MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mark
Dated	38

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 68. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 27th August 1857, No. 3195.

Read again letter, from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle of Public Works commenting upon the explanation of the District Engineer, South Arcot, regarding the latter officer's neglect of Major Lawfords instructions in respect to the regulation of the bed of the river Vellaur Streamward of the annicut of Shatiah tope.

(Here enter No. 210 of the 25th August 1857.)

Resolved, that in conformity to the wishes now again urged by the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, the several documents, explanatory of Lieutenant Foords neglect, and disobedience of Major Lawfords orders, be sent up to Government, for the information and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, agreeably also to the instructions contained in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 377, of the 27th February last.

2. The Chief Engineer, observes, that a recapitulation of the whole correspondence, regarding the non-fulfilment of Major Lawfords orders, for clearing the Streamward bed of the river Vellaur is unnecessary, inasmuch, as the latter officer has desired, that all Lieutenant Foords letters, together with his own instructions, shall be forwarded direct, for the consideration of Government.

3. Under these circumstances, Colonel Faber is of opinion, that it is only necessary for him to state, that the culpable inattention of the orders of his superior officer, by the District Engineer of South Arcot, is aggravated, rather than palliated, by the explanations he has sent in, and that, if he had at once admitted his neglect, or oversight, and had offered the customary assurances, of a more careful future discharge of duty, and conformity to the instructions of the Professional officers of the Circle, there seems no reason to doubt, that Major Lawford would have accepted such assurances, instead of considering, as he now does, that an expression of the sentiments, of His Lordship in Council is essential, to the vindication of his own authority, and to the due admonition of Lieutenant Foord.

4. Resolved, to report in conclusion, that the Chief Engineer concurs, unreservedly, in the professional opinions of Major Lawford, and completely agrees with that officer, as to the advantage, not to say necessity, of a most careful observation, and regulation, of the River Vellaur, above the annicut and bridge, not only now, but for many years to come.

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

No. 69. ORDER THEREON, No. 1701; dated 8th September 1857.

It is unnecessary for Government to review in detail the voluminous correspondence submitted with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 27th Ultimo, No. 3195. It will be sufficient to remark that it has reference mainly to certain instructions for clearing the bed of the river above the Vellaur annicut, given by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle when lately on a professional tour of inspection, and most inadequately carried into effect by the District Engineer Lieutenant Foord.

2. The Government cannot too strongly condemn the inattention to the orders he received from the Superintending Engineer which was shewn by Lieutenant Foord. Major Lawford visited the work with the great advantage of many years familiarity with the rivers of Tanjore, with the prestige of a successful administration of the professional Department in that Province extending over fourteen years, and an accurate knowledge of the effect of obstructions in river beds, upon weirs and bridges, that of necessity gives the greatest weight to all his opinions on the subject. These considerations should have led the District Engineer to be forward to avail himself of any suggestion that Major Lawford might offer for the safety of the annicut and bridge, but when the Government observe that the Superintending Engineer, did not content himself with suggestions, but gave the most pointed, direct, and positive, orders for certain works, marking them out himself that there might be no room for mistake, and that these works

---

[illegible]

were systematically neglected by the District Engineer, they feel that they cannot too strongly animadvert on Lieutenant Foord's omission, or too emphatically warn that Officer, of the heavy responsibility he incurs, by neglecting to apply to the important Public Works committed to his charge, the protective measures ordered by his official superiors.

3. It has been already laid down by Government in para. 5, Section 2 of the Rules passed on the 17th June 1856, No. 893 that, when on tour of inspection, the Superintending Engineers are invested with the authority of the Chief Engineer, and the Government now direct that Colonel Faber will recall the attention of all District Engineers to this order, and will inform them that the Government will visit with marked displeasure the conduct of any Officer who either disobeys, neglects, or questions, the order he may receive from a Superintending Engineer when on a professional tour.

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

No. 3195

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works

Under date the 27th August 1857

Read again Letter from the Superintending Engineer S.C. of 11th Inst. communication the Explanation of the Divisional Engineer South Arcot, respecting the Letter of Officiating Collector of Chingleput instructions in respect to the Regulation of the Bed of the River Palaur, Examination of the Anicut at Sholinghur &c.

