

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons dated 9.6.1858

G.O. No.	623	Press Mis.
Dated	7-4-	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 9th April 1858.

No. 76. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 9th March 1858, No. 7961.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward, for submission to Government, the accompanying correspondence relative to the misconduct of Sub Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly of the Tinnevely District, who has been suspended by Lieutenant Payne under the authority of the District Engineer, for frequent neglect of orders.

2. A petition from the Sub Overseer, relative to his punishment, is also submitted.

3. There can, I think, be no doubt that the Sub Overseer has been guilty of such repeated neglect and disobedience of orders as to render it impossible to entrust to him any important work; and looking to the present reduced Establishment and the consequent urgent necessity of exacting a full performance of duty from its members, I can come to no other conclusion than that removal, and not suspension, is the punishment due to Sabapathy Moodelly and this I beg accordingly to recommend and that Ordnance Artificer J. Skipp late Assistant Overseer be appointed vice Sabapathy.

Letter from Lieutenant R. F. OAKES, Acting District Engineer Tinnevely; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Caroongoolum, 9th February 1858, No. 16.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward an original letter No. 10 dated 19th Ultimo from Lieutenant Payne reporting that he had deemed it necessary to suspend Sub Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly, owing to his frequent neglect of the orders issued by that Officer.

2. In accordance with the orders contained in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2318, dated 14th December 1857, I have the honor to forward the replies by the Sub Overseer to certain questions put to him by me on the subject. The Sub Overseer in his defence for the most part denies the charges preferred against him and as you would be led to infer from a perusal of the defence that the Sub Overseer was overwhelmed with work I think it right to inform you that the pieces of the Road on which repairs to the amount of Rupees 12 and 108 were being executed were within 3 miles of each other and that the Road is only 6 miles from Aulencolum; and as the Road repairs were commenced on the 26th November they should have been completed by the middle of December at the latest.

3. The Sub Overseer had been warned more than once by Lieutenant Payne before the latter brought the misconduct of the former to my notice and as mentioned in my Diary of the 25th November last, when I examined a portion of the repairs on Road No. 11 which were being executed by the Sub Overseer, I deemed it necessary to stop 5 Rupees from his pay and I warned him on that occasion that if he continued to disobey Lieutenant Payne's orders it would be my painful duty to bring his conduct to your notice.

4. The Sub Overseer's replies were forwarded to Lieutenant Payne for his perusal with a request that he would make any comments upon them if he deemed any necessary and that Officer informed me verbally that there was not one charge which he would wish to withdraw or to modify.

5. As the Sub Overseer had been repeatedly warned and as written instructions had been given to him regarding the method in which the road repairs should be executed I would beg to recommend that he should be suspended from his employment for 1 year for his positive neglect of orders appears to me to admit of no excuse should a severe punishment be inflicted on the Sub Overseer, others will probably be deterred from following his example and such a warning I regret to inform you is very much required for the carelessness displayed by the members of the old Revenue Department in the execution of works appears to be almost incorrigible.

6. Should Sub Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly be suspended I have the honor to recommend the late Sub Overseer Sevagnanum Pillay for the acting appointment on a salary of Ru-

pees 22-8, Sevagnanum Pillay was the Talook Goomastah of Nellumbalum for a period of 25 years and though not remarkable for his intelligence or proficiency he has performed his duties creditably during that period and is therefore entitled to some consideration.

Letter from Lieutenant J. PAYNE, Acting Executive Engineer Tinnevely; to Lieutenant R. F. OAKES, Acting District Engineer Tinnevely, dated 19th January 1858, No. 10.

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that I have considered it my duty to suspend, from yesterday's date (18th January 1858,) Sub Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly.

2. Pending your instructions in the matter, I have directed the Sub Overseer to betake himself to his residence in Umbasamoodrum.

3. To obviate delay in the progress of the works which the Sub Overseer has been Superintending, I have detached my draftsman Chokalingum Pillay to act in his stead.

