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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1588	Press / Misl
324-25 Dated	20-8-	1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 324. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Engineer, dated Chepauk, 2nd August 1861, No. 3,467:—

Read the following letter from Captain G. W. WALKER, District Engineer of North Canara, to Captain F. H. RUNDALL, Acting Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, dated Sircy, 17th July 1861, No. 68.

SIR,

1. I am sorry to have to report for the information of the Chief Engineer another loss of public money, to the amount, of Rupees 127, owing to gross neglect and stupidity on the part of a Sub-Overseer of the Department.

2. The circumstances under which it occurred are best told in the words of a Memorandum addressed by me to the Head Quarters Inspector of Police immediately on my learning the details of the case, and copy of which is hereto annexed. So suspicious appeared to me the conduct of the Road Maistry, the very man who first made known the robbery, that I gave him in charge at once; detailing the alleged facts of the case in the Memorandum in question, which, in the first instance, was sent for the private information of the Inspector. The clue thus afforded has been successfully followed up to all appearance; the result being the Road Maistry's committal to the Honore Court on two charges; 1st, that of robbery of the money above mentioned; 2nd, that of having in his possession tools, &c., the property of Government, which were found in his house when searched.

3. Sub-Overseer Murray has been of course suspended from rank and pay for the present, and I have the honor to request the Chief Engineer's decision as to the status in the Department to which he shall be restored eventually. As before stated the sum of money lost by him is Rupees 127, which will be raised to about Rupees 150 by the pay of a blacksmith and hammerman employed in the Sircy Range, which must be continued to them while absent from work giving evidence at Honore. Now, this amount may be recovered from the Sub-Overseer in the usual way by stoppage of say Rupees 10 a month; but it would be far simpler to write it off as a loss, and de *facto* recover it by his degradation to the rank and pay for a Sub-Overseer of the 3rd Class, 3rd Grade, for fifteen months; whilst the moral effect of such latter punishment will not be thrown away on himself or the subordinates of the Department in this District generally.

4. This is the first occasion on which Sub-Overseer Murray has been entrusted with money, and he has shown himself singularly unfit for such a charge. He is a very illiterate man, and barely able to keep the simplest accounts, far less those required in this Department. If a man cannot be trusted, as he was by Lieutenant Stewart, with Rupees 300, wherewith to pay working parties only 12 miles distant, his usefulness must be very limited; Sub-Overseer Murray's is confined to practical knowledge of brick and tile making, and to those duties he shall for the future be restricted. I propose that he be struck off the general list of Sub-Overseers, and his pay as 3rd Class, 3rd Grade, be charged to the sanctions for works on which he may be employed. By September next there will be work for him on the Hullial and Sedasheghur road.

Memorandum of circumstances connected with robbery of public money (said to amount to Rupees 145) from Tiaguly Bungalow.

1. Sub-Overseer Murray, in whose charge the money was, appears to have left it in Tiaguly Bungalow when starting for Sircy at about 6½ A. M. on Sunday morning the 30th June; having instructed Road Maistry Peer Mahomed to keep a cooly in charge of the money.

2. Coming into Sircy, and a few (3) miles only distant from it, he overtook a cooly employed on the works, named Sheik Budden, whom he asked what he was going into Sircy for; and he states the answer to have been, that he was dissatisfied with his pay, and was going to leave the work.

3. On Sunday morning at 9½ A. M., according to his own statement, Road Maistry Peer Mahomed sent the accompanying note, wrongly dated 31st June or 1st July (the Sub-Overseer and all, appearing from the Rosters to have been one day out of their reckoning the whole of the previous month), to Sub-Overseer Murray, stating that Rupees 25 advance was wanted to keep the coolies from leaving the work. Cooly Burmah was entrusted with this, but it was delivered to the Sub-Overseer by the above named Cooly Sheik Budden, how it got into his hands is unknown.

4. Sub-Overseer Murray appears then, on Sunday afternoon, to have handed over to cooly Sheik Budden the key of the box containing his money. Road Maistry Peer Mahomed states that he received the said key by or before noon on Monday, and on going for the money found that the bungalow had been broken into and the coin abstracted.

5. Cooly named by the road Maistry to look after the Bungalow, Bugsiah. Road Maistry does not state the last date, on Sunday or Monday, when he satisfied himself that all was safe, either by personal inspection, or report from the cooly in charge; and on his way into Sircy to report the circumstance, he omitted reporting it at the Police Station which he passed at Kansoor, four miles only from Tisguly.

6. It is a suspicious circumstance that the Mussulman cooly Sheik Budden, who came into Sircy early on Sunday morning, should have got possession of the note sent by the Mussulman Road Maistry some hours after by cooly Burmah. Having got the key the same afternoon he did not deliver it to the Road Maistry till late next morning, it is stated; the robbery having evidently been carried out during Sunday night. There must have been some communication between the Road Maistry and Sheik Budden as to the note sent by the former; and both these parties together with other Mussulman coolies on the line, whose names will be found in the Rosters, are liable to suspicion.

(True Copy.)

Sircy,
2nd July 1861.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Captain,
District Engineer, North Canara.

