M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-8-37.

(1) Number of pages 2

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 40. Read the following letter from the Officer in charge of Public Works Operations in the Wynaad, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Vytheri, 21st September 1869, No. 314 :—

I HAVE the honour to forward copy of a letter, No. 248, dated 26th August last, I addressed to the Quarter Master General of the Army on the 26th ultimo, and as I only returned from privilege leave on the 22nd idem, it will be seen I lost no time in paying attention to the subject referred to in Proceedings of Government, No. 1,938, dated 15th June 1869.*

* Military Department, G. O., No. 1,967, dated 25th May 1869.

2. I have not yet had a reply to the above, and in the absence of all knowledge of the previous correspondence,† I am somewhat in the dark how to proceed; meanwhile, I forward copies of two letters‡ written by me, in which the laxity in carrying on what I conceived to be the duties of Sapper Officers was represented.

† No. 58-3431, dated 8th May 1869, from the Quarter Master General.

‡ To the Officer Commanding Detachment Sappers and Miners, No. 100, dated 30th June 1865, and to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, No. 120, dated 7th August 1865.

3. I would beg to call to notice that until January 1867 I was not in a position to correspond direct with Government; and that from that time till after last monsoon, the detachment was commanded by Captain Crawfurd, an Officer whose unremitting attention to his duties was fully appreciated by me, as shown in my letter begging for the retention of his services.—*Vide* Proceedings of Government, No. 3,086, dated 1st October 1868.

4. I regret I did not more carefully word my letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Prendergast, and so avoid the chance of the misapprehension that I have habitually consulted my private feelings to the disregard of public interests. I am not aware whether the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division ever brought my letter to him to the notice of Colonel Hill; but I have reason to think that some action was taken in the matter, and that it resulted in the removal from Luckadie of an Officer who happened to be the one for whom my feelings of friendship and intimacy were greater than with any other: this I learned from the Officer himself, though he had the good sense not to allow it to produce any ill-feeling between us.

5. I have mentioned the above merely to set myself clear on what I conceive to be a preliminary point, and so to free the judgment of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief from the conclusion which the *primâ facie* evidence of my letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Prendergast was calculated to produce; and I trust I may be permitted to add a quotation from a letter of the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, embodied in Proceedings of Government, No. 178, dated 16th January 1866, it is dated 5th December 1865, and in paragraph 4 he says :—"That progress on the lower ghaut was not commensurate with expectation, cannot be denied; and the fact can only be accounted for by the change of the relation in which Captain Kennedy stood towards the Sappers. Formerly he was their immediate Commanding Officer, with direct authority over them; and his removal from the Sappers, however necessary it may have been on Military grounds, was most detrimental to the interest of the work. For I do not know an officer,

"even of my own corps, so eminently calculated for charge of Sappers, by his "long service with them, and knowledge of their work, in which he takes the "greatest interest. It could not but follow, therefore, that the loss of his direct "control over the men was detrimental to progress."

6. I have referred to the above to show that the point as regards falling off in supervision was not unnoticed by the Superintending Engineer.

No. 41.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd October 1869, No. 3,190.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 2.

ORDERED to lie over pending the receipt of such explanations as Major Kennedy may submit on the papers communicated to him in G. O., No. 3,922, dated 14th September 1869, as well as on those which may be furnished to him with reference to his letter to the Quarter Master General of the Army under date the 26th August 1869, No. 248.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Major R. B. Kennedy.
To the Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

(3)

Special Ex. Engineer's Office
Wynaad, Cutacy, 21st Sept.
tember 1869.

No 314

From

The Special Executive Engineer
in charge of Wynaad.

To

The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
Copy of a letter No 248 dated 26th August
last addressed to the Quarter Master
General of the Army on the 7th Instant,
and as I only returned from Pinthy
leave on the 22nd instant it will be seen
I had no time in paying attention to
the subject referred to in Proceedings
of Government No 3938 dated 15th June
1869.

2. I have not yet had a reply
to the above, and in the absence of all
knowledge of the previous correspon-
dence I am somewhat in the dark
how to proceed in the matter. I forward
Copies of two letters written by me,
in which the Laxity in carrying out
what I conceived to be the duties of
Sapper Officers was represented

* Military Department G.O No 1967 d/25th May 1869.

* 3958/3431 d/8th May 1869 from the Quarter Master General

$ To the officer Comg Detl. S. & M. No 100 d/30th June 1865, & to the Subg. Engr. 7 Dn No 120. d/7th Augt 1865.—

3

Public Works Department

No 3190

Proceedings of the Madras Government
3190 Under date the 2nd Sept. 1869

Read the following

From the Spl Bre Engrs Nilgiris No 314 dated 21 Septr 1869

Ordered to lie over pending the receipt of such explanations as Major Kennedy may submit on the papers communicated to him in G.O. No. 3022 dated 14th Septr 1869, as well as on those which may be furnished to him with reference to his letter to the Quarter Master General of the Army under date the 26th August 1869 No. 248.

36
3

Lt Major R.K. Kennedy.
Mily Depty Quarter Master General
Depd 6/10/69

"military grounds, which must also
"be immaterial to the interest of the
"service. For I do not know an officer,
"aware of my own duty, to eminently
"calculated for charge of Sappers, by
"his long service with them, and
"knowledge of their worth, in which
"he takes the greatest interest. It
"cannot but follow, therefore,
"that the loss of his direct control
"is the most detrimental
"to progress."

Shaw, referring to the above
believe that the point as regards
getting off on suspension must
not be permitted by the Inspection
Engineer.

Shaw, the matter to be
kept
pending until the receipt
of the explanations called for
from Major Kennedy.

R.K. Kennedy, Major
Spl Bre Engineers Nilgiris.

Spl Bre Engrs Nilgiris
Dated at Ootacamund the 21st Septr 1869.
To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort St. George
Sir,
I have the honor to forward
herewith a letter addressed to me
by Major Kennedy, Superintending
Engineer of the Nilgiris, dated
the 18th instant, with its enclosure,
and to request that you will be
pleased to submit the same for the
consideration of Government.
I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant

Cue 4032

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Major. R. D. Kennedy

Dated

Read. / /

G. O. 2nd October 1869, No. 3190

Nos. 40-41

Sappers & Miners Letter from the Offr in charge of Pr Operations in the Wynaad relative to the Sappers employed at Cochandy ordered to be over.