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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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G.O. No. 5[illegible]

Press
~~Mis.~~

Dated [illegible] 18 5[illegible].

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 15th March 1859.

No. 125. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 14th March 1859, No. 8574.

SIR,

I have been duly honored by the orders of Government, Nos. 436 and 518, respectively of the 25th Ultimo and the 8th Current.

2. The former was delivered in the Central Office on the 28th February, and as Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford had with, I think, only one exception, the practical management and the initiation of all arrangements for the District of Coimbatore during 1858, I having been absent for the greater part of that period, first on duty with His Lordship the Governor, in March and April, then on privilege leave for nearly all June, and on Medical Certificate from 1st July to 31st December, I marked the order "immediate" and requested the Superintending Engineer, to undertake the report called for.

3. But that promptitude of disposal evidently expected and which I thus sought to obtain, was prevented by the Superintending Engineer's decision, doubtless a proper one so far as it went, to call on the District Engineer of Coimbatore for a Return of the District departmental strength and composition, as it actually stood on the 20th Ultimo.

4. Mr. Fraser's return has been received this day, and I hasten to supply such information as I am, in Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford's absence, led to conjecture may be required after his own compliance with the two requisitions from the Chief Secretary to Government of the 30th Ssptember and 5th October 1858.

5. I must state in the first instance, that my despatch, No. 8122 of 23rd Ultimo, covering a long and earnest letter from the Collector of Coimbatore, dated 9th February, No. 27, would have been couched in very different terms indeed, had I not believed the great errors into which Mr. Cherry had been betrayed, were already sufficiently refuted by the very lucid summary set forth in Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 2353, of 9th November 1858, as to the actual occurrences of that year, in respect to Captain Morgan's and Captain Dobbie's several employments on the Neilgherry Hills, and on the Noyel Range of Coimbatore.

6. It is only this day that I make the unexpected discovery, of no disposal having been made in the Central Office of the 9th November, No. 2353. I had mentally assumed that a copy of that Extract Minutes Consultation would have been forwarded as usual for the information of the Collector and District Engineer; and as it fully explains a great deal of what Mr. Cherry mistakenly imputes to the unwise, if not vexatious, interference of the Central Office, I deemed it needless to re-state what is so clearly narrated in the Government paper alluded to.

7. Why the Superintending Engineer, who wrote No. 8122 of 23rd Ultimo, passed the Collector's allegations, Subsilentis whilst knowing Mr. Cherry's ignorance of the review by Government of the 9th November, is however altogether unaccountable, and the omission to refute what is unfounded on fact, besides creating unnecessary references and correspondence, can scarcely have failed to awaken opinions very unfavorable to the Central Office.

8. Availing myself of the permission of Government to send up original Records, I have now the honor to forward, out of a large file, the following papers :

No. 9251, 23rd April, from Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, (in my absence) to District Engineer, Captain Francis.

No. 263, 14th May, from do. do. to do. do.

No. dated 21st May 1858, from Acting District Engineer, to Chief Engineer.

No. 667, 29th May, from Chief Engineer, to Acting District Engineer.

9. Applying these to Mr. Cherry's letter of the 9th Ultimo, No. 27, it will be observed that so far from the Central Office leaving the Noyel Range unprovided for, the most strenuous endeavours were made to place that Range under Captain Morgan's care, that Mr. Fraser emphatically protested against his removal, and that yielding to his remonstrances, Mr. Fraser in the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of 29th May (all of which is clearly setforth by Government in No. 2353 of 9th November 1858) was authorized to retain Captain Morgan on the Hills, and to use that very discretion which, the Collector states, the District Engineer to be injuriously deprived of.

10. I have always failed to understand why Captain Morgan was after the receipt of those Proceedings sent to Coimbatore, but the result of an appeal from the Special Executive Engineer of Jackatalla was, that the Government directed that Officer to resume charge of the Muddenhully forests and the very efficient Workshops at Goondelpett.

11. In para. 7, Mr. Cherry observes that during the "9 months he has been there, "gentlemen have been appointed apparently just to look at the Noyel Range, and then "go away, in most of the instances to the Hills."

12. The facts appear to stand thus, early in 1858 the District Engineer of Coimbatore signified his intention to apply for leave on private affairs, which, as requiring a transfer of his Office into other hands, Major Lawford objected to, in the then and still reduced strength of the Department, and proposed that Captain Francis should take up his abode at Jackatalla, whereby his own presence and assistance might so far liberate Captain Morgan, as to enable that Officer to temporarily charge himself with the Executive duties of Range No. 2, and so leave the permanent incumbent of that Range, Captain Dobbie appointed, vice Shaw Stewart available for Range No. 4 or the Noyel Range.

13. I considered this arrangement an objectonable one at the time, and unfair to Captain Dobbie, whose health from supposed disease of the heart was unfit for exposure to departmental duties in the plains, though apparently equal to very severe horse exercise and much locomotion in a Hill climate. But such was the particular wish of the Superintending Engineer, and I was assured it was the smaller of two evils, one of which was inevitable.

14. Hence the Noyel Range was held as an avowedly temporary tenure till May, when being already on leave which his medical advisor had considered necessary, he, Captain Dobbie was re-instated in his old appointment. The Noyel Range was then held by Captain Morgan until November last, and thus the similitude between the Collector's picture and the matter represented is by no means particularly close.

15. Para. 8 gives an altogether erroneous statement of facts; so little was Captain Dobbie's removal from Coimbatore opposed to his own wish that both before (at least as to the date of his writing) and after his resuming charge of Range No. 2, I have his own assurances to the contrary of Mr. Cherry's statement, whilst Mr. Fraser's indiscreet intention of confiding the Neilgherry Range to Mr. Palmer, with the preparations for the new Jail, is plainly shewn by the present circumstances of that Overseer, who has been declared unfit for any duty whatever for the next six months even in so congenial a climate as that of Jackatalla.

16. Within a very few days of the Collector's letter being despatched, the peculiar circumstances which had led to the utter miscarriage of Mr. Fraser's arrangement for the Neilgherry Range must have been made known to that gentleman, and have shewn him that the Central Office had no option in the rectification of Mr. Fraser's Plans.

17. The detailed circumstances of Sub-Conductor Palmer being placed on the strength of the Jackatalla Department, whilst on route to take charge of the Neilgherry Range under Mr. Fraser's orders, are set forth in the accompanying two sets of Proceedings, and of Mr. Fraser's reply to the first (thus disposing of para, 1 of the requisition of the Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 518, dated 8th Instant.

18. I entirely concur in all that Mr. Cherry says as to the evils alike of frequent change and interference, but I have to disclaim any such but what were unavoidable, and it does not seem to have occurred to the Collector that the Head of the Department Public Works has means, which no District Engineer can possess, of knowing the antecedents of employeés like Sub-Conductor Palmer, who, transferred to Coimbatore on the Medical recommendation of the Garrison Surgeon of Trichinopoly, I had good reasons for making me aware that Sub-Conductor Palmer was perhaps the last man in the Department to be entrusted with any independent charge, much less one so important as that of the Neilgherry Range.

19. I do not know who the 4 Department Public Works Officers on duty on the Hills are, alluded to by Mr. Cherry in para. 11. The Special Executive Range has two for solely Military purposes, and the desire to secure the personal interests and affirm the claims of Captain Campbell which led to the Jackatalla buildings being incorporated in the General Department Public Works for Revenue duties, instead of being maintained separate, like the Executive Engineer in charge of Military Buildings at Bangalore, I admit to have been a great oversight, the magnitude of which was only fully manifested on the reduction of 17th July 1857, being carried into effect. It seems to me highly desirable and not now too late to separate Jackatalla and charge its superintendence to its own Estimates. Otherwise I know if no Public Works Officer on the Hills but the Executive Engineer of the 2nd Range, who has the Cantonment, Military, Civil and Ecclesiastical buildings at Ootacamund and Coonoor to attend to, as well as all the Roads to the extent the insufficient maintenance allowance will admit.

20. No one can regret more than I do, the evils Mr. Cherry so fully and properly sets forth, but they are not remediable by the Central Office, whose functions have been a succession of make shifts, to palliate the injurious effects of insufficient numerical strength and the frequent loss of health which seems to be regarded as a personal fault of the Invalids.

21. Lieutenant Colonel Lawford took the earliest measures for so unlooked for a misfortune, as the surrender of so competent an Officer and one so full of local experience, as Sub-Engineer Reid to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and the prolonged detention of his successor in North Arcot, Assistant Executive Engineer Bush, and his subsequent illness are surely not attributable, though they are attributed to the late Officiating Chief Engineer.

22. I must respectfully solicit that some reasonable allowance should be made for the Departmental liability, now apparently overlooked, of the Public Works, to supply its select and most efficient Members to nearly all other branches of the Public Service, such requisitions being alike unexpected, frequent and sudden. Practical inefficiency and local misfeasance seem to me inseperable, when the best professional Agents of their class are carefully selected by the Chief Engineers of Hyderabad and Mysore, by the Superintendent Electric Telegraphs, by the Revenue Surveyor General, and by the Superintendent Mofussil Police. Much of Mr. Cherry's strongest writing need have had no place, had Sub-Engineer Reid been left undisturbed in the Caroor Range.

23. Having now closed my remarks on the Collector's letter which he would have seen to be unnecessary had the information usually disseminated of the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer and of the Government not been withheld from him, I beg to express my deep concern that the receipt of the information now given has been considered an essential preliminary to the authorization of Funds for repairs shewn to be indispensable for the conservation of existing revenue, and still more for the well doing of the land-holders and non-interruption of existing traffic.

24. Mr. Fraser has just sent two letters, one 228 of 1st March last, to my own address and giving cover to one, No. 129, to Supervisor Martin, dated 22nd February, which it seems advisable to submit for your information in original, with the District Engineer's Return of the Department in the Coimbatore District for 20th February last.

25. The staple occupations, and very laborious they are, of the Executive Engineers of the 2nd Range, as called for in para. 2 of Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 436 of 25th Ultimo, have been already given, and in respect to the List called for in para. 3 of all alterations made in 1857 and 1858 in Coimbatore, I am under the impression that they have been duly placed every month before Government; but Lieutenant Colonel Lawford having unfortunately not given directions for the compilation of such a List, and as some short time will be required for its preparation, I beg you to accept the present Return to your requisitions of 25th Ultimo and 8th Instant, allowing me a few days for completing the List in question.

Letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to the District Engineer, Coimbatore, dated 23rd April 1858, No. 9251.

SIR,

In reply to your letter No. 56, dated 17th April 1858, I am directed to inform you that the Chief Engineer altogether disapproves of your continued disregard of instructions you have received for placing Captain Morgan in Executive charge of the Neilgherry Range, on your departure, in order that Mr. Fraser may give his attention to the proper duties of his position as Acting District Engineer.

