MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Proc.
	Info.

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following Letters.

No. 60. From Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 26th November 1858, No. 5803.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2516, dated 24th November 1858, and to state that no result has yet been obtained from the orders issued from this Office on the 3rd of June 1858, for the preparation of Plans and Estimates for the Harbour at Sedasheghur (Beetkul) but for this delay I do not blame the Acting District Engineer, as the South-West Monsoon must have greatly interfered with his examination of the locality to which he was previously a stranger.

2. But further, taking into consideration the comparative youth and inexperience of Lieutenant Hunter, I am not prepared to recommend that so important a project should depend on his judgment alone, aided though he would probably be by the ability and nautical science of Lieutenant Taylor of the Indian Navy, and I am of opinion that an Engineer of mature views and European knowledge should be called on to assist in this now urgent duty, and the Officer whom I would recommend for the purpose is William Fraser, Esq., Civil Engineer, now Acting District Engineer, Coimbatore.

3. The best Plan in my opinion would be to form a Committee consisting of Mr. Fraser, Lieutenant Taylor, I. N., and Lieutenant Hunter, to proceed at once with the preparation of the necessary Plans and Estimates, assigning a term of one month for their completion of this duty, so that the detailed project may be laid before Government in all January next.

4. Although it is true that the great principles of construction have been sketched out by Colonel Arthur Cotton and Lieutenant Taylor, yet there are many secondary points on which I should desire the views of an Engineer of European experience.

5. Should Government be pleased to accede to this proposition, I would recommend that Mr. Fraser should be placed for the time on the footing of a first class District Engineer, and that an allowance should be granted to Lieutenant Taylor, both charges being included in a separate bill.

No. 61. From Lieutenant-Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 27th November 1858, No. 5825.

SIR,

Referring to my letter No. 5803 of the 26th Instant, it has occurred to me that Government may object to Mr. Fraser's leaving Coimbatore for Sedashegur at present. I have after consulting with Captain Orr decided on recommending that Mr. Merrall C. E. now in the Kistna Division should be sent to assist in the preparation of Plans and Estimates for the Sedashegur Harbour, and considering the great distance which Mr. Merrall has to travel, I would propose his permanent transfer to the Canara District in which there are now only two Executive Officers, should this arrangement be approved, I shall direct Mr. Merrall to arrange for his departure as soon as possible.

2. Mr. Merrall is I believe an Officer of considerable experience, though I do not know that he has had much to do with Harbours.

No. 62. ORDER THEREON, No. 2685; dated 11th December 1858.

Para. 1. The Government think with the Officiating Chief Engineer that the appointment of a Committee of Officers would in some measure tend to ensure the efficiency and accuracy of the Plans and Estimates for the Harbour at Sedasheghur called for in Extract Minutes Consultation 28th May and 24th November 1858, Nos. 1012 and 2516, but they doubt whether such a Committee could now be formed, or whether the Officers named would be the proper parties to compose it. Lieutenant Hunter according to Colonel Lawford's shewing is both young and

inexperienced, and of consequence not adapted for the duty; while on the other hand Mr. Fraser, though well suited for it, would not appear to be available, especially after Colonel Lawford's recent representation that the works of Irrigation in Coimbatore are left without adequate superintendence in consequence of the departure of Captain Morgan to Jackatalla and Sub-Engineer Reid to Hydrabad.

In letter dated 5th November 1858, No. 5125.

2. The proposition contained in Colonel Lawford's later letter of the 27th November to substitute Mr. Merrall for Mr. Fraser is equally open to question. Mr. Merrall has been for some years connected with the Bezoarah Workshop, and according to the reports laid before Government has turned out much useful work in that establishment. He has furnished a report, which has been brought to the notice of the Home Government as a valuable communication, in which he shewed the fittings yet necessary for the efficient working of the Workshop, and upon his representation a special Indent for Tools and Machinery has been forwarded to England for supply. The Government are not informed what arrangements are in contemplation for the charge of the Workshop, but they think that if Mr. Merrall has been so useful in it as has been represented, it would be unwise to remove him.

