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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 5, 20-7-1858

G.O. No. 1367 Press Mis.

18-19

Dated 14-7-1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th July 1858.

No. 18. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, in charge Central Office of P. W.; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 21st June 1858, No. 1308.

SIR,

1 Letter from Dist. Engr. Bellary, No. 12 of 10th May 1858.
1 Copy of letter from Assistant Superintendent Porter, No. 9.
1 Letter from Dist. Engr. Bellary No. 14 of 12th May 1858.
1 Copy of letter from Assistant Superintendent Porter No. 25, of 1st June 1858.

I have the honor to forward two letters from the District Engineer of Bellary, and a copy of one to his address from Assistant Supervisor Porter, reporting the robbery of the latter's Cash Chest at Bellary on the night of the 7th Ultimo, and the loss of all its contents, including a sum of Rupees 1,600 of public money.

2. Mr. Porter's letter gives a clear and candid account of the circumstances, and the District Engineer's corroborate them, and detail the measures immediately adopted for tracing the perpetrators of the theft.

3. It appears that late on the afternoon of the day preceding the robbery, Mr. Porter before leaving his office locked the Chest, and left it under the charge of a Lascar and an office attendant in the usual manner, deeming it quite safe in their custody within the building used by him as an office, as it was well secured and so situated as to be within call of the Barracks and of the old Hospital. In the morning information was given him that the office had been broken into, and on hurrying to the spot he found that a small window had been forced, and that the Cash Chest had, apparently, been handed-out through the opening. Search having been instituted the empty box was soon found, not broken open but unlocked, either by the thieves having been acquainted with the secret of its construction and setting it, or by their destroying it. The lock, or any part of it, has not been found, as would probably have been the case had it been broken, and this points suspicion at the Lascar and Peon, one of whom it appears is supposed to have been cognizant of the mode of opening it.

4. Mr. Porter lost no time in communicating with the Police Authorities and in conjunction with them did every thing in his power to trace and discover the thieves; and on the District Engineer reaching Bellary on the 11th Ultimo, he exerted himself to the like purpose.

5. Lieutenant Fisher's letter of the following days date describes the results of his examination of the office and of the fruitless proceedings of the Police. He is decidedly of opinion that the Cash Chest could never have been removed through the window, and he entertains the strongest suspicions of the Lascar and Peon who had charge of it, but without being able to obtain the slightest clue to lead to their conviction.

6. Mr. Porter has made good the loss, but it is very questionable, I think, how far, under the circumstances, he ought in justice to be allowed to make this heavy sacrifice. The sum being large he was called upon to state how he happened to have it in his possession, and though his explanation, which is herewith submitted, is not altogether clear and satisfactory, I think it will be a measure equally harsh and wrong in principle to make him pecuniarly responsible for the loss. The District Engineer speaks most highly of Mr. Porter, and in consideration of there being no establishment allowed for the protection of the Cash Chests attached to executives of the D. P. W., who are nevertheless compelled to carry large sums of money about with them, in consequence of the Talook Police Peons having instructions to give no assistance in its transmission, I would respectfully recommend that the sum stolen from Mr. Porter should be written off, and that he be re-imbursed the amount, as he has made it good.

Letter from Lieutenant J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer dated 10th May 1858, No. 12.

* Cash balance.....1585-2-5
Facha Saib.... } pay for March 60-0-0
Varadarajooloo }
Vencataratnum Extra Lascar ..36-0-0
Rupees..1,681-2-5

In forwarding the accompanying papers for your perusal, I regret to report, that Mr. Supervisor Porter's Cash chest, containing money as per margin,* was stolen on the night of the 7th and the whole sum extracted; as I purpose leaving this place to night and proceeding to Bellary to examine personally into the matter, I beg to be allowed to report further on the subject hereafter, I can only add, that

I am not at all surprized at such an occurrence taking place as we have few or no means at our disposal, either for guarding or transmitting treasure.

