M.R.O. 1—22 459—23-11-60

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 2 6 5 7

G.O. No. 1744 Press Mis.

71-74.

Dated 2 6 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 2nd June 1857.

No. 71. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 23rd April 1857, No. 12002.

SIR,

1. Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 24, dated 6th January 1857, in passing Orders on the Proceedings held before the Head of Police of the Cumply Talook, connected with the robbery of Overseer Hanson's cash chest, observed that they would await the further information called for in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2038, dated 4th November 1856, in regard to the precise sum, shewn according to the Overseer's accounts to have been lost, and the conduct of the Overseer himself in the matter.

Letter from the District Engineer of Bellary No. 291, dated 27th March 1857.

2. The above Order was communicated to the Collector, and District Engineer of Bellary, in Extract from Proceedings No. 9366, dated 9th January 1857, and the District Engineer was again called upon for the information in Extract from Proceedings No. 9688, of the 23rd Idem.

3. In Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 496, dated 18th March last, Government in passing orders on the correspondence relative to the trial of Overseer Hanson, forwarded with Extract from Proceedings No. 9894, of the 30th Idem, observed, that the information required in Minutes of Consultation of the 4th November 1856, No. 2038, was not furnished, and that no information had been given of the precise charges laid against the Overseer.

4. With reference to the precise charges, I would observe that the same had never been communicated to this Office, the whole matter of the robbery having been investigated by a Court of enquiry at Bellary, and the proceedings forwarded to His Excellency the Commander in Chief, and to that authority, should further information on the point in question be required, it will be necessary for me to apply.

5. The Order of Government contained in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 496, of the 18th March, was communicated to the Collector, and District Engineer of Bellary, with Extract from Proceedings No. 11135, of the 21st Idem.

6. The District Engineer in his present letter, No. 291, of the 27th Ultimo, refers to former correspondence, and observes that "in May 1856, a sum of Rupees 257-13-3 was stated "to have been stolen from the cash chest of Overseer Hanson, the robbery has never been dis-"covered, nor has any proof ever been shewn that it actually took place."

7. The District Engineer further states, that Mr. Hanson still continues in arrest, on a charge of making away with Rupees 13-13-9 the discrepancy in his accounts detected by Captain Babington, and reported in his letter dated 19th September 1856, but this charge should be no longer allowed to stand the Commander in Chief having determined, that it is not desirable to bring the Overseer to trial on the defective evidence which could be brought against him.

8. There appears to be no probability of any thing further being elicited in the matter of the alleged robbery, and it remains for Government to decide, how the Overseer is to be dealt with; as I still adhere to my former recommendation, that he should be remanded to his Corps.

9. I do not consider it necessary to support Mr. Pelly's suggestion, that Overseers should invariably lodge their cash chest with the Police authorities of the places where they halt, being of opinion, that due precaution on their own parts, will be quite sufficient to ensure them against losing Government money entrusted to their charge.

No. 72. ORDER THEREON, No. 1044; dated 2nd June 1857.

Para. 1. The Chief Engineer explains in this letter the circumstances under which the robbery of Assistant Overseer Hanson's cash chest became the subject of investigation by a Court of Enquiry, and states that, as there is no prospect of any further information being elicited in respect of that robbery, it is for Government to decide as to the mode in which the Assistant Overseer should be disposed of. The Government would here remark that, although the infor-

mation heretofore submitted on this subject, is of a very unsatisfactory character, there is yet sufficient to establish the Assistant Overseer's incapacity for duty in the Department of Public Works; and under this view, they approve of the Chief Engineer's suggestion, and direct accordingly, that Assistant Overseer Hanson be remanded to his Corps.

2. In reference to the discrepancy in the Assistant Overseer's accounts, and supposed fraudulent misappropriation of the public money, it is observed that His Excellency the Commander in Chief has already decided against the Assistant Overseer being brought to trial, on the ground of insufficient evidence. The circumstance of the Assistant Overseer being still in arrest will therefore be communicated to the Military Department for the issue of such orders as may be deemed necessary.

