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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2954	Press
236-237	Mis.
Dated 14-10-	1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th October 1864.*

No. 236. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to
Government, Department of Public Works, dated Coimbatore, 18th August 1864,
No. 88 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to point out, with reference to paragraph 1 of G. O. No. 2,226 of 4th August, that there appears to have been some misconception as to my having connected Mr. Smith with the execution of the Military buildings at Malliappooram and Calicut, with which he had nothing to do except for two months while acting for Captain Bean as District Engineer.

2. As to Captain Bean I have nothing more to say than has been stated, when necessary, in reports on which the orders of Government have already been passed. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and the Government appear to differ in the conclusions to be drawn from those reports; in which difference of opinion I am not concerned.

3. I take this opportunity of laying before Government the revised estimate of Rupees 11,408 for tile turning, which Captain Vertue has requested me to substitute for that of Rupees 3,720, sanctioned in G. O. No. 3,005 of 17th October 1863; and as that Officer is aggrieved by my report, which he considers to have done him great injustice, I send full copy of his letter animadverting on the same, in order that higher authority may decide between us.

4. It strikes me as rather strange that a work, the emergency of which was so loudly brought to notice by the Military authorities at Cannanore in the monsoon of 1863, should remain unfinished throughout this monsoon without a word of remark from them. Yet according to Captain Vertue, little more than one-fourth the work estimated for has been done. Either the outcry was exaggerated at first, or Captain Vertue having very properly taken in hand the worst parts, has incorrectly deduced therefrom an enormous average rate for the whole. I cannot suppose an Officer of Mr. Bailey's practical experience to have been so egregiously in the wrong as his successor makes him out to have been.

5. I have several reasons for believing that want of progress with the work is partly owing to Captain Vertue's having failed till a late date to realize practically its nature and magnitude. He complains that Mr. Bailey during his short tenure of the range, had only managed to contract for eight lakhs of bricks; what measures have been successfully adopted by him to add to that number do not appear. Up to 12th March he appears not to have realized his position, for in a letter of that date submitting revised estimates he expressly says that he is aware of no others requiring revision and re-submission. Again, by a letter of the 16th April, he appears for the first time to have realized that the work was one of repair and not a new work, although it had been entered under the former heading in his Progress Reports for March 1864, when the work appears to have been commenced. His acknowledgment when set right was couched in an injured complaining tone, which is habitual and not creditable to his correspondence; specimens of it are to be found in those paragraphs of his letter now forwarded, in which I, who have no executive charge at Cannanore or elsewhere, am twitted with having "fallen into the same error" with Mr. Bailey of "not having foreseen the requirements" of the work; and again where he says that "it does seem somewhat strange that its exceptional nature did not occur" to me. Such exceptional circumstances being immediately after, *for the first time*, brought to notice.

6. In reporting for the information of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on the slow progress of the Military buildings in Malabar, in reply to a direct call with reference to that subject, I was under the impression that I had been unusually careful in exonerating Captain Vertue from blame for the existing state of affairs, while attributing to his practical inexperience some portion of the heavy increase of rates; asked for by him (be it remembered) without any explanation of their cause previous to that which my report elicited. I have already backed up his rates for new works, and got them passed, grudgingly I admit, for I am very sure that they are higher than need be (an opinion hitherto concealed from Government); and it is

**2 Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th October 1864.**

preposterous that I cannot acknowledge defective working of the Department without being requested by the Executive Officer who happens to be responsible, to eat my words and set him right with the Military authorities.

7. The fact is I have been singularly unfortunate in my relations with Captain Vertue ever since he joined the Division, and neither in Coimbatore nor in Malabar has his work given me any satisfaction. That I have endeavoured to suit his private circumstances and oblige him personally, I have every reason to suppose he will admit. But our views of work generally, and of the Department as at present organized, are so diametrically opposed that we cannot exchange opinions privately; and the mere communication to him, on a late occasion, of an opinion expressed by His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has been resented by him in an unbecoming manner, as if I had improperly interfered between him and the Officer Commanding Cannanore on the occasion. I have very lately been informed by Captain Vertue that his present station is considered by Medical men the worst possible for his health, and that in consequence his wish is to effect an exchange to the other coast. As it is desirable that the senior Executive Engineer in my Division should be one with whom I should be on the best understanding, and who could best act for me on any emergency, it may be well for all parties and for the interests of Government that the first opportunity be taken of meeting Captain Vertue's wishes. There need be no hurry in the matter, which is capable of adjustment at the convenience of Government and the Department. I only stipulate that no one senior to Major Farewell be nominated, as he can best take up my work whenever required.

8. As to the estimate now forwarded, of which Rupees 9,812 were unexpended on 30th April, there is no alternative but to pass its rates as those under which the Executive Engineer cannot undertake to carry out the work; but they may be considered tentative, and liable to revision on further experience. As Captain Vertue has expressly stated that the work cannot be commenced till the end of 1864, or beginning of 1865, the Military Repair Funds of Malabar District will probably be adequate to meet the demand, if Rupees 5,812 are debited to the current official year, and Rupees 4,000 to next, the work to be completed without fail, and its accounts closed in May 1865.

