M.R.O. 1—52,400—23-11-56.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Consd 12/10/1858

G.O. No.	914	Press Mis.
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 121. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 23rd September 1858, No. 3929.

SIR,

I am loath to take up the Government time on such subjects, but the character of the Department has suffered injury both in the persons of the District Engineer himself, and of his Subordinate Serjeant Tormy, by the decision passed in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1591, dated 11th August 1858, wherein the explanation of the Collector of Cuddapah was stated to be "quite satisfactory," the said explanation affirming that Serjeant Tormy had given in a false report, and Lieutenant Stewart had libelled the Revenue authorities, and forwarded idle reports concerning them. I have the honor to request therefore, that you will submit to Government Lieutenant Stewart's letter† (with its enclosures) which in my opinion clears him from these charges, and I trust will prove to the Government that, it was no idle report which was laid before them.

1 Original letter from the District Engineer, Cuddapah No. 443. dated 26th August 1858, with its enclosures.

† No. 443, dated 26th August 1858.

2. The main fact appears to be that, the Tahsildar was applied to for assistance on emergency to a work only 12 miles off, and 5 days afterwards (the day after the breach) 16 men came, and the District Engineer points out that had prompt assistance been given, the Tank would have been saved. The Collector clears the Tahsildar to Government, by appealing to the written orders to which no attention appears to have been paid, but it is shown that, he yet felt the short comings of the Tahsildar sufficient reason to remove him, and that marked improvement has resulted.

3. The District Engineer draws attention to the doctrine laid down by the Collector in his letter‡ No. 475, and I would also desire to submit to Government, that the Revenue authorities should not consider the emergency past, when a breach has occurred in tank or channel, but at all seasons of the year, instant action should be taken, and every assistance given to repair the damage, that the Revenue should not suffer more than need be, and that those, who will not help to prevent a threatened breach take upon themselves a grave responsibility.

‡ dated 23rd June 1858.

Letter from Lieutenant J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer of Cuddapah; to Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Camp Cauzepett, 26th August 1858, No. 443.

SIR,

With reference to your Extract Proceedings under date the 19th Instant, No. 2959, I have the honour herewith to enclose copies of the correspondence which has passed between the Collector of Cuddapah and myself, upon the subject of the breach in the bund of the Reddypully Tank.

2. My first letter was dated on the 19th May, the day on which I reported the accident to you. When I received the Collector's reply, dated the 23rd June, I found it necessary to make some references to Captain Palmer on the subject, and on account of a short absence from the District, my reply was not despatched until the 15th July.

3. Mr. Murray's letter to Government is I see dated the 20th July; and I cannot imagine why in it he took no notice whatever of what I had stated in my letter of the 15th Idem. It is scarcely possible to conceive that it had not then reached him; for, wretched and disgraceful as is the state of the "Moolki Tapal" in the Cuddapah District, still five days ought, one would think, to suffice even for it to accomplish a distance of 58 Miles, on one of the main lines of the District, being an allowance of more than 2 hours to a mile.

4. With reference to the enclosed correspondence, it is necessary to explain that Mr. Murray in his letter of the 23rd June, mixed up two entirely different subjects. Paras. 1 and 2 refer to a complaint made by the late Mr. Tormy at a time when he and his wife were almost on the point of starvation. This complaint I forwarded to the Collector on the 2nd April, and

at the end of June, after a lapse of three months, I receive the very satisfactory explanation that because the Reddies of the village had been summoned into another Talook for the convenience of the Collector, no blame attaches to them, and Mr. Tormy should therefore have submitted patiently to be starved.

5. With reference to para. 2 of the Collector's letter to Government in which he exonerates the Reddies of Reddypully from all blame, I beg to refer you to the enclosed correspondence. From the Extracts B. and D. appended to my letter of the 15th July, you will see that the late Mr. Tormy distinctly states that the Head Reddy and the Kurnum, by name Golareddy and Soobiah, were on the spot, that he had applied to them for assistance, and that they had refused to give it without a written order from the Tahsildar.

