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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT. Cen 07/8/60

G.O. No. 645 Press / Mis.

1-4

Dated 1 — 3 — 1860

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 1. Read the following letter from J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Officiating Collector of Nellore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 16th February 1860, No. 2.

I have the honor to submit for the consideration and orders of Government, a correspondence, which has passed between the Acting Civil and Session Judge, the District Engineer and myself, with reference to the reconstruction of a bridge over the Sarvápalli irrigation channel near the Civil Dispensary, and within the limits of the town of Nellore.

2. Having witnessed the carrying away of this bridge in the heavy floods of November last, it was, with much pleasure, I received a letter* from Mr. Ratliff, the Acting Civil and Session Judge, intimating that he was about to rebuild the bridge, and requesting me to supply him with nine candies of chunam from the local funds.

*No. 14, dated the 23rd ultimo.

3. In issuing orders for the supply of the chunam from the local funds, intimation† was given of this disbursement to the District Engineer, whom I should have consulted in the first instance, recollecting that an important irrigation work was concerned; and, on the receipt of this intimation of what had taken place between the Judge and myself, the District Engineer, at once wrote,‡ in the first place, suggesting for consideration, whether it was really desirable that the bridge should be proceeded with, as the channel, it might be expected, would be finally closed before the end of the year; and, secondly, observing, should it be determined to proceed with the bridge, that, in his opinion, in such case, the roadway should be raised, and the bridge furnished with shutters.

† No. 16, dated the 4th instant.

‡Letter dated the 6th instant, was sent to the Ag. Civil and Session Judge with letter No. 81 of the 10th instant, but not returned. Has been called for, and copy will be furnished on its receipt.

4. Believing that it would tend greatly to the public convenience to have the bridge rebuilt at once, and under any circumstances that it would be desirable to retain the use of the channel, the final closing of which has reference to the anicut and improvements, now being made in a neighbouring channel, I gave my opinion for going on with the bridge and in forwarding§ the letter of the District Engineer to the Acting Civil and Session Judge, I added, that "with the experience of the "late floods fresh in our minds," he would, I presumed, "agree in the propriety, in fact, the "necessity of providing the bridge with shutters, for the purpose of cutting off the supply, "when requisite." The present Sarvápalli channel, I had better here mention, runs between the principal portion of the town of Nellore, and the jail and a suberb. And, I had sanatory measures especially, in view in deciding on the expediency of retaining its use, when the new channel should be opened, and available for all purposes of irrigation.

§Letter No 81 dated the 10th instant.

5. Mr. Ratliff having applied‖ for, and been furnished with a copy of the letter addressed by me to the District Engineer, on the 4th instant, intimates in a letter, No. 34, received this morning and dated 14th instant, that he fully agrees in the necessity of rebuilding the bridge, but cannot concur in the suggestions of the District Engineer, that the roadway should be raised, and the bridge furnished with shutters; he therefore, declines to adopt these suggestions of the District Engineer, and purposes proceeding with the reconstruction of the bridge.

‖No. 31, dated the 11th instant.

6. Looking on the opinion given by the District Engineer, as to the propriety of raising the roadway and furnishing the bridge with shutters, as a professional opinion, and further, heartily agreeing in its soundness, if I may be permitted to record an opinion on such a purely professional point, I have at once called¶ on the Acting Civil and Session Judge to take no steps whatsoever in the actual reconstruction of the bridge in question, till the orders of Government can be received on the subject, and these orders I now do myself the honor to solicit, at an early date.

¶No. 91 of this day's date.

and requesting me to supply him with 9 Candies of Chunam

2. The Government will observe that Mr. Ratliff takes exception to the peremptory tone of my letter of the 16th instant, and, after referring to his personal knowledge of the channel in question, intimates his intention of proceeding with the rebuilding of the bridge, as any progress he could possibly make, would not militate against the carrying out of "the expensive scheme" advocated by myself, should such be finally ordered.

From Captain JOHN MULLINS,* District Engineer, Nellore; to J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Officiating Collector of Nellore, dated 6th February 1860, No. 218.

With reference to your letter No. 16 of the 4th instant, I have the honor to point out that probably before the next monsoon the head of the Survápalli channel, near the civil hospital, will be closed, and if so, the rebuilding of the bridge will be unnecessary, and perhaps, therefore, a temporary arrangement would be more advisable than a permanent work, which will cost a considerable sum.

2. Should the bridge be rebuilt, it would be a good plan to raise the roadway one yard above its former level, and to furnish the arches with shutters for the regulation of the supply. Captain Ritherdon will, on your informing me what you think will be the best plan, be instructed to prepare the necessary drawings.

From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Session Judge of Nellore; to J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Officiating Collector of Nellore, dated 16th February 1860, No. 38.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt, this moment, of your communication bearing No. 94, and yesterday's† date, wherein you are pleased to instruct me *not to take any further steps whatsoever* in the actual reconstruction of a recently destroyed bridge, (formerly) spanning an irrigation channel, which intersects one of the public roads at this station, a road which has been rendered, of course, meantime, impassable.

† Error for "yesterday's" read "this day's."

2. Your reason for this, as I believe, most unusual, and (as I cannot but look upon it to be) peremptory, interference in a matter falling exclusively under my own control and management, (as do, if I mistake not, the repairs and construction of all Sadr station roads properly so called, and all bridges connected therewith, in my capacity, as officer in charge of the jail and prisoners) has, I observe, no better basis than a mere casual suggestion of the District Engineer's, offered in reply to a communication from yourself, simply advising the furnishing to me of a certain quantity of chunam I had applied for, in order to reconstruct this particular bridge: the suggestion itself, however, being prefaced by another, pointing out the inadvisableness of reconstructing the said bridge at all; inasmuch as the channel it was to span, would in a few months be abandoned — and the head closed.

