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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC (Now) DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1 1 6 Press Mis.

Dated 11 4 18 1 1 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 287. Read the following letter from Colonel A. J. M. BOILEAU, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd June 1864, No. 654 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 1,173B, dated 25th April 1864, I have the honor to submit two letters from Mr. Howard, Sub-Engineer, explaining the circumstances under which large savings accrued on the sanctions under the headings "Repairs" "Agriculture" in the Vellore Range.

1 Lettter No. 843, dated 23rd April 1864.
1 do. „ 853, „ 27th „ „

2. In the first of these letters Mr. Howard shows how impossible it was, in the confusion of accounts, and the general irregularity which prevailed in the Arcot Táluq (consequent upon the frauds perpetrated by certain Overseers, since dismissed), to say, in sending the January Statement, with any degree of certainty, what works would be done, or what left undone.

3. On the same point in his second letter he observes that it "actually was next to impossible to come to any correct data regarding these accounts; no single work measured was "found to tally with the expenditure; number of works were paid for far in excess of the actual "work executed, leaving balances of some hundreds of Rupees due to Government, and which in "my opinion will not be recovered."

"I beg also that it may be observed that very many of the works in the Vellore Range "Progress Report have been sanctioned three or four years back, many of which were not "touched until Moothoosamy Pillay took charge of the Arcot Táluq; for instances, the most use-"ful appendage to an Irrigation work, viz., tank sluices, sanctioned in the Arcot Táluq, for the "last three years have been neglected. The changes of Táluq Overseers so very frequent "during the past year in the Range was a great drawback towards the progress of works."

4. The Sub-Engineer further reminds me that in spite of all the probable savings reported, I had sanctioned so late as the month of February, further Irrigation Estimates to the extent of Rupees 2,246, but he was not able to expend any portion of that sum.

5. Another item that tended to swell the saving was one of Rupees 2,845, sanctioned on the 7th September 1863, but regarding which Mr. Howard observes "that somehow or other "it had been altogether lost sight of, as it was not even entered in the Progress Report;" but in his second letter he states that "it remained unexpended pending the adjustment of the Contractor's accounts for work done on the same channel previously."

Vide Proceedings of Government, No. 2,575.

6. Mr. Howard closes his first letter by respectfully urging that it is better in every way that savings should appear at the end of the year on allotments, than that subordinates should be pressed hard to spend thousands of Rupees spread over an extensive area, where the means of check would be very small, and the out-turn would probably exhibit "bad workmanship and "erroneous accounts."

7. In the second of his letters Mr. Howard endeavours to a certain extent to throw the onus of the unspent balances upon this Office, pointing out that no less than three times before the 10th January had he, at my desire, sent in Statements of probable savings, and that had "the "same been duly handed over to other work at the time, the balance then remaining unexpended "in this Range would not have amounted to much."

8. The total amount of probable savings reported by Mr. Howard before the 10th January was Rupees 10,965 (that is, in October 1863, Rupees 9,113, in December Rupees 292, and in January Rupees 1,560). Of this Rupees 2,415 were appropriated in November 1863 in payment of the Contractor's claim adverted to in Proceedings of Government No. 2,621, 11th September 1863, Rupees 4,692 in February 1864 for the execution of Estimates in the Ranges noted in the margin, and Rupees 3,858 were reserved to meet expenditure on works not provided with funds.

Chittoor Range	...	...	...	Rupees	832
Wallajah do.	...	...	...	„	1,716
Vellore do.	...	...	...	„	2,144
					4,692

in sending the January Statement, with any degree

9. It was perhaps a pity that I should have given back to the Vellore Range Rupees 2,247 even for other works, when it was evident there was a general inability evidenced to get through what was already at the disposal of the Range Officer, but when Mr. Howard found the further Estimates sanctioned for immediate execution, he should *at once* have intimated to this Office that he could not carry them out, and all would have been right.

