M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 38

(2) Date of repair 23-3-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial Records DEPARTMENT. Cash 12-56

G.O. No. 529 Press Mis.

2022

Dated 5-4-1938

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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 Copies of letters.

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.

* No. 1706, dated 10th March 1859.

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. 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 instructons 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.

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 buisness 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:

No 4810, dated 23rd October 1858.

"Mr. Reid, Sub-Engineer, delivered over charge of the Caroor Range on the 20th Ins-"tant 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 succes-"sor 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.

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.

No. 7766.

From

Captain R. F. Dickson
District Engineer

To

The Chief Engineer
D. P. 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 5 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 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 first up on his returng from Caroor, I have not been able

to

to ascertain.

Dist.t Eng.rs Office
Trichinopoly
10th March 1859

I have the honor to be Sir
your Obd.t Sv.t
Lieut.t Oakes 41st N.I.
Dist.t Engineer

I Have Ordered

Major
Sup.g Engineer 4th Circle

Comf.d 8.W.

№ 232.

District Engineer's Office
Coimbatoore 11th March 1859.

From

W. Fraser Esquire
Acting District Engineer
of Coimbatore

To

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

Sir,

In compliance with the orders of Government under date 8th February last № 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[illegible] solely 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 not believe 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 Public Department Office

Endorsement on a letter from the Chief Engineer to the Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Received 23rd March 1859.

Recorded

Copy of the letter from the District Engineer of Trichinopoly, referring regarding his Establishment.

sent to the Collector for his approval on the 2d Inst. with a 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 16th February I found it was still in his Office: — It was, I believe, forwarded on the 17th or 18th —

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 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 —

7 In the Noyel Range — Do — Do —

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

Caroor Range was in temporary charge of — Mr Asst Overseer Wright ex Sergeant of sappers — Noyel Range was in charge of the sub Overseer, a Native; under my own immediate superintendence —

11

= dence — and the Bowany Range was in temporary charge of Abdool Rufsool 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 fine end, to call them all in to the District Office to be 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 Carroor 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

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 manage=ment 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 not 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—

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14 Mr. Leggatt is still sick at Coimba=tore and his Range, (the Bowany) is still in the care of Abdool Rujsool—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 res=ponsible for the results &c.—I know the respons=ibility that attaches to me and I do not shrink from it—but I trust you will take the circumstances of the District into consideration—The case 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 &c, and the great age and insufficient construction of the various Irrigation Works which are consequently entrusted to manage — I trust you will consider these facts, and give me the assistance so much needed.—

I have &c.

Signed William Fraser
Lt. Bengal Engineer
& Executive

True Copy

H. Thuillier Major
Superintending Engineer S. Circle.

Encl III

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

No. 8918

From The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government Pks.

Public

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 submitting detailed accounts of the injuries which the Public Works of this 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

P.C.L.
2 Copies of Letters

Enclosure No. 2 to letter
from the Chief Engineer
Pks.
No. 8918 dated 23rd March 1859.

Dated 23rd March 1859.
Received

No. 8918

Copy of a Letter from the
Asst. Engineer & Superintendent
to the Collector of Coimbatore
dated 11th March 1859.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that the Public Works in this District have suffered much damage from the late unusual floods, and the cause of the delay in forwarding the detailed statements within

of Mr Reid's Summary. I cannot
might have been at least in part averted
but for the unexpected detention of
Mr Bush, and by the strange proceedings
of that Gentleman subsequent to
Captain Executive Range.

4. To irregular not to say
mysterious a disappearance was only
to be accused by severe or sudden ill-
ness, and in default of other sources of
information, I applied for the assistance
of the District Engineer of Tuckinopoly
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

6.

to Government.

Fort St George
23rd March 1859.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obt Servt
Alex Taylor Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Mad

No 1766 Dated
10th March 1859.

No 9332 Central Office P.W.
Fort Saint George 5th April 59

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 ow what date Mr Reid would be prepared to give over charge of his duties in the Coimbatore District and leave for Hyderabad

No 4810 d/28 Oct/58

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-

Rec'd 23rd Rec'd 23rd

No 20.

Lieut 2

Commanding the Engineers
Southern Division
Trichinopoly

Dated Ootacamund 19th Nov 58

Rec'd 12th Dec 58

Dy Chief Engineer
Fort St George

Rec'd 23rd Rec'd 23rd

No 8214 / Dated 18th

Lieut 2

Commanding the Engineers
Southern Division
Trichinopoly

Dated Ootacamund 19th Nov 58

Rec'd 12th Dec 58

Dy Chief Engineer
Fort St George

Rec'd 23rd Rec'd 23rd

No 8214 / Dated 18th

C 28 Annual

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 de-
tain him."

2 Mr Fraser's letter in
extenso was communicated to Govt
with Lieutenant Colonel Sanford's
letter of the 8th November last No 5125.

3 The foregoing is all
that appears on the records 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.

For the Grace's
5th April 1859

Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Govt PWD

Public Works Dep.t

No 824

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 7th April 1859

Read the following
Papers
Letter from the Chief Engineer

Here enter 23rd March/59 No 8918
Same from the Chief Engr.
Here enter 5 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 Coimbatore
in the matter to
which that letter relates.
It is evident that Mr Prase
did all that was in his
power with the very limited
means at his command.
2 The state of the
executive department in
the

P.W. Com.rs Rec.d 30 Mar 1859.

P.W. Dep.t 1859 Dated
Date Rec.d 12 April
No 818.

Memorandum.
From
The Chief Engineer.
To
The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

Dated 5th April 1859.
Received 8th April
No 9332

Regarding the
information called for on the
accounts of this Office
bearing on the subjoined
Mr Reids statement
from Coimbatore.

No 24.

Fort St George 7th April 59.

the Coimbatore District as represented in the District Engineer's letter is likely to call for immediate amendment. In an order of the instant N. 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

members of the Dept now employed on the Nilgherries should be kept as open to be most beneficially distributed, with reference to the general interests of all parts of the District. 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 Govt. He submitting Mr Fraser's report the Chief Engineer will give his own opinion on that gentleman's proposals.

(4 The Governor in Council will expect to receive through the

an early
Chief Engineer
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 Reid will also be
called upon for an explanation through
the proper department of his reasons for
quitting the District entrusted to his charge
previously 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 Engr. Dated 8th

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Dr. to Cons 12th April.

No 824.

Extract Mins of Cons.
of 7th April 1859.
From the Chief Engr B/13
July/59 C.No 1841 Encl 15th July/59
& 121-122.

From Dr. D/12 Augt/59 C.No
216 in Cons:
Passing) orders
on the State of the Exe-
cutive Department
in Coimbatore.

No 20 at 22.

From Chief Engr D/20 Augt/59
C.No 2203 in Cons 9th Sept/59 No 46-49