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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	2594	Press M/s.
<i>233-54</i> Dated	18-12-1860.	

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th December 1860.*

No. 233. Read the following letter from W. S. NESBITT, Esq., Secretary Ootacamund Improvement Committee, to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated Ootacamund, 28th November 1860, No. 39 :—

SIR,

1. Consequent upon the Government Order of the 20th September last No. 1,963, in which Mr. Sub-Engineer Williams was withdrawn from serving under the Committee, explanations were called for from Mr. Brosnahan by which it appeared that there had been no voluntary communication of local information on the part of Mr. Williams to Mr. Brosnahan. This has led to an examination of the work performed by Mr. Williams, while his services were nominally at the disposal of the Committee.

2. While such examination has been pending, the Committee have observed in the Fort Saint George Gazette of the 23rd instant, the removal of Mr. Brosnahan from his charge on the Neilgherry Hills to the Malabar District, and that he is to be relieved here by Mr. Sub-Engineer Williams.

3. In consequence of this expected change, the Members of the Committee have been led to record Minutes, which I beg to annex to the present letter, and, with reference to which, the Committee would desire to express their earnest hope that it may suit the convenience of Government to leave Mr. Brosnahan, at least for the present, in his situation here.

4. In making this request the Committee would refer to their Secretary's letter of the 28th May in which they requested that Mr. Williams, services might be continued to them. They considered his local knowledge of value, and had *then* no reason to doubt his being qualified, and it was not till the Committee came to notice the scanty amount of work performed that they were led to institute an examination which has resulted in their being compelled to question his competency.

5. The inspection returns as well as the field books, which are alluded to in the Minutes of the Members, are herewith forwarded, and I have the honor, by desire of the Committee, to request that they may be put into the hands of a professional Surveyor to report upon.

MINUTES.

I have examined Mr. Williams' list of work performed in July and August, the only months the returns of which we have, and I have further looked over the plans and field books kept by Mr. Williams, which Mr. Brosnahan was requested to send in, and I must say that the work done ought not to have occupied 15 days; but that from the mode in which the field books are kept, I very much doubt Mr. Williams being a competent Surveyor, and I think we ought to beg the Government to continue to us Mr. Brosnahan's services, with the aid of a Surveyor on moderate salary as proposed at our last meeting.

I may add that I have been regularly educated in surveying, and have completed several miles of accurate and detailed surveys of the broken grounds in the island of Guernsey, and have on several occasions surveyed in this country, and that I do not therefore speak without experience.

(Signed) J. ROHDE.

28th November 1860.

I do not feel competent to pass an opinion in the professional question. The field books seems extraordinary certainly, but when in a return of work performed, I see a whole day stated to be occupied in "waiting on Mr. Nesbitt and Mr. Brosnahan with a plan," (with other similar entries) I cannot but be strengthened in a general impression that work has been very laxly

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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performed. I think we should beg the Government to place the field books in the hands of a professional Surveyor for an opinion, and quite concur in our asking for a continuance of Mr. Brosnahan's services, whom we know to be competent, and have seen to be active.

(Signed) J. OUCHTERLONY.

I also am unable to pass an opinion on the professional question, but the examination of the books and lists seems certainly to show a scanty amount of work done, and I concur in the request of the other members.

(Signed) W. S. NESBITT,

No. 234.

ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1860, No. 2,594.

1. The Government see no occasion at present to alter the arrangement recently sanctioned by them.

2. The Chief Engineer will instruct Captain Goddard to report on Mr. Williams' fitness for his present situation and will lay the report before Government.

(Signed) J. D. SJM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 39

28th November 1860.

From W. S. Nesbitt Esq.

Secretary to the Madras Imp. Committee

To J. P. Gifford Esq.

Chief Secretary to Government

1. In consequence of the Government order of the 20th September last No. 1963 in which Mr. Sub Engineer Williams was withdrawn from serving under the Committee, explanations were called for from Mr. Brosnahan by which it appeared that there had been no voluntary communication of local information on the part of Mr. Williams to Mr. Brosnahan. This has led to an examination of the work performed by Mr. Williams, while his services were nominally at the disposal of the Committee.

2. While such examination has been pending the Committee have observed in the Fort St George Gazette of the 23rd Instant the removal of Mr. Brosnahan from his charge on the railway.

Killer to the Malabar District, and that he is
to be believed here by Mr. Sub-Quarrier Williams

3. In consequence of the expected
change the members of the Committee have been
led to learn Minutes, which they annex to
the present letter, and, with reference to which,
the Committee unite desires to express their
earnest hope that it may suit the conveni-
ence of Government to have Mr. Braxall
at least for the present, in his situation here.

4. In making this request the Committee
will refer to their Secretary's letter of the 2^d of
May in which they requested that Mr. Williams
Service might be continued to them. They
considered his local knowledge of value,
and had then no reason to doubt his being
qualified, and it was not till the Committee came
to notice the quantity and amount of work performed
that they were led to institute an examination
which has resulted in their being compelled
to question his competency.

5. The Inspection returns as well as

the First books, which have been referred to in the Minutes
of the members, are herewith forwarded, and I
have the honor, by desire of the Committee, to request
that they may be put into the hands of a professional
Surgeon to report upon.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servant

M. St. John
Secretary to the Infros. Committee

Minutes

I have examined Dr. Williams' list of work performed in July and August: the only months the returns of which we have, and I have further looked over the plans and field Books kept by Dr. Williams which Dr. Brown has been requested to send us, and I must say that the work done ought not to have occupied 15 days, but that from the mode in which the field books are kept, I very much doubt Dr. Williams being a competent Surveyor, and I think we ought to beg the Government to continue to use Dr. Brown's services, with the aid of a Surveyor on moderate salary as proposed at our last meeting.

I may add that I have been regularly educated in Surveying, and have completed several miles of accurate and detailed surveys of the broken grounds in the Island of Queeney, and have on several occasions surveyed in this country, and that I do not therefore speak without experience.

J. P. P. P. P.

28th Decr 1860

I do not feel competent to give an opinion on the professional question. The field books seem extraordinary certainly, but when in a position of work performed, I see a whole day that is to be as compared in waiting on Dr. Williams and Dr. Brown with a plan (with other similar entries) I cannot help but think that a general impression of that work has been very largely performed. I think we should beg the Government to place the field books in the hands of a professional Surveyor for an opinion, and quite secure in our asking for a comparison of Dr. Brown's services, whom we know to be competent, and have seen to be a native.

J. P. P. P. P.

I also am equal to give an opinion on the professional question, but the examination of the field books and other papers certainly to show a quantity amount of work done & amount in the hands of the other members.

J. P. P. P. P.

Secretary of the Committee.

