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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 12-5-57

G.O. No. 590	Press Mis.
39-40	
Dated 5-5-	18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

3/7/37

No. 39. Read the following letter from M. MURRAY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah ; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Tungaloor 6th April 1857, No. 11.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated 20th Ultimo. No. 507, forwarding copy of a letter from Lieutenant Hemery to Colonel C. E. Faber, Chief Engineer, dated the 6th Idem, and in reply, have to submit the following explanation.

2. With regard to the Yerragoontla Cottah tank in the Chitwail Talook, the amount of sanction of which was said to be Rupees 1,290, and of which only 68 Rupees had up to the end of December 1856, been spent, the District Engineer, at the time of making his statement was quite aware that the estimates for the works to be performed are so small that villagers and labourers will not undertake it as the remuneration is not sufficient. The whole duty of repairing the tanks therefore falls upon the Wudders who are accustomed to this species of labour and are by no means numerous ; it is therefore nesessary to employ them upon one work and when that is completed to send them to another. The whole works for the Chitwail Talook amounted to Rupees 7,586-0-0 of which work for Rupees 4,306-12-2 had been performed. Yerragoontlah Cottah tank is one of those to which the Wudders had not been sent owing to their being otherwise occupied ; hence, the quantity of work upon this tank up to the 31st December 1856, was small on account of the want of labourers and the difficulty of procuring stones for the facing of the bund by the terrible epedemic which affected the village of Yerragoontlah Cottah and those in the neighbourhood wherein it is stated that 500 head of Cattle had died, which nearly prevented the ryots from cultivating their lands and delayed the carriage of the stones for the facing. The villages in the neighbourhood which had not suffered from the decease refused to allow their Cattle to come within the prescints of the affected villages. The Tahsildar however informs me that he had procured 150 yards of stones to be brought prior to November 1856, but why this has not been made use of by the Engineer's Department since the Marahmut has been made over to that Department the District Engineer must explain, and I understand that nothing has been done to the tank since the charge was made over to him, although a period of 3 months has elapsed.

3. With regard to the Tungatoor Dyke the District Engineer states that only 11 Rupees had been spent within 8 months, but this, he is perfectly aware is incorrect, as it is shewn from his Overseers* Diary that 68 Rupees were spent up to November 1856, how much afterwards was expended, I have not the means of ascertaining, as the accounts have all been made over to the Engineers Department. The Estimate was received in March last, and the amount advanced to the Tahsildar for carrying on the work, a portion of this was expended in watering the trees for 4 months and the other portion in filling up the ruts caused by the monsoon rains, but from what I can learn not a single anna has been expended by the Engineers Department out of the balance since it was made over to him for watering the trees and the Davenul grass planted on the bank of the Dyke. Supposing the District Engineers statement to be correct, viz. that only 11 Rupees have been expended (which is not) the state of the Dyke reflects great credit on those who have had charge of it, as I can state from personal inspection in company with the village authorities and a number of others. The Devenul grass and the trees both looked healthy, notwithstanding, the scorching heat and little moisture they have experienced for the last month, this shows one of two things, either that the estimate formed by the District Engineer was unnecessarily large, or that the sum already expended up to the 1st January 1857, has been ample, and that a further expenditure would have been a waste of money.

* Mr. Newhams Diary for November 1856.

4. Regarding the Toovapully tank in Doovoor Talook, it appears that the Tahsildar requested the District Engineer to estimate for this tank which was accordingly prepared to be carried out when the tank was dry. The Tahsildar reported to me that the smaller sum allowed for the repairs was at present unnecessary and could not be carried out as there was water in the tank; no advances were therefore made as the whole bund was to be repaired, in a short time after and I am perfectly satisfied I acted correctly and that the immediate repair was unnecessary,

more particularly as the circumstances turned out, and I have been grieved to see the large waste of public money which has already taken place in this District.

5. In reference to the Camalapoor Tahsildar's Cutcherry the estimate was received in July 1856, orders were sent to the Doovoor Tahsildar to procure wood; he after some delay reported that it could not be procured on account of a Tiger which infested that part of the Jungle, which carried away the wood and grass cutters who proceeded thither which had created such a panic that no one could be induced to go there. It is stated that not less than from 40 to 70 persons were carried away by this and another Tiger an application was made for large reward to the persons who would destroy this Tiger and I believe 300 Rupees were granted. It was killed in December 185€, and proved to be a Tigress with two Cubs. On receipt of the Doovoor Tahsildar's communication orders were sent to the Royachoty Tahsildar to fell the quantity of wood required and send it as speedily as possible, the wood was accordingly cut, but as the expences were greater than that entered in the estimate, a letter was forwarded with the bill for the additional amount required, to the Disrtict Engineer with a request that he would sanction it, which he refused to do, and there being no funds in my hands to pay for the carriage &c. they having been made over to the District Engineer the work was therefore not carried out, but the Government can sustain no loss as it was only for frames for the records. Lieutenant Hemery was perfectly aware of this fact as the Royachoty Tahsildar's Bill was sent to him on the 26th December 1856, and I think it would have been ingenuous on his part to explain this at the time of his making his complaint.