Letter from Mr. PORTER, Supervisor D. P. W.; to Lieutenant J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary, dated 8th May 1858, No. 9.

SIR,

I am exceedingly sorry to have to report to you, an occurrence which took place last night, my *Civil Cash-chest* in which was money as per margin* was stolen and up to the time of writing no clue to the robbers has been obtained, from the following statement you will be able to judge, whether and to whom fault should be attributed. Prior to my leaving Office yesterday evening about 5 o'clock, I duly locked the chest and it was then left in the charge of a Lascar whose duty it was to guard it for that night, besides whom there was the usual Office attendant. I then went to the Fort where I slept and in the morning the Lascar reports that during the night the Cash chest had been stolen. I immediately reported the circumstance to the Police Officer and Native Police, also to the Fort Adjutant, at the same time I sent out coolies in all directions in less than an hour the chest was found in a nullah near the breached Tank behind Mr. Moraut's compound and on the road to Kollagul, it was much battered but had evidently been opened either by breaking or setting the lock (which was a very strong lettered one) the lock has not been found. The box was left at the Office near the Barracks, is supposed to have been abstracted by the robbers, first forcing a window and afterwards removing the box thro' this opening, this is however very doubtful; but until some real information is obtained all that can be said is at best conjecture. I have offered Rupees 100, through the Commissary, to any person who will give information leading to the conviction of the robbers. The Lascar and Office attendant have been handed over to the Police. By this misadventure I am greatly distressed, fearing that blame may be attached to me, but I always entrusted the chest to the Lascars, they being the only persons whom I have to guard it, the Office is well secured and within call of the Barracks or the persons living in the old Hospital, and although for many years past things have been kept stored in this building nothing has ever been stolen. For proof that the sum stated actually was in the chest at the time of the robbery, I send a memo signed by the only two persons who could possibly know any thing about, it was the sum of smaller amount than that now in question. I should not hesitate about making it good immediately and contenting myself with the probability of discovering the thieves and perhaps getting the amount back. I therefore beg that you will kindly write and inform me what I am to do, and that you will not attribute this misfortune to any carelessness or neglect on my part, as I supposed I had taken all necessary precautions.

* Cash balance 1585-2-5
Pacha Saib ..... } pay for March 60-0-0
Varadarajooloo }
Vencatarutnum Extra Lascar.... 36-0-0
Rupees... 1681-2-5

This is to certify, that the undersigned did actually see the sum of Rupees 1,500 to 1,700 in the Civil Cash Chest of Supervisor W. Porter, on the afternoon of the 7th May 1858, and that they are not aware that any money, was afterwards taken out, and that the said chest was duly and properly locked at about 5 o'clock on the evening of the said 7th May, being about the time Supervisor W. Porter left the Office for the Fort.

Bellary 8th May 1858.

(Signed) V. COOPOOSAWMY,
(Signed) S. VARDAPAH,

Letter from Lieutenant J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Ramandroog, 12th May 1858, No. 14.

SIR,

In continuation of my letter to your address No. 12 dated 10th May 1858, reporting the robbery committed on Mr. Supervisor Porter's Cash-Chest at Bellary on the night of the 7th instant, I have the honor further to report, that yesterday I personally examined the small office attached to the Military buildings where the Cash Chest was left, and with Mr. Porter waited on Captain Moore the Police Magistrate before whom the case was investigated.

2. It appears that on the afternoon of the 7th instant at about 5 P. M. Mr. Porter locked the Cash Chest in the presence of several people and left it in the office in charge of a Lascar and the Peon who has charge of the office, this Lascar was relieved at 6 P. M. by another of Mr. Porter's Lascars, the Office Peon says he went away about this time to his rice and did not return till about 8½ P. M. he then unlocked and opened the office door, went in to take out his bed and cumbly, which he placed next to the Lascar out-side the door, where the pair slept, he then found the window closed: about 10 P. M. they examined, they state, all the doors and windows of the place and found all fastened; in the morning one of the windows was found open and the Cash Chest gone containing money as per margin and not as formerly reported to you.

