

(1) Number of pages 30

(2) Date of repair 2.5.38

(3) Initials of the Referencer f

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT. *20/2/38*

G.O. No.	<u>824</u>	Press
		Mis.
<u>2022</u>		
Dated	<u>7/4/38</u>	18 5/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

Read the following papers.

No. 20. From Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 23rd March 1859, No. 8918.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith copy of a despatch No. 232, of the 11th Instant, from the District Engineer of Coimbatore, explanatory of the delay that unfortunately took place in submitting detailed accounts of the injuries which the Public Works of his charge sustained during the last monsoon.

2. I am of opinion that however unsatisfactory the state of affairs may be which prevented an earlier preparation of Estimates for repairs; yet that Mr. Fraser was quite justified by that state in applying for funds in aggregate, when unable to specify the amounts in detail.

3. The lamentable consequences of Mr. Reid's summary removal might have been at least in part averted, but for the unexpected detention of Mr. Bush, and by the strange proceedings of that gentleman since he did join the Caroor Executive Range.

4. So irregular, not to say mysterious a disappearance was only to be excused by severe or sudden illness, and in default of other sources of information, I applied for the assistance of the District Engineer of Trichinopoly to trace out Mr. Bush, and report his state, Captain Oakes's reply* is sent herewith for the information of Government, and the malady alleged to have caused Mr. Bush's sudden departure from his station, "dyspepsia," is scarcely of a kind to warrant the extreme measure of leaving his Range without the permission of the District Engineer. Moreover, it would seem that up to the 11th Instant, Mr. Fraser had not heard of Mr. Bush's return to duty; but the District Engineer will be called upon to obtain the fullest possible information, with dates of departure and return for submission to the Central Office, and early report to Government.

Letter from Captain R. F. OAKES, District Engineer; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Trichinopoly, 10th March 1859, No. 1766.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from your Proceedings No. 8336, dated 4th March, I have the honor to inform you that from an entry in the Traveller's Bungalow Book, it appears that Mr. Bush arrived at the Traveller's Bungalow at 2 A. M. and left it at 5 P. M. on the 8th Ultimo.

2. Doctor Dorward has informed me, that about a fortnight ago a Mr. Bush called upon him, and said, that he came into Trichinopoly expressly to consult Doctor Dorward as there was no Medical man at Caroor.

3. Mr. Bush complained of Dyspepsia and Doctor Darward prescribed for him.

4. Whether Mr. Bush made any stay in Trichinopoly, or where he put up on his return from Caroor, I have not been able to ascertain.

Letter from W. FRASER, Esq., Acting District Engineer of Coimbatore; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Ootacamund, 11th March 1859, No. 232.

SIR,

In compliance with the orders of Government under date 8th February last No. 334, I have the honor to make the following explanation.

2. The application sent in by me for a sum of 10,000 Rupees was admittedly unsatisfactory. It was so to myself, and I sent it in simply because I could not defer it for a day longer. I had delayed it to the latest moment in hopes of having the detailed statement ready in time, but seeing that I could not, I sent in that application for 10,000 Rupees, knowing that you would believe there was absolute necessity for the demand, or I would not make it.

3

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

3. This application was made on the 21st January, and the detailed statement was sent to the Collector for his approval on the 24th, with a request that he would sign and forward it direct to you, so as to avoid delay. From my previous conversation with the Collector, I considered there would be no delay in his forwarding the statement, but on my return to Head Quarters on the 10th February, I found it was still in his Office. It was, I believe, forwarded on the 14th or 15th.

4. Before sending it up the Collector considered it necessary to submit it for examination to the Sheristadar, who, at the time it was forwarded by me, was engaged on other important duty.

5. In reply to para. 2, of the Government Minute, I have to state that I cannot attach blame to the Executive Officers for the delay in forwarding the necessary information because, in the three most important Ranges, Caroor, Bowany and the Noyel, there were no Executive Officers, to blame.

6. *In the Caroor Range, there was no Executive Officer.*

In the Noyel Range, Do. Do.

