M.R.O. 1—32,400—28-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2423 Press Mis.

12829

Dated 12—10— 1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 128. Read the following letter from W. J. ADDIS, Esq., Executive Engineer, Chittledroog Division; to H. A. MURRAY, Esq., Private Secretary to His Lordship the Governor in Council, of Fort Saint George; Ootacamund, dated Camp Seeroh, 27th August 1858, No. 498.

SIR,

I have the honor to lay before you certain grievances and shall feel obliged by your communicating the same to his Lordship in Council.

II. The Government in their Minutes of Consultation No. 1558, dated 11th August 1857, were pleased to hold me responsible for a sum of Rupees 4,980, under the following heads.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Value of bricks.....	3,287	8	0
Balance received from Contractors.....	1,442	8	0
Advanced for Tramways.....	250	0	0
Total...	4,980	0	0

III. With reference to the first sum of Rupees 3,287-8, I am charged with that amount, because the bricks made by the Contractor were declared to be unfit for use, but so far from this being the case, I found on my last visit to Cuddapah in February, that a number of bricks has since, I left the District been used in building the Tunnels and laying the foundation of Bridges on the line of road, for which they were prepared. This was, I should think sufficient proof of what I had always felt, must be the case, that in my absence the bricks had been concondemned without careful examination.

IV. If Captain Hemery's report upon these Bricks had been correct, viz. that they were perfectly raw, they would have melted down by the rains of the two last monsoons to which they have been exposed, but so far from this being the case, they are less injured than might have been expected, under such circumstances, and I feel sure that they will be found as good as those which have been already used for the Tunnels, I cannot deny that when I anticipated the orders of Government by advancing money for the bricks before their sanction was received, I rendered myself liable to its censure, but if my motives in taking this responsibility upon myself did not warrant what I did, they were at all events such as to have enabled me to have had a careful investigation of the case and a lenient judgment. There was not a doubt that the Bridges would be built, and I had the double temptation of a zealous wish to have the material in readiness, when the order to commence the work arrived, and a desire to give immediate relief to the people around me, who from the high price of grain were in a state of starvation. I had good reason to hope under these circumstances, that the material if fit for use would have been taken for the proposed work, but such was not the case, I was condemned by Captain Hemery's rejection of the bricks to pay a fine ruinous to me, and being absent in Mysore, I had no opportunity of learning the fact of the case as stated in the former portion of this para.

V. I would here beg to remark that Captain Hemery in his letter to the Chief Engineer requested that a deduction of 80,000 bricks be made, from the number the Government have been pleased to hold me responsible for, for this number had been used for the building of the Culcuddah Bungalow, but I regret to add that no deduction has been made, and further that an Office which cost me about 150 Rupees to build at Culcuddah has also been thrown on my hands for the material used for its construction is a portion of the wood referred to in para. VII. of this letter has also the condemned Bricks, may I therefore crave that this building be paid for or a monthly rent be allowed me, for it has been used by Mr. George for an Office ever since I left the Discrict.

VI. With regard to the 2nd item of expenditure of Rupees 1,442-8-0 for which I am also held responsible, I am prepared to shew the disbursement of Rupees 1,010-6-8 from documents now in Mr. George's Office in Cuddapah and the vouchers for the remainder are in my possession,

as also a receipt for Rupees 167-8-0 from Assistant Overseer Travers. I had written and explained all this to the Chief Engineer, but have had no satisfactory redress, more than that they would pay for the bricks already used for the Tunnels and Bridges. In the last letter received from him he wished to know, whether I would consent to the Papers and Books that I had left at Cuddapah being burnt, in answer to this, I requested that the documents in question should not be destroyed, but that I would like to have the Books sent me, as I was quite prepared to prove the expenditure of these sums by those very papers, and for which purpose, I despatched a writer from this, to receive the papers in question from Captain Stewart, as an order to that effect had been issued from the Chief Engineer, but to my surprise, I have now received a letter from Captain Stewart, stating that the Chief Engineer has cancelled the order of handing over these papers and that no document is to be sent me, I would here most respectfully beg to add that these proceedings fall very hard on me, for I have not only been made to make good this sum, but have been to the expense of sending a writer all the way to Cuddapah to receive these papers and who has been away since April last. And further beg to solicit that should the Chief Engineer be called upon to furnish a statement of the following sums, it will be seen immediately that a balance is in my favour, which would have clearly shewn that this amount for which I am held responsible has been made good viz. 1st amount placed at my disposal with the Collector of Cuddapah. 2nd, amount of Bills forwarded by me to the Chief Engineer. 3rd, amount of Bills passed by the Government, and 4th, the Balance handed over to Mr. George, when I left the District.