10. In April 1864 Mr. Howard reported a further saving on sanctioned allotments for works to the extent of Rupees 8,999, in which was included the sum Rupees 2,249 above shown to have been granted to him.

11. The following Abstract shows the total sums reported by Mr. Howard as available, and what measures I took to apply them to use. It will be seen that a large amount was appropriated by me to other works, but I certainly never calculated that, after giving up 9,113 Rupees in October, 202 Rupees in November, and 1,560 Rupees in January, the Sub-Engineer would throw Rupees 9,000 more on my hands at the very end of the year:—

Month in which savings were reported.	Amount of savings.	Appropriated by Superintending Engineer.	Reserved to meet expenditure on works not provided with funds.	Given back to Government.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
October 1863	9,113	5,291	1,615	2,807
November „	202	256	36	.....
January 1864	1,560	1,560	.....	.....
April „	8,999	2,815	21	6,133
Total ...	19,964	9,952	1,072	8,940

12. The subject is one much to be regretted, especially as occurring in a year in which local Officers complained of stinted grants.

13. Every thing, I trust, is in good training this year for the full disbursement of the enlarged agricultural allotments in my Division, though up to this period the season is very unfavourable for works of that character, the ground being like iron for hardness.

No. 288.

ORDER THEREON, 14th June 1864, No. 1,720.

The Governor in Council regrets to observe that owing to the circumstances explained in the foregoing letter, a large balance remained unexpended on the 30th April last, from the allotment for 1863-64 under the head "Repairs" "Agricultural" for the Vellore Range of the North Arcot District. His Excellency will rely however upon the best exertions of the Superintending Engineer to ensure the whole of the current year's assignment being profitably laid out in the Districts under his charge.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with two enclosures.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No. 654. Superintg. Engrs Office 4th Dn
Madras 3d June 1864.

From,

Colonel A. J. M. Boileau R. E.
Superintending Engineer 4th Dn

To,

Colonel C. A. Orr R. E.
Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Sir,

With reference to the Proceedings of Government No. 1173 B dated 25th April 1864, I have the honor to submit 2 letters from Mr. Howard Sub Engineer explaining the circumstances under which large savings accrued on the sanctions under the headings "Repairs" "Agriculture" in the Vellore Range.

Enclosures
1 Vellore No. 2815 dated
2 Do No. 3155 dated

2 In the first of these letters Mr. Howard shows how impossible it was, in the confusion of accounts, and the general irregularity which prevailed in the Arcot Taluk (consequent upon the frauds perpetrated by certain Overseers, since dismissed), to say, in sending the January Statement, with any degree

degree of certainty, what works would be done, or what left undone.-

3 On the sum found in the second letter to stand out as actually wanting to complete to connect to any extended regarding these accounts, one single instance was found to fall under the heads of Extraordinary actual work would, leaving balances of some hundreds of Rupees due to Government and which in my opinion will not be recovered.

observed that very many of the works in the Vellore Range Anicut have been sanctioned three or four years back, many of which were not touched until Mr. Howard took charge of the Great Salem for instance the most useful appendages to an Irrigation work viz. tank sluices sanctioned in the first Taluq for the last three years have been neglected, few channels of Salem Canals many frequent during the first year in the Range were great drawback towards the Progress of works

4 The Sub Engineer further reminds me that in spite of all the probable savings reported, I had sanctioned so late as the month of February further Irrigation Estimates to the extent of Rupees 2246, but he was not able to expend any portion of that sum.-

5 Another item that tended to swell the saving was one of Rupees 2845 sanctioned on the 7th September 1863, but regarding which Mr. Howard observes "that some how or other it had been altogether lost sight of, as it was not even entered in the Progress Report;" but in his second letter he states that "it remained unexpended pending the adjustment of the Contractors accounts for work done on the same Channel previously."

Proceedings of Government No 2575.

6 Mr. Howard closes his first letter by respectfully urging that it is better in every way that savings should appear at the end of the year on allotments, than that subordinates should be pressed hard to spend thousands of Rupees spread over an extensive area, where the means of check would be very small, and the outturn would probably

Exhibit

exhibit bad workmanship and erroneous accounts.