In the Bowany Range, Do. as Mr. Leggatt was in bed, sick.

7. Caroor Range was in temporary charge of Mr. Assistant Overseer Wright, a Serjeant of Sappers. Noyel Range was in charge of the Sub-Overseers, all Natives; under my own immediate superintendence, and the Bowany Range was in temporary charge of Abdool Russool, a Sub-Overseer—now, these men, though intelligent enough in their own way, were, with one exception, unable to comprehend what was wanted, namely, an Estimate of the cost for repairing the damage committed by the late unusual floods. Their Estimates were returned more than once, as I saw that they had included the repairs of every work that required repairs, whether from the effects of those floods or from long neglect, or any other cause, after being delayed thus from day to day and week to week I had, in the end, to call them all in to the District Office, take up their several statements, and go through them in detail myself, even then it was only by a species of cross examination, I could get the Estimates purged of items which, according to the principle I had started with, should not be included. This was the only way I could get at the facts, and I believe I have rather under than overstated the damage done.

8. *Had Mr. Bush been then in Caroor or had Mr. Reid been prevented leaving for Hyderabad until his successor had arrived, as I requested, and had Mr. Leggatt been able to attend to his field duties, and had there been an Executive Officer in the Noyel Range, the information would have been sent up in proper time; but under the circumstance I could not furnish it sooner.*

9. I do not blame the Sub-Overseer, on whom I had to reply for this information, they did, I believe, their best to meet my wishes, but with one exception, they were utterly unfit for the position in which they were temporarily placed.

10. It is an ungracious task to be obliged to write this, but truth compels me to state that *the Executive Department in this District is very deficient in the general intelligence and practical skill which ought to be brought to bear on the construction and management of Public Works.*

11. Perhaps I feel this more than many others should, as I have been accustomed to have my instructions carried out by trained Engineers and Overseers, but the experience I have had in the care of this District for the last 9 months has confirmed the opinion I formed, and put forward long ago, that the employment of a considerable number of *skilled and practical Overseers*, under the orders of a few competent Engineers, would not only save a world of trouble to Government, and the Central Office, but would save thousands of Rupees at present wasted in cheating and in misdirected labour.

12. At the present time this District is sadly deficient in Executive arrangements.

13. *Mr. Bush was only two or three days at Caroor when he had to run in to Trichinopoly sick, and he has not yet reported his return the Range is consequently still in charge of Mr.*

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

Wright now, with Mr. Wright's conduct since he took charge of the Range, I have no fault to find, I have examined all he has done, and am well pleased with his intelligence, activity, and zeal, but he has not skill enough to cope with the condition into which the late floods have thrown the Irrigation works of the Range, besides, he is very ill himself, and must get sick leave as soon as as he is relieved.

14. Mr. Leggatt is still sick at Coimbatore and his Range, (the Bowany) is still in the care of Abdool Russool, a very willing decent old man, but utterly unfit for the duty now imposed upon him, but I have no better qualified person now available to place in charge.

15. Under these circumstances, it is quite impossible that the business of the District can be properly attended to: I will not say what many in my position would, that I will not be responsible for the results, &c., I know the responsibility that attaches to me, and I do not shrink from it, but I trust you will take the circumstance of the District into consideration. *The class of men who are now in the responsible position of Executive Officers.* The unhealthiness of the District which render it necessary that we should have Extra hands ready to take up the place of those who are sick, and the great age and imperfect construction of the various Irrigation Works which are consequently troublesome to manage. I trust you will consider these facts, and give me the assistance so much needed.

No. 21. Official Memorandum from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 5th April 1859, No. 9332.

In reply to the Secretary's Memo. of yesterday's date, the Chief Engineer has the honor to state that Lieutenant Colonel Lawford addressed a letter to the District Engineer of the Coimbatore District demanding on what date Mr. Reid would "be prepared to give over charge of his duties in the Coimbatore District "and leave for Hyderabad;" that the District Engineer in his letter No. 154, dated 28th Idem, reported as follows:

"Mr. Reid, Sub-Engineer, delivered over charge of the Caroor Range on the 20th Instant to Assistant Overseer Wright," adding "as some of the Irrigation Works of the Range are in a very precarious state, I was desirous that Mr. Reid should not leave until his successor had arrived, but as Mr. Reid is not well, and the Doctor certified that he should go to the Neilgherries for a while, I thought it was hardly worth while to detain him."