VII. The other item viz. Rupees 250 was advanced by me for Timber for laying down Tramways for the transport of the Bricks from the Kilns to the site of the several large ridges. This also was thrown on my hands and as its value was to be made good by me the timber was no doubt considered my property whereas some has been used by me and the remaining portion left at Culcuddah has since been used by the Public Works Department for the repairs of the Culcuddah Bungalow.

VIII. I have up to this date paid 11 Instalments, viz. Rupees (1,100) one thousand and one hundred, and I would now beg to be permitted to state that it was from the anxiety I felt to expedite the works entrusted to me as well as to give employment to those who were out of work in a time of great trouble and distress that I acted in anticipation of orders, and I confess I was wrong in so doing, but when I was declared liable for the losses supposed to have resulted from what I had done, I would earnestly beg that this material be used for the works (which I am now given to understand,) have been sanctioned, for should the material be thought unfit for substantial building purposes they would answer very well for the temporary centrings that will necessarily be required for all the Bridges.

IX. May I therefore in conclusion beg the favor of his Lordship in Council to cancel the Minutes of Consultation already passed against me,until such time as the material be used for the works above mentioned, and until I can prove the expenditure of the Rupees 1,442-8, for which act of kindness I shall ever feel thankful.

No. 129. ORDER THEREON, No. 2123; dated 12th October 1858.

Referred to the Officiating Chief Engineer for report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

For Orders.

Public Works Department No 2228.

From Mr W. J. Addis - Exc. Engineer Chittledroog
Division Camp Seerah. d/ 27th Augt 1858 -

Requesting for reasons advanced to cancel the Mems Cons. No 1588 of 11th August 1857 holding him responsible for a sum of Rs 1,498 0 - for value of Bricks &c until such time as the material be used for the works mentioned within and he can prove the expenditure of Rs 1442 - 8 - part of the above amount —

Refer to Ch Engineer
Mr Addis is entitled to credit for any materials used on public works & the be allowed on appn of proofs the expenditure of any sums stand against him
Kistnah Rc & Bahoor comps for his bungalow - Ch Engr appn sent 16

Chittledroog Division
Exec. Engineer's Office

No. 498

From

W. J. Addis Esqr.
Exec. Engineer
Chittledroog

To

N. A. Murray Esqr.
Private Secretary to
His Lordship the
Governor in Council
of Fort Saint George

Dated Camp

Sir

I have the honor to lay before you certain grievances and shall feel obliged by your communicating the same to His Lordship in Council.

II. The Government in their Minutes of Consultation No. 1558 dated 11th August 1857 were pleased to hold me Responsible for a sum of Rupees 4980 under the following Heads.

Values

Value of Bricks ——— 3287-8-0
Balance Received from
Contractor 1112-8-0
Advanced for Jamnagar 250-0-0
Total Rupees 1,980-0-0

III With Reference to the first item of Rupees 3287-8-0 I am charged with that Amount, because the Bricks made by the Contractor were declared to be unfit for use, but so far from this being the case, I found on my last visit to Cudduck in February that a number of Bricks has since I left the District been used in building the Tunnels and laying the foundation of the Bridges on the line of Road, for which they were prepared. This was I should think sufficient proof of what I had always felt, must be the Case, that in my absence the Bricks had been condemned without Careful examination=

IV As Captain Mowray Report upon these Bricks has been Correct upon this Point that they were perfectly Sound they would have melted down by the Rains of the two last monsoons to which they have been exposed, but so far from this being the case, they are less injured than might have been expected, under such Circumstances. And I feel sure that they will be found as good as those which have been already used for the Tunnels, & Cannot help thinking that when I Anticipated the orders of Government by Advancing money for the Bricks before their Sanction was Received, I rendered myself liable to its Censure; but if my motives in taking this Responsibility upon myself did not warrant what I did, they were at all events such as to have enabled me to have had a Careful investigation of the Case and a lenient judgement. There was not

not a doubt that the Bridges would be built And I had the doubble temptation of a Zealous wish to have the material in Readiness, when the order to Commence the work Arrived, And a desire to give immediate Relief to the people Around me, who from the high price of grain were in a state of Starvation. I had good Reason to hope under these Circumstances, that the material if set for use would have been taken for the proposed work, but such was not the case, I was Condemned by Captain Nemegs Rejection of the Bricks to pay a fine Ruinous to me And being absent in Mysore I had no opportunity of learning the fact of the case as stated in the former portion of this para-

V I would here beg to Remark that Captain Nemegs in his letter to the Chief Engineer Requested that a Deduction of 80,000 Bricks be made, from the number the Government have been pleased to hold me Responsible for, for this number had been issued for the building of the Culenddoh Bungalow, but I Request to add that no deduction has been made, And further that an Office which cost me about 150 Rupees to build at Culenddoh has also been thrown on my hands for the material used for its construction is a portion of the Wood Referred to in para VII of this letter as also the Condemned Bricks, pray I therefore crave that this building be paid for as a Monthly Rent be allowed me for it has been used by Mr George for an Office ever since I left the District.

