M.R.O. 1—77,000—8-9-31.

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(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3236 Press Mis.

1924-25

Dated 7 10 1897.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 124. Read the following letter from the Officer in charge of Public Works Operations at Cochin, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cochin, 13th September 1869.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G. O., dated the 27th August 1869, No. 2,814, communicating G. O. in the Marine Department, dated the 14th August 1869, No. 204, on a letter from the Superintendent of Marine, regarding certain groynes constructed by his department for the protection of the town and harbour of Cochin.

2. I feel reluctant to trouble the Government by avoidable references on a subject that has already occupied so much of their time and attention, as the Cochin groynes have done; but the Proceedings of the Marine Department in this and in a previously similar instance,* are so unusual, and, in my opinion, so uncalled for, that in the interests of Government, as well as in my own justification, I think it necessary to remark upon them, and to respectfully request that Government will be pleased to give the matter consideration.

* *Vide Proceedings of Government*, Marine Department, dated 9th July 1868, No. 196.

3. On the 12th of June last, I reported to Government that two of the groynes constructed by the Marine Department at Cochin had sunk, and that their efficiency at any time was questionable. The Master Attendant at Cochin appears to have taken offence at these remarks; and, without any apparent authority, he applied for a non-official opinion upon them, to an independent Civil Engineer, long a Resident at Cochin, who it appears is the more to be relied upon because he "does not belong to the Government nor to the Department of Public Works;" this "independent Engineer," as was no doubt expected, unhesitatingly disagrees with me, and although his reasons for doing so are not explained very clearly, his opinion is submitted to Government in unquestionable contradiction of my report upon the subject.

4. I beg respectfully to complain of the Cochin Master Attendant's proceedings in the matter. If the reports which I feel called upon to make in the execution of my duty to the Government are questioned; it is, I think, for the Government to decide how they are to be inquired into, and it is not for the Master Attendant at Cochin and his friends to sit in judgment upon me; it is not proper, I think, for any Government servant to appeal to the sympathy of the public, or of his personal friends in his official differences with other Government servants, nor to submit the Proceedings of Government and the reports of their officers, to unauthorized and offensive criticism, as Captain Castor has done in this instance; such proceedings are, I think, as disrespectful to the authority of the Government, as they are discourteous and offensive to the officers against whom they are taken, and I hope that the Government will be pleased to take such notice of them as will, in this instance, confirm me in believing that I am responsible to the Government only for the manner in which I conduct the duties they may be pleased to entrust to me.

5. During the short time that I have been in charge of these works, I have endeavoured to avoid all uncalled for remarks upon them that might give offence to the Marine Department. The remarks which appear to have given offence

were unavoidable, as they were necessary to enable the Government to decide whether a large amount of money should or should not be expended, and I can see nothing in them to give reasonable cause for offence. The undisputed fact that the sea came directly past these groynes in the direction of their length, justified me in saying that their efficiency was questionable; and the existing fact that since the destruction of the groynes the beach has here, as elsewhere, reformed to a considerable extent, justifies me in having recommended to Government to defer their reconstruction.

6. I do not feel called upon to discuss the professional opinion of the Engineer who has been consulted on this and other occasions in support of the Marine Department, and against the Officers of the Public Works Department; but I may be permitted to remark that independent and respectable Engineers, any more than the respectable members of other professions, are not in the habit of passing gratuitous and otherwise questionable strictures on the proceedings of the members of the profession to which they claim to belong; and that even if the Master Attendant at Cochin had authority, which he had not, to call for a non-official opinion on the Cochin groynes, Mr. Brunton is the last person who should in fairness have been applied to for it.

7. It is well known that Mr. Brunton has had much to do with the Cochin groynes, and that if he was not the real projector of them, he was the constant adviser of the Marine Department during their progress: his indirect connection with the works, and the near proximity of his house to the groynes in question, fully accounts for the anxiety with which he watched them, if not for their original construction; and for these reasons, if there were no other reasons, he could not give an unbiassed opinion upon them; moreover I question if Mr. Brunton is competent to give an opinion on the subject at all, it is true I suppose, as he brings to notice with such pardonable prominence, that he is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers; but it is well known that many members of this institution are *not* Civil Engineers. I believe this is the case with Mr. Brunton who is simply a practical mechanic of a very ordinary type, without education or practice in the science of Civil Engineering; and deprived, by his long residence in Cochin and other more out-of-the-way places in India, of the opportunities for self-improvement in practical science, and in social civilization, enjoyed by men of his class of late years in England and in other European countries.

