M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair 6-10-42

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 142 Press Mis.

362-63.

Dated 16-5- 1864.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 362. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 26th April 1864, No. 2,517 :—

Read the following letter from the Collector of Nellore, dated Krishnapatnam, 28th March 1864, No. 73

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Board's Proceedings of the 15th ultimo, communicating the Orders of Government of the 12th idem, Public Works Department, No. 442.

2. Colonel Anderson having furnished certain information with reference to my report on Public Works, the Government observe that I might have elicited the information now before them, and it is to be regretted I did not follow this course, and thereby avoid several errors I seem to have fallen into.

3. I should be sorry, if I had occasioned needless correspondence ; but in this instance I think I can show I have not, and I trust the Board will be pleased to forward this explanation for the consideration of Government with such remarks as they may think fit to make.

4. And first, with reference to the direct purport of the portion of my report under discussion, I beg to state as regards the bridge in the Kottapatnam Swamp, no information I could have elicited by writing to the Superintending Engineer, would have been sufficient. I should of course have been glad to know Colonel Anderson approved of the addition of a flooring, but the plan having been sanctioned by higher authority, *that* would not have got the flooring, *which the course I pursued has.*

5. Certainly, a reference might have informed me that the Superintending Engineer thought "it quite possible the water-way allowed may prove insufficient," that he intended to take care "the road embankment should give way rather than the bridge," and the bricks for the bridge being bad, he still thought it advisable *to save the pieces.* But I beg respectfully to state, I should not have thought this information satisfactory ; I should have brought the matter to the notice of the Board, even now do not know the nature of "the precaution" for making the road embankment give way, and myself should think true economy was, not to run the risk of breaching either bank or bridge, but instead of a bridge put a causeway, with sluices, and so adjusted as to allow the floods to go over without impediment, should they exceed calculations unquestionably difficult to make with accuracy.

6. It is in fact an instructive history, this Kottapatnam Swamp road. It was first planned by Captain Greenaway, and the villagers told him nothing about the floods. I then told Captain Mullins who had returned to the District what might be expected, and he planned a submerged causeway capable of meeting any emergency. If I mistake not, this plan was not changed by Captain Greenaway of his own accord, when he returned a second time to take Captain Mullins's place ; but in accordance to orders from the Central Office, where I subsequently, in person, and as I then thought successfully, begged for the restoration of the causeway ; and the result of all was, that, three years afterwards, I found them building a bridge without piers and without flooring, where there is known to be at times half a mile of water moving onwards.

7. A reference to the records will show I have made many references on the subject. It was with Colonel Ludlow I last discussed it at the Central Office, the Deputy Chief Engineer referred to by Colonel Anderson ; and under these circumstances the Board and the Government will, I trust, be of opinion that *further reference* was not the course for me to pursue.

8. The question referred to by Colonel Anderson in the 6th paragraph of his letter is an important feature of our present system that has often attracted my attention, and at his next visit will be found by him not to have been raised in this instance without good cause, whether as regards Kottapatnam or the broken bricks, both of which I traced to the same cause, and brougth forward in the hope of attracting attention not only to the specific cases reported, but the causes at work which are no fault of the department.

Dated 19th May.

* Total Estimate, Rupees 50,200.
† Up to the end of December 1863.

9. If I mistake not more than half the Estimate,* Rupees 25,994,† has been expended on the Kottapatnam road, and yet the bridge Colonel Anderson saw in progress in July had not got above the ground when I saw it in January.

10 Again, though I saw broken bricks at the Government bridge down on the shore three miles further on, I saw what appeared capital bricks. They were to build private godowns. They were all sound. There was not a broken brick among them that I saw.

11. And whether as regards the most important part of every work being taken in hand last, or Government bridges being built with broken bricks whilst private individuals eschewed pieces, I came to the conclusion, it was want of superintendence that was the cause, and in bringing the specific cases forward, I hoped this fault would be noticed and rectified.

12. The Government never did the country a better turn than sweeping away the harpies whose systematic thefts had become a bye-word; but the Officers of the department have not now a sufficient agency at their disposal. I see the Board are not content‡ with the explanation I have given of short work last year; it will have to be repeated this; and till a sufficient agency is provided, I do not see how it can be otherwise. On the 1st we had 17,000 Rupees balance unexpedded of the Local Funds.

‡ Board's printed Proceedings for February 1864, page 1,316, dated 24th February 1864, No. 1,187, paragraph 22.

13 And I would suggest till the Contract system springs up, and as the best way of leading to that system, that the present orders in respect to the pay of temporary Maistries be entirely done away with. Colonel Anderson informs me§ that 20 Rupees is the limit to allow a Maistry. I would allow him 100, if the work required it; and if this course were pursued, we should soon have an able body of men coming forward to supply the place of the corrupt Subordinates of the old Department, whose dismissal rested not with the Officer who was responsible for the work, but the Central Office who never saw it. These professional builders would not be men who had been appointed to the Public Works but men who had a turn for it; and they are the men who in the natural course of things would in a few years be our Contractors.

§ From Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to Collector, No. 3, dated 19th November 1863.

Ordered to be submitted to Government, with reference to the Order of Government in the Public Works Department, No. 442, dated 12th February 1864.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 363. ORDER THEREON, 16th May 1864, No. 1,421.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer of the 2nd Division. Colonel Anderson's attention is especially called to paragraph 10 of Mr. Dyke's letter.

2. No such limitation as that referred to in paragraph 13 exists.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division.
„ Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 1421. Public Works Department.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Underdate the 16th May 1864
Read the following
from the Secy. of the Board of Revenue.

Letter from the Collr. of Nellore replying to the remarks of Govt. on certain information furnished by the Supg. Engr. 2nd Dn. regarding the Kottapatnam Road. } H.E.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 2nd Division. Colonel Anderson's attention is especially called to para 10 of Mr. Dyke's letter.

2 No such limitations as that referred to in para 13 exists.

To the Supg. Engr. 2nd Dn. / 10
" Bd. of Revenue / 3

Dated 19th May.

of 1864 Deptt
of Pwo. of Goo.to for May

No. 1421
of 1864 of the Allgood
Dt. 16. May 1864

Pwo. of the Bd. of Revs.
submitting letter from the Collector
of Kolhapur regarding the Kolha
-pur Panhala road, Communicated
to the Superintending Engineer.

No. 852.