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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cms. 8-3-87

G.O. No.	503	Press Mis.
Dated	5-3-	1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

P.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th March 1859.

Read again letter from the Officiating Chief Engineer, dated 24th December 1858, and recorded in Diary to Consultation 18th January 1859, No. 125.

No. 55. Read also the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 4th February 1859, No. 7608.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 125, dated 13th January 1859, I

*No. 253 dated 23rd December 1858, from the Special Executive Engineer Jackatallah.
No. 177, dated 17th December 1858, from Captain Morgan.
No. 165 dated 20th December 1858, from Captain Dobbie.

have the honor to forward the papers* as per margin relating to the robbery of Captain Morgan's Cash Chest at Ootacamund.

2. It appears that when Captain Morgan took charge of the Chest from Major Dobbie he found in it a sum of Rupees 4,500 which he remarked on as being "excessive," but the latter Officer alleges that it was not more than sufficient to meet the exigencies of his Department, and in this opinion he is supported by his superior, Captain Campbell. However this may be, it was Captain Morgan's duty under any circumstances to have taken steps for securing the large amount which he might have transferred to the Public Office of the Station.

3. It does not appear from any papers submitted to this Office, that any clue to the robbery has been gained which occurred during the Executive Engineer's absence from Ootacamund, and while I cannot but feel that due care of the public money has not been taken by Captain Morgan, or even his predecessor, whose conduct however is not before Government, I can only leave the matter to higher authority who may possibly receive further information from the Judicial Department to decide on the extent of blame incurred.

4. By the Regulations of the Bengal Code a guard of 1 Duffadar and 4 Burkundauses would have been allowed to an Executive Engineer in the position of Captain Morgan; and altogether it is evident, that in the other Presidencies no such risks occur as are, and have been encountered since the D. P. W. was deprived of the services of Talook and Police Peons previous to which indeed I cannot recall any instances of the robberies and losses now so frequent.

Letter from Captain J. CAMPBELL, Special Executive Engineer; to Lieutenant Colonel E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Jackatallah, 23rd December 1858, No. 253.

SIR,

As required by your Resolution, No. 5990, of 4th Instant, I have the honor to enclose Captain Dobbie's Statement, No. and date as per margin, in which he observes that it is necessary for him to keep as much as 4,500 Rupees in his Chest to carry on his works, that he was not aware Govind Raz was a convicted felon, and that he still thinks it proper to retain writer Hoply in his employment. I also enclose letter as per margin from Captain Morgan. The amount received as yet I am given to understand is under 200 Rupees.

2. My opinion is that Captain Dobbie had not a larger sum in chest than he required for the current month's expenditure on the Forest and Workshop. Captain Dobbie does not shew that he made proper enquiries into Govind Raz's character which he should have done before entertaining him. Captain Morgan appears to have taken the precaution of placing the Treasure under a guard of Peons and Lascars, if this be admitted fully, his responsibility there ends, and the loss of the money is chargeable direct upon the guard.

Letter from Captain H. R. MORGAN, Executive Engineer in charge Moodunully Forest; to Captain J. CAMPBELL, Special Executive Engineer, Neilgherry Barracks, Jackatallah, dated Kulhatty, 17th December 1858, No. 117.

SIR,

In reply to Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 5990, of 4th December 1858, I have the honor to inform you that the writer Hoply belonged to the Neilgherry range and as writer of

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th March 1859.

that range he should have had nothing to do with the Moodunully Cash Chest or accounts, for which there was a separate establishment paid out of the Forest money.

2. With regard to the Cash Chest Peon Govindoo Rajoo, I have already explained in my letter No. 112 of 2nd December 1858, that he was Captain Dobbie's Lascar, and was appointed as Cash Chest Peon by Captain Dobbie, on the day he made over charge to me, in the place of the Head Cash Chest Peon Abdoolrymawn, who belonged to the Moodunully Forest Cash Chest. This exchange was effected without my being consulted.

Letter from Captain G. S. DOBBIE, Executive Engineer; to Captain J. CAMPBELL, Special Executive Engineer in charge of Jackatallah Barracks, dated Ootacamund, 20th December 1858, No. 165.

SIR,

With reference to the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer No. 5990 dated 4th December 1858, herewith returned. I do myself the honor for his information to offer the following remarks on the three questions asked i. e. first, how so large a balance as Rupees 4,500 was allowed to accumulate, 2ndly, the circumstances under which the Peon a "convicted felon" was entertained, and 3rdly, the circumstances under which the writer Hoply was entertained.

