M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 20

(2) Date of repair 16-5-38

(3) Initials of the References

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Ac. 10.6.59

G.O. No. 472 Press / Mis.

Dated 15-6- 1859.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 64. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 26th May 1859, No. 888.

With reference to Extract Minutes Consultation of the 24th December 1858 No. 2811, passing orders on a letter from this office of the 30th November 1858 No. 5917, I have the honor to forward a report as per margin, from the District Engineer of Nellore, submitting a statement of the condition of the tanks of that District on the 31st December last, with the expenditure upon their repairs from the occurrence of the great storm of November 1857 to the close of the last calendar year.

1 Letter from the District Engineer, Nellore No. 939, dated 11th May 1859 with 3 statements.

2. Captain Mullins refers to the previous correspondence* reporting the state in which the tanks were left after the hurricane of October 1857, and dividing the period between that date and the end of last December into three sections, he shows, 1st; what was done to effect emergent and immediate repairs, to enable as many of those works as possible to retain the small supply of water that might have been, but was not received after that late period of the year; secondly, the exertions made by himself and the other members of the Department, assisted by the Tahsildars, for placing all the reservoirs of the District in an efficient state before the beginning of the monsoon of 1858; and thirdly, the work performed subsequently, to repair the injuries many of them again sustained in consequence of the sudden and excessive fall of rain during the first seventeen days of that monsoon acting on banks ill prepared, either from their imperfect or recent re-construction to retain such large supplies as were thrown into the tanks. The total outlay from November 1857 to the 31st December 1858 was Rupees 2,60,423 of which were expended during the 1st period. ... ... „ 95,068

2nd do. ... ... „ 1,01,401

3rd do. ... ... „ 63,954.

* Letter No. 46 dated 11th Jany. 1858.
„ „ 263 dated 5th Feby. 1858.
„ „ 1275 dated 25th June 1858.
„ „ 1373 dated 6th July 1858.

3. It is not necessary to follow Captain Mullins through the detailed exposition he has given of the unsatisfactory, and helpless position of the Department of Public Works in a District where the demand for labor appears so greatly to exceed the supply as in Nellore, but I think he has very successfully shown, that if the irrigation works in that District have suffered greatly during the two last years, and notwithstanding the heavy expenditure upon them, are still in any thing but an efficient condition, the cause has been the consecutive occurrence of two of the most severe and trying monsoons ever known, and the utter impracticability of obtaining the assistance, even on such an emergency, of the laboring classes, who judging from the comparatively small expenditure made by the Tahsildars, are as little under the control of the Revenue authorities as of the professional Department.

4. With reference to para. 2 of the Extract Minutes Consultation under reply, I beg to state that the District Engineer has been called† upon to furnish Mr. Shannon's explanations of his neglect to raise the wing walls of the Alloor tank calingulahs but has not yet done so. His attention will be again called to the subject, and Mr. Shannon's defence, when received, will be duly forwarded.

† 29th March 1858.

No. 65. ORDER THEREON, 15th June 1859, No. 1472.

With this letter the Chief Engineer submits a Report from the District Engineer of Nellore on the condition of the tanks in that District, and the measures taken to repair the disastrous effects upon them of the two severe storms of October 1857 and October 1858.

2. In para. 7 Captain Mullins speaks of the prevalence of the ruinous practice of cutting through tank bunds in order to get water for irrigation, and he states in para. 11 that his endeavours to bring offenders to punishment with the view of stopping the practice, have been wholly ineffectual. And the same as to the neglect of village Officers to perform the customary work due by them; in no single case, he says, have adequate results followed his complaints to

the Collector. At the close of the same paragraph (11) he states that the village Officers endeavour to compel the workmen to disobey his orders and the orders of Government, by refusing to supply them with food unless they do so.

3. A copy of the paras. noted in the margin,* from Captain Mullins' letter, will be sent to the Collector, for any remarks and explanations he may wish to offer. He will be reminded at the same time that it is his duty to put the Regulations in force against any person injuring public property in the manner described in para. 7. He will also be directed through the Board of Revenue to withhold remission for waste or shavy in every case in which it shall appear on the information of the District Engineer that the want of water has been in any degree caused by any act or neglect of the Ryots or village Officers. He will make this order known throughout the District.

* Paras. 7, 8, 10, 11 and 13.

4. Adverting to para. 13, the Governor in Council is fully convinced that the division of the executive duties between the Engineer and the Revenue Departments in the same District cannot work well except under the most favorable circumstances, if even then.

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

Revenue No. 888

Irrigation

Central Office of P.W.

Fort Saint George,
26 May 1859.

From,
The Chief Engineer.

