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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3214 Press
206-911 Mis.
Dated 10—10— 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th October 1866.

Read the following papers:—

No. 208. From the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division.

Reporting certain irregularities in the execution of works in the Conjeeveram Táluq of the Madras District — (Here enter 28th September 1866, No 2,384)

No. 209. From do. do. — (Here enter 5th October 1866, No. 2,505)

No. 210. From do. do. — (Here enter 6th ,, ,, ,, 2,517)

No. 211. ORDER THEREON, 10th October 1866, No. 3,214.

ACCOUNT, No. 24

1. In the papers above read the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division brings to the notice of Government certain irregularities on the part of Overseer Stephens in the execution of Public Works in the Conjeeveram Táluq of the Madras District.

2. These irregularities consisted in the submission of bills by the Overseer at the close of the past official year for works which were represented to have been completed, but which were then either in an unfinished state or had never been commenced.

3 The Overseer alleges in his defence that in adopting this course he was actuated by a desire to prevent any portion of his allotment lapsing on the 30th April, as would have been the case if his accounts had been prepared so as to exhibit only disbursements for work actually performed in 1865-66. He states that he had every reason to believe that his Contractors, who were tried men, would have worked out early in the current official year the whole of the money which had been irregularly charged in his accounts, and that, in the event of this result being attained, and it being shown that all the available funds of 1865-66 had been utilized to the benefit of the State and the good of the people, although at a period subsequent to that for which they had been allotted, he hoped to win for himself the good opinion of his superior Officers.

4. The Superintending Engineer assures the Government that there was no fraudulent intention on the part of Mr Stephens, who, under the rules, makes no payments to Contractors. The Government are glad to accept this assurance, but they are constrained to remark that the Overseer's proceedings were highly irregular and his conduct wholly indefensible. Mr. Stephens ought to have been aware that bills intended for submission to the Controller should represent none other than *bona fide* expenditure, and that all check upon public works outlay will be lost, if, either from misguided zeal or other cause, the bills and accounts of Subordinate officers are prepared without any reference to actual disbursements or to the quantity of work accomplished.

5. The Government understand that the whole of the works to which Mr. Stephens' proceedings refer will very shortly be completed, and that there will be no loss to the State. Under these circumstances, and looking to the extreme youth of the Overseer and to the fact that he has hitherto borne a good character in the Department, the Government consider that he will be sufficiently punished on the present occasion if he be transferred to another District in the 4th Division and

warned that a repetition of similar carelessness and inattention to the rules of the Department will subject him to removal from his appointment.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, with thirteen Enclosures.

Exd. S. T Augustin.

No 310

Pomamallee
4th October 1866.

From,

Mr. I. H. Stephens
Overseer D. P. W.
In charge of Conjeveram Talug

To,

Colonel A. S. M. Boileau R. E.
Superintending Engineer 4th Division

Sir,

I humbly beg to state that Mr. Ottaway having informed me, that all the late correspondence, relative to incomplete works in the Conjeveram Talug, are submitted for the information of Government - I immediately gave him a detailed report thereon, for transmission to you - but as other business may cause delay in sending it to you, I now take the liberty, of submitting a copy of the same, which I respectfully solicit, you will forward to Government with the other papers, and humbly trust to your generosity to excuse the liberty I have taken, in addressing you, the matter being of the greatest urgency, and utmost importance to me.

I beg to remain,
Sir,
Your Most Obedt Servant,
I. H. Stephens
Overseer D. P. W.
In charge of Conjeveram Talug

No. 2384.

Sup.t Engr's Office 4th Divn.
Vellore 28th September 1866

From,

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

To,

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

Sir,

In the last Official year was closing the attention both of the Controller of Public Works Accounts and of myself was drawn, on examination of the Progress Reports, to the large amounts remaining unexpended in No. 3 Range Madras District. General Circulars were sent to all Range Officers on the necessity of a timely surrender of funds that could not be spent by the 30th April, with a view to their being utilised elsewhere, but to No. 3 or Sub Engineer Ottamamis Range entreaty almost was resorted to to induce the Officer of that Range to surrender funds which a view of his Reports showed he was very unlikely to disburse, looking to the rate of the average expenditure of previous months. To all these demands came the stereotyped reply to the effect that there was

Encls 13.

No 2505.

From,

Lt. Col. J. B. Stephens
Executive Engineer 2. P.W.
In charge Cuddapah & Dy

To,

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

Dated 4th October 1866

R 3310

Submitted copy of detailed explanation relative to the meanpable work in the Cuddapah Taluq

Submitted to Government through the Superintending Engineer 4th Division for information

Executive Engineer's Office
Cuddapah 4th October 1866

J. B. Stephens
Executive Engineer

was no fear, but that the money would be all expended.-

2 The enclosed verbose and lengthy correspondence shows that Mr. Ottmam was right, in fact that the money was disbursed, though not in completing the works, but in paying Contractors in full for incomplete, and even uncommenced works! a gross irregularity which, to maintain it, had of course to be supported by falsified Inspection Reports, Bills, Acquittances, Certificates of Completion, and in one case Merasidars were forced to give a receipt for Shutters, when the article was not even made up!

