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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Com. 4.6.51

G.O. No. 1673 Press Mis.

1849

Dated 30-7- 18 51

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 18. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 29th July 1857, No. 2506.

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders of Government communicated verbally by you that a further reduction in the D. P. W., beyond that effected by the Gazette Extraordinary of the 18th Instant, is considered necessary to thoroughly carry into effect the instructions of His Lordship the Governor General of India in Council under date 3rd July 1857, No. 3265, I have duly prepared a second or supplementary list shewing a further retrenchment (including Mr. George Taylor, Covenanted Civil Engineer) of Rupees..... 63,744*
making with the former reduction...2,90,952
a total of Rupees 3,54,696

1.—3rd Class Executive Engineer	400		
Office establishment	150		
		550	
2.—4th Class do.	600		
Office establishment	208		
		808	
2 Assistant Executive Engineers.....	400		
Office establishment	138		
		538	
G. Taylor, Esq. and do.		669	
15 Overseers at Rupees 85	1,275		
Do. office at „ 27	405		
		1,680	
11 Asst do. at „ 70	770		
Do. office at „ 27	297	1,067	
Per mensem		5,312	
Per annum		63,744*	

2. I now do myself the honor to transmit with this list the draft of a Notification for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but having thus endeavoured to meet the views of Government to the best of my power, I cannot conceal my apprehensions of the result of these serious reductions on the land Revenue dependent on works of irrigation, which forms so large a proportion of the resources of this Presidency.

3. The Notification of the 18th July involved the withdrawal of so large a number of experienced Officers and Subordinates that it is doubtful whether those still retained will be able to execute the necessary repairs of Tanks, Annicuts and Channels scattered over the country which are essential to their security and which now belong exclusively to this Department; but the removal of the persons included in this the second list must inevitably entail the greatest difficulties and lead to the comparative neglect of works, the failure of which would produce heavier losses than can be compensated by any reduction of establishment.

4. Under these explanations, I shall I am sure be held free from the responsibility belonging to my position, if in such circumstances as the occurrence of heavy monsoons and inundations, the Department under my control be found unequal to the duties that will then devolve on it, or if the consequences of such natural and by no means unusual events should prove destructive alike of the wealth of the people and of the State.

5. The Government of India will doubtless give their full consideration to the fundamental change so recently carried out in the Madras system of Public Works and will appreciate the disturbance and doubt that must ensue from the almost total annihilation of the recently formed establishment.

6. My earnest and respectful application therefore is that the reductions contemplated in the supplementary list now submitted may be permitted to remain in abeyance until the deplorable and disastrous consequences of further retrenchment, applying as it would do to the best, ablest and most experienced members of the Department, shall have received the deliberate consideration of the Government of India.

7. It is to be admitted however that the East Coast Canal Department and the Garrison Engineer's Department can be suppressed without the general Revenues of the Presidency being directly affected, however much such reductions are to be deprecated on other grounds.

No. 19. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India, dated 30th July 1857, No. 1473.

SIR,

On the 25th Instant, I had the honor to address you by desire of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in reply to your letter of the 3rd Instant, conveying the instruction of the Government of India for the stoppage of all Public Works excepting Military Works, and absolutely necessary repairs, and for the reduction of the Public Works Department. I informed you that orders had been issued at once in accordance with the wishes of the Governor General in Council, and that reductions to the annual amount of Rupees 2,90,952 had been already effected, and that whatever further reductions might be needed to bring the expense of the Department within the limit of three quarters of its sanctioned amount, would be adopted by this Government.

2. Instructions were given to the Chief Engineer in accordance with this resolution of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, and Colonel Faber has submitted a statement of the detailed measures he would recommend for adoption, if the orders of the Government of India, are to be applied in their integrity to the Presidency of Fort Saint George, but at the same time Colonel Faber makes a representation that the Department over which he presides will be wholly unable to carry on even the ordinary and absolutely necessary repairs, with an Establishment reduced as is proposed, and that the Revenues of the country must accordingly suffer in consequence.