3. Comparatively useless, and wholly inefficient as this channel has long been found to be, and mainly owing to defects at that particular spot, so much so, as to necessitate the cost of opening up an entirely fresh head to it, in another locality; I was, notwithstanding, rather disposed to concur with you in the advisableness of not altogether closing it, although it was to be wholly abandoned within a short time, than with the Engineer, who suggested a contrary course; and consequently, notwithstanding the cost and labor entailed, proposed proceeding with the reconstruction of the bridge, which of course, became a sine quá non, were the channel head still left open.

4. When, however, in addition to actually *necessary* cost; I see you advocate the very unnecessary additions involved by raising roadways on either side, to the extent specified, and constructing and fitting in shutters to the arches of the new bridge, in order to regulate the supply of water, through a channel found inefficient for affording any proper supply *at all*. I am fain to change my opinion; and should advocate, as an alternative, the adoption of some temporary arrangement, vice bridge,—and the eventual total filling in of the space it occupied, or by a permanent roadway — as suggested by Captain Mullins.

* Letter referred to in marginal note, paragraph 3 of letter No. 2 of the 10th instant.

5. Under what view you have been pleased to refer to this about-to-be-adandoned channel head, "*as an important irrigation work,*" and felt it incumbent, not only to thus summarily, interfere with my proceedings in connection with spanning it, but to recommend apparently, a considerable outlay of Government funds, in order to furnish it with what it has never yet possessed or needed; I am naturally at a loss to understand.

6. The great difficulty since I have known the district and channel (now many years,) has been, not to regulate, but to get, a supply of water, *at all* down it, through its present head. Whilst I need scarcely observe, that even were the proposed shutters fixed to the arches, they could not be closed, in the event of any such (comparative) flood, as that which recently carried away the old bridge, without involving palpable additional danger to the new one, from the thereby necessarily increased pressure upon it.

7. The referring the matter or not to Government is of course a question for your own decision, but should you do so, I would beg that copy of this present communication be submitted, at the same time, as the foregoing correspondence, or, that it be at once forwarded as a supplement, should your reference have been already made. I have not lost a moment in reply in order to save any such trouble.

8. Meantime, as the public convenience is at stake—and as such progress as I can possibly make with the bridge, ere reply to your reference is received, cannot bring it to such a point as to militate against the eventual carrying out of your expensive scheme, should Government see fit to interfere, and order the same, you must pardon my declining to accede to your request, that I should put a stop to all further steps towards reconstruction.

From J. W. B. DYKES, Esq., Officiating Collector; to J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Civil and Session Judge of Nellore, dated 18th February 1860.

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, taking exception to the peremptory tone of my request to stop all building operations over the Sarvápalli channel, and, after referring to the nature of the channel in question, &c. intimating your intention of proceeding with the rebuilding of the bridge, as any progress you could possibly make would not militate against the carrying out of the expensive scheme I had advocated, should Government see fit to interfere and order the same.

2. It seems to me, that in your remarks on the supply usually obtained by the Sarvápalli channel hitherto, you have overlooked the important fact, that the position of this channel in respect to supply, will be considerably altered, when the anicut is completed. But, as this is a purely professional question to be decided, in my opinion, by the Engineer department, I should be occupying your time to no purpose, were I to enter upon it. And I will now only add, that it would be a source of regret to me, should the tone of my communication have conveyed any further meaning, than was intended. It was couched in the words used, because I considered it essential, under the circumstances of the case, that the plan of the bridge should be duly considered, and fully decided upon, before the foundations were laid; and I presumed that the foundations would be the first point to which your attention would be given in its rebuilding. I therefore, requested in clear, and distinct terms, that no such steps should be taken, and, further than that, I had nothing, and did not wish to have anything, to do with the matter.

3. Thinking it desirable that the question should be decided, at once, by the higher authorities, and without further correspondence on the subject between non professional men like ourselves, I wrote to the Chief Secretary, at the same time as I wrote to yourself, and, as requested, I shall now do myself the honor of forwarding, in continuation of the correspondence then submitted, a copy of the letter under acknowledgment and of this reply.

No. 3. From J. RATLIFF, Esq., Acting Session Judge of Nellore; to T. PYCROFT, Esq., Chief Secretary to Government, dated 20th February 1860, No. 15.

1. Mr. Dykes, the Officiating Collector of this district, having, as I learn, by a just received communication from him, bearing date 18th current, already made a reference to Government, in connection with the reconstruction of a recently destroyed bridge, erst spanning a channel,

and requesting me to supply him with ... Candidat...

by which one of the public station roads is intersected, and consequently falling under my own exclusive supervision, I have the honor, in the absence of any information as to the nature of Mr. Dykes' representations to Government, to solicit indulgence, whilst myself offering a few observations in connection with the subject.