8. There can be no one more anxious than I am for the safety of Cochin, so long as I am connected with it; and there is no one who would more readily recommend protective measures, if I saw any real or pressing necessity for them. I do not say that defensive works are not required, but I am strongly of opinion that there is no occasion to hurry them on in a wasteful and indefinite manner. The surveys and estimates ordered are far advanced towards completion, and I am endeavouring to have them ready for submission by the end of this month. The Government will then be in a position to decide what is to be done; and, in the meantime, I hope that they will support me, by their confidence and protection, to such an extent at least, as will enable me to do my duty, and to carry out their instructions without fear of the contradiction and the offensive criticism to which

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th October 1869.

I have been subjected by another of their servants, in a most unprovoked and questionable manner.

No. 125. ORDER THEREON, 7th October 1869, No. 3,236.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 14. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Officer in charge of Public Works Operations at Cochin.
,, Marine Department.

Exd. E. C Shunker.

Govt. of Fort St. George, Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE OFFICER in CHARGE of PUBLIC WORKS OPERATIONS at COCHIN.

Dated Fort St. George, the

OCTOBER.

Nos. 124-125

Copies.—Letter from the Officer in charge of Public Works Operations at Cochin complaining of the Master Attendant of Cochin having submitted the Proceedings of Government and his reports for public criticism without having authority for doing so, recorded.

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the

Read the following

From The Officer in charge Public Works Depart^t Cochin, P.W.D. No. 68 of 13th September 1911

The Government accept the explanations now afforded, and they fully rely on Mr. Shaughnessy's ability satisfactorily to carry out the duties entrusted to him.

W.D.

I would comply with the order.

P.W.

6 To The Officer in ch. P.W. Operations Cochin

W.D.

4/12
14

No

Cochin, 5 September 1869

From

The Officer in charge of
Public Works Operations
Cochin

To,

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O. dated the 27th August 1869 No 2814 communicating G.O. in the Marine Department dated the 14th August 1869 No 2044, on a letter from the Superintendent of Marine regarding certain groins constructed by his department, for the protection of the town and harbour of Cochin.

2 I feel reluctant to trouble the Government by avoidable references on a subject that has already occupied so much of their time and attention, as the Cochin groins have done; but the proceedings of the Marine Department in this, and in a previously similar instance, are so unusual and in my opinion so unwarranted for, that in the interests of Government, as well as in my own justification, I think it necessary to remark upon them, and to respectfully request that Government will be pleased to give the matter consideration.

Proceedings of Government Marine Department, dated 9th July 1868 No. 196

3 On the 12th of June last I reported to Government, that two of the groins constructed by the Marine Department at Cochin had sunk, and that

their efficiency at any time was questionable. The
Master Attendent at Cochin appears to have taken
offence at these remarks: and without any apparent
authority he applied for a non official opinion upon
them, to an "independent Civil Engineer, long a
resident at Cochin, who it appears is the more to be
relied upon because he "does not belong to the Govern-
ment nor to the Department of Public Works; this
"independent Engineer" as was no doubt expected,
unhesitatingly disagrees with me, and although his
reasons for doing so, are not explained very clearly,
his opinion is submitted to Government in unques-
tionable contradiction of my report upon the subject.

4 I beg respectfully to complain of the
Cochin Master Attendents proceedings in the matter.
If the reports which I feel called upon to make in the
execution of my duty to the Government are questioned,
it is I think for the Government to decide how they are
to be enquired into, and it is not for the Master
Attendent at Cochin and his friends to sit in judgment
upon me; it is not proper, I think for any Government
servant to appeal to the sympathy of the public or of his
personal friends, in his official differences with
other Government servants, nor to submit the proceedings
of Government and the reports of their officers, to
unauthorized and offensive criticism as Captain
Coaster has done in this instance; such proceedings
are I think as disrespectful to the authority of the
Government, as they are discourteous and offensive
to the officers against whom they are taken, and
I hope that the Government will be pleased to take
such notice of them, as will in this instance,
confirm me in believing that I am responsible
to the Government only, for the manner in which I discharge
the duties they may be pleased to entrust to me.

