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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

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Dated 12-4- 1937

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 81. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 28th March 1859, No. 9068.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward for the favorable consideration of Government, the accompanying copies of letters from Assistant Supervisor Porter and the District Engineer of Bellary, as per margin, giving further explanations regarding the robbery of the Cash Chest attached to the former on the night of the 7th May 1858, and with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2389 of the 13th November 1858, earnestly entreating that the ruinous penalty of being made responsible for the heavy loss of public money then sustained, may be removed from the Assistant Supervisor on a fuller examination of the circumstances, and in acknowledgment of the long, arduous, and honorable service he has performed.

1 Copies of correspondence, viz.
Letter from District Engineer of Bellary No. 342 of 1st February 1859.
Do. from Supervisor W. Porter of 28th January 1859.
Do. do. No. 118, of 5th March 1859.

2. Without questioning the justice of the decision the Government arrived at from an inspection of his Cash Book and the perusal of the unsatisfactory explanations he gave, Mr. Porter now explains that the irregularities of his Cash Book which told so heavily against him were occasioned entirely by his misunderstanding the nature and purpose of that Book, which, being misled by the form given in the Manual of Instructions for the guidance of the Department, he supposed was required to show the particulars in full detail of every payment made under his orders, as well as by himself, instead of being only a record of his own actual Cash receipts and issues.

3. Having charge of an extensive Range, throughout which almost daily payments were being made by his numerous Subordinates, Mr. Porter in place of entering in his Cash Book at the moment of issue the advances from time to time made to meet these disbursements, only kept a Memo. of them, and deferred filling up his Cash Book with their amounts till the receipt of Accounts enabled him to enter them, in the detail which he thought was necessary. Thus it occurred that payments by himself, we will say on the 8th, were entered under that date, while those made by a Subordinate on the 6th were perhaps not entered till the 10th, as disbursements of four days previous date.

4. This explanation fully, and in the opinion of the Superintending Engineer who has examined all the Accounts kept by Mr. Porter before and since the receipt by him of the order of Government on the subject of the robbery, and is satisfied of the thorough correctness of the latter, clearly explains one of the chief irregularities noticed by Government, and with respect to another, the circumstance of Mr. Porter appearing to have had so much larger a balance on hand on the 1st May than at the beginning of any of the previous months, it is quite satisfactorily explained that this was partly only in appearance, and partly accidental. Mr. Porter having shewn on the 30th April, being the end of an official year, the aggregate of the balances in the hands of his Subordinates, as Cash with himself, contrary to his practice at the end of ordinary months, and having drawn the sum of Rupees 3,500 at the very termination of the month under these peculiar circumstances.

5. A Draft for that amount on the Kumply Tahsildar, dated the 26th April, only reached him on the 29th, when he was at Ramandroog, and finding that he could not possibly cash it at the Treasury on which it was drawn, and being anxious to obtain the money before the termination of the official year to pay for work done in that year, he under an arrangement with the District Engineer and Collector, who both happened to be on the Droog, had it made payable by the Tahsildar of the Talook in which Ramandroog is situated, and drew the amount from him on the same day; thereby increasing his balance on hand on the 1st of the subsequent month to the large sum noticed by Government.

6. The discrepancy noticed in para. 5 of the order of Government, as appearing between the balance of Rupees 1,600 said by Mr. Porter to have been in his Cash Chest on the night of the robbery and that shewn by his Cash Book as having been in his possession is explained by what I have said above of Mr. Porter's former practice of not entering in that Book issues of Cash to his Subordinates at the time they were made, but when he received from them the parti-

culars of its disbursement. With respect to his having two Cash Books it is only necessary to say that having charge permanently of a Civil Range, and temporarily of the Military Buildings in the Cantonment of Bellary, which was liable to be transferred to another Officer at any moment, he had two Cash Chests as well as two Cash Books, and kept each set quite distinct. It was the Cash Chest attached to the Civil Range that was robbed and the corresponding Cash Book was the one sent for the examination of Government; the other Chest having been under a Military Guard at the Barracks escaped.

7. As the explanations now afforded, coupled with the favorable report of the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle, as to the care and regularity with which Mr. Porter has kept his Books and Accounts since his mistakes were pointed out to him, seem to remove from him the imputation of intentional culpability. I beg most strongly to recommend his unfortunate case to the favorable re-consideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in the hope that, as an act of grace, and in justice to a hard working and highly esteemed public servant, who has erred solely through inadvertence, the Government will be pleased to relieve him of the ruinously disheartening penalty of having to make good so large a sum as Rupees 1,600, which could not have been lost had he been provided with better means for its safe custody or protection.

Letter from Captain J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary ; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Ramandroog, 1st February 1859, No. 342.

SIR,

With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation No. 2389, dated 13th November 1858, I have the honor to submit for your consideration and transmission to Government, the accompanying copy of a letter from Mr. W. Porter, Supervisor D. P. Works, appealing against the decision arrived at by Government in regard to the robbery of his Cash Chest in last May.

