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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 245 Press Mis.

472-73

Dated 21 1 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21*st January* 1870.

No. 472. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 17th January 1870, No. 5,085 —

One letter, No 574, 10th December 1869

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to Government Order, No. 2,718, dated 4th October 1869, authorizing the employment of the Government Pleader to prosecute the case against the Local Fund Overseer and Maistry of the Chittoor Range, North Arcot District, in the Sessions Court, that the trial of the prisoners was concluded on the 8th December last and resulted in their acquittal.

2. I called from Lieutenant Walker, R E, Assistant Engineer in charge of the Range, for the statement of the costs of the Suit before reporting the matter to Government, and I learn that a sum of Rupees 8 8-0 is due for copies of evidence, which I request permission to disburse.

3. The Assistant Engineer is of opinion that the criminal charge against the prisoners broke down because great delay occurred in the trial, and the Government Pleader resigned his appointment just before the date of the Sessions at Chittoor, and left no competent person available to conduct the prosecution.

4. The Overseer, Rungasawmy Moodelliar, was charged with obtaining a blank Station Book from the Pyghust of Trunk Road No. III., with the names of coolies filled in, in their own hand-writing, and submitting this document to the Range Office with his own fictitious entries of expenditure. Of course, the original Station Book was destroyed, and a copy of the false one and Cooly Rosters kept at the work to satisfy the Range Officer. The plea set up in favour of the prisoner by his advocate was, that he neglected his road-work, and did not pay the coolies himself, but left this duty to the Maistry and Pyghust to perform, so that, though guilty of gross negligence, he was not aware of any fraud having been committed.

5. The Maistry, Mr. Murray, acknowledged to Lieutenant Walker, in the presence of witnesses, that the false Station Book amounted to Rupees 130, of which sum he received Rupees 30 and the Overseer Rupees 100.. This he denied before the Court, and the evidence appears to have broken down, though the Assistant Engineer and his witnesses swore to the facts It also appears that there are two Station Books forged for this amount.

6 There is another charge against Rungasawmy for embezzling a sum of Rupees 150 on a false Station Book obtained from a Pyghust in a similar manner, but the Assistant Engineer thinks that it will be desirable to withdraw it, unless better legal assistance to prosecute the case can be obtained

7. These sums make up a loss to Government of Rupees 410. To meet this amount the following sums are held in deposit, and I request permission to appropriate them to the credit of Government.—

	RS
Security lodged by the Overseer . ..	100
Do. do do. local Maistry, formerly a Talook Overseer	200
Pay of Rungasawmy Moodelliar . .	119
Do. Mr. Murray	20
Total ...	439

I dismissed both the men from the 20th September last, the date on which they were suspended by Lieutenant Walker

8 The Assistant Engineer reports that he first inspected the metalling on the Trunk Road No III, for which work the Station Book was made out in June last, and at that time he only went over a portion of the line. He subsequently measured a portion of the material, but he states that it was not until August, when he handed over charge of the road to another Overseer, and had the whole material from one end to the other measured up, that the excess charged for material was discovered I enclose Lieutenant Walker's report, dated 10th December 1869, on this subject.

9. I must observe that during Mr. O'Shaughnessy's period of executive charge, irregularities crept into his Office, and this occurred with the knowledge of his Accountants Copies instead of originals of Station Books were received as vouchers in the Office, accompanied by original Nominal Rolls of coolies, but these latter documents even were latterly not called for. The proceedings in the case of this Overseer and his subordinates bring to light great laxity in the supervision and check over works exercised in the Range.

No 473 ORDER THEREON, 21st January 1870, No. 245.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 40.

RESOLVED that this letter be transferred in original to the Revenue Department with reference to the orders in that Department dated 4th October 1869, No. 2,718, and that paragraph 9 be communicated to Mr. O'Shaughnessy for such explanations as he may have to offer.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. F R Bantleman.

Enclosure
1 Letter No 576
10th Dec 1869

Supdt Engr's Office
No 5085 Madras 17th Jan 1870

From

Lieut Colonel J. Bean R.E.
Actg Superintending Engineer &c &c

To

Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government Public
Fort St. George

Sir

I have the honor to report with reference to Government Order No 2718 dated 4th October 1869, authorizing the employment of the Government Vakil to prosecute the case against the Local Fund Overseer & Coolies of the Chetpet Range, North Arcot District in the Sessions Court, that the trial of the prisoners was concluded on the 8th December last and resulted in their acquittal

2 I have called from Lieut Walker R.E. Actg Engineer in charge of the range, for the statement of the costs of the Vakil

suit before reporting the matter to Govt and I learn that a sum of Rs 8-8-0 is due for copies of evidence which I request permission to disburse.