From Captain J. VERTUE, Executive Engineer, to Lieutenant-Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, dated Cannanore, 21st July 1864, No. 198.

SIR,

1. I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 62 of 16th instant, accompanied by extracts of a correspondence between His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief and yourself.

2. I must say that I have read the whole with extreme surprise, as I cannot help thinking that you have done me great injustice. His Excellency remarks on the slowness with which work is prosecuted, with especial reference, as it seems, to the tile turning of the European Barracks, and in this opinion you confirm His Excellency—you remark that the "simple work of tile turning has been exaggerated into preposterous dimensions, &c."

3. Tile turning no doubt is a simple work, and giving the labor and materials necessary, it can be performed very rapidly. These essentials are, however, the very things that we had not. Labor is at all times scarce at Cannanore, and to show how completely we had absorbed all the available labor, I may mention that travellers who wished a cooly or two were obliged to send to us for them. It may therefore be conceived that no efforts had been spared to procure labor.

4. In addition to all the available labor of the place, we had that of a Company of Sappers, without which we could not have got through nearly so much work as we did. So much for the labor, now with regard to the materials, the supply of tiles contracted for by my predecessor amounted to only eight lacs, of which I received little more than six. I bought up all the additional tiles on which I could lay hands; for some of which I had to pay an enormous price, and yet with all that I have been able to perform but little more than one-fourth the quantity of work to be done.

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14th October 1864.**

Sanctioned October 1863.
Commenced March 1864.

5. You must not suppose either that any delay was made in commencing the work, which was put in hand the moment that men and materials became available, nor was it stopped till tiles were exhausted and the monsoon was on us.

6. The reason for the execution of so little of the work is obvious, the supply of tiles was totally inadequate to the unforeseen demand. Of the eight lacs contracted for I had to reserve upwards of four to partially tile a range of Married Quarters, and to wholly tile another range, the range of Solitary Cells and the Artillery Cells. From the experience we have had, from 16 to 20 lacs of tiles should have been stored for the work in question. I do not by any means attribute blame to my predecessors for not having foreseen this requirement, and you yourself seem to have fallen into the same error. You say "I must prove the work to be of most exceptionable nature before you can support my case." The work is of a most exceptionable nature, and it does seem somewhat strange that this did not occur to you. The tiles of most of these buildings are believed not to have been turned for forty years and upwards; the exact time no one can state, but forty years is considered well within the mark. This I maintain to be a very different thing from ordinary tile turning. The roofs were covered with a plentiful crop of grass, and the tiles were deeply encrusted with vegetable mould, so that all had to be laid on the ground, and were scraped and cleaned. They were found to be very rotten and brittle, and the loss from breakage amounted to fully a fourth, many of the tiles being broken in the simple act of lifting from the roof.

7. This being the case, you will comprehend that the operation was one of no ordinary nature, demanding both much time and a large quantity of tiles, and it is evident that any estimate framed on the assumption of the work as an ordinary one must be seriously defective. Into the details of the estimate I shall enter more fully in another letter. My present purpose is to prove to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief that work is not allowed to linger as he has been given to understand; and as you have been unfortunately the means of confirming him in it, I trust you will do me the favor, and I would add the justice, to forward this letter of explanation for his Excellency's perusal.

8. I feel the imputation the more because I can truthfully say that I have at all times especially devoted myself to any thing concerning the Soldiers' comfort, and if there was any work that more than another occupied my thoughts, it was this same tile turning. I did to the best of my judgment and ability and every one under me worked with might and main, and it is discouraging in the extreme to find that where really great exertions were made we receive credit for but little.

9. I do think I have fair cause to complain that you should express opinions and judgments so disparaging to me, without demanding from me an explanation, which I could at once have given you.

10. With regard to the expenditure on Military works at Cannanore, I will only add that the average monthly expenditure from October 1862 to May 1863, both inclusive, amounted to 880 Rupees, while for the corresponding months of the ensuing year it was roughly 4,350 Rupees, being in the three months prior to my assuming charge 2,788 Rupees and in the subsequent five months 5,291 Rupees.

11. In noting these facts I am far from wishing to claim any credit, and indeed I consider that the credit is mainly due to Mr. Potter, the very efficient Overseer in charge of the Cantonment works, whose great services it is a source of extreme gratification to me to be enabled to thus officially record, but I think the statement of such facts will at all events go some way to dispel the impression that little has been done, and it will at any rate prove that all of a sudden there was an unprecedented demand for labor and materials.

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14th October 1861.**

12. With regard to your assertion that work could have been more cheaply done, I confidently maintain that owing to the enormous demand (private) for labor and materials of all kinds, had any attempt been made to keep down prices, our work would have exhibited a very much less satisfactory state of progress.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

No. 237. ORDER THEREON 14th October 1861, No. 2,954.

1. With this letter the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, submits a revised estimate, amounting to Rupees 11,408, of the probable expense of turning the tiles of the Barracks and Hospital of the European Regiment at Cannanore.