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2. Captain Morgan has already had personal experience in the very localities in which you were instructed to employ him, and it is wholly impossible for the Officer, at the Head of the District, to do justice to the new Trace without neglecting other more important duties.

3. But be that as it may, your orders were precise, and your reasons for disobedience have yet to be given as none that are satisfactory have been assigned.

4. It is quite easy for Captain Morgan to accompany Mr. Fraser and receive his directions, but unless the latter resides in the Carcoor Valley, he is as likely to prove unsuccessful in his efforts to complete the Trace as you were last year, in which case a heavy responsibility rests with yourself.

5. You appear to attach little importance to the great works of Irrigation, when you state that there is no such to require Mr. Fraser's attention before the 20th May, by which time the Cauvery will probably have received some Freshes.

Letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to the District Engineer, Coimbatore, dated 14th May 1858, No. 263.

SIR,

I am directed to inform you with reference to Captain Morgan's letter No. 6, dated 7th May 1858, that the Chief Engineer has resolved on a consideration of all the circumstances comprising that Officers prolonged employment in the Hill climate, that Major Dobbie shall resume charge of the Neilgherry Range and Moodoomullay Forest, and that Captain Morgan, whose long stay on the Neilgherries, robust constitution, and unimpaired health, render him a more fit Executive Officer in the Plains than Major Dobbie, be instructed to assume charge of the Coimbatore Executive Range, (No. 4.)

You are requested therefore to conform to the present instructions on the expiration of Medical Leave which Major Dobbie now has, unless indeed he should feel himself in a position to cancel its unexpired portion when measures can be immediately adopted.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, under date the *29th May 1858*, No. 667.

Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to the Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, dated Ootacamund, 21st May 1858.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th Instant, No. 263, directing that Major Dobbie should be placed in charge of the Neilgherry Range, the Moodoomullay Forest, &c., and that Captain Morgan should take charge of the Coimbatore Range.

On receipt of these instructions I communicated them to Major Dobbie, who states that he will be prepared to assume charge on the 24th Instant.

2. Having so lately been given charge of this District, it is with much regret that I find myself unwillingly giving effect to an order of yours, but so it is, and I conceive I would not be doing my duty if I concealed from you my opinion that the arrangement now ordered will not be for the benefit of the District.

3. When on a former occasion, it was ordered that Major Dobbie should take charge of the Moodoomullay Forest, it was found impossible to carry the arrangement; because of the advances which had been made to Bandy Contractors and others, and for the recovery of which no one but Captain Morgan could be held responsible: the same difficulty obtains now, as the advances still out-standing amount to about ten thousand Rupees; and the number of individuals from whom they must be recovered is so great, that I can foresee nothing but the most utter confusion, as well as great loss, if the responsibility be shifted from Captain Morgan.

This is no doubt a wrong state of things as it prevents, amongst the Members of the Department, that intermobility which might sometimes be desirable; but we have now to deal with the fact, and I am of opinion that Captain Morgan should not be removed until he has got in all the advances made by him.

4. Captain Morgan has, with much difficulty, and great pains, organized a Carpenter's Workshop at Goondelpett: there are 30 Carpenters now working there, and the number will be

made up to 50, so soon as Captain Morgan can go again into Mysore: upon the keeping up of this Workshop much of the success at Jackatalla depends, as the great difficulty there seems to be the Carpenter's work.

A similar Workshop had been organized at Palghaut, but for some cause, with which I am not acquainted, it failed; and I believe the loss was greatly felt at the Barrack works.

I am almost certain the Goondelpett Workshop will also fail, if Captain Morgan be removed from its superintendence.

5. Again, there is the Western Trace, over which Captain Morgan has gone twice with Captain Francis and me; I have gone fully into this work with him on the ground, and made him familiar with the line from Nellumboor up, as we rode and walked over the whole of it together. With regard to this work our arrangements were complete, but will be utterly up-set by the change now ordered, I will not have time to go over the Country again, with Major Dobbie, and even if I had, it would be of little use.

6. The change directed is put on the ground that Captain Morgan's "robust constitu-" tion, and unimpaired health, render him a more fit Executive Officer in the Plains than Major " Dobbie." This is very true, but it does not follow that Major Dobbie is equal to the labour required to get through the business connected with this Range. He must visit the Moodoomullay Forest twice a month, the Workshop at Goondelpett once. The Western Trace at least once. The Ghauts at least once in two months, and these, together with the inspections necessary about the Cantonments, &c., require a man not only of active mind but of active habits; and a constitution able to resist the effects of great physical exertion, and exposure to unhealthy climates. I am decidedly of opinion that Major Dobbie is not the man to do this. Besides these, it should be borne in mind that the proper management of a Forest cannot be learned by the mere act of taking up charge of its Accounts, &c., Captain Morgan has had the management of the Moodoomullay Forest for two years. The Department is now reaping the benefit of this experience, whereas Major Dobbie would have every thing to learn.

7. Under these circumstances, I hope you will re-consider the matter, and send me instructions to let the existing arrangement stand.

8. Will you be good enough to send me an answer by Telegraph as I find, from the reports coming in from the Plains, that I must go there immediately; and as I shall not probably return here for a considerable time, I would like to have every thing settled before I go.

9. In conclusion, I beg leave to remark that the regard I feel for Major Dobbie and my desire to make things pleasant for him, render the writing of this letter very disagreeable, but my sense of duty to the District, to you, and to myself, would not permit me to do otherwise.

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1. The reasons of outstanding balances recoverable only by himself on advances amounting to Rupees 10,000, by Captain Morgan are again alleged against the removal of that Officer, to the charge of the 4th or Noyel Executive Range of the Coimbatore District; and it is resolved that the District Engineer be requested to submit an early Statement exhibiting the recoveries and deductions that have been made on, and from Captain Morgan's Contractors since the subject was last under consideration in the Central Office.

2. The Chief Engineer observes, that if Mr. Fraser's judgment be correct, the services of Captain Morgan are available in no other field of employment than that in which not only without authority, but against positive prohibition, he has contracted large public engagements. It perhaps might have been expected that Mr. Fraser should have detected in this essentially false position of a Public Officer an additional reason for giving effect to the recent orders for Captain Morgan's removal. A Report should also be made as to the interval within which a complete extrication from money engagements with his Contractors may reasonably be calculated upon by the Executive Engineer.

3. Resolved that in the very teeth of opposition, based alike upon reasons of a doubly personal nature, (*i. e.*, as excluding the Officer, Major Dobbie, whose Range originally comprized the localities in question, on the ground of avowedly physical and inferentially professional defects; and as indicating the Executive Engineer for detention on the Hills who had been nominated for the low country Noyel Range) the Chief Engineer will not insist upon a literal fulfilment of

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the whole of his instructions of the 14th December, but on the contrary, renewing his directions for Major Dobbie to resume his former permanent connexion with the 2nd Executive Range for the performance of all the current work of that change, the services of Captain Morgan will be placed at the disposal of the District Engineer of Coimbatore for whatever employment, he, Mr. Fraser, on his own responsibility may think fit to devolve upon him. Colonel Faber adopts this concession to the District Engineer's representations with the greater willingness, that Captain Morgan has, in the first instance, specially made over for employment in co-operation with and subordination to the Executive Engineer of the Jackatalla Barracks, and the Chief Engineer has had very grave doubts whether it was free from irregularity to disturb the arrangements that were made on Captain Morgan first reaching the Hills.

4. Resolved that whilst, therefore, the previously existing relation between Captains Campbell and Morgan be r enewed as respects the Jackatalla Project, to which the Goo ndulpett Workshop and the Moodoomullay Forest, are obviously ancillary, it must remain with the District Engineer to confide such specialties of professional work whether on the Carcoor Trace and line from Nellumboor ; and whilst such arrangements are in practical action, Major Dobbie will apparently revert to the charge previously held by the late Executive Engineer, Lieutenant Shaw Stewart, the members of the professional body on the Hills being exactly what they previously were, with the single change of Major Dobbie having been substituted for Lieutenant Shaw Stewart.

5. But as the renewed maintenance of full numbers for the Jackatalla Project and the 2nd Executive Range has not been effected without disturbing the S. E's. arrangements for the Noyel and other Executive Ranges in the plains,—Resolved that as Mr. Fraser declines to make Captain Morgan available for that duty, it be left for himself to give a permanent character to whatever nomination he may have made for the performance of current duties during Major Dobbie's late leave of absence.

6. Resolved, meanwhile, that the latter Officer be afforded an opportunity of offering such observations in refutation of the District Engineer's imputed unfitness, as Major Dobbie may be desirous of offering ; but the Chief Engineer does not consider it in any wise obligatory on the Acting Executive Engineer to bring forward counter-testimony, albeit Colonel Faber does not feel at liberty to withhold the opportunity of reply on the understanding that it be sent as usual through the local Head of the Department. Transcripts of paras. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 9, to be forwarded to Major Dobbie.

7. Resolved, finally, that the absolute necessity of the District Engineer's Office, Stores, Workshops, being forthwith organized at Coimbatore, be urged on Mr. Fraser's attention, who should personally visit the large Channels from the Bennair and Carcoor, and report on these fine works with the least practicable delay.

(Signed) P. P. L. O'CONNELL,
For E. LAWFORD.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 21st January 1859, No. 7249.

Read again the following papers.

From Captain J. CAMPBELL, ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Jackatalla, 10th January 1859, No. 265.

SIR,

I have the honor to report the arrival of Sub-Conductor and Overseer Palmer at this station this day ; he has been accordingly brought on for duty.

From WILLIAM FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Coimbatore, 12th January 1859, No. 190.

SIR,

I have the honor to report that Major Dobbie took charge of this, the Noyel Range, on the 8th Instant, reporting that he found the Cash and Accounts all right.

As the employment of Major Dobbie in this Range only, or in charge of both this and the Neilgherry Range seemed to have been left to my discretion, and believing that he could not perform the duties of both satisfactorily, and knowing that the works in this Range (the Revenue of the country depending on them) were more important than those on the Hills, I recommended his taking charge of this Range alone.

As this is the course that Major Dobbie himself considers the most prudent, I have decided on it and directed that the Neilgherry Range shall be for the present, given over to Mr. Palmer, who proceeded to Ootacamund two days ago.

Should you deem it necessary to appoint an Executive Officer to the Neilgherry Range, I trust you will select one who is a good practical Surveyor; as there are many things to be done there which require that knowledge and none of the Executive Officers are familiar with it.

Trusting that these arrangements will meet your approval.

The former of the above documents reports the arrival of Sub Conductor Palmer at Jackatalla and his having been brought on the strength of the Executive Establishment for duty.

2. It is observed that Captain Campbell has acted without authority in thus appropriating the services of a Member of the D. P. W., who had been placed under the orders of the District Engineer of Coimbatore, for employment on the Neilgherry Hills.

