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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1	Pres
		MS.
Dated	27-10-38	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
for the month of January 1860.*

No. 56. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 7th December 1859, No. 8047.

I regret to be under the necessity of submitting the accompanying correspondence with

From District Engineer, 26th August, No. 423,
with one enclosure.
To District Engineer, 10th September, No. 4510.
From District Engineer, 14th October, No. 608.
From District Engineer, 19th November, No. 186,
with two enclosures.

	Rs.
4th June 1859, ...	1,205
27th June 1859, ...	1,220
	3,025

the District Engineer of Canara, regarding a sum of Rupees 1,033-8-0 (of which Rupees 714-2-1 has already been expended without authority by Overseer Machadoo), represented to be required to complete three salt kotars and one dispensing kotar at Kumpta; in addition to the total amount of the original and supplemental estimates sanctioned for those works.

2. The statement submitted by the District Engineer of the rates allowed in the supplemental estimate and of those paid in the construction of the work shows an excess chiefly in the following items.

	Rate in estimate.	Rate paid.
Earth work per 100 cubic feet... ..	2 0 0	2 6 0
Roofing with bamboos, &c., per square...	4 0 0	4 1 7

The excess of expenditure is also to be attributed to the walls having been raised a foot higher than was allowed in the supplemental estimate. To the cost of timber for framing of partitions having exceeded the sum sanctioned by Rupees 335-13-6. To the increased extent of roof provided by bringing the eaves down much lower than was intended, costing Rupees 90-12-3; and to the charge for the following items of work not having been provided for in the original or supplemental estimates.

Filling around the basement and forming road to the kotars,	Rs. A. P.
Earth work... ..	85 5 3
Dispensing kotar flooring and filling in mud and gravel... ..	30 15 9

3. On which points the District Engineer expresses the following opinions.

He considers that the rate allowed in the supplemental estimate for earth work, viz., Rupees 2 per 100 cubic feet was ample, and that the number of coolies employed was excessive; he remarks that the Overseer raised the walls, beyond that provided for in the estimate, without authority; and that he also made the roof overlap the walls eight feet instead of three, but he agrees in thinking that this alteration does away with the necessity for using tannes to protect the walls of the building in the monsoon. He is of opinion that no blame can attach to Overseer Machadoo, on account of the excess of expenditure on timber partitions, which arose from the increased quantity of material found requisite; and he thinks that Mr. Lowry (who altered the rough estimate prepared by the Overseer) may have supposed "that bamboo mats between the uprights were sufficient, whereas for the large quantity of salt in store the weight of which is very great, transverse beams have been found necessary." The extra earth work in the basement, he remarks, was really useful; from the swampy nature of the ground, but not indispensably necessary; and the flooring of the dispensing kotar he admits was omitted in the estimate. He observes that the greater part of the expenditure on the works was incurred prior to the 1st May, that he delayed reporting the matter earlier, though fully cognizant of it, as he was engaged in collecting information to enable him to report on the case in detail; and that it eventually became requisite for him to inspect the work personally. As respects the want of proper control on the part of the officer in charge of the range, Lieutenant Hunter explains that "in consequence of Lieutenant Dwyer's removal from employment, without a minutes notice, it became necessary as a temporary measure to place Sub-Engineer Lowry in charge, but as he had his own work to do, it was a matter of course that this building should go a long time uninspected; indeed from Lieutenant Dwyer's departure till Lieutenant Hankin's arrival. I consider that the range had no officer." He reports that after close scrutiny into the accounts

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there is nothing to bring home a charge of fraud against Overseer Machadoo, but his gross mismanagement is manifest; in negligence of superintendence, making unauthorised additions, and not stopping the work on finding the estimate was being exceeded.

4. The Overseer's defence is that he was ignorant of the amount of the estimate, and he pleads his inability to find time to look into the accounts; adding that the estimate (supplemental) although prepared in the rough by him was made over in its imperfect state by Lieutenant Drever to Mr. Sub-Engineer Lowry. These are but lame excuses, and the first cannot be reconciled with his letter to the District Engineer of 20th September, wherein he speaks of the amount of the estimate which he himself had prepared in the rough. He explains his reasons for filling around the basement, &c. to be that it was owing to the swampy nature of the soil; a reason, the propriety of which, the District Engineer as above stated, fully admits; but the Overseer omits to give any explanation for raising the walls, and extending the roof beyond the authorized dimensions. To the charge of not stopping the work in time, the Overseer states that he received verbal instructions for Mr. Lowry, Sub-Engineer, to carry on the work, debiting the same to the Dharwar road estimates; and that Mr. Lowry's written order, regarding his alleged instructions for the stoppage of the work, was ambiguous. Mr. Lowry distinctly denies the former statement, and furnishes a copy of the instructions referred to by the Overseer; which are sufficiently plain. Copies of documents Nos. 8 and 21, referred to in paragraph 3 of the Overseer's letter to District Engineer are also enclosed, and they do not in the slightest degree substantiate the Overseer's charge against Mr. Lowry. With respect to his not inspecting the work properly, Overseer Machadoo explains that having had other works of importance to attend to, he placed a diligent and trustworthy Sub-Overseer Shaik Iscoof in charge of the work. He attributes the increased rate of earth work and the excess over the estimates generally to the great demand for labour, and the competition of wealthy merchants; the consequent difficulty of obtaining the large number wanted; the high rates at which they have to be paid and the dear price of grain coupled with the loss by fire on the 18th March last of certain articles estimated at Rupees 128-9. All these reasons the District Engineer considers plausible, but not satisfactory; and he doubts the statement of the Overseer that the increase of rates took place after the supplemental estimate had been sent in, the more so because the Samicottah salt kotars were executed at the estimated rates.