Rupees 1600.

3. I am of opinion the Cash Chest was never taken out through the window, a quantity of wet sand outside the window and immediately below it was found in the morning to have no foot-marks on it, and unless these were entirely obliterated in a dark night, no person could have got at the window without leaving foot-prints behind; great suspicion attaches to the Lascar, but the Police Magistrate after investigating the matter dismissed the case, as there was no evidence in support of it; at my earnest request he has consented to re-investigate the matter and if possible to commit it into the hands of the Civil Authorities, with a view to the parties being held to bail if no evidence in the mean time is obtained to implicate them or to trace others who have perpetrated the robbery.

4. The box when found was open, attempts had been made to force it at the hinges, but apparently somebody was present who was acquainted with the secret of the lock which was a strong letter one, was gone, and the box had apparently been opened by regularly setting the lock or by filing

5. Mr. Supervisor Porter has replaced the whole amount, but I trust the Government will on consideration be pleased to forego the penalty on his account, Mr. Porter has for more than a year been performing most satisfactorily the duties of an Executive Officer, his plans and estimates are always correctly drawn and carefully made, he is always zealous and attentive in the discharge of his duties and his accounts have invariably been early and correctly submitted, a degree of blame must necessarily attach itself to him for leaving the Cash-Chest with so slender a guard, but it is not fair to hold him altogether responsible for this, no establishment is allowed for any Cash chest, the Talook Police authorities have orders to give no assistance in transmitting money, and the consequence is Executive Officers have to carry about large sums of money disbursing them to their Subordinates on their tours of inspection: the system I beg most respectfully to submit is very defective, it is very difficult to trace a robbery of this kind, in fact I have been assured that this one will never be found out, there is then almost a premium to a person to betray a trust reposed in him especially as no direct responsibility lies with him and there is every probability of his being able to make off with a large sum of money when any favorable opportunity offers; this could not be the case if we were allowed to entertain shroffs in each Executive range from whom security could be taken to any amount considered necessary.

6. I was on the eve of recommending Mr. Porter for the extra allowance granted to upper Subordinates in charge of Executive ranges by your circular No. 218, dated 16th April 1858, when this robbery took place, I trust however this will be no bar to his promotion, he has received a very severe lesson and without being called upon has at once, replaced the money which had been lost and as I have never had occasion to find any fault with him, I beg to be allowed to forward my recommendation.

7. In conclusion I beg to bring to your notice, I have but one Executive Officer in this District, I must therefore entrust the Executive ranges to any of the upper Subordinates I find capable of taking charge of them and for the present I am obliged to put Mr. Porter in charge of two Executive ranges, as on Lieutenant Hunter's proceeding to Canara I have no one else to take charge of the Pennoblah range, I have directed Lieutenant Syme to keep charge of the whole of the ranges Nos. 5 and 6, and to give over charge of No. 4 to Mr, Supervisor Ross as soon as he arrives in this District. Mr. Blacker will be put in charge of No. 3 as soon as he has finished his present work: this is the best arrangement I can make with the small means at my disposal.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 20th July 1858.

Letter from Lieutenant J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 7th June 1858, No. 44.

SIR,

With reference to a letter No. 520 dated 22nd May 1858, I have the honor to forward copy of a letter No. 25 dated 1st June 1858 from Mr. Supervisor W. Porter, explaining the cause why he had so much money in hand at the time his Cash-chest was robbed.

Letter from Mr. PORTER, Supervisor, Department Public Works; to Lieutenant J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary, dated Sooganhully, 1st June 1858, No. 25.

