

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2304

Press
Mis.

Dated 6-9-1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd September 1866.*

Read again letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, recorded in G. O., 2nd August 1866, No. 2,430.

No. 67. Read also the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Camp, Coonoor, 13th August 1866, No. 113:—

* Letter No. 41 of 10th August 1866.
1 Rough sketch.

1. In forwarding Lieutenant Coningham's explanation,* called for in G. O., No. 2,430, of 2nd August, I have

the honor to note as follows on the same.

2. That Officer reproaches me apparently with having hastily reported to Government on the subject of a cash chest robbery alleged to have taken place on the night of the 3rd June, and reported to me by him, under date the 5th idem; and he refers to an informal communication of mine of the 16th June (whereof he was expressly told by me that he was not at liberty to make official use), wherein I appear to have said that I would wait till the Police had obtained some information before I reported to Government, and showed some curiosity to know whether his predecessor had set him an example of carelessness about his cash chest.

3. I am hardly accountable to a Range Officer of Lieutenant Coningham's rank and standing for my proceedings in relation with Government; but it may be as well to state that I did not report until after I had written intimation from the Deputy Inspector General of Police, with whom I was in communication, that nothing more could be made of the case, and by the 20th July, when that report was made, I had given up all hope of hearing further, to any purpose, from the Range Officer, and I am not of opinion that the statement now submitted by him satisfactorily disposes of the points noted in paragraph 2 of my former letter to Government. For instance, paragraph 8 seems to me entirely to beg the question of the theft having really been committed at night, and through a window. In the absence of any proof that Lieutenant Coningham saw the cash safe at night-fall on the 3rd, there is nothing to show that it was not quietly walked off with through the door, especially if the office people whom he suspected were concerned in the job.

4. The regret expressed in Lieutenant Coningham's 12th paragraph is superfluous. Had I seen the cash chest in the Office, with the position of which I was well acquainted, I should have presumed it to have been kept there only in office hours.

5. I am at a loss to account for the improper retention of the sum alluded to in paragraph 13. It seems from paragraph 2 of his former letter not to have been included in a statement of deposits, regarding the disposal of which I had given orders, though such should not have been required from me now that Range Officers have a Manual to guide them, and communicate direct with the Controller. The further report promised by Lieutenant Coningham more than two months ago has not yet reached me.

From the Acting Executive Engineer, South Wynaad Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, dated Goodaloor, 10th August 1866, No. 41.

1. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G. O. No. 2,340, of 2nd August 1865, calling for an explanation from me before passing final orders on the subject of the robbery of my cash chest.

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3rd September 1866.*

• After the receipt of your demi-official of 16th June 1866. 2. Permit me here to observe that I never expected* that you would have reported the matter to Government without having received from me this very same explanation which has been now called for.

3. The correspondence between us has solely consisted in my official and demi-official reports of the actual robbery, and your demi-official reply of the 16th June.

4. In this reply you informed me that you would wait till the Police had obtained some information before reporting the matter to Government, and, in remarking that it was great neglect on my part not keeping the cash chest under my control, requested me to report where my predecessor habitually kept his cash chest. This latter report you have not yet received. I delayed submitting it to you, as I wished to send you some information of the robbery together with it.

5. At the close of last month (July) I saw Captain Davis, the Superintendent of Police who informed me that I was at liberty to report officially, that no clue had as yet been obtained. I was on the point of doing so when I received the Government Order above quoted.

6. The cash chest has for the last two years been always kept in the Office, except when taken out on march for the purpose of paying coolies. My predecessor no doubt took effective precautions for its safety. It is my misfortune to have ascertained the insecurity of the locality.

7. When I stayed away from head-quarters for more than one day, it was my custom to take the cash chest with me; when I was at Goodaloor the chest was kept in the Office, which was always locked at night, two lascars sleeping at the door of the office, and the key kept with the Accountant who lived in a hut close to the Office. I, after the robbery, discovered that the lascars used to sleep outside the office-door. The window was fastened by a bar, and could be opened from the outside.