Read Letter No. 210 of the 25th August 1857

Resolved, that in conformity to the rules now again noticed by the Superintending Engineer (Circle), the Divisional Engineer (Division) and Assistant Engineer (Sub-Division) of South Arcot, and the Officiating Collector of Chingleput and Major Langford, be and they are hereby directed to submit to Government, for the information and orders of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, agreeably also to the instructions contained in Consultation No. 377 of the 27th February last.

2 The Chief Engineer observes that a recapitulation of the whole correspondence, respecting the non-fulfilment

of Major Sanford's orders, for clearing the Mundoandhal of the river Pellaer is unnecessary, inasmuch as the latter officer has directed, that all Lieutenant Goode's letter together with his own instructions, shall be forwarded direct, for the consideration of Government.—

3. Under these circumstances, Colonel Pelly is of opinion, that it is only necessary for him to state, that the inflexible instruction of the orders of his superior officer, by the Chief Engineer of South Arcot, is exposed, rather than palliated, by the explanations he has sent in, and that, if he had at once submitted his original opinion, with, and based opposition on the instructions, he would have avoided the censure, of disobedience of orders, which he has incurred, by the publication of his own authority, and to the detriment of Lieutenant Goode.—

4. Resolved to report in connection,

that the Chief Engineer cannot, in reference, on the foregoing minutes of Major Sanford, and consistently, express on the character of officer, or to the relationship, and to any of the said parties, of the river Pellaer, above the Trichinopoly and Dindigul, not only now, but for many years to come.

(True Copy)
Chief Engineer.

To
The Secretary to Government
Fort St. George.

Extract of Report on Bridges visited by Major Sanford, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Division in April 1856.

* * * * * *

Opposite however with regret that the Arch has received damage since injury since last year viz, the second Arch from the North end having been taken down, and the Arch adjoining the South abutment being cracked through, not so seriously as to require rebuilding. I can see no other cause for these damages than the neglect to remove the obstructions which filled the river bed, and produced an irregular discharge of the freshes in the North East Monsoon over the Work. Indeed, I found the head of the - into the fine Southern Arches obstructed by the coral, removed in building the first Arch when I was told that through these Arches and the two Northern ones, only a few feet from each side were then open, the whole waterway being only one third of the whole present, no wonder flowed during the heavy freshes. The current from the Centre Arch, in the Centre of Section, which was then and formed by the injury received in September and the

Opposite however with regret that the Arch has received damage since injury since last year viz, the second Arch from the North end having been taken down, and the Arch adjoining the South abutment being cracked through, not so seriously as to require rebuilding. I can see no other cause for these damages than the neglect to remove the obstructions which filled the river bed, and produced an irregular discharge of the freshes in the North East Monsoon over the Work. Indeed, I found the head of the - into the fine Southern Arches obstructed by the coral, removed in building the first Arch when I was told that through these Arches and the two Northern ones, only a few feet from each side were then open, the whole waterway being only one third of the whole present, no wonder flowed during the heavy freshes. The current from the Centre Arch, in the Centre of Section, which was then and formed by the injury received in September and the

Extract from the Report of Major Sanford, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Division for the year 1856.

Dated 21st January 1857.

Received 27th January 1857.

Read 2nd February 1857.

Submitted by Major Sanford, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Division, for information.

Colombo, 21st January 1857.

Approved and submitted to Government by order of the Board of Commissioners for Roads and Bridges.

[illegible]

Secretary.

1858

Copy Photo

the water after the overfall swept along the rear of the Apron, undermining the foundations, though not believed to any serious extent.

I saw the more bound to notice this fact because a similar cause produced the destruction of the Viaduct in 1853, and so long as the bed of the Pelaw remains unpaved & sounded at the rear as high up as the Road Shore there must always exist a source of external danger.

The work necessary for clearing the river should have been performed earlier. I have however now communicated my views to the Boroughs, with orders that the should be estimated, and submitted them to Lieutenant Ward.