SIR,

I beg to state in explanation, as called for by the Acting Superintending Engineer as to the large balance (1,600) remaining on my hands at the time of the robbery of my Cash-Chest, that it arose 1st from the fact of my requiring money to meet unadjusted accounts which it was necessary to close at the end of the last of ~~final~~ financial year. 2ndly that the works in question were not in the Bellary Talook, which necessitated my drawing the money from the Kumply Tahsildar, whilst my camp was on Ramandroog, and conveying it to Bellary. 3rdly owing to the Sub Overseers and others having to Collect tools and many other delays which usually arise at the time of finishing up any work, their accounts were delayed for a few days over the expected time of presentation, within 2 or 3 days of the loss of the money from the chest, the bills for work performed in April (as per margin*) were sent in, after payment of which I should have had a balance of about 744 Rupees, which could not be considered as large when compared with the amount of estimates and number of works in hand at the time.

* Hereall and Hosspett Roads 431-10-3
Kumply Ferries 323- 3-4
Camlapoor and Darojee road 101- 8-0
Total 856- 5 7

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, No. 1367; dated 14th July 1858.

Before passing orders on the letter above recorded, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council resolves to request the Officiating Chief Engineer to call upon Mr. Porter, through the District Engineer, to forward *immediately* the original Cash books kept by him during the past three months, with a list shewing the dates and amounts of the drafts furnished to him during that period, the names of the Tahsildars on whom they were drawn and the dates on which they were cashed, and submit them to Government when received.

2. The explanation afforded by Mr. Porter in his letter to the District Engineer, dated 1st June 1858, is not clear enough. He states that certain works for which money was required not being in the Bellary Talook, necessitated his drawing the money from the Kumply Tahsildar and conveying it to Bellary. The Government do not believe that it is any where prescribed that money should be drawn only from the Tahsildar of that Talook in which the works are situated, nor is it likely that any particular works are specified in the drafts. Mr. Porter will state if this has been his practice in drawing money all along and give full explanation on the subject. It is to avoid Public Works Officers' travelling with money that provision was made to supply them with orders on the several Tahsildars to be cashed whenever requisite. Having been in Bellary when the robbery occurred Mr. Porter ought to have drawn from the Tahsildar of the Talook of that name the money he required and that too in small sums as far as the amount of each draft allowed. Mr. Porter will also specify the dates on which he received the bills for Rupees 856-5-7, the value of work done in April, and explain the delay in their payment.

Rule 6 of the Manual for drawing funds, page 394, of Mr. Grants C. O. B.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

District Engineers Office
No. 13 Camp Ramandroog, 3
10th May, 1858.

From, Lieutenant J. F. Fisher
District Engineer of Bellary.

To The Chief Engineer D. P. W.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

In forwarding the accompanying papers for your perusal, I regret to report that Mr. Supervisor Porters Cash Chest, Con=
=taining money as per margin, was stolen on the night of the 7th, and the whole sum ex=
=tracted - as I purpose leaving this place to night and proceeding to Bellary to exa=
=mine personally into the matter, I beg to be allowed to report further on the subject hereafter, I can only add, that I am not at all surprised at such an occurrence taking place as we have few or no means at our disposal, either for guarding or trans=
=mitting treasure.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. F. Fisher, Lieut.
District Engineer of Bellary

No.

1585-2-5
60-"-"
36-"-"
1681-2-5

* Cash balances
Paid a/c
Tavadarajoo Cooly's pay for month
Unexpended Establishment

No. 9.

To

The District Engineer of Bellary.