5. The circumstances, which have now been fully detailed, prove, that the supplementary estimate for the salt kotars was very carelessly prepared, and that it was not sufficiently scrutinized by Sub-Engineer Lowry, or by the District Engineer, Lieutenant Hunter; or the full quantity of timber required would have been provided in the estimates, and the flooring of the dispensing kotir would not have been entirely omitted; Lieutenant Hunter is also to blame for not providing the Overseer in charge of the work with a copy of the sanctioned estimate.

6. Overseer Machadoo's conduct is, in the highest degree, reprehensible as noticed by the District Engineer; in his inefficient superintendence, in altering the plans of the buildings, and in not stopping the work in time; if indeed the excessive item for mud walls, at 2-6-0 per 100 cubic feet, does not lay him open to a more serious charge.

7. I have now to request that Government will be pleased to sanction the sum of Rupees 1,038 required to complete the buildings; and of this sum, under all the explanations given, I would recommend the following items being allowed:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
For increased cost of timber	335	13	6
„ Increased roof	90	12	8
„ „ Basement to buildings	85	5	3
„ Flooring dispensing kotir	30	15	9
„ Cost of the extra foot of wall about	35	0	0
„ An additional window	2	11	10
„ Value of articles lost by fire less pick axes, &c., which would not have been burnt	126	5	0
Total	707	0	0

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and the difference between this sum and that now applied for Rupees 331-8-0 should be made good by the Overseer, by stoppages of Rupees 20 a month. He has been again called on for any further explanation he has to offer for the alterations he made without any authority in the plan of the work, and on the receipt of his reply, I will report further on that part of the subject, in the mean time, I do not wish to detain these papers any longer as the kotars ought to be finished without delay. Should the District Engineer not have funds for the purpose, the outlay can be defrayed from the amount in the next budget for supplemental estimates.

Rupees 1,038-8-0
707-0-0
331-8-0

No. 57.

ORDER THEREON, 24th January 1860, No. 184.

The Government sanction the sum of 1,038* Rupees for the completion of the salt kotars at Kumpta in North Canara; but before passing orders on the overseer's case, they will await the further explanation which, it is observed, he has been called upon to furnish in respect to his unauthorized proceedings in the building of these kotars.

	Rs.
* Original estimate sanctioned E. M. C. 4th June 1858, No. 1067	1,085
Supplemental estimate do. E. M. C. 27th June 1859, No. 1575	1,220
Further amount now sanctioned	1,038
Total sanction for the kotars Rs.	9,343

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

18047

Post Office of P.W. &
Fort Saint George
7 December 1858.

From

The Chief Engineer

To,

The Secretary

to Government at Fort St. George

Sir,

I regret to be under the necessity of

Enc. 7.

From Dist. Engr. of Tanjore
10/12/58
From Dist. Engr. of Tanjore
10/12/58
From Dist. Engr. of Tanjore
10/12/58
Total 3 enclosed

submitting the accompanying correspondence with

The District Engineer of Tanjore regarding a sum of

Rs. 14,381. 8/- of which Rs. 7,101. 2/- have

already been expended without authority by Government

(blackdoo) represented to be required to complete

3 Salt Works and 1 distilling Works at Comptah;

in addition to the total amount of the original and

Supplemental Estimates sanctioned for those works.

Rs.
6th June 1858 - 1805
27th June 1858 - 1230
3025

2. The Statement submitted by the

District Engineer of the rates allowed in the Supplemental

Estimate and of those paid in the construction of the work

shows an account chiefly in the following

land

Items

Nov 1888

Earth work per 100 Cubic feet 2.00

Roofing with bamboo 2.00 per square 4.00

The excess of expenditure is also to be attributed to the walls having been raised a foot higher than was allowed in the Supplemental Estimate, and the cost of timber for framing of partitions having been the same sanctioned by Engineer 1887 and the increased extent of roof provided for during the

Work done much lower than was intended.

Refers 90 11. 3. and 1. 11. change for the determination of work not having been provided for in the Original or Supplemental Estimates.

Filling around the basement and

forming road to the Nohes

Earth work

Refers 90 5. 1

Dispensing Kity

Flooring and filling in basement ground 10.00

3. On which points the British Engineer expressed the following opinions.

He considers that the rate allowed in the Supplemental

Estimate

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Estimate for earth work left. Refers 2 per 100 cubic feet was ample, and that the number of coolies employed was excessive. He remarks that the Overseer raised the walls, beyond that provided for in the Estimate, without authority; and that he also raised the roof and the walls 8 feet instead of 3, but he agrees in thinking that this alteration does away with the necessity for using batties to protect the walls of the building in the monsoon. He is of opinion that no blame can attach to Overseer Machadoo, on account of the excess of expenditure on timber partitions, which arose from the increased quantity of material found requisite. And he thinks that Mr. Cowy (who altered the rough Estimate prepared by the Overseer) may have supposed "that bamboo struts between the uprights were sufficient whereas for the large quantity of salt in store the weight is very great, transverse beams have been found necessary." The extra earth work in the basement, he remarks, was really useful, from the swampy nature of the ground, but not indispensably necessary; and the flooring of the dispensing Kity, he admits was omitted in the Estimate. He observes that the greater part of the expenditure on the works was incurred prior to the 1st May, that he delayed reporting the