2. With reference to the first question, not having the books to refer to, I am unable to state if the sum mentioned is the exact amount I delivered over to my successor, when he took charge of the Forest, I remember there was a considerable sum but not more than I required for the works there were funds for 3 works lodged in the Cash Chest at the time I gave over charge. i. e. Moodmully Forest, Lime works and Goondelpeet Workshop. For the first work large sums were required to be at command for the payment of the people employed in the Forest; for the purchase of provisions, advances to Bandymen, and payment for carriage of Timber, &c. &c. on first taking charge I was obliged to carry on the work, to borrow from other bags, this confuses the accounts and I determined it should not occur again, the amount of advances that will be required in a month cannot be guessed at exactly, I have therefore invariably endeavoured to have sufficient funds in my Chest to meet all demands. I had arranged with a person at Mysore to supply my Karkana with provisions during the great scarcity of Grain that existed, when I had charge, and I made provision to meet the cost, he disappointed me, and only supplied me with one batch of provisions, I had also procured provisions from a person at Goondelpeet, I had to provide for this payment, and also advances for further supplies. The Lime works had been brought to a close and I had been collecting the sum due by certain parties which had swelled this account with the money that I had to between 1,000 and 2,000 Rupees all the money had not been recovered that was due, I purposed when closing the account to have returned the money to the Officer in charge of the Barracks at Jackatallah. The Goondelpeet Workshop was the 3rd work, how much was in the bag belonging to that work my memory will not serve me to say. I was in the habit when visiting these several works of taking down the money required sometimes as much as 1,500 Rupees in my Transit not liking to trust the money to the charge of others. If I remember right my Estimate for money for the month of November was

About a fortnight after given over charge. small as I considered I had sufficient for my work on the 10th of November I was requested to endorse 2 Bills amounting to Rupees 1,500 for the above works over and above the amount I had handed over in the Cash Chest. I do not consider the sum I had in the Chest belonging to the Forest was above what was requisite to meet the many demands I had to provide against, if the person at Mysore had fulfilled his promise in supplying the provisions he had engaged to do.

3. In June I entertained Govindoo Raz. I cannot speak at this time with regard to what passed on my entertaining him, or the enquiries I made regarding his character; he was with me from June till the time I gave over the Forest to my successor and conducted himself well, I was not aware that he was a convicted felon, I never heard a word regarding this being the case until I received the Proceedings now under acknowledgement, and I know nothing for certain of his having been so, excepting what is stated in the Chief Engineer's Proceedings he was lately a Duffadar in the Ootacamund Jail and was discharged on account of some prisoners escaping, but this I heard nothing of till to-day. In my Office were several Writers, Natives, and East Indians but nothing whatever was said of the man being as is now stated a convicted felon, the man conducted

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himself well during the time he was under me, had I known of his previous character would not have entertained him. It is almost impossible when entertaining a man to get at the truth of his previous character, but should he be dismissed then and then alone are all opened mouthed against him.

4. With regard to the 3rd question relative to Hoply. He was entertained by another Officer about two years ago, he is a well behaved youth he has been under my orders for upwards of six months and has conducted himself well and been regular in attendance, the only fault I have found with him is that his writing is slovenly and I have threatened to dismiss him on that account alone, but as the robbery has taken place and as he was arrested on suspicion but has been discharged, I have felt it would be the boy's ruin now to dismiss him, as those desirous to ruin his character would only be too glad to lay hold of this as a pretext for doing so. Had I been called upon to have given him a character with regard to his duties in Office, I would have given him a good one.

No. 56. ORDER THEREON, No. 503; dated 5th March 1859.

These papers relate to the robbery of Rupees 1,800 from the Cash Chest of Captain Morgan, Assistant to the Special Executive Engineer at Jackatallah. The robbery was reported to Government by the Officiating Chief Engineer on the 24th December 1858, with an intimation that further information had been called for; and with his letter of the 4th Ultimo the Chief Engineer submits one from the Special Executive Engineer at Jackatallah, with enclosures from Captains Dobbie and Morgan, furnishing explanation on the points on which they had been called upon for further information.

2. The robbery was committed during Captain Morgan's absence from Ootacamund, and is attributed* by him to the following causes:

1st. The known large Cash balance in the Chest, which at the time he took charge from Captain Dobbie, amounted to Rupees 4,500.