3. In the present reduced strength of the permanent professional Establishment it is not within the Chief Engineer's power to strengthen Captain Campbell's Subordinate staff, though he fully admits that zealous Officer's claims to such reinforcement, and the local advantages to the Public Service that might be expected from increased European superintendence at Jackatalla. But it is open to the ppecial Executive Engineer to obtain well qualified Sapper Non-Commissioned Officers from Head Quarters at Dowlaishweram, to act as Overseers, charging their salaries to the works in the Bills under the head of Establishment.

4. To equalize the distribution and adjust the derangement created by Overseer and Sub-Conductor Palmer's detention at Jackatalla, that Warrant Officer is now permanently posted to the special Executive Range, with directions in conformity to the report of the Garrison Surgeon at Trichinopoly for Overseer Palmer to be only employed on the Hills until further orders, and Overseer McDonaugh is hereby transferred to the Coimbatore District, and posted to the Noyel Range, of which Mr. Covenanted Civil Engineer Fraser will be pleased to place him in immediate charge.

5. In respect to the second of the documents above enumerated, it is observed that the Acting District Engineer has wholly misconceived the instructions by which he is guided when assuming, as stated in para. 2, that an option rests with himself to employ the Executive Engineer either in the Noyel Range alone, or in that Range jointly with the Neilgherries. It would appear that on the contrary the previous orders for Captain S. Dobbie to be continued in charge of the Ootacamund Range are precise, and that Government limited the power of the Officiating Chief Engineer to the extending that Officer's duties to the Noyel in *addition* to, but not separate from the Hill Range.

6. Under these circumstances the Chief Engineer is unable to confirm or to approve of Mr. Fraser's arrangements, and he directs their immediate discontinuance, whilst he remarks that so far from the Neilgherries Executive Range being in charge of Sub Conductor Palmer, as stated in para. 3, that Warrant Officer is reported only two days previously to have been brought on the strength of the special Executive Engineers' Establishment at Jackatalla.

7. It must be obvious that the general control of the Central Office over the Engineer Establishments in the Provinces becomes not only inoperative, but its arrangements are virtually superseded by the Local Officers, when changes and irregularities such as those now under consideration, are found to take place between two functionaries of the same Department, who certainly are officially independent of each other, but yet who being only a few miles apart, might reasonably be expected to maintain such inter-communication as should have prevented the issue of conflicting orders to Mr. Palmer.

8. Finally, as so favorable an opportunity has now presented itself for replacing Captain Dobbie in his former position, the Chief Engineer cancels Lieutenant Colonel Lawford's in-

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structions of the 6th Ultimo, No. 6023, founded upon the orders of Government, No. 2952, of the 2nd December 1858, the Executive Engineer will re-assume personal charge of the Neilgherry Range, Overseer McDonaugh will be brought on the permanent strength of the Coimbatore District, and posted to the Coimbatore Sudder station, in view to being placed in charge of the Noyel Range but it will be left to Mr. Fraser to decide whether such change be independent, or subject to the general supervision and official responsibility of Captain Dobbie.

9. As any changes intermediately made or proposed either by Mr. Fraser or Captain Campbell, cannot affect the reasons by which the Head of the Department is guided, the Chief Engineer resolves to issue the subjoined orders—

10. The Chief Engineer directs the following transfer to be immediately made in the Overseer grade of the Upper Subordinate Establishment of the D. P. W., Sub Conductor Overseer Palmer from the Coimbatore District, to the special Executive Range at Jackatalla.

Overseer Serjeant J. McDonaugh from the Jackatalla special Executive Range, to the Sudder station of Coimbatore, in the Coimbatore District.

To join without delay and reports of arrival to be sent as soon as practicable.

11. Resolved that Extract of para. 10 be forwarded to the Civil Auditor and Collector of Coimbatore, and to Overseers Palmer and McDonaugh for information, and that a copy of these Proceedings in extenso to W. Fraser, Esq., Civil Engineer, Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore, to Captain Campbell, special Executive Engineer of Jackatalla, and to Captain Dobbie Acting Executive Engineer 4th Class, for information and guidance.

(True Extract)

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, under date the 9th February 1859, No. 7730.

Read the following letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Caroor, 28th January 1859.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, to-day, of the Minutes of your Proceedings under date the 21st Instant. What took place between Sub-Conductor Palmer and me, is as follows; and I think that on reading it, you will admit that whoever is to blame for the irregularity of this affair, I am not.

2. Mr. Palmer arrived at Coimbatore, during my absence at Suttiamungalum. On the day of my return, he called on me and having understood from him that he was familiar with the details of house-building (having been for 3 years employed on the building of the Barracks at Secunderabad) I told him I would place him in charge of the building of the new Prison at Ootacumund, and the alterations of the Bungalows at Coonoor and Kulhutty. On this subject we had a long conversation, and we arranged to meet the following morning at 11 o'clock, when I would have the Plans before me, that we might discuss their details. I never saw Mr. Palmer since. I waited for him for two hours, then sent to enquire about him, and to my surprise found that he had left for the Neilgherries, and although I twice wrote to him since, I never knew, until I received the Minutes of your Proceedings this evening, what had become of him.

3. I am sure I have only to lay these facts before you, to have Mr. Palmer reprimanded, as his very improper conduct in this case deserves.

4. With regard to your remarks in para. 7, to the effect that there should be between Captain Campbell and me such inter-communication as would have prevented him from acting so irregularly as he did in appropriating to himself without authority the services of Mr. Palmer, I have only to remark, that I certainly did not at that time, conceive it necessary to write to Captain Campbell to say, that I had given Mr. Palmer certain instructions about certain duties he was to perform at Ootacamund, and to request that he, Captain Campbell, would be good enough not to kidnap him on the way.

5. What led to this misappropriation of Mr. Palmer, is a matter which I think it is due to me, as well as to the dignity of your own position as Head of the Department, to enquire into.

6. It is hard to conceive that Captain Campbell was ignorant of the fact, that Mr. Palmer's services had been placed at my disposal; yet it is harder to believe that, being aware of it, he would act as he did if he were conscious of it; he must have felt that any act of his would be supported, as, indeed, this one seems to be; and if he were not Mr. Palmer must have deceived him, either by misrepresentations, or a culpable withholding from Captain Campbell's knowledge of the instructions he had received, a copy of which I am aware he had in his possession.

7. Mr. Palmer cannot plead ignorance and say he was not aware that there was any difference between those Barrack works and those of the District generally, because I pointed out to him their relative position, and how it was likely their proximity would render it difficult for him to procure workmen for the Prison, &c. These facts show that there has been improper conduct somewhere, and I earnestly request that you will direct the circumstances to be enquired into.

8. *With regard to the transfer of the Noyel Range alone to Major Dobbie and of the Neilgherriy Range to Mr. Palmer, I acted as I conceived, best for the District, and, as I understood, in accordance with the spirit of the instructions sent to me.

9. The Minutes of Government did not seem to me to be so precise as you say it was. It seemed more to suggest a certain course than to order it to be pursued—neither did the resolution of the Chief Engineer when transmitting this Minute, convey any precise instructions. Under these circumstances and not wishing to act in any matter in which Major Dobbie was concerned without positive orders, I wrote to the Chief Engineer for such precise instructions. His reply was that Major Dobbie was placed at my disposal for employment in the Noyel Range. Had there been any doubt as to which of the Ranges it was intended to employ him in, I would not have disturbed his possession of the Neilgherries; but it was clear that under any circumstances he was intended for the Noyel Range, and I think the correspondence referred to, authorized me to employ him in that one alone or in both as I deemed best. My reasons for giving him the Noyel Range alone were—

1st. The utter impossibility of his performing the duties of both Ranges.

2nd. Major Dobbie's own wish to have charge of the Noyel Range alone, for I referred the question to himself; and he admitted that he could not do the duties of both with satisfaction to either himself or me.

3rd. The temporary transfer of Mr. Palmer to the Neilgherries which enabled me to place that range in the charge of one who was supposed to be competent to take it.

10. Mr. Palmer's acquaintance with house-building relieved me from a difficulty, as I had no one available to whose practical knowledge I could trust the building of the Prison at Ootacamund. Your late order, transferring him to the Neilgherry Barracks, which order, I am sure you would not have made had you known the facts of the case, places me in the same difficulty again.

11. Mr. Palmer's services would just be as valuable if devoted to the Prison, as they would be if employed on the Barracks with this difference in favor of employing them on the former; that Captain Campbell is at liberty to form his own Establishment and pay for it out of his very liberal estimates, whilst those for the Prison will not afford the employment of skilled labour especially as we must purchase in a market created by the Barrack works. I therefore ask you to order Mr. Palmer to proceed to Ootacamund and, under Major Dobbie, to take charge of the Prison works as he was originally directed.

12. Whether Mr. McDonnaugh should act under the general supervision of Major Dobbie will entirely depend on whether Mr. McDonnaugh is qualified to hold charge of a Range in which there are many important Irrigation works now in a precarious condition. I cannot there-

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fore give any opinion on this point, not knowing what sort of person Mr. McDonnaugh is ; I can only infer from para. 3 of the Minutes of your Proceedings that if his services were of much value, Captain Campbell would not be deprived of them, and that he would not consent to the deprivation.

13. In conclusion and with reference to para. 7 of the Minutes of your Proceedings, I beg leave to remark that if the Central Office have been inconvenienced by any conflicting orders given to Mr. Palmer, the fault is not mine.

14. Mr. Palmer was placed under my orders. I gave him instructions. He knowingly disobeyed them, and hence, coupled with Captain Campbell's unauthorized interference, arose all this trouble.

15. I do not see that this circumstance has made " the control of the Central Office over the Engineer's Establishment in the Provinces" inoperative ; what it may be in other Districts I do not know ; but in this, so far as my acquaintance with it extends, the control of the Central Office has been decidedly inoperative ; and that with regard to matters of detail, which might be safely left to the discretion of any one who is competent to take charge of a District at all, I do not mean to imply that the District Engineers should be allowed to act independently of the Central Office, but that great inconvenience arises from the internal arrangements of a District being settled in the Central Office, without any reference whatever to the Engineer in charge. If, for instance, you had had the facts of this case before you, instead of issuing an order, the effect of which will be to encourage disobedience, I am satisfied you would have given a smart reprimand to both Captain Campbell and Mr. Palmer, and ordered the latter to go and do as he had been directed. Instead of this I find that whilst I am here, in one corner of the District busy all day upon the works, attending to details that should be looked after by an Executive Officer, my whole mind fully occupied in devising expedients to neutralize the effects of the late floods, and thus prevent a ruinous loss of Revenue whilst thus occupied, I must consider and answer a Minute by which I find that the arrangements just made for the management of another part of the District are utterly upset (arrangements, the completion of which enabled me to come here) and a new hand placed in charge of Irrigation Works, at a season when local knowledge and the most careful management are required to prevent a loss of Revenue. All the inconvenience and annoyance will, I respectfully urge, arise from the Central Office deciding on the internal arrangements of a District without reference to the Engineer. Trusting that you will believe what is the fact, that these remarks on that portion of your Minute are written only because I feel that the efficiency and success of a District Engineer are greatly diminished by this absence of reference to him on matters of detail.