6. But in reference to this there is one point that especially requires explanation. Of the two Reddies to whom Mr. Murray refers, one was dismissed early in June; as he himself states, on the report of the Head Reddy, who made him the scape-goat for his own short-comings. If, as the Collector states, both the Reddies were free from blame in the matter, why should one of them have been dismissed? I had however, reasons for believing the Statement of the dismissed Reddy, and I requested the Collector to let me know whether it was correct; pointing out to him that the late Mr. Tormy had distinctly absolved him from all blame, and that the reputation of this Department would sustain a serious blow if innocent individuals were punished at our instance. Six weeks have elapsed, and as usual not the least notice has been taken of my request; nor, so far as I am aware, has a single step been taken in the matter.

7. In para. 3 of his letter to Government, the Collector absolves from all blame the Tahsildar and the Sheristadar of the Talook; in fact he says that they rendered cheerfully all the assistance in their power. How far this agrees with the late Mr. Tormy's statement, may be easily seen from the enclosures. However to take the Tahsildar's own statement: he allows that he received the first application for aid on the 10th May. The late Mr. Tormy distinctly states that no coolies arrived until the 15th, the day after the breach, when 16 men came over from Cuddree. Surely a Tahsildar's immense influence might have ensured the arrival of these men from a distance of 12 miles, in a shorter time than 5 days.

8. I would also remark that in making the examination, the results of which he reported to Government, the Collector did not seek for information from a single member of this Department. He seems to have taken for granted the ex-parte statement of the Tahsildar and his Subordinates; and it would indeed be a rare thing if Brahmins could not make out a good case where no one else was heard.

9. I maintain however that their zeal, and cheerfulness should be judged by their fruits. Here is a Tahsildar, *at his Cusbah Station*, applied to on an emergency for assistance in the shape of coolies; the tank in danger being at a distance of only twelve miles. After an interval of five days, and after repeated applications for assistance, sixteen men made their appearance. The tank, which certainly would have been saved, had assistance been rendered promptly, was then hopelessly breached.

10. The Tahsildar was removed from the Cuddree Talook early in June I believe. Captain Palmer and I were informed by an official present on the occasion, that the Collector had stated in open Court, that he was removed for his remissness in rendering assistance to the Department of Public Works. I do not see how to reconcile this with the cheerful assistance which in his letter to Government the Collector states to have been rendered. The Cuddree Talook, as long as the late Tahsildar was in it, was considered to be a sort of penal settlement by the Subordinates of this Department. No European was willing to go there. Now that the Tahsildar is removed, that unwillingness is also gone. This fact, for which I can vouch, shows more conclusively than any thing I could say, the nature of his zeal and cheerfulness.

11. In para. 4 of his letter to Government, the Collector seems completely to ignore the possibility of an Interpreter being used in carrying on a conversation; and is quite satisfied with the Tahsildar's assertion "that no such conversation took place and could not do so, as he "did not understand Mr. Tormy and Mr. Tormy could not understand him." Opposed to this there is the late Mr. Tormy's plain statement. One of these contending assertions is made

by a Brahmin; the other by an Englishman, a man for whom those who knew him best are ready to vouch, that by no possibility could he have been guilty even of prevarication. The Collector gives credit to the Brahmin.

12. With reference to para. 5 of the Collector's letter to Government, I beg to inform you that the Collector is mistaken when he says that he requested me to forward to you a copy of his letter No. 475. From the last para. of that letter, a copy of which is enclosed, you will see that I am requested to intimate to you that "the Tahsildar had not only given but cheerfully given the required assistance." I could scarcely intimate to you a fact which I implicitly disbelieved. In place of doing so, I took the earliest opportunity of replying to the assertions contained in the Collector's letter. Of this reply, the Collector has taken no notice, either in his letter to Government, or subsequently.

13. With reference to para. 6 of the Collector's letter to Government, which you rightly remark to be injurious to myself. I can only say that this is the only report, idle or otherwise, which I have forwarded to Madras during my residence in the Cuddapah District. I distinctly challenge the Collector to prove his assertion.

The Collector knows well how loath and unwilling I am to forward complaints even to him. He knows that out of numerous complaints on the subjects of supplies which I have received from my subordinates, only two very glaring cases have been sent on to him. I have assured him that to me it is as irksome and annoying to make complaints, as it can possibly be to him to receive them. I can only explain the charge he makes against me by the supposition, that he is most strongly prejudiced against this Department, and all connected with it.