2. This bridge was carried away on the 23rd of November last. In January I took preliminary measures for its reconstruction by getting rid of a local collection of obstructive water: and, on the 23rd of that month, applied to the Officiating Collector for a supply of chunam, to carry on the future building operations. That officer, at once granted the same:—advised me of his having done so:—and reported (as usual) to the District Engineer the indent upon the local fund:—without, however, offering observation, or suggestion soever, on his own part, respecting the proposed operations, either to the Engineer or myself when thus addressing us, respectively, on the subject;—whilst he had in no way soever, previously, during the interval of no less than ten weeks that had then lapsed since the destruction of the bridge, evidenced the slightest (overt) interest, in connection with the matter: a fact, which I cannot forbear evinced about, and great importance suddenly attached to, the self same matter, by the same officer, when opposed, in the carrying out of a suggestion, in connection with it, casually thrown giving prominence, as contrasting forcibly with the subsequently deep and active interest out by a third party, and adopted by himself (as hereunder explained.)

3. The District Engineer (who, it may be also observed, had not, any more than the Officiating Collector, previously testified the slightest interest on the subject) when acknowledging receipt of the above mentioned advice of the chunam grant, casually suggested to Mr. Dykes, the inadvisableness of reconstructing the bridge *at all;* inasmuch as, the channel head which it spanned would be shortly closed, as useless—and thereby of course, enable the filling in of a permanent roadway in its bed; in lieu of going to the very considerable trouble and cost of rebuilding a bridge across it.

4. To this, prima facie, very reasonable suggestion, however, Captain Mullins annexed a second, of (as it seemed to me) a most incompatible character and to the which I eventually demurred, accordingly. Having commenced by thus advocating the uselessness of going to the great expense and trouble of re-building the bridge *at all*, he (Captain Mullins), proceeds to say (in effect) "but if you do rebuild it, dont be satisfied with going to such cost and trouble only, "as will serve to simply replace the hitherto existing structure, in a stable and efficient man- "ner, but incur, over and above that, such very considerable additional an amount, as will be "involved by raising the height of the road approaches, on either side, by a *yard*—and fitting in "shutters to the bridge arches:" the expressed object of this outlay being to *regulate* the future supply of water through the same channel head; which, having been found utterly inefficient for the conveyance of *any* (adequate) supply at all, had been, or is to be shortly, abandoned for a new one under construction, and which, in consequence of that fact, himself had, in preceding paragraph suggested the propriety of closing altogether and filling in its bed with a permanent roadway.

5. On receipt of the letter conveying these two casual, and opposite suggestions, Mr. Dykes, (as you will observe from the correspondence he has, I believe, submitted), addressed me on the subject; expressing his own views:—(almost) assuming mine to be in accordance:—intimating what steps he had himself *already taken*:—and suggesting the course which he desires me to adopt.

6. Although I could not but feel this sudden assumption of control over my proceedings, in a matter falling exclusively under my own supervision, to have been, under the circumstances, somewhat abrupt and dictatorial, I notwithstanding abstained from comment on the subject; contenting myself in reply, with simply expressing concurence with Mr. Dykes in the advisableness of rebuilding *a* bridge, but declining to accede to the suggestion for enhanced (because I felt it would be under the circumstances, perfectly needless) outlay.

7. Unable, apparently, to brook my presumption, in having thus failed to fall in with his views, and obey his instructions, Mr. Dykes, without further reference soever to the Engineer, (whose mere casual suggestion had alone originated his own interest in, or notice of, the

matter, at all,) without in any way, (as I believe) representing to that officer the general objection I had already raised, and without himself condescending to seek the elicitation, in details of any I might have to offer, as one who had formerly filled the office of Collector of the district, and whose revenue experience in it reckoned by years, two months of his own—seems to have elected to forthwith submit direct to Government, a reference on the subject made, indeed, so hastily, as to preclude the possibility even of prior reception of a reply from me, to the communication wherein his intention to adopt that course was intimated.

8. In his this day's received letter, bearing No. 97 and date 18th current, (of which I observe he purposes forwarding to you, copy) Mr. Dykes has, in paragraph 2, assumed "my having over- "looked the important fact that the position of this channel head in respect to supply, will be "considerably altered when the anicut is completed."

9. In penning this observation, however, Mr. Dykes, independantly of gratuitously assuming me to be guilty of a most egregious and (considering my local experience) unpardonable omission, has, seemingly, himself forgotten, that the anicut *has* once already *been* a 'fait accompli'—that its effects have been tested—and, that it must have been under, and notwithstanding a thorough knowledge of what those effects would hereafter be at their best, upon this particular channel head, that the necessity for a *new* one had been decided upon.

10. Regretting much that the Government has been thus precipitately, and, as I venture to believe, needlessly, troubled and referred to in a matter wherein I have concern; and resoliciting indulgence for the addition which I have been fain to make to that trouble, by this present explanation.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, 1st March 1860, No. 445.

Resolved that these letters together with their enclosures be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

and requesting me to supply him with 9 Candies of Chunam

Nellore Collector's Office,
Buchireddipalleum,
16th February 1860.

No. 2.

9+

From,
J. W. B. Dykes Esquire,
Officiating Collector of Nellore.

To,
J. Pycroft Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit for the consideration and orders of Government, a correspondence which has passed between the Acting Civil and Session Judge, the District Engineer, and myself, with reference to the re-construction of a Bridge over the Sawapalli Irrigation Channel near the Civil Dispensary, and within the limits of the Town of Nellore.

2. Having witnessed the carrying away of this Bridge in the heavy floods of November last, it was, with much pleasure, I received a letter from Mr. Ratliff, the Acting Civil and Session Judge, intimating that he was about to rebuild the Bridge, and requesting me to supply him with a Candidate

No. 14, dated the 23rd Ultimo.

Chunam
&c

Channam from the Local Funds.