2. The original estimate, which was sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer, amounted to Rupees 3,720, and the Government have a right to assume that Colonel Walker had satisfied himself that under ordinary circumstances this amount would have been sufficient. It would seem that Captain Vertue in his Progress Report of March 1861 alluded to this work as a "repair," and that, though on the 12th March, in forwarding revised estimates for other works he stated that he was not aware of any more which required revision, he nevertheless in June, forwarded the one now laid before Government.

3. This document is drawn up in a most slovenly form. The number of squares of roofing is stated, and a sum of Rupees 5-2-0 per square is inserted for materials and labour, while a charge of 10 per cent. is made for sundries and superintendence, the Superintending Engineer being left to gather, as he best might, the proportion of materials to labor. Colonel Walker, naturally dissatisfied with such an estimate, appears to have sent it back to Captain Vertue for submission of the detailed data on which it and other estimates had been prepared. What the result of this reference was, does not appear; but on the 18th August, Colonel Walker forwards the estimate to Government with some letters which had passed between him and Captain Vertue, and he states that "there is no alternative but to pass its rates as those under which the Executive Engineer cannot undertake to carry out the work." At the same time he brings under notice the relations which existed between himself and Captain Vertue.

4. The Government, having carefully considered the papers before them, are compelled to express their dissatisfaction with the conduct of both Officers. It is to the Superintending Engineer that the Government look for proper estimates of the work to be executed in his District. He is the person who is responsible for any excess in these, and it is for him to give a reason for any excess over the outlay originally sanctioned; but on the present occasion an estimate for 3,720 Rupees is forwarded in October, and eight months afterwards a revised estimate is sent in exceeding the original one by 200 per cent., and this is unaccompanied by any explanation save a statement that the Executive Engineer cannot undertake to carry out the work for less. If this be the case, that is, if the prices are so high as to require such an outlay, Colonel Walker's original estimate must evidently have been quite erroneous. If the excess be owing to the carelessness of Captain Vertue, and to the slovenly mode in which he performs his duties, this should have been clearly stated by Colonel Walker. The Government believe this to be the case, and the data furnished by Captain Vertue himself suffice to show that he has very much exaggerated the amount of materials required.

5. There is an expression in Colonel Walker's letter of 18th August, which the Government regret to observe. He says, "I have already backed up his (Captain Vertue's) rates for 'new works and got them passed, grudgingly I admit, for I am very sure that they are higher than need be (an opinion hitherto concealed from Government.)'" The Government cannot refrain from pointing out that these admissions are clearly indicative of the loose manner in which the Superintending Engineer, deals with his responsibilities, as commented on in the Orders in the Educational Department, No. 263, dated 9th September 1861. Colonel Walker must under-

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14th October 1864.**

stand that the Government will hold him, the Superintending Engineer, responsible for the character of the plans and estimates submitted. It is his business and his positive duty to analyse these, and to satisfy himself not only as to the fitness of buildings for the purposes they have to answer, but also as to the sufficiency of the estimate to cover their cost. He has an establishment provided to enable him to do this, and he cannot be permitted to throw the entire responsibility upon the shoulders of his subordinates.

6. The Government consider the conduct of Captain Vertue to be wholly indefensible. He appears to have grossly neglected his duty as an Executive Engineer, and also to have altogether forgotten his Military position. The tone of his letter to Colonel Walker is most improper and insubordinate, and the slovenly mode in which he has executed or permitted to be executed the work entrusted to him, shows him to be unfit to have the charge of Public Works.

7. Before passing final orders, however, Colonel Walker will be directed to proceed to Cannanore as soon as he can arrange to do so, for the purpose of investigating thoroughly all the circumstances connected with the extraordinary cost of the work under notice. He will report to Government in detail the result of his enquiries, and the measure of blame and responsibility properly attaching to Captain Vertue, regarding whom further orders will then be issued.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin,

N^o 198

Bannanore 21st July 1864

Despatched 25th July 1864

To

The Superintending Engineer
7th Division

Sir, I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter N^o 62 of 16th Instant accompanied by Extracts of a correspondence between His Excellency the Commander in Chief and yourself.

I must say that I have read the whole with extreme surprise, as I cannot help thinking that you have done me great injustice. N. E. remarks on the slowness with which work is prosecuted - with especial reference as it seems to the Tile turning of the European Barracks and in this opinion you confirm his Excellency.

You remark that the simple work of Tile turning has been exaggerated into preposterous dimensions.

Tile turning no doubt is a simple work and given the labor and materials necessary, it can be performed very rapidly. These essentials are however, the very things that we had not. Labor is at all times scarce at Bannanore, and to show how completely we had absorbed all the available labor I may mention that Travellers who wished a Coolie or two were obliged to send to us for them. It may therefore be conceived that no efforts had been spared to procure labor. In addition to all available labor of the place, we had that of a Company of Sappers, without which we could not have got through nearly so much work as we did - so much for the Labor. Now with regard to the materials - The supply of Tiles contracted for by my predecessor amounted to only 8 Lacs, of which I received little more than 6. I bought up
also

all the additional Tiles on which I could lay hands: for some of which I had to pay enormous price and yet with all that I have been able to perform but little more than one fourth the quantity of work to be done.

You must not suppose either that any delay was made in commencing the work which was put in hand the moment that men and materials became available, nor was it stopped till Tiles were exhausted, and the monsoon was on us.

