M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 42

(2) Date of repair 1-1-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con 25/12/59

G.O. No. 2915 Press Mis.

79-81

Dated 15-12-1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, for the month of December 1859.

Read the following papers.

No. 79. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 9th November 1859, No. 7059.

Read the following report from Lieutenant-Colonel J. J. LOSH, Military Auditor General; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 15th November 1859, A.

The Military Auditor General has the honor to state, that there appears to be no objection under G. O. G. 3rd June 1859, No. 224, to Government complying with the application for leave to Europe on medical certificate for 15 months, submitted in the correspondence noted in the margin, of Sub-Conductor C. Palmer, Overseer, Public Works Department at Jackatalla, the application being supported by the prescribed medical certificate and recommended by the Special Executive Engineer and Chief Engineer.

Letter from Special Executive Engineer, Jackatalla, to the Deputy Chief Engr. Southern Circle, Fort Saint George, dated 31st October 1859. No. 211, with 1 medical certificate attached.

Letter from Captain W. FAREWELL, Special Executive Engineer, Jackatalla; to Major E. LAWFORD, Deputy Chief Engineer, Southern Circle, dated Jackatalla, 31st October 1859, No. 211.

I have the honor to forward a medical certificate granted to Sub-Conductor C. Palmer, by which you will observe that the Sub-Conductor is recommended to proceed to England. Mr. Palmer leaves this immediately he can make arrangements for travelling to Madras.

2. I forward the "acquittance" according to form, as also Mr. Palmer's case and a copy of his medical certificate to be delivered to him on reporting his arrival, as from Mr. Palmer's state of mind, these papers might be lost by him on the road, and cause much inconvenience to him.

3. The Paymaster of Trichinopoly has been requested to forward to you a last pay certificate, as well as a certificate of "no demands" against Sub-Conductor C. Palmer.

Submitted to Government through the Military Auditor General, with the Chief Engineer's recommendation that leave of absence may be granted to Sub-Conductor C. Palmer, Overseer at Jackatalla, to proceed to Europe on medical certificate for 15 months: the medical certificate not certifying the period for which leave should be granted.

(Signed) J. H. BELL, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 80. Letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 26th November 1859, No. 7688.

In paragraph 2 of Extract Minutes of Consultation, under date the 28th March last, No. 730, Government requested the Chief Engineer to report on Overseer Sub-Conductor Palmer's habits, state of health and fitness for the general duties of the department on the expiry of his present leave, and I have now the honor to state for the information of Government, that the Overseer's leave for six months granted in G. O. 15th March last, expired on the 15th September, but he did not return to duty and continued to be under medical treatment until the 25th October, when the medical officer certified as to the necessity of his proceeding to Europe for the recovery of his health.

2. Overseer Palmer's absence of mind and unfitness for his duties are stated in the case which accompany his medical certificate, to be the effects of fever contracted in Ganjam, and as he has now been recommended for leave to Europe, the report upon his fitness for the department may be better made when he returns to duty.

Exported

3. The application for leave to Europe has been submitted to Government through the Military Auditor General, with my endorsement, dated the 9th instant, No. 7059.

No. 81.

ORDER THEREON, 15th December 1859, No. 2915.

The first of these papers is an application for fifteen months' leave to Europe on medical certificate in behalf of Overseer and Sub-Conductor C. Palmer of the Department Public Works. In his second letter the Chief Engineer explains the omission to submit the report on Overseer Palmer's habits and fitness for the general duties of the department, ordered in the order 28th March 1859 No. 730, paragraph 2, to be made on the expiry of the six months' leave which had then been given him; and proposes to defer the report till the Overseer returns from the leave now solicited.