3. In the 3rd para. of your letter of the 3rd Instant, it is said to be the wish of the Government of India, that the expenditure on repairs should "be kept down to the lowest possible amount consistent with the security of the works, or buildings in charge of the Public Works Officers," and this Government will be prepared to carry out these orders, even literally, if such should be the intention of the Governor General in Council. But I am instructed to remind the Government of India how infinitely more numerous in this Presidency are the works upon which Revenue depends, than are public buildings or works of communication, and that the finances will inevitably suffer if such works be not kept in repair. No danger to the safety of an irrigating channel may result from its bed being left uncleared, but the land dependent on it for irrigation must necessarily be left uncultivated, if the head of the channel be so silted up, that water from the parent source shall not be able to enter. Many instances might be adduced to shew that, if in Madras, repairs to irrigation works, are strictly limited to such as will maintain their stability, heavy pecuniary loss must inevitably and immediately be felt.

4. The Government of Fort Saint George is very fully sensible of the position in which the Government of India is placed, and of the urgent necessity for economy, and is prepared to act fully in the spirit of all instructions for a restriction in expenditure, but the Governor in Council is of opinion that the literal fulfilment of the orders now under discussion, as far as they refer to repairs of irrigation works, will have the very effect of increasing that financial embarassment, which it is the desire of the Government of India to abate.

5. Independent of the argument which I have endeavored above to state, I am also to lay before the Governor General in Council the views entertained by this Government of the political effect of so sudden and absolute a cessation of Public Works, as is implied in the despatch to which I am now referring.

6. The Government of India will be well aware that the disaffection which has been lately exhibited in the Bengal Presidency has not extended to Madras, and will be prepared to believe that, with the mass of the people uneducated, and the means of obtaining information on public affairs extremely limited, the inhabitants of this Presidency are but very imperfectly acquainted with late occurrences in the North West of India. The rumors which they may however have heard, will receive distinct confirmation, if a total cessation of public expenditure should betray the necessities of the State, and the exaggeration which always attends on imperfect information, will magnify the real evil, and lead to a conviction that the British Government is in very serious peril.

7. Further the Government of Madras are impressed with a sense of the evil that will result from a very large mass of the laboring population being suddenly thrown out of employ, deprived of their accustomed means of support, there is too much reason to fear that they will supply by violence, the wants of themselves and their families, and that they will be ready instruments in the hands of any party who might desire to take advantage of the times, to introduce into these Provinces the anarchy which prevails elsewhere.

8. Under these views, I am to request that you will inform the Government of India, that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that unless a most absolute necessity prevents, the ordinary repairs of the irrigation works of this Presidency should be allowed to proceed as usual, and that the Department of Public Works should remain on the reduced scale reported in my letter of the 25th Instant, No. 1439.

9. Pending the receipt of a reply to this communication, the reduction proposed under the order of Government in the Chief Engineer's letter which is enclosed, will not be carried out.

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 29th July 1857

No. 2506

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government &c &c

Sir

Agreeably to the orders of Govern-
-ment communicated verbally by you
that a further reduction in the Staff
beyond that effected by the Gazette
Extraordinary of the 13th instant is
considered necessary to thoroughly carry
into effect the instructions of His
Lordship the Governor General of
India in Council under date 3rd
July 1857 No 3265, I have duly
prepared

For Estimate &c-

prepared a second or supplementary
List shewing a further retrenchment
(including Mr George Taylor Covenanted
Civil Engineer) of Rupees 63744. making
with the former reduction 290952, a total
of Rupees ——————— 354696

2. I now do myself the honor
to transmit with this List the draft
of a Notification for submission to the
Right Honorable the Governor in Council,
but having thus endeavoured to meet
the views of Government to the best
of my powers, I cannot conceal my
apprehensions of the result of these
serious reductions on the Land Revenue
dependent on works of irrigation,
which forms as large a proportion of
the resources of this Presidency

3. The notification of the 18th July
involved the withdrawal of so large a
number of Experienced Officers and

1. 3d Class Ast Engr.	400.	
1 Office Establt	150.	550.
2 1/4 Class Do	600.	
Office Establt	208.	808.
2. Asst Ex. Engrs	400.	
Office Establishmt	138.	538
9 Taylor Engr & Do	669.	
150 Overseers @ 8 5/8	1275	
Do Office @ 27	405.	1680.
11 Asst Do @ 70.	770.	
Do Office @ 27.	297	1067.
per memdum	5312	
per summum	63744	

and Subordinates that it is doubtful whether those still retained will be able to execute the necessary repairs of Tanks Annicuts and Channels scattered over the country which are essential to their security & which now belong exclusively to this Deptt; but the removal of the persons included in this the second List must inevitably entail the greatest difficulties & lead to the comparative neglect of works, the failure of which would produce heavier losses than can be compensated by any reduction of Establishment

4 Under these explanations, I shall I am sure be held free from the responsibility belonging to any position, if in such circumstances as the occurrence of heavy Monsoons and inundations, the Department

under

under my control be found unequal to the duties that will then devolve on it, or if the consequences of such natural and by no means unusual events should prove destructive alike of the wealth of the people and of the State.