2. The Superintending Engineer on his recent tour through the District, satisfied himself on many of the points connected with this matter, and has stated the conclusions at which he had arrived after personally investigating the case, and I trust now Government may be pleased to give the subject further and more lenient consideration.

3. In Mr. Porter's letter he explains why the balance in his hands appears so large on the 1st May as noticed by Government in para. 2 of their Minutes of Consultation, and in the following month this was corrected as in a note, the balance in hand with his Subordinates as well as the Cash actually in hand is shewn.

4. In para. 3 Government notice that, I had given Mr. Porter Drafts for large amounts without ascertaining the necessity for them ; in reply I beg to state that I can only ascertain the necessity of an executive requiring money by knowing the works he is to carry on, and as Mr. Porter has charge of a very important Range, and was at the time carrying on large works for which funds were required, I did not hesitate in furnishing him with what funds he required, it is very true I might have given him a number of Drafts for small amounts which he could have cashed as he wanted the money, but in the present instance Mr. Porter had to draw the whole amount at once to be able to get it at all within the official year. My Draft of the 26th of April 1858, only reached Mr. Porter on the Ramandroog on the 29th, it was drawn on the Kumply Thasildar and it was then too late to get the money from that Treasury, I asked the Collector to allow the Draft being cashed by the Koodlighee Thasildar to which he assented, and as soon as Mr. Porter received the money he started off to make his payments at Bellary ; had it not been the close of the official year the anomaly noticed by Government in para. 4 had not occurred, in this District money is always drawn for works from the Talook Treasuries where those works are situated.

5. With reference to para. 5, I beg to exp'ain that Mr. Porter has charge not only of all the Civil works in the Bellary Range, but also of the Military Buildings at Bellary, and the Ramandroog, the Accounts of the Military Buildings had always been kept seperate under another Officer, but on Lieutenant Drever's removal to Canara, Mr. Porter took charge of his work and kept two sets of Accounts, &c., complete.

6. Captain Orr has already, as I have before stated, declared that Mr. Porter had explained [illegible] points to him very satisfactorily, I have not therefore considered it necessary to send drawn

vouchers shewing all the items of expenditure incurred during the month in which the robbery took place, as these were all forthcoming and shewn to the Superintending Engineer, I trust the Government will however, on a re-consideration of the circumstances of the case be pleased to relieve Mr. Porter of the responsibility.

7. Mr. Porter is well known to Captain Orr, who can testify to his character and ablities in this District, during the time I have been in charge, I have no hesitation in saying that he has worked hard and willingly, even since the dispiriting decision and unfavorable conclusions regarding him had been arrived at by Government.

8. With reference to myself, I beg respectfully to submit that, I acted as I understood the orders of Government, the Cash Books as kept in this District by the Executive Officers, are Journals, shewing the transaction of all Subordinates in any one Range, the Subordinates in charge of works keep their own Accounts of the works. In conversation with Captain Orr, I ascertained what was required and immediately adopted the plan, the Cash Book now only shews the bonâ fide Cash transactions of each Cash Chest.

9. I have on former occasions shewn that in this Department we have no one to guard a Cash Chest, the Lascars attached to an Officer's Camp have no interest in taking care of the property, so long as it cannot actually be proved against them that they took the money, they know they will get off without punishment, it is stated the Police Peons cannot be made available for the duty, but why they should not be compelled to do the duty for which they are paid is not shewn, if every Thasildar sent two Peons to take charge of the Cash Chest as it passes through his Talook, with instructions to compel the Village Police to do their duty, I have no hesitation in saying these robberies would soon cease.

Letter from Conductor W. PORTER, Supervisor; to Captain J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary, dated 28th January 1859.

SIR,

Having received the Extract Minutes of Consultation, under date the 13th November 1858, being the decision of Government, regarding the robbery from my Cash Chest in May last, and by which order I am held responsible, or in other words ordered to re-fund the amount stolen, (Rupees 1,600) I beg most respectfully to be allowed as a final appeal to bring forward a few circumstances in further explanation of certain points in the case, which at the time of sending in my former explanation had escaped my notice as being likely to be called for, and beg that this letter be forwarded to Government. First, I beg most respectfully to bring to your notice, that the decision of Government appears to have been arrived at principally from the irregular manner, in which my Cash-Book was kept, in explanation of which I beg to say that I was misled by the form laid down in the Government orders. Form (V Grant's) it appeared to me that this form, shewing as it does, sundry small items, was only intended for Executives in charge of a single work, and had I so kept my Book, shewing every item of every Bill, or Account which I paid, a single month's Cash Account, would have extended over very many pages. I therefore adopted the Account Current form, as the nearest which I conceived applicable to my situation, and which I balanced monthly. The irregularity in dates occurred from the fact of many payments therein entered having been made by the Manager of the Military Buildings Office, during my absence from Bellary, and not entered by myself until many days after such payment had been made, regular Accounts were however, kept by the Manager of all such payments, and handed to me on my return from the Talooks to Bellary. The next point on which I beg leave to offer some explanation is the great difference, as shewn in the Minutes of Consultation between my ordinary balances, at the commencement of the months from September to May, and that on the 1st May. This entirely arose from my not having included the balances in the hands of Sub-Overseers in my Cash balance. Except on the 1st May and which balance I beg to state were as per margin.

