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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1830	Press Mis.
725-726	
Dated 30. 6. 1865.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Mr

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th June 1865.*

No. 725. Read the following Endorsement of the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 1,004 E:—

Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel C. H. DICKENS, R. A., Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Establishment,) to the Chief Commissioner, British Burmah, dated Simla, 5th June 1865, No. 1,003 E.

SIR,

1. In my letter No. 506A of 2nd instant, the sanction of the Governor General in Council was accorded to the debit to "profit and loss" of the deficiencies reported to exist in the stock accounts of the Toungoo Division Rupees 79,821. I am now to communicate the orders of the Governor General in Council on such points in the case as appear to call for notice.

2. It appears that this deficiency in the value of the stock first came to notice in February 1864, on the occasion of the transfer of the Division from Captain Pollok to Mr. Vernon. The deficiency is reported to have arisen between the 1st January 1863 and February 1864, because on the former date the stock of the Division was said to have been counted, and Rupees 30,000 was then written off from the values of the stock on the books to wear and tear to adjust the book values with the reported actual values. From the reports now submitted, however, it appears very doubtful whether an accurate count of stock was actually made as represented on the 1st January 1863, and it seems impossible to determine when the losses really occurred or how far they are due to carelessness, deterioration, or speculation, it is probable that each of these causes had a share.

3. The amount that will thus be written off the books is about Rupees 1,10,000, to which must be added the sum of Rupees 22,874, being the value of articles reported to have been destroyed in a fire at the Executive Engineer's Store yard at Shoay Gheen in April 1863,* for besides

* Letter No. 277A, of 7th April 1864, from Secretary to Chief Commissioner British Burmah. that the list of articles said to have been destroyed contained some which would be indestructible by fire it now appears clear, that the stock accounts

were kept in altogether too incomplete and careless a manner to admit of its being accurately known what articles had really been destroyed. On the whole the total stock losses in this Division from one cause and another, have amounted about Rupees 1,33,000.

4. For this loss, the Executive Engineer Captain Pollok is responsible. The Governor General in Council concurs with you in thinking, that his explanations are altogether unsatisfactory, and the displeasure of His Excellency in Council at the gross neglect of duty and incompetence to conduct the duties of an Executive Engineer, displayed by that Officer, will be signified by his removal from the Department. Captain Pollok's services have accordingly been re-placed at the disposal of the Government of Madras in a notification of this date, a copy of which is attached.

5. At the same time while making this announcement to the Government of Madras, that Government will be informed, that while Captain Pollok's want of care and business-like habits render him unfit for employment in this Department, he has been favorably reported of for zeal and activity in out-door work.

6. I am further to add that, in the opinion of the Governor General in Council, the way in which this Officer was allowed to go on neglecting his duty in the matter of accounts, reflects much discredit on the controlling Officers of the Public Works Department in British Burmah.

7. The Governor General in Council expects that the controlling authorities of this Department will exercise such supervision over the proceedings of the Officers under their orders, as will prevent the occurrence of such cases as that now under consideration, and it is their duty to satisfy themselves by frequent and close inspections, that the state of the Divisions under their superintendence is in all respects proper.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th June 1865.*

Copy forwarded to the Government of Madras for information, with Extract of the report by Captain S. T. Trevor, late Assistant to the Chief Engineer, on the subject of Captain Pollok's peculiar disqualification and merits.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Colonel, R. A.,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

*Extract from Inspection Report by Captain S. T. Trevor, R. E., on the Toungoo Division,
in July 1863.*

STOCK, ACCOUNTS, AND ESTABLISHMENTS.

