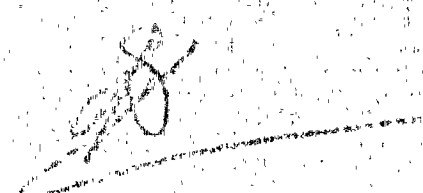


(1) Number of pages 6(2) Date of repair 20.9.48

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. <u>1629</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>20.9.48</u>	18 <u>13.</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
22nd June 1863.*

No. 509. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer 7th Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secre-
tary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 5th June 1863,
No. 13:—

SIR,

Coimbatore.

Enclosure.—1 Statement.

1. With reference to Extract Proceedings of the Madras
Government, No. 2,769 of 17th November, I have the honor to
forward herewith an original statement of proceedings held at
the Cutcherry of the Amildar of Chenroyapatam Talook in Mysore, on the claim to gratuity on the
part of the wife of a cooly named Nunja, who lost his life while working on the Coonoor Ghát.
All formalities having been duly complied with, and the Assistant Superintendent of the Hassan
Division having satisfied himself personally as to the truth of the circumstances set forth in the
statement above mentioned, I have the honor to request that the sanction of Government may be
obtained for payment of the proposed gratuity of thirty-six (36) Rupees.

Malabar.

Enclosure.—1 Statement.

2. A similar statement is forwarded in support of the claim
to gratuity made by the wife and four children of the Mopla
coolie Moideen, killed on the Karkoor Ghát, whose case is
referred to in Government Order No. 721 of 23rd March. The
claim has been investigated by the Assistant District Engineer in charge of Malabar, both
personally, and through the Tahsildar of Wullowanaad Talook; and I have the honor to support
his recommendation that a gratuity of fifty (50) Rupees be sanctioned in this case.

South Canara.

3. I have also the honor to report for the information of
Government a fatal accident which befel a cooly named Moondala
Checka, employed on the Cubbinholla Bridge works on the road
below Munjerabad Ghát. Lieutenant Fraser was at Mangalore on the 1st April, the date of the
occurrence, the District Engineer having called him in with his office and accounts on the
occasion of the Easter Holidays. First Class Sub-Overseer Parthasarthy Naidu was living on the
spot, but absent on the roadwork under the Ghát, at 5 P. M., when maistry Sooba Rao reports
the accident to have happened in consequence of a gang of 23 coolies, employed in hauling a
main beam of the bridge across from the right abutment to the first pier, hurrying confusedly with
their work to get under cover from a heavy shower of rain which just then began to fall. They
crowded on to the temporary staging, and threw their own weight with that of the beam entirely
to one side, causing the frame work below, which was very insufficiently inserted into the rocky
and stony bed of the nullah, to lurch over and precipitate all who were on it to a depth of about
15 feet. Ten of the twenty-three must have been standing on the pier and abutment for they
escaped unhurt, twelve more were slightly bruised, and one only abovenamed having fallen under
the beam, had his right leg and private parts so injured that he died by 7 P. M. the same evening.

4. Notice was immediately sent to the Police out-station at Serandi, four miles distant, from
whence a Constable and Private arrived the same night. Next morning two Potails and five Head
Ryots, of the villages separated by the stream, held an Inquest, the proceedings of which resulted
in a verdict of accidental death, without imputation of blame to any one.

5. The District Engineer reports his dissatisfaction with Lieutenant Fraser for leaving
entirely to his Subordinate the planning of the scaffolding required, and the details of the
operation generally; a grave dereliction of his duties as an Engineer. "In truth," he says,
"Lieutenant Fraser has not yet realized the fact that his present sphere of operations, small as
"compared with engineering work at home, is not to be despised as a school of practical learning,
"and arena wherein to test his powers of applying ingenuity and science to the solution of
"difficulties. He would hardly acknowledge such an operation as lifting a beam to be a difficulty;
"forgetting that to the natives to whom he entrusted it, the task might be as great as that of
"raising a tubular girder bridge to a Stephenson. I trust he will take to heart and benefit
"by this and other lessons of the season's work."

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd June 1863.*

6. Two circumstances irrespective of the insufficient founding of the frame work also came to the District Engineer's notice when he visited the spot on the 16th April, and induced him to characterize the Sub-Overseer's management as "stupid in the extreme." The first was the two squared beams of the proper scantling having already been got across in safety, no use whatever was made of them for support of the third beam, with which the accident happened, although by their use the temporary platform might have been superseded altogether. The second was that the beam with which the accident happened was not trimmed and $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches square instead of being only $13\frac{1}{2} \times 9$: i. e. it was most unnecessarily and improperly 50 per cent. over the proper weight. The circumstances were brought to the notice of Lieutenant Fraser, who was distinctly made responsible for the right scantlings only being used, and for the placing of the first two beams of each span under his own eye.

7. No claim for gratuity has yet been brought forward; whether from lack of claimants or from distance of deceased's Talook (Oodapee), is not yet known.

No. 510.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd June 1863, No. 1,632.

1. The gratuities recommended in paragraphs 1 and 2 of this letter are sanctioned, but the Superintending Engineer will report to what fund he proposes to debit the charge.

2. The Governor in Council regrets to learn of the fatal accident that has recently occurred in South Canara. The neglect of duty on Lieutenant Fraser's part, noted in paragraph 5, is not creditable to that Officer, to whom the Superintending Engineer is requested to convey the censure of Government, and a warning that such conduct will not be tolerated for the future.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

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22nd June 1863
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Accl General
Contr & Aud of acct
Chepauk
22nd June 63