Sir,

I am exceedingly sorry to have to report to you, an occurrence which took place last night. My Civil Cash Chest in which was money as per margin X - was stolen and up to the time of writing no clue to the robbers has been obtained - from the following statement you will be able to judge, whether and to whom fault should be attributed - Prior to my leaving Office yesterday evening about 5 O'clock, I duly locked the Chest and it was then left in the charge of a Lascar whose duty it was to guard it for that night - besides whom there was the usual Office attendant. I then went to the Fort where I slept and in the morning the Lascar reports that during the night the Cash Chest had been stolen. I immediately reported the circumstance to the Police Officer and native Police, also to the Fort adjutant, at the same time I sent out Coolies in all directions in less than an hour the Chest was found in a nullah near the breached Tank behind Mr. Morant's Compound and on the road to Kollagal - it was much battered - but had evidently been opened either by breaking

Cash Balance 1585-2-5

Packing cases &c. for stamps - 1-0-0

Telegraph Office Stationary for stamps - 60-"-"

Peons extra time Police Lascar - 36-"-"

1681-2-5

breaking or picking the lock (which was a very strong lettered one) the lock has not been found. The box was left at the Office near the Barracks - is supposed to have been abstracted by the Robbers, first forcing a window and afterwards removing the box thro' this opening, this is however very doubtful. but until some real information is obtained all that can be said is at best Conjecture. I have offered Rupees 100, thro the Commissary. to any person who will give information leading to the conviction of the robbers. The Lascar and Office attendant have been handed over to the police - By this misadventure I am greatly distressed, fearing that blame may be attached to me - but I always entrusted the chest to the Lascars they being the only persons whom I have to guard it. the Office is well secured and within call of the Barracks or the persons living in the old Hospital, and although for many years past things have been kept stored in this building nothing has ever been stolen - For proof that the sums stated actually

was

was in the Chest at the time of the robbery.
I send a memo signed by the only two persons
who could possibly know any thing about it
was the sum of smaller amount than that
now in question. I should not hesitate in
about making it good immediately - and
contenting myself with the probability of
discovering the thieves and perhaps getting
the amount back. I therefore beg that
you will kindly write and inform me
what I am to do, and that you will
not attribute this misfortune to any
Carelessness or neglect on my part,
as I supposed I had taken all necessary
precautions.-

Camp Bellary
8th May 1858 } I have &c.
(signed) W. Porter
Supervisor D.P.W.

(A true Copy)
(signed) J. F. Fisher Lieut.
District Engineer of Bellary.

This is to certify, that the
undersigned did actually see the sum of
Rupees 1,500 to 1,900 in the Civil Cash Chest
of

of Supervisor W. Porter - on the afternoon
of the 7th May 1858 and that they are not
aware that any money was afterwards
taken out - and that the said Chest
was duly & properly locked at about
5 O'clock on the evening of the said 7th
May, being about the time supervisor
W. Porter left the Office for the Fort.

Bellary
8th May 1858 } (signed) W. Coopoosawmy
(signed) S. Varadapah

(A true Copy)
(signed) J. F. Fisher Lieut.
Distt. Engineer of Bellary

No. 14.

District Engineers Office.
Camp Ramandroog
12th May 1858.

From Lieutenat J. F. Fisher
District Engineer of Bellary.
To
The Chief Engineer D. P. W.
Fort St. George

Sir,

In continuation of my letter
to your address No. 12 dated 10th May 1858,
reporting the Robbery Committed on
M.

Mr. Supervisor Porter's cash chest at Bellary on the night of the 7th Instant, I have the honor further to report, that yesterday I personally examined the small Office attached to the Military Buildings where the cash chest was left, and with Mr. Porter waited on Captain Moore the police Ma= =gistrate before whom the case was in= =vestigated.

2 It appears that on the afternoon of the 7th instant at about 5 P.M. Mr. Porter locked the cash chest in the presence of several people and left it in the Office in charge of a Lascar and the Peon who has charge of the Office - this Lascar was relieved at 6 P.M. by another of Mr. Porter's Lascars, the Office Peon says he went away about this time to his Rice and did not return till about 8½ P.M. he then unlocked and opened the Office door, went in to take out his bed and cumbly, which he e= =placed next to the Lascar outside the door, where the pair slept. he then e= found the window closed; about 10 P.M, they examined, they state, all the doors and