Mr. Fraser's letter in extenso was communicated to Government with Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford's letter of the 5th November last, No. 5125.

The foregoing is all that appears on the Record of the Central Office, bearing on Mr. Reid's departure from Coimbatore, or on the causes which led to his doing so before the arrival of his successor, as clearly shewn in Mr. Fraser's letter.

No. 22. ORDER THEREON, No. 824; dated 7th April 1859.

The Governor in Council fully agrees with the Chief Engineer that no blame can attach to the District Engineer of Coimbatore in the matter to which that letter relates. It is evident that Mr. Fraser did all that was in his power with the very limited means at his command.

2. The state of the Executive Department in the Coimbatore District as represented in the District Engineer's letter is such as to call for immediate amendment. In an order of the 28th Ultimo, No. 730, the Government have placed Major Dobbie at the District Engineer's disposal; and have also given him, in common with other District Engineers, full control over all his Subordinates except those entrusted with special duties by order of Government. Mr. Fraser will immediately act on this order. He will also be requested through the Chief Engineer to report in what manner the services of all the Members of the Department now employed on the Neilgherries would in his opinion be most beneficially distributed, with reference to the general wants of all parts of the District.

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 12th April 1859.

3. Captain Campbell's employment at Jackatalla will not be interfered with; but Mr. Fraser will be at liberty to propose any other modifications of the arrangements now subsisting under orders from Government. In submitting Mr. Fraser's report the Chief Engineer will give his own opinion on that gentleman's proposals.

4. The Governor in Council expect to receive through the Chief Engineer an early explanation from Mr. Bush of his reasons for suddenly quitting, without leave, the District which had recently been entrusted to his charge, together with the opinion of the Chief Engineer of the sufficiency or otherwise of the reasons urged by Mr. Bush in his justification.

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

15
17/4/66
From
Captains R. F. Dukes
District Engineer

To
The Chief Engineer
D. F. W.

Sir,
With reference to Extract
from your Proceedings No 8336 dated 4th March,
I have the honor to inform you that from an entry
in the Travellers Bungalow Book it appears that
Mr Bush arrived at the Travellers Bungalow at
2 P.M. and left it at 8 P.M. on the 8th
Ultimo.

2 Doctor Darward has informed
me, that about a fortnight ago a Mr Bush
called upon him, and said, that he came into
Trichinopoly expressly to consult Doctor Darward
as there was no Medical man at Carort.

3 Mr Bush complained of Dys-
pepsia and Doctor Darward prescribed for him.

4 Whether Mr Bush made any
stay in Trichinopoly, or where he put up on his
return from Carort, I have not been able
to.

to ascertain.

3rd Eng^r Office
Trichinopoly
10th March 1859

I have the honor to be
p^lydg^d O. F. Parker Esq^r
District Engineer

10th March 1859

W. H. Munn Major
Super Engineer in Field

N^o 232.

District Engineer's Office 9.
Coimbatore 11th March 1859.

From W. Fraser Esquire
Acting District Engineer
of Coimbatore

To Colonel C. E. Fane
Chief Engineer D. F. W.
Fort Saint George.

Sir,
In compliance with the orders of Government
under date 8th February last. N^o 334, I have the honor
to make the following explanation.

2 The application sent in by me for
a sum of 10,000 Rupees was admitted unsatisfactory.
It was so to myself, and I sent it in simply because
I could not defer it for a day longer. I had de-
layed it to the latest moment in hopes of having
the detailed statement ready in time - but seeing
that I could not, I sent in that application
for 10,000 Rupees knowing that you would be-
lieve there was absolute necessity for the demand
or I would not make it:-

3 This application was made on the
21st January; and the detailed statement was
sent

1859 Coimbatore
J.F.

Enclosed in a letter from
the Chief Engineer
to the Acting District
Engineer.

