

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 435

Press
~~Mis.~~

571-572

Dated 28. 2 - 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1865.*

No. 511. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th November 1864, No. 7,509.

Read the following letter from A. HATHAWAY, Esq., Collector of Bellary, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st November 1864, No. 197:—

1. I have the honor, with reference to the Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, No. 2,787 of the 26th September, which accompanied the Board's Proceedings of the 8th ultimo, to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. The Government observe in paragraph 4 of the said Proceedings, that they have read my two letters (alluded to therein) with surprise, that in my first I made a sweeping statement as to the bad condition of the tanks in the District, and asserted that the repairs were badly executed; while in the second, I explain away all that I had formerly said, and wish my remarks upon the *past* to be considered as *prospective*, and as intended to strengthen the hands of the Public Works Department.

3. The Government have accepted as perfectly trustworthy, a report from the Superintending Engineer, based mainly upon reports received from subordinate officers, whose work I am supposed to have impugned. I presume therefore they will not refuse me the simple justice of believing my own statements, as contained in my second letter, to be true.

4. I can only regret that when penning my first letter to the Board of Revenue, my composition was so infelicitous as to convey a meaning other than that intended by me, and to repair which defect I wrote the second letter in question.

5. I had just personally and carefully inspected the Nagalapoor Ghât, the road thence to Bellahoonsi, and from Bellahoonsi to Hospett; heavy rain had fallen, and more was likely to fall. And on my adopting the plan pointed out in paragraph 9 of the above Proceedings, and writing to the Superintending Engineer, he expressed his inability to get the roads repaired for want of sufficient agency; acknowledged that the important Talook of Hospett would be left without any one to look after it, and added that his remonstrances as to the *utter insufficiency* of the present establishment had had no effect whatever.

6. It was to the roads and tanks in these Western Talooks that my first letter had special reference. Had Colonel Hemery, in reply to my letter, informed me that he would have the roads alluded to by me attended to, and appointed Captain Fischer (as, subsequent to the receipt of the Proceedings of Government of 8th July 1864, No. 1,966, he was able to do) to the charge of the Talook of Hospett, I should have taken no further steps whatever in the matter.

7. His letter however was virtually to the effect "I can do nothing to remedy the evil you complain of. I have repeatedly brought to the notice of Government the utter insufficiency of the present establishment; you had better therefore rest and be, if not thankful, content."

8. The first letter to the Board of Revenue, based upon the above correspondence, was written more hurriedly and less explicitly than it ought to have been, under the pressure of an excessive amount of work, which had, through circumstances, been thrown upon me; and had I given the letter more care, the first portion of paragraph 4 of it would undoubtedly have been differently worded. To this extent I admit that I am open to blame, and regret that I should thus have caused extra trouble to Government. I however do not assent to the idea that I wrote upon matters of which I was ignorant, and as to which I did not take the ordinary means of acquiring information. As regards the roads, the damage done was before my own eyes. Colonel Hemery had officially expressed his inability to repair it, and I felt satisfied that with what Colonel Hemery himself styles "the utter insufficiency of the present establishment," it was not likely repairs would be efficiently done.

9. As a proof that the main object of my first letter was to obtain the re-appointment of Covenanted officer to the District, and not to throw blame upon the Department, I would refer to paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and the concluding portion of paragraph 4.

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10. I also for the same purpose enclose a copy of Mr. Wedderburn's letter to the Board of Revenue of the 13th February of this year, to which I alluded in paragraph 6, as also copy of the item in his diary of 4th December, which accompanied it, as shewing his opinion of the efficiency of some of the subordinates of the Department Public Works, and to shew the cause of my writing the said letter, I enclose a copy of my letter to Colonel Hemery of the 4th June and his reply thereto.

11. Colonel Hemery having received the Proceedings of Government, Department Public Works, of the 8th July, No. 1,966, while on his return from the Sub-division to Cuddapah, called upon me at Gooty; and I then told him that I was surprised at my letter having been interpreted so contrary to what I had intended; that my main object was as stated above, and that I proposed writing to the Board to that effect. I confess therefore that I am somewhat surprised that he should not acknowledge this fact, and still more so, that he should use the words he has done parenthetically in paragraph 26 of his letter of the 25th August.

12. Aware as I am how delicate a matter it is to give utterance to opinions which may seem to run counter to a system adopted by the higher authorities, I would rather receive remarks such as those lately recorded, unpalatable though they be, than, through moral cowardice, supinely fold my arms and take no steps in the matter; especially as the only error I am conscious of having committed, is the not having taken sufficient care to make my first letter to the Board of Revenue more explicit than it was.