Irregularity of my Cash Book. Form and entries.

Page 423 of Grant's Circular Orders.

Difference on Cash Balance.

	Rs.	A.	P.
With Goomastah Moorai Row	42	7	10
Sub-Overseer Vurdarajooloo..... ..	2.640	6	7
Amount forwarded to Sub-Overseer Termul Row, the 28th April 1858.....	1,000	0	0
	3,682	14	5

2. In explanation of having drawn so large an amount as Rupes 3,500 on the 30th April, I respectfully beg to state that a Draft for the said amount on the Kumply Tahsildar, dated the 26th April only reached me on the 29th, whilst I was at Ramandroog, and it being then too late to send it to Kumply, and it being of importance that it should be cashed within theofficial year 1857-58 (which ended on the 30th April) to meet expenditure incurred within that year. I arranged with the District Engineer to have the amount paid to me by the Koodlighee Tahsildar at Ramandroog, and conveyed the money from thence to Bellary, where I arrived on the 3rd May and commenced the settlement with Sub-Overseers and others for the past year's Accounts, and was so engaged up to the night of the 7th when the robbery occurred.

Reason for drawing 3,500, in one sum.

3. For the information of Government I respectfully beg to state that, being in charge of two Executive Ranges,* I have always had two Cash Chests, also two Cash Books, and two sets of every description of Accounts required for one Range, as the money stolen belonged to my Civil Range, the Cash Book for that Range only was sent up.

* Military Buildings at Bellary and Ramandroog and Civil Works in Kumply and Bellary Talooks.

4. I respectfully beg to urge that the anomaly of my paying away within a given period a greter amount than I had received, arose entirely from the circumstance of the payments having been made, and also money received by 2 parties (myself and the Manager) and the Accounts adjusted afterwards, that all payments entered in my Cash Book were really and truly made as therein stated, I respectfully beg to add, may be proved by comparing them with monthly and other Accounts of my Sub-Overseers.

Letter from Conductor W. PORTER, Supervisor; to Captain J. F. FISHER, District Engineer of Bellary, dated Camp Bellary, 5th March 1859, No. 118.

SIR,

I respectfully beg leave to make the following explanation as called for by you in answer to the point brought forward in the Superintending Engineer's letter, and to state that, at the time I cashed the Draft on Ramandroog, the balance in the hands of the Sub-Overseers was Rupees 2,682-14-5 (items as per margin) also I had a small Cash balance of Rupees 210-1-2. The Rupees 1,000, required to make up the sum of Rupees 3,682-14-5 (stated by me to be the total amount of balances in Subordinates' hands) was paid out of the said Draft for Rupees 3,500, and was actually and bonâ fide money sent to Sub-Overseer Teroomul Row. I respectfully beg to bring to your notice that the total amount in my hands after drawing the 3,500 could only amount to 6,392-15-7. Before closing the year's Accounts I received an additional sum of 71-15-9 and *actually* expended 2,298-1-6, but was unable to shew more than 1,298-1-6. in that year's Accounts, this leaves my balance in hand (including Sub-Overseer's balances) 5,166-13-10, as shewn in my Cash Book for the 1st May 1858.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Moorai Row	42	7	10
Vurdarajooloo	2,640	6	7
	2,682	14	5

	Rs.	A.	P.
Sub-Overseer's balance	2,682	14	5
Cash with myself	210	1	2
Draft No. 311	3,500	0	0
	6,392	15	7
Received for Jumpers	71	15	9
	6,464	15	4
Actual expenditure from date of receiving the 3,500 to date of closing the year's Accounts.	2,298	1	6
	4,166	13	10

No. 82. ORDER THEREON, No. 855; dated 12th April 1859.

With this letter the Chief Engineer lays before Government further papers respecting the robbery of Supervisor Porter's Cash Chest in May 1858, and strongly urges a re-consideration of the order requiring the Supervisor to re-place the amount stolen, viz. 1,600 Rupees.

2. The circumstances which were considered by Government to bear so unfavourable an aspect against Mr. Porter, are now explained. The unusually large amount in his Cash Chest at

the beginning of May was in great part only nominal; out of Rupees 5,166 before stated, it now appears that no less than Rupees 3,682-14-5 was in the hands of Subordinate and separate executive agents, leaving only Rupees 1,483 in Mr. Porter's own Chest.

