

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1717
504-505

Press
Mis.

Dated 21/6/1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 504. Read the following letter from Captain J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madras, 12th June 1865, No. 398 :—

SIR,

1. With reference to G. O. of the 7th instant, No. 1,557, I have the honor to forward for the information of Government a copy of my letter to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, from which Captain Moberly only submitted certain Extracts, and to request you will be good enough to lay the same before them for record.

2. In this letter I distinctly pointed out the chief causes of leakage in the Artillery Barracks at Bellary, and the remedies I had adopted for removing them; I also particularly brought to notice the want of timber at that Station, and urged the necessity of taking steps to meet this at once so as to save further expense in their construction, and I also noticed one or two other points, the whole of these have been omitted when the matter is sent up to Government for consideration.

3. I trust the Government will not consider I am intruding unnecessarily upon them in trying to vindicate myself as much as possible before them; I have suffered so much on account of the estimates sent up from Bellary since I left, that I am most anxious to show that whilst I was there I took such steps as were necessary to secure the interests of Government. I really cannot undertake to be responsible for the estimates now sent from that Station: in the revised estimates for these Artillery buildings the increase according to G. O. of the 28th February 1865, No. 560, is 46 per cent., omitting column No. 1, as explained in my letter to your address No. 2,991, dated 11th April 1865.

This increase is caused (1) by rise of prices for labor and materials; (2) by using Teak for Nuggur wood. By G. O. of the 1st May 1865, No. 1,170, the increase for a building in the Ramandroog is only 33 per cent., for precisely the same causes when the whole of the wood work has to be cut up and prepared in Bellary, sent 36 miles out to that Station, and up a Ghát for the last 4 miles; the building on the Droog is also pukka of stone and chunam, and these materials have all to be carried up to the hill as well as the

Statement of excesses over estimates, dated 20th May 1865. sand, a distance of 3 or 4 miles: recently a Statement has been submitted to this Office for the new front verandah to

the Droog Barracks, this work I all but completed; the expenditure on it since I left has been only Rupees 100, and the excess over the estimate in this case is only 5½ per cent., whereas in the building for which I had only commenced to collect materials it is 33 per cent.

4. But this is not all, by G. O. of the 2nd May 1865, No. 1,186, the revised estimate for raising the new channel bund is Rupees 9,700, in this the burnt stone work is to cost one Anna six Pice a cubic foot, exactly the price I had estimated it at, and executed it for in making the channel; there is no increase in this item, notwithstanding the rise of prices of 46 per cent. for the Artillery Barracks, built of mud and stone, these latter always costing less than burnt stone work; but the most extraordinary portion of this estimate is that for tamping, earthwork, and sundries, all to be executed at fixed rates of batta, and by task work by Sapper labor, these make up an increase of 400 per cent. over the rates at which I had formerly done the work for, whilst the only material to be obtained from the local market remains the same.

P. S.—In my letter printed with G. O. of the 22nd November 1864, No. 3,351, I stated this work was to be executed entirely by the Sappers, and should cost less than Rupees 3,000; I now request the vouchers connected with the expenditure which is to amount to Rupees 9,700 may be called for from the Superintending Engineer. I respectfully submit I am not responsible for any departure from the conditions I laid down for the prosecution of this work, and I have already shown

Bellary

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

21st June 1865.

that so far from the work being nearly complete when so large a sum in excess was asked for but Rupees 1,460 had been spent up to the end of March 1865, I now find from April's Progress Report Rupees 1,651 have been spent in that month, but in what state of progress the work is in, the report does not show; I venture therefore to suggest it be stopped until further explanation can be afforded regarding it.

From Captain J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Captain A. S. MOBERLY, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, dated Madras, 16th January 1865.

SIR,

1. With reference to paragraph 3 of G. O. of the 10th January, No. 66, I beg to report that when these Barracks were ordered for construction, I reported to the late Central Office that it was impossible in an inland District like Bellary to get palmyra rafters of sufficient length for a space of 20 feet, a few might have been obtained with difficulty, but to roof in three large ranges of Barracks the trees could not furnish the required number, and I then suggested a roofing similar to that recently adopted for the Reading Room and Library attached to the European Regiment, should be put up.