2. In the papers specified in the margin, Overseer Palmer's conduct came before Government in a very unfavourable point of view. In December 1858 he was transferred from the district of Trichinopoly to that of Coimbatóre by the late Chief Engineer, in consequence of unfitness for duty in the low country; the effect, as stated by Colonel Faber,* of confirmed intemperance. He also behaved extremely ill, on the occasion of his transfer to the Coimbatóre district, in going to Jackatalla and reporting himself to the Executive Engineer there, contrary to the express orders of the District Engineer.

Letters from the Chief Engineer 14th March 1859 No. 8574 recorded in order 15th March 1859 No. 591; 17th March 1859 No. 8716 in order 28th March 1859 No. 730; and 25th March 1859 No. 8969 in order 8th April 1859 No. 831.

* Letter March 17th 1859.

3. Mr. Palmer was allowed by the late Chief Engineer to remain on the Nílgiri Hills; but from that time to the present he has done no duty, even in that climate, and he now applies for leave to England for fifteen months on medical certificate; and the professional statement of his case certifies his failure of memory and intellect. Such being the past conduct and services of Sub-Conductor Palmer, as they have come under the notice of Government, the Governor in Council is of opinion that the investigation into his fitness for service in the department ought to take place now; and, that if unfit, he should now be removed from it. It would be burdensome to the public and inhumane to the Overseer to allow him to return to this country with the liability of being discharged.

4. The Chief Engineer will, accordingly, on Mr. Palmer's arrival at Madras, take the necessary steps towards the required investigation, which will extend to the Overseer's habits as regards temperance or intemperance, both since he has been on the Hills and while he was in the Trichinopoly district.

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

3R

Central Office No.
No 7688 Fort St. George
26th November 1859

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
D.P.W.

Sir

In para 2 of Govt. Mins. of Coin: under date the 28th March last. No 730 Government requested the Chief Engineer to report on Overseer Sub Conductor Palmer's habits, state of health and fitness for the general duties of the Department on the expiry of his present leave, and I have now the honor to state for the information of Government that the Overseer's leave for six months granted in G.O. 15th March last expired on the 15th September but he did not return to duty and continued to be under

Despatched

under Medical treatment until the 25th October, when the Medical Officer certified as to the necessity of his proceeding to Europe for the recovery of his health.

2. Overseer Palmer's absence of mind and unfitness for his duties are stated in the cases which accompany his Medical Certificate to be the effects of fever contracted in Jamaica, and as he has now been recommended for leave to Europe, the report upon his fitness for the Department may be better made when he returns to duty.

3. The application for leave to Europe has been submitted to Government thro the Military Auditor General with my endorsement dated

the

the 9th instant No. 7059. R.

I have the honor to be
Sir.
Your most obedt.

Fortham George
26th November 1859

W Kell Sr Coll
Chief Engineer

Lt Shray

P.W. Cons. 1st April 1859 No. 98 to 100

P.W. 1859 Desp. 11
Received 30th Nov.
No. 3084.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt
P.W.D.

Dated 26th
Received 28th } Novr 1859

No. 7688

Reporting with reference to para 2 of E.M.C. dated 28th March 1859 No. 730 on Overseer Sub Conductor Palmer's habile state of health and fitness for the generalship of the Department

No. 3915. 15 December

29 November P.W.D. No. 7688

From the Secy Govt P.W.D. dated 8th Nov. 59 No. 2971

Overseer Patrick Dunn
Sub Conductor Palmer

Recd 1st Dec. 1859

Ans. 2nd Dec. 1859

Ans. 2nd Dec. 1859

Ans. 2nd

to Constables District, in giving
to [illegible] and [illegible] containing
himself to the Executive Engr
That [illegible] containing to the enclosed
notice from the Dist. Engr
from which I certify that he
is employed more to examine
in the Bush: but it is for the
employment which he should
be got rid of and, on after
returning from leave id,
in the former case, with pro-
-ceedings should be taken
notwithstanding his business
habits, to keep a warrant
as Sub. Conductor. He

continuance of such a man
in the Dept. is a standing
discouragement to all well
conducted men.

