

(1) Number of pages 1-10

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2196	Press -Mis.-
522-21	
Dated 22 . 7	1867 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 520. Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Ooslempetty, 9th July 1867, No. 711:—

1. I have the honour to acquaint you of a remarkable piece of villainy that has been attempted at Madura, but which has been fortunately frustrated.

2. From information given by two bricklayers employed on the new Court House building, the Range Officer, Mr. Colquhoun, discovered that hollow pots had been inserted in the walls at the points of support of the large beams of the floor of the upper story, and also at one of the angles of the main walls. The two bricklayers gave evidence that the pots were inserted by another bricklayer, with whom they remonstrated, but who silenced them with abusive language. No other person could be traced as having assisted, and the bricklayer was at once brought before the Sub-Magistrate, being charged with mischief under the Penal Code. On the evidence of the two other bricklayers, the prisoner was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, a punishment which seems hardly commensurate with the nature of the offence, but which under the circumstances was all that could be awarded. The full-power Magistrate present at the time, and who might have inflicted a more severe punishment, was already engaged in a long case. It is hard to believe that a native workman should have devised such a plot of his own accord, without there being some moving agency in the back ground; hence, in waiting for the Magistrate to take up the matter, there would have been incurred the risk of evidence being made away, or tampered with, and the Range Officer acted judiciously in securing immediate punishment.

No other object could have been had in view but that of bringing disgrace on the Department, by the failure of the building; if the weight of the superstructure had not subsided on to the pots before the roof of the upper story was being laid, the collapse when it did happen would have brought down the whole place, and caused the certain loss of life and limb among the work-people. We are accustomed to tricks in the way of bad work and materials, but a plot of this nature amounts to the diabolical. The opportunity for placing the pots in position was carefully taken, and their being there at all ingeniously disguised by mortar, the mastery on the work was engaged during a couple of hours in the forenoon in measuring some timber that had come in, and this allowed time for the mischief.

If any other person was concerned in the matter, there is little chance of his now being discovered.

No. 521.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1867, No. 2,196.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 72.

The Government desire to have laid before them the Calendar of preliminary inquiry and the Notes of the Sub-Magistrate who tried the case referred to in this letter. The Magistrate of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd July 1867.*

Madura District will be requested, through the Judicial Department, to furnish these papers, and to explain how it was that a case of such importance was disposed of by a Sub-Magistrate.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Under Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.
,, Judicial Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

34.
No. 711 Superintendent's Office 8th D.
Coslemputty 9th July 1867.
From Captain C. I. Sandergrast,
Off^r Superintending Engineer
8th Division
To Colonel C. A. Crease,
Secretary to Government D. P. W.
Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to acquaint you of a remarkable piece of villainy that has been attempted at Madura, but which has been fortunately frustrated. —

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[illegible]

If any other person was concerned
in the matter, there is little chance of

his now being discovered. —

Have you

New England

Captain A. E.

Off. Superintending Engineer S. Division

016, 2196

Under date the 22nd July 1867

(Here enter No. dated

The Government desire to have laid before them the Collection of Preliminary enquiry and the notes of the Sub. Magistrate who tried the case referred to in this letter. The Magistrate of the Madras District ^{will be} ~~is~~ requested, ^{through the judicial Dept.} to furnish these papers, and to explain how it was that a case of such importance was disposed of by a Sub. Magistrate. -

The L. C. & Co.
 Judicial Dept.
 Dec 23/67
 3

Ad. ~~Ad.~~

[illegible]

London 9th July 1869.
Dear Sir

Dec 11/97

He knows the difference

of a good character which
will be a lasting one.

on the Point of View

at Madison.
Cu. Records

253885-2196-22 in July 1867 (B)

e. 17th July 1864. (A. 19th)

10520

2. 17th July 1867

521 4321

P. W. 1867. Department.
Pro: of Govt for Engrs.
No. 2196

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT. *of Madras*

Dated 22nd July 1867

Calling (through the
Judicial Department) upon the
Magistrate of the Madras District
to furnish the papers connected
with the trial of the man who
inserted hollow pots at certain
points in the walls of the New
Court House at Madras.

521-521