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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	544	Press Mis.
Dated	16. 3.	1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 58. Read the following letter from Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer, to the Secretary to Government, dated 17th February 1860, No. 10,419 :—

With reference to paragraph 6 of the Proceedings of Government of the 16th January last, No. 118, I have the honor to submit for their orders an explanation from Captain Morgan, received through the District Engineer of Coimbatore, relative to his transactions with the brick and laterite Contractors for the Sadienkuppam Lock and Kalingal.

1 Letter from District Engineer, Coimbatore, No. 281, dated 31st January 1860, with 1 enclosure.

2. Captain Morgan states that the second advance of 200 Rupees was made to the Contractors in the presence and with the sanction of Captain Chambers, then Superintendent of the Canal, when it was found that the loss to Government would be greater if the advance was not given; and that he authorized the Gumáshta to give receipts to the Contractors because they demanded them on the delivery of the articles, and his duties did not permit him to be always present at the Lock to do so himself.

3. He also states that he did his best to see the contracts (which he did not make) carried out, but that the Contractors tried in every way to evade their obligations; and that when the Collector of Madras was written to regarding their Securities, he replied, that they were only waste paper.

4. Under these circumstances, Captain Morgan trusts that the Government will not impute the loss which has occurred to any carelessness on his part.

5. It does not appear that Captain Morgan can be held responsible for the advance of Rupees 200 made with the sanction of his superior Officer, Captain Chambers; and without an explanation from Captain Chambers it is not easy to decide what are the real merits of the case. With regard to the receipts given by the Gumáshta, I cannot acquit Captain Morgan of defective arrangements. He should not have trusted the Gumáshta as he appears to have done, but have arranged for checking his receipts. I think, however, that an oversight of this kind, probably arising from limited experience, should be regarded with lenity.

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, 16th March 1860, No. 544.

In the Order of the 16th January, No. 118, explanation was called for from Captain Morgan on two points connected with the building of the Sadienkuppam Lock and Kalingal, viz., his making a further advance to a Contractor who had wholly failed to work out his first advance, and his permitting subordinates to give receipts for materials delivered. The explanation is furnished by the Chief Engineer in his present letter.

2. As respects the advance of 200 Rupees, Captain Morgan states that he made it in the presence and with the sanction of Captain Chambers his superior Officer; and he must therefore be excused from blame. But the Government agree with the Chief Engineer that Captain Morgan was much to blame for allowing subordinates to give receipts, and Colonel Bell will convey to him this expression of their displeasure.

3. For the reason urged by the Chief Engineer at the close of his letter, the Government forbear to hold Captain Morgan pecuniarily liable for the consequences of his error.

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

Central Office of P.W.
Seydham
February 1800.
No 10419

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Public

Enclosures 2
Letter from Dist.
Eng: Royamuttam
No 281 dated 31st
January 1800 with
1 Enclosure.

With reference to para. 6 of
the Proceedings of Government of the 10 January
last No 118, I have the honor to submit for
their orders an explanation from Captain
Morgan, received from the District Engineer
of Royamuttam, relative to his transactions
with the brick and latrine contractors
for the Sadienupum lock and Kalingal.
Captain Morgan states that
the 2nd advance of 200 Rupees was made
to the contractors in the presence, and with
the sanction of, Captain Chamberlain, then
Superintendent of the Canal, when it
was found that the loss to Government
would be greater if the advance was
not given, and that he authorized the
Gomastah

Sadienupum
Sadienupum

Gomastah

Jimasta gave receipts to the Contractors because they demanded them on the delivery of the articles, and his duties did not permit him to be always present at the dock to do so himself.

3. He also states that he did his best to see the contracts (which he did not make) carried out; but that the contractors tried in every way to evade their obligations and that when the Collector of Madras was written to regarding their securities, he replied, that they were only waste paper.

Under these circumstances Captain Morgan trusts that the Government will not impute the loss which has occurred to any carelessness on his part.

5. It does not appear that Captain Morgan can be held responsible for the advance of Rupees 200 made with the sanction of his superior Officer Captain Chambers; and without an explanation from Captain Chambers it is not easy to decide what are the real merits of the case. With regard to the receipts given by the Jimasta I cannot acquit Captain Morgan of defective arrangements

arrangements. He should not have trusted the Jimasta as he appears to have done, but have arranged for checking his receipts. I think however that an oversight of this kind probably arising from limited experience, should be regarded with lenity.

Central Office of B.M.
S. Chakram
17 February 1860
Ld. Col. C. C.
Dy. Col. C. C.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt.
J. M. Bell Colonel
Chief Engineer

of 200 Rs. by Capt. Morgan states that he made it in the presence of the Committee of Capt. Chambers in presence of Mr. J. J. & he was then in receipt of the same. The Govt. agree with the Ch. Engr. that Capt. Morgan was under a blame for allowing introduction to him necessary, & Ch. Engr. with a view to ~~the~~ him this country to ~~the~~ his disbursements of his disbursements. 3. In the mean while the Ch. Engr. at the time of his letter, the Govt. have been told that Capt. Morgan has been for the arrangements of 100 Rs. March 17 his copy of the letter with the Govt. D. 17

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