2. I was told in reply that no other timber but palmyra would be sanctioned, and I was to proceed with the erection of these Barracks without troubling the Central Office again: there was then no alternative but to roof the buildings as well as we could, and the best palmyra was selected for the Barracks; I regret to say I do not agree with you that the chief cause of leakage is that the footings of these rafters rest on the middle of the wall, and I do not find after carefully looking at several buildings about Saint Thomé that the usual practice even down here where palmyra trees are in such abundance and of such superior quality is to carry the feet of the rafters well beyond the walls, on the contrary the plan adopted at Bellary is usually practised here as far as I have been able to observe.

3. The leakage down the walls of these Barracks was caused, I submit, from the manner in which the chunam border was laid along the eaves by the Native bricklayers; when executing this work in passing over one of the valleys a small piece of broken tile was laid across it and the chunam laid over this, in its moist state this of course choked the outlet of the valley and the border then acted much like a catch-drain. I had the whole of these removed in all the buildings in Bellary before I left, a flat-tile was laid extending from ridge to ridge and the chunam border laid on top of this so as to have the outlet of the valleys perfectly free, and even before I came away the leakage down the walls was no longer complained of; I do not consider any other leakage can be stopped except by putting the common country date mats over the course of flat-tiles as carried out by me in repairing the roof of the E Battery Guard-house apparently with perfect success, as mentioned in your letter to Government of the 15th ultimo, No. 157, paragraph 9. On the rough exterior of a roof much of such uneven materials as palmyra wood this over course of flat tiles is insufficient to keep out the rain altogether, it is very inexpedient to put on any more courses of these tiles, as that adds so much to the weight of the materials in the roofs, so I used the mats as before mentioned, they are in themselves almost water-proof and their weight is quite insignificant.

4. Should it be determined to take off the roof of these Barracks, I beg to suggest the timbers in them might be used in the Married Men's quarters now constructing for the Artillery, as in these rooms the span is not more I think than fourteen feet; but at present there is no timber at all in Bellary to make up a permanent roof with, and it is absolutely necessary to take steps to purchase the wood soon in the Mysore or other adjacent territories so as to have it ready to float down the Toongabuddra during this year's freshes.

5. I beg to point out the section of the roof exhibiting a ventilator, and referred to in paragraph 3 of your letter, is incorrect, the upright supporting the roof of the ventilator, should be perpendicular to the tri-piece from the inside and not the outside of it: the roof of the building is then carried well up under the ventilator and the roof, this latter extended beyond, and I never heard any complaints of the rain coming in. If the panes of glass are taken out of the wall ventilators, a great deal of light will be excluded from the Barrack rooms, and the ventilation which is now so complete very much impeded, as the men will keep the proposed wooden shutters entirely closed especially at night time.

(True Copy.)

(Signed) J. F. FISCHER, Captain, R. E.,
Controller of Public Works Accounts.

No. 505.

ORDER THEREON, 21st June 1865, No. 1,717.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 36.

1. Referred to the Superintending
Engineer of the 3rd Division.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,

21st June 1865.

1884 22 May 2. In replying to the orders of Government No. 1,557, dated 7th June 1865, Captain Moberly will be careful to explain fully the reasons for the work connected with the supply Channel to the Native Infantry Goontah at Bellary costing so much more than Captain Fischer estimated, when the rate for the stone work appears to be the same and Sapper labor on fixed rates of working batta is intended to be employed.

3. Captain Moberly will likewise furnish the vouchers required by the Controller.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts.
Madras 12th June 1865.

N^o 398.

From Captain J. F. Fischer. R.E.
Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To Colonel G. A. Ovi. R.E.
Secretary to Government. D. W.

Sir,

Encls: One
Statement.

With reference to L.O. of the 7th Instant
N^o 1557, I have the honor to forward for the
information of Government a copy of my
letter to the Superintending Engineer 3rd Divi-
-sion from which Captain Mitchell sub-
mitted certain extracts and to request you will
be good enough to lay the same before
them for record.

