

(1) Number of pages 25

(2) Date of repair 25-1-38

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1507	Press
536-537		Mis.
Dated	23-5	1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1864.*

No. 536. Read the following letter from J. SILVER, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, to Colonel C. A. ORI, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tinnevely, 7th May 1864, No. 177 :—

SIR,

1. The Board of Revenue directed in their Standing Circular No. CXXXI, dated 24th September 1863, Board No. 6,086, annexed to the Order of Government in the Revenue Department under date the 10th idem, No. 1,675, that the Budget Statement of Salt works to be done in 1864-65 should be prepared by Collectors in concert with the Superintending Engineer of the Division, and submitted as soon as possible. As the Executive Engineer Major Paxton is well acquainted with the District and was near at hand, I requested him direct, in order to avoid delay, to furnish me with approximate Estimates for works proposed by the Deputy Collectors in charge of the Salt Department; and at the same time I forwarded to Captain Moberly Superintending Engineer for his information, a copy of my letter to Major Paxton on the subject.

2. Major Paxton accordingly furnished me with approximate Estimates, amounting to Rupees 30,350, for the eleven works noted in the margin, being a portion of the works referred to in the lists sent by the Deputy Collectors, but the Superintending Engineer, Captain Moberly, informed me in his letters of the 27th October and 16th November last, that he protested against those Estimates, and that he conceived he was relieved of the duty of furnishing them, from the wording of the Government Order quoted above.

	RS.
Constructing Catcherries on the Platforms at Vypar, Manjancolam, Palayacoil and Coolasegarapatam...	2,400
Enlarging the Platforms at Vypar, Manjancolam, Arady and Coilpatam...	2,950
Constructing a Salt road from Coolasegarapatam and Odengudy...	12,000
Gravelling the Palayacoil Salt road...	10,000
Extending the Vypar Salt road up to the Platform...	3,000
Total...	30,350

3. I forwarded to the Board copies of those letters, and also sent my Salt works Budget prepared with reference to Major Paxton's rough Estimates, and the Board observed in their Proceedings dated 12th January 1864, No. 172, that Captain Moberly put a wrong interpretation on both the Board's Proceedings of 4th September 1863 and the Order of Government thereon

* Dated 7th December 1863, No. 3,600.

dated 10th idem, but that, as a recent Government Order* in the Department Public Works will have informed him of his error, the Board deemed it unnecessary to take any notice of his letters referred to above, and that my list of Salt works has been submitted to Government.

4. In the meantime Captain Moberly addressed a letter to Government dated the 5th December 1863, No. 1,423, in paragraph 5 of which he stated as follows: "I have just received copy of the Collector's Budget containing the names of works and approximate Estimates, the original having been sent to the Revenue Board, with a request that I will prepare detailed Estimates to the amount of Rupees 81,000, and this when the whole country is under water from recent rains."

5. A reference to the Budget forwarded by me to the Board will show that this statement is erroneous, for I did not request him to prepare detailed Estimates to the amount of Rupees 81,000 as asserted by him. Major Paxton's approximate Estimates amounted only to Rupees 30,350 for the eleven works shown in the margin of paragraph 2 of this letter, and to this sum Captain Moberly appeared to me to have added Rupees 50,800, being the amount of old Estimates previously sanctioned by Government for constructing Salt roads, and entered as a matter of form in the Budget, and thus made it appear that I had called upon him to frame detailed Estimates to the large amount of Rupees 81,000, imposing very heavy work upon his Department.

6. I therefore deemed it proper in justice to myself to explain this to the Board and Government in my letter dated 12th March 1864, No. 96, and thereupon the Government were pleased to pass an Order dated the 11th April 1864, No. 1,021, drawing Captain Moberly's attention to the remarks of Government in their Orders dated the 31st March and 6th April 1864, Nos. 888 and 972 respectively.

* Copy annexed.

7. Dissatisfied therewith, Captain Moberly again addressed me on the 18th* April 1864,

observe that from Vypar to the nearest road
road

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd May 1861.*

on my having "brought down upon him the censure of Government" through a "considerable mistake" on my part, "as to the Estimates for and condition of the Salt roads." I pointed out

† Copy annexed.

further correspondence on the subject would have ended there, but Captain Moberly has further addressed me by letter† dated the 30th April,

‡ Copy annexed.

in which he now states, that the eleven works quoted above and for which the approximate Estimates prepared by Major Paxton amounted to Rupees 30,350, were valued by him at Rupees 81,000 at a guess. This sum of Rupees 81,000 is just equal to the Rupees 30,350 of new Estimates, and Rupees 50,800 of old Estimates, (all expended in former years except a balance of Rupees 4,715), as shown in my Budget. Captain Moberly did not mention this argument before, in his previous letter, and I submit to Government whether it is consistent with the wording of paragraph 5 of his letter to Government of 5th December 1863, above quoted, and which called forth my explanation.

