

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1027	Press ~~Mis.~~
212-13	
Dated 13 4	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

347

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department.
13th April 1870.

No 212. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Bellahoonsy, Hospett Talook, Bellary District, 15th March 1870, No 3,551 —

With reference to G O, No 686, of the 3rd March 1870, I have the honour to forward an original letter* from the Executive Engineer, Bellary Range, and to

* No 102, 11th March 1870

inform you that, in my opinion, Colonel Palmer has not shown the least want of care and energy, and that he has adopted the best means in his power to prevent any loss to Government. A regular system of checks has been kept up, and not a piece of wood has been allowed to be issued out without being properly entered down

2. A great part of the wood that was stolen would have been ordered by the Cantonment Magistrate to have been delivered back if Colonel Palmer could have sworn to each separate piece, but this, I agree with him in considering, was simply impossible.

3 The positions of the log-yard, store-yard, and workshops have been on several occasions brought to the notice of Government, (not having the records I cannot quote the numbers and dates) and so I need not again refer to them, but I would state that I believe every endeavour has been made by Colonel Palmer to carry out such a system of checks that any attempt at peculation should be immediately discovered, and that now, finding how difficult it is to contend against the cunning of dishonest natives, he has resolved to almost entirely close the workshops and to carry out work by contract or through the Public Works Workshop at Madras

4. I trust that Government will consider this explanation as satisfactory and will withdraw the censure they have passed on a hard-working and pains-taking officer of the department.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J G PALMER, Executive Engineer, Bellary Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, dated Bellary, 11th March 1870, No 102

AGREEABLY to instructions contained in your endorsement on G O, No 686, dated 3rd instant, I have the honour to submit the following report of the circumstances connected with the discovery of the theft of timber from certain works during their construction in this range

2. On examining the accounts of twelve animals (attached to the wash-houses of the 3-60th Rifles) I found that the item of wood-work, or wrought-wood, was considerably in excess not only of the amount entered in the estimate, but also of the quantity actually put up in the buildings. The Foreman of the yard produced vouchers for all the wood issued duly signed by the Carpenter Maistry at the work. On looking over the accounts

Solitary cells, Royal Artillery
Alterations and improvements to the Armoury in the
Arsenal

of the other works as per margin under the same Maistry, I found similar excesses, and, feeling certain that there was systematic fraud, I placed the matter quickly in the hands of the Police

3 They searched the Maistry's house, where they found a large quantity of wood stored, and some of it being worked up into a country cart. It was elicited on inquiry that the Maistry had been in the habit of giving receipts for wood when brought to the works, and to avert suspicion, told the people about the works that it had been wrongly sent and was intended for other works, and afterwards had it surreptitiously conveyed to his own house.

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13th April 1870

- 4 The theft was clearly proved, and the man sentenced to eight months' rigorous imprisonment
- 5 Some of the wood I could distinctly swear to, as it had Messrs Binny and Co's name and mark on it, and other pieces were of a scantling peculiar to our works, but the whole of the wood was not delivered up, as the Cantonment Magistrate required that each piece should be identified on oath. This was simply impossible with a large quantity which had been cut up for various purposes, although, as I told the Magistrate, the inference was that it was all Government property
- 6 A similar case of theft fell to the ground in my predecessor's (Lieutenant Porter's) time from the same impossibility of identifying each piece on oath. A regular system of checks for receipt and issue of timber has been in strict use, and, although from the number of hands timber has to pass through from its first arrival in the yard to its ultimate position in the building, it is next to impossible to prevent fraud, I respectfully submit that this system of check has been sufficient to detect it and bring it home to the guilty party
- 7 I will not now enter into the difficulties experienced by myself and predecessors in this question of peculation of timber. I believe complications of this kind are not peculiar to the timber-yard at this station. The exposed positions of the open log-yard, store-yard, and workshops have been frequently brought to notice, and depredations have ceased owing to two sentries placed over them at night, but timber is so valuable that now fraud has appeared at the works. I can only say that the subject has received my most constant and anxious attention
- 8 But all these difficulties are now happily at an end. The difficulty of land carriage has hitherto rendered it necessary for the department to work up its own timber, but, as the rail advanced, a considerable portion of roofing has been made up and despatched from the workshops in Madras. Now, thanks to the extension of the railway to Ghooty, I have succeeded in securing contractors who have undertaken all our works, large and small work, on contract at reasonable rates. This has enabled me to stop my yard works, dismiss a large staff of workmen, and has rendered unnecessary the storage of 20,000 cubic feet per annum, which is our average expenditure.
- 9 I trust I have satisfactorily cleared myself of any suspicion of want of care or energy, and that I may safely appeal to you for such further notice of this case as may exonerate me from the censure alluded to in the G O above quoted

