M R O. I—77,603—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

3 Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 837 Press Mis.

7374

Dated 11—4 1859

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 73. Read the following Minute by the Honorable the President, dated 11th April 1859.

The necessity for an improved administration of the Department of Public Works is so fully admitted both in England and in this Presidency that I will not waste time by dwelling upon it.

After a careful investigation of the subject, it became apparent to me, that, notwithstanding the possession of many high accomplishments and estimable qualities, the Chief of the Department had not that talent for administration and for the Government of large bodies of Public Officers brought together from different branches of the service, without which it is impossible that the Civil and Military Works of the Madras Presidency can be successfully carried on. I communicated this opinion to Colonel Faber who admitted in a manner highly honorable to him the right of the Government to employ such agency as it might consider adequate to the serious responsibility which devolves upon it, and he shortly after placed his resignation at my disposal in the letter to my address annexed herewith.

Colonel Faber has always discharged the duties entrusted to him with unblemished integrity and untiring zeal; and it is not right that, so far as it may be in the power of the Government to prevent it, he should suffer for the absence of talents the possession of which in the degree required for the present purpose, is a rare and extraordinary circumstance. I therefore propose that we should part from Colonel Faber as Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works with all honor and respect for his character, and that a donation of three months salary of his Office should be presented to him in consideration of the unexpected termination, for strictly public reasons, of his official emoluments as Chief Engineer.

I propose that Lieutenant-Colonel Bell of the Madras Engineers who at present holds the Office of Mint Master should succeed Colonel Faber as Chief of the Department of Public Works, and that the Assay Master, Dr. Shaw, should be in charge of the Mint until I am able to propose a satisfactory permanent appointment.

I annex a Memorandum which I have given to Lieutenant Colonel Bell of the points to which I desired that his attention should first be directed.

C. E. TREVELYAN.

Letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 9th April 1859.

My Dear Bourdillon,

As the Governor has expressed his wish to place the Department of Public Works under the charge of an Officer whom he considers more equal to its duties, I shall feel much obliged if you will be so kind as to inform His Excellency that I place my appointment at his disposal.

Memorandum referred to in His Excellency's Minute.

Points to which Lieutenant-Colonel Bell's attention is specially requested.

1st. To arrange as far as possible, that there shall be none but skilled competent Officers *holding substantive situations,* employed in the Department.

2nd. To arrange for filling the vacancies in the lower grades of Officers by a selection of the most competent persons from every class of the community by means of a competing examination in the attainments necessary for efficient service in the Department.

3rd. To arrange for filling the vacancies among the Overseers and other Subordinates by selecting from the Regimental Schools of Her Majesty's European Regiments and elsewhere those Non-commissioned Officers and others who have acquired the requisite knowledge and have proved by their conduct that they are worthy of confidence.

4th. The idea of *forced labor* is to be *absolutely precluded,* and also the *pressing of Carts, &c.* The rule must be *the full market rate of wages and full remunerative hire.*

5th. Every person belonging to the Department, whether Officer or Subordinate, must be able to converse with the Natives of the District in which he is employed in their own language, and to write his orders in their language, at any rate in the English character.

6th. The employment of terms of abuse towards the Natives and still more of personal violence will be held to be an offence and will be duly punished.

7th. It should be considered whether it is necessary for an effective system of Superintendence that there should be an intermediate authority between the Chief Engineer and the District Engineers; it being, of course, understood that the Chief Engineer will have all the assistance of skilled professional Officers he may require to be at his personal disposal.

8th. Early arrangements should be made for organizing an effective system of Audit based upon regularly rendered Accounts and carefully and independently taken measurements.

9th. *A simple and concise* Code of Rules should be prepared for the government of the Department.

10th. The Chief Engineer will have the full confidence of the Government, and he will be expected to support and encourage those Officers of every rank who faithfully and zealously discharge the duties entrusted to them.

11th. He will take an early opportunity of revising the List of Works which were stopped by order of the Supreme Government and of making a selection of those which in his opinion ought to be immediately proceeded with in addition to the Works already in progress, full details of which should be also given.

No. 74. ORDER THEREON, No. 851; dated 11th April 1859.

Resolved that the foregoing Minute be adopted.

2. Ordered that a copy of the Minute and of this order be forwarded to Lieut-Colonel Faber, to Lieutenant-Colonel Bell and to the Assay Master, as well as to the Accountant General and Civil Auditor.

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

Madras, 9th April 1859

My dear Bourdillon

As the Governor has expressed his wish to place the Department of Public Works under the charge of an officer whom he considers more equal to its duties, I shall feel much obliged if you will be so kind as to inform his Excellency that I place my appointment at his disposal

Believe me

Yours very faithfully

Lieut Colonel Faber D.C.E. & Engineers & Chief Asst. &c &c

Minute.

1852

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to the serious respon-
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Ld Dundonald

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Copy sent as Enclosure England
Dy. 13th April 1859 No 7

Pub Works 1859 Depts
Dto Encs: 12 Apl.

No 882.

Minute by the
Hon'ble the President

Dated 11th April 1859.
Read

Proposed to grant from
Col. Fabers Chief Engineer of the
P.W.D. that a donation of three
months salary of his office may
be presented to him & Assistants
Coll. Bell as Chief Engr. &
Dr. Shaw as Temporary Mint
Master.

Nov 3-74

Draft Copy sent
to Secretary

P. W. Depts. 21

No 851.

Extract from the Mems of Encs.
Under date the 11th April 1859

Read the following
Minute by the Hon'ble
the President.

(Mem entered 11 April/59)

Resolved that the
foregoing Minute
be adopted.

Ordered that a
copy of the Minute
and of this order be
forwarded to Lieut.
Col. Faber, to
Lieut. Col Bell
and to the Mint
Master.

1 Copy to Coll C. E. Faber. Dispd 15th
10 " " Lt. Coll J. H. Bell "
1 " " Mint Master. "
1 " " Accountant Genl "
1 " " Guillaud "
5 " " Treasurer & Depts "

Copy a Memo Sellentin Esq.
Dated 13th April 1859 No 7.

Public Works 1859 Dept.
Do to Govt 12th April.

No 851.

Extract Mins of Govt.
Dfd 11th April 59.

Resolving that the Memo
by the Hon. the President proposing
to part with Colt Faber as Chief
Engineer of the D. P. W. and that
a donation of 3 months salary
of his Office may be presented
to him and appointing Colt
Bell as Chief Engr and Dr
Shaw as Temporary Mint
Master be adopted and forward-
ing the same to Colt Faber and
Bell and Dr Shaw as well as
to the Acctt Genl & Audr

No 73 & 74.