I certainly have not, as an inducement to forward complaints to him, the hope of their speedy settlement. Two cases of personal violence and assault upon Subordinates in this Department in the discharge of their duty, I was obliged to forward to him in his Magisterial capacity; the one on the 22nd December 1857, and the other on the 31st May last. Up to the present day, I have not heard the result of either complaints.

14. In conclusion, I wish to call your attention to the last para. of the Collector's letter to me, No. 475. Speaking of the Reddypully Tank, he says, "in the present instance, the "tank had burst and the emergency past, the Public Works Department were to depend upon "themselves for materials and labour; "therein laying down the extraordinary doctrine that when a Tank is breached, the Revenue authorities are not bound to render any assistance. The fact that the tank was not breached at the time to which he refers, does not affect his argument. However at that time it was not breached. There was a dangerous leak in the bank, and the Telugoo word in common use for both breach and leak is the same. It is however absurd to suppose that the authorities on the spot could have fallen into this error.

In the same para. the Collector makes most serious insinuation against the late Mr. Tormy's zeal and honesty, without alleging the slightest ground in support of it. To quote his own words, this most certainly "is a system detrimental to the public interests, and I have to request "that Government will put a stop to it in future."

Letter from M. MURRAY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah; to J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer of Cuddapah, dated Maddenpully 23rd June 1858, No. 475.

SIR,

With reference to your letter of the 4th Instant, No. 120, I have the honor to inform you, that the Reddies of Cootacoola, in the Cudree Talook, have not refused to provide Mr. Tormy with supplies and at the time the refusal is said to have taken place, they were with me at Jamabundy in Vaimpully and so was the Tahsildar. The latter Officer received a note from Mr. Tormy stating he had been refused supplies, and he immediately sent off a Peon with orders to have supplies provided without delay.

2. The Tahasildar was directed to forward to me the parties who had refused to give the supplies, they turned out to be not the Reddies as stated in your letter, but the village Bakalls or Shop-keepers. Over them, I have no control, they may sell or refuse to sell their articles as they

please. I cannot compel them. But with proper civility and paying the market price, I have not the slightest doubt, that they would willingly dispose of the articles they possess. You have not forwarded to me Mr. Tormy as promised in Para. 2 of your letter of 15th April last, No. 1424, Mr. Tormy far from wishing the parties to be punished, wrote to the Tahsildar requesting him not to send them up or make any complaint on the subject as he had forgiven them.

3. With reference to your letter of the 19th Ultimo, No. 51, wherein you complain of the apathy shown by the Tahsildar of Cudree in not supplying coolies for the Reddypully Tank which burst on the 14th Idem, and adding, that in reporting the accident to the Chief Engineer, you had spoken strongly of the Tahsildar's remissness, I would beg to remark that common justice requires that both sides of the question ought to be listened to before a party is condemned. From the documents before me now on the table, my opinion is, that this censure is unjust and uncalled for. Prior to the receipt of your letter, the Tahsildar addressed to me an Arzee dated the 13th May, in which he stated that the Sub-Overseer Narainsawmy had written to him a letter on the 10th informing him that the Tank had burst on that date and requesting assistance; that he, the Tahsildar, had issued orders on the subject to the Villagers noted in the margin* and another order to a Peon to see his order enforced and if Woddurs are not procurable to pay their hire and get coolies instead. On the 11th he, the Tahsildar, went to enquire into a case of Gang Robbery which took place in Boganapully on the same date, the Sheristadar received a letter from Mr. Tormy requesting assistance, he wrote to the Tahsildar stating that he, the Tahsildar, had issued orders yesterday for assistance to be given to the Reddypully Tank that he had received from the Sub Overseer a letter on the subject and that he had dispatched the Peon, Shaikallam with orders to the Head of villages of Nullamadah, and Charoopully, the former to furnish 50 and the latter 35 Woddurs; on the 13th the Tahsildar received a letter from Gungee Reddy of Charoopully stating that he had seen his orders and enquired about Woddurs that he had been informed that they had give* to the Reddypully Tank and that one Nagadoo had returned for batta a similar letter was received from the Peon Shaikallum from the same village. From this it appears that neither the Tahsildar, the Sheristadar or the Revenue authorities, have shown that apathy complained of by yourself to the Chief Engineer and it is worthy of remark, the variety of dates which the Members of the Public Works Department give as the date on which the breaching of the Tank took place. In Mr. Tormy's Teloogoo letter to the Talook Sheristadar it is mentioned that the breach took place on the 9th, and requesting him, should the Tahsildar not be present, to send the necessary coolies and in the arzee of the Tahsildar dated the 13th he states that Assistant Overseer Narainsawmy wrote to him that the breach had taken place on the 10th and Mr. Tormy in his English letter to the Tahsildar dated the 14th stated "the Reddypully large tank was breachad this morning at 1 A. M., and request "this Tahsildar will be good enough to furnish with as money Woddurs and coolies as he pos-"sibly can, for its restoration." This last date is re-echoed by Captain Palmer in his letter to you of the 19th May last.