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1. Submitted for the information of Government. Pending the result of the trial of the Road Maistry before the Honore Court, the Chief Engineer defers recommending that the amount Rupees 127, of public money, stated to have been stolen from Sub-Overseer Murray, be written off to profit and loss, as suggested by Captain Walker.

2. Private Murray is employed as a temporary Sub-Overseer, 2nd Class, 3rd Grade, under the authority conveyed in the Proceedings of Government Nos. 2,308 and 670, dated 26th October 1860 and 5th April 1861 respectively.

3. It was originally intended to employ Private Murray in working a brick-making machine sent to North Canara, for which he is well fitted, having had experience therein in the Kistna District, but as the machine sustained some injury in transit from Madras to that District, he was ordered in the Proceedings of this Office, No. 11,682, dated 5th April last, to be employed on the general duties of the District, until such time as his services could be turned to account in the manner first proposed.

4. Private Murray being a Sub-Overseer of the 2nd Class, 3rd Grade,* which is the lowest position in the Department, cannot be reduced as recommended by the District Engineer, but as he has evinced the grossest carelessness in the custody of public funds, in leaving the same in a Travellers' bungalow, instead of applying to the nearest Tahsildár or Police Officer for permission to lodge the money in the Táluq Treasury, as directed in Circulars Nos. 188 dated 5th January 1859, and 180 dated 26th March 1861, Captain Walker has been requested to remove the Sub-Overseer from the general list of the Department, and to employ him in a temporary capacity, charging his Civil salary, to be regulated according to the value of his services, together with his Military pay and allowance, to the works on which he may be engaged.

* Civil Salary, Rupees 25 per month.

5. Private Murray being a very illiterate man, and incapable of keeping the simplest accounts, it is improbable that he will be in a position, within a reasonable time, to pass the prescribed examination.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 325. ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1861, No. 1,588.

The Government will expect a further report on the case referred to. Meanwhile the Chief Engineer will be requested to consider and report whether it is advisable to retain the services of Private Murray, he being shown to be unfit for general employ in the Public Works Department.

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

Central Circle
No. 68.

District Engineer's Office
North Canara
Sirey 17th July 1861

From,
The District Engineer of
North Canara.

To,
The Deputy Chief Engineer, D. P. W.
Chepauk.

Sir,

I am sorry to have to report for the information of the Chief Engineer another loss of Public Money to the amount of Rupees 127, owing to gross neglect and stupidity on the part of a Sub Overseer of the Department.

2. The circumstances under which it occurred are best told in the words of a Memo: addressed by me to the Head Quarters Inspector of Police immediately on my learning the details of the case, and Copy of which is hereto annexed. So suspicious appeared to me the conduct of the Road Maistry, the very man who first made known the robbery, that I gave him in charge at once; detailing the alleged facts of

of the case in the Memo: in question, which in the first instance was sent for the private information of the Inspector. The clue thus afforded has been successfully followed up to all appearance; the result being the Road Maistry's Committal to the Honore Court on two charges; 1st that of robbery of the money above mentioned; 2ndly that of having in his possession tools &c the property of Government, which were found in his house when searched.

3. Sub Overseer Murray has been of course suspended from rank and pay for the present, and I have the honor to request the Chief Engineer's decision as to the status in the Department to which he shall be restored eventually. As before stated the sum of money lost by him is Rupees 127, which will be raised to about Rupees 150 by the pay of a Blacksmith and Hammerman employed in the Sirey Range which must be continued to them while absent from work giving evidence at Honore. Now this amount may be recovered from the Sub Overseer in the usual way by stoppage of say Rupees 10 a Month; but

but it would be far simpler to write it off as a loss, and de facto recover it by his degradation to the rank and pay of a Sub Overseer of the 3d Class, 3d Grade for 15 Months; whilst the moral effect of such latter punishment will not be thrown away on himself or the subordinates of the Department in this District generally.

4. This is the first occasion on which Sub Overseer Murray has been entrusted with money, and he has shewn himself singularly unfit for such a charge. He is a very illiterate man, and barely able to keep the simplest accounts, far less those required in this Department. If a man cannot be trusted, as he was by Lieut Stewart, with Rupees 300 or so wherewith to pay working parties only 12 Miles distant, his usefulness must be very limited. Sub Overseer Murray's is confined to practical knowledge of Brick and Tilemaking, and to those duties he shall for the future be restricted. I propose that he be struck off the general List of Sub Overseers, and his pay as 3d Class

Class, 3d Grade be charged to the sanctions for works on which he may be employed. By September next there will be work for him on the Bullial and Sedashegher Road.

I have the honor to be &c.

(Signed) G. W. Walker Captain
District Engineer of
North Canara.

Memo: of Circumstances connected with robbery of Public Money (said to amount to Rupees 145) from Siraguly Bungalow.

Sub Overseer Murray in whose charge the money was, appears to have left it in Siraguly Bungalow when starting for Sirsy at about 6½ A.M. on Sunday Morning, the 30th June, having instructed Road Maistry Peer Mahomed to keep a Cooly in charge of the money.