3 The person guilty of this unpriety, I had almost said criminality, is Mr. Stephens Overseer of the Conjeveram Taluq No. 3 Range. His explanation is to be found in full in the enclosed Correspondence. It amounts to this, 1st that he thought the Range Officer was conniving at his proceedings, 2ndly that because certain works were sanctioned late, (the delay ensuedly arising from the sanctioning authorities taking time to consider if they were beneficial to the State) he, Mr. Stephens, as Executive, would be justified in completing them late, that is after the prescribed period, having the same end in view Viz. benefit to the State! 3adly that he relied upon his Contractors who failed him 4thly that the benefit of his Talook, justice to the Ryots and gaining the good opinion of his Superiors as an energetic Executive Agent were uppermost on his thoughts. 5thly that he felt that to return so large a balance would bring discredit on him, for to his thinking Superior authorities had no time to enter into considerations of late sanctions and bad weather. 6thly that the Course he pursued was that adopted by the late Mr. Maitland when Range Officer at the close of 1864/65, and that Mr. Maitland had informed Mr. Ottmam of the system, and so had Mr. Stephens, on his taking charge of the Range.

4 From some of these pleas it will be seen that Mr. Stephens is to say the least, a very foolish young man, eminently wanting in Common Sense and utterly forgetful of the fact that obedience to orders and close

close attention to Departmental Rules are the first duties of a subordinate. He expresses a fear of bringing discredit on himself by returning a large balance, but has no similar apprehension in pursuing a course of deceit and falsehood.—

5 As regards the alleged connivance of his superior Officer in the Overseer's doings Mr. Ottmann emphatically denies any foreknowledge or toleration of Mr. Stephens's proceedings, and I think satisfactorily shews that he was in no way cognizant of the system which was being adopted by his Overseer. Whether by careful supervision of the works he ought not to have detected it is another question. Mr. Ottmann gives a very fair reason for not taking notice of the demi official slips attached to the final Bills, and for paying the full amount of the latter in lieu of the sum entered in the former Viz: that although in the earlier months of the year certain monies were ordinarily retained pending the final examination by the Range Officer, this course could not be pursued at the end of April as all payments had to be made by the last day of the year.—

6 But what is probably to Mr. Stephens's mind the strongest support of his irregular proceedings is the alleged fact that similar acts were countenanced by the late Mr. Maitland, (Mr. Ottmann's predecessor) in 1864/65. The Sub Engineer reports that no record appears in the books of such transactions and I must take leave to doubt whether an Officer of such high integrity as Mr. Maitland would ever have tolerated such a course of proceedings

7 While the Overseer Mr. Stephens has been false and deceptive I am bound to say that there is nothing whatever to show that his motives have been fraudulent. He did evil, and this with much trouble and anxiety to himself, that good, as he hoped, might come, good to the Government good to his Talook, good to the Ryots and good to himself, nevertheless he has grievously erred, and his condemnation and dismissal would be just.

8 He is, however, a very young man and with such a warning I hope he will be more guarded in future, but he is better away from the neighbourhood and

and it is with this view Viz^t that he may be transferred to another Division and also that Government may, if they see fit, take general notice of the case, that I have reported the circumstances.

9 I will ascertain and report what deficit will finally remain to be made good to meet the Cost of completing works for which Contractors have already been paid in full and which it will be difficult to get them to accomplish and this sum I recommend shall be made good out of M^r. Stephen's salary. —

Sup^t. Eng^r. Office
4th. Div^n. Vellore
28th September 1866

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servt

A. Boileau Col^l. R.E.
Sup^g Eng^r 4th. Div^n.

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

P.D. 1866 D.C. 188

From:- Govt. for Return 4148

The Superintending Engineer
4th Division

To,
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Deptt.

Dated 28th
Rec'd 30th September 1866

Cir: 12 No. 2384

Drings to notice certain irregularities in the execution of works in Conjeveram Taluq of No. III Range Madras District and recommends the removal of Mr. Stephens Overseer to another Division.—

No 2384.

No 3214. 10th Oct/66.

No 3 Range Office
Conjeeveram
5th October 1866

No 191

15

From The Officer in charge No 3 Range
Madras Distt

To The Superintending Engineer
4th Division.