* Wunkacoontah Nullamadah Charoopully.

* Sic.

4. With regard to the conversation which Mr. Tormy says took place between him and the Tahsildar on his riding back to Cudree for tools (date of this is not known) the Tahsildar states nothing of the kind took place and adds that he could not understand Mr. Tormy and Mr. Tormy could not understand him and the necessity of Mr. Tormy riding back for tools has yet to be explained, as I find that the Tahsildar, in his order to the Reddies and Curnms of Reddypully dated the 13th desired them to supply 40 Mamooties or "Salakaparaloo" to Overseer Narainsawmy and afford him any other assistance, supplies &c. and if they fail in any one point he will make a complaint against them to the Hoozoor and have them punished.

5. With regard to the Reddies of the village, the Tahsildar reports that the amani Mootsuddy was at that very time in the Talook Cutcherry at Cudree, and the other had gone in search of the depradation* in the Gang Robbery which took place in the village of Boganapully in which he is in missul.

* Sic.

6. With respect to the Duffadar of Goorrumcondah alluded to in your letter of the 19th Instant, No. 173, he will be punished.

7. In conclusion, I beg to draw your attention to the orders of Government wherein the Public Works Department are prohibited from calling upon the Revenue authorities for workmen, and if demanded they are not to give it* except in cases of the utmost emergency. In the present instance, the Tank had burst and the emergency past, the Public Works Department were to depend upon themselves for materials and labour. It does not appear that either Mr. Tormy or those under him made any exertions to obtain labour, but rested entirely upon the Revenue authorities it may be with the intention of throwing all responsibilities off their shoulders and placing it on those of others; however the Tahsildar has not only given but cheerfully given the required assistance and I request you will intimate this to the Chief Engineer.

* Sic.

Letter from Lieutenant J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer of Cuddapah; to M. MURRAY, Esquire, Collector of Cuddapah, dated Camp Gurrumcondah, 15th July 1858, No. 260.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 475, of the 23rd Ultimo, and to express my regret that owing to a short absence from the District, it should have been so long unanswered.

2. With reference to para. 1 of your letter, I think if you refer to my letter of the 15th April last, No. 1424, you will find that I by no means alleged that the Reddies of Cootacoola were to blame for the cruel treatment which the late Mr. Tormy had there experienced on the contrary I then wrote as follows, "I see that he (the late Mr. Tormy) does not mention the individual against whom especially he complains, but I think he must have meant the village "Shop-keepers of course if the Reddies were there, it was their duty to supply him, and I would "hold them responsible for the treatment he received but I believe that at that time they had "been all summoned to Vaimpully, to attend at the annual settlement of the Talook."

In fact the first portion of your letter now under reply seems almost a literal transcript of what I then wrote.

3. Now that I have your assurance to the fact, I am quite ready to believe that the Reddies in question "have not refused to provide Mr. Tormy with supplies:" but I must take this opportunity of remarking that surely that system must be an erroneous one, which year after year, for the convenience of one man, draws the whole of the Revenue authorities and the heads of villages out of one particular Talook, in order that the settlement may be effected at some favourite spot; surely this is sacrificing the many to the few.