8. In this second letter he not only pronounces it unfair that I should call down on him the censure of Government, but considers that I should modify if not withdraw my letter to the Board of Revenue, dated 12th March 1861, No. 96, on which the Government have recorded their orders; but as I never called upon him to prepare detailed Estimates to the amount of Rupees 81,000, and as I cannot admit there was any thing unfair in my stating to the Board and Government the extent of approximate Estimates for which I requested detailed Estimates to be prepared, even although the detailed Estimates when they are prepared, exceed the approximate Estimates, I submit there has been no error on my part.

9. I now learn from Captain Moberly's last letter, that the amount of eighty-one thousand Rupees was a guess by him. Putting aside that it just corresponds with the Budget amount (inclusive of the Rupees 50,800 of old Estimates) which led me to think he had by mistake included them, a supposition strengthened by paragraph 2 of his letter of 18th April, I submit that this last explanation does not in any way bear out such a positive statement as that made by Captain Moberly regarding me, in paragraph 5 of his letter to Government of 5th December 1863.

10. Copies of Captain Moberly's letters of 18th and 30th April and of my reply to the former of the two, I have not replied to second, are appended to this letter; and I solicit Government will pass a final order to put an end to this useless correspondence.

11. I am very reluctant to trouble the Government again with this matter, but looking to the tenor of Captain Moberly's last letter, it would only interfere with the public service to carry on the controversy with him.

No. 537.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd May 1861, No. 1,507.

* Proceedings No. 1,462, dated 19th May 1861.

The Government have already* expressed their dissatisfaction with Captain Moberly's conduct in the matter referred to in the correspondence submitted with the foregoing letter, and they now warn Captain Moberly that if he cannot show a little more temper and discretion, and cannot keep on good terms with the Revenue authorities, with whom it is his business to work in concord as far as possible, the Government will have no alternative but to place his services at the disposal of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Board of Revenue.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*Superintending Engineer's Office & Div.
Tuticorin 18th April 1864*

*From Captain J. F. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer 8th Division
To S. Silver Esq.
Collector of Tinnevely*

Sir, I have the honor to bring to your notice that you appear to be under a considerable mistake as to the Estimates for and condition of the salt roads in your District; I judge from your letter to the Revenue Board which has brought on me the censure of Government

- 2 The entry of old estimates for Rs. 50,800. is only according to the practice of the Department for the purpose of closing the old account by claiming the last balance unexpended.*
- 3 You have received no further estimates from me beyond those drawn up by guess and those no time in assuring you that Rs. 30,000 will not go far towards putting your salt roads in order.*
- 4 Of the new pans I would merely observe that from Vypari to the nearest made road*

road

road the distance is 24 miles, of which 20 miles only are made, from Mungesolam to Ettiapuram the distance is 18 miles of which only $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles are made.

5 I have this morning inspected the road to Carapad on which Rs. 8,500 have been laid out. For about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile, the bandies traverse the swamp which a slight shower of rain turns into mud. after crossing a few sand hillocks we come on a road dam and its approaches, $\frac{3}{8}$ mile of untouched soil then follows, and then the road is again constructed for a distance of 1 mile - the end of which is about half mile from the platform at Carapad - why these portions should not have been included in the estimate, I cannot conceive.

6 On the made part the earth work is 5 yds. broad at the top with a slope of 2 to 1, totally insufficient in such a greasy saline earth as this - it is metalled with $\frac{1}{4}$ yards of coral, and this is covered by 5 yds. breadth of gravel. exactly the same as the earth - there is nothing to retain it, nothing to prevent it being washed away into the gullies formed

formed by the rain in the side slopes, themselves wholly unprotected by turf or bushes.

7 Major Passton is now preparing an estimate for completing this road, but I must anticipate its submission, and beg that you will not lead the Government to imagine that we shall carry out your requisitions for Rs. 30,000.

I have &c.
(Signed) F. J. Moberly Capt. R.E.
Superintending Engineer & District

N^o 157. Trinnevely 23 April 1864

From J. Silver Esq.
Collector

To Captain F. J. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer & District
Tuticorin

Sir, In acknowledging your letter of the 18th Instant, I have the honor to observe that in para 5 of your letter to Government dated 5th December 1863 N^o 1423, you complained that I had called upon you to prepare detailed estimates for salt works to the amount of Rs. 81,000 thus leading

leading Government to believe that I was imposing very heavy work upon your Department; and in order to remove such an impression, I explained for the information of the Board and Government in my letter to the Board dated 12th March last 1863, that the approximate estimates in question, actually amounted to only Rs. 30,350, as a reference to the Budget which I sent to you with my letter dated 1st December 1863 will show. I cannot admit that there was any mistake on my part; the mistake I submit to you, was in the wording of para 5 of your letter above quoted.