8. The office is formed by the end of a shed being divided off by a cross-wall equal in height to the side-walls, the gable part being left open, so that any noise on the inside could be heard from the outside. And it seems to me impossible to take out a heavy cash chest, which two men could scarcely lift, through a narrow window and over a wooden box without waking those sleeping outside. The cash chest which always had the most money in it, and which was placed by the side of the other was taken away. The other one was left intact.

9. I submit a rough plan showing the situation of the several buildings; it will be observed that the office is only 150 yards from my house.

10. The Goodaloor Police Station is a little less than two miles by the new road from the office, and at an elevation of 300 to 400 feet above the office; as it would have been inconvenient to send the cash chest up there, when I was at Goodaloor myself, I kept it in the office.

11. Referring to paragraph 2 of your letter to Secretary to Government, I beg to observe that I was at my head-quarters on the night of the robbery.

12. I very much regret now that you did not inspect the office in your last visit in May, as you might have perceived the insecurity which I overlooked.

13. The actual loss to Government is Rupees 265-11-6 according to the Cash book. The remainder of the money, Rupees 295-15-0, is an amount, which although entered in the amount of work as having been paid has not been paid away, but has accumulated in the cash chest owing to coolies absenting themselves. This deposit accumulated in 1865-66.

No. 68.

ORDER THEREON, 3rd September 1866, No. 2,804.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 7.

1. The Government having carefully considered the explanations which have been furnished by Lieutenant Coningham in the foregoing papers, are of opinion that he was very neglectful in

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3rd September 1866.*

allowing his cash chest to be kept in a room, the window of which, as he seems to have been aware, could be opened from the outside. As, however, he had arranged for two lascars to sleep inside the room (which they did not do), the Government will not hold him personally responsible for the loss of the cash balance of Rupees 265-11-6, which they authorize to be written off to Profit and Loss.

2. With regard to the remainder of the money which has been robbed, viz., Rupees 295-15-0, the Government observe that it represents an amount which was shown in the accounts to have been paid to coolies, but which in reality was allowed to accumulate in the cash chest in consequence of their having neglected to apply for the payment of their dues. This money was, it is clear, improperly retained in the cash chest. It is a rule of account that all entries in the Cash book are to be confined to *bona fide* cash receipts and payments, and that the balance shown in the books should correspond with the actual balance of cash in the chest. Further, it appears, that this sum of Rupees 295-15-0 was not included in a Statement of deposits for the disposal of which the Superintending Engineer had given instructions. Under these circumstances, the Government must hold the Officers concerned responsible for the loss should the parties to whom the money is due come forward to claim it.

3. The Government are not disposed to sanction the reward of Rupees 20 recommended by Lieutenant Coningham.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, with two Enclosures.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Accountant General.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 113

Superintending Engineer's office 7th Div.
Camp Concord. 13th August 1866
5

From

Lieutenant Colonel G. W. Walker, R.E.
Superintending Engineer 7th Div.

To

Colonel C. A. O'Neil R.E.
Secretary to Government. N.D. 7th

Sir,

Enclosure 2.

Letter no. 41 of 10th August 1866. —
1 Rough Sketch.

In forwarding Lieut. Coningham's explanation, called for in G.O. No 2430 of 2nd August, I have the honor to note as follows on the same.

1. That Officer reproaches me apparently with having hastily reported to Government on the subject of a Cash Chest robbery alleged to have taken place on the night of the 3rd June, and reported to me by him under date the 5th Idem. — And he refers to an informal communication of mine of the 16th June (whereof he was expressly told by me that he was not at liberty to make official use), where in I appear to have said that I would wait till the Police had obtained some information before I reported to Government, and showed some curiosity to know whether his predecessor had set him an example of carelessness about his Cash Chest.