The above letter is at once a reply to and a protest, not less earnest than respectful, and becoming, against the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer of the 21st Ultimo.

2. Those Proceedings had their origin in a most unexpected report from the Special Executive Engineer at Jackatalla, that Conductor Palmer, Overseer in the D. P. W., who was placed by the Officiating Chief Engineer under the orders of the District Engineer of Coimbatore, for employment on the Neilgherry Hills, in conformity with the recommendation of the Garrison Surgeon at Trichinopoly, had been brought by him, Captain Campbell, on the strength of the Jackatalla Establishment.

3. "If the operations at the latter place had remained on their previous footing of dependancy in the District Engineer, such an allocation of Mr. Palmer's services would have been altogether unobjectionable." But Captain Campbell's employment having been made exceptional and special, all connexion with the District had ceased, and the Executive Engineer within his own Range possessed powers similar to those of the District Engineer himself.

4. It was not for the Chief Engineer albeit, no hasty action was taken in the matter to even conjuncture that so important a transfer as that of a Warrant Officer of the Upper Subordinate Establishment, from one District to another, could take place without the consent or even knowledge of the one Officer, or without any improper intentions of the other, thus acting without due, or as it appears, without any authority whatever.

5. It has now been made unmistakeably clear that the District Engineer of Coimbatore, so far from being liable to the portion of blame which the Head of the Central Office could not but impute to the ostensible prime mover in the matter, has himself great ground of reasonable complaint against the Special Executive Engineer, and much heavier against the Conductor himself.

6. The Chief Engineer has the greatest satisfaction in not only relieving Mr. Fraser from any particle of censure, whether direct or indirect, respecting the transfer of Conductor Palmer to Jackatalla, but in taking this the earliest opportunity of expressing his sincere regret at having unavoidably taken so mistaken a view of what had occurred.

7. It is impossible under the present explanations from Mr. Fraser, to acquit the Special Executive Engineer of having been too precipitate in accepting the verbal assurances of Conductor Palmer, that he had been ordered to Jackatalla, when no Official intimation had been received from either the District or the Central Office to corroborate the statement. But with that indiscretion accepted, Captain Campbell is no less free from blame than the District Engineer himself, and it is on Conductor Palmer as the sole culprit, that the whole weight of the heavy displeasure of the Head of the D. P. W. must now fall. Captain Campbell will therefore be pleased to investigate the case, and ascertain how far the Overseer may have been actuated by a desire to wilfully deceive, when asserting that he was to be employed at Jackatalla for it is apparent from para. 6 of Mr. Fraser's present letter, (copy to be sent to Captain Campbell) that Mr. Palmer had been duly taught the difference between employment at Ootacamund and at Jackatalla.

8. Guided by the result of a searching inquiry into a matter, which has caused so much trouble and correspondence, the Special Executive Engineer will be so good as report what amount of actual punishment will be suitable for the offence.

9. It is unnecessary at this late period when the arrangements directed in Proceedings of the 21st Ultimo, have been carried into effect, and cannot therefore be deranged without further injury to the Public Service to go with similar care, and equal detail into other points of the District Engineer's letter, but the Chief Engineer does himself the honor to call Mr. Fraser's attention to the objectionable nature of such an imputation on the impartiality of the Central Office, as is conveyed by the expression, if he, Captain Campbell, " were conscious of it, he must " have felt that any act of his would be supported, as indeed this one seems to be."

10. In respect to the District Engineer having been duly empowered to remove Captain Dobbie from the Neilgherry to the Noyal Range, the mere belief that Mr. Fraser did possess such authority, and that he used it for the benefit of the Public Service is quite satisfactory to the Chief Engineer, who however, differs from the District Engineer greatly in thinking that an Overseer like Conductor Palmer, whose professional antecedents refer to Hyderabad, and are only known practically to Colonel Henderson, C. B., Chief Engineer, not in India, should preferentially to a Commissioned Officer, be entrusted with the preliminary arrangements for so large a work as the intended new Jail at Ootacamund.

11. To conclude, whilst what has occurred, there is much affording cause for regret, there is on the other hand considerable ground for satisfaction in the altered and more effective arrangments that have resulted. Conductor Palmer available only for Special employment in a temperate climate has liberated an Overseer of tried worth, recognized ability, of considerable experience, and of the highest character for general duties in Coimbatore, and with the services of Assistant Engineer Bush, (most intimately acquainted with practical Irrigation and the management of all Hydraulic Works) who will probably have already reached Coonoor, the Chief Engineer cannot but congratulate Mr. Fraser in the greatly improved constitution and strength of the Subordinate Professional Staff of the Coimbatore District.

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Resolved that copies of these Proceedings be sent to the District Engineer of Coimbatore, and to the Special Executive Engineer (with copy of Mr. Fraser's despatch of the 28th Ultimo) of Jackatalla, for their respective information and guidance.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Major,
Officiating Superintending Engineer.

Letter from Mr. Supervisor J. H. MARTIN; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, Department Public Works, Madras, dated Coimbatore, 9th February 1859.

SIR,

I beg leave respectfully to address you in the hope that you will pardon me for the liberty, and that you will give the subject of this communication your benevolent consideration and support.

In 1854 a vacancy was declared to exist in the Central Office in the Surveyor General's Department, for 2nd Map Draftsman, which was made known by a Circular to the several Surveyors, inviting those solicitous to obtain the appointment in question to tender their services.

I crave leave to bring to your notice that at the time I offered myself as a candidate for employment in the Survey Department, the motive that actuated me, and even prior to that period in giving up the appointment, I held on Board the Steamer Hugh Lindsay, was solely with the view of raising myself into a more independent position by my own preseverance and exertions, to be of help to my mother, sisters and family.

The copies of Testimonials I had received from Captain Newman, when I left the Steamer and the West India Emigration Agent, are subjoined for your information.

Mr. J. H. Martin, served under me as Writer and Steward of the Honorable Company's Steam Vessel Hugh Lindsay for three months, and then left on account of his getting a better situation, he is a steady, sober young man, and gave satisfaction in every way.

West India Emigration Office, Madras, 31st March 1848.

This is to certyfy that Mr. J. H. Martin served as a Clerk in the West India Emigration Office from 1st September 1846, to this present date, he has conducted himself satisfactorily. His services are now dispensed with owing to the abolition of the Emigration Office.

(Signed) J. W. WILSON,
West India Emigration Agent.

I further beg to submit copies of correspondence that took place consequent to my application for the appointment of Draftsman, which will I trust lead you to infer that I was desirous to give up my prospects in the Survey Department for a quiet regular life, and at a much reduced salary, in order that I might be, as already stated, of assistance to my family, not only in a pecuniary manner, but also in respect to other social duties incumbent on me as a Son, and a Brother.

Letter from Lieut. P. P. L. O'CONNELL, Adjutant of Engineers; to Captain P. M. FRANCIS, Acting Civil Engineer of the 7th Division, dated 26th September 1854, No. 76.

SIR,

Mr. Martin, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, having applied to fill a vacancy that exists in this Department as 2nd Map Draftsman on a salary of Rupees 87½, I am desired by the Chief Engineer to request you will be good enough to grant him leave of absence for a few months to visit the Presidency, for the purpose of testing his qualifications for the appointment.

Letter from Captain P. M. FRANCIS, Acting Civil Engineer 7th Division; to Lieutenant P. P. L. O'CONNELL, Adjutant of Engineers, dated Bhowany, 21st October 1854.

SIR,

In reply to your letter under date 26th September, No. 76, I have the honor to state that Assistant Surveyor Mr. Martin, is now employed on the Levels and work connected with the proposed Neringepett Channel, that directly this is completed he has been directed to proceed to the Survey of a line of Boundary between Cochin and Malabar, which important work appears to have been delayed time out of mind, and therefore it would be prejudicial to the Public Service to grant him leave at this time. I am inclined to think, after speaking to him on the subject that on further consideration he will not wish to leave the Survey Department, in which I understand from Captain Ludlow, he has approved himself as a useful Public Servant, who is rapidly qualifying himself for promotion. I shall feel obliged by your respectfully laying this matter before the Chief Engineer, and I hope that I sall not be considered to have done wrong in withholding Mr. Martin's leave, pending a further reference.

Since that period to the present time the same motive has been the more strengthened in consideration of my being a family man, and having been blessed with 4 children with the prospect of a growing augmentation to my family, I feel confident that you will not consider that my present appeal to you has been prompted from a spirit of disaffection with my present Departmental position, to the contrary in endeavouring to seek your further patronage to be able to bring the small modicum of knowledge I posess, into useful operation in the Department. Every man who has any regard for himself will desire to emulate and endeavour to stimulate himself towards exertion in so good a cause, when his own advancement is the goal of such ambition, and you will no doubt pardon me if I entertain the same incentives.

I will not needlessly intrude on your time and attention with a recapitulation of the arduous nature of my work, and the mode in which I have been employed since I joined the Department and this District in 1850, to the present time, as also in Malabar prior to its divisional separation from Coimbatore, the various Surveys and Projects on which I have been engaged, must have one and all come under your personal observation, as also the mode in which they have been executed, and I hope the following copies of Certificates will bear me out in what I have now advanced.

Mr. Martin served under my orders as a Revenue Surveyor for a period of about 2 years while I was in charge of the 7th Division. I always found him most attentive and zealous in the discharge of his duty. He is an intelligent and accurate Surveyor, a very neat Draftsman, and otherwise well acquanted with the duties of the Department of Public Works.

Camp Gwalior District,
25th January 1855.

(Signed) S. O. E. LUDLOW, Capt. of Engrs.,
Supg. Engr., Saugor Division.
late Actg. Civil Engr. 7th Division.

Letter from Captain S. O. E. LUDLOW, Saugor Division; to Mr. MARTIN, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, Madras Presidency, Coimbatore, dated Jubbulore, 20th February 1855.

SIR,

As the testimonial which I lately forwarded to you will answer every purpose you require, I do not consider it necessary to forward another as requested in your letter of the 8th Ultimo, which only reached me this day. I may however add, that if successful in obtaining the appoint-

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ment of Assistant Civil Engineer, I feel certain that you will exert yourself to the utmost in discharging your duties to the satisfaction of Government, and moreover, I believe that the most entire reliance may be placed in your trustworthiness.

I beg to bring to your notice that I have been about 9 years in this District, and have made myself amenable in every way to the best of my ability, and I respectfully beg to submit copy of Certificate from the late District Engineer, Captain P. M. Francis which will, I trust, prove satisfactory.