2 I am perfectly aware of the wretched condition of the Salt Roads, and I have brought the subject to the special notice of yourself, and the Board and Government as you will see from the several letters recorded in your Office.

3 In entering Rs. 30,350 in the Budget I was perfectly aware that this sum was quite insufficient for all the requirements of the salt works including Salt Roads, and

* Vide Collector's letter dated 18th September 1863.

Vide Collector's letter dated 18th September 20th October and 11th November 1863.

and before forwarding the Salt works Budget to the Board of Revenue, I informed you that several portions of the Salt Roads already constructed, have been seriously damaged, and that some of them require to be entirely re-constructed, and requested you to inform me what amount would be required to complete them, but you did not give me a decisive reply, and on the other hand you informed me in paras 6 and 7 of your letter dated 16th November 1863 No. 1181, that the rough estimates for salt works, which I requested Major Paxton to furnish, amount to one and a half Lacs of Rupees, and that they cannot be sanctioned for want of funds.

4 I would again take this opportunity to state that it is highly necessary the Salt Roads should be kept in thorough repair, as particularly pointed out by the Board and Government to

1st censure of Government - for having misrep-
resented facts.

6 Major Paxton has much advantage
over me, in his knowledge of the locality in
which I have never been - but I still
adhere to my opinion - and as yet it is
a mere matter of opinion - that Rs. 81,000.
is nearer the cost than Rs. 30,350.

7 I found my opinion on this fact
acknowledged on all sides that there is
not a decent road in the District; those that have been made
was to the salt platforms being in my
belief (in which I am supported by
word your No. 126. 26th March 1863 to the
Revenue Board), unworkable -

2 through a false economy - for which
Major Paxton is I think partly
responsible -

8 I trust that the above argu-
ment will induce you to modify, if
not to withdraw your letter No. 96.
Iw 12th March 1864 - and to leave the
question open at least till the details
of

estimates are ready.

I have &c.
(Signed) F. J. Moberly (Captain R.E.)
Superintending Engineer & Division
(True Copies)

J. Wilson
Collector

Comp. A.P.

to prevent loss in the Salt Revenue
Shave &c.
(Signed) S. Silver
Collector

N^o 2329. Superintending Engineer's Office & Division
Madras 30 April 1864

From Captain T. J. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer & Division
To S. Silver Esq.
Collector of Tinnevely

Referring to your N^o 157-23 Int.
I have the honor to observe, that you have so
where that I can see, informed the Government
where you procured the approximate esti-
mates which you have entered in your budget.

2 In my letter of the 5th December 1863
I valued these works at 81,000 Rs, and as
you say complained of the amount of
work which you had thrown on this De-
partment at a critical period of the year.

3 From your N^o 353 of 1st December,
I gather that these approximate estimates
were

were furnished to you by Major Paxton
very irregularly - without my cognizance.
I am not going to enter into any argument
as to the possible correctness of his or my
guess estimate. - They are both guesses, and
until the detailed estimates are drawn up,
it will be impossible to decide which is
correct.

4 It is therefore in my opinion very
unfair, that you should call down on me
the censure of Government - because one of
my subordinates has furnished you with an
approximate estimate differing very con-
siderably from mine.

5 Major Paxton will I hope, shortly
submit these estimates. you will observe
that he has not done so yet, though 5
months have elapsed. This partly substan-
tiates my complaint as to the inconve-
nience caused by your sudden requisition -
but when we have estimates before us,
if their amount differs considerably from
mine, my power of guessing will on good grounds
be doubted. but I cannot see how any thing
that has passed, leaves me liable to the

Censure

condemned of Government - for having misrepresented facts.

6 Major Paxton has much advantage over me in his knowledge of the localities which I have never seen - but I still adhere to my opinion - and as yet it is a mere matter of opinion - that Rs. 81,000. is nearer the cost than Rs. 30,350.

7 I found my opinion on this fact acknowledged on all sides that there is not a decent road in the Tinnevely District; those that have been made to the salt platforms being in my belief (in which I am supported by your No. 126. 26th March 1863 to the Revenue Board), unserviceable - through a false economy - for which Major Paxton is I think partly responsible.

8 I trust that the above argument will induce you to modify, if not to withdraw your letter No. 96. 12th March 1864 - and to leave the question open at least till the detailed estimates

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I have &c.
(Signed) F. J. Moberly (Captain R.E.)
Superintending Engineer & Division
(True Copies)

J. Wilson
Collector

Comp. A.P.