The reason for the execution of so little of the work is obvious. The supply of Tiles was totally inadequate to the unforeseen demand. Of the 8 Lacs contracted for I had to reserve upwards of 4 to partially tile a Range of Married Quarters, and wholly tile another Range of Solitary Cells, and the Artillery Cells. From the experience we have had from 16-20 Lacs of Tiles should have been stored for the work in question.

I do not by any means attribute blame to my predecessor for not having foreseen this requirement, and you yourself seem to have fallen into the same error. You say "I must prove the work to be of most exceptional nature before you can support my case"

The work is of a most exceptional nature, and it does seem some what strange that this did not occur to you. The tiles of most of these buildings are believed not to have been turned for 40 years, and upwards; the exact time no one can state, but 40 years is considered well within the mark. This I maintain to be a very different thing from ordinary tile turning. The Roofs were covered with a plentiful crop of grass, and the Tiles were deeply encrusted with

Vegetable mould, so that all had to be laid on the ground, and were scraped and cleaned. They were found to be very rotten and brittle, and the loss from breakage amounted to fully a fourth - many of the Tiles being broken in the simple act of lifting from the Roof.

This being the case, you will comprehend that the operation was one of an ordinary nature, demanding both much time and a large quantity of Tiles, and it is evident that any estimate framed on the assumption of the work as an ordinary one must be seriously defective. Into the details of the Estimate I shall enter more fully in another letter. My present purpose is to prove to H.E. the Commander in Chief that the work is not allowed to linger as he has been given to understand and as you have been unfortunately the means of confirming him in it. I trust you will do me the favor and I would add the justice, to forward this letter of explanation for His Excellency's perusal.

I feel the imputation the more because I can truthfully say that I have at all times especially devoted myself to anything concerning the Soldiers comfort and if there was any work that more than another occupied my thoughts, it was this same tile turning. I did - to the best of my judgment and ability and everyone under me worked with might and main, and it is discouraging in the extreme to find that where really great exertions were made, we receive credit for but little.

I do think I have fair cause to complain that you should

should express opinion and judgement so disparaging to me, ~~without demanding from me~~, without demanding from me an explanation, which I could at once have given you.

With regard to the expenditure on Military Works at Cannanore I will only add that the average monthly expenditure from October 1862 to May 1863 both inclusive amounted to Rs 8880 while for the corresponding months of the ensuing year it was roughly 7350 Rupees being in the 3 months prior to my assuming charge 2788 Rupees, and in the subsequent 5 months 5291 Rupees.

In noting these facts I am far from wishing to claim any credit, and indeed I consider that the credit is mainly due to Mr Potter, the very efficient Overseer in charge of the Cantonment works.

It is a great privilege to be enabled to thus officially record but I think the statement of such facts will at all events go some way to dispel the impression that little has been done, and it will at any rate prove that all of a sudden there was an unprecedented demand for Labor and Materials.

With regard to your assertion that work could have been more cheaply done, I confidently maintain that owing to the enormous demand (private) for Labor and Materials of all kinds, had any attempt been made to keep down prices, our work would have exhibited a very much less satisfactory state of progress.

I have, &c.

(Signed) James Vertue Collier
Ex Engineer.

True Copy.

W. Walker Lieut Col R.E.
Superintending Engineer &c.

To The Deputy Secretary to Govt
D. P. W. Forwarded with reference to Telegram of the 3rd Sept 64.

Original
D. P. W.
Sept 64

Cannanore 2nd July 1864.

Despatched 25th July 1864

No. 198.

To The Superintending Engineer
7th Division

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 62 of 16th Instant accompanied by Extracts of correspondence between His Excellency the Commander in Chief and yourself.

I must say that I have read the whole with extreme surprise, as I cannot help thinking that you have done me great injustice. It is remarkable on the slowness with which work is prosecuted with especial reference - as it seems to the tile turning of the European Pariahs, and in this opinion you confirm His Excellency. You remark that the simple work of tile turning has been exaggerated ^{into} ~~into~~ proportions dimensions &c.

Tile turning no doubt is a simple work, and given the labor and materials necessary, it can be performed very rapidly. These essentials are, however the very things that we had not. Labor is at all times scarce at Cannanore, and to show how completely we had absorbed all the available labor, I may mention that travellers who wished a cooly or two were obliged to send to us for them. It may therefore be conceived that no effort had been spared to procure labor.

In addition to all the available labor of the place, we had that of a Company of Sappers, without which we could not have got through nearly so much work as we did. So much for the Labor. Now with regard to the materials the supply of tiles contracted for by my predecessor amounted to only 8 Laas, of which I received little more than 6. I bought up all the additional tiles

instrument so dispatched.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a list or notes.]

Copy of Captain
Latham's letter 18/7/64
of 20th July, a copy
for the Department of
No. 30 September 1864

M. 3713/64

7th Division
The Super Eng.
7th Division
to the Secy to Govt.
20/7/64
Atto 3rd July 1864
Recd 8th Sept.

tiles on which I could lay hands; for some of which I had to pay an enormous price, and yet with all that I have been able to perform but little more than one fourth the quantity of work to be done.

