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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 717Press
Mis.84-85Dated 5-4- 1860.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

12

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

No. 84. Read the following letter from Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 10th March 1860, No. 11,216:—

I have the honor to forward herewith the correspondence noted in the margin, relative to an advance of Rupees 2,800 made by the Collector of Vizagapatam to the District Engineer, with the knowledge of the Board of Revenue, on a rough Estimate and set of levels, for the construction of a temporary Dam and a line of Channel at and from a place called Gubbada, about three miles distant from Nursapatam to ensure a sufficiency of water in the neighbouring tanks in the year 1858, when a great scarcity of water was experienced in the District, owing to a deficiency of rain.

One letter from Board of Revenue, with 3 enclosures, dated 9th August 1859, No. 3,067.
 One do. from District Engineer, 8th November 1859, No. 694, with 1 enclosure.
 One do. to Board of Revenue, 1st December 1859, No. 7,858.
 One do. from do. 16th December 1859, No. 5,255, with 3 enclosures.
 One do. to District Engineer, 20th January 1860, No. 9,390.
 One do. from do. do. 30th January 1860, No. 984.
 One do. from do. do. Krishna, 22nd February 1860, No. 239.

2. With the above sum a rough hasty work had been thrown up, when the Board thought fit, before pursuing the scheme further, to call for detailed Plans and Estimates of the same. The work thus came to a standstill.

3. The project was undertaken in the latter portion of the year 1858, and Rupees 2,813-5-8 expended thereon, but by some "unaccountable oversight," as the Revenue Board remark, the Central Office had been kept in ignorance of it until August 1859, when the Board, in a letter, dated 9th idem, No. 3,067, intimated what had been done.

Vide District Engineer's letter, dated 8th November 1859, No. 694.

4. The work was carried out by the late Acting District Engineer, but no entry of it was made in his Progress Reports and Accounts Current. In explanation of this proceeding, Lieutenant Vertue urges that the work was undertaken by him on the sole responsibility of the late Collector, and on the distinct understanding that the expenditure should not be entered in his (the District Engineer's) accounts, nor in the Collector's accounts, debited to him. He adds, that he considered himself an Executive carrying out the orders of the Collector; that he made no special report of the undertaking to this office, as he did not consider himself bound to do so, the money not having been entered in the departmental accounts, nor used from the departmental funds at his disposal; that he carried out the work merely as a matter of convenience to the Collector; and that he disclaims all responsibility in the matter of the money disbursed.

5. My object in placing before Government the papers now submitted is to apprise them of the irregularity of the proceedings therein detailed, ignoring as they do the necessity of the intervention of this office in cases similar to that under consideration. Lieutenant Vertue is very much to blame in not having reported to this office the commencement of the work, which should have received the special sanction of Government before it was undertaken, and the plea urged, that he considered himself an Executive of the Collector, shows that he misunderstands his position and his obligations in respect to the Department of which he is a member.

No. 85. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1860, No. 717.

1. The Government entirely agree in the condemnation pronounced by the Chief Engineer (paragraph 5) on the conduct of Lieutenant Vertue in the case reported in this letter; and they are surprised at the ignorance of his duty and of the Rules for the guidance of District Engineers, displayed by that Officer in the justification which he puts forward. The Chief Engineer will direct Lieutenant Vertue's attention to that part of the Rules which direct that a District Engineer's expenditure shall be entered in his Account Current, and will enjoin on him a strict observance of those orders for the future.

2. There could be no security for the Government against wanton and lavish expenditure, and the Chief Engineer's control would become a nullity, if Lieutenant Vertue's views were admitted.

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

3. The proceedings of the late Collector were equally culpable; but as he is not now in the country it is unnecessary to remark further upon them.

4. The Governor in Council must remark also that the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue in the matter were irregular and beyond their proper functions. They gave a tacit, if not direct, sanction to the Collector's irregular proceedings; and the calling for Plans and Estimates in such cases is no part of their duty.

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

Public

Central Office No. 11216
Sepakram
11th March 1860
From The Chief Engineer
To The Secretary to Government
Sir.

Encls. 14.

I have the honor to forward herewith the correspondences noted in the margin relative to an advance of Rupees 2,800 made by the Collector of Vizagapatam to the District Engineer, with the knowledge of the Board of Revenue, on a rough Estimate and set off levels, for the construction of a temporary dam and a line of Channel at and from a place called Gubbada, about

- One letter from Board of Revenue with 3 Encl. dated 9th August 1859 No. 3067.
- One Do from Dist. Engineer 8th November 1859 No. 694 with 1 Encl.
- One Do to Board of Revenue 1st December 1859 No. 7858
- One Do from Dist. 16th Decr 1859 No. 5255 with 3 Encl.
- One Do to Dist. Eng. 20 January/60 No. 9390.
- One Do from Dist. 30 January 1860 No. 981.
- One Do from Dist. Eng. 22nd July 1860 No. 239.

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District Engineer's) accounts, nor
in the Collector's accounts, debited
to him. He adds, that he considered
himself an Executive, carrying out the
orders of the Collector, that he made
no special Report of the undertaking
to this Office, as he did not con-
-sider himself bound to do so, the
money not having been entered in the
Departmental accounts, nor used from
the departmental funds at his disposal,
that he carried out the work merely as a
matter of convenience to the Collector,
and that he disclaims all responsibility
in the matter of the money disbursed.

Vide Dist^l Engr's
letter of 8th Novr/59
No 697

5 My object in placing
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mitted is to apprize them of the in-
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detailed, ignoring as they do the
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the commencement of the work,
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sanction of Government before it was
undertaken, and the plea urged,
that he considered himself an Executive
of the Collector, shows that he mis-
understands his position and his ob-
ligations in respect to the Department
of which he is a Member -

Respectfully,
10th March 1860
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt
Wm Lall Colonel
Chief Engineer
Bengal Sappers & Miners
Barrackpore

226. March 1860. April

1864.

1877. 5. 5. April

connected with the proposed
channel from the large
stream near Gubbada
to the town of Murāpa-
tam in the District of Vizag-
apatam. Points out the irregu-
larity of the proceedings therein
detailed.

10th March 1860

Printed 10th March 1860

Chief Engineer
Office, Secunderabad

W 717. P. W. O.
No 717

Proceedings of the Madras Government Under date the 5th April 1860.

Read the following
letter from the Chief Engi-
neer.

Submits certain papers con-
nected with the proposed chan-
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Chief Engineer (Para 5) on
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[Signature]

10 Copies

To

The Chief Engineer Dist: 6
with himself
Board of Rev.

11

July 11th 1860
No. 17. 10 1/2 miles

No. 17.

No. of the black and white
No. 17. 10 1/2 miles

No. 17.

Observing on the
irregularity of the
magnets in the matter of the
conduction of a temporary
damp and a line of the
at the black and white
No. 17.

No. 17. 10 1/2 miles

No. 17. 10 1/2 miles