1. Rem...
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M.R.O.—No. 1—2-05—1-11-55

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political Department

G.O. No. 2515 Press Mis.

12.15

Dated 22-12-55 18 55

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 12. Read the following letter from Lieutenat-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer ; to the Secretary to Government, dated 30th October 1858, No. 5029.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2231 dated 23rd October 1858, I have the honor to submit copy of a letter* from the Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle in which Kurnool is comprised, dated 26th October 1858 and to state that I have directed Captain Orr to visit the Hindree bridge about the middle of December next.

* No. 15 dated 26th October 1858.

2. Adverting to the remarks in para. 8 of the order above quoted I solicit attention to Captain Orr's explanation in para. 4 of his letter of the cause of his not visiting the work earlier as the Government seem to consider he ought to have done.

3. The Government are I believe not ignorant of my own opinion that many of the difficulties of the Department of Public Works originate in the want of local Superintendence and personal inspection by Officers of higher standing than District Engineers and I may here renew the expression of my belief that a change of system in this respect is urgently called for, for so long as the permanent Head Quarters of Superintending Engineers are fixed at the Presidency I do not think those Officers can possibly exercise adequate control over the works in their respective circles, and the only guarantee the Government can have against a repetition of such unfortunate results as those manifest in the Hindree bridge operations must depend on the attention and efficiency of the District Engineer.

4. It will require much consideration and care to prepare the list of Officers competent to execute large works called for in para. 10 and I do not think that Government can place full dependance on such a statement, because although many large works have been constructed under the nominal Superintendence of Officers, the merit of success has in many cases been really due to subordinates.

5. My own opinion on this point is that the responsibility for a proper selection of Officers for the charge of large works should be vested in Superintending Engineers, supposing these Officers to be stationed in their Circles; but under the existing system I do not see how dependance on District Engineers can be avoided.

6. In reply to the observations of Government contained in para. 9, I would beg respectfully to state that every thing which the Central Office could do for the preparation of a correct standard of rates for estimates, has been already effected and extracts from the revised rates prepared for different kinds of work were submitted for the information of Government in the Appendix C. to the Annual Report forwarded on the 13th February last, No. 7345: It was there pointed out (para. 164) that certain anomalies appeared in the statements for which no adequate explanation could be given, thus the price of brick work in chunam was.

	Rs.	A.	P.	
In Ganjam.	0	1	4	} Per Cubic Foot.
Vizagpatam...	0	1	2	
Rajahmundry...	0	1	7	

in contiguous Districts, and it appeared further that while the rate in Ganjam had risen from 11 p in 1852 to 1 Anna 4 Pice in 1857 per cubic foot and in Rajahmundry from 1 anna 4½ pice to 1 anna 7 pice the price in Vizagapatam, the intermediate District, had remained stationary while on the other hand statement D showed that although the price of wall bricks (the chief material in the composition of brick masonry had risen in Ganjam 8 annas per thousand, it had actually fallen 5 annas in Vizagapatam, thus shewing a reason for a *decrease* of rates instead of an increase. It will be also noticed that the wages of workmen (Brick-layers and Carpenters) had fallen during the latter year.

7. It was to ascertain the causes that affected the increase in the prices of materials, and if possible to reconcile the anomalies above noticed that a Circular was issued by Colonel Faber and a further report promised on the subject, in the current year, in para 165 of the document already quoted; but I am sorry to state that the replies to this Circular have not all been received, nor do those that have come to hand afford any valuable information on the question, which

was the main object of the reference. Under these circumstances, although I still hope to furnish a report on the subject, I fear that but little information can be added to the knowledge already possessed regarding it.

8. Since the preparation of the new rates they have been adopted in all the estimates submitted to Government, and thus every thing which the Central Office could do has been done. I may mention also that a half yearly list of current prices is received from District Engineers and that whenever these exhibit any remarkable difference of prices, it is taken into account in correcting the estimates that pass through the Office.

Letter from Captain C. A. ORR, Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle; to Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated 26th October 1858, No. 15.

SIR,

In reply to your resolution of yesterday's date No. 4838, calling upon me to state on what date I shall be prepared to proceed to Kurnool as ordered in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2234 of the 23rd Instant, and requesting my attention to para. 8 of those orders, I have the honor to inform you, that, although I am quite ready to start, and only await your instructions to proceed, it appears to me that, as an apparently heavy monsoon which must fill the Hindree has only just commenced, it will be useless for me to reach Kurnool much before the middle of December for till then I am given to understand there is no possibility of my being able to examine the structure of the Bridge.

2. I have written to Lieutenant Beckley for information as to the usual date of the river drying up sufficiently to allow of my inspecting the work in its bed, and I would suggest that under any circumstances I should await his reply.