13. I did not, and do not, consider the present staff sufficient to provide that careful supervision of work which alone can ensure its being well done. The late Acting Collector, Mr. Wedderburn, held the same views, and I would wish the opinion of Captain Fischer, R. E., who is now at the Presidency, and who I suppose knows ninety per cent. more about the District than Colonel Hemery does, as to whether the present subordinate staff, receiving the travelling allowances they do, having the ranges which they have, and uncontrolled by the inspection of any Covenanted officers, save in one instance, are likely to efficiently superintend the roads and irrigation works in this large District; also as to the condition of the roads kept up by the Local Fund, in the Western Talooks when he lately saw them, subsequent to the penning of my first letter to the Board.

14. I certainly was under the impression that tanks, if constructed with sufficient waste weirs and good material, ought to be able to retain the rain which had fallen in the Western Talooks up to the time when I wrote the said letter; but as suggested in paragraph 3 of my second letter, the Superintending Engineer has shewn that with very heavy rain, added to the neglect of the villagers, there is nothing to be surprised at in their bursting.

15. I was also under the impression that the Range officers might bring to the notice of the Collector, all such omissions on the part of the villagers, if their reports on such matters to the Tahsildars were unheeded, and when necessary make the requisite repairs to ensure a tank's safety, and get the Collector to recover the expense thereof. In this, however, it appears I am in fault, and must content myself with receiving, as is ordinarily the case at present, such information in the quarterly progress reports; and on which, I may add, I have always punctually acted.

16. To shew how barren of results have, of late, been my references to the Superintending Engineer about alleged deficiencies in the Department Public Works, I may instance (first) my letter to Colonel Hemery of the 4th June 1864, which, as stated above, led to my writing my first letter to the Board; secondly, a letter from me to the same Officer, No. 524 of the 21st July, enclosing a report from the Tahsildar on the state of the Kudlighi tank, which was met by a copy of a report from the Executive officer whose work was impugned, an assertion on the part of the Superintending Engineer "that I had been misled by deliberate false statements made by the Tahsildar," and advice to look after my own people "instead of always trying to find fault with the department;" thirdly, a letter of mine of 10th September, No. 697, which accompanied a report of my Head Assistant Collector relative to work badly executed in the Kudlighi range. This was met by a copy of a report furnished by the same Mr. Hasler, and a letter from the Superintending Engineer (copy herewith forwarded), in which he stated that he is quite satis-

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
28th February 1865.*

fied at the very efficient manner in which the works in that Range have been, and are being, performed by Mr. Hasler; which is as much as to say "future references of this nature will be useless."

17. With reference to my remark on paragraph 8 of my letter of the 16th July, No. 117, and to which no allusion has been made by Government, I may instance one case of the inconvenience which occurred, from the Superintending Engineer passing on to me a report received from the same Mr. Hasler, based on the report of a Talook Overseer, which turned out after I had acted upon it to be completely untrue. The copies of letters herewith enclosed will speak for themselves. I severely punished the village officers for their part in the transaction; but am not aware if any notice was taken of the Talook Overseer's conduct. I, on the 8th October 1864, requested the same Executive Officer to report whether any objection existed to the construction of a tank by a private party, enclosing at the same time the Talook Overseer's report. Instead of taking the trouble to verify the latter, which was what I wanted, he replies (as per enclosure) that the Talook Overseer had reported on the matter; and refers to a point upon which his opinion had never been asked.

18. As regards the reports forwarded with Colonel Hemery's letter to Government in the Department Public Works, I do not purpose to notice them now, as I have not at hand the necessary information; but I think it right to observe that Colonel Hemery is incorrect as to the supposed invariable mode of my travelling (paragraph 32), and as to my inability to distinguish a road maistry.

19. I believe I am as competent to do the latter as himself; my mode of locomotion is not confined to one description; and I have had ample facilities of observing what I have reported.

20. The matter of the sluice of the Kudlighi tank, alluded to in paragraphs 21, 22, 23 and 24 of Colonel Hemery's report, has formed subject of a separate letter from me to the Board, and upon it they have recorded their Proceedings of the 20th ultimo, No. 6,920.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Copies of correspondence.

1. Ordered to be submitted for the consideration of Government, with reference to their Proceedings quoted by the Collector.

2. The Board give Mr. Hathaway full credit for an earnest desire to bring defects to light in view to their removal or remedy, without intending captiously to condemn the individuals on whose work he may have to report.

No. 512. ORDER THEREON, 28th February 1865, No. 435.

Miscellaneous.

Ordered to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,

Acting Under Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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(A true Copy and Extract.)


Secretary.

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

„ J. D. Sim, Esq., Secretary to Government, R. D.

Copy to A. Hathaway, Esq., Collector of Bellary.

Exd. J. Wright.

Rev. 1861. Department.
Wm. G. L. for 1861/65.

No. 3068.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF REVENUE.

Dated 11th November 1864.

Despatched 23rd —

Received 24th —

No. 7,509.

Submitting for consideration letter from the
Collector of Bellary offering explanation in
regard to certain remarks made in Proceedings
of Government D. P. W., dated 26th September,
No. 2,787, on the subject of the bad state of
the roads.

28-11-65

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