Dr Ulan. 29.

P.S. In Parl. relating to the
order of March 28. the Ch.
Insp. was ordered to make
a special report on Com-
-mon Pathways Lights &c.
-nection, &c. immediately on
the ending of the 6 months'
leave that had been given
him by the Ch. Engr. This Report
was not made till more [illegible]

Letter of 2nd Dec. 59 Mr Palmer
entirely avoids the subject
of the Overseers' liability but
it shows that he is unfit
unfit for the service.
Mr Palmer has been a troublesome and
unprofitable, and is supposed to be an
incompetent Public Servant. The investigation
into his fitness for the service of the Department
ought to take place now; and if unfit,
this opportunity should be taken of getting
rid of him. It would be burdensome to the
Public and inhumane to him to allow
him to return to this country with the
liability of being discharged on his arrival

Madras 2 Dec 59.

2915

P. W. D. No 2971-3084.

Memo. respecting Overseer Palmer's
transfer to the Nilgiris. His bad
character &c.

It appears from the letter
from of transfers made by the Ch. Engr.
in Decr. 1858. that on the 6th of that
month Overseer 2nd Class C. Palmer
was transferred from Trichinopoly to
Coimbatore in consequence of unfit-
ness for duty in the Low Country.

Some little time after his arrival
at the latter station he had an inter-
view with the District Engr. who
after some conversation with the
duties he was about to be employed
on on the Nilgiris deemed him to
call the following morning for
further instructions. Instead, however,
of obeying this order, he left for
the Hills and Mr. Facer, the Dist.
Engr. learnt nothing more of him until
he was informed that the Contract
Agency that the Overseer had
deserted

1st Engr letter
28th Janry 1859. in
No 125 of Cons
15 Mar 1859.

reported himself on the 10th Inst to the Special Ex. Engr. at Kattalla & had been employed on the strength of his establishment.

It appears from a letter dated 26th Inst from the Special Ex Engr. that Sub Palmer had assured him that the District Engr. had directed him to join the Jaetkatalla Establishment but had never done so.

- Sub's 36 of Cons 12th April 1859.

To equalize the distribution and adjust the derangement created by Palmer's employment at Jaetkatalla he was permanently posted to that Range & Overseer McDonough transferred to the Comboture District.

- Extracts of Ch. Engrs Mem. 21st Inst 1859 in Sub's 125 of Cons 15th Mar 1859.

As to his bad character the late Ch. Engr. in his letter dated 17 Mar. 1859 No 8716 stated that "his excesses & the legacy of delirium tremens in Guiana & frequently shattered constitution at Trichinopoly were well known to himself (myself) & to Mr Baker and perhaps not to Lt. Col. Lawford." It has been ascertained from the Central Office that Col. Faber obtained the above information respecting Mr Palmer

- Extract of Sub's 69 dy & Cons 1st April 1859

Letter dated 16th April 1859 in Sub's 86 & 88 of Mem. 3rd May 1859.

from private sources. Col. Lawford has stated that no report of this man's habits and character was made by the Engr. of Trichinopoly nor had he ever heard such account of him tho' there appeared doubts of his being perfectly sound mind.

Cons 15 Mar 59 Sub's dy & 70.

Overseer Palmer obtained sick Commissariat leave on the 15th Mar. last. The Certificate stated that he was then "suffering from impaired memory the result of fever contracted at Ganjam." He is now recommended for 15 months' leave to Europe on Med. Certs. - His Medical Attendant Surgeon Sparrow 1st Mad. 3 Bn 6 Rifles is "still of opinion that his intellect is somewhat affected."

Statement of Case.

P.W. 1859 Despatch
Prov. of Gov. 20th Dec.
No. 2971.

From the Inletary
Auditor Genl.

Dated 15th
Received 16th } Nov. 1859.

No. 2915. 16 December
P. W.

