

(1) Number of pages 18
 (2) Date of repair 31. 3. 48
 (3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public work

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>117</u>	Press Mis.
Dated <u>17. 4. 18</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1867.*

Read the following letters :—

No. 358. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 1st April 1867,
No. 1 :—

1. I have the honour to report that I have been driven to accept the resignation of his appointment in the Public Works Department by Mr. Supervisor Smithers from the 31st March, placing Mr. Overseer Potter in charge of the Paulghant Range from the 1st instant, under the following circumstances.

2. Accompanied by Mr. Smithers I reached Cochin on a tour of inspection on Saturday evening the 2nd February. On the Monday morning following, I proceeded to inspect the work of the new Light-house. Bad as my sight was, a superficial view showed me that the design had been departed from. This however being strenuously denied by Mr. Smithers, I had ladders put up to enable me to inspect the work closely. Mr. Smithers could not deny one result of such inspection which showed the entire thickness of the column to have been increased by one foot. But, with plan in hand, and looking closely at all the mouldings, he maintained so stoutly that the execution of the latter agreed precisely with the design, that I saw it was of no use arguing with him, quietly told him so, and retired to take other steps. These and their result are given in my Memorandum, No. 297 of 4th February, and Mr. Smithers' plan, Nos. 1 and 2 of the accompaniments to this paper.

3. The work itself appearing to have come to a stand still, and not to have progressed at all throughout the month of January, although Mr. Smithers' last inspection was dated the 2nd of that month, and he had spent the Xmas holidays at Cochin, I further arrived at the conclusion shown in my Memorandum No. 302 of 6th February, (No. 3 of this series.) The Overseer Dalby herein mentioned had not only spent his whole service of three and a half years in the department under Mr. Smithers, but was his wife's brother-in-law; and having always been reported well of by the Range Officer, I had conceived that no better arrangement could have been made for carrying out such a detached work than the latter's selection of the Overseer who might, of all others, be presumed to be his best representative. The Mr. D. Eppinger also mentioned is an old acquaintance of mine from the year 1861-62 in North Canara, and the sole representative in Cochin of the Firm of Brice and Co., the principal of which I have known intimately for years. He has my entire confidence from knowledge of his personal qualities, and has carried out contract work for the Calicut, Cannanore, and Mangalore Range Officers, on my recommendation, for heavy amounts, in the most satisfactory manner. I accordingly secured his services to complete all our works at Cochin at 10 per cent. commission on actual cost, as it was not compatible with his position at Cochin, or the nature of our works then in hand, that he should carry them out by contract.

4. The call for the Overseer's cash-book and vouchers contained in the last paragraph of my Memorandum last quoted, elicited a most unexpected result, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1867.*

a still less expected remonstrance from the Range Officer against my calling for his Subordinate's books as implying loss of confidence in himself (original letter No. 285 of 7th February, item No. 4). I replied to the same in my Memorandum No. 307 of the same date (item No. 5 of this series); but I have no copy of the remark entered by me in the Overseer's cash-book, and Mr. Smithers has carefully abstained from placing on record any reply to my inquiries as to other irregularities. I will not go into further particulars, but content myself with stating that I ordered all the mouldings of the pedestal and column to be corrected, and ten feet of the latter to be pulled down and re-built correctly. But lest Mr. Smithers should accuse me of suppressing any paper that might be of use to him, I add to the record Nos. 6 and 7, the former being copy of my Memorandum No. 311 of 8th February, and the latter his original No. 300 of 19th idem. I beg to call particular attention to my final instructions, ordering "Mr. Smithers personally to make arrangements for supply of first-rate stone to complete the building. In fact, not to leave Cochin until he should have matured all arrangements for bringing the work to a successful termination within the current official year."

5. My own stay at Cochin came to an end on the 16th February, Mr. Smithers' lasted ten days longer; but he failed to comply with my order, expressly making him answerable for arrangements for supply of stone. His object in thus neglecting to make that use of his time for which I detained him at Cochin is evident from the sequel, illustrated by a bundle of correspondence sent me by Mr. Eppinger, and marked No. 8.* He was bent on the failure of my employé, and on forcing me to send another Overseer to complete the job. My actual procedure will be shown by paper No. 9, (copy of Memorandum No. 362 of 21st March), and the series is completed by the undermentioned, viz:—

* Mr. Eppinger's letter of 22nd March 1867, with copies of correspondence in five leaves of paper.

