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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Accounts DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1160	Press
361-52	Mis.
Dated 20-6-37	18 7/8

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1871.*

No. 361. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 6th June 1871, No. 734 -

In reference to my memorandum N^o. 584, of the 29th ultimo, forwarding a medical certificate together with a letter from the Surgeon of this Zillah, recommending that one month's preparatory leave should be at once passed to Assistant Engineer Mr. O. A. Hayne, I have the honour to bring the following matter to the prominent notice of Government.

2. This division has become so notorious in consequence of the fraudulent practices of many of its members, and corruption is unfortunately so rife and widespread in its ramifications, that it is quite impossible for me to make head against it, or be responsible for the efficient working of the division, unless I am adequately supported by Government in the matter of being supplied with trustworthy Assistants.

3 In my memorandum already quoted I have mentioned that I have, as a temporary measure, directed Overseer Serjeant J. Hamilton to take charge of the range I have had no alternative but to do this, but I have little hesitation in saying that it is at best a very unsatisfactory arrangement, for Serjeant Hamilton's antecedents are not such as to give me any confidence in his conduct of an important charge like that of the Dindigul Range

4. As regards Tinnevely, No. 3 Range is in charge of an Overseer, Chockalingum Pillay, whom I have every reason to believe is totally unqualified for such a position of trust. This individual was placed temporarily in charge of the range owing to the withdrawal, some nine months ago, of the Range Officer Mr. D. McNair, who was transferred to the charge of No. 1 Range, in lieu of Mr. Colquhoun, who had been suspended for fraudulent practices.

5. I have received a petition, very extensively signed, from the ryots and inhabitants of the Streevillipootoor Talook, urgently soliciting the return of Mr. McNair to his former range. In this mahazernamah the ryots offer their grateful thanks to Mr. McNair for his honest and faithful services to the Government, and for his arduous labour for the welfare of the ryots; and they state that they can conscientiously "bear testimony to all his proceedings being legitimate and commendable," indeed, the language used in this petition very forcibly refutes the charge of ingratitude so frequently and, as I believe, so undeservedly brought against the natives of this country, the petitioners consider the absence of so able a Range Officer as Mr. McNair from their range as "a misfortune both for the Government and the ryots, and his absence of nine months has given ample room for much mischief and mismanagement for want of a proper and competent officer to replace him, and the range is in great need of such an officer."

6. From other sources I learn that the conduct of Chockalingum Pillay is remarkably unsatisfactory, and I have been compelled to institute an investigation into the same, and the result will be duly reported.

7. I have no hesitation in saying that the Government can have but little conception of the confusion and corruption that prevail in this division. That it can be got straight, and will be so eventually, I have no doubt; but to accomplish this the services of efficient Assistants and subordinates are essentially necessary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1871.*

8 In Tinnevelly we have the late Contractor of the Streeviguntum Anicut making, through his Agent, all kinds of impossible claims, and giving an infinity of trouble

In No 1 Range Mr. McNair is working steadily under Mr. Rundall to bring the range back into its old form, before Mr. Colquhoun demoralized it

No 2 Range of the same district is still suffering from the professional incompetence and highly unsatisfactory conduct of Mooneappah Pillay.

No 3 Range is in the retrogressive state I have already reported, and of No. 4 Range atrophy may be said to be its prevailing feature.

9. Of the Madura District I have already, in my letter No. 214, dated 22nd April 1871, brought to the notice of Government the scandalous proceedings carried on in No. 3 Range while Supervisor Mr. J. P. Martin was in charge of that range, and for which he has been suspended

Nos 1 and 2 Ranges, having been under the care of Assistant Engineers, are in a far more satisfactory state than the other ranges. But as it is only by the presence of these officers that this good result has been attained, so by the removal of either from his range the chaos habitual to ranges in charge of Overseers may be anticipated.

10. Although Mr. McNair can ill be spared from his present duties, I am compelled to place him temporarily in charge of No. 3 Range, to investigate certain charges of fraud preferred against Chockalingum Pillay, the Overseer already mentioned. I should like to double up Nos 3 and 4 Ranges at once, see my Report No. 447 of the 19th May 1871, and place them under the temporary charge of Mr. McNair until a special officer can be appointed for that duty. But as McNair has already had nine years of that somewhat solitary region, No. 3 Range, I think that a certain amount of consideration is due to him, especially for his good services while so employed

11. I ought to state here that I should not have submitted, as I did, with my memorandum No. 570, of the 27th ultimo, Mr. Rundall's application for leave but for the exceptional circumstances for which it was required, and taking into consideration that his services could be spared with less disadvantage now, when little work is actually going on, than in the regular working season.