3. The fact of Mr. Porter having two separate Cash Chests, one for Civil works in two Talooks, and the other for Military works at Bellary and Ramandroog, is also clearly shewn; as well as the reason of it, viz. that the two charges constitute two separate Executive ranges, and that the charge of the Military works was liable at any time to be taken out of Mr. Porter's hands. For the same reason there were also two Cash books and two sets of books of all kinds.

From Mr. Porter, Jany. 8th 1859 p. 3.

4. The irregular mode in which Mr. Porter's books were kept appears to have been owing to a misunderstanding of the orders, not to any indolence, for his own system involved extra labour, and to have now been rectified. When recently at Bellary the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle inspected Mr. Porter's books, and reported that they were in every respect correct, both in the Civil and the Military Range, except the Station books, for which Captain Orr gave proper forms.

From Captain Orr January 1st 1859, paras. 3 to 5.

5. The testimony borne by the District Engineer to Mr. Porter's active and correct performance of his duty is very strong; and the Governor in Council does not forget that he is now, under the diminished strength of the Department, entrusted with functions ordinarily discharged by an Officer of much higher rank and emoluments. No reason whatever appears for supposing that there was any connivance in the robbery on the part of Mr. Porter; or that he failed to take all usual precautions, and all that the means at his command put within his power.

6. Under all the circumstances the Governor in Council is pleased to accede to the Chief Engineer's recommendation that Supervisor Porter shall be relieved from pecuniary responsibility for the robbery of his Cash Chest; and he orders that the amount, so lost, being Rupees 1,600 shall be written off to profit and loss.

7. The Governor in Council must remark in conclusion that he cannot hold the District Engineer free from blame with respect to the errors in Mr. Porter's method of keeping his accounts. Had Captain Fisher duly performed his duty of frequently inspecting the accounts of his Subordinates, it cannot be supposed that the mistakes pointed out in the former order of Government in the keeping of the Cash book could have passed undiscovered and uncorrected. He must remark also that Captain Fisher does not seem to him to have done all that he might and ought to have done to control the drafts of his Subordinates.

Extract Minutes Consultation 13th November 1858 No 2389.

8. On the important subject of the drawing of funds not only the Supervisor is in error, but also the District Engineer and the late Acting Chief Engineer. The orders of Government do not require that funds shall be drawn in the Talooks where the work is to be done; on the contrary the rule was designedly so worded as to enable Executive Officer to draw it at the most convenient Treasury. See Rule 2 page 393 of Grant's C. O. Book. As it is probable that the same misunderstanding may prevail in other Districts also, the Chief Engineer will be pleased to make known the correct practice by a Circular Order. He will at the same time again impress on District Engineers the duty of frequently examining both the books and the Cash Chests of their Subordinates.

9. The Governor in Council resolves also to enquire the reasons for making the Military works at Bellary and Ramandroog a separate Executive Range. At both places there are Civil works as well as Military, and the two Stations are about 30 miles apart. The most convenient arrangement as it seems to Government, would be to include Ramandroog for executive purposes, in the Koodlighee Talook in which it is situated; and if it is necessary that Bellary Station should form a separate Range, to make it include all works both Civil and Military within the Station.

10. One object in view in establishing the existing Executive arrangements was to get rid of the practice of having two Officers performing similar duties in the same locality on different

sets of works. The Chief Engineer will report on this subject. The Executive Division of the District sanctioned by Government in the order of August 1st 1857 No. 1486, was different in these respects from that which now appears to exist, and it should be reported by whom and on what authority the change was made.

11. The Governor in Council resolves also to call on the Magistrate of Bellary to submit a full report of the circumstances of the robbery of Mr. Porter's Cash Chest, of the means taken for the detection of the offenders, and of the result.

12. If the robbery occurred within the limits of the Military Police, Mr. Pelly will still report on the case so far as it came within his cognizance; but he will also communicate a copy of this order to the Officer in charge of the Military Police who will then make a full report on the subject.

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

Bellary Distt. Engr. Office, 4
Camp Ramandroog, 1st February 1859.

No. 342.

From Captain J. F. Fisher
Distt. Engr. of Bellary.

To The Chief Engineer Dy. Dept.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

With reference to Extract from Minutes of Consultation No. 2389. dated 13th November 1858. I have the honor to submit for your consideration and transmission to Government the accompanying Copy of a letter from Mr. W. Porter, Supervisor D. P. Works, appealing against the decision arrived at by Government in regard to the robbery of his Cash Chest in last May.—

2. The Superintending Engineer on his recent tour thro' the District, satisfied himself on many of the points connected with this matter, and has stated the conclusions at which he had arrived on after personally investigating the case, and I trust now Government may be pleased to give the subject further and more lenient consideration.—