Letter from Captain P. M. FRANCIS, Acting Superintending Engineer, Central Circle; to Mr. J. H. MARTIN, Assistant Revenue Surveyor, Madras Presidency, Coimbatore.

SIR,

I have the pleasure as you desire it, to send you this testimony that during the time I held the 7th Division, and afterwards the Coimbatore District, I have always found you efficient in your duties and have had reason to be satisfied with your conduct, you have attained an honorable post in the Department, and have abilities to qualify yourself for a still higher one, and it will give me great pleasure to hear of your promotion in due course.

Ever since I joined the District I have been employed principally in Surveying and Estimating, and I had hoped that when I was promoted to my present grade, I would have had either the charge of a Range or the supervision of some work under course of construction, this hope I cherished the more in consideration of being a family, man as such an arrangement would enable me to reside in a centrical portion of my Range when, after the labours of the day, I could attend to the comforts of my family as also to those of my own. My work at present is of such a nature, that I am not certain to which part of the District I may be ordered on duty at any moment, and as I am the only Subordinate in the Department so situated (Overseers and Assistant Overseers having charge of Ranges) I have presumed respectfully to submit this application in order that my services in the Department may be taken into consideration, and a similar indulgence granted to me as enjoyed by the other Subordinates both Juniors to me in the Service, as also in Departmental position.

2-14757-59.

I believe the Noyel Range is about being given away, although at present unofficered, and I had temparary charge of it, when Captain Francis was in the District, and as it may be likely that no other Officer in the District will be appointed to its charge, I have respectfully taken the liberty of addressing you, and if I have done wrong in the step I have adopted, I beg I may be pardoned for the same. Captain Francis, while in the District promised to put me in charge of the Range as soon as some work was got over, and for which my services, he said, would be required, but as that gentleman has left the District, and I am kept on the same kind of duties as I had to perform since 1850, I have ventured to submit this paper for your benevolent consideration.

Any mark of your approbation will be gratefully acknowledged by.

Letter from WILLIAM FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Coimbatore, 1st March 1859, No. 228.

SIR,

* Dated 8th February 1859.

In returning Mr. Martin's letter* to your address, I have the honor to remark that I understood from Captain Francis long ago, that Mr. Martin has been for a long time past discontented with his position in our Department, that his great desire has been, and is, to get Executive charge of a Range in which he could settle down with his family.

This is a very natural desire on his part, and one which probably he has a right to expect should be gratified.

Why Captain Francis did not put Mr. Martin in charge of a Range, I am not certain, except that Mr. Martin was the only Surveyor in the District and somebody should do that duty. He is a very good Surveyor and would be most useful in that capacity, except that one can never be certain of his continuing at work at any place where there is the slightest sickness. Captain Francis has often complained of the inconvenience this has put him to.

† No. 120, dated 22nd February 1859.

I append a copy of a letter† I felt it necessary to write to Mr. Martin only a few days ago, and from it you will see how the matter stands at present.

From any thing I know of Mr. Martin, I think he would make a very fair Executive Officer and if you wish it, I shall be very willing to try him, but then, I should get a Surveyor in his place. If you can send me another Surveyor, I will if you approve of it, put Mr. Martin in the Bhowany Range until Mr. Leggatt returns. This would give him a trial for 3 months.

Vencatarattanam, whom you lately sent me could not take up Mr. Martin's business, as I have placed the Reservoir Plans in his hands, and these will occupy him a considerable time. For as soon as No. 7 is out of hands, I have the Field notes of 3 or 4 more for him to take up, and I am desirous of getting the Plans of these finished before any necessity of the service removes me from this District, as an occasional visit to the ground will be necessary to the completion of the Plans.

Then I want to train him steadily to that sort of work which will make him more useful to you hereafter.

It may be supposed that the Executive Officer and Sub-Overseers could make the small Surveys required in their Ranges: of the former there is I believe, only one who can Survey, and to employ the latter on such work were merely a waste of time and money.

They take a week to get through a days work, and even then the result cannot be depended on, vide the Annimullay Trace; after a considerable expenditure of time, money, and patience, trying to get it done by the best Surveyor amongst the Sub-Overseers, I had in the end to take Mr. Martin from the Reservoir Plans and send him to do it.

There should be a staff of at least 4 good Surveyors in this unhealthy District not merely to make Surveys, &c., but to be ready to relieve the Executive Officers, two of whom are, nearly always, unfit for duty; at the present moment the Caroor and Bhowany Ranges are vacant from the sickness of Messrs. Bush and Leggatt, and I have no competent person to send to them. How advantageous it would be to be able to send two of the Trained Surveyors who, having perhaps Surveyed them, would be well acquainted with the Channels and other important works.

I formerly urged the importance of this arrangement on your attention, but I feel more confidence in doing so now, because by a search through the records of the Collector's Office within the last 10 days, I have learned that this District was at one time in your own charge, and that many of the Projects which have from time to time been brought out as new, were long ago, considered by yourself, the extension of some of the Channels, for instance, and a very important and interesting Project, the conveying of the Head water of the Sirroovani into the Noyel Valley.

You are therefore aware that this District from the numerous facilities that nature presents for improving it, and the trifling advantage that has as yet been taken of them, require a staff of good Surveyors, more than many others do. You know too, how provoking it is to an Engineer to witness these suggestions of nature, and yet feel himself without the means of testing to what extent her offers could be made available.

This is a very long letter, but I thought it best to show that if Mr. Martin be attached to a Range some one must be sent to replace him.

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Letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Mr. J. H. MARTIN, Supervisor, Coimbatore, dated 22nd February 1859, No. 129.

SIR,

For the purpose of preventing misconception at some subsequent period, I think it is right to put on record the substance of the conversation I had with you the other day. It arose out of the following circumstances:

I had left you at Caroor on the 4th Instant, to make a Survey of part of the Ambravutty River and the Channels near Caroor, you were well aware of the great importance of having the Survey completed without delay, as without it I cannot design the works that must be constructed before the next season, when I left you I was in hopes of having the Survey ready in 10 or 15 days and consequently I was much surprised and vexed to find when I came in here on the 10th, that you were in before me having left Caroor on the 6th, your excuse was that feeling ill you got so alarmed about yourself that you ran in immediately, I pointed out to you that the feeling of stern duty which every Public Officer ought to have, would have kept you at your post until your work was finished, unless you were seriously ill, and I reminded you of my own position at that time at Caroor, when although the people were dying of Cholera around me, I did not go away until my business was concluded.

Your reply was that being dyspeptic you were easily alarmed, and could not control your fears when sickness was near you.

I pointed out how often this sort of thing had occurred before that Captain Francis had often complained of the same, that although you were an excellent Surveyor your value was greatly diminished by these repeated interruptions, which reduced to a few months, your whole years work, and that we could not go on thus any longer.

That if you were not able to remain more constantly at work I would request the Chief Engineer to remove you to another District. The upshot was that you would go on for two months more and that if, at the end of that time, you found you could not give more attention to work than you now do, the necessary application for a transfer should be made.

Now, in conclusion, I would remark, that I know you to be a very good Surveyor and one whose services would be very valuable to a District Engineer, but whether from real sickness or the absence of moral courage, which prevents you from controlling the natural fear of disease, your labours are so interrupted that they become of very little absolute value.

This District is, I know, an exceedingly unhealthy one, and except the Neilgherries, there is no part of it to which I could send you, where you should not be exposed to sickness of some kind or other, therefore it is that I think your services would be of more value in some District on the Coast, and if the present state of things continue, I will feel it my duty to make this suggestion to the Chief Engineer, at the same time I repeat that I should be very sorry that you should leave this District, with which you are so well acquainted, and where the services of a good Surveyor are so much wanted.

If therefore this letter will assist you in getting over the alarm to which you are subject, and thus render it unnecessary to propose any change I will be very well pleased indeed.

Statement of the condition of the Department Public Works in the Coimbatore District, as it stood on the 20th February 1859, prepared pursuant to the Order in para. No. 1 of the Extract Minutes of Consultation of Government, under date 25th February 1859, No. 436.

Range.	Names.	Regimental Rank.	Departmental Rank.	How employed.
1	2	3	4	5
	Mr. W. Fraser, C.E.	....	Ag. Dist. Engr.	At Coimbatore, engaged in the general duties of the District.
Collegal........	Mr. H. Webb ...	Late a Private of the 2d. E. L. I., who purchased his discharge.	Asst. Overseer..	In charge of Collegal Range, no other Officer in this Range.
Neilgherry....	G. S. Dobbie......	Captain, 44th Regiment N. I.	Executive Engineer.	Executive Engineer of the Neilgherry Range, and in general charge of the Noyel Range.
	Armoogum...........	....	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 3d Grade.	Superintending Public Buildings in the Neilgherry Range. Besides this man, there are 4 European Overseers, paid out of the Estimate in this Range.
Bhowany......	N. B. Leggett, Esq.,	....	Assistant Executive Engineer.	In charge of Bhowany Range. *Sick at Coimbatore from the 24th December.*
	Abdool Russool...	....	Sub-Overseer, 1st Class, 2d Grade.	In charge of the Hoossanoor Ghaut, Cross Roads, Chuttrums, Bungalows, and Tanks. This man has empotrary charge of a portion of the Range during Mr. Leggett's illness.
	Mr. James Perry.	Private of H. M's. 25th Regiment, now a Pensioner.	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 2d Grade.	In charge of Thadapully and Arkoncotta Channels.
Noyel.........	Mr. J. McDonnaugh.	Serjeant, Sappers and Miners.	Overseer.........	In charge of the Range under the orders of Major Dobbie. *He arrived in the Range on the 1st of February 1859.*
	Vencatapah.........	....	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 3d Grade.	Repairing Roads from Coimbatore to Pulladam Tanks, &c., and emergent repairs in the Pulladam Talook.
	Soobiah............	....	do. do.	Superintending School-house at Cheyoor, and repairs to Roads, Tanks &c., at Avenashy and its neighbourhood.
	Manickam Pillay..	....	do. do.	In charge of the works at Metoopolliem and its vicinity. Now Sick.
Ambravutty...	Mr. J. Bake.......	Corporal, Horse Artillery.	Acting Assistant Supervisor.	In charge of the Ambravutty Range.
	Appasawmy Pillay.	....	SubOverseer, 1st Class, 1st Grade.	Building Valamtavalum Bridge, for which he is Contractor.

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Statement of the condition of the Department Public Works in the Coimbatore District, as it stood on the 20th February 1859, *prepared pursuant to the Order in para. No.* 1 *of the Extract Minutes of Consultation of Government, under date* 25*th February* 1859, *No.* 436.