N: 177

13
Sinnerelly 1st May 1864.

From J. Silver Esq.
Collector

To Colonel G. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Port Saint George
Sir,

The Board of Revenue directed in their Standing Circular N: CXXXI dated 24th September 1863 Board N: 6086, annexed to the order of Government in the Revenue Department under date the 10th Idem N: 1675, that the Budget Statement of Salt works to be done in 1864/65 should be prepared by Collectors in concert with the Superintending Engineer of the Division, and submitted as soon as possible. As the Executive Engineer Major Paxton is well acquainted with the District and was near at hand, I requested him

direct

1864 Dep't
Enclosure in a letter
from the Collector
of Sinnerelly dated 1st
May 1864 N: 177

9777 2107/64.

Copy of Com.
providence referred
to in the above letter.

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5 A reference to the Budget forwarded by me to the Board will show that this statement is erroneous, for I did not request him to prepare detailed Estimates to the amount of Rupees 81,000 as asserted by him. Major Paxton's approximate Estimates amounted only to Rupees 30,350 for the eleven works shown in the margin of Para 2 of this letter, and to this sum Captain Moberly appeared to me to have added Rupees 50,800. being the amount of old Estimates previously sanctioned by Government for constructing

Salt Roads, and entered as a matter of Form in the Budget, and thus made it appear that I had called upon him to frame detailed Estimates to the large amount of Rupees 81,000. imposing very heavy work upon his Department.

6 I therefore deemed it proper in justice to myself, to explain this to the Board and Government in my letter dated 12th March 1864 No 96. and thereupon the Government were pleased to pass an order dated the 11th April 1864 No 1021 drawing Captain Moberly's attention to the remarks of Government in their Orders dated the 31st March and 6th April 1864 Nos 888 and 972 respectively.

Copy annexed.

7 Dissatisfied therewith, Captain Moberly again addressed me on the 18th April 1864 on my having "brought down upon him the censure of Government through a "considerable mistake" on my part "as to the Estimates for and condition

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to the above letter

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1864 Sep 5
Enclosure in a letter
from the Collector
of Simionly dated 7
May 1864 No 177

N. 177

134
Sinnerelly 1st May 1864.

From J. Silver Esq.
Collector

To Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Port Saint George
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Robert of Com
Providence Refused
to receive above letter

21/07/64

1864
Enclosure in a letter
from Mr. Collector
of Trincomalee dated 7th
May 1864. No 177

125
N: 177
Sinnerelly 1st May 1864
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To Colonel G. A. Orr R.E.
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Enlarging the Platforms at Vyapar, Manjan-culam, Arastady and Cailpatam - - - - -	2,950.
Constructing a Salt Road from Coorlasagarapatam and Pongudy - - - - -	12,000.
Gravelling the Palayacail Salt Road - - - - -	10,000.
Extending the Vyapar Salt Road up to the Platform - - - - -	3,000.
<u>Total Rupees</u>	<u>30,350.</u>

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last, that he protested against those estimates, and that he conceived he was relieved of the duty of furnishing them, from the wording of the Government Order quoted above.

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4 In the mean time Captain Moberly addressed a letter to Government dated the

dated 7th December 1863 Rs. 3,600.

of the Salt Roads." I pointed out
this misapprehension on his part, in
my reply of the 23rd Idem No 157, and ^{+ Copy annexed.}
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11 I am very reluctant to trouble the Government again with this matter, but looking to the tenor of Captain Moberly's last letter, it would only interfere with the public service, to carry on the controversy with him.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt.

J. C. C.
Collector

P. A. B.

e No. 1507

From the Collection of Finckley.

(J. E. J. ¹¹ May 1864 № 177)

Proc 2014620719² May/84.

4. They have already expressed their dissatis-
-faction with Capt
Mushup's conduct in
the matter refd to
in the correspondence
submitted with the
foregoing letter, and
they now warn
Capt Mushup that
if he cannot show
a little more temper
and discretion and
cannot keep in gov.

Pro. 3. Dec 1882 at 19.158

The Hon^{ble} Secy of the Navy
 Hon^{ble} Secy of the Navy
 The Collector
 Sincerely
 J. H. P.
 Secy of the Navy

Dec 27 to Henry 1864
 Dec 1/63 to 1/77
 Dec 6/18
 Jo.

Capt. Fishers will now
evidence our work
more in harmony
with the Reserve Anti-
mites than he has pre-
viously experienced & you
shall all be happy here
to find happy victims
both

To Reddy/Sun 8.00
To Mrs. J. Green

W.H.

2026.

Deciding that the
use of coirepondence
on that part of the
superintending Engineer
& Division may be put
a stop to on the subject
within mentioned.

CH 1509-23 notary/64.

(S)
terms with the Revenue
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His Ex the Commander
in Chief

W.B.
in

To the Supy Supt & Co
To the Bd of Rev
Recd 25th May 1861

177 N 1864. 2 of 225
of No. of Good Friday

2 of 225
of 20. of the 225
2 of 225 May 1864

Superintendent Engineer's Office
informed that if he cannot keep
on good terms with the Revenue
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be placed at the disposal
of His Excellency the Com.
in-charge of the
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1863 26 5 1864