VI With Regard to the 2nd item of expenditure of Rupees 1642-8- for which I am also held Responsible

I

I am prepared to show the disburse-
ment of Rupees 1010-6-8 from documents
now in Mr. Georges Office in Cuddapah
And the vouchers for the Remainder
are in my possession, as also a
Receipt for Rupees 167-8-0 from
Assist. Overseer Isaacs. I
had written and explained
all this to the Chief Engineer,
but have had no satisfactory
Redress. more than that they
wanted pay for the Bricks already
used for the Tunnels and Bridges.
In the last letter Received from
him he wished to know whether
I would consent to the papers
and Books that I had left at
Cuddapah being burnt, in
Answer to this I Requested that
the Documents in question should
not be destroyed, but that I
would like to have the Books
sent me as I was quite pre-
pared to prove the expenditure

of

of these sums by those very papers. And
for which purpose I dispatched a
letter from this to Receive the
papers in question from Captain
Stewart, in answer to that effect I
have since heard from the Chief Engineer
but to my surprise I have now Received
a letter from Captain Stewart
stating that the Chief Engineer
has cancelled the order of hand-
ing over these papers. And that no
documents to be sent me, I would
here most respectfully beg to
add that these proceedings fall
very hard on me for I have not
only been made to make good
this sum, but have been to the
expence of sending a Messenger all
the way to Cuddapah to Require
these papers And who has been
away since April last. And
further beg to solicit that should
the Chief Engineer be called up
on to furnish a statement of the

following

following Items it will be seen immediately that a balance is in my favour, which would have clearly shewn that this Amount for which I am held Responsible has been made good Viz. 1st Amount placed at my disposal with the Collector of Cuddapah. 2d Amount of Bills remarded by me to the Chief Engineer. 3d Amount of Bills passed by the Government And 4th The Balance handed over to Mr George when I left the District.

VII The other item Viz. Rupees 250 was advanced by me for Timber for laying down Drainways for the transport of the Bricks from the Kilns to the site of the several Cairgi Bridges. This also was returned in my hands And as it is now due it to be made good by me the Timber was no

doubt

doubt Considered my property to Timber some has been used by me & Some has been used by the Remaining portion left at Calendoah has since been used by the Public Works Dept for the Repair of the Calendoah Bungalow.

VIII I have up to this date paid Instalments to Viz Rupees 11007 One thousand and One hundred. And I would now beg to be permitted to state that it was from the Anxiety I felt to expedite the Works entrusted to me & in order to give encouragement to those who were out of work in a time of great trouble and distress that I acted in anticipation of orders. And I confess I was wrong in so doing but when I was declared liable for the Losses supposed to have resulted from what I had done I would earnestly beg that their Material be used for the Works

which

which I am sure you will understand I have been enabled for I should the material be thought unfit for substantial building for piers they would answer very well for the temporary Centrings that will necessarily be required for all the Bridges.

IX May I therefore in Conclusion beg the favour of their Lordships in Council to cancel the Minutes of Consultation already passed against me until such time as the material be used for the Works above mentioned, And until I can procure the expenditure of the Rupees 1442-8-a, for which Act of Kindness I shall ever feel thankful.

I have the honour to be

Sir

Your most Obedient Servant

H. W. Wells

Civil Engineer

Camp Seerah

27th August 1838

Cover 11 Augt 1858 No 87-88

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government.

Signed

Private Secy

Ootacamund
8th September
1858

No. 1280 & 129.

Rd Sep. 24 & 6th

Public Works 1858 Dept. No. 2223 Camp 12 Octr.

From J. 25 & 48 of 1858.

Mr. W. J. Addis,
Ex. Engr. Chittledroog Division.

Camp Deerah.

d 27th Augt.
2dly 23d Septr 1858.
from the Offg Chief Engr 15th March 58
R. 2722 & Encl. 14 Dec.

Requesting for reasons advanced to cancel the Min. Con. No. 1588 of 11th Augt 1857 holding him responsible for a sum of Rs 4980 for value of Bricks &c — until such time as the material be used for the works mentioned within, & he can prove the expenditure of Rs 1142-8-0 part of the above amount.

No. 2123. 12th October 1858.

With an Order.

No. 2123

Referred to the Officiating Chief Engr for report.

JP

Fort St. George
12th Octr 58

10 Copies to the Offg Chief Engr &c. Despd 19th