W. Fraser Esq
Coimbatore
11th March 1859.

J.F.

Copied & letter from
the District Engineer of
Coimbatore, regarding regu-
lating the Coimbatore

sent to the Collector for his approval on the 24th with request that he would sign and forward it direct to you, so as to avoid delay. From my previous conversations with the Collector I considered there would be no delay in his forwarding the statement - but on my return to Head Quarters on the 10th February I found it was still in his Office. - I was, I believe, forwarded on the 11th or 15th -

4 Before sending it up the Collector considered it necessary to submit it for examination to the Sheristadar, who, at the time it was forwarded by me, was engaged on other important duty:-

5 In reply to Para. No. 2, of the Government Memo, I have to state that I cannot attach blame to the Executive Officers for the delay in forwarding the necessary information, because, in the three most important Ranges Karor, Bowany, and the Noyah, there were no Executive Officers to blame -

6 In the Karor Range - there was no Executive Officer -

7 In the Noyah Range - Do - Do -

8 " Bowany Range - Do as Mr. Leggatt was in bed sick -

9 Karor Range was in temporary charge of Mr. Asst. Overseer Wright a Sergeant ofappers - Noyah Range was in charge of the sub Overseers, all Natives; under my own immediate supervision.

- done -

11
- done - and the Bowany Range was ⁱⁿ temporary charge of Abdool Rissol a sub Overseer - now, these men, though intelligent enough in their own way, were, with one exception, unable to comprehend what was wanted - Namely an Estimate of the cost for repairing the damage committed by the late unusual floods - Their Estimates were returned more than once, as I saw that they had included the repairs of every work that required repairs, - whether from the effects of those floods or from long neglect, or any other cause - after being delayed thus from day to day and week to week I had, in the end, to call them all in to the District Office - take up their several statements and go through them in detail myself - even then it was only by a species of cross examination. I could get the Estimates purged of items which, according to the principle I had started with, should not be included:- This was the only way I could get at the facts, and I believe I have rather under than overstated the damage done -

8 Had Mr. Bush been there in Karor - or had Mr. Reid been prevented leaving for Hyderabad until his successor had arrived as I requested - and had Mr. Leggatt been able to attend to his field duties and had there been an Executive Officer in the Noyah Range - the information would have been sent up in proper time; - but under the circumstances I

I could not furnish it sooner—

9 I do not blame the sub Overseers on whom I had to rely, for this information, they did, I believe, their best to meet my wishes, but with one exception, they were utterly unfit for the position in which they were temporarily placed—

10 It is an ungracious task to be obliged to write this but truth compels me to state that the Executive Department in this District is very deficient in the general intelligence and practical skill which ought to be brought to bear on the construction and management of Public Works—

11 Perhaps I feel this more than many others should, as I have been accustomed to have my instructions carried out by trained Engineers and Overseers, but the experience I have had in the care of this District for the last 9 months has confirmed the opinion I formed and put forward long ago, that the employment of a considerable number of skilled and practical Overseers, under the orders of a few Competent Engineers would not only save a world of trouble to Government—and the Central Office but would save thousands of Rupees at present—wasted in cheating and in misdirected labour—

12 At the present time this District is sadly deficient in Executive arrangements—

13 Mr. Bush was only two or three days at Caror when he had to run in to Tri-

chinnopoly

13 chinnopoly sick— and he has not yet reported his return— The range is consequently still in charge of Mr. Thughtrow, with Mr. Thught's conduct since he took charge of the Range— I have no fault to find— I have examined all he has done, and am well pleased with his intelligence, activity, and zeal— but he has not skill enough to cope with the condition into which the late floods have thrown the Irrigation works of the Range— besides, he is very ill himself, and must get sick leave as soon as he is relieved—

14 Mr. Leggatt is still sick at Coimbatore and his Range, (the Bowany) is still in the care of Abdul Rezaool— a very willing decent old man— but utterly unfit for the duty now imposed upon him— but I have no better qualified person now available to place in charge—