3. From the correspondence that has taken place on this subject, it appears that the doubt expressed by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation 14th August 1856, No. 1339, para. 3, as to the fact of a robbery ever having taken place, is fully borne out in the subsequent papers, and in the report of the District Engineer, of which an Extract is given in the Chief Engineer's present letter viz., that "the robbery has never been discovered, nor has any proof "ever been shewn that it actually took place." The question now remaining for consideration, is, whether the Assistant Overseer shall be called on to make good the sum unaccounted for, even if he has it in his power to do so now that he has been remanded to his Regiment; or whether it should be borne by Government and written off to profit and loss as recommended by the Chief Engineer in his letter of the 5th July 1856. The Government are unable to decide on the course to be taken without further information on certain points. The sum represented to have been taken was Rupees 257-13-3; and for the recovery of this amount, the District Engineer ordered the Assistant Overseer's Civil pay to be stopped, though the Government considered that in this proceeding he had exceeded his powers. Since then a further discrepancy has been discovered in the Assistant Overseer's accounts, which if true, will increase the defalcation; but up to the present time the actual deficiency does not seem to have been ascertained, as although the Government have frequently called for a report of the precise sum deficient, they have not as yet received the information.

4. The Government desire therefore to be informed on the following particulars, viz., the date from which the Assistant Overseer ceased to do duty in the Public Works Department; the date to which he has been permitted to draw Civil allowances; whether any stoppages have been made from them to cover the sum unaccounted for; the loss which remains to be adjusted in his accounts; and whether there is yet any source from which the deficiency might be met. The Chief Engineer will have the goodness to furnish a brief but clear report on all these points with his own opinion as to the course to be taken for the adjustment of the deficient amount.

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

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For Orders

Public Works Department N°825.

From the Chief Engineer 23d April 1857.

I approve of the Opinion suggested that the Assistant Overseer should be remanded to his Corps.

S— T.W.D.

No. 1044

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 2nd June 4, 1857.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engineer.

/Here enter 23d April 1857, No 12002./

Para 1 The Chief Engineer explains in this letter the circumstances under which the robbery of Assistant Overseer Hanson's cash chest became the subject of investigation by a Court of enquiry, and states that, as there is no prospect of any further information being elicited in respect of that robbery, it is for Government to decide as to the mode in which the Assistant Overseer should be disposed of. The Government would here remark that

that, although the information heretofore submitted on this subject is of a very unsatisfactory character, there is yet sufficient to establish the Assistant Overseer's incapacity for duty in the Department of Public Works, and under this view they approve of the Chief Engineer's suggestion, and direct accordingly, that Assistant Overseer Hanson be removed to his Corps.

2 In reference to the discrepancy in the Assistant Overseer's accounts, and supposed fraudulent misappropriation of the public money, it is observed that His Excellency the Commander in Chief has already decided against the Assistant Overseer being brought to trial, on the ground

ground of insufficient evidence. The circumstances of the Assistant Overseer being still in arrest will therefore be communicated to the Military Department for the issue of such orders as may be deemed necessary.

3 From the correspondence that has taken place on this subject, it appears that the doubt expressed by Government in Extract Minutes of Consultation 14th August 1856 N° 1339 para 3 as to the fact of a robbery ever having taken place, is fully borne out in the subsequent papers, and in the report of the District Engineer, of which an Extract is given in the Chief Engineer's present letter

Yrs

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has any proof ever been shewn
that it actually took place.
The question now remaining
for consideration, is, whether
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the sum unaccounted for,
even if he has
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now that he has been
remanded to his Regiment,
or whether it should be
borne by Government and
written off to Profit and
loss as recommended by the
Chief Engineer in his letter
of the 5th July 1856. The Govern-
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on certain points. The sum
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Viz^t

viz. the date from which the Assistant Overseer ceased to do duty in the Public Works Department; the date to which he has been permitted to draw Civil allowances; whether any stoppages have been made from them to cover the sum unaccounted for; the loss which remains to be adjusted in his accounts; and whether there is yet any source from which the deficiency might be met. The Chief Engineer will have the goodness to furnish a brief but clear report on all these points with his own opinion as to the course to be taken for the adjustment of the deficient amount.

J. W.

J. Colvin to the Chief Engr. with Encls. Copy 3.

3 — Entry Copies

Cons: 6th Jany/57 Pl. 47848.
" 2d March " 475.
" 4th Nov.r/56 — 99400.

Public Works 1857 Departt.
Cons.: 2d. June.

No 1044.

Extract Mins.: of Cons.:
Dy 2d. June/57.

From the Chief Engineer Dy 29 June/57
No 1308 Cons.: 4th July

Directing that Asst.
Quartermaster Hawkins be re-
manded to his Corps in
Consequence of his incapa-
city for duty in the D.P.W.
& stating certain orders in
respect of the alleged rob-
bery of his Camp Chest.

No 1072.

26th Nov 29th