Range.	Names.	Regimental Rank.	Departmental Rank.	How employed.
1	2	3	4	5
Caroor........	Mr. F. D'Silva...	....	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 1st Grade.	Superintending the reconstruction of Marchinaickenpolliem Bridge.
	Moses............	....	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 2d Grade.	In charge of the Ambravutty Road.
	Narrain Pillay......	....	do. do. 3rd Grade.	In charge of Irrigation works at Polachee.
	T. H. Bush, Esq.,	....	Assistant Executive Engineer.	In charge of Caroor Range. *Arrived at Caroor on the 16th February but had to go into Trichinopoly for Medical aid on the 19th February 1859. His return not yet reported.*
	W. Wright.........	Serjeant, Sappers and Miners.	Assistant Overseer.	In charge of Calingaroyen Channel, but temporarily in charge of the Range.
	Anathorien........	....	Sub-Overseer, 2d Class, 2d Grade.	In charge of Nunjapoogaloor and a portion of the Calingaroyen Channel.
	Poonoosawmy......	....	do. do.	In charge of Poolioor, Punchamadavy, Seneperetty, Soondacoypolliem, Caroor, Chinna Darapoorum, and Coimbally Channels, some Tanks, roads &c.,
	Ramiah............	....	do. do.	In charge of Teeroomanellore, and Poolioor Channels, and also Thanthony Tank.
	Mr. J. H. Martin.	....	Supervisor... ...	Under the orders of the District Engineer employed in Surveys, but on the 20th was Sick at Coimbatore.

District Engineer's Office,
Coimbatore, 4th March
1859.

(Signed) WILLIAM FRASER,
Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore.

No. 126. ORDER THEREON, No. 591; dated 15th March 1859.

With reference to para. 14 of this letter the Governor in Council requests the Chief Engineer to send up without delay any papers in his Office shewing that Captain Dobbie's *recent* removal to the Neilgherries complained of by Mr. Cherry, was with Mr. Fraser's consent.

2. Colonel Faber's attention is also called to para. 3 of the order which is wholly left without reply.

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

No. 7249

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works

Under date the 21st January 1859

Read again the following papers.

T E No. 265 of 10th January 1859 from Special Ex Engineer Jackatalla-

T C No. 190 of 12th Do do from Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore

The former of the above documents reports the arrival of Sub Conductor ~~Palmer at Jack~~atallah and his having been brought on the strength of the Executive Establishment for duty-

2 It is observed that Captain Campbell has acted without authority in thus appropriating the services of a Member of the D.P.W., who had been placed under the orders of the District Engineer of Coimbatore for employment on the Neilgherry Hills-

3 In the present reduced

strength-

21

strength of the permanent professional Establishment it is not within the Chief Engineers power to strengthen Captain Campbells Subordinate Staff, though he fully admits that zealous Officers claims to such reinforcement and the local advantages to the Public service that might be expected from increased European Superintendence at Jackatallah. But it is open to the Special &c Engr. to obtain well qualified Sapper Non Comd. Officers from Head Quarters at Dowlaishweram to act as Overseers charging their salaries to the works in the Hills under the head of Establishment -

4 To equalize the distribution and adjust the derangement created by Overseer and Sub Conductor Palmer's detention at Jackatallah, that Warrant Officer is now permanently posted to the Special &c Range with directions in conformity to the report of the Garrison Surgeon at Trichinopoly for Overseer Palmer to be only employed on the Hills until further orders, and Overseer Mc Donaugh is

hereby

hereby transferred to the Coimbatore District, and posted to the Noyel Range of which Mr. Covenanted Civil Engineer Fraser will be pleased to place him in immediate charge -

5 In respect to the second of the documents above enumerated, it is observed that the Acting District Engineer has wholly misconceived the instructions by which he is guided when assuming as stated in para 2 that an option rests with himself to employ the Executive Engineer either in the Noyel Range alone or in that Range jointly with the Neilgherries - It would appear that on the contrary the previous orders for Captain Dobbie to be continued in charge of the Ootacamund Range are precise, and that Govt. limited the power of the Offg. Chief Engineer to the extending that Officers duties to the Noyel in addition to, but not separate from the Hill Range -

6 Under these circumstances the Chief Engineer is unable to confirm or to approve of Mr. Fraser's arrangements, and he direct their immediate discontinuance whilst he remarks that so far from

the Neilgherries Ex Range being in charge of Sub Conductor Palmer as stated in para 3, that Warrant Officer is reported only two days previously to have been brought on the strength of the Special Ex-Engineers Establishment at Jackatallah -

7 It must be obvious that the general control of the Central Office over the Engineer Establishments in the Provinces becomes not only inoperative, but its arrangements are virtually superseded by the local Officers, when changes and irregularities - such as those now under consideration are found to take place between two functionaries of the same Department who - certainly are officially independent of each other, but yet who being only a few miles apart, might reasonably be expected to maintain such intercommunication as should have prevented the issue of conflicting orders to Mr. Palmer -

8 Finally as so favorable an opportunity has now presented itself

itself for replacing Captain Dobbie in his former position, the Chief Engineer cancels Lieutt Colonel Lawford's instructions of the 6th Ultimo No. 6023 founded upon the orders of Government No. 2952 of the 2nd December 1858, the Ex-Engineer will reassume personal charge of the Neilgherry Range Overseer Mc Donaugh will be brought on the permanent strength of the Coimbatore District and posted to the Coimbatore Sudder Station in view to being placed in charge of the Noyel Range but it will be left to Mr Fraser to decide whether such charge be independent, or subject to the general supervision and official responsibility of Captain Dobbie -

9 As any changes intermediately made or proposed either by Mr Fraser or Captain Campbell cannot affect the reasons by which the Head of the Deptt is guided, the Chief Engineer resolves to issue the subjoined orders -

10 The Chief Engineer directs the following transfer to be immediately made in the Overseer grade of the Upper Subordinate Establishment of the D.P.W.

Sub Conductor Overseer Palmer from the
Coimbatore District to the Special Ex:
ecutive Range at Jackatallah -

Overseer Serjeant J. McDonaugh
from the Jackatallah Special Ex Range to
the sudder station of Coimbatore in the Coim-
batore District -

To join without delay and reports of
arrival to be sent as soon as practicable -

Resolved that Extract of
ara 10 be forwarded to the Civil Auditor and
oll.r of Coimbatore and to Overseers Palmer
nd McDonaugh for information and
hat a Copy of these Proceedings in extenso
o W. Fraser Esqr. Civil Engineer Acting
istrict Engineer of Coimbatore, to
aptain Campbell Special Executive
ngineer of Jackatallah, and to Captain
obbie Acting Ex. Engineer 4th Class for
nformation and guidance -

/ True Extract /
/Signed/ C. E. Faber Colonel
Chief Engineer -

/ True Copy /
Charles A. Orr Captain
Supg. Engineer 4th Circle).

1859 Dept
No
Enclosure in a letter
from the Chief Engr.
To
The Secretary to Govt
D. P. W.
Dated 14th } March/59
Received }
No 597/59 1859/4
Copy of the
Chief Engrs Proceedings
transferring Sub Condr
Overseer Palmer from the
Coimbatore District to the
Special Ex. Range at
Jackatallah & Ovr Ser-
jeant S Mc Donaugh
from the Jackatallah Spl
Ex. Range to the Sudder
Station of Coimbatore in the

Coimbatore District

District Engineers Office
Caroor 28th January 1859.

No

From
W. Fraser Esqre
Acting District Engr
of Coimbatore

To
Colonel C. E. Faber
Chief Engineer D. P. W.
Fort Saint George

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by copy of the minute of your Proceedings under date the 21st Instant. - what took place between Sub Conductor Palmer and me is as follows and I think, that on reading it, you will admit that whoever is to blame for the irregularity of this affair, I am not.

2 Mr Palmer arrived at Coimbatore during my absence at Cuttamungalum. On the day of my return he called on me and having understood from him that he was familiar with the details of house building (having been for 3 years employed on the building of the

Barracks at Secunderabad) I told him I would place him in charge of the building of the new Prison at Ootacamund and the alterations of the Bungalows at Coonoor and Kulhutty – on this subject we had a long conversation, and we arranged to meet the following morning at 11 O'Clock, when I would have the Plans before me, that we might discuss their details – I never saw Mr Palmer since. I waited for him for two hours, then sent to enquire about him and to my surprise found that he had left for the Neilgherries and although I twice wrote to him since I never knew, until I received the Minutes of your Proceedings this evening, what had become of him.

3 I am sure I have only to lay these facts before you to have Mr Palmer reprimanded, as his very improper conduct in this case – deserves.

4 With regard to your remarks in para 7 to the effect that there should be between Captain Campbell and me such intercom-

-munication

communication as would have prevented him from acting so irregularly as he did in appropriating to himself without authority the services of Mr Palmer, I have only to remark, that I certainly did not at that time, conceive it necessary to write to Captain Campbell to say, that I had given Mr Palmer certain instructions about certain duties he was to perform at Ootacamund, and to request that he, Captain Campbell, would be good enough not to kidnap him on the way.

5 What led to this misappropriation of Mr Palmer is a matter which I think it is due to me as well as to the dignity of your own position as head of the Department to enquire into.

6 It is hard to conceive that Captain Campbell was ignorant of the fact that Mr Palmer's services had been placed at my disposal yet it is harder to believe that, being aware of it, he would act as he did if he were conscious of it; he must have felt that any act

of his would be supported, as, indeed, this one seems to be; and if he were not Mr Palmer must have deceived him, either by misrepresentations, or a culpable withholding from Captain Campbell's knowledge of the instructions he had received a copy of which I am aware, he had in his possession.

7 Mr Palmer cannot plead ignorance and say he was not aware that there was any difference between those Barrack works and those of the District generally - because I pointed out to him their relative position - and how it was likely their proximity would render it difficult for him to procure workmen for the Queen &c - These facts shew that there has been improper conduct somewhere, and I earnestly request that you will direct the circumstances to be enquired into.

8 With regard to the transfer of the Nagel range alone to Major Dobbie and of the Neilgherry range to Mr Palmer I acted as I conceived best for the District and, as I understood, in accordance with the spirit of the instructions sent to me.

The

9 The minutes of Government did not seem to me to be so precise as you say it was - It seemed more to suggest a certain course than to order it to be pursued - neither did the resolution of the Chief Engineer when transmitting this minute, convey any precise instructions. Under these circumstances and not wishing to act in any matter in which Major Dobbie was concerned without positive orders, I wrote to the Chief Engineer for such precise instructions - His reply was that Major Dobbie was placed at my disposal for employment in the Nagel Range - Had there been any doubt as to which of the ranges it was intended to employ him in I would not have disturbed his possession of the Neilgherries but it was clear that under any circumstances he was intended for the Nagel range and I think the correspondence referred to, authorized me to employ him in that one alone or in both as I deemed best - my reasons for giving him the Nagel Range alone were.

1st The utter impossibility of

his performing the duties of both ranges.

2d Major Dabbie's own wish to have charge of the Nagel range alone for I referred the question to himself and he admitted that he could not do the duties of both with satisfaction to either himself or me.

