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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Rec'd. 11.9.57

G.O. No. 1528 Press Mis.

1528

Dated 5 — 8 — 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

24/7/57

No. 27. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 11th July 1857, No. 1947.

Read the following letter from E. B. THOMAS, Esq., Collector; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Ootacamund, 25th June 1857, No. 314.

SIR,

1. In reply to Extract from your Proceedings, dated 27th Ultimo, No. 671, I am not aware that *any* of the Rules alluded to in paras. 3 and 4 of the above Proceedings, have been overlooked, so far as I am concerned. On what grounds the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle reports "that the Collector of Coimbatore seldom consults the District Engineer on the outlay of the "Discretionary Fund," I am not aware. I can only say that I have never yet, that I can remember, executed *one* work from the Discretionary or any other Funds of which the District Engineer was not fully cognizant, approving and had also *seen* them.

A 5,000 Rupees.
B February 1,900.

2. The District Engineer himself requested my taking charge of the Discretionary A. and Local B. funds &c. (a small portion of the annual grant of Rupees 48,000 for the District) knowing the interest I had always taken in the matter, and having more work on his hands than his executive Subordinates can possibly look after.

3. I had supposed all Collectors were to be the Executive Officers of the "*Discretionary* Funds" *said* to be placed at *their* disposal in Coimbatore only 5000 Rupees annual, out of Rupees 48,000 until lately the *whole* executive depended on them; and until the last two years *most* of the roads, either made or repaired in *this* District, were done by the Collector, the District Engineer was often away in Malabar, and had abundance of other work. There are more roads to be made and repaired than the District Engineer, with his small Executive staff, can possibly attend to the Collector, his Assistants, and Tahsildars, are both able and willing to assist, but if after expending and Superintending all that has been spent on roads in this Province for many years past, I cannot be entrusted to execute 5 or 7,000 Rupees, I would beg to decline a nominal, without any real Discretionary power; especially as the District Engineer can, as I said above, attend really but to few roads himself nearly all the rest being entrusted either to young Officers perfectly new to their work, or Subordinates, Corporals or Serjeants, who however respectable have usually *no* previous *experience* in road making. I have no wish to change any system ordered by Government, but I think a Collector *may* safely, and should be entrusted, to expend the small portion entitled *his* "Discretionary Fund," or be altogether relieved of a nominal discretion which he is not allowed to exercise. I had last year the so called Discretionary Fund 5,000, and the Local Funds about 3,800, to expend and have done so, as the District Engineer will himself testify, usefully, this year the District Engineer has taken the Local Ferry Funds and also *directs* me to expend various sums out of the 5,000 on bridges &c. so that even *that* amount is not really at my discretion.

Extract from a letter of Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle on Circuit, to the Chief Engineer, in the D. P. W., No. 119, dated 24th April 1857.

* * * *

The systems of District road expenditure are so various and the results as far as I have seen, so unsatisfactory that must be permitted to express a hope that uniformity will sooner or later be established. In Coimbatore the Collector is still the Executive Officer of the Discretionary Fund and seldom Consults the Engineer on the outlay, while in South Arcot the money is entirely in the hands of the District Engineer.

* * *

Camp Tirtalla Malabar District, 24th April 1857.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD,
Supg. Engr. Southern Circle in Circuit.

Reported.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 11th August 1857.

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter No. 314, dated 25th June 1857, from the Collector of Coimbatore, explaining the remark made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle respecting the non communication with the District Engineer of Coimbatore regarding the outlay of the District Road Funds, together with an Extract from Major Lawford's letter No. 119, dated 24th April 1857, referred to by Mr. Thomas, be submitted for the information of Government.

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

No. 28.

ORDER THEREON, No. 1528; dated 5th August 1857.

With the above Proceedings, the Chief Engineer submits for the information of Government copy of a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, in which Mr. Thomas, adverting to a remark made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter of 24th April 1857, that "in "Coimbatore the Collector is still the Executive Officer of the Discretionary Fund, and seldom "consults the Engineer on the outlay, while in South Arcot the money is entirely in the hands "of the District Engineer," asserts that he is not aware of the grounds on which the remark was made, that he has never yet executed one work from the Discretionary or any other funds of which the District Engineer was not fully cognizant, and of which he did not approve. He at the same time adds that certain works were executed under his own superintendence, because the District Engineer and his establishment had more work in hand than they could possibly attend to. Under these circumstances and as the works undertaken by the Collector are stated to have been previously approved by the Engineer, it does not appear to Government that the Proceedings of the Collector were in any way opposed to the spirit of Rule 7 of the Rules passed on the 11th April 1856, for the management of the Local funds, and they have only to remark that Mr. Thomas' letter should have been referred for the observations of Major Lawford previous to its submission to Government.

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

3

No. 1947

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

Under date the 11th July 1857.

Read the following letter
from the Collector of Coimbatore
dated 25th June 1857.

To
Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer, &c.
Sir,

1. In reply to Extract from your Proceedings dated 27th ultimo, No. 674, I have not any thing of the nature alluded to in paras 3 and 4 of the above Proceedings, should been overlooked, so far as I am concerned. On what grounds the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle reports "that the Collector of Coimbatore solicits annually "the Chief Engineer on the outlay of the Discretionary "Grant" I am unaware. I can only say that I have never yet had any thing to do with the Discretionary or any other Grants of which the Chief Engineer was not fully cognizant, & [illegible] should like any thing.