2. In this letter I distinctly pointed out
the chief causes of leakage in the Artillery
Barracks at Bellary and the remedies which
I adopted for removing them. I also particu-
-larly brought to notice the want of timber
at that station and urged the necessity
of taking steps to meet this at once as well
to save further expense in their construction
and I also noticed one or two other points.
The whole of these have been omitted in the
the

The matter is sent up to Government for consideration.

3. I trust the Government will not consider I am intending unnecessarily upon them in trying to vindicate myself as much as possible before them. I have suffered so much on account of the Estimates sent up from Bellary, since I left Bellary that I am most anxious to show that whilst I was there I took such steps as were necessary to secure the interests of Government. I really cannot undertake to be responsible for the Estimates now sent from that Station: in the revised Estimates for these Artillery Buildings the increase according to L.O. of the 28th July 1865 No. 560 is 46 per cent omitting column No. 1 as explained in my letter to your address No. 2991 dated 11th April 1865.

This increase is caused 1/1 by rise of prices for labor and materials 2/1 by rising cost for Nigger wood. By L.O. of the 1st May 1865 No. 1170 the increase for a Building in the Pannandroog is only 33 per cent for precisely the same cause when the whole of the wood work has to be cut up and prepared as in Bellary sent 36 miles out to that Station and from that for the last 4 miles. The Building on the Dargah is also

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts.
Madras 16th January 1865.

From
Captain J. F. Finches. R.E.
Controller of P.W. Accounts.
Captain A. S. Insherbey. R.E.
Supt. Engineer, 3rd Division.

Sir,
With reference to para. 3 of L.O. of the 10th January 1865 I beg to report that when the Barracks were ordered for construction I reported to the late Central Office that it was impossible in an inland District like Bellary to get palm-rafters of sufficient length for a span of 20 feet, or few might have been obtained with difficulty but to roof in 3 large ranges of Barracks the trees could not furnish the required number and I then suggested a roofing similar to that recently adopted for the Reading room and Library attached to the European Regiment, should be put up.

2. I was told in reply that no other timber but palm-rafters would be sanctioned and I was to proceed with the erection of these Barracks without troubling the Central Office again: there was then no alternative but to roof the Buildings as well as we could and the best palm-rafters was selected for the Barracks. I regret to say I do not agree with you that the chief cause of leakage is that the

Footings -

Joistings of these rafters rest in the middle of the wall and I do not find after carefully looking at several buildings about St. John's that the usual practice even down here where palm-wood trees are in such abundance and of such superior quality is to carry the feet of the rafters well beyond the walls, on the contrary the plan adopted at Bellary is usually practiced here as far as I have been able to observe.

3. The leakage down the walls of these Barracks was caused I submit from the manner in which the chunnam border was laid along the eaves by the native bricklayers: when executing this work in passing over one of the valleys a small piece of broken tile was laid across it and the chunnam laid over this, in its moist state: this of course choked the outlet of the valley and the border then acted much like a catch-basin. Had the whole of these removed in all the buildings in Bellary before I left, as flat tile was laid extending from ridge to ridge and the chunnam border laid on top of this so as to leave the outlet of the valleys perfectly free and even before I came away the leakage

House

down the walls was no longer complained of: I do not consider any other leakage can be stopped except by putting the common country date mats over the course of flat tile as carried out by me in repairing the roof of the E. Battery guard-house apparently with perfect success as mentioned in my letter to Govt. of the 15th ultimo No. 157 para. 9. On the rough extent of a roof much of such inferior materials as palm-wood this over course of flat tile is insufficient to keep out the rain altogether it is very inexpedient to put on any more courses of these tiles as that adds as much to the weight of the materials in the roofs, as I used the mats as before mentioned they are in themselves almost water-proof and their weight is quite insignificant.

14. Should it be determined to take off the roof of these Barracks I beg to suggest the timbers in them might be used in the Married Men's Quarters now constructing for the Artillery as in these rooms the span is not more I think than 14 feet: but at present there is no timber at all in Bellary to make up a permanent roof with and it is absolutely necessary to

Bellary

to take steps to purchase the wood soon in the Mysore or other adjacent territories so as to have it ready to float down the Tungabhadra during this year's freshes.