3. The Asst Engineer is of opinion that the criminal charge against the Overseer took down because great delay occurred in the trial and the Govt Master resigned his appointment just before the ~~taken of the evidence & decision &~~ left no other records available to the Executive Engineer.

The Overseer Ramjasawmy Mordelier was charged with obtaining a blank station book from the Asphalt of Trunk Road No III with the hands of Coolies filled in in their own hand-writing & submitting this document to the Range Office with his own fictitious entries of expenditure. Of course the original station book was destroyed & a copy of the false one and Coolie rosters kept at the work to satisfy the

the Range Officer. The plea set up in favour of the prisoner by his advocate was that he neglected his road work & did not keep the Coolies himself but left the duty to the Mistry and Peons & to perform to that, though guilty of gross negligence, he was not aware of any fraud having been committed.

5. The Mistry Mr Murray deposed to have spoken to Lieut Walker in the presence of witnesses that the false station book amounted to Rs 130, of which sum he received Rs 30 & the Overseer Rs 100. This he denied before the Court & the evidence appears to have broken down though the Asst Engineer and his witnesses swore to the facts. It also appears that there are two station books forged for this amount.

6. There is another charge against Ramjasawmy for embezzling a sum of

of Rupees 150 on a false Station book obtained from a Peshkar in a similar manner: but the Asst Engineer thinks that it will be desirable to withdraw it unless better legal assistance to prosecute the case can be obtained.

7. Miscellaneous Establishment for Govt of Rs 4.0. It is with this amount the following items are debited and credited to appropriate them to the credit of Govt

Security bonds	by the Overseer	Rs 100
do do	by the Local Chaukidar formerly a Salt Overseer	200
Pay of Chunjasunny Chowkidar		119
do Mr Murray		20
	Total Rs	439.

I discussed both these items from the 20th September last the date on which

which they were suspended by Lieutenant Walker.

8. The Assistant Engineer reports that he first inspected the metalled ~~any~~ on the Trunk road at III, for which work the Station book was made out, in June last, and at that time he only went over a portion of the line. He subsequently measured a portion of the material, but he states that it was not until August, when he handed over charge of the road to another Overseer and had the whole material from one end to the other measured up, that the excess charged for material was discovered. I enclose Lieutenant Walker's report dated 10th December 1869 on this subject.

9. I must observe that during Mr Dishanghnessy's period of executive charge, irregularities crept into his Office, and this occurred with the knowledge of his accountants. Copies instead of originals of Station books were received as vouchers in

in the Office accompanied by original nominal rolls of Coolies, but these latter documents even were latterly not called for. These proceedings in the case of this Overseer and his subordinates bring to light great laxity in the supervision and check over works executed in the Range.

I have the honor to be Sir

Signed/ J. Bean Lieut Col R.E.
Ag. Supt Engineer 4th Div.

Enclosed

Public Works 1870 Department
Proceedings for Landary
No 218.

From
The Asst Supt Engineer
4th Division

To
The Secretary to Govt
P. W. D.

Dated 17th } January 1870.
Recd 18th }

Endorsement No 5785.
No 245 - 21st January 1870

Reporting on the result of the case brought against Shaik Sumb Labbai Rungasawmy Mudaly, and praying Rs. Pl Murray in the Chittoor Range North Road District and requesting permission to the value of Rs 129 held in deposit be appropriated to the Credit of Govt to make up the loss of Rs 210.

Transferred

No 472

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 21st January 1870
Read the following -

From the Supdg Engr
4th Div. ... No. 5085 of 17th
January 1870 -

Resolved that Para 9 of this letter be communicated to Mr O'Shaughnessy for such explanations as he may have to offer

This letter be transferred in original to the Revenue Depr with reference to the orders in that Dept of 4 Oct 69 No 2718, & that

To The Officer in charge of PW. Operations at Cochin - ✓

Rec'd dept 21/1/70.
D-C 3/2/70.

Rec 203

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Officer in charge of Operations at Cochin

Dated

Recd.

G. O. 21 January 1870, No 245

Nos. 472-473

Dshaughnessy. Mr Asst Engr

Remarks of the Subv Engr. of the 4th Div regarding the Lamps in the Submarium & the check over works executed by Mr Asst Engr O'Shaughnessy during the period he was in charge of the Chetwai Range in the N. Arcot Dist. and Mr Off. concerned for such Explanation as he may have to offer.