78. This concludes my review of all the buildings, &c., in Toungoo, and I will finish off that station with a few remarks on the Stock Accounts and Establishment of the Public Works Department there. I looked through all the stock and found it well and carefully kept under lock and key, no access being permitted to it except through the Store-keeper. All issues and receipts seemed to be carefully recorded by the Store-keeper, and this the first and most important stage of the stock accounts, was well enough managed. But after the stock left the godown, and in the process of being removed and charged to the different works on which it was used, the confusion took place which caused so much trouble with Captain Pollok's accounts. The illiterate and inexperienced Overseers he had, persistently and regularly either omitted to charge the stock at all, or else charged it to the wrong works and in the wrong abstracts. If Captain Pollok had been infinitely more precise and careful with the accounts than it is his nature to be, I doubt whether, with the staff he then had, he could have kept himself clear of difficulties. His sheet anchor, on which he has had to rely to bring matters straight again, was the first and only accurate stage of the stock accounts, that of leaving the godown. The same remarks apply to the cash accounts, which commenced to get into confusion after the first stage of the cash book. Proper credits and debits, except in the first rudimentary stages, were like Hebrew to the whole Establishment, and the intricate forms of our Department like pictures to be filled in more as a matter of light and shade, than on any arithmetical principles. The responsibility for all these short-comings has fallen of course on Captain Pollok, but when all the causes which produced them are taken into consideration, and the unavoidably little help he received from Rangoon in the way of strengthening his Establishment with men possessing those qualifications which he most required, he should not be made to bear the entire blame. If he had had a natural turn for account-keeping, doubtless he would have forced better work out of the rough materials he was given to work with, but his tastes lean quite in the other direction of out-door work, and in that he is most efficient. It must surely be one of the duties of the Head of a Department when he knows these special qualities of his Subordinates, (and which of them is there that has none?) to play up to them as it were by economising in the strong points and strengthening the weak. Captain Pollok has energy and inclination enough to do all the supervision and coolly-driving of his Division single-handed, but his energy and inclination fall to zero when he is seated before a figured abstract. No persuasion, or orders, or reprimands will alter this. This being the case he should have had the best office men that could have been supplied him, in exclusion of ignorant, coolly-driving Overseers;—and yet the very reverse has been the fact, for till he got Mr. Rebeiro, he had no Overseers that could do much more than write their names, and an unusually weak Office Establishment into the bargain. What could be expected then, but that the paper work of the Division should be wretchedly performed? It was so as a matter of course, and because it was a matter of course, it was beyond Captain Pollok's control, and to that degree he should, therefore, be acquitted of blame.

79. Matters are much better now, however, since Mr. Rebeiro's arrival. He makes up by his knowledge of the accounts of the Department what he lacks in knowledge of professional details. I sanctioned the following changes in the Establishment while at Toungoo. Mr. Brown, the Head Clerk, has resigned his appointment. He will be a great loss to Captain Pollok. Mr. Marsh, the 2nd Clerk, is to act as Head Clerk, and Mr. Secluna, the Sub-Overseer who was injured by a fall from his horse, to act as second Clerk. I appointed Head Maistry Peera Tumbee a Sub-Overseer, in Mr. Secluna's room. He is an excellent man and will work well in conjunction with Mr. Rebeiro, the two together making up as it were one efficient subordinate in both accounts and works. The services of Sub-Overseer Sergeant Fast, who was temporarily appointed in Proceedings No. 84, were dispensed with as Mr. Rebeiro had returned to duty from the sick list.

80. I examined all the Office books and found them kept up to date. I need not here recapitulate the remarks and suggestions I made to Captain Pollok for the better keeping of his accounts. But I will record that there was great zeal and willingness shown by all the subordinates, Clerks as well as Overseers, to carry out all Captain Pollok's wishes. They worked hard, in and out of office hours, to get through their work, and whatever might have been the short-comings of the Office, they certainly never arose from want of willing zeal.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th June 1865.*

No. 726.

ORDER THEREON, 30th June 1865, No. 1,830.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 75.

Communicated to the Military Department.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Extract from Inspection Report by Capt. S. V. Trevor R. E. (24) on the Toungoo Division in July 1863
Stock, Accounts, and Establishments.

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2221 (25)

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Simla June 1865

2221/65

No 1003 E.
From
The Secretary to Government of India
To

The Chief Commissioner,
British Bunnah.