2nd. Captain Dobbie's frequently trusting writer Hoply for an hour or so at a time with the Cash Chest key, and thus giving him opportunities of making a false key and becoming acquainted with the mechanism of the Chest.

3rd. The entertainment by Captain Dobbie of Govindoo Raz, a convicted felon, as a Treasury guard.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers the explanation furnished by Captain Dobbie in reply to the Officiating Chief Engineer's enquiries, to be far from satisfactory. As regards his allegation that the amount in the Chest was not more than was required for the works under his charge, the Governor in Council requests that the Chief Engineer will send for and examine Captain Dobbie's Cash book for three months, September to December 1858 and lay it before Government with a Statement shewing his daily receipts and expenditure during that period, together with his own opinion as to the necessity of his having had so much money in hand. In his letter of the 17th December 1858, Captain Morgan states that the writer Hoply belonged to the Neilgherry range, and should have had nothing to do with the Moodunully Cash Chest or accounts, for which there was a separate establishment. The Chief Engineer will therefore call upon Captain Dobbie to explain under what circumstances, as stated by Captain Morgan in his letter of the 22nd November 1858, he permitted the key of the Cash Chest to be in Hoply's hands so often and so long, and whether he ever allowed him access to the Chest, to take out or pay away money, without being present himself.

4. With reference to the Officiating Chief Engineer's enquiries regarding Govindoo Raz, Captain Dobbie states that he is unable now to say what passed on his entertaining him, or what enquiries he made, regarding his character; and that he was not aware at the time that he was a convicted felon, or, as he has since heard, that he was discharged from his former situation of Duffadar of the Ootacamund Jail, in consequence of the escape of some prisoners. The Governor in Council cannot regard this explanation as satisfactory, and he cannot but think that Captain Dobbie was culpably remiss to appoint a man to be Cash Chest Peon with so little care to

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ascertain his antecedents. It is noticed that Captain Morgan says in his letter of the 17th December that Govindoo Raz was Captain Dobbie's lascar, and was appointed by him to the Cash Chest Peon on the very day of his delivering over charge, in lieu of the head Peon who belonged to the Moodunully Forest Cash Chest. Captain Dobbie will be desired to explain his reasons or making this exchange, on the very day of giving over charge of his office.

5. Captain Dobbie's explanation as to his management of funds leads to the opinion that his practice was very irregular. The Chief Engineer will report after examining Captain Dobbie's books, how far that Officer's proceedings in this respect have been in accordance with the Rules for drawing funds published at page 393 of Government Circular Order Book, and especially

• Foot note at page 394 of Grant's Circular Order Book, with Rule 6, and the subsequent order of Government of the 5th December 1856. •

Colonel Faber will also report with reference to Rule 18 the dates on which Captain Campbell examined Captain Dobbie's accounts and Cash Chest during the six months preceding the date of his delivering over charge to Captain Morgan.

6. It appears from para. 1 of Captain Campbell's letter of 23rd December that 200 Rupees of the stolen money has been recovered. The circumstances under which this partial recovery has been made are not stated, and that Officer will be called upon to explain how it was effected.

7. The Chief Engineer will give immediate attention to the points on which information and explanation have been called for in this order, and submit his reply at an early date.

8. Adverting to the Chief Engineer's remark in para. 4, the Governor in Council observes that Captain Morgan had two Peons and two Lascars at his disposal. There appears no reason to suppose that an armed guard was necessary to prevent this theft; it could not have occurred if a single Peon or Lascar had been at hand, even sleeping, and had been true to his duty.

9. A copy of the correspondence above recorded, and of this order, will be transmitted to the Magistrate of Coimbatore, who will submit a full report of the case, at an early date, for the information of Government.

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

Central Office of the
Fort Saint George
4th February 1859

No 7608
From the
The Chief Engineer
To J. D. Bourdillon
The Secretary to Government

Public

Sir, With reference to your letter
No 125, dated 13th January 1859, I have

No 283 of 23rd Dec 58
from the
Jocka to the
No 117 of 17th Dec 58
from Capt Morgan
No 116 of 20th Dec 58
from Capt Morgan

the honor to forward the papers as per
margin relating to the robbery of Captain
Morgan's Cash Chest at Coimbatore.