3. In Mr. Porter's letter he explains why the balances in his hands appears so large on the 1st. May as noticed by Government in para 2 of their Minutes of Consultation, and in the following months this was corrected as in a note, the balance in hands with his Subordinates as well as the Cash actually in hand

is

is shewn. —

4. In para 3 Government notice that, I had given Mr. Porter drafts for large amounts without ascertaining the necessity for them; in reply I beg to state that I can only ascertain the necessity of an expenditure requiring money by knowing the works he is to carry on, and as Mr. Porter has charge of a very important range and was at the time carrying on large works for which funds were required, I did not hesitate in furnishing him with what funds he required, it is very true I might have given him a number of drafts for small amounts which he could have cashed as he wanted the money, but as the present circumstances of Mr. Porter had to draw the whole amount at once to be able to get it at all within the Official Year. My draft of the 26th of April 1858. only reached Mr. Porter on the Ramandroog on the 29th it was drawn on the Kumpley Thasildar and it was then too late to get the money from that Treasury. I asked the Collector to allow the draft being cashed by the Hoodlighe Thasildar to which he assented and as soon as Mr. Porter received the money he started off to make his payments at Bellary; had it not been the close of the Official Year the anomaly noticed by Govern^t in para 4 had not occurred, in this District money is always drawn for works from the taluk Treasuries where those works are situated. —

Withe

5. With reference to para 5 I beg to explain that Mr. Porter has charge not only of all the Civil works in the Bellary range, but also of the Military Buildings at Bellary and the Ramandroog, the accounts of the Military buildings had always been kept separate under another Officer, but on Lieutenant Drever's removal to Canara, Mr. Porter took charge of his works and kept two sets of accounts Viz^a Complete. —

6. Captain Orr has already as I have before stated declared that Mr. Porter had explained many points to him very satisfactorily, I have not therefore considered it necessary to send drawn vouchers explaining all the items of expenditure incurred during the month in which the robbery took place, as these were all forthcoming and shewn to the Superintending Engineer, I trust the Government will however on a reconsideration of the circumstances of the case be pleased to relieve Mr. Porter of the responsibility. —

7. Mr. Porter is well known to Captain Orr who can testify to his Character and abilities in this District, during the time, I have been in Charge I have no hesitation in saying that he has worked hard and willingly ever since the disbursing decision and unfavorable conclusions regarding him had been arrived at by Government. —

8. With reference to myself I beg respectfully to submit that I acted as I understood the orders of Govt

the

the Cash books as kept in this District by the Executive Officers, are Journals, shewing the transaction of all subordinates in any one range, the subordinates in Charge of works keep their own accounts of the works, in conversation with Captains (who ascertained what was required and immediately adopted the plan) the Cash books now only shews the bona fide cash transactions of each Cash Chest.

9. I have on former occasions shewn that in this Department we have no one to guard a Cash Chest, the Sascars attached to an Officers Camp, to have no interest in taking care of the property, so long as it cannot actually be proved against them that they took the money, they know they will get off without punishment, it is stated the Police Peons cannot be made available for this duty, but why they should not be compelled to do the duty for which they are paid is not shewn, if every Thasildar sent two Peons to take Charge of the Cash Chest as it passes thro' his Talook with instructions to compell the village Police to do their duty I have no hesitation in saying more robberies would soon cease.

Bellary Dist. Engr. Office
Camp Ramandroog
1st February 1859.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. G. Fisher Captain
District Engineer
of Bellary

J

Bellary, 28th January 1859.

To,

The District Engineer
of Bellary.

Sir,

Having received the Extract Minutes of Consultation under date the 13th November 1858. keeping the decision of Government regarding the robbery from my Cash Chest in May last, and by which order I am held responsible, or in other words ordered to refund the Amount Stolen (Rs. 1600) I beg most respectfully to be allowed as a final appeal to bring forward a few circumstances in further explanation of certain points in the case, which at the time of sending in my former explanation had escaped my notice as being likely to be called for - and beg that this letter be forwarded to Government - First - I beg most respectfully to bring to Your notice that the decision of Government appears to have been arrived at principally from the irregular manner in which my Cash book was kept - in explanation of which I beg to say that I was misled by the Form laid down in the Government orders. Form IV Grants (it appeared to me that this form shewing as it does Sundry small items was only intended for executives in charge of a Single work, and had I so kept my book - shewing every item of every bill or account which I paid, - a Single months Cash account would have extended over very many pages.

Irregularity of my Cash book - Form and entries.

Page 423 of Grants Circular orders.

J

I therefore adopted the Account Current Form, as the nearest which I conceived applicable to my situation and which I balanced monthly - The irregularly in dates occurred from the fact of many payments therein entered having been made by the Manager of the Military Buildings Office during my absence from Bellary and not entered by myself until many days after such payments had been made, regular accounts were however kept by the Manager of all such payments, and handed to me on my return from the Talooks to Bellary — The next point on which I beg leave to offer some explanation is the great difference, as shewn in the Minutes of Consultation between my ordinary balances, at the commencement of the Months from September to May and that on the 1st May. This entirely arose from my not having included the balances in the hands of Sub Overseers in my cash balance - Except on the 1st May and which balance I beg to state were as per Margin —

Difference on Cash balances...