3. In issuing orders for the supply of the Channam from the Local Funds, intimation was given* of this disbursement to the District Engineer, whom I should have consulted in the first instance, recollecting that an important irrigation work was concerned; and, on the receipt of this intimation of what had taken place between the Judge and myself, the District Engineers, at once, wrote, in the first place, suggesting for consideration, whether it was really desirable that the Bridge should be proceeded with, as the Channel, it might be expected, would be finally closed before the end of the year; and, secondly, observing, should it be determined to proceed with the Bridge, that, in his opinion, in such case, the roadway should be raised, and the Bridge furnished with shutters.

4. Believing that it would tend greatly to the public convenience to have the Bridge rebuilt at once, and under any circumstances that it would be desirable to retain the use of the Channel, the final closing of which has reference to the Anaikatty and

*No. 16, dated the 4th instant.

*Letter dated the 6th instant. Was sent to the Cg Civil & Session Judge, with letter No. 81 of the 10th instant; but not returned. Has been called for, and copy will be furnished on its receipt. —

and improvements, now being made, in a neighbouring Channel. I gave my opinion for going on with the Bridge, and in forwarding the letter of the District Engineer to the Acting Civil and Session Judge, I added, that, "with the experience of the late floods fresh in our "minds", he would, I presumed, "agree in the propriety "in fact, the necessity of providing the Bridge with "shutters, for the purpose of cutting off the supply, when "requisite". — The present Sarvapalli Channel, I had better here mention runs between the principal portion of the Town of Nellore, and the Jail and a suburb. And, I had sanatary measures, especially, in view in deciding on the expediency of retaining its use, when the new Channel should be opened, and available, for all purposes of irrigation

*Letter No. 81, dated the 10th instant

5. Mr. Ratliff having applied for, and been furnished with, a copy of the letter addressed by me to the District Engineer, on the 4th instant, intimates in a letter received this morning, and dated 14th instant, that he fully agrees in the necessity of re-building the Bridge, but cannot concur in the suggestions of the

*No. 31, dated the 11th instant.

°No. 34.

Anicut

the District Engineer, that the roadway should be raised, and the Bridge furnished with shutters; he therefore declines to adopt these suggestions of the District Engineer, and purposes proceeding with the re-construction of the Bridge.

6. Looking on the opinion given by the District Engineer, as to the propriety of raising the roadway and furnishing the Bridge with shutters, as a professional opinion, and further, heartily agreeing in its soundness, if I may be permitted to record an opinion on such a purely professional point, I have at once called on the Acting Civil and Session Judge to take no steps whatsoever in the actual reconstruction of the Bridge in question, till the orders of Government can be received on the subject, and these orders I now do myself the honor to solicit, at an early date.

* No. 94 of this day date.

7. The Bridge, as I have already stated, is to be built over an important irrigation Channel, and, in my opinion, its reconstruction should be wholly under the orders of the District Engineer.

8. And I would take this opportunity of submitting for the consideration of Government, whether it is not most desirable that all out-door convict-labor should be subjected to the orders of the District Engineers, whenever employed for the repair or construction of roads, buildings or re-building of Bridges, as in the present instance, or, in short, on any works that come properly within the particular province of the Department of Public Works.

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9. It seems, that, when superintended, and tested, at proper intervals, by professional measurement, such works would everywhere be conducted on more scientific principles, than at present. The results would be more satisfactory, and as a general rule a greater amount of work would be done. Whilst, with this check on the Jail Feons, there would probably soon be less reason for the present very general belief, that prisoners, with the command of a little money, and condemned to hard labor on the roads, find such out-door work pleasanter than being

being within the four walls of the Jail.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

J W B Dykes

Presiding Collector

Jellore, 23rd January 1860.

No. 14.

15

From, J. Ratliff Esqre.

Acting Sessions Judge of Nellore.

To, J. W. B. Dykes Esqre.

Offg. Collector of Nellore.

Sir,

As I am about to rebuild the recently carried away Bridge near the Civil Dispensary, I have the honor to request that, you will be good enough to supply me with 9 Candies of Chunam from the Local Fund as I have no funds available for the purpose.

And to be,

Sir,

Your most Obt. Servt.

Signed J. Ratliff

Acting Sessions Judge

Nellore,

The

Zilla Court

Nellore

23rd January 1860.

Rec'd 24th Jan'y 1860.

Dis: Accts Elucidation

No. 402.

Dept. of Revenue, Registration, Stamps and Stationery 204

From Dy. Collr. Nellore

No. 492

Nellore 24th Jan'y 1860.

Respectfully submitted to the Collector & Magistrate of Nellore

No. 1.

Tellore, Collector's Office

No. 65. Jammavaram

2nd February 1860.

From J. W. B. Dykes Esqre.

Offg. Collector of Tellore.

To J. Ratcliff Esqre.

Acting Civil & Sessions Judge

of Tellore.

Sir, With reference to your letter of the 23rd Ultimo, I have the honor to inform you that the Tahsildar of Tellore has been directed to furnish you with 9 Candils of Chunam from the Local fund for rebuilding the bridge near the Civil Dispensary.

I have &c.

Signed J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector

Tellore, Collector's Office

No. 16. Nimakur 17

4th February 1860.

From J. W. B. Dykes Esqre.

Offg. Collector of Tellore.

To Capt. J. Mullins

District Engineer, Tellore.

Sir, In continuation of the letter from this Office under date the 29th July 1859 No. 185 I have the honor to inform you that on the application of the Acting Sessions Judge, I have ordered 9 Candils of Chunam to be furnished to him for the rebuilding of the bridge near the Civil Dispensary. The Cost of the Chunam will be communicated to you on its' receipt from the Tahsildar of Tellore.