a guard, but it is not fair to hold him altogether responsible for this, no Establishment is e= allowed for any cash chest, the talook police authorities have orders to give no assistance in transmitting money, and the consequence is Executive Officers have to carry about e= large sums of money disbursing them to their subordinates on their tours of in= =spection; the system I beg most respect= =fully to submit is very defective, it is very difficult to trace a robbery of this kind, in fact I have been assured that this one will never be found out, there is then almost a premium to a person to betray a trust reposed in him especially as no direct responsibility lies with him and there is every probability of his being able to make off with a large sum of money when any favorable opportunity offers; this could not be the case if we were e= allowed to entertain shroffs in each Executive range from whom security could be taken to any amount conside= =red necessary.

6 I was on the eve of recommending Mr.

Mr. Porter for the Extra allowance granted to upper subordinates in charge of Executive Ranges by your Circular No. 218 dated 18th April 1858, when this robbery took place. I trust however this will be no bar to his promotion. he has received a very severe lesson and without being called upon has at once replaced the money which had been lost and as I have never had occasion to find any fault with him, I beg to be allowed to forward my recommendation.

In conclusion I beg to bring to your notice, I have but one Executive Officers in this District, I must therefore entrust the Executive ranges to any of the upper subordinates. I find capable of taking Charge of them and for the present I am obliged to put Mr. Porter in charge of two Executive ranges, as on Lieut. Hunter's proceeding to Canara I have no one else to take Charge of the Pennoblah 25 Ranges, I have directed Lieut. Syme to keep Charge of the whole of the Ranges No. 5 & 6 and to give over Charge of No. 6 to Mr. Supervisor Ross as soon as he arrives in this

Distt.

District. Mr. Blacker will be put in Charge of No. 3 as soon as he has finished his present work; this is the best arrangement I can make with the small means at my disposal.

I have &c.
(Signd) J. F. Fisher Lieut.
Distt. Engineer of Bellary

District Engineer's Office
Camp Ramandroog
12th May 1858

No. 44 District Engineers Office
Camp Bellary 7th June 1858

From
Lieutenant J. F. Fisher.
District Engineer of Bellary

To
The Chief Engineer
In the D. P. W. Fort St. Geo.

Sir,

With reference to a letter No. 520 dated 22d May 1858, I have the honor to forward Copy of a letter No. 258 of 1st June 1858 from Mr. Supervisor W. Porter, explaining the cause why he had so much money in hand at the time his cash chest was robbed.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. F. Fisher Lieut.
Distt. Engineer of Bellary

No.

No. 25.

To

The District Engineer of Bellary.

Sir I beg to state in explanation as called for by the acting superintending Engr. as to the large balance (1600) remaining on my hands at the time of the robbery of my Cash Chest, that it arose - 1st from the fact of my requiring money to meet un= =adjusted accounts which it was necessary to close at the end of the last of final year. 2nd that the works in question were not in the Bellary Taluk. which necessitated my drawing the money from the Kumply Tahsildar, whilst my Camp was on Ramandroog and conveying it to Bellary. 3rd Owing to the sub Overseers and others having to collect tools and many other delays which usually arise at the time of finishing up any work their accounts were delayed for a few days over the expected time of presentation within 2 or 3 days of the loss of the money from the Chest the bills for work per= =formed in April (as per margin x) were sent in after payment of which I should

× Kendall and Hopkett Roads = 431-10-3
Kumply Fortress = 523-3-4
Ramdroog & Dangeri Road 101-8-0
Total 856-5-7

5

and windows of the place and found all = fastened; in the morning one of the windows was found open and the Cash Chest gone Containing money as per margin and not as formerly reported to you.