3d The temporary transfer of Mr Palmer to the Neilgherries which enabled me to place that range in the charge of one who was supposed to be competent to take it.

10 Mr Palmer's acquaintance with house building relieved me from a difficulty as I had no one available to whose practical knowledge I could trust the building of the Prison at Ootacamund. Your late order, transferring him to the Neilgherry Barracks, which order I am sure you would not have made, had you known the facts of the case places me in the same difficulty again.

11 Mr Palmer's services would just be as valuable if devoted to the prison, as they would be

be if employed on the Barracks with this difference in favor of employing him in the former, that Captain Campbell is at liberty to form his own Establishment and pay for it out of his very liberal Estimates, whilst those for the Prison will not afford the employment of skilled labour especially as we must purchase in a market created by the Barrack works. I therefore ask you to order Mr Palmer to proceed to Ootacamund and, under Major Dabbie, to take charge of the Prison works as he was originally directed.

12 Whether Mr MacDonnough should act under the general supervision of Major Dabbie will entirely depend on whether Mr MacDonnough is qualified to hold charge of a range in which there are many important Irrigation works now in a precarious condition. I cannot therefore give any opinion on this point, not knowing what sort of person Mr MacDonnough is I can only

infer from para 3 of the Minutes of your Proceedings that if his services were of much value Captain Campbell would not be deprived of them, and that he would not consent to the deprivation.

13 In conclusion and with reference to para 7 of the Minutes of your Proceedings, I beg leave to remark that if the Central Office have been inconvenienced by any conflicting orders given to Mr Palmer the fault is not mine.

14 Mr Palmer was placed under my orders – I gave him instructions – he knowingly disobeyed them and hence, coupled with Captain Campbell's unauthorized interference arose all this trouble.

15 I do not see that this circumstance has made the control of the Central Office over the Engineers Establishment in the Provinces" imperative – what it may be in other Districts I do not know, but in this, so far as my acquaintance with it extends, the control of the Central Office has been decidedly imperative, and that with regard to matters of

of detail which might be safely left to the discretion of any one who is competent to take charge of a District at all – I do not mean to imply that the District Engineers should be allowed to act independently of the Central Office but that great inconvenience arises from the internal arrangements of a District being settled in the Central Office without any reference whatever to the Engineer in Charge – If, for instance, you had had the facts of this case before you, instead of issuing an order, the effect of which will be to encourage disobedience, I am satisfied you would have given a smart reprimand to both Captain Campbell and Mr Palmer and ordered the latter to go and do as he had been directed. Instead of this I find that whilst I am here, in one corner of the District busy all day upon the works, attending to details that should be looked after by an Executive Officer, my whole mind fully occupied in devising expedients to neutralize the effects of the late floods, and thus prevent a ruinous loſs of Revenue whilst thus occupied, I must consider and answer a minute by which I find that the arrangements just made for the management of another part of the District are utterly upset (arrangements, the completion of which enabled me to come here) and a new hand placed in Charge of Irrigation Works, at a season when local knowledge and the most careful management are required to prevent a loſs of Revenue — All the inconvenience and annoyance will, I respectfully urge, arise from the Central Office deciding on the internal arrangements of a District without reference to the Engineer — Trusting that you will believe what is the fact, that these remarks on that portion of your minute are written only because I feel that the efficiency and succeſs of a District Engineer are greatly diminished by this absence of reference to him on matters of detail.

I have &c.
(Signed) W. Fraser
Acting Distr. Engr.

(True Copy)

Arch. A. Orr Captain
Sup. Engr. in Ch. Sn. Circle

Endorsement to letter from
the Acting Engineer
To
The Secretary to Govt.
P.W.D.

No 6759
Dated 15th
Received 5th March/59

No 6874

Copy of a letter
from the Ag. Dist. Engr
Coimbatore relative to
the subject of Mr
Palmer's transfer to
[illegible] and the
Removal of [illegible] to the
charge of [illegible] &c—

No 7120

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works

Under date the 9th February 1859

Read letter without number from the Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore, dated Caroor 28th January 1859

A. E. No 1 from Mr Fraser C.E. Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore

The above letter is at once a reply to and a protest, not less earnest than respectful and becoming against the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer of the 21st Ultimo —

2 Those Proceedings had their origin in a most unexpected report from the Special Executive Engineer at Jackatalleh, that Conductor Palmer Overseer in the D.P.W. who was placed by the Officiating Chief Engineer under the orders of the District Engineer of Coimbatore for employment on the Neilgherry Hills in conformity with the recommendation of the Garrison Surgeon at Trichinopoly, had been brought by him Captain Campbell on the strength of the Jackatalleh Establishment.—

3 If the operations at the latter place had remained on their previous footing of dependency on the District Engineer, such an allocation of Mr Palmer's services would have been altogether unobjectionable. But Captain Campbell's employment having been made exceptional and special, all connexion with the District has ceased and

and the Executive Engineer within his own Range possesses powers similar to those of the District Engineer himself —

4 It was not for the Chief Engineer albeit no hasty action was taken in the matter to even conjecture that so important a transfer as that of a Warrant Officer of the Upper Subordinate Establishment from one District to another could take place without the consent or even knowledge of the one Officer, or without any improper intentions of the other thus acting without due, or as it appears without any authority whatever. —

5. It has now been made unmistakeably clear that the District Engineer of Coimbatore so far from being liable to the portion of blame which the Head of the Central Office could not but impute to the ostensible prime mover in the matter, has himself great ground of reasonable complaint against the Special Executive Engineer, and much heavier against the Conductor himself.

6 The Chief Engineer has the greatest satisfaction in not only relieving Mr Fraser from every particle of censure whether direct or indirect respecting the transfer of Conductor Palmer to Jackatallah, but in taking thus the earliest opportunity of expressing his sincere regret at having unavoidably taken so mistaken a view of what had occurred —

7 It is impossible under the present explanation from Mr Fraser to acquit the Special Executive Engineer of

having

having been too precipitate in accepting the verbal assurances of Conductor Palmer that he had been ordered to Jackatallah when no Official intimation had been received from either the District or the Central Office to corroborate the Statement. But with that indiscretion accepted, Captain Campbell is no less free from blame than the District Engineer himself, and it is on Conductor Palmer as the sole culprit, that the whole weight of the heavy displeasure of the Head of the D.P.W. must now fall. Captain Campbell will therefore be pleased to investigate the case, and ascertain how far the Overseer may have been actuated by a desire to wilfully deceive when asserting that he was to be employed at Jackatallah for it is apparent from Para 6 of Mr Fraser's present letter (Copy to be sent to Captain Campbell) that Mr Palmer had been duly taught the difference between employment at Ootacamund and at Jackatallah —

8 Guided by the result of a searching inquiry into a matter which has caused so much trouble and correspondence, the Special Executive Engineer will be so good as report what amount of actual punishment will be suitable for the offence —

7. It is unnecessary at this late period when the arrangements directed in Proceedings of the 21st ultimo have been carried into effect and cannot therefore be deranged without further injury to the public service to go with similar care and equal detail into other points of the District Engineer's letter, but the Chief Engineer

does himself the honor to call Mr Fraser's attention to the objectionable nature of such an imputation on the impartiality of the Contract Office as is conveyed by the expression of his "Captain Campbell" were conscious of it, "he must have felt that any act of his would be supported, "as, indeed this one seems to be."

10 In respect to the District Engineer having been duly empowered to remove Captain Dobbie from the Neilgherry to the Royal Range, the mere belief that Mr Fraser did possess such authority and that he used it for the benefit of the public service is quite satisfactory to the Chief Engineer who however differs from the District Engineer greatly in thinking that an Overseer like Conductor Palmer whose professional antecedents refer to Hyderabad and are only known practically to Colonel Henderson C.B. Chief Engineer not in India should preferentially to a Commissioned Officer be entrusted with the preliminary arrangements for so large a work as the intended new Jail at Ootacamund —

11 To conclude, whilst what has occurred there is much affording cause for regret, there is on the ther hand considerable ground for satisfaction in the altered and more effective arrangements that have esulted, Conductor Palmer available only for special employment a temperate climate has liberated an Overseer of tried orth, recognized ability, of considerable experience, and

of

of the highest character for general duties in Coimbatore, and with the services of Assistant Engineer Bush most intimately acquainted with practical Irrigation and the management of all hydraulic Works (who will probably have already reached Coonoor) the Chief Engineer cannot but congratulate Mr Fraser on the greatly improved constitution and strength of the subordinate professional staff of the Coimbatore District. —

Ordered that Copies of these Proceedings be sent to the District Engineer of Coimbatore and to the Special Executive Engineer with Copy of Mr Fraser's despatch of the 28th Ultimo, off Jackatallah for their respective information and guidance —

A True Extract

(Signed) W. J. Birdwood Major
Offg Supdg Engr

True Copy

Captain
Supg Engr in charge Southern Circle

1859 Department

No

Enclosure in a letter

From The Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government D.P.W.

Dated 14th } March 1859
Received }

No 8574

P.W. 597/59

Relieves the District Engineer Coimbatore from all Censure respecting the transfer of Conductor Palmer to Jackatallah and considers Capt. Campbell to blame for being too precipitate in accepting the assurances of Conductor Palmer that he had been ordered to Jackatallah & conveying heavy displeasure at the conduct of the Conductor, calls for information as to the motives which he had in making the assurance and the amount of punishment he deserves for his conduct.

45

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
14th March 1859

No 8574.

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Public

Enclosures 11 [illegible]
30 of Ultimo [illegible]

Sir,

I have been duly honored by the orders of Government Nos 436, and 578 respectively of the 25th Ultimo, and the 8th Current.

2. The former was delivered in the Central Office on the 28th February, and as Lieut Colonel Sanford had with, I think, only one exception, the practical management and the initiation of all arrangements for the District of Coimbatore during 1858, I having been absent for the greater part of that period, first on duty with His Lordship the Governor, in March and April, then on privilege leave for nearly all June and on Medical Certificate from 1st July to 31st December, I marked the order "immediate" and requested the Superintending Engineer to undertake the

the Report called for.

3. But that promptitude of disposal evidently expected and which I thus sought to obtain was prevented by the Superintending Engineer's decision, doubtless a proper one so far as it went, to call on the District Engineer of Coimbatore for a Return of the District departmental strength and composition as it actually stood on the 26th Ultimo.

4. Mr Fraser's Return has been received this day, and I hasten to supply such information as I am, in Lieut. Colonel Lawford's absence, led to conjecture may be required after his own compliance with the two requisitions from the Chief Secretary to Government of the 30th September and 5th October 1858.

5. I must state in the first instance that my despatch 8122 of 23rd Ultimo covering a long and earnest letter from the Collector of Coimbatore dated 9th February No 29 would have been couched in very different terms indeed had I not believed the great errors

into

into which Mr Cherry had been betrayed were already sufficiently refuted by the very lucid summary set forth in Ex: M. Cons: No 2353 of 9th November 1858, as to the actual occurrences of that year in respect to Captain Morgan's and Captain Dobbie's several employments in the Neilgherry Hills and on the Royal Range of Coimbatore.

