M.R.O. 1—32 400—22-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Letter 1-2-57

G.O. No. 279 Press / Mis.

91-92

Dated 31 1 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 91. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 19th January 1859, No. 7194.

SIR,

With reference to Lieutenant Colonel Lawford's letter No. 6167, dated 21st December 1858, I have the honor to forward the accompanying papers as per margin relative to the insubordinate conduct of Assistant Supervisor Ross who it appears has positively refused to obey the orders of Captain Fisher the District Engineer and of Captain Orr the Superintending Engineer to proceed to Adonie to deliver up certain accounts of works performed under his Superintendence.

1 Letter from the Superintending Engineer Northern Circle, dated 8th January 1859.
1 Do. from Mr. Ross, dated 4th January 1859, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. from Do. dated 13th January 1859

2. The letter from Mr. Ross to myself complaining in most improper terms of the conduct of his Superior may be taken as his defence and with these papers before them, I cannot doubt that Government will not hesitate to accede to the recommendation of Captain Orr supported by myself that Mr. Ross should be summarily dismissed from the Department as utterly unfit for any position in it.

Letter from Captain C. A. ORR, Superintending Engineer Northern Circle; to the Chief Engineer, dated Circuit at Bellary 8th January 1859.

SIR,

Captain Fisher having brought to my notice that certain accounts connected with the irrigation works in the Adonie Talook, sometime ago temporarily in the charge of Mr. Assistant Supervisor Ross, were not forthcoming, and that Mr. Ross, on being called upon to produce them, pleaded his inability to do so on various pretexts, and when ordered to proceed to Adonie for the purpose of coming to some personal understanding regarding them with the Officer now in charge, had refused to do so in positive terms, and had appealed to you on the subject. I have the honor to inform you that, considering it my duty to interfere in the matter, I requested Captain Fisher, to direct Mr. Ross to wait upon me at the District Engineer's office.

2. He has just done so, and to my question why he ventured to disobey the orders of his Superior, he replied that he did so because it was useless for him to go to Adonie since Yacambera Moodelliar, to whom he asserted he had delivered the accounts, denied having ever received them or that they were now in his possession. On this I asked him if he considered himself at liberty to question the validity of the grounds on which he received a peremptory order and to disobey it, and receiving an answer to me effect that he did, and would not obey in this instance, I informed him that his answer being unsatisfactory. I, as Superintending Engineer, ordered him to go forthwith to Adonie for the purpose required of him by the District Engineer, and pointed out to him that he would disobey on his peril.

3. He nevertheless refused, point blank, to obey, stating that he would await a reply to his reference to you.

4. As, setting aside his disrespect towards me this is the second occasion on which Mr. Ross has in the most insolent manner refused obedience to the positive orders of his immediate Superior, and as his whole conduct and bearing since the District Engineer found it necessary to enquire into the manner in which his duties had been conducted and his accounts kept, have been characterized by the same intolerable spirit of insubordination, I am of opinion that he is thoroughly useless in the Department, and so unworthy of the position he holds, even if no suspicion of his honesty existed in the minds of the Officers under whom he has lately served in Kurnool and this District, that his continuance in it must be highly prejudical to the public service.

5. I may add that at Kurnool Lieutenant Beckly gave me a most unfavorable character of Mr. Ross, and yon are aware that Captain Fisher entertains the very most opinion of him.

Letter from Mr. R. A. ROSS, Assistant Supervisor; to the Chief Engineer, dated Bellary 4th January 1859.

SIR,

I respectfully beg to inform you of certain proceedings that have transpired with reference to myself in connection with the District Engineer of Bellary; and this I do with the view of obtaining your instructions as to what I should do under the circumstances which I shall proceed to explain.

2. On the 27th Ultimo, I received a Memorandum from the District Engineer, which, in transmitting the Extract of your proceedings of the 22nd Ultimo, directed that I shall not be permitted to leave Bellary for the purpose of joining my new District until I shall have accounted for certain accounts which I had taken charge of from Sub Overseer Yacambarum Moodeliar and which the District Engineer supposes that I have retained in my possession.