4. My reason for suspending the Sub Overseer in question is in consequence of his gross disobedience, and complete want of attention to the instructions given to him both, verbally and in writing, by yourself and me.

5. I examined the works* in his charge on the 7th Instant, and had occasion to reprimand the Sub Overseer most severely for the excessively negligent way, in which the trifling amount of work which he had to the above date performed, had been executed.

6. I should have reported his remissness to you on that date, but as your fine of 5 Rupees had not at the time been deducted from his pay, and as he seemed to suppose that your telling him that such a punishment would be inflicted on him, was merely a threat, (regarding which delusion however I conceived it right to undeceive him) I thought that the severe reprimand coupled with the intimation that the 5 Rupees had been stopped from his pay for last month, would be sufficient to make him at least obedient to orders for the future.

7. I will now explain with what I found fault in his work on the occasion of my examining it on the 7th Instant.

8. He was repairing, gravelling and re-gravelling portions of the east and west approaches and roadway over a platform bridge constructed in Seetapurpanulloor tank.

9. Although the Overseer had been most strictly enjoined not to throw the heaps of gravel indiscriminately over the road, but to place them either on one side or both, so that no needless impediment might be offered to traffic, yet I found the heaps of gravel thrown on the road in a manner so wasteful and at the same time so confused, as to form a perfect barrier to any description of wheeled conveyance whatever, and to render the road impassable almost for a pedestrian.

10. I had strictly directed the Overseer previous to carting the gravel, to have the road brought to a proper width and levelled with the aid of Sections: this order was most carefully disobeyed.

11. On examining the western approach of this bridge, which had been gravelled on a previous occasion by the Talook servants I found that in spite of your own written orders on the subject, a copy of which had been furnished to the Overseer, that in a disgraceful attempt to level the road, as he termed it, he had absolutely allowed muddy loam to be thrown over costly gravel, gravel which now costs 6 annas per cubic yard for the carriage alone.

12. I ordered him to have the earth removed and to see that it was done at once, coolies being present at the time. I explained to him minutely what he was then to do: how he was to chip up the old gravel, repair the sides and slopes of the embankment only with earth and then with the aid of Sections which he was in the first instance to set up how he would be able to estimate the quantity of new material which would be required to bring the road to the proper shape.

13. The whole of this piece under repair only measured 550 yards.

14. The other portion was over and on either side of a bridge in Poothoocolum tank near Maurenky and extended for a distance of only 206½ yards.

15. Here as the ground in the vicinity was of a gravelly nature, I purposely allowed in my estimate one anna per cubic yard, in order that the road might be repaired with good material.

16. Instead of making use of this gravelly soil, however, I found the Sub Overseer allowing the coolies who were at work to dig some sandy stuff, not even along side of the road to form a trench, but immediately at the foot of the tank bund: a fault for which under the old system the then executives, viz., the Merassidars, would have been heavily fined. Not content with that the Overseer had also permitted the approaches to the bridge itself to be weakened by the removal of earth from their base. The coolies were working notwithstanding my repeated orders on the subject without any thing like a proper section to guide them; the consequence was the work presented the most slovenly appearance possible.

17. The defects were again pointed out in a practical manner to the Overseer, who reiterated his assurances that they should not occur for the future.

18. Finding these two trivial pieces of road progressing in so disgraceful a manner, I was in hopes that on examining the remaining work under his charge, viz., the public bungalow at Aulencolum, I might see in the zealous attention bestowed upon the simple repairs to it, some counterbalance to the extreme negligence displayed in the supervision of the small bits of road No. 9. To my surprise, however, I found that the bungalow had not been even so much as touched. Liberal advances had been made for materials by the Sub Overseer but up to the 7th Instant (27 days after he had been put in charge of the work) so much as a leaf even had not been deposited at the bungalow.

19. The Overseer assured me that he had made arrangements for bringing to the work spot on the next day (the 8th Instant) the necessary leaves palmyra rafters &c., which he informed me had been cut, and that he intended commencing work forthwith.