To,
The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

With reference to Ex: Irrig: Cons: of the 24th December 1858 No 2811 passing orders on a letter from this Office of the 30th November 1858 No 3347, I have the honor to forward a Report as per margin from the District Engineer of Nellore, submitting a Statement of the condition of the tanks of that District on the 31st December last, with the expenditure upon their Repairs from the occurrence of the great Storm of November 1857 to the close of the last Calendar year.

2 Captain Mullins refers to the previous correspondence* reporting the State in which the tanks were left after the hurricane of October 1857, and dividing the period between that date and the end of last December, into three Sections, he shows

1st what was done to effect emergent and immediate repairs, to enable as many of those works as possible to retain the small supply of water that might have

* Letter No 26 dy 11th January 1858
" " 263 dy 5th February 1858.
" " 1275 dy 25th June 1858.
" " 1373 dy 6th July 1858

Engineer

have been, but was not, received after that late period of the year. Secondly the exertions made by himself and the other members of the Department, assisted by the Tahsildars, for placing all the Reservoirs of the District in an efficient state before the beginning of the monsoon of 1858, and thirdly, the work performed subsequently to repair the injuries in many of them again sustained in consequence of the sudden and excessive fall of rain during the first seventeen days of that monsoon acting on banks ill prepared either from their imperfect or recent construction to retain such large supplies as were thrown into the tanks. The total outlay from November 1857 to the 31st December 1858 was Rupees 2,60,123, of which were expended during the 1st period Rupees 75,068.

2nd — Do. — 101401.

3rd — Do. — 63954.

3 It is not necessary to follow Captain Faulkner through the detailed exposition he has given of the unsatisfactory and helpless position of the Department of Public Works in a District where the demand for labour appears so greatly to exceed the supply as in Nellore, but I think it is very successfully shown that of the irrigation works in that District have suffered greatly during the two last years, and notwithstanding the heavy expenditure upon them, are still in any thing but an efficient condition, the cause has been the consecutive occurrence of two of the most severe and trying monsoons ever known, and the utter impracticability of obtaining the assistance, even on such an emergency, of the labouring classes who judging from the comparatively small expenditure made by the Tahsildars, are as little under the control of the Revenue Authorities as of the Professional Department.

4 With reference to para 2 of the Exc: Instructions under reply I beg to state that the District Engineer

29th March 1858. has been called upon to furnish W Shannon's explanations of his neglect to raise the wing walls of the Pillair Tank Caligula has but has not yet done so. His attention will be again called to the subject, and W Shannon's defence, when received, will be duly forwarded.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obt. Servt.
W Dall Lieut. Col.
Chief Engineer

Central Office of P. W.
Fort Saint George, 26th May 1859.

W.D.
Secy to Engineer

W.D.
P.C.

Engineer's

Encl: 21st December 63 & 224
225
" 16th Oct. " 145-146
" 29th October " 155-158

PW Works 5a Department
Rec'd 6th 17th June 1859
From The Chief Engineer.
To The Secretary to Government
&c &c &c.

Dated 26
Rec'd 27 June 1859

No 888.

Enclosures Rd 23-7-59
Con 1st 1472 15th June 1859.
Submitting with observations a
Report from the Dy Engr of Nellore
forwarding a Statement of the
condition of the tanks of that Dist
on the 31st December last, with
the expenditure upon their Repairs
from the occurrence of the great
Storm of November 1857, to the
close of the last Calender year

No 64.

6th June Rg 11th 14th

Vol 2

ch. quite paralyzed the Engrs operations.
For this neither the Rev. nor the P.W.
officers are to blame.

Capt. Mullins then notices the
want of support from the Depts.
especially alluding to the subject of pa-
: ckhorses &c. which will pass to I & E &c &c
being both the whole of paras 10
& 11. No doubt the influence of the
old Mysore arbitrary and compul-
sory administration still remains
but I cannot admit that the dif-
faculties experienced by Capt Mul
lins from their discontinuance
are so grievous as he points out
one main object in constituting
the D.P.W. was that by getting rid of
such

practices
such subjecting the influence of
prompt liberal remuneration
for that of "settled prices" & the
arbitrary enumeration of "rates".
Doubtless there will be a tendency
on the part of the Village Servts
to avail themselves of this freedom
from compulsory exactions, to show
their independence of the Overseers &
Headpersons & all such cases the
Petitioners & all such cases should be
investigated when sent forward to
Head Quarters that the most equitable
& tangible shape - & can only be
remedied that it may be
known the evidence & before them
decision he this subject be heard
upon reply

Capt Mullins does not complain
of the rates nor Rations - but his expres-
sions & Minute at the I am not acquainted
with the fellow there always under
stood him to be a conscientious
zealous

c 6. June 69

1261

...ceilus offerui...

Minute Remark further on the support & assistance effected by the DPW from the Villagers

Such as used to be rendered gratuitously & often efficiently because the people knew that if they did not help themselves no one else would, & their means of irrigation would be utterly lost.