2. The Chief Engineer himself requested

A 5000 Rs
B 2m 1900

requested my taking charge of the Quinquennial A and local B funds for the small portion of the annual grant of Rupees 48,000 for the Division of the Collectorate - I therefore submit herewith my letter on the subject, and having received from the Collector his written authority to do so, I take over charge accordingly -

3 I had instructed all Executive Officers to look upon the Quinquennial Funds as limited to their disposal - as Government only allow Rupees annually out of Rupees 48,000 - and to apply the whole sum, as the Quinquennial are limited until the Roads, for the Year and not of the Roads, either annually or sanctioned for this District, were done by the Collector - the District Engineer - as there are more roads to be made and repaired than the District Engineer, with the large Establishment Staff, can properly attend to - the Collector, Assistants, and Sub-Collectors, as well as Civil Officers, and Tahsildars, in Malabar, and Canara, are frequently obliged to be absent on Tour, and superintending all the Roads in their Districts - but they are expected to submit to me a report, annually, of the Roads, Bridges, &c, which should be done by the District Engineer - and I should then, after consulting with the Collector, and District Engineer, on the Estimates, allot yearly the Funds, as I think necessary -

nearly all the Roads being entrusted either to Young Officers just joined, new to their work, or subordinate Corporals or Serjeants, who however respectable, have naturally not personal experience in Road making - I have no wish to change any system ordered by Government, but I think a Collector may safely, and should be entrusted, to expend the small portion entitled his Quinquennial Fund, or be altogether relieved of the nominal discretion which he is not allowed to exercise - I had therefore the so called Quinquennial Fund 5,000, and the Local Funds about 13800 - to expend and have done so, as the District Engineer will himself testify, usefully - this Year the District Engineer has taken the Local Funds and also directed me to expend previous Years out of the 5,000 on Bridges &c, so that even that amount is not really at my discretion -

Combatore 9th June 1863

I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant Signed J. B. Thomas Collector

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Col. No 1 forwards letter of Major E. Vaupell, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, Cannanore, to the Chief Engineer No 119, dated 24th April 1863.

X X X X

The system of District Road Conjunctions are

are so ordered and directed as far as shall seem to me satisfactory that I should be furnished to enable me to ascertain first that uniformity will hereafter be established. To Conductors the Collectors or other Executive Officers of the Queen's Navy Land and Sea Cans enable the Engineer or the subscriber to settle accounts the money as entirely in the hands of the Colonial Engineer

Y X I.

Camp Tortola
Malabar Circle
24th April 1857

I have the honor &c.
(signed) E. Vansittart
Supt Surgr & Colonial Engineer

Resolved that a copy of the foregoing letter No 314, dated 25 June 57, from the Collector of Combatoor, explaining the remarks made by the Supt Engr Southern Circle respecting the communication with the District Engrs of Combatoor regarding the setting of the Quarterly Road Sanctions together with an Extract from Major Vansittart's letter No 119, dated 24th April 1857, be forwarded to Lieut Colonel Pasley Chief Engineer for the information of Government

(True Extract)

A. Pasley Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to
Government Fort St. George

Camp Ootacamund

P. W. D.

No 1528

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 5th ~~July~~ Aug 1857.

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

(Here enter 11th July 57 No 1947.)

With the above Proceedings the Chief Engineer submits for the information of Government copy of a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, in which Mr. Thomas adverting to a remark made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter of 24th April 1857, that "in Coimbatore the Collector is "still the Executive officer of the "Discretionary Fund, and seldom "consults the Engineer on the outlay, "while in South Arcot the money "is entirely in the hands of the District

Dist. Engr's Let. No 114 of 1857.

Dated Nov. 1857 Dear Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith for the information of Government a copy of a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, No 1947 dated 11th July 1857, with enclosure, on the subject of the remarks made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter of 24th April 1857, that in Coimbatore the Collector is still the Executive officer of the Discretionary Fund, and seldom consults the Engineer on the outlay, while in South Arcot the money is entirely in the hands of the Executive Engineer.

I have &c

Sd/ [illegible]

Chief Engr

Madras Nov 1857

Sd/ [illegible]

Secy to Govt

Public Works Dept

Submitted, for the information of Government, a copy of a letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, with enclosure, on the subject of the remarks made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter of 24th April 1857, that in Coimbatore the Collector is still the Executive officer of the Discretionary Fund, and seldom consults the Engineer on the outlay, while in South Arcot the money is entirely in the hands of the Executive Engineer, regarding the new system of Public Works Accounts.

1857.

C28 Chief Engr (P.W.D.) 2 Augt.

District Engineer," asserts that he is not aware of the grounds on which the remark was made, that he has never yet executed one work from the Discretionary or any other funds of which the District Engineer was not fully cognizant, and of which he did not approve. He at the same time adds that certain works were executed under his own Superintendence, because the District Engineer and his Establishment had more work in hand than they could possibly attend to. Under these circumstances and as the works undertaken by the Collectors are stated to have been previously approved by the Engineer, it does not appear to Government that the proceedings of the Collectors were in any way opposed to the spirit of Rule 7 of the Rules issued on the 11th April 1856 for the management of the Local funds and they have only to remark that Mr Thomas's letter should have been referred for the observations of Major Lawford previous to its submission to Government.

E.B.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dist. 6

R Cons. 16th April 1858 N° 1185

Public Works 1857 Depart.
Dr to Cons 11th Augt

N° 1528.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dy 5th August 1857.
Extract from the Proceedings 21st
Augt 1857 N° 1068 inclosing Dy &c

Observing that it does not appear to them that the proceedings of the Collector of Coimbatore were in any way opposed to the spirit of Rule 7 of the Rules passed on the 11th April 1856, for the management of the District Road Funds, and Govt have only to remark, that Mr Thomas's letter should have been referred for the observations of Major Crawford previous to its submission to Government.

N° 27 & 28.

N° 28 Dy 3d Augt