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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 4.9.57

G.O. No. 1622 Press Mis.

16-67

Dated 2-2-57 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 16. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 6th July 1857, No. 1814.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for submission to Government, two letters received from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, which were intended to furnish the information called for by Government in para. 4 of Extract from the Minutes of Consultation No. 787, dated 25th April 1857, respecting the period passed by each Officer of the Public Works Department, in the Coimbatore District, on the Hills in 1856, and the necessity of their stay on the Hills on each occasion.

1 Letter (original) from the District Engineer Coimbatore No. 99, dated 23rd May 1857.
1 do do. No. 108, dated 13th June 1857.
1 Statement.

2. The letters are No. 99, dated 23rd May, and No. 108, dated 13th June.

3. The first explains that the District Engineer is not in the habit of sending Officers to the Hills nor are they in the habit of proceeding thither from stations in the low country except when he has occasion to give them particular verbal instructions or enter into personal discussions with them. With the second letter is furnished a list shewing the number of days each Officer in the District was on the Hills during the official year 1856-57.

4. The information now afforded, though not exactly that called for by Government, will, it is trusted, supply all that is required to enable Government to come to a decision on the recommendation made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter No. 94, dated 18th March, to the effect that every Officer, should in his turn proceed to the Hills.

No. 17. ORDER THEREON, No. 1472; dated 29th July 1857.

In reporting his inspection of the works on the Cauvery and Bhowany rivers in Coimbatore, the Superintending Engineer Southern Division recommended* that every Executive Engineer in the District, save the Officer in charge of the Barracks at Jackatallah, should by turns, take his tour of duty in the low country. With reference to this recommendation the Chief Engineer was requested† to obtain from Captain Francis, and submit to Government, a return, shewing the number of days each Officer of the Public Works Department was in the District and on the Hills, the causes of their stay on the Hills, and the duties on which they were employed.

* See the Chief Engineer's Proceedings dated 25th March 1857, No. 11309.

† Extract Minutes Consultation dated 25th April 1857, No. 787.

2. Before meeting this requisition, Colonel Faber, in his letter of the 1st May 1857 No. 4, strongly protested against the Superintending Engineer's proposition, as being diametrically opposed to one of the fundamental practical rules of the Public Works Department. He dilated on the evil effects arising from a change of all Officers of the Department from one charge to another, and especially of those connected with the Neilgherry range of the Coimbatore District; and recommended that no restriction should be placed on the District Engineer as to the mode of employing his executives. The Government, in Extract Minutes Consultation dated 16th May 1857 No. 947, stated that on the receipt of the report called for from the District Engineer, of the time spent on the Hills by each Officer in the past year, they would take the Chief Engineer's remarks into consideration.

3 In reference to the requisition adverted to in para 2, Colonel Faber, with his letter above recorded, forwards two others, dated 23rd May and 13th June, from the District Engineer of Coimbatore. In the first it is explained that Captain Francis' Subordinate Officers are not in the habit of paying periodical visits to the Neilgherry Hills, but that they occasionally proceed to that station to receive verbal instructions from him in case of his office being located there. It is further stated that the period of their stay on the Hills is short, and that they have not been engaged on any work there.

4. In the other letter is enclosed a Tabular Statement of the period passed by each officer on the Hills during the year 1856-57. From this Statement some of the Officers appear to have

remained for a long time on the Hills, apparently without any duty to attend to, except receiving verbal instructions from the District Engineer. To this may in part be attributed the want of proper supervision on the works in Coimbatore generally, which were lately reported upon as being unsatisfactory, particularly the Bridge at Suttymungalum.

5. The Government entirely concur in the views of the Chief Engineer contained in his letter of the 1st May, against the proposal of Major Lawford, that the Executive Engineers in the District should take by rotation their tour of duty in the low country; a measure which would involve periodical changes of Officers in the superintendence of works in each range. It is desirable that each Officer should have the control of the works in his own range, so that he alone may be responsible for their proper execution. The Government are unwilling to place any restriction on the District Engineer of Coimbatore, and they therefore leave it to his discretion in the employment of his Executives, to make such arrangements as he may find necessary for an efficient supervision of the works in the District.

6. The docket on the two letters from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, submitted by the Chief Engineer with his letter above recorded, is on the wrong side, and Colonel Faber is requested to call the attention of that Officer to the proper mode of making it.

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

3x

Central Office 6th July
Fort St. George
6th July 1857

No. 1814

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Govt. Pub. Dept.

General

Sir, dated 1814,

I have the honor to forward, for submission to Government, two letters received from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, which were intended to furnish the information called for by Government in para 4 of Sec: from the Minute of Consultation No. 787, dated 25th April 1857, respecting the period passed by each Officer of the Public Works Department in the Coimbatore District, on the Hills in 1856, and the necessity of their stay on the Hills on each occasion.—

2. The letters are No. 99 dated 23d May, and No. 108 dated 13th June.—

3. The former explains that the District Engineer is not in the habit of sending Officers to the Hills nor are they in the habit of proceeding thither

Either from Stations in the low Country except when he has occasion to give him particular verbal instructions or enter into personal discussions with him. With the second letter is furnished a list shewing the number of days each Officer in the District was on the Hills during the Official year 1856/57.