5th The Govt of India will doubtless give their full consideration to the fundamental changes so recently carried out in the Madras system of Public works and will appreciate the disturbance & doubt that must ensue from the almost total annihilation of the recently formed Establishment

6. My earnest & respectful application therefore is that the reductions contemplated in the Supplementary List now submitted may be permitted to remain and

remain in abeyance until the deplorable & disastrous consequences of further retrenchment, applying as it would do to the best, ablest and most experienced Members of the Dept, shall have received the deliberate consideration of the Govt of India

7. It is to be admitted however that the East Coast Canal Dept and the Garrison Engineers Dept can be suppressed without the general Revenues of the Presidency being directly affected, however much such reductions are to be deprecated on other grounds.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
W. Arthur Colonel
Chief Engineer

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George 29 July 1807

To The Secretary to Govt
P.W. Dept.

Recd Mar 1857 Dept
Dft to Govt 14th August
No. 1526

From
Lieut Col Engineer
&
Secy to Govt Mily Dept

Recd 31 Aug 1857
Recd 30 Sept 1857
Ans. No. 1473 - 30 Sept
Encls 1 No 2506

Forwarding for submission
to Govt Draft of a Notification
containing a list of Officers &c to
be removed, in addition to those
recommended on the 15 inst, to the
Regt, shewing a further retrench-
ment of Rs 63924 thus augmenting
the aggregate to Rs 354876 &
under circumstances stated recom-
mends that the same may receive
the sanction of Govt to which the explanation
submitted shall have received
his deliberate consideration for
the Govt of India

Copy to the Govt of
India - 30 Sept 1857

No 18

2. Booth (D. Sergt. Artillery.
3. Baikie J. Corporal Sappers & Miners
4. Cairns J. Corporal Do
5. Campbell L. Corporal Do
6. Carter J. Corporal Do
7. Harris J. D. Corporal Do
8. Hasler W. Corporal Do
9. Hudson T. Corporal Do
10. Kennedy D. Corporal Do
11 Lewis J. Sergt 2d C. L. I.
12. M.c Namara L. Corporal Sappers & Miners
13. Sutton H. Corporal Do
14. O'Shaughnessey J. Corporal Do
15. Plummer S. E. Corporal Do

11. Assistant Overseers.
1. Barringer J. L. Corporal Sappers & Miners
2. Davidson R. Corporal Do
3. Galvin J. Corporal Do
4. Howard Jo. 2d Corporal Do
5. Jack H. Corporal Do
6. O'Donaghue M. Corporal Do
7. Rose J. 2d Corporal Sappers & Miners
8. Stephenson L. Corporal Do
9. Tormy T. Corporal Do
10. Wiffen J. C. Corporal Do
11. Wright W. 2d Corporal Do

3. Until further orders, the strength of the (Department) of Public Works in the Madras Presidency will be as follows:

1. Chief Engineer
3. Superintending Engineers.
1. Civil Architect.
1. Supt.n Eastern Coast Canal.
1. Garrison Engineer
1. Assistant to Chief Engineer
10. District Engineers 1st class.
10. Do 2d class.
12. Executive Engineers 3d class
15. Do 4th class

19. Assistant Executive Engineers
11. Supernumerary Do
3. Sub Engineers 1st class
5. Do 2d class.
8. Do 3d class.
12. Supervisors.
20. Assistant Supervisors
25. Overseers
39. Assistant Do
83. Sub Overseers 1st class.
252 Do 2d class.

Central Office P.W.
Fort Saint George
29. July 1857.

W. E. Baker Col.
Chief Engineer.

Enclosure in a letter from the Chief Engineer to the Secretary to Govt. dated 29. July 1857. No. 1526.

Recd 15th

R.S. Copy Dispd 30 by Steamer
Printed do — " — 1st Augt.

