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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	583	Press
		Mis.
135-136		
Dated	19-3-	186r .

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. 135. Read the following Despatch from the Right Honorable Sir C. WOOD, Bart., Secretary of State for India, to His Excellency the Honorable the Governor in Council, Fort Saint George, dated India Office, London, 8th February 1860, No. 17:—

Paragraph 1. With reference to your letter No. 60 of 2nd November last, reporting the dismissal, for incompetence and misconduct, of Edward Fisher and Robert Boyle, Mechanical Engineers, a copy is herewith transmitted of an explanatory letter from Messrs. Simpson and Co., the firm from whose service Fisher was transferred to that of your Government.

2. Every possible care is taken in the selection of Artizans engaged in this country for employment under any of the Indian Governments. They are never appointed except on the recommendation of their previous Masters, from whom certificates of their technical skill and general good behaviour are invariably required. No precautions, however, can ensure their possession of the moral qualities which you represent to be necessary. Until men are actually tried, it is impossible to determine whether, when exposed to unusual temptation, or placed in situations of unusual responsibility, they will abstain from "low personal indulgence," and will be found capable of exercising "control over bodies of work people."

3. Another evil to which you advert, may more easily be remedied. It is certainly very objectionable that men like Fisher and Boyle should be receiving much higher wages than "men selected or trained in India, and doing much better work;" and to prevent the discontent and embarrassment thence arising, it would seem advisable to send no Artizans from this country to Madras, except on a special requisition from you, accompanied by an intimation of the maximum of wages to be given.

From Messrs. WILLIAM SIMPSON AND CO., Engine Works, Grosvenor Road, to J. C. MELVILL, Esq., dated Pimlico, 14th January 1860.

We have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 9th instant, with a copy of a letter from India, reporting the conduct of Edward Fisher and charging him with incapacity and insubordination.

In compliance with Sir Charles Wood's desire to be furnished with any explanation that may tend to reconcile such conduct with the favorable testimonial we gave Fisher on his engagement with the East India Company, we respectfully beg leave to state that, although we have no direct or official information on the subject, we have seen letters from one of the Engineers who accompanied Fisher to India which state that Fisher had a sun-stroke, almost immediately after landing. The writer of the letter says he acted as Fisher's nurse until his recovery but that he had afterwards a relapse. The writer further adds that, about two months from their arrival Fisher had become so quarrelsome, and strange in his conduct, that he could no longer remain on speaking terms with him. This illness has evidently affected Fisher's brain, and is, we venture to presume, the true explanation of his conduct, because when in our employment no working man could be more quiet and inoffensive and at the same time more sober and industrious.

With regard to his being unable to erect the Dredger Engines, we can only say that our reason for recommending him to the East India Company, was that independently of his being a good workman, he actually did erect the Engines in our Workshops with the assistance of course of other men, but he being the chief or leading man in this work.

We very much regret to learn the unfortunate result of Fisher's engagement and we respectfully beg to express a hope that our explanation may be found satisfactory in so far as we are concerned in recommending him.

No. 136. ORDER THEREON, 19th March 1860, No. 583.

Ordered that a copy of this despatch and of its enclosure be furnished to the Chief Engineer for his information, with reference to the Proceedings of Government dated 29th October 1859 No. 2549.

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

N^o 583.

F. W. W.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 19th March 1860.

Read the following
letter from the Right Honourable
the Secretary of State for

Regarding the dismissal of
Mechanical Engineers Edward
Fisher and Robert Boyle.
Here enter 8th February 1860 N^o 17.

Ordered that a copy
of this dispatch and of its
enclosure be furnished to the
Chief Engineer for his inform-
ation, with reference to the
Proceedings of Government
dated 29th October 1857 N^o 2549.

[Signature]

10 Copies to the Chief Engineer

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Public North 1860 Sept 15
 Dr. of Govt 20th March.

Ms 583.

Dr. of the Chancery Lane
 20th March 1860.

With 10 copies of the
 10th March 1860

List

Ms 354136.

These Despatches with
 reference to the determination
 of Edward Fisher and
 Robert (Cory), Messrs
 and Messrs (Cory), Messrs
 communicated to the
 Messrs (Cory), Messrs
 from Mr. Robert Cory
 Messrs (Cory), Messrs
 Ms 1080. g May 60