6. It is only this day that I make the unexpected discovery of no disposal having been made in the Central Office of the 9th November No 2353. I had mentally assumed that a copy of that Ex: Min. Cons. would have been forwarded as usual for the information of the Collector and District Engineer, and as it fully explains a great deal of what Mr Cherry mistakenly imputes to the unwise, if not vexatious, interference of the Central Office, I deemed it needless to restate what is so clearly narrated in the Government paper alluded to.

7. Why the Superintending Engineer who wrote No 8122 of 23rd Ultimo passes the Collector's allegations, sub silentio, whilst knowing Mr Cherry's

grievance

ignorance of the Review by Government of the 9th November is however altogether unaccountable, and the omission to Refute what is unfounded on fact besides creating unnecessary References and Correspondence, can scarcely have failed to awaken opinions very unfavorable to the Central Office.—

8 Availing myself of the permission of Government to send up original Records, I have now the honor to forward out of a large file the following papers

No. 251, 23rd April from Superintending Engineer Southern Circle in my absence / to District Engineer Captain Francis.—

No. 263, 14th May from do. do. do.

No. — of 21st May from Acting District Engineer to Chief Engineer.—

No. 667, 29th May from Chief Engineer to Acting District Engineer.—

9. Applying these to Mr Cherry's letter of the 9th Ultimo No. 29 it will be observed that so far from the Central Office leaving the Noyel Range unprovided for, the most strenuous endeavours were made to place that Range under Captain Morgan's care, that Mr

Mr Fraser emphatically protested against his Removal, and that yielding to his Remonstrances, Mr Fraser in the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of 29th May, the full of which is clearly set forth by Government in 2353 of 9th November 1858 was authorized to retain Captain Morgan in the Hills, and to use that very discretion which, the Collector states, the District Engineer to be injuriously deprived of.—

10 I have always failed to understand why Captain Morgan was after the Receipt of those Proceedings sent to Coimbatore, but the Result of an appeal from the Special Executive Engineer of Pochatalla was that the Government directed that Officer to Resume Charge of the Annamullay forests, and the very efficient workshops at Goondulpett

11. In Para 4 Mr Cherry observes that during the 9 months he has been there, "gentlemen have been apparently appointed just to look at the Noyel Range, and "then go away in most of the "instances to the Hills."

11 The facts appear to stand thus, early in 1858 the District Engineer of Coimbatore relinquished

his intention to apply for leave on private affairs which as requiring a transfer of his Office into other hands, Major Lawford objected to in the then and still reduced strength of the Department, and proposed that Captain Francis should take up his abode at Jackatalla, whereby his own presence and assistance might so far liberate Captain Morgan as to enable that Officer to temporarily charge himself with the Executive duties of Range No 2 and so leave the permanent incumbent of that Range, Captain Dobbie appointed vice Major Stewart available for Range No 4 or the Royal Range.

12 I considered this arrangement an objectionable one at the time and unfair to Captain Dobbie, whose health from supposed disease of the heart was unfit for exposure to departmental duties in the plains, though apparently equal to very severe horse exercise and much locomotion in a Hill Climate. But such was the particular wish of the Superintending Engineer, and I was assured it was the smaller of two evils one of which was inevitable.

Since

13. Since the Royal Range was held on an avowedly temporary tenure till May, when being already on leave which his medical advisers had considered necessary, he Captn Dobbie was reinstated in his old appointment. The Royal Range was then held by Captain Morgan until November last and thus the similitude between the Collector's picture and the matter represented is by no means particularly close.

14 Para 8 gives an altogether erroneous statement of facts; so little was Captain Dobbie's removal from Coimbatore opposed to his own wish that both before July last as to the date of his writing and after his resuming charge of Range No 2. I have his own assurances to the contrary of the [illegible] Statement which Mr Fraser's indiscreet intention of confiding the Neilgherry Range to Mr Palmer with the preparations for the new jail is plainly shown by the present circumstances of that Overseer who has been declared unfit for any duty whatever for the next six months even in so congenial a climate as that of Jackatalla.

15. Within a very few days

of the Collector's letter being despatched the peculiar circumstances which had led to the utter miscarriage of Mr Fraser's arrangements for the Neilgherry Range must have been made known to that gentleman, and have shewn him that the Central Office had no option in the rectification of Mr Fraser's plans.

16. The detailed circumstances of Sub Conductor Palmer being placed on the strength of the Jackatalla Department whilst en route to take charge of the Neilgherry Range under Mr Fraser's orders are set forth in the accompanying two sets of Proceedings, and of Mr Fraser's reply to the first / thus disposing of Para 1 of the Requisition of the Engr M. Comm No 518 dated 8 instant.

17. I entirely concur in all that Mr Cherry says as to the evils alike of frequent change and interference, but I have to disclaim any such but what were unavoidable and it does not seem to have occurred to the Collector that the Head of the D.P.W. has means, which no District Engineer can possess, of knowing the antecedents of employés like Sub Conductor Palmer, who transferred to

to Coimbatore on the Medical Recommendation of the Garrison Surgeon of Trichinopoly, I had good Reasons for making me aware that Sub Conductor Palmer was perhaps the last man in the Department to be entrusted with any independent charge much less one so important as that of the Neilgherry Range.—

18. I do not know who the D.P.W. officers on duty on the Hills are, alluded to by Mr Cherry in para

19. The Special Engr Range has been for solely military purposes, and the desire to secure the personal interests and affirm the claims of Captain Campbell which led to the Jackatalla Buildings being incorporated in the General D.P.W. for Revenue duties, instead of being maintained separate like the Executive Engineer in charge of Military Buildings at Bangalore, I admit to have been a great oversight the magnitude of which was only fully manifested in the [illegible] of [illegible] being carried into effect.— It seems to me highly desirable and not now too late to separate Jackatalla and charge its superintendence to [illegible]

Estimate

Estimates— otherwise I know of no P.W. Officer on the Hills but the Executive Engineer of the 2d Range, who has the Cantonment, Military, Civil and Ecclesiastical Buildings at Ootacamund and Coonoor to attend to, as well as all the Roads to the extent the insufficient maintenance allowance will admit.—

19. No one can regret more than I do the evils Mr. Cherry so fully and properly sets forth, but they are not remediable by the Central Office whose functions have been a succession of make shifts to palliate the injurious effects of insufficient numerical strength and the frequent loss of health which seems to be regarded as a personal fault of the invalids.

20 Lieut Colonel Lawford took the earliest measures for so unlooked for a misfortune as the surrender of so competent an officer and one so full of local experience as Sub Engineer Reid to the Hyderabad Assigned Districts, and the prolonged detention of his successor in North Arcot Asst. and Executive Engineer Bush and his

subsequent

subsequent illness are surely not attributable, though they are attributed to the late Officiating Chief Engineer.

21 I must respectfully solicit that some reasonable allowance should be made for the departmental liability, now apparently overlooked, of the P.W., to supply its select and most efficient members to nearly all other branches of the public ~~works~~ service, such requisitions being alike unexpected, frequent and sudden.— Practical best efficiency and local experience seem to me inseparable, when the best professional agents of their class are carefully selected by the Chief Engineers of Hyderabad and Mysore, by the Supdt. Electric telegraphs, by the Revenue Surveyor General, and by the Superintendent Mofussil Police. Much of Mr. Cherry's strongest writing need have had no place, had Sub Engineer Reid been left undisturbed in the Cavery Range.—

22 Having now closed my remarks on the Collector's letter which he would have seen to be unnecessary had the information usually disseminated of the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer

and of the Government not been withheld from him, I beg to express my deep concern that the receipt of the information now given has been considered an essential preliminary to the authorization of Funds for repairs shown to be indispensable for the conservation of existing Revenue, and still more for the well doing of the landholders and non-interruption of existing traffic

23. Mr Fraser has just sent two letters one 228 of 1st March last to my own address and giving cover to one No. 129 to Supervisor Martin dated 22d February which it seems advisable to submit for your information in original with the District Engineer's Return of the Department in the Coimbatore District for 20th February last.—

24 The state of occupation and very laborious they are, of the Executive Engineers of the 2d Range as called for in Para 2 of G. O. Cur No. 436 of 25th Ultimo, have been already given, and in respect to the list called for in Para 3 of all alterations

made

made in 1857 and 1858 in Coimbatore, I am under the impression that they have been duly placed every month before Government, but Lieut Colonel Sanford having unfortunately not given directions for the compilation of such a list, and as some short time will be required for its preparation, I beg you to accept the present return to your requisitions of 25th Ult. and 8th Instant allowing me a few days for completing the list in question.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obt Servt
A. Ed. Fuller Colonel
Chief Engr

Fort St George
14th March 1859

To
The Secretary to
Government P.W.D.

No. 591   P. W. D.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 15th March 1859.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 14th March 59 No 8574)

With reference to para 14 of this letter the Governor in Council requests the Chief Engineer to send up without delay any papers in his office shewing that Captain Lobbie's recent removal to the Neilgherries complained of by Mr Cherry was with Mr Fraser's consent.

2. Colonel Haber

Cons 8th March 59 — No 85
— 25th Feby /59 — 92-93
— 9th Novr /58 — 34-36.

P. W. 1859 Cl. [illegible]
Cons 15th March 59 No. 591
The Chief Engineer
To The Secy. to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 14th } March 1859
Recd 14 }

No 8574

Enclos. [illegible] 8 Enc.

Sd E No. 591 - 15th March 1859.

Forwards the information required by G.O. in Cons. Nos 434 & 518 of 25th Feb. & 8th March — respecting the Coimbatore District and its appointments & changes during 1857 & 1858.

No 125.

attention is also
called to para 3 of
the order which is
wholly left without
reply.

10 Copies to the Chief Engr.
Dispd 15

Public Works 1859 Deptt.
Cons 15th March

No 591.

Extract Mins of Cons:
Dd 15th March 59.

~~From~~ Chief Engr No of 16th March 59
No 619 in Cons.
~~From~~ Chief Engr No of 17 March 59
No 632 in Cons
Requesting the Chief Engineer to send up any papers in his Office shewing that Captn Dobbie's recent removal to the Neilgherries was with Mr [illegible] consent

No 125 & 126

Pub: Works 1859 Deptt.

Cons: 16th March

No. 591

Extract Mins of Cons:
Dated 15 March/59

From the Chief Engr 16th March/59
C No. 619 in Cons 1st Apl
From Do 17th March/59 C No 632 in
Cons 1st April p730

Requesting the Chief Engineer to send up any papers in his Office showing that Captn. Dobbie's recent removal to the Neilgherries was with Mr Frasers consent.

No. 125 & 126