3. On the 13th Ultimo, I received a letter from the District Engineer with reference to these very accounts, I then explained, as I have also subsequently done, that these accounts though taken charge of by me when the said Sub Overseer was suspended by the District Engineer for nearly two months, were returned to him by me on his being restored to his appointment. This explanation seemed to satisfy the District Engineer, for I received no further orders from him till the receipt of the Extract proceedings directing my removal.

4. I again reiterate that the only party to whom Capt. Fisher should look for these accounts is the Sub-Overseer Yacambarum Moodeliar. It is obvious that had I not given up to this individual, on his restoration to his appointment the accounts which I had received from him on his suspension, he would without the least delay have reported to the District Engineer my having failed to do so, especially as it would have been almost impossible for him to have gone on with his business without having possession of these accounts. And yet Captain Fisher thus so far credits statements made against me as to require me to become responsible for acts for which I am in no way accountable.

5. I would ask whether the retention of these accounts of a Sub Overseer by me could be of any possible service to me? It will be evident to Captain Fisher and to all in my Department that such cannot be the case; and it is difficult for me to understand why Captain Fisher makes such a demand of me. I can only attribute his behaviour to the same prejudice that has already sought to injure my prospects in life.

6. I yesterday received a Memorandum from the District Engineer directing me to attend at his Office at 2 P. M. and I accordingly proceeded thither; having however previously received a memorandum from Mr. Powell, Assistant Executive Engineer, directing me to meet him at Adonie on the 8th Instant for the purpose of adjusting accounts and records of the Adonie range. Captain Fisher on my calling upon him told me that I was to conform to the orders of Mr. Powell; but for the following reasons I have declined to proceed to Adonie until I am favored with your instructions.

1st. The accounts were taken charge of from me by Captain Syme, who upon oath declared before the Court that they were *all* the accounts of the Adonie range.

2ndly. These accounts Captain Syme declared he had thoroughly examined and that all that he found against me were the alleged deficiencies on which he framed the charges against me.

3rdly. That these accounts having subsequently passed through various hands, I cannot be required to be held responsible with reference to them.

4thly. That Yacambarum Moodelliar is the only party answerable for the accounts.

7. It is alleged that this Sub Overseer holds the receipt given by me on my taking charge of the accounts. This I admit may be the case, as on the occasion of my returning the accounts to him, it entirely escaped me to demand back my receipt. But, as I have said above, had I not given up the accounts to him on his restoration to his appointment, he would have made an immediate report to the District Engineer; and it is not probable that 4 months would have been quickly allowed to elapse before any stir being made in the matter.

8. I beg respectfully to be favored with early instructions and beg to remain sir.

No. 938.

Memorandum.

With reference to Mr. Ross' letter to the Chief Engineer regarding the accounts of the Adonie range the District Engineer of Bellary remarks that as soon as the Chief Engineer's decision on his case was known he was directed to explain what had become of Yacambarum's accounts.

Captain Syme stated before the Court that the accounts which he had received of the Adonie range were in the box as given over by Mr. Ross, this box therefore could not contain Yacambarums accounts which Mr. Ross states had been returned to that individual. It is absolutely necessary that Mr. Ross should endeavour to shew what has become of these papers and the District Engineer of Bellary therefore directs him to go out to Adonie and settle this business. An early reply is requested to this Memo. as Captain Orr is now in Bellary on circuit and will dispose of Mr. Ross' appeal.

District Engineer's Office, Camp Bellary, 6th January 1859.

(Signed) J. F. FISHER, Captain,
District Engineer of Bellary.

Letter from Mr. R. ROSS, Assistant Supervisor; to the Chief Engineer, dated Bellary 13th January 1859.