No 213

ORDER THEREON, 13th April 1870, No. 1,027

ACCOUNT, No 12.

UNDER the explanation now furnished the Government authorize the sum of Rupees 752, being the value of timber stolen from the Bellary Range, to be written off to "Profit and Loss"

(True Extract)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd A. S. Rodgers.

No. 3557

Superintending Engineer's Office.

3rd Division.

Camp Bellary, Hojale Talooki

Bellary District.

The 3rd March 1870.

From,

The Superintending Engineer

3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Fort Saint George.

Enclosures:

1 Original

Sir,

12102 dated 11th
March 1870.

With reference to G O No 213 of the 3rd March 1870, I have the honor to acknowledge an enquiry from the Executive Engineer Bellary Range, and to inform you that in my opinion Colonel Palmer has not shown the least want of care and energy and that he has adopted the best means in his power to prevent any loss to Government. A regular system of checks has been kept up and not a piece of wood has been allowed to be issued out without being properly entered down.

A great part of the wood that was stolen would have been ordered by the Cantonment Magistrate to have been delivered back to Colonel Palmer and have sworn to each separate piece, but this, I agree with him, in considering was simply impossible.

MS. A. 9. 2. 11. 2

3. The positions of the Log yard, stone yard and workshops have been on several occasions brought to the notice of Government (not having the records I cannot quote the numbers and dates), and so I need not again refer to them; but I would state that Mr. Fisher was endeavoring to have a system of Charles that a pattern to a fabrication shop. He was summarily disallowed and that not inquiring how difficult it was to obtain against the Commission or disbursement of money he has resolved to stop his entering close line work shops in the carrying of work by contract on through the P & F Workshops at Madras.

4. I trust that Government will consider this explanation as satisfactory and will not draw the Consequence they have feared in a hard working man persisting in his respective department.

I have &c

W. H. B. J., 11. 11. 66
Superintendent

P.W. Department

No 1027

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.

Under date the 13th April 1870.

Read the following

From The Superintending Engineer & J.H. Co. P. 3351 of 15th March 1870 of
Engineer & Engineer

Under the explanation
now furnished the Govt.
authorize the sum of Rs 1752
being the value of timber
stolen from the Bellary
Range to be written
off to Profit and Loss.

W. B.

Supdy for 30th April
Cont. for 30th April

Recd 20/4/70

1870
From, *[Signature]*

The Superintending Engineer
3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Government.
Public Works Department.
Fort Saint George.

No. 3351.

Dated 15th March 1870.
Received *[Signature]*

[Signature]

Enclosed are
letter from the Engineer
in charge Bellary
Range stating as follows
- relating to the
procurement of timber
from his Range
with remarks thereon.

No 1027-13-4 April 1870.

Working plan for the Bellary Range

212

21-2 April 1870

2-11-04 June 1870

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@ 11-04 June 1870 @ 65

2-11-04 1870

Cue 1126
Govt. of 1870: 311 dr

PUBLIC WORKS.

The Supt. of Engrs.
3rd Division

Det. of

Recd.

G O 13-April 1870, A 1027

Nos. 212-213

"Profit Shop" Perumpan
is wanted for writing off to
"Profit Shop" the sum of Rs
752, being the value of the
-her stolen from the Police
Range.