2. It appears that when

Enclosure 3

Captain Morgan took charge of the
chest from Major Dobbie he found in
it a sum of Rupees 4,500 which he
marked as an being "receivable" but the
latter Officer alleged that it was not more
than sufficient to work the engine of
his battery, and in this opinion
he is supported by his Superior,
Captain Campbell. However this
may be, it was Captain Morgan's
duty under any circumstances to have
taken steps for securing the large
amount

Engineer

of the robberies and losses now so frequent.

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amount which he might have transferred to the Public Office of the Station.

3. It does not appear from any papers submitted to this Office, that any loss to the Colberg has been gained which occurred during the Executive Engineer's absence from Ootacamund, and while I cannot but feel that due care of the public money has not been taken by Captain Morgan, or even his predecessor, whose conduct however is not before Government, I can only leave the matter to higher authority who may possibly receive further information from the Indian Department to decide on the extent of losses incurred.

4. By the Regulation of the Bengal Code a guard of 1000 men and 14 Burkundazes ^{would} have been allowed to an Executive Engineer in the position of Captain Morgan, and altogether it is evident that in the other Provinces such ^{near} establishments are, and have been encountered since that time was deprived of the services of late to an Police force previous to which indeed I cannot recall any instance of

Chap. IX p. 11
page 112
Chap. IX encl. 1
page 286.

Fort St George
4th July 1859

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed^t Serv^t

Wm. Arthur Colver
Chief Clerk

To
The Secretary to
Government 1758

Comd^r M^r

Engineer

Public Works Dept.

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No 503.
Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
March.
Under date the 5th February 1859.

Read again
letter from the Chief
Engineer dated 24th Decr
1858, and recorded in
to Consultation 18th January
1859. N. 125.

Read also the
following letter from the
Chief Engineer.

Here enter 11th February 1859
No 7608/

These papers relate
to the robbery of \$15,000
from the Cash Chest of
Captain Morgan, of Boston
to the Special Executive
Engineer

At
Leg

W
G
Hull

By Com: 18th January 1859

By Com: 18th January 1859
By Com: 18th January 1859
By Com: 18th January 1859
By Com: 18th January 1859

Under 4th 1859
No 5-4-8

No 7608

Under 3rd March 1859

Under 3rd March 1859
Under 3rd March 1859
Under 3rd March 1859
Under 3rd March 1859

No 555

By Com: 18th January 1859

Under 3rd March 1859

Engineer at Sachatta. The robbery was reported to Government by the Offg Chief Engineer on the 24th December 1858, with an intimation that further information had been called for; and with his letter of the 4th instant the Chief Engineer submits one from the Special Executive Engineer at Sachatta, with ~~the~~ enclosures from Captain Dobbie and Morgan, furnishing explanation on the points on which they had been called upon for further information.

2. The robbery was committed during Captain Morgan's absence from Colacannund, and is attributed

* and he cannot but think that Capt. Dobbie was culpably remiss to appoint a man to be cash chest Peon with so little care to ascertain his antecedents. It is noticed that

his former situation of ~~Chief~~ ^{of} the Colacannund Jail in consequence of the escape of some prisoners. The Governor in Council cannot regard this explanation as satisfactory. Considering that Captain Dobbie entertained Peon - doo Ray only in June last, it is strange that he should be unable to say in December, on what information or recommendation he employed him; and his inability to do so would seem to justify the inference, that he entertained the man without any enquiry into his antecedents. Captain Morgan says

says in his letter of the
17th December that Govindoo
Raj was Captain Dobbie's
clerk, and was ap-
-pointed by him ^{to be} Cash
Chest man on the very
day of his delivering
over charge, in lieu of
the head man who
belonged to the Moodu-
-mully Forest Cash
Chest. Captain Dobbie
will be desired to explain
his reasons for making
this exchange, ^{on the very day} ~~and~~
~~day of giving over charge of~~
~~the cash to Govindoo Raj~~
~~his Office.~~
~~consulting Captain~~
~~Morgan~~

5 Captain Dobbie's
explanation as to his
management of funds
leads to the opinion
that his practice was very
irregular

* To Special Executive Eng.
dated 22nd Nov. 1858.

attributed by him to the
following causes: ||

- 1st The known large
cash balance in the
Chest, which at the
time he took charge
from Captain Dobbie
amounted to Rs. 4500.
- 2nd Captain Dobbie
frequently trusting
Govindoo Raj for an
hour or so at a time
with the Cash Chest
key, and thus giving
him opportunities
of making a false
key and becoming
acquainted with
the mechanism of
the Chest.
- 3rd The intimation
by Captain Dobbie
of Govindoo Raj, a
convicted

convicted felon, as a
Treasury guard.