5 During the short time that I have been
in charge of these works, I have endeavoured to avoid all
uncalled for remarks upon them, that might give offence
to the Marine Department; the remarks which appear
to have given offence, were unavoidable, as they were
necessary, to enable the Government to decide whether a
large amount of money should or should not be expended,
and I can see nothing in them to give reasonable cause
for offence; the undisputed fact that the sea came
directly, had these groins in the direction of their length,
justified me in saying that their efficiency was
questionable, and the existing fact that since the
construction of the groins, the beach has here as elsewhere
accreted to a considerable extent, justifies me in having
recommended to Government to defer their reconstruction.

6 I do not feel called upon to discuss the
professional opinion of the Engineer who has been
consulted on this and other occasions, in support of
the Marine Department, and against the officers of
the Public Works Department, but I may be permitted
to remark that independent and respectable Engineers,
any more than the respectable members of other
professions, are not in the habit of passing gratuitous
and otherwise questionable strictures, on the proceedings
of the members of the profession to which they claim
to belong, and that even if the Master Attendent
at Cochin had authority, which he had not, to call
for a non official opinion on the Cochin groins,

Mr. Brunton is the last person who should in fairness, have been appealed to for it.-

It is well known that Mr Brunton has had much to do with the Cochin groins, and that if he was not the real projector of them, he was the constant adviser of the Marine Department during their progress: his indirect connection with the works, and the near proximity of his house to the groins in question, fully accounts for the anxiety with which he watched them, if not for their original construction; and for these reasons, if there were no other reasons, he could not give an unbiassed opinion upon them; moreover, I question if Mr Brunton is competent to give an opinion on the subject at all, it is true I suppose, as he brings to notice with such praiseworthy prominence, that he is a member of the Institute of Civil Engineers, but it is well known that many members of this institution are not Civil Engineers, - I believe this is the case with Mr Brunton, who is simply a practical mechanic, of a very ordinary type, without education or practice in the science of Civil Engineering, and deprived by his long residence in Cochin, and other more out of the way places in India, of the opportunities for self improvement in practical science, and in social civilization, enjoyed by men of his class, of late years in England and in other European countries.-

8. There can be no one more anxious than I am, for the safety of Cochin, so long as I am connected with it, and there is no one who would more readily recommend protective measures, if I saw any real or pressing necessity for them; I do not say, that defensive works are not required, but I am strongly of opinion that there is no occasion to hurry them on, in a wasteful and indefinite manner; the surveys and estimates ordered, are far advanced towards completion; and I am endeavouring to have them ready for submission by the end of this month.- The Government will then be in a position to decide what is to be done, and in the mean time, I hope that they will support me, by their confidence and protection, to such an extent at least, as will enable me to do my duty, and to carry out their instructions, without fear of the contradiction and the offensive criticism to which I have been subjected by another of their servants, in a most unprovoked and questionable manner.-

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant
P. Thompson
Assistant Engineer &c &c

From The Officer in Charge Public Works Operations Cochin

To The Secretary to Govt Public Works Dept Madras

Dated 13th September 1869

Rec'd 15th " "

No 2236 - 7 - Oct 69

No. 68

Complaining of the Madras Attendant of Cochin having submitted the Proceedings of Government and his reports for public criticism without having authority for doing so

With an order

No 2236

Ordered to be recorded.

To Supt-Gen 7-Oct 1869

To The officer in charge of Mr Operations at Cochin Madras Dept

Rec'd 8/10/69

Cir. 15th Sept by R. Ward

Lee 3725

Ordered, &c.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Officer in charge of P.O.
Tr. Observatory Creek

Dated
Recd.

re Creek 1886

Nos. 124-125

Return letter from the Officer in charge Tr. Observatory Creek complaining of the inadequate condition of Creek during heavy rain and the necessity for public protection and stating authority for heavy expenditure recorded.