- No. 10. Mr. Smithers' original letter No. 344 of 22nd March.
- „ 11. Copy of Superintending Engineer's Memorandum No. 367 of 25th idem.
- „ 12. Original Range letter No. 356 of 29th idem.
- „ 13. Copy of Superintending Engineer's Memorandum No. 375 of 1st April.

6. I have no wish to be hard on Mr. Smithers, but cannot help calling special attention to the obstinacy and impertinence shown in his last letter. These characteristics of his behaviour have evinced themselves before on every occasion on which I may have had to find fault with him; his conceit of his own perfect competence, and intolerance of public rebuke, overcoming the habits of obedience to which a Warrant Officer of his standing should have been well trained. Were such displays as those made by him common amongst the Upper Subordinates of the 7th Division, I should long since have cancelled my advocacy of the present system of giving them charge of Ranges. But Mr. Smithers' case is exceptional, and I shall be satisfied if the Government be pleased to concur with my recommendation that he be ordered to Cochin till the Light-house be completed, and then transferred to Coondapoor Range in Canara, *vice* Mr. Grime whom I shall be glad to have at Paulghaut.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1867.*

No. 359. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Coonoor, 10th April 1867, No. 12.

I have the honour to submit, without comment, for the orders of Government, the following papers, in continuation of the correspondence forwarded with Enclosures 3.

my letter No. 1 of 1st April. I adhere to my opinion as to the necessity for removing Mr. Smithers (whose resignation I look upon as a mere threat to gain his object), to some other Range, after he shall have visited Cochin once more and cleared up all outstanding accounts there connected with his Overseer's work.

1. Mr. Smithers' original letter No. 3 of 3rd April.
2. Copy of Superintending Engineer's Memorandum, No. 10 of 4th April.
3. Mr. Smithers' original letter of 8th April.

No. 360. ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1867, No. 1,177.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 33.

1. The Governor in Council observes with regret the misunderstandings reported in these letters.

2. There is much to blame in Mr. Smithers' conduct, not only as regards his unauthorized deviation from a sanctioned plan and his neglect to exercise effective control over the proceedings of his subordinates, but also in the improper and disrespectful tone of his correspondence with the Superintending Engineer.

3. The Government are willing to make some allowance for the feelings which prompted Mr. Smithers in declining a subordinate position in the range of which he was so recently in independent charge, and, believing that he acted impulsively in tendering the resignation of his appointment, they are disposed, in compliance with his expressed wish to remain in the department, to sanction his continued employment; but he will be warned to be more circumspect in the discharge of the important duties which devolve upon him as a Range Officer, and to be more careful in maintaining the respect and submission which should invariably mark his relations with his official superiors.

4. Measures having been taken by the Superintending Engineer for the completion of the Light-house at Cochin under other arrangements, there is no necessity for Mr. Smithers' return to that station. He will accordingly be at once transferred to South Canara in the room of Mr. Grime, who will proceed to take charge of the Palghaut Range in the Malabar District.

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

W.T.

Supp. Engineer's Office
7th Division
Coonoor, 7th April 1887.

From

Colonel E.W. Walker R.E.
Superintending Engineer 7th Div.

To

Colonel C. N. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government, D.W., Madras

Sir,

Enclosures.

Copies of Orders have been drawn to accept the resignation of his appointment in the Public Works Department by Mr. Superintendent from the 31st March, placing Mr. Quence Potter in charge of the Palghat Range from the 1st instant, under the following circumstances:-

Copies of Orders
Fundamental, Items
Nos. 1, 3, 5, 6, 9
11, + 13.-
Plan, Items Nos. 2.
Four letters of Mr.
Smither, Nos. 4, 7,
10, + 12.-
Mr. Spenser's letter
of 22nd March + 5
inclosures. - Nos. 8.-

Accompanied by Mr. Smither I read
2, Cochin on a tour of inspection on Saturday
evening the 22nd February. On the
Monday morning following I proceeded
to inspect the work of the New Light
House. As my sight was, a super-
ficial view shewed me that the de-
sign had been departed from. This
however being strenuously denied by
Mr. Smither, I had ladders put up to enable
me to inspect the work closely. Mr. Smither

Could not deny one result of such inspection which showed the entire thickness of the Column to have been increased by one foot. But, with plan in hand, & looking closely at all the Mouldings he maintained so stoutly that the execution of the latter agreed precisely with the design that I saw it was of no use arguing with him, quietly told him so, and retired to take other steps. These and their results are given in my Mems. N^o 297 of 4th ~~February~~ ^{February} and Mr. Smith's Plan, N^o 1 & 2 of the accompaniments to this paper.