Viz.

Domestick Encrease	42-7-10
Sub Overseer Pandaram	2040-6-7
Amount forwarded to Sub Overseer Seshamah	1000-0-0
Same the 2nd of April 1858	3082-14-5

In explanation of having drawn so large an Amount as Rupees 3,500. on the 30th April I respectfully beg to state that a draft for the said amount on the Kumsply Tahsildar dated the 26th April only reached me on the 29th whilst I was at Ramandroog, and it being then too late to send it to Kumsply and it being of importance that it should be Cashed within the Official Year 1857/58 (which ended on the 30th April to meet expenditure incurred within that Year - I arrange with

Reason for drawing 3500. in one sum.

with the District Engineer to have the amount so paid to me by the Hoodlighee Tahsildar at Ramandroog, and conveyed the money from thence to Bellary, where I arrived on the 3rd May and commenced the Settlement with Sub Overseers and others for the past Years accounts and was so engaged up to the night of the 7th when the robbery occurred.—

For the information of Government I respectfully beg to state that, being incharge of two Executive ranges, * I have always had two Cash Chests - also two Cash books and two sets of every description of accounts required for one ranges - as the Money stolen belonged to my Civil ranges - the Cash book for that ranges only was sent up.—

* Military buildings at Bellary & Ramandroog and Civil Works in Kumsply & Bellary Talooks.

I respectfully beg to urge that the anomoly of my having away within a given period a greater Amount than I had received arose entirely from the Circumstance of the payments having been made, and also money received by 2 parties (myself and the Manager) and the accounts adjusted afterwards that all payments entered in my Cash book were really and truly made as therein stated, I respectfully beg to add may be proved by comparing them with Monthly and other Accounts of my Sub Overseers.—

I have &c

Signed W. Porter

Supt D. P. Works

Bellary
28th January 1859.

To

No 118. Camp Bellary 5th March 1859.

To The District Engineer of Bellary

Sir,

I respectfully beg leave to make the following explanations as called for by you in answer to the front brought forward in the Superintending Engineer's letter, and to state that at the time I asked the Draft on Ramandroog the balances in the hands of the Sub Overseers was Rupees 2,682-14-5. (items as per Margin) also I had a small Cash balance of Rupees 210-1-2. The Rupees 1000. required to make up the sum of Rupees 3,682-14-5. (stated by me to be the total amount of balances in Subordinates hands) was paid out of the said draft for Rupees 3,500. and was actually and bonâfide money sent to Sub Overseer Veeranub Row. Respectfully beg to bring to your notice that the total amount in my hands after withdrawing the 3,500 Could only amount to 6392-15-7. Before closing the years accounts I received an additional Sum of 71-15-9- and actually expended

Moroor Row — 12-7-10.
Veedarajoolor — 2640-6-7.
2682-14-5.

Sub Overseers balances	2,682-14-5.
Cash with myself	210-1-2.
Draft No 311	3,500-0-0.
	6392-15-7.
Received for Sumpers	71-15-9.
	6,464-15-4.
Actual expenditure from date of receiving the 3,500. to date of closing the Years accounts	2298-1-6.
	4,166-13-10.

expended 2,298-1-6- but was unable to shew more than 1,298-1-6- in that Years accounts. this leaves my balance in hand (including Sub Overseers balances) 5,166-13-10- as shewn in my Cash book for the 1st May 1858.—

I have &c
(Signed) W. Porter
Superintendent D.P.W.

Bellary
5th March 1859

[True Copies]

Capt. W. Porter
Supt. Engr. Nn. Circle

Central Office of Works.
Fort Saint George.
28th March 1859.

No. 9068.

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Departt.

Public

Sir,

I have the honor to forward for the favorable consideration of Government the accompanying copies of letters from Assistant Superviser Porter and the District Engineer of Bellary, as per Margin, giving further explanations regarding the robbery of the Cash Chest attached to the former on the night of the 7th May 1858 and with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2389 of the 13th November 1858 earnestly entreating that the pernicious penalty of being made responsible for the heavy loss of public money thus sustained may be removed from the Assistant Superviser on a fuller examination of the circumstances and in acknowledgement of the long, [illegible] and honorable service he has performed.

2 Without questioning the justice of the decision the Government arrived at from an inspection of his Cash Book and the perusal of the unsatisfactory explanations he gave, Mr. Porter now

Enclosure 1
1 Copies of correspondence
Letter from Dy. Engr. of Bellary No. 32 of 1st February 1859.
Dy. from the Supr. Mr. Porter of 28th Jany. 59.
Dy. Dy. No. 118 of 5th March 59.

Enclosure 1 to Chief Engineer's letter to the Secretary to Government Public Works Department dated 28th March 1859.