4. But apart from this view of it, no one can possibly know better than yourself, how entirely in this District the sale of supplies is at the mercy of the Heads of villages, and how thoroughly dependant on their aid is every European, with the exception perhaps of the Collector and his Assistants. I ask you then, whether it is fair to the unfortunate Europeans who are obliged to reside in the Cuddree Talook, that year after year, for a certain number of months, the whole of the village authorities should be summoned to attend on you at a great distance from their own Talook, and I would also ask you whether it is a fair way of stating the case, to say that as the Reddies had been thus called away, the whole blame lay with the Village Shopkeepers, over whom you have no control; when you are well aware that but for this practise of "settling" a Talook at a distance of 40 miles from its head station, the Reddies would have been on the spot, and would have been responsible for the treatment experienced by the late Mr. Tormy; surely it was not the Shop-keepers who were to blame for the absence of the Reddies.

5. You must have quite mis-read para. 2 of my letter of the 15th April last, if you understood me to promise to "forward" to you the late Mr. Tormy. I think if you read again what I then wrote, you will come to a different conclusion. Had you repeated your request for his presence, he should certainly have attended on you at an early date in May.

6. With regard to the last portion of para. 2 of your letter under reply, in which the late Mr. Tormy's subsequent request to the Tahsildar is remarked upon, I beg to call your attention to an enclosed* Extract from a letter addressed to Captain Palmer, in which you will see that the late Mr. Tormy expressly states that he wishes the men to be severely reprimanded, not punished, because as a family man, he did not

* C.

wish to render himself liable to their revengeful feelings : and, he and his wife being the only Europeans within 50 miles, it is not difficult to understand that such an idea would have more than ordinary weight.

7. With reference to paras. 3 and 4 of your letter under reply, I cannot do better than refer you to two enclosures,* Extracts from letters respectively from Captain Palmer to myself, and from the late Mr. Tormy to Captain Palmer. These Extracts will I think explain what you term " the variety of dates" assigned to the bursting of the Reddypully Tank, the breach did not take place until the 14th May, at 1 A. M; all the previous communications as the Revenue authorities on the spot must have well known, referred to a dangerous leak in the bank.

* A. and B.

8. As to the Tahsildar's denial of the conversation which took place between him and the late Mr. Tormy, if you choose to accept it in preference to the assertion of an Englishman who held so high a character as did the late Mr. Tormy, I shall hold my peace.

9. In para. 7 of your letter under reply, you state that, " the Public Works Department " are prohibited from calling upon the Revenue authorities for workmen, and if demanded they " are not to give it except in cases of the utmost emergency."

I have taxed my brains to discover the exact meaning of this; but what " *it*" is which is not to be given is by no means clear. If however you meant to say that the Revenue authorities are only bound to assist this Department in cases of emergency, I beg to refer you to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1826, of the 7th October 1856. In para. 3 it is thus writen " with " respect to breaches of tanks and channels, it will still be their duty" (refering to " Tahsildars and Revenue Officers, as well as Heads of villages") " to take immediate steps to repair the damage," even allowing (which I very much doubt) that the Revenue authorities on the spot understood the tank to have been breached before the application for assistance came, it is surely distinctly laid down that their duty was to do their utmost to close it.

You lay down an entirely new principle, that " the tank had burst and the emergency past," and therefore " the Public Works Department were to depend upon themselves for materials and " labour."

10. To the last portion of your letter in which you insinuate that the late Mr. Tormy and those under him, made no exertions to obtain labour, " but rested entirely upon the Revenue " authorities it may be with the intention of throwing all responsibilities off their shoulders and " place it on those of others," I can only give, from what I know of the man, my most complete denial, and I do most seriously challenge your right to bring a charge so grave, so undeserved and so groundless, against such a man as the late Serjeant Tormy. I am very much tempted to refer the case to Government, and to ask whether such be one of a Collector's many duties.

11. There is one point more to which I must call your attention, to which Captain Palmer alludes in para. 7 of the enclosed Extract of his letter to me, I had addressed to you a letter on the subject on the 25th Ultimo, but as before it was despatched I received your letter under reply, it was not forwarded to you. I also enclose an Extract* bearing on this point from a letter which Captain Palmer received from the late Mr. Tormy, you will see that the assistant Reddy of Reddypully complained to him that he had been discharged from his post inconsequence of the apathy shown on the occasion of the late breach.

* D.