20. After repeating my orders to the Overseer, showing him by aid of diagrams how the road work was to be carried on, and warning him that a repetition of his undeviating disregard for orders, would probably cost him his appointment, I proceeded on my tour of inspection, confidently hoping that on my next visit I should see some signs of amendment.

21. I examined the works above-mentioned yesterday, (the 18th Instant) and on my inspecting the portion of road No. 9, near Seetapurpanulloor tank, to my amazement I found that my strict directions respecting the laying off of sections, spreading the heaps of gravel which had blocked up the road, removing the muddy loam which had been placed over the costly gravel &c., &c., had not only been utterly disregarded, but that the Sub Overseer had actually permitted fresh heaps of gravel to be carted to the road, and thrown upon it in a like indiscriminate but far more wasteful manner than was the case with the gravel to the east of the bridge, and instead of the road being blockaded as far as the eastern wing of the bridge, (the condition it was in on the 7th Instant) I found the barrier extended for nearly the total length of road under repair.

22. In the Sub-Overseer's accounts he shows that several coolies were employed and paid for work done on the 7th instant, and as on that date my inspection was made before 8 o'clock in the morning, I naturally supposed that, according to my orders, they would have been engaged in settling to rights the defects before described. Not so however, and indeed it is a marvel to me what they could have done for the road (with the exception of the change produced in it by the fresh heaps of gravel) appeared yesterday to be in precisely the same state as it was on the 7th instant.

23. Not a single material had been brought to the bungalow at Aulencolum, and nothing whatever in the way of carrying out the provisions of the estimate had been commenced.

24. On requesting the Sub-Overseer to account for his determined disobedience, his reply was that he had had an attack of cholera. At first I was inclined to take this as a sufficiently

satisfactory excuse, but on enquiry as to when he was attacked with the disease, I was obliged at once to reject it.

25. According to his own story he was not seized with the disease until the evening of the 13th instant, on the 6th day subsequent to my previous examination of his work.

26. The 12th and 13th being the two important days of the Pongul feast, I allowed him as holidays, and deducting these 2 days and the 10th which was a Sunday, there remained the 7th, 8th, 9th and 11th, 4 clear days, during which time the reparation of the errors which had been so carefully pointed out to him, and some visible sign of amendment in the progress of fresh work, was not, I think, too much to expect of a man who has been so repeatedly spoken to, whose conduct I felt it my duty at length to report to you, who was subsequently reprimanded by you in person, and who you ultimately considered deserving of a fine.

* Vide my letter No. 106, dated 15th October 1857.

27. From the appearance of the man, and from the fact of his having been able to measure two tank bunds on the 17th instant, frame estimates for the same, accompany me on my inspection of the road on the 18th instant. I am inclined to doubt the truth of the Sub-Overseer having been attacked with so severe a disease as cholera: but whether his statement with regard to his illness is reliable or not, it is surely a most miserable failure in the way of an excuse for not carrying out any of the simple orders issued to him by me on the 7th instant, considering, as has before been shown, he had four clear working days previous to availing himself of the leave given him by me, and that he was not unwell till the evening of the 13th instant, viz. just before his leave expired.

28. The antecedents of Sub-Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly, whose conduct I have had many opportunities of noticing when a Talook Maistry under the old regime, are any thing but favorable.

29. I had hoped that when properly looked after, and when in receipt of so liberal a stipend as 30 Rupees per mensem the Sub-Overseer's conduct would have gradually improved, but I can no longer forbear recording my impression that the man is incorrigible.

Letter from Lieutenant R. F. OAKES, Acting District Engineer Tinnevely; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Palamcottah, 23rd February 1858, No. 26.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to inform you that I have suspended the Sub Overseer Sabapathy Moodelly pending your instructions on the subject.

2. As requested in Extract from your Proceedings No. 7403, dated 16th Instant, I have the honor to forward an English Abstract Translation of the Tamil enclosure which accompanied my letter, No. 16 of the 9th Instant. The Original Tamil enclosure was forwarded in order that you might Judge of the value of the replies from the Sub Overseers own words as any Abstract which could be made of them appears to me to place the matter in a more favorable light than that from which you would be apt to view it after perusing the lengthy defence made by the Sub Overseer.