3. With reference to the declaration of Government that "great blame is due to the superintending Engineer of the Circle for not visiting the bridge long before the present explanation was nesessary, knowing, as he must have done what its state was," I beg to state that I assumed charge of the Northern Circle, of which the Kurnool District forms a part, on the 19th of October 1857, and that nothing whatever came to my notice in any way to show the unsatisfactory state of matters at the Hindree bridge, till the receipt of Captain D. McNeill's report of the 17th December 1857, made known the failure that had then already occurred, moreover I can discover nothing on the records to show that any thing more than the occurrence in April 1857 of a small fresh which did not do a very great amount of damage has ever been reported as checking or in any way unfavorable affecting the progress of the work.

4. Could my presence have remedied matters at that late period, the Chief Engineer would probably have made application for my being permitted to visit the bridge, but the Government is under a misapprehension and has overlooked the fact of the Superintending Engineers being detained at the Presidency by its own orders when it expresses an opinion that I could, and therefore ought to have spontaneously proceeded to inspect the Bridge.

No. 13. ORDER THEREON, No. 2583; dated 2nd December 1858.

The Government are not satisfied with the explanation tendered by Colonel Lawford in the above letter for the Superintending Engineer not having visited the Kurnool Bridge. Though the Rules do require (at present) an order of Government to authorize a Superintending Engineer to leave the Presidency, yet nothing was easier than to have applied for it. The Government cannot be supposed to know where the presence of these Officers may be required in their Circles and it is incumbent on the Central Office to point out when such necessity arises. It was evidently the duty of the Chief Engineer on the occasion in question, (as well as on all similar ones) to have notified to Government the necessity for the work being visited by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle to which it belonged.

(Signed) W. H. BAYLEY,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Supt^d Eng^r Office Northern Circle
Fort S^t George 26^th October 1858

No 15.

From,
The Acting Superintending Engineer
Northern Circle.

To
The Officiating Chief Engineer

Sir

In reply to your resolution of yesterday's date No 4838, calling upon me to State on what date I shall be prepared to proceed to Kurnool as ordered in Extract Minutes Consultation No 2234 of the 23^rd Instant, and requesting my attention to para 8 of those orders I have the honor to inform you, that, although I am quite ready to start, and only await your instructions to proceed, it appears to me that, as an apparently heavy monsoon which must fill the Hindree has only just commenced, it will be useless for me to reach Kurnool much before the middle of December for till then I am given to understand there is no possibility of my being able to Examine the structure of the Bridge

2. I have written to Lieutenant Beckley for information as to the usual date of the River drying up sufficiently to allow of my inspecting the work in its bed, and I would suggest that under any circumstances I should remain for 8 f.f.C.

3. With reference to the declaration of Government that "great blame is due to the Superintending Engineer of the Circle for not visiting the bridge long before the present explanation was necessary. Knowing, as he must have done what its state was, I beg to state that I assumed charge of the Northern Circle, of which the Kurnool District forms a part, on the 19th of October 1857 and that nothing whatever came to my notice in any way to show the unsatisfactory state of matters at the Nundee Bridge, till the receipt of Captain D McNeill's report of the 17th December 1857 made known the failure that had then already occurred, Moreover I can discover nothing on the Records to show that any thing more than the occurrence in April 1857 of a small freshet which did not do a very great amount of damage has ever been reported

as checking or in any way unfavorably affecting the progress of the work. 5

4. Could my presence have remedied matters at that late period, the Chief Engineer would probably have made application for my being permitted to visit the bridge but the Government is under a misapprehension and has overlooked the fact of the Superintending Engineers being detained at the Presidency by its own orders when it expressed an opinion that I could, and therefore ought to have spontaneously proceeded to inspect the Bridge -

I have the honor to be &c

(Signed,) G.A. Orr. Lieut
A.D. Sups Engr N. Circle

Sups Engrs Office N. Circle
Fort St. George
26th October 1858

(True Copy)

L Lawford Lieut Colonel
offg Chief Engineer

Central Office of Public Works
Fort St. George
30th October 1858

No. 5029.

From
The Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Sir,

I am acknowledging the receipt of Contract Memo. No. 2234 dated 23d October 1858. I have the honor to submit copy of a letter from the Acting Supt. Engineer Northern Circle in which Burnood is comprised, dated 26th October 1858 and to state that I have directed Captain Orr to visit the Kindree Bridge about the middle of December next.-

2. Adverting to the remarks in Para 8. of the order above quoted I solicit attention to Captain Orr's explanation in Para 4 of his letter of the cause of his not visiting the work earlier as the Government seem to consider he ought to have done.-

3. The Government are I believe not ignorant of my own opinion that many of the difficulties of the Department of Public Works originate in the want of local superintendance

+ No 15 dated 26th & 58 23d

Ex: our

superintendance and personal inspection by Officers of higher standing than District Engineers, and I may here renew the expression of belief that a change of system in this respect is urgently called for, so long as the permanent Head Quarters of Superintending Engineers are fixed at the Presidency I do not think those Officers can possibly exercise adequate control over the works in their respective Circles, and the only guarantee the Government can have against a repetition of such unfortunate results as those manifest in the Kindree Bridge operations must depend on the attention and efficiency of the District Engineer

4. It will require much consideration and care to prepare the list of Officers competent to execute large works called for in Para 10 and I do not think that Government can place full dependance on such a Statement, because although many large works have been constructed under the nominal superintendance of Officers the merit of success has in many cases been really due to Subordenates.