P.W.D.

No. 1473.

To,

Colonel W. E. Baker

Secretary to the Government of India.

Sir,

On the 25th instant I had the honor to address you by desire of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in reply to your letter of the 3rd inst. stating & conveying the instruction of the Government of India for the stoppage of all Public Works excepting Military works, and also including necessary repairs & for the reduction of the Public Works Department. I informed you that orders had been issued at once in accordance with the wishes of the Governor General in Council, & that reductions to the annual Rupees amount of 2,90,952 had been

Area 3

lowest possible amount consistent with the security of the works or Buildings in charge of the Pub: Works Officers," and this Government will be prepared to carry out these orders, even literally, if such should be the intention of the Governor General in Council. But I am instructed to remind the Government of India how infinitely more

numerous in this Presidency are the works upon which reclamation depends, than are public buildings or works of communication, and that the performance will inevitably suffer if such works be not kept in repair. No danger to the safety of an irrigating channel may result from it being left uncleared, but the land dependent on it for irrigation must necessarily be left uncultivated, if the head of the channel be so silted up, that water from the parent source shall not be able to enter

enter. Many instances might be adduced to shew that, if no allowance, respecting irrigation works, were strictly limited to such as will maintain their stability, heavy pecuniary loss must inevitably and immediately be felt.

4. "The Government of Fort St. George is very fully sensible of the position in which the Government of India is placed, and of the urgent necessity for economy, and is prepared to act fully the spirit of all instructions for a restriction in expenditure,

expenditure, but the Governor in Council is of opinion that the liberal fulfilment of the orders now under discussion so far as they refer to repairs of irrigation works, will have the very effect of increasing that financial embarrassment, which it is the desire of the Government of India to abate.

5. Independently of the arguments which I have endeavored above to state, I am also to say

to lay before the Go-
-vernor General in
Council the views
entertained by their
Government of the
Political effect of so
sudden and absolute
accessation of Public
Works, as is implied
in the despatch
to which I am now
referring.

6.ly. The Govern-
-ment of India will
be well aware that
the disaffection —
which has been
lately exhibited
in the Bengal —
Presidency has not
extended to Madras,

and

will be prepared to
believe that, with the mass
of the people uneducated,
and the means of obtaining
information on public affairs
extremely limited, the inhabitants
of this Residency are but very
imperfectly acquainted with
late occurrences in the
North West of India. The
rumors which they may happen
have heard, will receive dis-
-tinct confirmation, and if a
total cessation of public ex-
-penditure should betray the
necessities of the state, and
the exaggeration which always
attends an imperfect infor-
-mation, will magnify
the real evil, and lead to
a conviction that the British
Government is in very serious
peril.

Further

7. Further the Government of Madras are impressed with a sense of the evil that will result from a very large mass of the laboring population being suddenly thrown out of employ - deprived of their accustomed means of support, & there is too much reason to fear that they will supply by violence the wants of themselves and their families; and that they will be ready instruments in the hands of any party who might desire to take advantage of the times, to introduce into these Provinces the anarchy which prevails elsewhere.

8. Under these views I am to request that you will inform the Government of India that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that unless a most absolute necessity prevents, the ordinary repairs of the irrigation works of this Presidency should be allowed to proceed as usual, and that the Department of Public Works should remain on the reduced scale reported in my letter of the 25th Instant N° 1439.

9. Pending the receipt of a reply to this communication the reduction proposed under the order of Government in the Chief Engineer's letter which is enclosed, will not be carried out.

I have &c

Fort St. Geo.
30 July 1807.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr Dist 1st Aug.

Public Works 1857 Depart.
Dr. to Cons 4th August

A° 1473.

To the Secretary to the
Govt of India in the P.W.

D/ 30th July 1857.

Sir

I have the honor to request that you will be pleased to bring to the notice of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, the ordinary repairs of Irrigation Works of this Province, hitherto executed by the Civil Engineers, are now carried on by Officers of the Military Engineers, and that the Civil Engineers have been entirely withdrawn from the charge of them.

A° 1847.

2. Inquiries had already been made before the receipt of your letter, and I am now able to state that the ordinary repairs of Irrigation Works in this Province, hitherto executed by the Civil Engineers, are now carried on by Officers of the Military Engineers, and that the Civil Engineers have been entirely withdrawn from the charge of them.