Copies of Correspondence regarding the robbery of Mr. Porter's Cash Chest.

of Government on the subject of the robbery, and is satisfied of the thorough correctness of the latter; clearly explains one of the chief irregularities noticed by Government; and with respect to another, the circumstance of Mr Porter appearing to have had so much larger a balance on hand on the 1st May than at the beginning of any of the previous Months, it is quite satisfactorily explained that this was partly only in appearance, and partly accidental. Mr Porter having shown on the 31st April, being the end of an Official year, the aggregate of the balances in the hands of his subordinates, as cash with himself, contrary to his practice at the end of ordinary Months, and having drawn the sum of Rupees 3000 at the very termination of the Month under these special circumstances.

5 A Draft for that amount on the Kumpty Tahsildar, dated the 26th April, only reached him on the 29th when he was at Ramandroog, and finding that he could not possibly cash it at the Treasury on which it was drawn, and being anxious to obtain the money before the termination of the Official year to pay for work done in that year, he underan arrangement with the District Engineer and Collector, who both happened to be on the Droog, had it made payable by the Tahsildar of the Taluk in which

Ramandroog.

never explains that the irregularities of his Cash Book which told so heavily against him were occasioned entirely by his misunderstanding the nature and purpose of that book, which being, misled by the form given in the manual of instructions for the guidance of the Subordinates he submitted was required to show the particulars of all the

every payment made under his orders, as well as by himself, instead of being only a record of his own actual, cash receipts and issues.

3 Having charge of an extensive range of Stores, Grain, Cattle, &c, which almost daily payments were being made by the numerous subordinates to the Public in place of entering in his Cash Book the amount of those advances, from time to time made to them, and deferred filling up the receipts enacted thereon to enter them in the Detail Bills & Vouchers, when they discharged their advances, he considered it was necessary. This occurred the payments by himself, he will say on the 8th were entered under that date, while those made by subordinates on the 6th were perhaps not entered till the 8th as disbursements of four days previous date.

4 This explanation Smith, and in the opinion of the Superintending Engineer who has examined all the accounts referred to, Mr Porter before and since the receipt by him of the order

Ramdroog is situated, and drew the amount from him on the same day; thereby increasing his balance on hand on the 1st of the subsequent month to the large sum noticed by Government.

6 The discrepancy noticed in para 5 of the order of Government as appearing between the balance of Rupees 1800 said by Mr Porter to have been in his Cash Chest on the night of the robbery and that shown by his Cash Book as having been in his possession is explained by what I have said above of Mr Porters former practice of not entering in that book items of cash to his subordinates at the time they were made, but when he received from them the particulars of its disbursements. It is only necessary to say that having charge permanently of a Civil range, and temporarily of the Military Buildings in the cantonment of Bellary, which was liable to be transferred to another Officer at any moment, he had two cash chests as well as two cash books, and kept each set quite distinct. It was the cash chest attached to the Civil range that was robbed and the corresponding cash book was the one sent for the examination of Government; the other chest having been under a Military guard at the barracks escaped.

7 To the explanations now afforded, complied

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complied with the favorable report of the Superintending Engineer of the Northern Circle as to the care and regularity with which Mr Porter has kept his books and accounts since his mistakes were pointed out to him, seem to remove from him the imputation of intentional culpability. I beg most strongly to recommend his unfortunate case to the favorable reconsideration of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in the hope that as an act of grace, and in justice to a hard working and highly esteemed public servant, who has erred solely through inadvertence, the Government will be pleased to relieve him of the pecuniarily disheartening penalty of having to make good so large a sum as Rupees 1800, which could not have been lost had he been provided with better means for its safe custody or protection.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
28th March 1859

M Rendall Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

AB

1483

H.M.B.

P.W.D.

No 855

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 12th April 1859.

Read the following letter from the Chief Engineer-

(Here enter 28th March/59 No 9068)

With this letter the Chief Engineer lays before Government further papers respecting the robbery of Supervisor Porter's cash chest in May 1858, and strongly urges a reconsideration of the orders requiring the Supervisor to replace the amount stolen, viz ~~about~~ 1,600 Rupees.

2 The circumstances which were considered by

Pro Cons: 16th November/58 No 79 & 80
to 20th July -- 18-19.

No 81.

P.W. 1859 Delayed
Cons 12th April
No 746.

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

Dated 28th
Recd 29th March 1859

Encl. 1 No 9068

[illegible]

No 855. 12th April 1859.

5th April 59.

by Government to bear
no unfavourable construction
-pect against Mr. Porter,
are now explained. The
unusually large sum
and his each sheet at
the beginning of May
was no great portion
remaining out of the sum
£166 before stated, it will
appear that no less
than Rupees 3,682-14-6
was in the hands of
subordinate and responsible
executive agents, leaving
only Rupees 4583 in Mr. Porter's
own sheet.

3. The fact of Mr.
Porter drawing two separate
cash sheets, one for civil
works and two Pontoons,
and the other for Military
works at Bellary and
Ranidroog, is also
clearly shewn, as well
as

From Mr. Porter
June 8th/57 P.S.

as the reason of it, viz.
that the two charges
constitute two separate
executive ranges, and
that the charge of the
Military portion was liable
at any time to be
taken out of Mr. Porter's
hands. For the same
reason there were also
four cash books and two
sets of books of all kinds.