You must not suppose either that any delay was made in commencing the work, which was put in hand the moment that men and materials became available, nor was it stopped till tiles were exhausted, and the monsoon was on us.

The reason for the execution of so little of the work is obvious the supply of tiles was totally inadequate to the immense demand. Of the 8 Lacs contracted for I had to reserve upwards of 4 to partially tile a Range of Married Quarters, and to wholly tile another Range, the Range of Solitary Cells and the Artillery Cells.

From the experience we have had from 16 to 20 Lacs of tiles should have been stored for the work in question.

I do not by any means attribute blame to my predecessors for not having foreseen this requirement, and you yourself seem to have fallen into the same error.

You say "I must prove the work to be of most exceptional nature before you can support my case."

The work is of a most exceptional nature, and it does seem somewhat strange that this did not occur to you. The tiles of most of these buildings are believed not to have been turned for 50 years and upwards; the exact time no one can state, but 50 years is considered well within the mark. This amounted to be a very different thing from ordinary tile turning. The Roofs were covered with a plentiful crop of grass, and the tiles were deeply incrustated with vegetable mould, so that all had to be laid on the ground, and were scraped and cleaned. They were found to be very rotten and brittle, and the loss from breakage amounted to fully

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months of the ensuing year it was roughly 1,350
Rupees, being in the 3 months prior to my assuming
charge 2,788 Rupees and in the subsequent 5 months
5,261 Rupees.

In noting these facts I am far from wishing to
claim any credit, and indeed I consider that the
credit is mainly due to Mr. Potter, the very efficient
Overseer in charge of the Cantonment works, whose
great services it is a source of extreme gratification
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Yours &c

Signed James Vertue Esq. Capt.
Cyc Engineer

(True Copy)

Walter Lunt Col R.E.
Superintending Engineer J.P.

No. 88 Supt. Engrs Office 7th Div
Chivittore 18th August 1864 10

From
Lieut. Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Superintending Engineer 7th Div

To
The Secretary to Government
Department of Public Works
Madras

Sir, I have the honor to point out
with reference to para 1 of G. O.
No. 2226 of 4th August that there
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for two months while acting for
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2. As to Captain Pean I have
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on which the Orders of Government
have already been passed. He is
Excellency the Commander in Chief
and the Government appear to
differ in the conclusions to be
drawn from those Reports, in
which difference of opinion I am
not concerned.

3. I take this opportunity of
laying before Government the
Revised Estimate of Rupees
11408 for returning which Captain

Enclosed is a letter from
the Superintending Engineer
7 Division to the Secretary to
Government dated 18th August 1864

From Captain Walker R.E.
Superintending Engineer

to the Secretary to Government
Chivittore 18th August 1864

Dated 18th August 1864

(Sd/-) 27/5/64

18/9/98

Explains the circumstances
under which the work of
the Training of Engineers
Department and other military
works were delayed at Chivittore
more.

Venture has requested me to substitute for that of Rupees 3720 sanctioned in G. O. No. 3005 of 7th October 1863; and as that Officer is aggrieved by my Report, which he considers to have done him great injustice, I send full copy of his letter annexed, verbatim on the same, in order that higher authority may decide between us.

10. It strikes me as rather strange that a work the emergency of which was so loudly brought to notice by the Military Authorities at Calcutta in the Monsoon of 1863, should remain unfinished throughout this Monsoon without a word of remark from them. Yet according to Captain Venture, little more than one fourth the work estimated for has been done. Either the outcry was exaggerated at first, or Captain Venture having very properly taken in hand the worst parts, has incorrectly deduced therefrom an enormous average rate for the whole. I cannot suppose an Officer of Mr. Bailey's practical experience to have been so egregiously in the wrong as his successor ~~is~~ makes him out to have been.

5. I have several reasons for believing that want of progress with the work is partly owing to Captain Venture's having failed till a late date to realize practically its nature and magnitude. He complains that Mr. Bailey during his short tenure of the Range,

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had only managed to contract for 8 Lakhs of Rupees, what measures have been successfully adopted by him to add to that number do not appear. Up to 12th March he appears not to have realized his position, for in a letter of that date submitting Revised Estimate he expressly says that he is aware of no others requiring revision and re-estimation. Again by a letter of the 16th April, he appears for the first time to have realized that the work was one of Repair and not a new work although it had been entered under the former heading in his Progress Reports for March 1864 when the work appears to have been commenced. This acknowledgment when set right was couched in an injured complaining tone, which is habitual and not creditable to his correspondence. Specimens of it are to be found in those parts of his letter now forwarded in which I, who have no Executive Charge at Calcutta or elsewhere am twitted with having "fallen into the same error" with Mr. Bailey of not having foreseen the requirements of the work, and again where he says that it does seem somewhat strange that its exceptional nature did not occur to me. Such exceptional circumstances being immediately after for the first time brought to notice.