7 In the 2nd of his letters Mr. Howard endeavours to a certain extent to throw the onus of the unspent balances upon this Office, pointing out that no less than three times before the 10th January had he, at my desire, sent in Statements of probable savings, and that had the same been duly handed over to other work at the time, the balance then remaining unexpended in this Range would not have amounted to much."

8 The total amount of probable savings reported by Mr. Howard before the 10th January was Rupees 10965 (that is Rupees 913 in October 1863, in December Rupees 292, and in January Rupees 1560). Of this Rupees 2,415 were appropriated in November 1863 in part-payment of the Contractor's claim adverted to in Proceedings of Government No. 2621 - 11th September 1863, Rupees 4692 in February 1864 for the execution of Estimates in the Ranges noted in the margin, and Rupees 3,858 more.

Vellore Range Rs. 932
Chittoor do — 1716
Palmaner do — 2446
4692

9 It was perhaps a pity that I should have given back to the Vellore Range Rupees 2246, even for other works, when it was evident there was a general inability evidenced to get through what was already at the disposal of the Range Officer; but when Mr. Howard found the further Estimates sanctioned for immediate execution, he should at once have intimated to this Office that he could not carry them out and all would have been right.

10 In April 1864 Mr. Howard reported a further saving on sanctioned allotments for works, to the extent of Rupees 6,999 in which was included the sum Rupees 2246 above shown to have been granted to him.

11 The following Abstract shows the total sums reported by Mr. Howard as available, and what measures I took to apply them to use. It will be seen that

were reserved to meet expenditure on works not provided with funds.

is very unfavorable for works of that character, the ground being like iron for hardness.—

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedient Servt

A Brereton Colonel R.E.
Supt. Engr. 4th Div.

mtg. Engrs. Office 4th Div.
dtd 3d June 1864

To,
Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

that a large amount was appropriated by me, to other words, but I certainly never calculated that, after giving up 9113 Rupees in October, 292 Rupees in November and 1,560 Rupees in January, that the Sub Engineer would throw Rupees 9,000, more on my hands at the very end of the year.

Months in which savings were reported.	Amount of Savings	Appropriated by Superintending Engineer	Reserved to meet expenditure on works not provided with funds.	Given back to Government.
October 1863	9113	5,291	1015	2807
November "	292	256	36	"
January 1864	1,560	1560	"	"
April "	8999	2845	21	6133.
Total Rupees	19964	9952	1072	8940.

12 The subject is one much to be regretted, especially as occurring in a year in which local Officers complained of stinted grants.

13 Every thing, I trust, is in good training this year for the full disbursement of the enlarged Agricultural allotments in my Division, though up to this period the season

No 1720.

The Governor in Council regrets to observe that owing to the circumstances explained in the foregoing letter, a large balance remained unexpended on the 30th April last from the allotment for 1863/64 under the head "Agricultural Repairs" for the Vellore Range of the North Arcot District. His Excellency will rely however upon the best exertions of the Superintending Engineer to uncover the whole of this year's original amount being profitably laid out in the Districts under his charge.

To The Secy Govt

Public Works Department

Fort St George 14th June 1864

Sir

I have the honor to enclose herewith for the information of Government a Statement of the Expenditure incurred during the month of April last on account of Agricultural Repairs in the Vellore Range.

2. The Statement shows a balance of Rs 2470 unexpended at the close of the month.

3. The Superintending Engineer explains that the unexpended balance is due to the fact that the Contractors for the Repairs to the Anicut across the Palar River at Vellore have not yet commenced the works.

4. I have the honor to be Sir Your most obedient Servant

The Secy Govt

Public Works Department

Fort St George 14th June 1864

Sir

I have the honor to forward for the information of Government a Statement of the Expenditure incurred during the month of April last on account of Agricultural Repairs in the Vellore Range.

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To