Stating that the
sick leave for 15 months
applied for by Sub
Conductor C Palmer Ord.
Store P.W.D. at Jaeka-
-dee has been granted.

No. 79

Regd Despt
Copy with Regd
Enclos to the
Adjt Genl of
the Army
2nd Jany 1860.
No. 165.

C 29th November R 5 Dec. C 7 - R 13

From the Chief Engr. Dy 26th
Nov. 1859. C No. 3084.

the Chief Engineer explains
submit the
the omission to report on
Overseer

C 29th Nov. R 5th Dec.

P.W.D.

17
R

№ 2915.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 15th Novr 59
Rendtte following
Papers.

Proceedings of the Chief Engr

Recommending the grant of 15 months leave to Europe on Medical certificate to Overseer Pnl Conductor C. Palmer, D.P.W. at Jacatallah.

Letter, in favor of the Military Audr General 15 Novr 59 № 1.

Letter from the Chief Engineer

Proposing the postponement of the Respondent required in the order of 28th March last on Overseer Palmer's habits &c, until his return from Europe.

Here enter 9 Novr 59 № 7059

" " 26 Novr 59 № 7688.

The first of these papers is an application for fifteen months leave to Europe on Medical certificate in behalf of Overseer & Sub Conductor C. Palmer of the D.P.W. In his second letter the Chief Engineer explains the omission to submit the Report on Overseer

29 Novr 25 Decr

Letter March 17/59.

by Colonel Jalter, * from
confirmed intemperance.
He also behaved extremely
ill, on the occasion of his
transfer to the Coimbatore
District, in going to Jacka-
talla and reporting him-
self to the Executive Engr.
there, contrary to the expressed
orders of the District Engr.
3 Mr. Palmer was
allowed by the late Chief
Engineer to remain on the
Nilgiri Hills, but from
that time to the present
he has done no duty, even
in that climate, and he
now applies for leave to
England for fifteen months
on Medical Certificate,
and the professional statement of
his case certifies his failure
of memory and intellect.

Such

overseer Palmer's habits
and fitness for the general
duties of the Department,
ordered in the Order 28. March
1859 No. 730, para 2, to be made
on the expiry of the six months
leave which had then been
given him; and for purposes
to defer the Report till
the overseer returns from
the leave now solicited

2. In the papers spe-
cified in the margin, Overseer
Palmer's conduct came before
Govt. in a very unfavourable
point of view. In Dec.
1858. he was transferred
from the district of Trichi-
nopoly to that of Coimbatore
by the late Chief Engineer,
in consequence of unfitness
for duty in the low Coun-
try, the effective stated

Letters from the Chief Engr. 14th
March 59 No. 3574 - Recd. ded
in Order 15 Mar 59 No. 591;
17th Mar. 59 No. 8916 in Order
28th Mar. 59 No. 730. and 25th
Mar. 59 No. 8969 in Order
8th April 1859 No. 831-

By

Such being the past conduct & services of Sub Conductor Palmer, as they have come under the notice of Govt., the Governor in Council is of opinion that the investigation into his fitness for service in the department ought to take place now; and, that if unfit, he should now be removed from it. It would be burdensome to the public and inhumane to the Overseer to allow him to return to this country with the liability of being discharged.

2d The Chief Engr. will, accordingly, on Mr. Palmer's arrival at Madras

Madras, take the necessary steps toward the required investigation, which will be and to the Overseer's habits as regards temperance or intemperance, both since he has been on the Hills & while he was in the Tuticorin poly District.

To Esqrs
The Chief Engineer
Dept. 16.

P.P. Cans. 1st April 1859 Nos 98 to 100.

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Pro: of Govt. 20th December

No 2915

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dy 15th December 1859.

From the Chief Engr 2/17
Jan 4 1860 - Cha 131

Chief Engr to take necessary steps towards the investigation into overseer Palmer's habits and fitness for the general duties of the Dept.

No 99 at 81.

4 Dec 1813