Questions.

1. Why have you in direct opposition to Lieutenant Payne's orders while gravelling over the approaches to the Seethapurpaneloor bridge placed the heaps of gravel indiscriminately across the whole road so as entirely to impede the passage of bandies and to render it even difficult for foot passengers to approach the bridge instead of placing the heaps of gravel on the sides of the road?

Answers.

1. In his reply the Sub Overseer asserts that the bandy men disobeyed his orders during his absence and placed heaps of gravel in the centre of the road and he feared if he warned them not to do so that they would leave the work.

2. Why did you not level and bring the road to a proper section previous to laying the gravel upon it and why have you neglected to put up sections as directed by Lieutenant Payne?

3. Why did you throw soft loam over a portion of the road which had previously been gravelled thus burying and rendering the gravel on the road useless in direct opposition to the verbal and written orders you had received?

4. As gravel is to be found in the vicinity of the Poodoor bridge Lieutenant Payne allowed 1 anna per cubic yard for the excavation of the same and ordered you to place it upon the road why did you not only neglect this order but also placed earth on the road which you actually procured from the base of the slope of the raised approach and thus injured the approaches?

5. How is it that 27 days after you were ordered to procure materials for re-thatching the Aulencolum Bangalow and had received advances for the same you had not even procured a single leaf?

6. How was it that on Lieutenant Payne's 2nd visit on the 18th January he found that the defects referred to in questions 1 and 3 were not remedied but on the contrary that the approaches to the bridge were still more blocked up than on his previous visit and the loam still unremoved?

7. On Lieutenant Payne's visit on the 7th to the Aulencolum Bangalow you informed him that materials would be brought to the work spot on the 8th, how was it then that he found no materials collected even by the 18th?

8. On Lieutenant Payne's asking you why you had not obeyed his orders regarding the removal of the loam from the road &c. &c., you informed him of your attack of cholera, but on enquiry Lieutenant Payne had reasons to doubt your statement regarding your illness but even admitting it why did you not have Lieutenant Payne's instructions carried out from the 7th to 11th?

9. Why have you failed to carry out the repairs to the road in accordance with my written instructions on the subject which Lieutenant Payne gave you?

2. He denies this charge altogether.

3. Denies having disobeyed Lieutenant Payne's orders in this respect but allows that for a short distance mud was placed over the gravel during his absence.

4. Denies having excavated earth as described and asserts that Lieutenant Payne gave him no directions on the subject.

5. Informs that it was no fault of his that the materials were not forthcoming as the Contractor had failed in his engagements.

6. Informs that on the 8th he returned to the road work but found that the workmen had proceeded to their villages for the purpose of preparing for the Pongal Feast and of paying their respects to the Merassidars to whom they belonged and that he found he could not procure laborers till after the Pongal Feast, on the last day of which the 13th he asserts that he was taken ill with cholera from which he did not recover till the 16th and that on the 17th he was employed in inspecting 2 tanks and joined Lieutenant Payne at the road on the 18th.

7. Refers to answers 5 and 6.

8. Refers to answers 5 and 6.

9. Refers to the replies from 1 to 8 which he asserts show that he has acted with diligence and integrity and that he has strictly obeyed the orders issued to him.

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Lieutenant,
Actg. Dist. Engr. Tinnevely.

The humble Petition of SABAPATY MOODELLY Sub Overseer 2nd class 2nd Grade in the Bremadassem Talook; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer of the Madras Presidency.

MOST HUMELY SHEWETH,

1. That your Petitioner was appointed to execute works in road No. 9, and also the Alancolum Travellers Bungalow a distance of 9 miles from the said work, and that in consequence

the materials for the Bungalow was not ready as per contract and the road work not completed though 27 days lapsed since then, your unfortunate Petitioner was arraigned for these and unjustly suspended.