3. The works itself appearing to have come to a stand still, and not to have progressed at all throughout the month of January, although Mr. Smith's last inspection was dated the 2^d of that month, and he had spent the Xmas holidays at Cochin, I further arrived at the Conclusion shown in my Mems. N^o 302 of February, (N^o 3 of this series) - The Overseer ^{Dalrymple} mentioned had not only spent his whole service of 3 1/2 years in the Department under Mr. Smith, but was his wife's Brother-in-law; and having always been reported well of by the Range Officer I had conceived that no better arrangement could have been made for carrying out such a detached work than the latter's selection of the Overseer who

might, of all others, be presumed to be the best representative - The Mr. D. Eppinger also mentioned, is an old acquaintance of mine from the year 1861-62 in North Canara, and the sole representative in Cochin of the Firm of Price and Co. the principal of which I have known intimately for years - He has my entire Confidence from knowledge of his personal qualities, and has carried out Contract work for the Calicut, Cannanur, and Mangalore Range Officers, on my recommendation, for heavy amounts, in the most satisfactory manner. Satisfactorily secured his services to complete all our works at Cochin at 10 per cent Commission on actual cost, as it was not compatible with his position at Cochin or the nature of our work then in hand, that he should carry them out by Contract.

4. The call for the Overseer's Cash Book and vouchers contained in the last paragraph of my Mems. last quoted elicited a most unexpected result, and a still less expected remonstrance from the Range Officer against my calling for his subordinate Books as implying lack of Confidence in himself (Original letter N^o 205 of 7th February. Item N^o 4) - I replied to the same in my Mems. N^o 307 of the same date (Item N^o 5 of this series).

but I have no copy of the remark
entered by me in the Overseer's Cash
Book, and Mr. Smithers has carefully
abstained from placing on record any
reply to my inquiries as to other irregu-
larities. I will not go into further par-
ticulars but content myself with stating
that I ordered all the moldings of the
Pedestal & Column to be corrected, and 10
feet of the latter to be pulled down
& rebuilt correctly. But lest Mr. Smithers
should accuse me of suppressing any
paper that might be of use to him I
add to the Record No. 6 & 7 the former being
Copy of my Memo. No. 311 of 8th February
and the latter his original No. 300 of 19th
Idem. They call particular atten-
tion to my special instructions, ordering
"Mr. Smithers personally to make arrange-
ments for supply of first rate stone to
complete the building. In fact, not to
leave Cochin until he should have ma-
naged all arrangements for bringing the
work to a successful termination within
the current official year."

5. My own stay at Cochin came to
an end on the 16th February, Mr. Smithers
lasted 10 days longer; but he failed to
comply with my order expressly making
him answerable for arrangements for sup-
ply of stone. His object in thus
neglecting to make that use of his time
for which I detained him at Cochin is
evident from the sequel, illustrated by

9
a bundle of correspondence sent me by
in letter
in 1857
of course
I have bent on the failure of my employee, and
Mr. Eppinger, & marked No. 8. - He was
on forcing me to send another Overseer
to complete the job. - My actual pro-
cedure will be shown by paper No. 9,
(Copy of Memo. No. 362 of 21st March), and
the series is completed by the under-
mentioned, viz:-

No. 10. Mr. Smithers' original letter No. 344 of 22nd March

No. 11. Copy of Superintending Engineer's memo.
No. 367 of 25th Idem. -

No. 12. Original Range Letter No. 356 of 29th Idem.

No. 13. Copy of Supy. Engr's memo. No. 375 of 1st April.