5. They to point out the section of the roof exhibiting a Ventilator and referred to in para. 3 of your letter is incorrect. The upright supporting the roof of the Ventilator should be perpendicular to the tin-plate from the inner side and not the outside of it. The roof of the Building is then carried well up under the Ventilator and the roof, this latter extended beyond and never heard any complaint of the rain coming in. If the panes of glass are taken out of the wall ventilators, a great deal of light will be excluded from the Barrack rooms and the ventilation which is now so complete very much impeded as the men will keep the proposed wooden shutters entirely closed especially at night time.

I have the honor to be very
/Signed/ J. F. Fischer. Captain R.E.
Controller of M. Accounts.
/True Copy/

Captain R.E.
Controller of M. Accounts.

Statement of
excesses over esti-
mates dated
20th May 1865.

also purchase of stone and chimneys and these materials have all to be carried up to the Hill as well as the sand a distance of 3 or 4 miles. Recently a ~~stat~~ ^{statement} has been submitted to this Office for the new front Verandah to the Dragoon Barracks this. I all completed, the expenditure on it since I left has been only Rupees 100 and the excess. The estimate in this case is only 5 1/2 per cent whereas in the Building for which I had only commenced to collect materials it is 33 per cent.

4. But this is not all, by G.O. of the 22 May 1865 No. 1186. the revised estimate for building the new channel bund is Rupees 1,700 in this the bund stone-work is to cost one rupee six pice a cubic foot exactly the price I had estimated it at and as estimated it for in making the channel. there is no increase in this item notwithstanding the rise of prices of 46 per cent for the building Barracks built of mud and stone. The cost is always costing less than bund in stone-work, but the most extraordinary feature of this estimate is that for stamping earthwork and sundries all to be executed at fixed rates of 1000 and by

Belgaum

work by Sapper labor there make up
an increase of 400 per cent over the rates
at which I had formerly done the work
for whilst the only material to be obtained
from the local market remains the same.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

Wm. F. Hickman Comptroller R.R.

Controller of Public Works Accounts.

P.S. In my letter printed with L.C. of the 22^d Nov. 1864
I stated this work was to be executed entirely
by the Sappers and should cost less than \$1000
I now request the vouchers connected
with the expenditure which is to amount to
\$9,700 may be called for from the Supg.
Engr. I respectfully submit I am not responsible
for any deficiency from the contingent
laid down for the prosecution of this work
and have already shown that as far as from the
work being nearly complete when so large a sum
in excess was asked for but \$10,000 had been
spent up to the end of March 1865, I have
found from Spirit's Progress Report Re 155.1.
have been spent in that month but in
what state of Progress the work is in,
the report does not show I venture therefore
to suggest it be stopped until further
explanation can be afforded regarding it.

2/02/65

Pro: 21 June / 68 - B.N. 5044

D. M. L.

254
457
253

Public Works Dept.

1717 9

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date 1st 21st June 1865

Read the following.

From the Controller of
Public Works Accounts

Submits observations on the excess of 46 per cent on the Barracks works at Bellary compared with 33 percent on the works in Ramandroog and notices the large excess in the estimates for the band in items not requiring the large outlay.

(Here enters 12: June 1865
No 398)

Referred to the Superin-
tending Engineer of the
3rd Division.

In replying to the orders
of Government N^o. 1384, dated
22^o May 1865 Captain
Moberly will be careful
to explain fully the
reasons for the work car-
ried out with the Supply
Council to the Native
Infantry Company at
Bellary.



WRL

Costing so much more
than Captain Fischer
estimated, when the
rate for the stone work
appears to be the same
and Sapper labor on
fixed rates of working
batter is intended to
be employed

Captain Mobely will
likewise furnish the
Vouchers required by the
Controller

A.B.

of the Sept 23rd 1891 ✓
- Instructions of the Comd'g ✓

Sept 22nd 1891

To V 1865 Dep't
P^{ro}: of Govt for Amc

No 1717
P^{ro}: of the Mⁱⁿ 1865
D^{ep}: of Amc / 1865
Per 6 p 24 / 1865

Letter from the Controller
P^{ro}: Account relative to the
Estimates for alterations
to the Buildings &c.
occupied by the military
at Bellary. Referred
to the S^{ec}: & D^{ep}:.

No 504-505