I have &c.

Signed J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector

The

Nellore, Collector's Office

No. 81 Buchinapalem

10th February 1860.

Buckingham Canal

From J. W. B. Dykes Esqre.

Offg. Collector of Nellore.

To J. J. Ratliff Esqre.

Acting Civil & Sessions Judge

of Nellore.

Sir, With reference to my letter of the 2d inst. & the accompanying from the District Engineer of the 6th instant, relative to the rebuilding of the bridge over the Sarrapalli channel near the Dispensary, I have the honor to request that you will be so good as to enquire into the actual construction of the work, pending the receipt from the District Engineer of the requisite

2. The District Engineer you will observe suggests in the first place, that, as the lease of the Sarrapalli Channel will very probably be closed before the next Monsoon, a temporary arrangement would perhaps be more advisable than a permanent work, which would cost a considerable sum; & in the second place, that, if it be determined to rebuild the bridge, it is desirable to raise the roadway & furnish the arches with shutters for the regulation of the supply. As the closing of the Sarrapalli Channel before the next Monsoon is doubtful, especially with reference to the limited funds now available for public works, & as, under any circumstances it seems desirable that we should retain the power of using the old Channel, when required, you will I think agree with me that it would be better to go on with the bridge. Whilst I have equally little doubt, that, with the

the experience of the late floods fresh in our minds, all will agree in the propriety, in fact the necessity of fitting the bridge with shutters for the purpose of cutting off the supply when requisite. I have therefore written to the District Engineer requesting him to instruct Captain Ritterdon to prepare the planks with as little delay as possible; & in the meanwhile I trust that you will kindly give orders for the prisoners to collect the materials &c.

I have &c.

Signed J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector

No. 22

Nellore, Collr's Office

Buchirajpalem

10th February 1860.

From, J. W. B. Dykes Esqre

Offg. Collector of Nellore

To, Captn J. Mullins

District Engineer, Nellore

Sir, With reference to your letter of the 6th, I have the honor to request, that you will kindly instruct Captn Ritterdon to prepare the requisite planks &c. for the bridge at the Civil Dispensary, as suggested in para 2 of your letter under acknowledgement with as little delay as possible.

2. My reasons for deciding in favour of rebuilding the bridge are given in a letter addressed this day on the subject to the Civil & Sessions Judge, copy of which I enclose and trusting that these reasons will meet your approval, I may as well mention, that I had in special view sanatory arrangements.

I have &c.

Signed J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector

No. 31- Nellore, 11th February 1860-

From, J. Ratliff Esqre
Acting Civil Judge of Nellore-

To, J. W. B. Dykes Esqre
Offg Collector of Nellore-

Sir, In acknowledging receipt of your Communication bearing No. 81- Date 10th Current- and enclosing an original letter to your address from the L. District Engineer- I have the honor, prior to replying to the first Noted, to request that you will be good enough to furnish me with copy of that, from yourself, to which the latter is written in answer-

I have &c
(Signed) J. Ratliff
Acg Civil Judge-

Zilla Court
Nellore
11th February 1860-

Nellore,

Nellore, 4th February 1860-

No. 31-

23

From, J. Ratliff Esqre
Acting Civil Judge of Nellore-

To, J. W. B. Dykes Esqre
Offg Collector of Nellore-

Sir, In acknowledging receipt of the document called for in mine, (No. 31) of 11th Current, I have the honor, with reference to the correspondence, generally on the subject at issue, to state, that I purpose proceeding with the reconstruction of the Bridge in question- irrespective of the contingency adverted to by the District Engineer- 1stly because I look doubtfully, as a rule, upon D. P. W. progress- & 2 nd ly because I quite concur with you in the advisableness of keeping open the presently existing Channel, notwithstanding the

the construction of a new one.

2. In the suggestion however, that the road should be raised & the bridge furnished with Shutters, I am quite unable to concur: indeed I am unable to see the cui bono of the latter, at all; places as now proposed; i.e. with reference to enhancement of the future Bridge's security.

3. I must, under this view, decline to adopt the suggestions in question as entailing alike / one justice / wholly unnecessary trouble & expence.

Zilla Court
Nellore
14th February 1860.

I have &c.
(Signed) J. Ratliff
Actg. Civil Judge

No. 94

Nellore, Collr's Office
Buckingham
16th February 1860.

From,

J. W. B. Dykes Esqre.
Offg. Collector of Nellore.

To, J. Ratliff Esqre.
Acting Civil & Sessions Judge
of Nellore.

Sir, With reference to your letter of the 14th instant, intimating that you agrees with me in the advisability of going on with the reconstruction of the bridge over the Lavaipalli Channel, but dissentes to the suggestion of the District Engineer, that the road should be raised, & the bridge furnished with Shutters, I have the honor to inform you, that, as an important irrigation work is concerned, I propose submitting the matter direct for the consideration of Government, & pending the receipt of the orders of Government, have to request that you will take no steps

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possibly

whatsoever, in the reconstruction of the bridge in question, save & except in the preparation of the requisite Materials.

I have &c.

(Signed) J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector.

(True Copies)

J. W. B. Dykes

Offg. Collector.

Nellore Collectors Office,
Revenue, 27th
No. 3. 18th February 1860.

From

J. W. B. Dykes Esquire,
Officiating Collector of Nellore.

To J. Pycroft Esquire,
Chief Secretary to Government,
Fort St. George.