3. The Right Hon^{ble}
the Governor in Council
considers the explanation
furnished by Captain
Dobbie in reply to the
Officiating Chief Engineer's
inquiries, to be far from
satisfactory. As regards
his allegation that the
amount in the chest
was not more than
was required for the
works under his charge,
H. B. Governor in Council
requests that the
Chief Engineer will send
for and examine Captain
Dobbie's Cash Book for
three months, September
to December 1858, and
lay it before Government
with

13 9
with a statement shewing his daily
receipts and expenditure
during that period, together
with his own opinion as
to the necessity of his having
had so much money in
hand. In his letter of the
17th December 1858 Captain
Morgan states that the
writer Hopli belonged to
the Melgherry range, and
should have had nothing
to do with the Moodanully
cash chest or accounts,
for which there was a
separate establishment.
The Chief Engineer will
therefore call upon Captain
Dobbie to explain under
what circumstances, as
stated by Captain Morgan
in his letter of the 22^d
November 1858, he permitted
the

the Key of the Cash Chest
to be in Hoplys hands so
often and so long, and
whether he ever allowed
himself accept to the Chest,
to take out or pay away
money, without ~~himself~~
being present himself.

4. With reference
to the Officiating Chief
Engineers enquiries re-
-garding Corvidos Ray,
Captain Dobbie states
that he is unable now to
say what passed on his
entertaining him, or what
enquiries he made, re-
-garding his character,
and that he was not aware
at the time that he was
a convicted felon, or, as
he has since heard,
that he was discharged
from

~~5th December 1856.~~ Footnote
at page 394 of Grants
Circular Order Book.

irregular! The
Chief Engineer will
^{after examining Capt. Dobbies books,}
report how far ~~Captain~~
^{that appears}
~~Dobbies~~ proceedings in
this respect have been
~~generally~~ in accordance
with the Rules for draw-
-ing funds published
at page 393 of Grants
Circular Order Book,
and especially with
Rule 6, and the subse-
-quent order of ~~Govt.~~
of the 5th December 1856.
that each advance shall
be worked out before
another is applied for,
and that the balance
at any time in any
Officers custody ought
never to exceed one half
of his monthly expendi-
-ture. Colonel Labor
will also report with
reference

reference to Rule 18 the
dates on which Captain
Campbell examined —
Captain Dobbin's accounts
and Cash Check during
the six months preceding
the date of his delivering
over charge to Captain
Morgan.

6. It appears from
para 1 of Captain Campbell's
letter of 23^d December
that 200 Rupees of the
stolen money has
been recovered. The
circumstances under
which this partial
recovery has been
made are not stated,
and that Officer will
be called upon to ex-
plain how it was
effected.

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8. Adverting to the Chief Engineer's
remark in P. 4, the Governor informed
observes that Capt Morgan had two
peas and two lascar at his disposal.
There appears no reason to suppose
that an armed guard was necessary,
to prevent this theft, it could not
have occurred if a single Peon
or Lascar had been at hand,
even sleeping, and had been
true to his duty.

19. The Chief Engineer
will give immediate
attention to the points
on which information
and explanations have
been called for in
this order, and submit
his reply at an early
date.

A copy of the
correspondence above
recorded, and of this
order, will be transmitted
to the Magistrate
of Coimbatore, who
will submit a full
report of the case, at
an early date, for the
information of Government.

10 Copies to the Chief Eng^r Dept^y
1 — a Magistrate of Coimbatore.
With Cor^r

J. H.

Pr. Com. 18th Jan'y /59. 40-41.

Public Works 1859 Sept^r.
D^o to Cons: 8th March.

N^o 503.

Extract Minis of Cons:
D^o 5th March /59.

From Joint Magistrate in charge
Coimbatore 07th April /59.
@ No. 926 in Cons: 19th Aug^r /59
From Chief Engineer d/ 12 Nov^r /59 C^o N^o 2449

N^o 55+56.

Calling the attention of the
Chief Engineer to certain points
specified relating to the robbery
of Captain Morgan's Cash chest
at Sotacamund, and to submit
his reply and directing that a
copy of correspondence on the
subject and of the order passed
thereon be sent to the Magist^r
of Coimbatore in view to his sub-
mitting a full report of the case
for the information of Gov^t.

c23. Lely R. March