Establishment. Public Works Department,
Simla, 5th June 1865.

Sir
In my letter No 506A of
2nd instant, the sanction of the
Governor General in Council was
accorded to the debit to Profit and
Loss of the deficiencies reported to exist
in the Stock Accounts of the Jounghoo
Division No 9821. I am now to com-
municate the orders of the Governor
General in Council on such points
in the case as appear to call for notice.

2^d It appears that this deficiency
in the value of the Stock first came
to notice in February 1864 on the
occasion

occasion of the transfer of the Division
from Captain Pollock to Mr Vernon.
The deficiency is reported to have arisen
between the 1st January 1863 and
February 1864, because on the former date
the stock of the division was said to have
been counted and Rs 30,000 was then
written off from the values of the stock
on the books to wear and tear to
adjust the book values with the
reported actual values. From the
reports now submitted however, it
appears very doubtful, whether an
accurate count of stock was
actually made as represented on the
1st January 1863, and it seems impossible
to determine when the losses really
accrued or how far they are due to
carelessness, deterioration, or speculation,
it is probable that each of these causes
had a share.

The amount that will thus
be written off the books is about Rs 1,10,000
to

to which must be added the sum of
Rs 22,874, being the value of articles
reported to have been destroyed in a
fire at the Executive Engineer's Store
at the Yard at Phoy Ghew in April 1863* for
besides that the list of articles said
to have been destroyed contained some
which would be indestructible by fire
it now appears clear, that the stock
accounts were kept in altogether too
incomplete and careless a manner to
admit of its being accurately known
what articles had really been destroyed -
on the whole the total stock losses on this
division from one cause and another,
have amounted about Rs 1,33,000.

For this loss, the Executive
Engineer Captain Pollock is responsible.
The Governor General in Council concurs
with you in thinking, that his explana-
tions are altogether unsatisfactory and
the displeasure of His Excellency in
Council at the gross neglect of duty and
incomplete

(incompetence to conduct the duties of an Executive Engineer displayed by that Officer, will be signified by his removal from the Department. - Captain Pollock's Services have accordingly been replaced at the disposal of the Government of Madras in a notification of this date, a copy of which is attached. -

5. At the same time while making this announcement to the Government of Madras, that Government will be informed, that while Captain Pollock's want of care and businesslike habits render him unfit for employment in this Department, he has been favourably reported of for zeal and activity in outdoor work.

6. I am further to add, that in the opinion of the Governor-General in Council, the way in which this officer was allowed to go on neglecting his duty in the matter of accounts, reflects much discredit on the Controlling Officers of

of the Public Works Department
in British India. - The Governor
General in Council expects, that
the Controlling Authorities of this
Department will exercise such Super-
-vision over the proceedings of the
Officers under their orders, as will
prevent the occurrence of such
Cases as that now under Consider-
-ation and it is their duty to satisfy
themselves by frequent and close
inspections, that the State of the
divisions under their Superintendence,
is in all respects proper. -

I have the honor to be su

Signed / C. H. Dickens, Holl. Pa.

Leery to the Gods of India.

30

V. A. 1004 E.

Copy, ^{forwarded} to the Government of Madras
for information, with extract of the
report by Captain S. J. Trevor, late
Assistant to the Chief Engineer, on
the subject of Captain Pollock's peculiar
disqualification and merits.

W. Dickins. Ld. Amel

Secretary of the Govt of India. —



1875

15th/1865
Providence for Anna -
M. 1865

1. Remove the Obey to
the Good of Justice

Dec 20 1892

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H. 1000 B.

Some interesting copy
of certain correspondence
-deceased relative to the
cause of Capt. Roberts
separated from the above
-shows Dr. Brinkley's
-marks, and of his
-views being explained
at the disposal of
the War Office.

May 25 - 92

With an index
May 1830 - 30 June 1861:-

Dec 26
1897

1830

1830

Communicated to the

Military & Charitable

W. J. R.

Franklin George
20 June 1865

Dec 1st 1885

To the Secretary of State.

28x