Sir,

At the request of Mr. Ratliff, I have the honour to forward for the consideration of Government, and in continuation of the correspondence submitted with my letter of the 16th instant, copy of a letter received from Mr. Ratliff, also bearing date the 16th instant, to which I beg further to append my reply of that day's date.

2. The Government will observe that Mr. Ratliff takes exception to the peremptory tone of my letter of the 16th instant, and, after referring to his personal knowledge of the Channel in question, intimates his intention of proceeding with the rebuilding of the Bridge, as any progress he could possibly

Dyke &
True
Pr. Officiating Collector
Nellore.

To
The Chief Secy. to Govt.
Fort St. George.

Enclosure to a letter No.
dated the 16th Feby 1860.

Dupl.

Mr Col.

By the enclosed letter the Ry. Civil Engineer Judge, the District Supt., & the Offg. Collector, regarding the reconstruction of the Sunnud Bridge over the Penna Ellid. Egutin Channels near the civil Dispensary at Nellore

possibly make, would not militate against the carrying out of "the expensive scheme" advocated by myself, should such be finally ordered.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
J W B De Rois
Officiating Collector

From P.M. 18 Dec. 1860. Recd. 20th Dec. 1860. Copy sent to Capt. Bullen & Lt. Taylor &c. &c. &c. The Officiating Collector Nellore

No. 462.

From Lieutenant Taylor
To The Officiating Collector
Dated 18th February 1860.
Received 23rd do.

No. 3.

Forwarding for consideration & correspondence regarding the Bridge across the Swarnamukhi. Captain Cleverly has the Irrigation Channels & the Civil Hospital at Nellore below the Bridge.

Letter to Capt. Bullen &c. &c. &c. Nellore
Dated 20th February 1860.
No. 2.

No. 248.

From Captain John Bullen,
Central Engineer, Nellore

To J. W. B. De Rois Esquire,
Officiating Collector of Nellore

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 16 of the 11th instant, I have the honor to point out that probably before the next monsoon the head of the Swarnapalli Channel, near the Civil Hospital, will be closed, and, if so, the rebuilding of the Bridge will be unnecessary, and perhaps therefore a temporary arrangement would be more admissible than a permanent work, which will cost a considerable sum.

2. Should the Bridge be rebuilt, it would be a good plan to raise the roadway one yard above its former level, and to furnish the arches with shutters for the regulation of the supply. Captain Rotherdow will, on your informing me what you think will be the best plan, be instructed to prepare the necessary drawings.

I have the honor to be,
(Signed) John Bullen, Captain
Central Engineer, Nellore

Nellore 6th February 1860.

* Letter referred to in marginal note, Para. 3 of letter No. 2 of the 16th instant.

Nellore, 16th February 1860.

No. 38.

From.

J. Ratliff Esquire.

Acting Session Judge of Nellore.

To.

F. W. B. Dykes Esquire.

Officiating Collector of Nellore.

Sir.

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt, this moment, of your communication bearing No. 74, — and yesterday's date, — wherein you are pleased to instruct me not to take any further steps whatsoever in the actual re-construction of a recently destroyed Bridge, (formerly) spanning an irrigation channel, which intersects one of the public roads at this station, — a road which has been rendered, of course, meantime, impassable.

2. Your reason for this, as I believe, most unusual, and, (as I cannot but look upon it to be) peremptory, interference in a matter falling, exclusively under my own control and management, (as do, if I mistake not, the repair and construction of all such station roads properly so called, and all Bridges connected therewith, — in my capacity, as Officer in charge of the Jail and Prisoners) has, I observe, no better basis than a mere casual suggestion of the District Engineer's, offered in reply to a communication from yourself, simply advising the furnishing to me of a certain quantity of Chunam I had applied for, in order to re-construct this particular Bridge —: the suggestion itself, however, being prefaced by another, pointing out the inadvisableness of re-constructing the said Bridge at all; in as much as, the Channel, it was to span, would in a few months, be abandoned — and the head closed.

3. Comparatively useless, and wholly inefficient, as that Channel has long been found to be, and mainly owing to defects at that particular spot, so much so, as to necessitate the cost of opening upon an entirely fresh head to it, in another locality; I was, notwithstanding, rather disposed to concur with you in the advisableness of not altogether closing it, although it was to be wholly abandoned, within a short time, than with the Engineer, who suggested a contrary

course; and consequently, notwithstanding the cost and labor entailed, proposed proceeding with the re-construction of the Bridge, which of course, became a sine quâ non, were the Channel head still left open.

4. When, however, in addition to actually necessary cost, I see you advocate, the very unnecessary additions involved by raising roadways on either side, to the extent specified, and constructing and fitting in shutters to the arches of the new Bridge, in order to regulate the supply of water, through a Channel found insufficient for affording any proper supply at all. I am fain to change my opinion; and should advocate, as an alternative, the adoption of some temporary arrangement, vice Bridge, - and the eventual total filling in of the space it occupied, or by a permanent roadway - as suggested by Captain Mullins.

5. Under what view you have been pleased to refer to this, about-to-be-abandoned, Channel head, "as an important irrigation work", and felt it incumbent, not only to thus, summarily, interfere with my proceedings in connection with the upcoming

spanning it, but to recommend, apparently, a considerable outlay of Government Funds, in order to furnish it with what it has never yet possessed or needed; I am, naturally at a loss to understand.