3. The Government must therefore request that Colonel Lawford will reconsider the subject and make some other more suitable arrangement for expediting the preparation of the required Plans and Estimates. It appears to the Government that Major Orr, the Superintending Engineer of the Circle in which Sedashegur is situated is the most fitting person for the occasion, and that he should be instructed to proceed to the Canara District during the same tour in which he visits and report on the Hindri Bridge at Kurnool, and the Military buildings at Bellary and Bangalore.

From Officiating Chief Engineer 30th November 1858, No. 5898.

4. It does not seem to the Government to be necessary for Major Orr to remain at Sedashegur till the Plans and Estimates are completed. The point on which his assistance would be most valuable would be in arranging the General scheme and assuring himself that the best Plans are proposed, leaving it to the Local Officers to fill up the details.

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

14-1-58

Public Works 1858 Departt.

Cons 14th December

No. 2866.

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government

P.W.D.

Dy 26th November 1858.

Recommendeng with reference to Extract Minutes Cons No. 2866 of 24th Instant to form a Committee consisteng of Lt. Fraser Engr. District Engineer Coimbatore Lieutenant Taylor I.N. and Lieutt. Hunter District Engineer Canara, to proceed at once with the preparation of the necessary Plans and Estimates for the Harbour at Sedasheghur (Beitkul) and that Lt. Fraser should be placed for the time on the footing of a 1st Class District Engineer and an allowance granted to Lieutt. Taylor.-

With an Order

Dy 11th Dec 1858 No 2681

No 8 a C 62

5

Central Office of Public Works

Fort Saint George 26 Novemr 1858

No 5803

From

The Officiating Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G. M. & No 2576 dated 24 November 1858 and to state that no result has yet been obtained from the orders issued from this Office on the 3d of June 1858 for the preparation of plans and estimates for the Harbour at Sedasheghur (Beitkul) but for this delay I do not blame the Acting District Engineer as the S.W. Monsoon must have greatly interfered with

with his examination of the locality to which he was previously a stranger

2. But farther, taking into consideration the comparative youth and inexperience of Lieutt Hunter, I am not prepared to recommend that so important a project should depend on his judgement alone, aided though he would probably be by the ability and nautical science of Lieutt Taylor of the Indian Navy, and I am of opinion that an Engineer of mature views and European knowledge should be called on to assist in this now urgent duty; and the Officer whom I would recommend for the purpose is William Fraser Esq Civil Engineer now Acting Districk Engineer Coimbatoor

3. The best plan in my opinion would be to form a Committee consisting of Mr Fraser, Lieutt Taylor I.N. and Lieutt Hunter to proceed at once with the preparation of the necessary plans and estimates, assigning a term of one month for their completion of this duty, so that the detailed project may be laid before Government in all January next.

4 Although it is true that the great principles of construction have been sketched out by Colonel Arthur Cotton and Lieutt Taylor, yet there are many secondary points on which I should desire the views of an Engineer of European

European experience

5 Should Government be pleased to accede to this proposition, I would recommend that Mr. Fraser should be placed for the time on the footing of a first class District Engineer and that an allowance should be granted to Lieut Taylor, both charges being included in a separate bill.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

Fort St. George
26 Novemr 1858

Lawrd Lieut Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
&c &c &c.

Contract Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 26 Nov.r 1858

No. 5803

From Lieut. Col. [illegible] Engineers
The Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government of H.M.'s

Sir

Have the honour to acknowledge
the receipt of G. No. 6. No. 2576 dated 24 Nov.r 1858
and to state that no remarks has yet been obtained
from the orders issued from this Office on the 32nd of
June 1858 for the preparation of plans round Etc.
-marks for the Harbour at Sedashegheur (Berkul)
but for this delay I do not blame the Acting
District Engineer, as the S.M.r Messrs must
have greatly interfered with his examinations
& locality to which he was previously a
stranger

2 But further, taking into con-
-sideration the comparatively small sum
-ordered from Vizianagram Mundy, I am
-inclined to think that Messrs

Dt Cons. 30 November 58 No. 32

1860.

should be placed for the
time on the footing of a
1st Class Dt Engr & an allow-
granted to Lt Taylor

c3 Dec. 29th

Pt Wks 1858 Dept
Dt to Cons 14th Decr
No. 2860.