15 Under these circumstances it is quite impossible that the business of the District can be properly attended to: I will not say what many in my position would, that I will not be responsible for the results &c— I know the responsibility that attaches to me and I do not shrink from it— but I trust you will take the circumstance of the District into consideration— The class of men who are now in the responsible position of Executive Officers— The unhealthiness of the District which render it necessary that we should have extra hands ready to take up the place of those who are

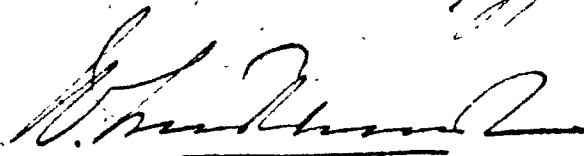
sick,

ice, and the great and imperfect construction of the
various Irrigation Works which are consequently
one to manage — I trust you will consider these facts,
and give me the assistance so much needed.

I have &c.

Signed William Fraser
District Engineer
of Colorado.

True Copy

 Major
Superintending Engineer S. Co. C.

Central Office of Mr.
Fort St George
23rd March 1859.

N^o 8918

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government Mr. D.

Sir,
I have the honor to forward
herewith copy of a despatch No. 232 of the
11th Inst. from the District Engineer of
Coimbatore explanatory of the delay
that unfortunately took place in sub-
mitting detailed accounts of the
injuries which the Public Works of
his charge sustained during the last
monsoon.

2. I am of opinion that however
unsatisfactory the state of affairs
may be which prevented an earlier
preparation of Estimates for repairs,
yet that Mr. Traver was quite
justified by that state in applying
for funds in aggregate, when unable
to specify the amounts in detail.

3. The lamentable consequences
of

2. 2

2 Copies of this

Enclosed in a letter
from the Chief Engineer
for
The Secy to Govt. Mr. D.

2000/190/39

Printed 23rd March 1859

N^o 8918

Copy of a letter from the
Chief District Engineer of Coim-
batore explaining the necessity
of the application for Rs. 10,000 for
reparations the damage committed
by the late unusual floods and
the cause of the delay in forwarding
the detailed statement in time.

of Mr. Reid's summary removal
might have been at least in part averted
but for the unexpected detention of
Mr. Bush, and by the strange proceedings
of that gentleman since his joint
Carson Executive Range.

So irregular, not to say
mysterious a disappearance was only
to be excused by severe or sudden ill-
ness, and in default of other sources of
information, I applied for the assistance
of the District Engineer of Dickinson
to trace out Mr. Bush, and report his
status. Captain Oakley's reply is with
himself for the information of Government
and the malady alleged to have caused

Mr. Bush's sudden departure from
his station, "dyspepsia," is scarcely of a
kind to warrant the extreme measure of
leaving his Range without the permission
of the District Engineer. Moreover it would
seem that up to the 11th instant Mr. Travis
had not heard of Mr. Bush's return to
duty, but the District Engineer will be
called upon to obtain the fullest possible
information with dates of departure
and return for submission to the
Central Office and early report.

1766 dated
10 March 1859.

to Government.

Fort St George
23rd March 1859.

W.B.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt Servt

Wm. A. C. Colburn
Chief Engineer

To The Secretary to Government
P.M.

#2
Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George 5th April/59
No 9332
Official Memorandum

In reply to the Secretary's Memo: of yesterday's date, the Chief Engineer has the honor to state that Lieutenant Colonel Lawford addressed a letter to the District Engineer of the Coimbatore District demanding on what date Mr. Reid would be prepared to give over charge of his duties in the Coimbatore District and leave for Hyderabad that the District Engineer in his letter, No 154, dated 28th Idem reported as follows.

"Mr. Reid Sub Engineer delivered over charge of the Caroor Range on the 20th Instant to assist Overseer Wright, adding "as some of the Irrigation Works of the Range are in a very precarious state I was desirous that Mr. Reid should not leave until his successor had arrived but

P.M. Com. 8th May/59 No. 13.74.