12. Now I do not know whether this was the cause of his dismissal: but if it was, I must request that an investigation may be made into the circumstances. You will see that the late Mr. Tormy states that the Tahsildar had received from him a letter in which the names of the actual delinquents, the Head Reddy and the Curnum, were mentioned, but that in the teeth of this, an innocent man, a Subordinate Reddy named Ramarayadoo, whom the late Mr. Tormy declares that he had never seen, has been dismissed from his appointment.

13. As I said, I request that an investigation be made into this affair, and that you will have the goodness to communicate to me the result. I claim it, not only in justice to the dismissed Reddy, but in justice to the late Mr. Tormy, in justice to myself, and to this Department in general. Our reputation in the District is at stake if our complaints are thus liable to be diverted from their proper channel, and innocent individuals punished at our instance.

C.

Extract from a letter from Assistant Overseer P. TORMY; to Captain PALMER, Executive Engineer, dated Cootacoola; 7th May 1858.

* * *

Now that they have been brought to a sense of their duty towards Europeans, I request sir, that you will use your influence with the District Engineer, and not allow these men to be punished, but severely reprimanded. Should the Collector punish them, I would say that it would be inconsistent with the safety of me and my family to remain here.

A.

Letter from G. PALMER, Bt. Captain, Acting Executive Engineer 3rd class Cuddapah District; to Lieutenant J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer of Cuddapah, dated Camp Gurrumcondah, 28th June 1858, No. 28.

* * *

IV. The confusion of dates is accounted for by the Tank bank suffering from a leak on the 10th 11th 12th and 13th and it was to assist in stopping the leak, and not the breach, that both Mr. Tormy and Sub Overseer Moonesawmy made applications to the Head Reddy, Sheristadar and Tahsildar, for coolies. The breach did not occur until 1. A. M. of the 14th and it is but fair to suppose that if timely assistance had been willingly rendered, the breach might not have occurred, I think on careful reference, Mr. Murray will find that Sub-Overseer Moonesawmy's letter to the Tahsildar dated the 10th, as also Mr. Tormy's Telugu letter to the Sheristadar, referred to the leak and not to the bursting of the Tank.

V. The Tahsildar's denial as stated in para. 4 of the Collector's letter will be best met by an Extract from Assistant Overseer Tormy's letter marked B.

VI. In conclusion I would briefly state all the circumstances as follows. During the night of the 9th a leak appeared in the Bank. Sub Overseer Moonesawmy reached the spot at 4. P. M. on the 10th. The Tahsildar himself acknowledges the receipt of Moonesawmy's letter of the 10th, asking his assistance, and although it must have reached him on the 11th he did not bestir himself as shewn in the Collector's letter until the 13th and the coolies summoned by him did not reach till the 15th. This fully bears out I think the charge brought against him.

VII. As a sequel to the above I have the honor to refer to my letter No. 8, dated 8th June 1858 forwarding Assistant Overseer Tormy's complaint that although in a letter to the Tahsildar he had specially named the Head Reddy as the person who personally refused all assistance, yet the Tahsildar accepts the Head Reddy's statement in preference to Mr. Tormy's, and forwards it on to the Collector, by which proceeding an innocent man has been punished. I was in hopes that by this time Mr. Tormy would have been able to meet in person the counter statements of the Tahsildar, but since pending the above, the sad news of Mr. Tormy's death has reached. I trust however that in any communication to the Chief Engineer you will be so good, in vindication of the late Overseer's good name as to convey my assurance that from my knowledge of his character, Mr. Tormy could never have been guilty even of prevarication, far less of deliberate falsehood.

B.

Letter from Serjeant P. TORMY, Assistant Overseer Cuddapah District, to Captain PALMER, Executive Engineer.