3. I am hardly accountable to a Range officer of Lieut. Coningham's rank and standing for my proceedings in relation with Government; but it may be as well to state

that I did not report until after I had written intimation from the Deputy Inspector General of Police, with whom I was in communication, that nothing more could be made of the case. And by the 20th July when that report was made I had given up all hope of hearing further, for any purpose, from the Range Officer. And I am not of opinion that the statement now submitted by him satisfactorily disposes of the points noted in para 2 of my former letter to Government. For instance, para 3 seems to me entirely to beg the question of the theft having really been committed at night, and through a window. In the absence of any proof that Simtt Cougham saw the Cash safe at nightfall on the 3rd, there is nothing to show that it was not quietly walked off with through the door, especially if the office people whom he suspected were concerned in the job.

4. The request expressed in Simtt Cougham's 12th para is superfluous. Had I seen the Cash Chest in the office, with the position of which I was well acquainted, I should have presumed it to have been kept there only in office hours.

5. I am at a loss to account for the improper retention of the sum alluded to in para 13. It seems from para 2 of his former letter not to have been included in a statement of deposits regarding the disposal of which I had given orders, though such should not have been required

from me now that Range Officers have a Manual to guide them and communicate direct with the Controller. The further report promised by Simtt Cougham more than 2 months ago has not yet reached me.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedt^l Servant,
Munther Simtt Col. R.
Superintending Mgr J.D.

№ 2804

Read again letter from the Supg: Engineer & Dir
recorded in H. O. 2^d August 1866 N^o 2430

Read also the following.

From
The Subj: Engineer of the
7th Divn. — (H. E. N^o 113 dated 13th August 1866)

The Government having carefully considered the explanations which have been furnished by Lieutenant Cunningham in the foregoing papers, are of opinion that he was very neglectful in allowing his Cash Chest to be kept in a room, the window of which, as he seems to have been aware, could be opened from the outside. As, however, he had arranged for two lascars to sleep inside the room (which they did not do) the Govt. will not

WOW

security of the bar.
23 Aug 82
JPL

27th Dec 1898
 Daily News for September
 3398

from

*Edw -
draft - Enclosure
11/4*

2

The Secretary to Govt.
D. C. W. Harris.

1921/3

March 13th August 1866
 Received 18th "

Lucy: 2.

Cuckoo: 2
 No. 28041-3. 22 & 24/7/86
 Dubois's Cinereous Cormorant

Expenses, Collier for

Sept 1866, on the end:

part of the history of
the two Courts are

With our kindest
wishes always

Disseminated for the order of
Government.

John H. Brown

20th August
1866.

deceitfully to Government

Arthur D. Hill

Col 28

[illegible]

not hold him personally responsible for the loss of the cash balance of Rs. 265-11-6 which they authorize to be written off to Profit and Loss.

With regard to the remainder of the money which has been robbed, viz Rs. 295-15-0, the Comt. observe that it represents an amount which was shown in the accounts to have been paid to Coolies but which in reality was allowed to accumulate in the Cash Chest in consequence of their ~~not~~ having neglected to apply for the payment of their dues. This money was ~~clearly~~ ^{clearly} improperly retained in the Cash Chest. It is a rule of account that all entries in

in the Cash book are to be confined to bona fide Cash receipts and payments and that the balance shown in the book should correspond with the actual balance of Cash in the Chest. Further, it appears, that this sum of Rs. 295-15-0 was not included in a statement of deposits for the disposal of which the Subg. Engineer had given instructions, ~~and~~ ^{under} these circumstances, the Comt. must hold the Officers concerned responsible for the loss. Should the parties to whom the ^{money} due come forward to claim it, they ~~are~~ ^{are} not disposed to sanction the award of Rs. 20 recommended by Lieut. Cunningham. ~~as no dif-~~
ficulty

~~difficulty attending to
has been experienced
in finding the Cash
Box.~~

To W B B Dep^d
Pro: of Genl for Sept

A-2804

Pro: of the Major Cash
of 3rd Sept 1868

W B B

Passing orders
on a letter from the Super-
intending Engineer of the
of the Division, submitting the
explanation called for
respecting the robbery
of Cash Chest of the
South Wynand Range Of-
ficer, on the 3rd June
last.

To
7 The Supy Engr / Du with
4 Controller / no inclos
3 Asst General /
Recd 4 Sept

Feb. 68