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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.G.O. No. 2393Press
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Dated

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th August 1864.*

No. 418. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel O. W. S. CHAMBERS, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to
Government, Department Public Works, dated Waltair, 4th August 1864, No. 716:—

SIR,

1. I regret to report for the information of Government that an accident happened on the
20th of June last, on the Aska and Bullapadra
road in the Ganjam District, at the excavation

Enclosure 7.

of the foundation of an abutment of a bridge, No. 40, by which three lives were lost and one
man was badly wounded.

* With an enclosure, T. Overseer Ramiah's report.

2. Enclosed is a copy of a letter* from
Mr. Supervisor Lever, dated the 24th of June,
No. 71, in which he gives an account of the accident, and considers that it was caused by Tálug
Overseer T. Ramiah disobeying orders.

29th June.

3. On receipt of this letter, I called upon
Mr. Lever for the report of the Punchayet and
for T. Ramiah's defence.

4. These documents are also enclosed together with Mr. Lever's rejoinder, dated 15th
July 1864, No. III.

5. I regret that a hurried tour of inspection at the Godavery should have prevented me
from being able to dispose of them, by communicating them to Government, before returning
to my head quarters.

6. It will be perceived by the Tálug Overseer's letter, that he denies that Mr. Lever gave
him orders to dig the excavation for the foundations of the right abutment in steps, which would
have prevented the accident happening, and that he attempts to prove that he did not receive these
orders by showing that no instructions were given by Mr. Lever to excavate in steps the pit for
the reception of the foundations of other bridges on the line, Nos. 3, 4 and 6.

7. It is certain that no such written orders were given; but I quite agree with Mr. Lever in
thinking that it is not necessary in all cases to give a subordinate written instructions regarding
details of works.

8. I am quite satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. Lever why the pits for the
foundations of bridges 3, 4 and 6 were not excavated in steps: the banks of the Nullahs to be
spanned by these bridges are low and the soil hard.

9. On the 7th of June, thirteen days before the misfortune occurred, on inspecting bridge 40,
Mr. Lever ordered the excavation of the pit to receive the left abutment to be carried on in
steps, and there no accident happened: the responsibility of neglecting this precaution on the
right bank clearly rests on T. Ramiah.

10. The cause of his disobeying verbal orders and of acting on his own judgment is to be
found in his first report.† He there states
that the bank was as hard as iron.

† No number, 20th June.

11. It should be explained that the whole depth of the pit was only nine feet, and that,
where a stratum is hard and of a uniform nature, this is not a dangerous depth to excavate with-
out steps in the dry weather: in the present instance the first four feet of the excavation lay in
black cotton soil, the remaining five in loamy sand with water oozing through it; this Ramiah's
experience should have told him was a formation most dangerous to excavate in without steps or
slopes.

12. I think the accident is due, first, to disobedience of orders, and next to the absence of
ordinary care and watchfulness on the part of the Overseer.

13. Ramiah, I consider, should be punished not only for disobedience and carelessness
but also for untruthfulness.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th August 1864.*

14. With the permission of Government I purpose keeping him at work on half pay for six months.
15. Of the 180 Rupees which will be taken from him, I beg to suggest that 57 Rupees be applied, as per accompanying gratuity list, to making a small provision for the heirs of the two men and the one girl killed.
16. Perhaps Government may consider the punishment proposed to be inflicted inadequate to the offence, but Ramiah, as appears by his certificates, has hitherto done such good service that I consider that he should be treated with leniency.

No 419.

ORDER THEREON, 20th August 1864, No. 2,393.

1. The Government have read the foregoing report with much regret. It is clear that three lives have been lost, and others endangered, through most culpable carelessness and disobedience on the part of Taluq Overseer T. Ramiah.
2. The punishment which the Superintending Engineer proposes to inflict seems quite disproportioned to the offence; but, in consideration of Colonel Chambers' recommendation, and the excellent service which Ramiah has hitherto done in the Department, the Government will not insist upon a heavier punishment being enforced.
3. The gratuities proposed to be given to the heirs of the two men and the girl killed by the accident, are approved of.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
" Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.

Erd. S. T. Augustin.

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10/16. *Superintending Engineer's Office
1st Division
Maltair 4 August 1864*

*From Colonel Chambers R.E.
Superintending Engineer
1st Division*

*To Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
Madras*

Sir

Enclo 7

I regret to report for the information of Government that an accident happened on the 20 of June last on the Asha and Bullaspadra Road in the Ganjam District at the excavation of the foundation of an abutment of a Bridge by which 3 lives were lost and one man was badly wounded.