From
The Offg Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt Dept

Dated 26th
Read 26th } Nov 1858
No. 2685. 11th Dec 1858. No. 5803

Recommending, with
reference to G. No. C No. 2576
of 24th instant, to form a
Committee consisting of Mr
Fraser Esq. Dt Engr Coimbatore
Lieut Taylor 1st N. and Lieut
Hunter Dt Engr Canara to
proceed at once with the
preparation of the necessary
plans & Estimates for the
Harbour at Sedasheghur
(Berkul) and that Mr Fraser

not prepared to recommend that so important a project should depend on his judgment alone, aided though he would probably be by the ability and nautical science of Lieutenant Taylor of the Indian Navy, and I am of opinion that an Engineer of mature views and European knowledge should be called on to assist in this now urgent duty, and the Officer whom I would recommend for the purpose is William Fraser Esqr. Civil Engineer, now acting District Engineer Coimbatore

3 The best plan in my opinion would be to form a Committee consisting of Mr. Fraser, Lieut. Taylor I.N. and Lieut. Hunter to proceed at once with the preparation of the necessary plans and Estimates, assigning a term of one month for their completion of this duty, so that the detailed project may be laid before Government in all January next.

4 Although it is true that the great principles of construction have been sketched out by Colonel Arthur Cotton and Lieut. Taylor, yet there are many secondary points on which I should desire the views of an Engineer of European experience

5 Should Government be pleased to accede to this proposition, I would recommend that Mr. Fraser should be placed for the time on the footing of a first class District Engineer, and that an allowance should be granted to Lieut. Taylor, both charges being included in a separate bill

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Sgd) E. Lawford Lieut. Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer

Fort St. George
26th Nov. 1858

To
The Secretary to Government.

D.P.W.

Ld
T. Leonard Smith
28/1

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 27th Nov. 1858

No 5825

From Lieut. Colonel R. Lawford
Executive Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government &c &c

Sir
I do myself the honor to report for the information of Government that I have this day received a letter from Captain Orr Executive Engineer Nellore, stating that he has been obliged to proceed to Madras on account of the illness of his wife, and that he has left Mr Merrall B.C. in charge of the Nellore Division.

2 I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
R. Lawford
Lieut. Colonel
Executive Chief Engineer

Public Works Department
Public Consultation
No 2861
From
The Officiating Chief Engineer
To The Secretary to Government
Dated 27th November 1858
No 5825
Received 11th Decr 58

2

Mr Merrall is I believe an
Officer of considerable experience, through I do not
know that he has had much to do with Harbours

Fort St George
27th Nov. 1858.

I have the honor to be Sir
Your Obt Servt
E Lanford Lambton
Officiating Chief Engineer

To
Lt Colonel Smith
&c &c &c

Central Office of Public Works.
Fort Saint George 27th Novr 1858.

No. 5825

From
The Officiating Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government &c &c

Sir

Referring to my letter No 5803 of the 26th instant it has occurred to me that Government may object to Mr Fraser leaving Coimbatoor for Sedasheguer at present. I have after consulting with Captain Orr decided on recommending that Mr Merrall C.E now in the Kistna Division should be sent to assist in the preparation of plans and estimates for the Sedasheguer Harbour,

and

Public Works Dept
Rec'd 4th Dec.
No 2682

(Cy)
From Officg. Chief Engr
Dated 27th Novr
No 5825.