× × × ×

No 19

To Lieutenant J. A. Ward.
Asst. Civil Engineer in charge
South West

Sir,

On my remarks on the Pelaw Viaduct, recorded on the occasion of my visit in April last which

were communicated by you from the Central Office, I received a decided opinion of the necessity of clearing the bed of the river above the Weir, but on my late inspection I found no progress had received little or no attention of or at least had led to no practical results.

2. I have now the honor again to draw your particular notice to the subject and to inform you that I have reasonably instructed Acting Foreman Preston to estimate the cost of re-opening a cut along the South bank of the river originally made at my desire, but which has been allowed to become filled up.

3 On the event of your receiving change of the Corporation of Public works, in this District the Pelaw Viaduct should be one of a principal objects of your care, and while I fully believe, in the present security it is properly attended to, I have no hesitation in foretelling its speed destruction as the result of neglect or undue management.

I have &c
Signed J. Sanford
Asst Engineer in Chief

Sunderland
11th August 1856

Extract

Public Works Dept.

No. 1701

Extract from the Minutes of Council at an

Under date the 8th ~~August~~ September 1857

Read the following

Extract from the Proceedings of the

Chief Engineer.

(Recd December 27th Engr. Off. No. 8195.)

It is necessary

for Government to receive an

detail the voluminous correspondence submitted with the

Chief Engineer's Proceedings of

the 24th Instant No. 8190. It

will be sufficient to remark

that it has reference mainly

to certain instructions for clear-

ing the bed of the river above

the Cellair Crescent given by

the Superintending Engineer

of the Southern Circle in the

Early

Extract from the Minutes of Council at an Under date the 8th September 1857 Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer.

Extract from the Minutes of Council at an Under date the 8th August 1857 Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer.

Public Works Dept.

No. 1701

(Recd December 27th Engr. Off. No. 8195.)

It is necessary for Government to receive an detail the voluminous correspondence submitted with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 24th Instant No. 8190. It will be sufficient to remark that it has reference mainly to certain instructions for clearing the bed of the river above the Cellair Crescent given by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle in the early

Extract from the Minutes of Council at an Under date the 8th August 1857 Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer.

Public Works Dept.

No. 1701

(Recd December 27th Engr. Off. No. 8195.)

It is necessary for Government to receive an detail the voluminous correspondence submitted with the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 24th Instant No. 8190. It will be sufficient to remark that it has reference mainly to certain instructions for clearing the bed of the river above the Cellair Crescent given by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle in the early

lately on a professional tour of
inspection, and carried into effect
by the District Engineer &
Lieutenant Hoard.

The Government
cannot too strongly condemn
the inattention to the orders
he received from the Superintend-
ing Engineer which was
shewn by Lt. Hoard & Major
Langford visited the work with
the great advantage of many
years familiarity with the
rivers of Jamaica, with the
prestige of a successful &
administration of the professio-
al Department in that
Province extending over
forty three years, and an accurate
knowledge of the effect of obstruc-
tions on river beds, upon
which and bridges, that of c-
ne
necessarily gives great weight
to

to all his opinions on the subject.
These considerations should
have led the District Engineer
to be forward to avail himself
of any suggestion that Major
Langford might offer for the
safety of the Annicut and
bridge, but when the Govern-
ment observes that the Supt. Engi-
neer did not content himself
with suggestions, but gave the
most positive orders for certain works,
measuring their removal he
that there might be no room
for mistake, and that these
works were afterwards wilfully
neglected by the District
Engineer, they feel that they
cannot too strongly animad-
vert on Lt. Hoard's omission
or too emphatically warn that
officer, of the heavy responsibility
he incurs by neglecting to apply

to

3d Cong. 2d Sess. March 15/1859 22-23

Public Works 1857 Dep.t.
Const: 8th September.

No 1701.

Extract Minutes of Proc:
Dy 8th Sept.r 57.

From the Chief Engineer Dy 3 Sept.r 57
C. No 1966 Enclosures

Returning the Correspondence
submitted with the Ch: Engr's Rep.t of the
27th Ult.o having reference to certain
instructions for clearing the bed of
the river above the Western Channel
given by the Engr in Charge Southern
Circle.

No 68469.