2. Enclosed is a copy of a letter from Mr. Supervisor Lever, dated the 24 of June 1864, in which he gives an account

** with encls.
- secy J. American
Ramiah's Report*

account of the accident and considers that it was caused by Talig Overseer J. Ramiak disobeying orders.

3- On receipt of this letter, I called upon Mr. Sever for the report of the Panchayet and for J. Ramiak's defence.

4- These documents are also enclosed together with Mr. Sever's rejoinder, dated 15th July/64 No. III.

5- I regret that a hurried tour of inspection at the Godavery should have prevented me from being able to dispose of them, by communicating them to Government, before returning to my head Quarters.

6- It will be perceived by the Talig Overseer's letter that he denies that Mr. Sever gave him orders to dig the excavation for the foundations of the right abutment in steps, which would have prevented the accident happening, and that he attempts to prove that he did not receive these orders by shewing that no instructions were

29th June

50 2
were given by Mr. Sever to excavate in steps the pits for the reception of the foundations of other Bridges on the line, Nos. 3, 4 and 6.

7- It is certain that no such written orders were given, but I quite agree with Mr. Sever in thinking that it is not necessary in all cases to give a subordinate written instructions regarding details of work.

8- I am quite satisfied with the explanation given by Mr. Sever why the pits for the foundations of Bridges 3, 4 and 6 were not excavated in steps: the banks of the Nullahs to be spanned by these Bridges are low and the soil hard.

9- On the 7th of June thirteen days before the misfortune occurred, on inspecting Bridge 40, Mr. Sever ordered the excavation of the pit to receive the left abutment to be carried on in steps, and there no accident happened. The responsibility

responsibility of neglecting this precaution on the right bank clearly rests on Ramiah.

10 - The cause of his disobeying verbal orders and of acting on his own judgment is to be found in his first report. He there states that the bank was as hard as iron.

11 - It should be explained that the whole depth of the pit was only nine feet, and that, where a stratum is hard and of a uniform nature, this is not a dangerous depth to excavate without steps in the dry weather: in the present instance the first four feet of the excavation lay in black cotton soil, the remaining five, in loamy sand with water oozing thro' it. This Ramiah's experience should have told him was a formation most dangerous to excavate in without steps or slopes.

* No permission
to be given.

12 - I think the accident is due first to disobedience of orders and next to the absence of ordinary care and watchfulness on the part of the overseer.

13 - Ramiah, I consider, should be punished not only for disobedience and carelessness, but also for untruthfulness.

14 - With the permission of Government I propose keeping him at work on half pay for 6 months.

15 - Of the 180 Rs which will be taken from him, I beg to suggest that 57 Rs be applied, as per accompaning gratuity list, to making a small provision for the heirs of the two men and ^{the} one girl killed.

16 - Perhaps Government may consider the punishment proposed to be inflicted inadequate to the offence, but Ramiah, as appears by his certificates, has hitherto done such good service that

that I consider that he should be
treated with leniency

Have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedt Servt

Chas. A. Phelps Colonel R.R.

Superintending Engineer

1st Div

Chas. A. Phelps
Manager

Public Works Dept
 No 2393
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 20th August 1864

Read the following
 from the Superintending Engineer
 1st Division.

Reports for the information of Govt that an
 accident happened on the 20th June 1864 on the
 Asha and Bullpedra road in Ganjam
 district at the operation of the foundation of
 an abutment of a bridge by which 3
 lives were lost and one man was badly wounded.

(Forwarded 4th August 1864 No 716)

The Govt have read
 the foregoing report with
 much regret. It is
 clear that three lives
 have been lost, & others
 endangered, through
 most culpable carelessness
 & disobedience on the
 part of Kelock Overseer
 J. Nanniah.

The punishment
 which the Sup^r Engineer
 proposes to inflict seems
 quite disproportionate
 to the offence; but,
 in consideration of
 Colonel Chambers' re-
 commendation, &
 the excellent service
 which Nanniah has
 hitherto done in the
 Department, the Govt

He
 JF

23rd 1864
 The Superintendent
 1st Division

To the Secretary
 Sept 1st

23rd August 1864
 No 12 220
 No 716
 C. 1003

Reference to the information
 of Govt that an accident
 happened on the 20th June 1864
 on the Asha & Bullpedra
 road in Ganjam district
 at the operation of the
 foundation of an abutment
 of a bridge by which
 3 lives were lost and one
 man was badly wounded.

No 2393-205 dated 1864.

1864/85

will not insist upon
a heavier punishment
being enforced.

The gratuities
proposed ~~for the~~ to
be given to the heirs of
the two men and the
girl killed by the accident,
are approved of -

III.

To The Superintendent, Secy of the of London:
By the Controller.

Sept. 22nd August