6. To the work for the Jummulmudgoo Tahsildars Cuctcherry, the same remark is applicable with regard to the difficulty in procuring wood, and further, the iron required was not received until February which was furnished by the District Engineer, and had the work been begun immediately on the receipt of it, it might have been completed prior to the date of his letter to Colonel Faber, as the other materials were in readiness for some time prior to the receipt of the iron.

7. In the repairs of the Talook Cutchery at Proddatoor (Doovoor Talook) the same difficulty, was experienced in procuring wood as they had to come from the same forest, viz. the Ahobolum Hill in the Kurnool District, but Government do not suffer any loss or inconvenience from such unavoidable delays in procuring Timber as they were required for Record shelves &c.

8. As to the Budwail Talook Cutcherry I beg to state, that as soon as the estimate was received advances were made for wood which had to be felled and brought from a very considerable distance. It arrived in November, and the work was begun according to the Tahsildars report, but orders were, in the mean time, sent not to spend any money after the 25th of December 1856 in order to prepare the accounts to make over the whole of the Marahmut to the Engineer's Department after the 1st of January, it was for the Engineer to complete the work, all the materials being ready at hand. The Tahsildar further adds that it only requires two days to complete the estimate.

9. The report has not yet been received from Cumbum, and all in the Sub-Division is Superintended by the Sub Collector. The Revenue Moonshee of the Sub-Division informs me that the Sub Collector allowed the Tahsildar one month to procure the wood required, but as it did not appear within that time, he appointed an Ameen on 5 Rupees to be paid from the Tahsildars allowance and sent him to the Jungle with one of his own Daloyets to have the wood cut and brought, it arrived at the end of November or beginning of December 1856, and by the time it was all prepared the Marahmut was made over to the Engineers Department and why it was not completed up to the 6th of March, the Engineer must explain.

10. In conclusion, I would beg to represent that the Civil Engineer is perfectly aware of the difficulty in procuring timber, as in a work which he himself undertook the timber has not yet been procured; this work is the Ameens Cutcherry in the town of Cuddapah, which was commenced in September last and when I left Cuddapah a short time ago, the wood had not arrived for the roofing. It appears to me that any delay which has taken place is as much attributable to the District Engineer as to any one else, because, if he had commenced the work as soon as the materials were ready they would have been completed prior to the date of his letter, and in the procuring of timbers for the Cutcherries and materials for the repairs of the Yerra-

goontlah Cottah tank, difficulties presented themselves over which man had no control, viz., the destruction of human life by wild animals and the murain amongst cattle, but I have not the slightest doubt that had the Marahmut been left in my hands for a short time longer, all the works would have been or very nearly completed.

No. 40. ORDER THEREON, No. 890; dated 8th May 1857.

In this letter, the Collector of Cuddapah submits explanation in reference to the Extract Minutes Consultation of the 20th March last on the several points referred to in a communication from the District Engineer submitted with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 13th Idem.

2. The Government are not satisfied with the reasons assigned by the Collector for the slow progress of the different works specified in Lieutenant Hemery's letter above referred to; but as the Executive has been finally transferred to the Engineer Department, they do not think it necessary to take further notice of the matter.

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

Public Works Depart.

No. 890

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 8th May 1857.

Read the following

letter from the Collector of

Cuddapah.

(Here enter 6th April 1857 No. 11)

In this letter the

Collector of Cuddapah sub-

-mits explanation in reference

to the Extract Minutes Con-

-sultation of the 20th March

last on the several points

referred to in a Communication

from the District Engineer

submitted with the Chief

Engineer's Proceedings of the 13th

Idem.

The

2. The Government are not satisfied with the reasons assigned by the Collector for the slow progress of the different works specified in Lieutenant Kennery's letter above referred to; but as the Executive has been finally transferred to the Engineer Department they do not think it necessary to take any further notice of the matter.

I have &c

J. Capel to the Chief Engr.
Dept. J
In Coll. of Caddapah.

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Dr. to Cons: 12th May

No. 890.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 8th May/57.

Observing that Govt. are not satisfied with the reasons assigned by the Coll.r of Cuddapah for the slow progress of the different works specified in Lieut.t Heavey's letter, and that as the Executive has been transferred to the Engr. Dep.t, they do not think it necessary to take further notice of the matter.

No 39-40

Recd 13 May 57