with a copy of the letter addressed to you by
Major Selby, referred to in Extract Minutes Con-
sultation N. 383 under date 28th February 1857,
as judging by the tenor of the remarks made by
Government, it seems to me impossible either, that
all the statements made by Major S. can be cor-
rect, or, that a correct impression as to facts can
have been conveyed by the document in question.

I allude particularly to the ground
on which Major S.'s errors in accounts are held re-
-cusable, vizt., his "having been deprived of all assis-
-tance when the 7th Division was separated" This
I confess perplexes and astonishes me, as the "allega-
-tions" made in my letter N. 895, all with the solitary
exception of Major S.'s unduly retaining possession
for a long period of public money, belonging to
the Chevre Dam, bore reference to transactions

which occurred in September 1864, and for 1865
anterior to the period of his relief from the charge
of the District of Malabar, at a time when 15th May 1865,
he had no public accounts to keep, but those
of the Munder Road, and when he was drawing
an allowance for office Establishment, fully suf-
ficient for the discharge of such duties of detail
as devolved upon him. being in fact double of
that which I myself drew, and more than I
have drawn during any period of my charge of
the District, excepting the last month, February.

I trust, therefore, Government will
consider it due to me that I should be furnished
with a document, by the agency of which Malabar
has been exculpated from charges which it seems
to me, I had no alternative but to advance;
whether regard is had to the imperative order
of Government, as to the monthly Account
of all public money drawn by the officers of the
S.W. to the circumstance of Malabar's abrupt
departure from the District, without an effort
to remedy the evil he had effected, or to that
justice & impartiality which are demanded from
a public servant in his relations with all his
subordinates, whether officers of Commissioned rank
or of the grade of a simple Corporal. Census

The course which I pursued in

regard to Major Selby, I adopted under a clear
and firm conviction and sense of duty, and I am
pained to be compelled to gather from the tenor
of the remarks of Government, that I stand
virtually reprimanded for having undertaken the
most invidious and least acceptable task which an
officer at the head of a Department, and respon-
sible that no bad example shall go forth uncheck-
ed from the higher to the less favored grades of
his Subordinates, can possibly impose upon himself.

If it is not in accordance with regu-
lation that the document applied for be sent to
me in a Dispatch for the India House, I shall
feel obliged if you will do me the favor to forward
it under cover to my brother Sir Charles Selby, Bart.
Cotacmand, by whom it will be transcribed and
transmitted to me in Europe.

I have &c.

On board the Schooner

J. M. S. Anna

Malabar Coast 17th Feb/57

Sr/ J. Guchterling
late Chief Engineer Malabar

Resolved that in forwarding a copy
of the foregoing letter from Captain Guchter-
ling, late Chief Engineer in Malabar, for the
information of Government, it be reported that
a copy of Major Selby's letter to the Chief
Engineer has been duly forwarded, in compliance

with the within application.

(True) Extract)

To Mr. Fisher Colonel
Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Govt. W.D.