The irregular
mode in which Mr.
Porter's books were kept
appears to have been
owing to a misunder-
standing of the orders,
not to any indolence
for this new system in-
volved extra labour, and
to have been disapproved
when recently at Bel-
lary the Superintending
Engineer of the Northern
Circle inspected Mr.
Porter's

Porters bootis, and re-
-ported that they were
in every respect cor-
-rect, & the in the Civil
and the Military Range,
except the Cuttack boats,
for which he explained
Orr gave proper Reasons.

5. The testimony
borne by the District En-
-gineer to Mr Porters
active and correct per-
-formance of his duty
is very strong; and the
Governor in Council
does not forget that
he is now under the
diminished strength
of the Department,
entrusted with functions
ordinarily discharged
by an Officer of much
higher rank. No person
whatever especially for
suppressing that there
was

From Lieut Colonel Orr
Dated 1st Sept 1859 Para 3 to 5.

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was any connivance in
the robbery on the part
of Mr Porter, in that he
failed to take all usual
precautions, and that
that the means at his
command fell within
his power.

6 Under all the
circumstances the Go-
vernor in Council is
pleased to accede to the
Chief Engineer's recom-
-mendation that Superi-
-visor Porter shall be
relieved from pecuniary
responsibility for the
robbery of his cash chests
and he orders that the
amount, Six Lack, being
Rupees 1600 shall be
written off to profit
and loss.

7 The Governor in
Council must remark
in

in consequence that he cannot hold the Dis-
trict Engineer free from
blame in the respect
to the errors in the
Books & method of keeping
his accounts - Had
Captain Fisher
duly performed his duty
& frequently inspecting
the accounts of his sub-
ordinates, & caused the
suppressed that the mis-
takes pointed out in the
former orders of Govern-
ment and the keeping
of the cash-book could
have passed and
discovered and cor-
-rected - He must
remark also that Capt.
Lewis Fisher does not
seem to have to have
done all that he ought
and ought to have done
to -

Section 6 Act 13th Vict. 53rd Chap 39th

to control the drafts of
his subordinates -

8. On the important
subject of the drawing
of funds not only the
Superviser is in error, but
also the District Engineer
and the late Acting
Chief Engineer - The
orders of Government
do not require that funds
shall be drawn in the
Talooka where the work
is to be done, on the
contrary the rule is un-
designedly so worded
as to enable executive
officer to draw at the
most convenient
the ~~nearest~~ treasury - See
Rule 2 Page 393 of Grant
C.O. Book - We it is pro-
bable that the same
misunderstanding may
prevail in other Dis-
tricts also, the Chief
Engineer

Engineer will be pleased to make known the correct practice by a Circular Order. He will at the same time again impress on Lieutenant Cox the duty of frequently examining both the Barrier and the Earth Check of their Inclosures.

9. The Governor in Council resolves also to enquire the reasons for making the Military works at Bellary and Ramandroog a separate executive charge. At both places there are Civil works as well as Military, and the two stations are about 30 miles apart. The most convenient arrangement as it seems to Government would be to include Ramandroog for executive purposes, in the Woodyhee Talook in which it is situated, and if it is necessary that Bellary station should form a separate charge, to make it include all works both Civil and Military within the station. The object in view in establishing the existing executive arrangements was to get rid of the practice of having two Officers performing similar duties in the same locality on different sets of works. The Chief Engineer will report on this subject. The executive division of the District sanctioned by

by Government in the
order of August 1st 1857.
& 8th 11th 86, were different
in these respects from
that which now ap-
pears to exist, and it
should be reported
by whom and on
what authority the
changes were made.

11th. The Governor in
Council resolves also to
call on the Magistrates
of Bellary to submit
a full report of the
circumstances of the
robbery of Mr. Forbes'
Cash Chest of Rs. one lac
fifteen for the detection
of the offenders, and
of their result.

If the robbery
occurred within the limits
of the Military Police, Mr.
Petley will still report on
the

the case so far as it came
within his cognizance,
but he will also communi-
cate a copy of this
order to the Officer in
charge of the Military
Police who will then
make a full report on
the subject.

10 Copies to the Chief Engr & Dist Judge
1 " " Magistrate of Bellary
1 " " Accountt Genl
1 " " Genl Audr

Public Works 1859 Dep.tt
Com.s 12th April

No 1855

Extract Mins of Com.s
Dy 12th April 1859.

From Chief Eng.r 30th Mar.h 59
No 1052 in Com.

Proceeding to the Chief
Engineer's recommendation
that Supervisor Porter shall
be relieved from pecuniary
responsibility for the robbery
of his Cash Chest and ordering
the amount of Rs 1,600 so lost,
to be written off to profit and
loss.-

No 181 182

Es April 29th