5 My own opinion on this point is that the responsibility for a proper selection of Officers for the charge of large works should be vested in Superintending Engineers, supposing them

9.

those Officers to be stationed in their Circles. But under the existing system I do not see how dependance on District Engineers can be avoided

6 In reply to the Assumptions of Government contained in para 9 I would beg respectfully to state that every thing which the Central Office could do for the preparation of a correct standard of rates for Estimates, has been already effected, and extracts from the revised rates prepared for different kinds of work were submitted for the information of Government in the appendix C. to the annual report forwarded on the 13th February last. No 7345. It was there pointed out (para 64) that certain anomalies appeared in the Statements for which no adequate explanation could be given, thus the price of brick work in Chunam was.

	as P.	
In Ganjam	1-4	per Cubic Foot
Vizagapatam	1-2	
Rajahmundry	1-7	

in contiguous Districts, and it appeared further that while the rate in Ganjam had risen from 11 P in 1852 to 1 as 4 P in 1857 per cubic foot and in Rajahmundry from 1-4 P to 1-7 P. the price in Vizagapatam, the intermediate District, had remained stationary while on the other hand Statement D showed that although the price of wall bricks / the chief material

materials in the composition of brick masonry had risen in Ganjam 8 annas per thousand. It had actually fallen 5 annas in Vizagapatam, thus shewing a reason for a decrease of rates instead of an increase. It will be also noticed that the wages of workmen (bricklayers and Carpenters) had fallen during the latter year.

7 It was to ascertain the causes that affected the increase in the prices of materials, and if possible to reconcile the anomalies above noticed that a circular was issued by Colonel Faber, and a further report promised on the subject, in the current year, in para 165 of the document already quoted; but I am sorry to state that the replies to this Circular have not all been received, nor do those that have come to hand afford any valuable information on the question, which was the main object of the reference. Under these circumstances, although I still hope to furnish a report on the subject, I fear that but little information can be added to the knowledge already professed regarding it.

8 Since the preparation of the new rates they have been adopted in all the Estimates submitted to Government, and thus every thing which the Central Office could do has been done. I may mention also that a half yearly

yearly list of current prices is received from the District Engineers and that whenever there exhibit any remarkable difference of prices, it is taken into account in correcting the estimates that pass through the Office.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servant.

Central Office of C.P.W.
Fort St. George
30 October 1858

C. Lawford Lieut.-Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department.

Public Works Dept

No 2588

Extract from the Minutes of Consultations
Bengal
Under date the 29th November 1858

Read the following

Letter from the Officiating Chief Engineer
Northern Circle
dated the 23rd Instant

Submitting the Estimate for the Superstructure of the Bridge over the Kunnoo River (Rutlam State Railway) and requesting the sanction of Government to the Estimate for the Superstructure of the Bridge over the Kunnoo River

Ordered that the Estimate be submitted to the Secretary to Government Public Works Department

Sd/ H. Forbes
Offg Secy to Govt

True Extract
Sd/ [illegible]
Offg Secy to Govt

Cons. 29th Octr 1858
No. 68-69.

Copy in a Ltr to Govt
Dated 5th Novr 1859 No. 64.

No. 12.

C 12 Chowk 19 C 23 25 C 26 30

To PW 1858 Department
No 2589

From
The Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Dated 30th October 1858
Received 3rd Novr
No 5029

Sir

Subsequently to the communication from the Deputy Chief Engr Northern Circle with observations on Contract Minute in Consultation No 2234 of the 23rd Octr 1858 on the subject of the Kunnoo Bridge on the Rutlam State Railway.

easier than to have applied for it, ~~under the existing rules at present~~ ~~not to have been granted~~. It was evidently the duty of the Chief Engineer on the occasion in question, (as will now all similar ones) to have notified to Government the necessity for the work being visited by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle to which it belongs'd...

The Govt cannot be supposed to know when the presence of their officers may be required in their Executive and it is incumbent on the Centl. Office point out when such necessity arises.

W. H. R.

10. 2 pm to the Offg Chief Engr
Dated 3rd

Copy in a Dr. to C.
of 5th Nov.r 1859 No. 64

Public Works 1858 Default
Dy to Coms. 7th Dec.r

No. 2683
Executive Mins. of Coms.
of 12th Dec.r 1859.

From the Offg Chief Engr
of 16th Dec.r 1858 & No. 3079 enclos.
29 March 59

Approved & satisfactory with the Observations rendered by Colo. Lamford for the superintg Engr. not having visited the Nurses Bridge. Remark that the Govt cannot be supposed to be now where the presence of these Officers may be required in their circles and it is incumbent on the Central Office to

to point out when such necessity arises.

No. 12613.

C26 - Nov. 1830