6. In reporting for the information of His Excellency

the Commander in Chief on the slow progress of the Military Buildings in Malabar, in reply to a direct call with reference to that subject, was under the impression that I had been unusually careful in exonerating Captain Vertue from blame for the existing state of affairs, while attributing to his practical inexperience some portion of the heavy increase of rates, asked for by him (be it remembered) without any explanation of their cause previous to that which my Report elicited. I have already backed up his rates for new works, and got them passed grudgingly. I admit, for I am very sure that they are higher than need be, (an opinion hitherto concealed from Government,) and it is preposterous that I cannot acknowledge defective working of the Department without being requested by the Executive Officer who happens to be responsible, to eat my words and set him right with the Military Authorities.

The fact is I have been singularly unfortunate in my relations with Captain Vertue ever since he joined the Division, and neither in Coimbatore nor in Malabar has his work given me any satisfaction. That I have endeavoured to suit his private circumstances and oblige him personally, I have every reason to suppose he will admit. But our views of work generally, and of the Department as at present organ-

ized, are so diametrically opposed, that we cannot exchange opinions privately, and therefore communication to him, on a late occasion, of an opinion expressed by his Excellency the Commander in Chief has been resorted to, but in an unbecoming manner, as if I had improperly interfered between him and the Officer Commanding Camanore, on the occasion. I have very lately been informed by Captain Vertue that his present station is considered by Mr. Desbureau the worst possible for his health and that in consequence his wish is to effect an exchange to the other Coast. As it is desirable that the Senior Executive Engineer in my Division should be one with whom I should be in the best understanding and who could best act for me in any emergency, it may be well for all parties and for the interests of Government that the first opportunity be taken of meeting Captain Vertue's wishes. There need be no hurry in the matter, which is capable of adjustment at the convenience of Government and the Department. I only stipulate that no one senior to Major Farewell be nominated, as he can best take up my work whenever required.

As to the estimate now forwarded, of which Rupees 9812 were

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As to the estimate now forwarded, of which Rupees 9812 were

unexpended on 30th April, there is
no alternative but to pass its rate
as those under which the Executive
Engineer cannot undertake to carry
out the work, but they may be
considered tentative, and liable
to revision on further experience.
As Captain Ventur has expressly
stated that the work cannot be
commenced till the end of 1864,
or beginning of 1865, the Military
Repair Funds of Malabar Dis-
trict will probably be adequate
to meet the demand, if Rupees
5517 are debited to the Current Offi-
cial year, and Rupees 1000 to meet
the work to be completed without
fail, and its accounts closed in
May 1865.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant

W. Walker Lieut Col R.E.

Superintending Engineer
7th Division

Public Works Department
 Proceeding of the Madras Government
 Under date 10th 1888

Read the following letter from
 the Superintending Engineer of the Division

Forwarding a Revised
 Estimate of Rs. 11,400 -
 for Tile turning at Cannanore.

Write this letter to
 the Superintending Engineer of the Division,
 before forwarding a revised
 estimate, amounting to
 Rs. 11,400, of the probable
 expense of turning the
 tiles of the Barrack
 Hospital of the European
 Regiment at Cannanore.
 The original estimate,
 which was sanctioned by
 the Supt. Engineer, amounted
 to Rs. 3,720.

The revised estimate
 has been prepared by Capt.
 Vertue, the present Supt.
 Engineer at Cannanore,
 and the large additional
 sum for which sanction
 is required is stated by
 that Officer to be chiefly
 due to the insufficiency
 of the rates in the original

Collect

This should be
 Governor

820 17th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 26th Aug 1888 - 87,990.

21st 1888 1889 1890
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
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18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889
 18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

18th Dec 1887 1888 1889

excessively

An early opportunity
will be taken to transfer
Captain Vertue's services
to another district.

[Handwritten signature]

Pinna

15

The Report sent forward with
the correspondence between
Col Walker & Captⁿ Pertue
should have been accompanied
by a brief précis of the circum-
stances connected with the
repair of the roof of the Barracks
at Cammarone which I have
been obliged to make out for
myself as best I could -
It would seem that in Oct^r
68 Col Walker forwarded
an Estimate for turning the
tiles of the Barracks & House:
total at Cammarone amount-
ing to \$3720. This Estimate
is not before me. I am
~~not aware of its contents.~~
~~As it is not before me,~~
~~I cannot say whether or not~~
~~it was approved.~~ but
I have a right to assume that
Col Walker had satisfied
himself that under ordi-
nary circumstances this
amount taken would have
been sufficient for the pur-
pose. That is for stripping
the tiles - replacing the
ordinary proportion of
broken tiles with new -
for relaying the whole
2023.96 Squares.
It would seem that Captⁿ
Pertue in his Report of Sept^r
of March 69 alluded to this
work as a Repair - and

on 12th March in sending for
- would received Estimates, he
states that he was not aware
of any other estimates which
required revision -
in June however, he for-
- would a revised Estimate
for the work in question
amounting to 11600 R or
upwards of 200 per cent
in excess of the original
Estimate - This Estimate
is drawn up in a most
clumsy form. The Roy
Sequence of Roofing is stated
and a sum of 5th 2nd per
Square is inserted for
materials & labour while
a charge of 10 per cent is
made for sundries &
superintendence - I
have seldom seen a more
clumsy document -
The Sup^r Eng^r is left to father
as he best may, the pro-
- portion of materials to
labour - Col Walker was
dissatisfied with it
materially and with the
q^{ty} of fence appears to have
sent it back to Capt Fester
for submission of the de-
- tailed data on which it
or other estimates had
been made out -
What the result of this re-
- ference was does not
appear, but on the 18th
August Col Walker

