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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>162-2</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>10-8-60</u>	18 <u>60</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1863.*

No. 489. 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, Department Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 10th June 1863,
No. 20:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to recommend that the services of Mr. Overseer Vardon, lately in charge
of the Coondapoor Range of South Canara, but now under
suspension, may be dispensed with on the following
grounds, viz.:—

First.—Disobedience of the orders of Government on the subject of advances; those in
his range having continued excessive, in spite of the District Engineer's precautions to restrain
them, as reported in that Officer's reply to Miscellaneous Circular No. 41 of 19th February, in
his letter No. 175 of 23rd March.

Second.—Disobedience of the orders of Government on the subject of excess of sanctions;
most conspicuously and unpardonably displayed in exceeding without cause or previous report,
the maintenance allowance of Rupees 5,798, of the Coloor Road Circuit transferred from the
Bombay Budget of 1862-63, as reported in paragraph 3 of the District Engineer's letter No. 184
of 8th April. The outlay on this sanction reported in Mr. Vardon's Progress Report for April
is Rupees 6,207-8-7, or only Rupees 409-8-7 in excess of sanction. But as reported further,
many payments remain to be made which will swell that amount.

Third.—Gross ignorance and neglect of his duty in so mismanaging the work of the Delly
Nulla Bridge on the Coloor Road Circuit, that all three
centres of the same were up at once and washed away
when rain occurred on the 22nd to 25th April; two centres
being all that need have been up at a time, and the work generally being in a backward state
from lateness in commencing it, and personal neglect of it (making every allowance for sickness
amongst workmen). Circumstance reported in District Engineer's letter No. 1 of 1st May, stating
that Mr. Vardon had been superseded in his range charge by Mr. Fernandez, and recommending
him for degradation to rank of Assistant Overseer. (Bridge of three arches of 21 feet span, with
rise of 7 feet, on piers 8 feet high and 3½ feet thick. Revised Estimate Rupees 2,000. Approved
with plan, in Extract Proceedings of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Central Circle, No. 90 of
14th March, but returned for re-submission in proper form. Work undertaken from Coloor
Circuit Funds, under the terms of that sanction which includes provision for gradually bridging
as well as maintaining the lines; and with reference to the orders of Government on review of
the Collector's Reports on the Public Works of 1861-62.)

Fourth.—Neglect of the Regulations of the Department in permitting rough Rosters of
coolies and workmen to be kept, from papers purporting to be fair copies of which, but differ-
ing from them in many items, the actual payments were made. Also in withholding payments
for materials and labor which fell due in the four months from January to April inclusive, and
not informing Mr. Fernandez, on giving over charge, or the District Engineer in sending in his
accounts for April, that any such payments were due. Such neglect being prompted either by
the fraudulent intention of not paying at all, or of making such payments from the funds of
1863-64 without the knowledge of the District Engineer. Said proceedings of Mr. Vardon were
first brought to notice by receipt of copy of a letter from Mr. Fernandez to his address No. 4 of
25th May, whereon he and his Accountant were instantly suspended; confirmed by letter to my
own address No. 15 of 1st June, whereon is based this application for dismissal of Mr. Vardon, and
permission to move another Subordinate of the Division into Canara when occasion may require.

Fifth.—Ignorance and neglect of the duties of a range executive generally, and habitual
neglect or evasion of orders, as shown throughout the correspondence of the District Engineer
on Coondapoor range affairs, and on his personal visit to the range.

No. 490. ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1863, No. 1,622.

The Governor in Council defers passing orders on this report until Mr. Vardon shall have
been furnished in accordance with the Regulations of the
Grant's C. O. paragraph 9, pages 99 and 100 service with a copy of the several charges preferred against
him and his defence or explanation laid before Government.

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

8th-1622-20th June -
with an order

of No. 1622.
 The answer in Council, before hand
 on this point, unlike the Standard Hall, have been
 in accordance with the regulations of the society.
 of the several charges paid, and a brief time
 or explanation laid before of each.