6. The great difficulty since I have known the District, and Channel (how many years,) has been, not to regulate, but to get, a supply of water, at all down it, through its present head. - whilst I need scarcely observe, that even were the proposed shutters fixed to the arches, they could not be closed in the event of any such (comparative) flood, as that which recently carried away the old Bridge, without involving palpable additional danger to the new one, from the thereby necessarily increased pressure upon it -

7. The referring the matter or not to Government is of course a question for your own decision. - but should you do so, I would beg that copy of this present communication be submitted, at the same time, as the foregoing correspondence, - or, that it be at once transmitted as a

should your reference have been already made. —
I have not lost a moment in reply in order to save
any such trouble.

8. Meantime, as the public convenience is at stake — and as such progress as I can possibly make with the Bridge, ere reply to your reference is received, cannot bring it to such a point as to militate against the eventual carrying out of your expensive scheme, should Government see fit to interfere, and order the same. You must pardon my declining to accede to your request that I should put a stop to all further steps towards reconstruction

I have the honor, &c.
(Signed) J. Ratliff
Acting Sessions Judge.

Filed Court.
Nellore,
16th February 1860

Nellore Collector's Office,
Kovuru,
18th February 1860.

From
J. W. B. Dykes Esquire,
Officiating Collector of Nellore.

To

To
J. Ratliff Esquire
Acting Civil & Sessions Judge of Nellore

35

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, taking exception to the peremptory tone of my request to stop all building operations over the Sarvapalli Channel, and after referring to the nature of the Channel in question, &c., intimating your intention of proceeding with the rebuilding of the Bridge, as any progress you could possibly make would not militate against the carrying out of the expensive scheme, I had advocated, should Government see fit to interfere and order the same.

2. It seems to me, that, in your remarks on the supply usually obtained by the Sarvapalli Channel, hitherto, you have overlooked the important fact that the position of this Channel in respect to supply, will be considerably altered, when the Anicut is completed. But, as this is a purely professional question to be decided, in my opinion, by

Anicut

by the Engineer Department, I should be occupying your time to no purpose, were I to enter upon it.— And I will now only add, that it would be a source of regret to me, should the tone of my communication have conveyed any further meaning than was intended.— It was couched in the words used, because I considered it essential, under the circumstances of the case, that the plan of the Bridge should be duly considered, and fully decided upon, before the foundations were laid; and I presumed that the foundations would be the first point, to which your attention would be given in its rebuilding.— I therefore requested in clear, and distinct terms, that no such steps should be taken, and, further than that, I had nothing, and did not wish to have anything to do with the matter.

Thinking it desirable that the question should be decided, at once, by the Higher Authorities, and without further correspondence on the subject between non-professional men like Officiating Collectors of ourselves

ourselves, I wrote to the Chief Secretary, at the same time as I wrote to yourself, and, as requested, I shall now do myself the honor of forwarding, in continuation of the correspondence thus submitted, a copy of the letter under acknowledgment and of this reply.

I have the honor, &c.,
(Signed) J. W. B. Dykes,
Officiating Collector.

(True Copies)

J W B Dykes
Officiating Collector.

Sellur. 20th February 1860.

No. 15

From

J. Ratcliff Esquire

Acting Sessions Judge of Sellur.

To

J. Pycroft Esquire.

Chief Secretary to Government &c

Fort St. George.

Sir

1. Mr. Dykes, the officiating Collector of this District, having, as I learn, by a just received communication from him, bearing date 18th Instant, already made a reference to Government, in connection with the reconstruction of a recently destroyed Bridge, over spanning a channel, by which one of the public Station roads is intersected, and consequently falling under my own exclusive supervision, I have the honor, in the absence of any information as to the nature of Mr. Dykes' representations, to Government, to solicit indulgence, whilst, myself, offering a few observations

Lieutenant
With a letter from the Officiating
Collector of Sellur to the
Chief Secretary to Govt.
No. 3 dated the 18th Feby 1860.

Rd 24/2/60

Rd Cancl.

By the accompaniment, I submit the application of Lieut. Reynolds, for the sanction to the erection of a Lighthouse on the Island of Pelore.

in connection with the subject.

2. This Bridge was carried away on the 23d of December last. In January it took preliminary measures for its reconstruction by setting aside of a local collection of £ obstructive nature; and, on the 23d of that month, applied to the Officiating Collector for a supply of chunam, to carry on the future building operations. That Officer, at once granted the same; advising me of his having done so; and referred me, as usual, to the District Engineer &c. indent upon the local Fund: without however offering observation or suggestion, however, on his own part, respecting the proposed operations, either to the Engineer or myself. When thus addressing me, respectively, on the subject; which he had in no way sooner, previously, during the interval of no less than ten weeks that had then elapsed since the destruction of the Bridge, evidenced the slightest poverty

interest, in connection with the matter, a fact, to which I cannot forbear giving prominence, as contrasting forcibly with the subsequently deep and active interest evinced about, and great importance suddenly attached to the selfsame matter, by the same Officer, when opposed, in the carrying out of a suggestion, in connection with it, casually thrown out by a third party, and adopted by himself as hereunder explained.

3. The District Engineer, who, it may be also observed, had not any more than the Officiating Collector, previously testified the slightest interest on the subject, when acknowledging receipt of the above-mentioned advice of the chunam grant, casually suggested, to Mr Ryder, the inadvisableness of reconstructing the Bridge at all; in as much as the channel head which it spanned, would be shortly closed,

as

as useless and thereby of course, enable the filling in of a permanent Road-way in it's bed; in lieu of going to the very considerable trouble and cost of rebuilding a Bridge across it.