16
sent it forward with
some letter which had
passed between him and
Capt Fester, stating that
~~some work had been~~
expended upon a work
for which interest was
what was 3720. There is
no alternative but to pay
it at the rate as there under
which the Ex^r Eng^r cannot
undertake to carry out the
work - and at the same
time bringing under the
notice of the Gov^t the relations
which existed between him-
- self & Capt Fester -
I must say that I am
dissatisfied with this con-
- duct of both officers -
I do not think that Col Walker
appreciates the responsi-
- bility of his position - it is
to him that the Gov^t looks
for proper Estimates for
the work to be executed in
his district. he is the per-
- son who is responsible
for any excess in there, &
it is for him to give a reason
for any excess over the
outlay originally sanctioned,
but, on the present occasion,
an Estimate for 3720 is
sent in in October, and I
months afterwards
a supplementary Estimate
forwarded exceeding the

original one by 200 per cent.
and then is unaccompanied
by any explanation save
a statement that the Exec-
utive Eng cannot under-
-take to carry out the work
for life. If this be the case
that is if the prices are so
high as to require such
an outlay Col Walker
original Estimate must
have been ludicrously
erroneous. If the error
be owing to the carelessness
of Capt. Fetter, and to
the clumsy mode in which
he performed his duties
then should have been
clearly stated by Col Walker
I believe that in the case
from the data furnished
by Capt. Fetter himself
Col Walker sufficient to
show that he has been very
much exaggerated the
amount of materials
required. and I have little
doubt that some prop
jobbing is going on with
reference to the purchase of
materials. The howler
ought to have been looked
into by Col Walker -
there is an expression in
Col Walker letter of 18 "Aug"
which I am sorry to see. he
says "I have already backed
up his (Capt. Fetter's) rates
for new works, and got them
passed. Principally I admit

I am very sure that they
are higher than needed (an
opinion without concealed
from Govt) - 17
I have had occasion once
before in commenting
upon the conduct of
Col Walker in forwarding
the plan of the Lawrence
Asylum to remark
upon the loose manner
in which he dealt with
his responsibilities. &
the present occasion is
another illustration of
the same failing. Col
Walker must be made to
understand that the
Govt will hold him, the
Superintending Eng, re-
-ponsible for the character
of the Estimate
submitted. it is his
business his positive
duty to analyze them
and satisfy himself
as to the fitness of the bud-
-get for the purpose of
work answer, and
as to the sufficiency of
the estimate to cover
the cost - he has an
establishment provided
to enable him to do this
and will not permit
him to shuffle off his
responsibility upon the
shoulders of his subor-
-dinate -

The

The conduct of Capt. Tetter
I consider to be wholly in-
defensible. He appears
to me to have properly re-
spected his duty as Ex^{co}
Eng^r. and also to have
altogether forgotten his
military position -
I object to the time of his
letter to Col. Walker as
most improper and
insubordinate. and
the slovenly mode in
which he has executed
or permitted to be executed
the work entrusted to
him shows him to be
unfit to have the charge
of public works. -

Col. Walker, while he
should be warned that
the Gov^t is not by any
means satisfied with
the mode in which he
has performed his
duties, should be de-
rected to go down to
Cannon and in-
vestigate thoroughly
all the circumstances
connected with the extra-
ordinary cost of such
a simple work as that
of building - I cannot
but suspect some ac-
cidity, fostered by the
careless plant Tetter

paper, and possibly a small

among the office establish-
ment. -
As Capt. Tetter the
only course to be followed
is to place him under the
disposal of the Comm^r
in Chief. he is evidently
not competent to take any
charge in the Dept^y of
Public Works

W. L. Garrison

It seems to me that in
the first instance
Col. Walker should be
directed to proceed to
Cannon as soon
as he can and there
as suggested by H. E.
President in order
to get thoroughly all
the circumstances
connected with the
extraordinary cost of
the building of the
Cannon Baracks.

When we have this
report before us, we
can then determine

The

What order should be
passed both as respects
Col Walker and Capt
Kortue.

24/9/64 M

I concur in the remarks
of the President & of
Mr Pyroff. From the
roof of the barracks having
lasted so many years it will
probably be found that the greater part of the tiles
are rotten as stated by Capt Kortue - I was
struck when at Cannanore last year by their
mouldy appearance & by the crop of grass & weeds
growing on them. But after this discussion &
with so great a difference in the first & second
estimate the matter will be most satisfactorily
settled by the Supty Engineer visiting Cannanore.
The

paper, midday & night

list

Public Works Dept
19

No 2954

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14th October 1864.

Read the following
from the Superintending
Engineer 7th Division.

Forwarding a revised
estimate of Rupees 11,408 for
tiling at Cannanore.