SIR,

In giving the particulars respecting the Reddypully large Tank, I beg respectfully to inform you that at about 7 A. M. on the 11th Ultimo I arrived at Reddypully, and seeing the threatened destruction of the Bank, (the late breach) I immediately applied to the Tahsildar for

as many coolies as he possibly could; in case he might be from home, I sent by the same bearer a Memo. to the Sheristadar to the same effect; the day after, the Sheristadar wrote me a note saying he sent for coolies to such and such villages, but there were none to be had, but one. (I think he said.) I returned on the 12th for the purpose of taking all my working tools, as in that neighbourhood, the coolies are possessed of none, it would appear. I made it my business while at home to see the Tahsildar. I asked him to be good enough to furnish me with as many coolies as he possibly could. He said if I ordered the Reddy and Curnum of Reddypully to get coolies they would do so. I told him I had previously asked them and they refused, saying they would not without a written order from him, and now sir, I deem it to be my duty to bring to your notice the conduct of these Public servants when asked by me to procure coolies as soon as possible; they made many excuses, first the coolies had no proper tools for works, 2nd the Reddy of the village said, He had a Magisterial point of duty to attend to and could not furnish me with coolies, and after pointing out the danger that existed to their Tank, and telling the Reddy that he could not have a case of more importance on hand than this one, (He was then standing on the Tank Bank,) He said he would not procure coolies unless by a written order from the Tahsildar. On the night of the 13th between 12 midnight and 1 A. M. I received a letter from the Tahsildar with an endorsed order from the Reddy of the Reddypully to furnish me with coolies; the day after the breach, 16 coolies from Cuddree arrived there, yesterday, about 1. A. M. they were sent by the Tahsildar; *their* services were not required.

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D.

Official Memo. from Serjeant P. TORMY, Assistant Overseer Cuddapah District; to Captain PALMER, Executive Engineer, dated Camp Cootagoolla, 5th June 1858, No. 62.

SIR,

In bringing to your notice the cruel injustice which have been dealt out to the Assistant Reddy of Reddypully viz., Ramaraydoo, I have the honor to state for your information that, on this day the above named person came and told me he was reported by the Head Reddy of Reddypully (who refused me to procure coolies) to the Tahsildar who reported him to the Collector for not procuring coolies for me on a case of emergency at the breach of the Reddypully large Tank. Now sir I deem it to be my bounden duty to inform you that the discharged Reddy viz., Ramaraydoo is not the person who refused to procure coolies for me on that emergent occasion, but the Head Reddy viz., Gollareddy, and the Curnum viz., Soobbiah are the persons who refused me *point blank* in doing so, without an order from the Tahsildar. Why did not the Tahsildar report these persons, on receipt of my letter 11th May in which I told him that they refused me coolies without an order from him. He received a report from the Head Reddy against the Assistant Reddy, forwards it to the Collector, and he has been discharged. I have never seen the man until this day, how could he be the person who refused in procuring coolies for me.

* * *

To Lieutenant J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer, Cuddapah, dated Camp Coorbulcottah 18th May 1858, No. 8.

* * *

VII. I would wish to take this opportunity of bringing to your notice the great apathy shewn by the Reddy of Reddypully, who positively refused to supply Mr. P. Tormy with coolies, unless with the Tahsildar's permission. The Tank was in danger on the 11th and between that and the 14th the day it was breached Mr. P. Tormy used his best exertions to procure coolies; he wrote to the Tahsildar and Sheristadar for assistance, and on riding back to Cuddree for tools a distance of 12 miles he asked the Tahsildar to use his influence, but the Tahsildar persisted in saying that it was not requisite, although Mr. P. Tormy, assured him that his own efforts had failed.

* * *

Letter from Lieutenant J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, District Engineer of Cuddapah,; to M. MURRAY, Esq., Collector of Cuddapah, dated Camp Coorbulcottah, 19th May 1858, No. 51.

SIR,

I have the honor to enclose an Extract from a letter which I yesterday received from Captain Palmer, Executive Engineer, on the subject of the breaching of the bund of the Reddypully Tank, which occurred on the 14th Instant. I beg to bring to your especial notice the gross apathy and indifference manifested by the Revenue authorities in the Cuddree Talook, the Tahsildar in particular, when applied to by Mr. Tormy to use their influence to procure coolies to secure the Tank bund. In reporting on the accident to the Chief Engineer, I have spoken strongly of the Tahsildar's remissness in the performance of his duty; and I do sincerely trust that such notice may be taken of his conduct in the present instance as may act as an example to others, the more so as he is by no means noted for extreme courtesy and civility to Members of this Department.

No. 122. ORDER THEREON, No. 2119; dated 11th October 1858.

The Government are of opinion that no useful object would be gained by going further into the case to which the papers submitted by the Officiating Chief Engineer relate.