Rs. 1600-0-0

3 I am of opinion the Cash Chest was never taken out thro the window, a quantity of wet sand outside the window and im= =mediately below it was found in the morn= =ing to have no foot marks on it, and unless these were entirely obliterated in a dark night, no person could have got at the win= =dow without leaving foot-prints behind. great suspicion attaches to the Lascar, but the Police Magistrate after investigating the matter dismissed the case as there was no evidence in support of it, at my earn= =est request he has consented to re= investigate the matter and if possible to commit it into the hands of the Civil authorities, with a view to the parties being held to bail if no evidence in the mean time is obtained to implicate them

them or to trace others who have perpe-
trated the robbery.

4 The box when found was open, attempts had been made to force it at the hinges, but apparently somebody was present who was acquainted with the secret of the lock which was a strong letter one, was gone, and the box had apparently been opened by regularly setting the Lock or by filing.

5 Mr. Supervisor Porter has replaced the whole amount but I trust the Govern-
ment will on Consideration be pleased to forego the penalty on his account, Mr. Porter has for more than a year been performing most statisfactorily the duties of an Executive Officer, his plans and Estimates are always correctly drawn and carefully made, he is always zealous and attentive in the discharge of his duties and his accounts have in-
variably been early and correctly submitted, a degree of blame must necessarily attach itself to him for leaving the cash Chest with so slender a

No 1308 Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George 2 June 1858.

From The Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle
In charge Central Office of P.W.

To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

1 Sent to Engr Bellary No 12 of 10 May 58
1 Copy to Sent Asst Engr Bellary
1 Sent to Engr Bellary No 13 of 12th May 58.
1 Copy of letter from Asst Engr Bellary No 25 of 1st June 58.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward two letters from the District Engineer of Bellary, and a Copy of one to his address from Assistant Supervisor Porter, re-
-porting the robbery of the latter's Cash Chest at Bellary on the night of the 7th Instt, and the loss of all its contents, including a sum of Rupees 1,600 of public Money.

2 Mr Porter's letter gives a clear and candid account of the circumstances and the District Engineer corroborates them and details the measures imm-
-mediately adopted for tracing the per-
-petrators of the theft.

3 It appears that late on the afternoon of the day preceding the robbery, Mr Porter before leaving his

Office

Office locked the Chest and left it, under the charge of a Lascar and an Office Attendant in the usual manner deeming it quite safe in their custody within the building used by him as an Office, as it was well secured and so situated as to be within call of the Barracks and of the old Hospital. In the morning information was given him that the Office had been broken into, and on hurrying to the spot he found that a small window had been forced, and that the Cash Chest had apparently been handled out through the opening. Search having been instituted the empty box was soon found not broken open but unlocked, either by the thieves having been acquainted with the secret of its construction and getting it, or by their destroying it. The lock or any part of it, has not been found, as would probably have been the case had it been broken, and this points sufficiently at the Lascar and Peon, one of whom it appears is supposed to have been cognizant of the mode of opening it.

Mr Porter lost no time in communicating with the Police Authorities and

should have had a balance of about £44 Rs. which could not be considered as large when Compared with the amount of Estimates and number of workmen hand at the time.

I have &c.

Camp Soojanhully
1st June 1858

(Signed) W. Porter
Superintendent D.C.W.

(A true Copy)
(Signed) J. F. Fisher Lieut.
District Engineer of Belly

(True Copies)

Charles R. Orr Captain
Actg. Asst. Engineer Northern Circle

1858. Decr 16

No

Enclosures in Mr Keller's letter of this date
Insp.r Eng.r &c. &c. Circle and Chapel
Central Office of Public Works
To the Secretary to Government
(P.W.D.)

(A) Dated 27
Rec.d } Janr. 1858.

No 1305
P.W. 378/58

Copies of Correspondence
regarding the Building Committee
at Wm.s Opr.s Insp.rs Porters Lodge
Church and Ballarat

a measure equally harsh and wrong in principle to make him pecuniarly responsible for the loss. The District Engineer speaks most highly of Mr Porter, and in consideration of there being no Establishment allowed for the protection of the Cash Chests, attached to Executives of the D. P. W. who are nevertheless compelled to carry large sums of money about with them in consequence of the Talook Police Peons having instructions to give no assistance in its transmission, I would respectfully recommend that the sum stolen from Mr Porter should be written off, and that he be reimbursed the amount as he has made it good.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obed Servant
C. Crawford Major
Superintg Southern Circle
In charge Central Office D. P. W.