2. Coming into Sirsy, and a few (3) miles only distant from it, he overtook a Cooly employed on the works, named Sheik Budden whom he asked what he was going into Sirsy for; and he states the answer to have been, that he was dissatisfied with his pay, and was going to leave the work.

On Sunday Morning at 9½ A.M. according

3.

ing to his own Statement, Road Maistry Peer Mahomed sent the accompanying note wrongly dated 31st June or 1st July, (the Sub Overseer and all appearing from the Rosters to have been one day out of their reckoning) the whole of the previous day) to Sub Overseer Murray, stating that Rupees 25 advance was wanted to keep the Coolies from leaving the work. Cooly Burmah was entrusted with this, but it was delivered to the Sub Overseer by the above named Cooly Sheik Budden. How it got into his hands is unknown.

Sub Overseer Murray appears then,

4.

on Sunday afternoon, to have handed over to Cooly Sheik Budden the key of the Box containing the money. Road Maistry Peer Mahomed states that

that he Received the said key by or before noon on Monday, and on going for the money found that the Bungalow had been broken into and the coin abstracted.

5. Cooly named by the Road Maistry to look after the Bungalow, Bugwah, Road Maistry does not state the last date on Sunday or Monday when he satisfied himself that all was safe, either by personal inspection, or report from the Cooly in charge. And on his way into Sirey to report the circumstance, he omitted reporting it at the Police Station which he passed at Kansoor, 4 Miles only from Sirey.

6. It is a Suspicious circumstance that the Mussulman Cooly Sheik Budden who came into Sirey early on Sunday Morning, should have got possession of the note sent by the Mussulman Road Maistry some hours after by Cooly Burmah. Having got the key the same afternoon he did not deliver it to the Road Maistry till late next morning, it is stated, the robbery having evidently been carried out during Sunday night. There must have been some communication between

between the Road Maistry and Sheik Budden as to the note sent by the former; and both these parties together with other Mussulman Coolies on the Line whose names will be found in the Rosters, are liable to suspicion.

Sirey
2d July 1861.

/Signed/ G. W. Walker Captain
District Engineer

(True Copy)
/Signed/ G. W. Walker Captain
District Engineer North Canara.

No 3467

Submitted for the information of Government.

Pending the result of the trial of the Road Maistry before the Honble Court, the Chief Engineer defers recommending that the amount Rupees 127, of Public Money, stated to have been stolen from Sub Overseer Murray, be written off to profit and loss, as suggested by Captain Walker.

2. Private Murray is employed as a Temporary

temporary Sub Overseer 2d Class 3d Grade under the authority conveyed in the Proceedings of Government Nos 2208 and 670 dated 26th October 1860 and 5th April 1861 respectively-

It was originally intended to employ Private Murray in working a Brick-making Machine sent to North Canara for which he is well fitted, having had experience therein in the Nilgiris District, but as the Machine sustained some injury in transit from Madras to that District, he was ordered in the Proceedings of this Office No 11682 dated 6th April last to be employed on the general duties of the District, until such time as his services could be turned to account in the manner first proposed.

4. Private Murray being a Sub Overseer of the 2d Class 3d Grade†, which is the lowest position in the Department, cannot be reduced as recommended by the District Engineer, but as he has evinced the grossest carelessness in the custody of Public funds in leaving the same in a Traveller's Bungalow, instead of applying to the nearest Tahsildar or Police Officer for permission to lodge the money in the Taluq Treasury, as directed in Circulars No 188 dated 5th January 1859, and 180 dated 26th March 1861, Captain Walker has been requested to remove the Sub Overseer from the General List of the Department, and to employ him in a temporary capacity, charging his Civil Salary, to be regulated according to the value of his services, together with his Military Pay and Allowances, to the works on which he may be engaged.

† Civil Salary Rupees 25 per Months.

Private Murray being a very ill fit to [illegible] and incapable of keeping the simplest accounts, it is improbable that he will be in a position, within a reasonable time, to pass the prescribed examination."

Lt. Col. Proved Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer D.S.W.

Central Office
Chepauk
2nd August 1861.

To,
J. D. Sim Esqre
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Fort St George.

E.W.R. Captain
for Dy Chief Engr C.C.

Proof 26th Octr 1860 pp 353-354
" 5th April 1861 pp 42-43

From the Chief Engr 8/19th Sept 1861 Ctr No 2119 in Pro: 5th Apl No 1839

No 324 & 325.

C13 Aug 19th

Rcd 1861 Aug 1st
Pro 1st Govt Store Aug 1782

From
Lieut Col R.A. Horsley
Chief Engineer D.P.W.

To J. D. Sim Esqr
Secty to Govt P.W.D
Fort St George.

Dated 2nd
Rcd 3rd Augt 1861.

No 2867

Submitting a letter from the District Engineer North Canara reporting the robbery from Sub Overseer Murray of a Sum of Rupees 127.

No 1588. 20th Augt
With an order

No 1588.

The Govt will expect a further report on the case referred to. Meanwhile, the Chief Engr will be requested to consider whether it is advisable to retain the services of Private Murray, he being shewn to be unfit for general employ in the Public Works Department.

Fort St George
20th August 1861.

J. D. S

13 Copies

Chief Engr Engrs 25th