2. The Government considered the explanation, as contained in para. 3 of the Collector's letter of the 20th July last, to be satisfactory, but did not reflect either on Lieutenant Stewart or Mr. Tormy. The Chief Engineer should not occupy the time of Government by sending up to them the explanations of Subordinate Officers to cases like the present, when in fact no blame was imputed.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St. George
23rd September 1858.

No. 3929

From,

The Officiating Chief Engineer

To,

The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Public

Sir,

I am loath to take up the Government time on such subjects, but the Character of the Department has suffered injury both in the persons of the District Engineer himself, and of his Subordinate Serjeant Jormy, by the decision passed in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1591, dated 11th August 1858, wherein the explanation of the Collector of Cuddapah was stated to be "quite satisfactory", the said explanation affirming that Serjeant Jormy had given in a false report, and Lieutenant Stewart had libelled the Revenue authorities, and forwarded idle reports concerning them. I have the honor to request

Enclosures 1:

1 Original Letter from the Asst. Engr. Cuddapah dated 13th Augt. 58 with its one Enclosure.

request therefore, that you will submit to Government Lieutenant Stewart's letter* (with its enclosures) which in my opinion clears him from these charges, and I trust will prove to the Government that it was no idle report which was laid before them.. *No. 443, d/26th Augt. '58

2. The main fact appears to be that, the Tahsildar was applied to for assistance on emergency to a work only 12 miles off, and 5 days afterwards (the day after the breach) 16 Men came, and the District Engineer points out that had prompt assistance been given, the Tanks would have been saved. The Collector clears the Tahsildar to Government, by appealing to the written orders to which no attention appears to have been paid, but it is shown that, he yet felt the short comings of the Tahsildar sufficient reason to remove him, and that marked improvement has resulted.

3. The District Engineer draws attention to the doctrine laid down by the Collector in his letter* No. 475 and I would also desire to submit to Government, that the Revenue authorities should not consider the emergency past, when a breach has occurred in tank or Channel, but at all season of the year, instant action should be taken, and every assistance given to repair the damage, that the revenue should not suffer more than need be, and that those, who will not help to prevent a threatened breach take upon themselves a grave responsibility.. *Dated 23d June 1858.

I have the honor to be.

Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St. George
23d September 1858.

Stewart Major.
Offg. Chief Engineer.

Sent

P.W.D.

No 2119

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 11th October 1858.

Read the following
letter from the Officiating Chief
Engineer -

Submits copy of a correspondence between the Collector of Cuddapah and the District Engr of that Province on the subject of the breach of the Reddypully Tank in the Cuddeen Valook.

Here enter 23 September 1858 No 3929

The Government
are of opinion that no useful
object would be gained by
going further into the case
to which the papers submitted
by the Officiating Chief Engineer
relate.

2 The Government
considered the explanations
as contained in para 3 of
the Collectors letter of the 20th
July last, to be satisfactory;
but

Read 1st & 2nd time 11 Oct 1858.
Ordered that
Copy be sent to Chief Engineer
for information
Ordered 28 Do
Rec'd 24th September 1858
Answered 29 Do

Copy of Letter from Collector of Cuddapah No 2119 dated 10th September 1858.

Forwarding Original correspondence from the Assistant Engineer of Madras upon the subject of the breach in the bund of the Reddypully tank in the Cuddeen Valook, together with a letter from the Collectors and thereon.

Read 1st & 2nd time 11 Oct 1858.

Ordered that Copy be sent to Chief Engineer for information

Ordered 28 Do

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Read 8th

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on Lieut Stewart or the
Jerry.

The Chief Engineer should
not occupy the time of
Government by sending up
to them the explanations
of subordinate Officers to
cases like the present—
when in fact no blame
was imputed.

J.J.P.

10 Copies to the Offr Chief Engr Dated 12th

Public Works 1868 Dept.
Dft. to Comr. 12th Octr.

No. 2119.
Explanation Mins. of Coms.
Dft. 11th October 68.

The Explanation submitted in respect to the breach of the Paddy's Gully Bank in Cudda Cudda having been considered satisfactory Cannot understand why the Chief Engineer should occupy the time of Govt. by sending up further explanation

No 21 + 22.

Recd. 12th Oct. 68