4. To this prima facie, very reasonable suggestion, however, Captain Mullins annexed a second, (as it seemed) blue & most incompatible character: and to the which, I eventually demurred, accordingly. Having commenced by thus advocating the uselessness of going to the great expense and trouble of re-building the Bridge, at all, he (Captain Mullins) proceeds to say, in effect, "but if you do re-build "it, don't be satisfied with going to such "cost and trouble, only as will serve to "simply replace the hitherto existing "structure in a stable and efficient manner, "but incur, over and above that, such very "considerable additional an amount, "as will be involved by raising the

"height of the Road approaches on either "side, by a yard- and fitting in shutters "to the Bridge arches": the expressed object of this outlay being to regulate the future supply of water through the same channel- head; which, having been found utterly inefficient for the conveyance of any adequate supply at all, had been, or is to be shortly abandoned for a new one, under construction; and which, in consequence of that fact, himself had, in preceding paragraph, suggested the propriety of closing altogether and filling in it's bed with a permanent Road-way.

5. On receipt of the letter conveying these two casual, and opposite, suggestions Mr. Keyser (as you will observe from the correspondence he has, I believe, submitted) addressed me on the subject; expressing his own views (almost) assuming mine, to be in accordance; intimating what steps he had himself already

already taken — and suggesting the course which he desired me to adopt.

6.ly Although I could not but feel this sudden assumption of control over my proceedings in a matter falling exclusively under my own supervision, to have been, under the circumstances, somewhat abrupt and dictatorial, I, notwithstanding, abstained from comment on the subject, contenting myself, in reply, with simply expressing concurrence with Mr. Lyster in the advisableness of re-building the Bridge — but declining to accede to the suggestion for enhanced, because I felt it would be, under the circumstances, perfectly needless outlay —

7.thly Unable apparently to brook my presumption in having thus failed to fall in with his views, and obey his instructions, Mr. Lyster without further reference

45 1/2

reference, sooner to the Engineer, (whose mere casual suggestion had alone originated his own interest in, or notice of the matter at all,) without in any way (as I believe) representing to that Officer the general objection I had already raised — and without himself condescending to seek the elucidation, in detail, of any thing I might have to offer, as one who had formerly filled the Office of Collector of the District, and whose Revenue experience, in it's reckoning by years, to months of his own — seemed to have elected to forthwith submit a direct to Government, a reference on the subject — Made, indeed, so hastily as to preclude the possibility, even, of prior reception of a reply, from me, to the communication wherein his intention to adopt that course was intimated —

8. In his this day's received letter — bearing — the 27 and date 18th Current, (of which I observe he purposes on forwarding to you, copy) Mr. Lyster has

Sir, in para: 2, assumed "on leaving over-
"looked the important fact, that the
"position of this channel head in
"respect to supply, will be considerably
"altered when the Ancicut is complete[d]."

2. In penning this observation, I cannot
think, independantly of statutorily
assuming me to be guilty of a most
egregious and considering my local
experience, unpardonable omission, but
seemingly, I must[e] forgotten, that the
Ancicut has already been accomplish[ed]
that it's effects have been tested, and
that it must have been under, and
notwithstanding, a thorough knowledge
of what those effects would hereafter
be at their head upon this particular
channel head, that the necessity for
a new one had been decided upon:-

3. Regretting much that the
Government has been thus precipitately
led, as I venture to believe, needlessly
to

troubles

troubled and referred to in a matter on
wherein I have concern, and so soliciting
indulgence for the addition which
I have been fain to make to that
trouble, by this present explanation.

Kilkenny Court
Feltrim
7th February 1860.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed[t] Servant

Acting Resident Engineer

To
J. Ingersoll Esquire
Chief Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Ed[d] Mayne
Draftsman

No 445. P. No 2

Proceedings of the Assistant Govt.
Under date the 1st March
Read the following
Letter from the Assistant
Collector of Mellore.

Submits for consideration
correspondence between the
Civil & Sessions Judge, the Asst
Engr and himself regarding the
reconstruction of a Bridge over
the Sarrapullee Oriyankum channel

Submits for Govt orders
Correspondence on the same subject

(Vide letter 18 dated 1860 No 3)

From the Asst Assistant Judge of
Nellore - dated 10 November
(Enclosure 2 - - - - - 15)
Sent with the Collector's
above letter -

(Vide letter 18 dated 1860 No 3)

Received that
Above letter together
with their enclosures be
referred to the Chief
Engineer for report

Town Office Collectorate
Nellore 18th Feby 1860
No 482.

P. M.
Judicial 1860 Department
Secretariat to Govt of Madras
No. 499.

From
The Asst Session Judge of
Nellore
To
The Chief Secy to Government
Fort St George -
Dated 20th February 1860
Rec'd

No 15

5

Submitting certain explanation respecting
a Correspondence with
the Collector, Regarding
the reconstruction of a
Bridge in the Station

Copy with Secretary
to Chief Engr
2 March 1860

No 3.

No 445. 1st March

Public Works 1860 Departt
Rec: of Govt 10th March.

No 445.

Rec: of the Madras Govt

D/ 1st March 1860.

From the Chief Engr. of 5th March
1860. C No. 615
From do. 26th do C No 760.

Copy to the Board
Sudr Adalut
28th March/60.
R. 64/.
No 1 at 4.

Regarding the re-construction of a bridge over the Sarkar
Pialli irrigation Channel near
the Civil Dispensary vide yellow
Referred to Chief Engineer for
report.

L