Sir

Your No 2474 of 4th Instant

Preparatory to making an examination for the purpose of furnishing exactly all the particulars called for in yours under acknowledgement I beg to submit that there is not the smallest likelihood of any deficiency which would necessitate stoppages from the Overseer Stephens - The Contractors balances in my hands, further, being in most cases more than sufficient - Most of the works have been cleared off, from what the overseer reported personally yesterday and which I am myself aware of also - The works in which the largest balance had to be worked out, in respect to execution; I am thoroughly confident that within this month, the whole of the works will be adjusted.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obt Servant

C Weeraraw
Supervisor in ch No 3 Range

No 209.

No 3214 - 10th Oct/66

Ex Dr 1866 Oct 8th

From, No 4149.
The Superintending Engineer
4th Division

To,
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Deptt

Dated 5th Oct 1866
Rec'd 9th Oct 1866
No 2505.

Encl

Submits a letter from Mr J H Stephens explaining relative to the incomplete works in the Conjeeveram Talug -

From No. 8556.

The Officer in charge
Nos. Range of Guadavadi

To

The Supt. Engineer
A. Div.

Dated 5th
Rec'd 6 } October/66

No. 191

Informs that there is
not the smallest likeli-
hood of any deficit arising
from the works. Most of the
works have been comp.
and the rest will be
Completed within
three months.

No 2517.

Submitted to Government
with reference to the last Para
of Supt Engr. Letter No. 2384
dated 28 September 1866

A Thomson Col. RE
S. E. & D.

S. E. Office
Madras
6 Oct./66

P. W. 1866 Dept

From. No 4147 Dr

The Supg. Engineer 4th Dr

To.

The Secretary to Govt

Dated 6th October 1866

Recd 9th. October 1866

No. 2517

Forwards a letter from the Ch: Agent No 3 Range, Madras Dist: reporting the Completion of certain works in his charge under Mr Bowers Stephens. —

No 210.

ans. 3214 - 10th Octr 1866.

Public Works Department

No. 3214

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 10th Octr 1866.

Read the following

From The Supg Engr 4th Dr
Reporting certain irregularities in the Execution of works in the Conjeeveram Taluq of the Madras Dr.
From — Do — Do —
From — Do — Do —

Here enter No. 2384 of 28 Septr 1866.)
" 2505 " 5 Octr "
" 2517 " 6 " "

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2. These irregularities consisted in the submission of bills by the Overseer at the close

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were represented to have
been completed, but
which were then either
in an unfinished state
or had never been com-
menced.

The Overseer alleges
in his defence that in
adopting this course
he was actuated by a
desire to prevent any
portion of his allotment
lapsing on the 30th April,
as would have been
the case if his Accounts
had been prepared so as
to exhibit only ~~accounts~~ work actually performed.
disbursements in 1865/66.

He states that he had
every reason to believe
that his Contractors,
who were hired men, would
have worked out early in
the Current Official year
the whole of the money
which had been irregularly charged in his Ac-
counts and that, in the
event of this result being
attained and it being
shown that all the appli-
cable funds of 1865/66
had been rightly to the
benefit of the State
and the good of the Parish,
although at a period sub-
sequent to that for

which they had been
allotted, he hoped to
win for himself the
good opinion of his
superior Officers.

The Surveyor Gen-
eral the Govt. that there
was no fraudulent in-
tention on the part of Mr
Stephens, who under the
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to Contractors. The
Govt are glad to accept
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are constrained to remark
that the Overseers proceed-
ings were highly irregular
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indefensible - Mr
Stephens ought to
have been aware that
bills intended for sub-
mission to the Controller
should represent moni
other than bona fide
expenditure, and that
all check upon Public
Works outlay will be lost,
if, either from misguided
Zeal or other cause, the
bills and accounts of
Subordinate Officers
are prepared without any
reference to actual dis
bursements or to the
quantity of work accom-
plished -

The

The Govt. understand that the whole of the works to which Mr. Stephens proceedings refer will very shortly be completed, and that there will be no loss to the State. Under these circumstances, and looking to the extreme youth of the Overseer and to the fact that he has hitherto borne a good character the Depth. the Govt. consider that he will be sufficiently punished on the present occasion if he be transferred from the Forth in the 4th Dn. and warned that a repetition of

of similar careless-
ness and inattention
to the rules of the Depth.
will subject him to re-
moval from his ap-
pointment.

The S. Engr 4th Division
13 Enclos
Depth 10th October
16

P.W. 1866. Depart.

Pro. of Govt. for October 1866.

No. 3214

Pro. of the Madras Govt.

Dt. 16th October 1866.

Passing orders on certain correspondence bringing to notice certain irregularities of the Assistant Overseer Madras Dist. in the execution of works in the Conjeeveram Taluq.

A 2002211