2. To obtain coolies and bandies was very precarious, for your Petitioner had every time to go 7 or 8 miles from the road work, to obtain coolies and bandies, however your Petitioner with such difficulties completed the earth work, and directed the bandymen to empty the load of gravels in the either end of the roads, and afterwards left the work to inspect some other works elsewhere, but all during my stay the gravels were emptied according to directions, but only during my absence it was done otherwise in some places, and when Mr. Payne the Executive Engineer came to inspect the work he remonstrated with me for this, as well as for the Bungalow, but all my explanations and the delay of the contractor, though he had punctually promised to supply the materials on the 8th January, and subsequently violating it, was not yielded to all by that Gentleman, but your Petitioner was suspended. It is well known to your honor that contractors generally violate their agreements, and not being able to act up to it, an additional time of a week or 10 days is further requested.

3. However your Petitioner all in 27 days completed the road work to the amount of 100 Rupees besides accumulated materials to the amount of Rupees 41-6.

4. During the 11 years since your humble Petitioner was employed under the Circar, he was not at any time suspended, or fined, but zealously served with fidelity to credit, while so your Petitioner was in December last fined 5 Rupees by Mr. Payne, without a cause, and now unfortunately suspended by the same Gentleman, and the District Engineer Mr. Oakes felt no reluctance towards the suspension of a poor man and yielding to the wish of Mr. Payne, and further your humble Petitioner is given to understand that the District Engineer himself has recommended his suspension to your honor.

5. But your unfortunate Petitioner pleads that he is not guilty of any charge brought against him, and further he begs that his services will be taken into consideration, and that your honor will be graciously pleased in restoring him to his place again.

6. For which act of charity and benevolence the Petitioner as in duty bound.

Palamcottah,
22nd February 1858. }

Shall Ever Pray.
சபாபதமுதலி சப்தேவாவர்தேர்.

No. 77.

ORDER THEREON, No. 623; dated 9th April 1858.

Agreeably to the recommendation of the Chief Engineer and under the circumstances represented by the District Engineer, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council authorizes the dismissal of Sabapathé Moodelly Sub Overseer, 2nd class 2nd grade, from the Department of Public Works and sanctions the entertainment in his stead, of Ordnance Artificer J. Skip, late Assistant Overseer.

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

Central Office of
Fort Saint George
9th March 1858.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,
I have the honor to forward for
submission to Government, the accompanying Envelope
relative to the misconduct of Sub Overseer
Sabapathé Moodelly of the Pinnerelly District,
who has been suspended by Lieutenant Payne
under the authority of the District Engineer,
for frequent neglect of orders.
2. A petition from the Sub Overseer,
relative to his punishment, is also submitted.
3. There can, I think, be no doubt
that the Sub Overseer has been guilty of such
repeated neglect and disobedience of orders as to
render it impossible to entrust to him any important
work, and looking to the present reduced Establi-
ment

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of exacting a full performance of duty from its
members, I am come to no other conclusion than
that removal, and not suspension, is the punish-
ment due to Chalapathy Moodley and that they
accordingly be recommended and that Ordnance Officer
I. M. P. late Assistant Quartermaster appointed vice Chalapathy.
Permitted Surgeon? I have the honor to be
9 March 1858

Yr
L. C. S. G.

Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant

Wm. Foster Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
P. M. D.

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equally to the recom-
mendation of the Chief Engineer,
and under the circumstances
recommended by the District Engineer,
the Right Honorable the Governor in
Council authorize the discharge
of Labadie the secondly said Quaker,
2^d to his 2^d grade, from the Depart-
ment of Public Works and Land Im-
provement and the said secondly said
Quaker's discharge of the said
Department of Public Works and Land Im-
provement and the said secondly said
Quaker's discharge of the said

John Willard
27th Feb 1858

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— Civil War.*

1. The first step in the process of identifying a problem is to recognize that a problem exists. This involves gathering information about the situation and identifying the specific issue that needs to be addressed.