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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 26.5.57

G.O. No. 967 Press / Mis.

3-4 Dated 20 — 5 — 1857

Not to be folded or roughly handled

S[illegible] 9/7/37

No. 3. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 4th May 1857, No. 53.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Tirtalla, Malabar 24th April 1857, No. 120.

SIR,

Referring to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 510, dated 20th March 1857, I have the honor to represent, that the imputation of proposing arrangements tending to confusion, is one to which my Proceedings in Tanjore will scarcely expose me, unless the Acting Collector with whom those arrangements were settled, is equally liable to the charge.

2. Some works, such as the Munuyaur improvements, were transferred last year, and others, not commenced before my visit, were with Mr. Phillips's concurrence, made over to the Engineer Department, this season, so that different dates of transfer, must have effect under any circumstances, as has been the case in South Arcot, and Trichinopoly, without producing any inconvenience, that I am aware of.

3. I found however, that in Trichinopoly, and North Arcot, much inconvenience had arisen, in the transfer of unfinished works, from accounts being closed, and advances by the Revenue Officers, recovered with great difficulty; I also knew that heavy advances had been issued for several large works in Tanjore, and as all accounts of expenditure out of the road fund *must* be closed to the 30th April, it seemed to be very desirable that the works of that fund belonging to the ensuing year, should begin entirely under the new system, although this was not possible with others.

4. Under the orders quoted above, Tahsildars will probably make advances for sand in May, and in August, this material will be delivered over to the Engineers, who will have to measure thousands of heaps, minus all that the July winds have carried away, disputes will arise and Government, will be finally asked, to wipe off "inefficient balances" for which the District Engineer, cannot be held responsible.

5. It occurs to me that "confusion" is much more likely to arise, from such a mode of transfer, than the one which the Acting Collector, and I had recommended, and I think Mr. Phillips will act prudently in restricting the expenditure, for the next three months, as much as possible.

6. I had almost omitted noticing, the important correction of my opinion regarding emergent works, but I cannot look forward without apprehension to the effect of the order now promulgated on the subject, my expression was, works "strictly emergent," in which class, those sanctioned by Government, were not intended to be included.

7. If an *emergent* work, such as the repair, or prevention of a breach, is commenced by a Tahsildar, it must be completed by the same authority, and as the Government have not yet conferred on Engineer Officers, the power of enforcing such repairs exercised by the Revenue Department, I see no other way in which they can be executed, than that hitherto practised.

8. My rough draft, having been mislaid, I am unable to correct the apparent error noticed in para. 4, but my design was simply, that all *new* works should be at once transferred, as some have already been.

Resolved to submit a copy of the foregoing despatch, No. 120 of the 24th April 1857, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, explanatory of his views in recommending certain transfer arrangements in Tanjore to Government, for favorable consideration.

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

of the 28. February 1
Relative

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 26th May 1857.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 967; dated 20th May 1857.

With these Proceedings, the Chief Engineer submits a copy of a letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, explanatory of some points of his former letter of the 23rd February, relative to the transfer of the executive of the Public Works in Tanjore.

2. In Extract Minutes Consultation, dated the 20th of March No. 510, the Government had noticed Major Lawford's remark, in a letter to the Acting Collector, that all works of a strictly emergent nature, were intended to remain under the Collector's executive control, and they said that it was not their intention that all emergent works should be executed by the Collector, but only such as arose from sudden emergencies and accidents, such as the breach of rivers or channels.

3. Major Lawford now explains that he did not intend to include emergent works sanctioned by Government among those which would remain under the Collector, but only such as the repair or prevention of a breach, and this is in accordance with the intentions of Government, and with the provisions of the order of the 7th of October 1856, No. 1823.

4. Major Lawford further remarks on that part of the order of Government of the 20th of March which refers to the date for the transfer of the executive of the road repairs in Tanjore, and is of opinion that it would be better, had the transfer been ordered from the commencement of the official year. On this point the Government have already passed their orders, they remark that the only materials for the repair of roads in Tanjore are sand and mud, that the former cannot be taken from the rivers after the freshes come down, and that the latter cannot be taken from the fields after they are overflowed with water; both of these preventive causes are at work before the month of August, and as therefore all material must have been prepared before that date, and the earth work, at all events, must have been performed, it appears to Government that almost the whole of the years expenditure must have been incurred, before the 1st of August, and the greater part of it before the 1st of May.

5. It is possible, as Major Lawford remarks, that the high westerly winds of July, may carry away some sand heaped on the road side, but the same would have occurred had the charge of the roads been with the Engineer Department, and reasonable allowance on this account will of course be made on a settlement of accounts between the Collector and the District Engineer. The Government anticipate that a single desire to promote the Public service, will, on the transfer being made, be no less conspicuous in Tanjore, than it has lately been in Trichinopoly, and are confident that they will not be disappointed.

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

3

Public Works Dept

No. 967

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 20th May 1857.

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

Here enter 4th May 1857
No 551

4
4
14

With these proceedings the Chief Engineer submits a copy of a letter from the Supt. Engineer Southern Circle, explanatory of some points of his former letter of the 23d February, relative

relative to the transfer of the Executive of the publics works in Tanjore.

7 In Ex Genl Cons.t dated the 20th of March No 570, the Government had noticed Major Lawford's remark, in a letter to the Acting Collector, that all works of a strictly emergent, nature, were intended to remain under the Collectors executive control, and they said that it was not their intention that all emergent works should be executed by the Collector

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8 Major Lawford now explains that he did not intend to include emergent works sanctioned by Govt among those which would remain under the Collector, but only such as the repair or prevention of a breach, and this is in accordance with the intentions of Govt, and with

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the provisions of the order of the 7th of October 1856 No. 1826.

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J Copies to the Chief Engr
Dispr 22d

Cl'k May 22 14th

Public Works 1857 Sept.r
Dr. to Cons 26th May.

No. 967.

Extract Mins of Cons.
Dd 20th May 57.

Passing orders on a
Letter from the Supg. Engr.
Southern Circle, explaining
his views in recommending
certain transfer arrange-
ments of the Executive
of the P.W.D. in the Jam-
jore District.

No 3+4.