No 1.

considering the great distance which Mr. Merrall has to travel, I would propose his permanent transfer to the Cunard district in which there are now only two Executive Officers. Should this arrangement be approved, I shall direct Mr. Merrall to arrange for his departure as soon as possible

2. Mr. Merrall is I believe an Officer of considerable experience though I do not know that he has had much to do with Harbours.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed.t Servt
A. Lawford Lieut Colonel
Officiating Chief Engineer

Fort St. George
27th Nov.r 1858

C. W. D.

№ 26857.

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

Read the following letter
from the Offg. Chief Engineer
dated the 27th November 1858
Received 29th
Referring to his letter No 5803 of 26th instant
Enquiring whether the Applications
for Commissions
should in future
be addressed
to the Secretary
Public Works Department

The Governor thinks
it will be sufficient
if Applications
for Commissions
be addressed
to the Secretary
to the Board
of Public Works

Public Works 1858 Dept.
Do to Cons 11th Decr.
№ 2882.

From
The Offg. Chief Engr.
To
The Secy to Govt. P.W.D.

dated 27th November 1858
Rec'd 29th
Referring to letter No 5803
of 26th instant recommending
that Mr. Merrall 2d master
of W. Fraser should be sent
to assist in the preparation
of plans and estimates
for the Cedarhegan Harbour
& that he should be permanently
posted to Canara

No 61.

C3 Dup. Rq.

the Officers named would be the proper parties to compose it. Lieut. Hunter according to Colonel Lawford's shewing is both young and inexperienced, and of consequence not adapted for the duty; while on the other hand Mr. Fraser on the ground will suited for it would not appear to be available especially after Colonel Lawford's recent representations that the works of irrigation in Coimbatore are left without adequate Superintendence in consequence of the departure of Capt. organ to Jeet Kotalla and Sub. Engineer Reid to Hydrabad.

2nd The proposition contained in Colonel Lawford's

In letter 7th November 1868 No 5725

later letter of the 27th November to substitute Mr. Merrall for Mr. Fraser is equally open to question. Mr. Merrall has been for some years connected with the Dejoorah workshop, and according to the reports laid before Government has turned out much useful work in that Establishment. He has furnished a report, which has been brought to the notice of the Home Government as available for Communication, in which he shewed the fittings yet necessary for the efficient working of the workshop, & upon this representation a Special Parcel for Tools and Machinery, has been forwarded to England for despatch. The Government are not informed what arrangements are in contemplation for the charge

of

of the workshops, but they think that if Mr Merrill has been so useful in it as has been represented, it would be unwise to remove him.

3. The Government must therefore request that Colonel Crawford will reconsider the subject and make some other more suitable arrangement for expediting the preparation of the required plans and Estimates. It appears to the Government that Major Orr the Superintending Engr of the Northern Circle, is the most fitting person for the occasion, and that he should be instructed to proceed to the Coorg & Canara District & to the Neilgherries during the same tour in which he visits Kurnool and reports on the Hundri bridge at Kurnool, and the Madras bridges

in which Sedashegur is situated

From Offg Chief Engr 30 Novr 1858 No 5098

at Dummul, Bellary and Bangalore.

4. The proposition contained in para 5 of Colonel Crawford's letter of the 26th Novr to grant to Mr Fraser the allowance of a first class District Engineer employed on the Committee, is altogether out of place and should not have been made.

It does not seem to be considered necessary for Major Orr to remain at Sedasheger till the plans & estimates are completed. The point on which his attendance would be most valuable would be in the arranging the general scheme and assuring himself that the best plans are proposed, leaving it to the Local Officers to fill up the details

To the Offg Chief Engr Dated 13th

W.A.B.

Public Works 1858 Dept.
D. to Ens. 14th Decr.

No. 2685.

Extract Letter of Ens.
D. of 11th December 58.

From the Chief Engineer 3/7 Feb. 59
6, No. 294 Ens. & Encls.

No 60 at 62.

Requesting Colonel Lawford
to reconsider the subject of appointing a
Committee of Officers for the efficiency
and accuracy of preparing Plans and
Estimates to the Harbour of S
and make some other mor
arrangements, and Govern
-ment Major Orr is the mo
person for the occasion an
-ing instructed to proceed to a