6. I have no wish to be hard on Mr.
Smithers, but cannot help calling spe-
cial attention to the obstinacy & imperfec-
tion shown in his last letter. These
characteristics of his behaviour have
evinced themselves before on every occasion
on which I may have had to find
fault with him; his conceit of his
own perfect competence, and intolerance
of public rebuke, overcoming the ha-
bits of obedience to which a Warrant
Officer of his standing should have
been well trained. Were such dis-
plays as those made by him common
amongst the Upper Subordinates of
the Division should long since

have cancelled my advocacy of the present system of giving them charge of Ranges. But Mr. Smith's case is exceptional, and I shall be satisfied if the Government be pleased to concur with my recommendation that he be ordered to Cochin till the Light House be completed, and then transferred to Condapoor Range in Canara, vice Mr. Crane whom I shall be glad to have at Palghat. -

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obed. Servant

Wm. Walker, Colonel R.E.

Supr. Engineer, &c.

W. W. Walker
Pro. of the
From

The Supers
7th Div
To the Secretary to
Government
W. W.

No. 1
Dated, 1st April 1887
Recd. 1st " "

Encl. 4
Reports the circum-
stances under which
Mr. Supervisor Smithers
resignation ^{has been} accepted.

No 358

C. 10th April 1887 - 13th

11th 1177 - 17th April 1887

No. 12,

13
Supg. Engineer's Office
7th Division
Comor, 10 April 1887

From

Colonel W. W. Walker R.E.
Supg. Engineer 7th Division

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government W. W. Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to submit, without
comment, for the orders of Government
the following papers in continuation of
the correspondence forwarded with my
letter no. 1 of 1st April. I ^{add} ~~addition~~
to my opinion as to the necessity for
removing Mr. Smithers (whose resignation
I look upon as a mere threat to gain
his object) to some other Range, after
he shall have visited Cochin once more
and cleared up all outstanding accounts
there connected with his Engineer's work.

1. Mr. Smithers' original letter no. 3 of 2nd April.
2. Copy of Supg. Engr's Memo: no. 10 of 4th April.
3. Mr. Smithers' original letter of 2nd April.

I have the honor to be
Sir, your most obedt. Servt.
W. W. Walker R.E.
Supg. Engineer 7th Div

15.

1144. 11 11

Read the following

7/10/20

10¹¹ — — — — — 12

Do. J. D.

10#—

2. " There is much to
blame in Mr. Smithers'
conduct, not only as regards
his unauthorized deviation
from a sanctioned plan
and his neglect to exercise
effective control over the
proceedings of his subor-
dinates, ~~that~~ also in the
~~highly~~ improper and
disrespectful tone of
his correspondence with
the Supg Engineer.

3. The Govt. are willing
to make some allowance

3. The Govt. are willing to make some allowance

I told her this
 thing to her to furnish.
 I am doubtful whether this
 comes from Mr. Smith's estate to
 her very recent remarks have
 worked.

Nov 11th - 17th of Dec 1867

for the feelings which
prompted Mr. Smithers
in declining a subordi-
nate position in the
range of which he was
so recently in independent
charge, and, believing
that he acted impulsively
in tendering the resignation
of his appointment, they
are disposed, in compli-
ance with his expressed
wish to remain in the
Dept., to sanction his con-
tinued employment,
but he will be warned
to be more circumspect
in the discharge of the
important duties which
devolve upon him as
a Range Officer, and
to be more careful
in maintaining the
respect and submission
which should invariably
mark his relations with
his official super-
iors -

Reviewed
20 S E 7 Dec with Enclor
20 Controller of PMA
Drsd 10 April 1867.

4. Measures having
been taken by the Supg
Engineer for the comple-
tion of the Light House
at Lochin under other
arrangements, there is
no necessity for Mr. Smithers
return to that station. He
will accordingly be at
once transferred to the
Lanark in the room
of Mr. Green, who will
proceed to take charge
of the Palehurst Range
in the Malabar St -

21

W.B.

Pub. Works 1867 Department

Pro. of Govt for April

(2)

No 1177

Tr. of the Harbor
Of 17th April 1867

Passing orders on
certain papers, relative
to the resignation of Smithers
Supervisor, Palghat Range
Malabar District.

358 @ 360

1867 April 1867 - D. 12th