SIR,

I extremely regret that I have to address you again on the subject of my last communication, and it is with feelings of sorrow that I experience the degree of persecution that I have suffered. I had considered that with the humiliating and most degrading treatment that I had already undergone that my persecutors would have been completely satisfied but I have to lament that there is another attempt made to crush me.

2. I append a Memo. from the District Engineer, dated the 6th Instant directing me to appear at his office on that date, I accordingly appeared, but I found that it was merely in regard to the appeal that I had addressed to you that this call was made upon me to appear before him, although he alleged that it was with reference to the accounts that he required me to render in respect to Yacambarum Moodelliar. When I did appear before him the subject of his conversation with me was principally with reference to my appeal, a subject, I consider, which it was perfectly irrelevant for him to touch upon then, as it was a matter to be decided by a Superior Officer. The comments offered in this Memo require much remark; but I would refrain from stating them as I fear that were I to indulge in doing so I shall be considered of being guilty of insubordinate conduct.

3. I received another Memorandum on the following day, and again the same subject is called up, adverted to, and remarked upon in the same manner as previously had been done with the sole view of inducing me to display, as I imagine, some conduct which should be construed into a determination to act contrary to the orders of my Superior Officers.

4. In the interim the Superintending Engineer arrives at Bellary, lives with Captain Fisher, and having received a Statement entirely conformable to his own views, calls upon me to proceed to Adonie altho' he was perfectly aware (as I informed him) that an appeal on the subject was then pending before you.

5. I would ask whether all this treatment that I have now experienced does not evince a more extreme degree of prejudice than has been already carried to a most injurious extent with reference to myself.

6. I believe that a communication with regard to my refusal to proceed to Adonie has been addressed to you; but I would humbly and respectfully submit the above for your consideration.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 1st February 1859.

No. 92. ORDER THEREON, No. 279; dated 31st January 1859.

The Chief Engineer will learn by Extract Minutes Consultation, of this date, No. 278 tha: Assistant Supevisor R. Ross has been dismissed from the service of Government.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

Central Office of Pub. Works
Fort Saint George
19th January 1859.

No. 7194

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

Sir,

Public

Rec'd Enclosures
Letter from the Supt Nth Circle 18th Jan'y 59.
Do from do 20th Jan'y 59 with
1 Enclosure
Do from Do 13th Jan'y 59.

With reference to Lieut. Colonel Lawford's letter No. 6467 dated 21st December 1858 I have the honor to forward the accompanying papers as per Margin relative to the insubordinate Conduct of Assistant Supervisor Ross who it appears has positively refused to obey the orders of Captain Fisher the District Engineer and of Captain Orr the Superintending Engineer to proceed to Adoni to deliver up certain accounts of works performed under his superintendence.

2. The letter from Mr. Ross to myself complaining in most improper terms of the conduct of his superior may be taken as his defence and with these papers before them, I cannot doubt that Government will not hesitate to accede to the recommendation

recommendation of Captain Orr I supported by myself that Mr. Rose should be summarily dismissed from the Department as utterly unfit for any position in it.

Central Office of Fortifications
Fort Saint George
19th January 1859

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

W. E. Faber Colonel
Chief Engineer

Pr. Cons. 1st Feby 1859-87 & 90

Pd. Works 1859 Department
Dy. to Govs 1st February
No 148
From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

Dated 19th
Recved 20 January 1859.
No. 7194
Encls: 4 Returned 5-3-59
Enclosed letter from the Offg Supt Engr Northern Circle forwarding Mr Ross and recommending for reasons stated therein that Mr Ross be summarily dismissed from the Department as utterly unfit for any position in it.-

From do 5th February 59
C No. 384 in Cons: 15th March
10 & 12

No. 91 & 92.

C 20 Jany /59 27

Mem. order
C No. 279. 31st January 1859.

No. 279

The Chief Engineer
will learn by &c. et Cons. Com
of this date, et. 278 that
Assistant Supervisor R. Ro
has been dismissed from
the Service of Government

From Lt. George
31st Jany /59
10 Copies to the Chief Engr Dutd 1st