4. The information now afforded, though not exactly that called for by Government, will, it is trusted, supply all that is required to enable Government to come to a decision on the Recommendation made by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in his letter No. 94 dated 18th March, to the effect that every Officer should in his turn proceed to the Hills.

Fort St. George
6th July 1857.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient
Servant

Fred. Foster Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secy: to Govt:
P.W.D.

Compd HH

Public Works Dept.

No 1472

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 29th July 1857.

Read the following letter from the
Chief-Engineer.

Here enter 6th July 1857 No 18146

In reporting
his inspection of the
works on the Aruvicoja
and Bokwany rivers
in Coimbatore, the Superin-
tending Engineer
Southern Division re-
commended that every
Executive Engineer in
the

* See the Chief Engineers
Proceedings dated 25th March 1857
No 11309.

Public Works Dept
Despatched 1857
Chief Engineer
Superintending Engineer

Received 28th July 1857

Under date the 29th July 1857
Received 30th July 1857
Recorded 31st July 1857

Answered 1857

C22 July 1857

the District, save the
Officer in charge of
the Barracks at Jackhullah
should by turns take
his tours of duty in
the low Country. With
reference to this recom-
-mendation the Chief
Engineer was requested*
to obtain from Captain
Travers, and submit
to Government a Re-
-turn, showing the
number of days
each Officer of the
Public Works Depart-
-ment was in the
District and on the
Hills, the causes of
their stay on the
Hills, and the duties
of

* Ch. Main Con.t dated 28th April 1857 No. 787.

on which they were
employed.

2. Before meeting
this requisition, Colonel
Faber, in his letter
of the 1st May 1857
No. 4, strongly protested
against the Superin-
-tending Engineer's
proposition, as being
diametrically opposed
to one of the funda-
-mental principles of the Public
Works Department.
He directed on the
evil effects arising
from a change of all
Officers of the Depart-
-ment from one
charge to another,

and

and especially of those
connected with the
Neilgherry range of
the Coimbatore Dis-
-trict; would recommend
that no restriction
should be placed on
the District Engineer-
-s as to the last mode
of employing Rock
Excavators. The
Government in Great
Minutes Consultation
dated 16th May 1857
No 947, stated that
on the receipt of the
reports called for
~~in the preceding paras~~
from the District
Engineer, of the time
spent on the Hills

by each Officer in the
past year, they would
take the Chief Engi-
-neers remarks into
consideration.

3. In reference
to the requisition cont-
-ained in para 2 of
Colonel Faber, with
his letter above re-
-corded, forwarded
two others, dated 23rd
May and 13th June,
from the District
Engineer of Coimba-
-tore. In the first
it is explained
that Captain Fran-
-cis' Subordinate
Officers are not in
the habit of keeping
periodical

periodical visits to the Neilgherry Hills, such that they occasionally proceed to that Station to receive verbal instructions from him in case of his Office being located there. It is further stated that the period of their stay on the Hills is short, and that they have not been engaged on any work there.

4. On the other letter is enclosed a Tabular Statement of the period passed by each Officer on the Hills during the year 1856/57

1856/57. From the Statement some of the Officers appear to have remained for a long time on the Hills, apparently without any duty to attend to, except receiving verbal instructions from the District Engineer. To this may in part be attributed the want of proper supervision on the works in Coimbatore generally, which were lately reported upon as being unsatisfactory, particularly the Bridge

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of the Works in the
District.

6. The docket
on the two letters
from the District
Engineer of Coim-
batore, submitted by
the Chief Engineer
with his letter above
recorded is on the
wrong side, and
Colonel Faber is
requested to recall
the attention of that
Officer to the proper
mode of making
it.

Ag. Copies to the Chief Engr. Dist.s 30 &
with 3 Encls.

at Nuttymungalum.

5. The Government entirely concur in the views of the Chief Engineer contained in his letter of the 1st May, against the proposal of Major Lawford that the Executive Engineers in the District should take by rotation their tour of duty in the low Country a measure which would involve periodical changes of Officers in the superintendence of works in each range. It is desirable that each Officer should

should have the control of the works in his own range, so that alone he may be responsible for their proper execution. The Government are unwilling to place any restrictions on the District Engineer of Coimbatore, and they therefore leave it to his discretion in the employment of his Executives, to make such arrangements as he may find necessary for an efficient supervision

of

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
D.o to Con.s 4, 15 & 16 Augt.

No 1472.

Extract Mins. of Cons:
D.o 29th July 57.

Exam.n Abo Chief Engr.s D.o 25th
August 57 & No 1695 Cons.
& Encs.

Receiving and passing
Orders on the Letter from the
Chief Engineer regarding the
period Elapsed on the Hills in
the Coimbatore District in 1856-57
by each Officer of the Public
Works Department.

No 16 & 17.

222 dated 25th July 1825