(Forwarded 18th August 1864
No 88)

With this letter
the Superintending En-
gineer, 7th Division,
submits a revised estimate,
amounting to Rs 11,408, of
the probable expense
of tiling the tiles of
the Barracks and
Hospital of the European
Regiment at Cannanore.
The

M

2. The original estimate, which was sanctioned by the Superintending Engineer, amounted to Rupees 3,720, and the Govt. have a right to assume that Col. Walker had satisfied himself that under ordinary circumstances this amount would have been sufficient for the purpose. It would seem that Capt. A. C. Verne in his Progress Report of March, 1864 alluded to this work as a "Repair," and, ^{that, through} on 12th March,

in forwarding ^Ppossible estimates, he stated that he was not aware of any other which required revision, ^{he permitted} in June, however, he forwarded the ~~present~~ ^{one} estimate now laid before Govt. This document ^{Para 3} is drawn up in almost slovenly form, The ~~no~~ ^{number} of squares of roofing is stated, and a sum of Rs. 2 per square is inserted for materials & labour, while a charge of 10 per cent is made for sundries and superintendence the Superint. being left to gather, as he best ^{might} ~~may~~, the proportion of materials to labour. Col. Walker,

naturally dissatisfied,
with such an estimate,
appears to have sent
it back to Captain
Vertue for submission
of the detailed data on
which it and other
estimates had been
prepared. What the
result of this reference
was, does not appear;
but, on the 18th August,
Colonel. Walpole forwards the estimate
with some letters
which had passed
between him and Captain
Vertue, and he states
that "there is no alternative
but

but to pass its rates as
those under which the
"Defensive Engineer" can
not undertake to car-
ry out the work. At
the same time he brings
under the notice of the
Government the relations
which existed between
himself and Captain
Vertue.
The Govt. having
carefully considered the
papers before them, are
compelled to express
their dissatisfaction with
the conduct of both
Officers. It is to the
Superintendent that the
Govt. look for proper
estimates

estimates of the work

to be executed in his

district. He is the person

who is responsible for

any excess in these,

and it is for him to

give a reason for any

excess over the estimate

outlay originally sanctioned;

but on the present occasion

an estimate for 3720 is

is forwarded in October,

and 8 months afterwards

a revised estimate is

sent in exceeding the

original one by 200

per cent, and this is

unaccompanied by

a correct statement that
the Executive Engineer can
not undertake to carry
out the work for less.

If this be the case, that
is, if the prices are so
high as to require such
an outlay, Coll. Walker's

original estimate must
evidently have been
quite erroneous -

excess be owing to the
carelessness of Capt.

John Vertue, and to the
slowly mode in which

he performs his duties,
this should have been

clearly stated by Coll.
Walker. - The J. S. S.

believe this to be the
case, and the data furnished

will show why

By Captain Vertue
himself suffice to show
that he has very much
exaggerated the amount
of materials required.

5. There is an ex-
pression in Col Walker's
letter of 18th August
which the Govt regret
to observe. He says
"I have already backed up
his (Captain Vertue's) papers
for New Works and got
them passed, grudgingly.
I admit for I am very
sure that they are higher
than need be. Can opinion
hitherto concealed from
Govt". The Govt
can not refrain from
pointing out that these

is as commented on in the
orders in the Educat. Dept. to 263
of 9th Sept 1864.

23
admissions are clearly
indicative of the loose
manner in which
the Bill business
he deals with his re-
sponsibilities. Col
Walker must understand
that the Govt will hold
him, the Superintendent,
responsible for the
character of the Plans
and Estimates submitted.
It is his business & his
positive duty to analyse
these, and to satisfy
himself as to the fit-
ness of the buildings
for the purposes ^{they} have
to answer, ^{but also} as to
the sufficiency of the
estimated

estimate how over their
cost - He has

establishment provided

to enable him to do this

and he cannot be

permitted to throw the

entire responsibility upon

the shoulders of his subor-
dinate

The Post considers

the conduct of Captain

Vernon to be wholly inde-

-fensible. It appears

to have grossly neglected

his duty as an Executive

Officer, and also to

have altogether

forgotten his Military

position

position - The tone of
his letter to Poll

Walker is most in-

proper and reasonable

and the slow

mode in which he has

executed or permitted

to be executed the

work entrusted to him

shows him to be un-

-fit to have the

charge of Public Works.

7. Before passing

final orders, however,

Col Walker will be

directed to proceed to

Cannanore as soon as

he can manage to do so,

for the purpose of

investigating thoroughly

all

all the circumstances
connected with the
extraordinary ~~work~~ cost
of the work under notice.
He will report to Govt
in detail the result of his
enquiries, and the measure
of blame and responsibility
properly attaching to Captain
Vertue, regarding whom
further orders will then be
issued.

*Copy of the above memorandum
sent to the Admiralty on 10/11/44
10/11/44*

W.D.

No 236 237

*The copy Engr. on 16/11/44
H.M. Stationers
Despatch 14/11/44*

W 1864 Depa
P. of Govt. for Octo

No 2954

P. of the Alpoat

D/14 October/64

C. No 4808/64

Letter from the
Supt Engrs & D. Sub.
submitting a revised
Estimate amounting
to Rs 11408 of the
probable expenses
of turning the tiles
of the Barracks &
Hospital of the Eu-
ropean Regt at
Cannanore, Malabar
District.

No 206 237