But as soon as a Dept is formed for the specific charge of such duties, we must expect all such voluntary & irresponsible aid to cease or to be very unwillingly rendered & for this I see no remedy but in improving the efficiency of the Dept.

8. Minute the Proc. of Govt. have been draughted in too severe & condemnatory a tone & with too little reference to the chief impediments which beset the Distt. Engr. & should be glad to see them modified & to hear the Collrs reply on Capt. Mullins observations before accepting them absolutely. WE

Explanations should be sought from MMC before he is thus condemned. I am however neutral...

5

Public Works Dept

No 1472

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 15th June 1859.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer

(Here enter 26 May 1859 No 1888)

With this letter the Chief Engineer submits a Report from the District Engineer of Nellore on the condition of the tanks in that District, and the measures taken to repair the disastrous effects upon them of the two severe storms of October 1857 and October 1858.

2. The District Engineer

[illegible]

I still suggest the ... has been ... to Capt Mullins. MC

MC

WE

I have suggested the omission of great part of this draft. MC

WE

Engineers Report which was drawn up in pursuance of the order of Government of December 24th 1858, No 2811 gives proof of active, intelligent, and laborious performance of duty on the part of Captain Mullins but it also appears to the Governor in Council to indicate a want of cooperation on the part of the Revenue Servants in the District, and a defective appreciation of his duty in relation to the Engineer Department on the part of the Collector

X. 2 In Para 7 Captain Mullins speaks of the prevalence of the ruinous practice of cutting through tank bunds in order to get water for irrigation, & states in Para 11 that his endeavours to bring offenders to punishment with the view of stopping the practice, have been wholly ineffectual. And the same as to the neglect of Village Officers to perform the ~~customary~~ work due by them; in no single case, he says, have adequate results followed his complaints to the Collector. At the close of the same paragraph (11) he states that the Village Officers endeavour to compel the workmen to disobey his orders and the orders of Government, by refusing to supply them with food

food unless they do so. It is obvious to them what is said in Para 11 as to the little regard paid even to himself, and much more to his subordinates by the Village Officers, that he is not duly supported by the Revenue Authorities.

4. The Heads of things here described cannot be allowed to continue. The Engineer Department must cease from the Revenue Department is a part of the Government administration; and it cannot be permitted that one class of Government Servants shall be rendered inefficient by want of support, and even by tacit

tacit opposition, on the part of another. It is quite true that the Govt desires that the Engineers should depend on themselves to obtain labour and supplies, but it is not their intention that their endeavours to procure them shall be frustrated by the Village Officials, nor will they permit in Revenue Officers of any class that systematic disregard of the District Engineers representations of misconduct and neglect of duty by Village servants which appears to prevail in Cuttack.

5. 3 A Copy of the Para

Paras noted in the margin
from Captain Mullins' letter
will be sent to the Collector,
~~and he will be informed~~
that it is his duty to put
the Regulations in force
in cases against any
person injuring public
property in the manner
described in Para 7.
He will also be directed
through the Board of Revenue
to withhold remission for waste or stray in
every case in which
it shall appear on the
information of the Dis-
trict Engineer that the
want of water has been
in any degree caused
by any act or neglect of
the Pyots or Village
Officers. He will make
this order known
throughout

× Paras 7, 8, 10, 11 & 13

× explanation
for any remarks that
he may wish to offer.
He will be reminded
at this same time

on all revenue servants, both

throughout the District.
~~The Collector will also~~
be instructed to enforce
Talook & village,
due respect and attention
to the District En-
gineer and the Mem-
bers of his Department,
~~in all Revenue dealings~~
~~both Talook and Village~~
and to take exem-
plary notice of any
defect in this particu-
lar, and especially
of such insolent conduct
as is mentioned by
Captain Mullins
at the close of Para
7.

Para 4. Adverting to
Para 13, the Governor
in Council is fully con-
vinced that the division
of the executive
duties

district between the Engr
and the Revenue Dep
-ments in the same D
-trict cannot work u
except under the mo
favorable circumstan
if even then.

10 Copies to the Chief Engr & Dupd 16
6 —"— Offrs of Revn
1 —"— Coll Jo Nellis
with Docus. 7 & 10, 11 & 13
of Capt Mullins letter.

Cons: 21 Dec.r/58 Nos 224-225
—•—16 Novr.r/58 —•— 143-146
—•—29th October —•— 185-186

Public Works 1859 Dep.t
Pro: of Govt 17th June.

No 1472.

Pro: of the Madras Government
Dy 15th June/59

From Collr of Nellore d/24th
June/59 C. No 1690.

From Chief Engr 30 Decr/59
Cons: 10th June - 96-97.
Mr Iverson. Shannon's Estimates.

Passing orders on the
Report on the condition of the
tanks in Nellore and the
measures taken to repair
them.

No 64 to 65

6th June Rg. C 11-6214