Dated 27th 1859
 The Chief Engineer
 Coimbatore District
 27th May/59

Dated 23rd March 1859
 No 23

No 2
 26/8/58

Dated 18th 821.7 April 1859
 No 20
 26/8/58

228 March

but as Mr Reid is not well and
the Doctor certified that he should
go to the Neilgherries for a while, I
thought it was hardly ^{with} while to do
"tain him."

2 Mr Fraser's letter in
extenso was communicated to Govt
with Lieutenant Colonel Sawford's
letter of the 5th November last N^o 5125.

3 The foregoing is all
that appears on the records of the
Central Office bearing on Mr
Reid's departure from Combarore,
or on the causes which led to his doing
so before the arrival of his successor, as
clearly shown in Mr Fraser's letter.

To Mr Fraser
5th April 1859
Mr. Major Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Govt Secy.

No. 824

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 7th ~~22nd~~ ^{April 1859} 1859

Read the following
Paper
Letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 23rd March/59 No. 8918)
None from the Chief Engr.
(Here enter 5th April 59. No. 9332)
The Governor in C.

Council fully agrees with
the Chief Engineer that no
blame can attach to the
District Engineer of Coimbra
alone in the matter to
which that letter relates.
It is evident that Mr. Trase
did all that was in his
power with the very limited
means at his command.

2 The state of the
executive department in
the

See table 2 on

W
Al
W

2997 Cons. No. 824-18-30032

2997-1859 D. 1st to
D. 20th Dec. 1859
No. 816.

Memorandum

from

the Chief Engineer.

the Secretary to Govt.

D. 1st

Dated. 5th April 1859.

No. 9332

Append all the
information on the
records of this Office
bearing on the subject of
the Bridge signature
from Coimbra -

See 824-7th April 59.

No. 21.

the Coimbatore District
as represented in the
District Engineer's letter
is ~~to be~~ to call for
immediate amendment.
In an order of the
Instant N. the
Government have placed
Major Dobbin at the
District Engineer's disposal,
and have also given him,
in common with other
District Engineers, full
control over all his sub-
ordinates except those
entrusted with special
duties by order of Government.
Mr. Fraser will imme-
diately act on this order.
He will also be requested
through the Chief Engineer
to report in what manner
the services of all the
members

24
members of the Dept.
now employed on the
Nalgurries road in
his opinion ~~be~~ must
be officially distributed,
with reference to the
general accounts of all
parts of the District.

3. Captain Campbell
employment at Jacka.
This will not be inter-
fered with, but Mr. Fraser
will be at liberty to pro-
pose any other modifi-
cations of the arrange-
ments now subsisting
under orders from Govt.
On submitting Mr. Fraser's
report the Chief Engineer
will give his own opi-
nion on that gentleman's
proposals.

4. The Governor
in Council ~~will~~ expect
to receive through the

Handwritten signature

Chief Engineer ~~and~~ ^{an early}
~~do not~~ explanation
from Mr. Bush of
his reasons for suddenly
quitting, without leave,
the District which had
recently been entrusted
to his charge - together with the
opinion of the Chief Engineer of the
sufficiency or otherwise of the reasons
urged by Mr. Bush in his justification.

Mr. Meid will also be
called upon for an explanation through
the proper Department of ~~the~~ ^{his} reasons for
quitting the District entrusted to his charge
prior to the arrival of his successor
notwithstanding the desire which was expressed
by Mr. Fraser, his superior officer, that
he would await the arrival of his
successor -

10 Copies to the Chief Engineer Dec 8th
to complete the Department upon Mr. Donaldson
as complete to the Director on Mr.
as Mr. Bush

Public Works 1859-2417.
Dec 15 Dec 12 1859.

No 824.

Abstracts of Cons.

May 17 1859.

From the Chief Eng 28/13.
July 59 (1858) 11/15 1859.

1859-1862.

From Dec 21/12 2 Aug 1859 Oct 10.

216 in Cons.

of
slaying orders

on the state of the Cons.

occurred department

in Louisiana.

From Chief Eng 24 20 Aug 1859
Cons 2203-Cons 9-1859/1861-49

No 20 at 22.