Fort St George
21 June 1883

To
The Secretary to Government
P. P. W.

Non

15 P 762

No 1367

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 14th July 1858

Read the following letter
from the Superintending
Engineer Southern Circle
In charge Central Office

(Here enter 21 June 1858
No 1308)

Before passing
orders on the letter above
recorded the Right
Honorable the Governor
in Council resolves to
request the Acting Chief
Engineer to call upon
all Parties through the
District Engineer to for-
ward immediately the
original cash books
kept by them during
the first three months
with

Dated 14th July 1858.
No 1367

From
Lieut Colonel R. Baird Smith
Chief Engineer & Secretary to Govt
Public Works Department
To
The Secretary to Government
Punjab

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Captain Fraser Commanding Kohat Pass Field Force, and to request that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to direct that the Cash Books of the Executive Officers of the Kohat Pass Road, and of the Executive Officer of Public Buildings at Peshawur may be forwarded for examination to the Auditor General's Office.

I have &c
(Signed) R. Baird Smith
Lieut Colonel
Chief Engr & Secy to Govt

Camp Kohat Pass
the 9th July 1858.

No 15

Commanding Kohat Pass Field Force

To
Lieut Colonel R. Baird Smith
Chief Engineer & Secretary to Govt
Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honor to request that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to direct that the Cash Books of the Executive Officers of the Kohat Pass Road, and of the Executive Officer of Public Buildings at Peshawur may be forwarded for examination to the Auditor General's Office.

I have &c
(Signed) [illegible]
Lieut Col
Commanding Kohat Pass Field Force

Camp Kohat Pass
the 3d July 1858.

with a list shewing the
dates and amounts of
the drafts furnished to
him during that period
the names of the Tab-
ulators on whom they
were drawn and the dates
on which they were
cashed and submit them
to Govt when received

2nd The explanation
afforded by Mr Porter
in his letter to the Dis-
trict Engineer dated 1st
June 1853 must clear
mighty Mr to be that
certain portion for which
money was required not
being in the Bellary
Tabulator necessitated his
drawing the money from
the Kurnoolly Tabuilator
and conveying it to Bellary
The Govt do not believe
that it was ever
provided

Rule 6 of the Manual for
Financial Grants - page 394
of 1872 Grants C.O.S.

16

provided that money
should be drawn only
from the Tabulator
of that Taluk in
which the works are
situated, nor is it likely
that any particular
works are specified in
the drafts - Mr Porter
will state if this has
been his practice in
drawing money all along
and give full explana-
tion on the subject - It
is to avoid P.W. Officers
travelling with money
that provision was
made, to supply them
with orders on the several
Tabuilators to be cashed
whenever requisite -
Having been in Bellary
when the robbery occurred
Mr Porter might to have
drawn

drawn from the Tabu-
-dar of the Talooke of
that name, the money he
required and that he
is entitled to as far
as the amount of each
draft allowed. Mr
Porter will also specify
the dates on which he
received the bills for
Rs 856-5-7 the value
of work done in April
and the delay in their
payment.

Wm A

10 Copies to the Offg Chief Engr & Dispatch

Surveyor 88th

Public Works 1858 Dept^t
to Cons 20^th July.

No 1367.

Instructs Mins of Cons.
Dy 14^th July 58.

From the Chief Engr^s 3/31^st
Augt 58 Ltr No 2058 in Cons
16 Jun 79
80.

Calling for full particulars in regard to the alleged robbery of a Assistant Superviser Mr Porters Cash chest at Ballarat

No 1849.