12. In conclusion I have the honour to point out most earnestly that, if this division is ever to be purified of its present atmosphere of corruption, and cease to be a scandal to the Government, it can only be by the nomination of gazetted officers of experience to the charges of ranges. Two such officers are now urgently needed for this division—one for the charge of the Dindigul Range and one for that of No. 2 Irrigation Circle, Tinnevelly. Until these officers are appointed my personal efforts must be unavailing to put an efficient check to the vice that has been running rampant for so long a period in this division, and without the assistance now solicited I cannot hold myself responsible for any further scandals which, under the present peculiar circumstances of the division, may be developed

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th June 1871.*

No. 362.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1871, No. 1,664.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 45

THE Acting Superintending Engineer of the 8th Division will observe from the Gazette of the 13th instant that the services of one officer have been placed at his disposal for employment in the Madura District, and the Government find it impracticable at present to provide the additional officer represented to be needed. His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to draw Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts' attention to the fact that the Public Works Establishment of Officers has not been organized on such a scale as to admit of an Engineer being appointed to the charge of each range.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

No 734

5th Madura
6th June 1871

From

(Lieut. Col. R. A. Roberts R.E.
Asy. Superintg. Engineer &c

To

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Government

Sir,

In reference to my Memo
No 584 of the 29th Ultimo forwarding
ing a Medical Certificate -
together with a letter from the
Surgeon of this Zillah recom-
mending that one month's pre-
paratory leave should be at once
passed to Assistant Engineer
Mr V. A. Hayne, I have the
honor to bring the following
matter to the prominent notice
of Government.

2 This Division has become
so notorious in consequence of the
fraudulent practices of many
of its members, and corruption

is unfortunately so rife, and
widespread in its ramifications,
that it is quite impossible for
me to make head against it,
or be responsible for the efficient
working of the Division, unless
I am adequately supported
by Government, in the matter
of being supplied with
trustworthy assistants.

3 In my Memo already
quoted, I have mentioned that
I have as a temporary measure
directed Overseer Sergeant &
Hamilton to take charge of the
Range. I have had no alternative
but to do this, but I have little
hesitation in saying that it is
at best a very unsatisfactory
arrangement. For Sergeant Hamil-
ton's antecedents are not such
as to give me any confidence
in his conduct of an important
charge like that of the Dindigul
Range.

4 As regards Tirunelveli, 103

72 12
Range is in charge of an Overseer
Chockalingum Pillay, whom I
have every reason to believe is
totally unqualified for such a
position of trust. This individual
was placed temporarily in charge
of the Range, owing to the with-
drawal some 9 months ago of the
Range Officer Mr D. Mc Kair,
who was transferred to the
charge of 101 Range, in lieu
of Mr Colquhoun, who had
been suspended for fraudulent
practices.

5 I have received a petition
very extensively signed, from
the Ryots and inhabitants of
the Shreevallipootoor Talook,
urgently soliciting the return
of Mr Mc Kair to his former
Range. In this Mahazerramah,
the Ryots offer their grateful
thanks to Mr Mc Kair for his
honest and faithful services to
the Government and for his

arduous labor for the welfare of
the Ryots and they state that
they can conscientiously bear
testimony to all his proceedings
being legitimate and commendable.
Indeed the language used in
this Petition very forcibly refutes
the charge of ingratitude so
frequently and, as I believe, so
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graphers consider the absence of
so able a Range Officer as
Mr. Mc Nair from their Range
as "a misfortune both for the
Government and the Ryots, and
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"Mallay" is remarkably unsatisfactory,

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can be got straight, and will be
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to accomplish this, the services of
efficient Assistants and subordi-
nates are essentially necessary.

8 In Trinnevelly, we have the
late Contractor of the Strivikuntam
Anicut making, through his
agent, all kinds of impossible
claims and giving an infinity
of trouble.

In N. 1 Range Mr. McKair
is working steadily under Mr.
Kundall to bring the Range
back into its old form, before
Mr. Colquhoun demoralized it.

No 2 Range of the same District is still suffering from the professional incompetence and highly unsatisfactory conduct of Mooneappah Ellay.

No 3 Range is in the retrogressive state. I have already reported and of

No 4 Range atrophy may be said to be its prevailing feature.

9. Of the Madura District I have already in my letter No 214 dated 22nd April 1871, brought to the notice of Government the scandalous proceedings carried on in No 3 Range, while Supervisor Mr. J. P. Martin was in charge of that Range, and for which he has been suspended.

No 1 & 2 Ranges having been under the care of Assistant Engineers are in a far more satisfactory state than the other Ranges. But as it is only by the presence of these officers that this good result has been attained, so by the removal of either from

his Range, the chaos habitual to Ranges in charge of Overseers may be anticipated.

10 Although Mr. McVair cannot be spared from his present duties, I am compelled to place him temporarily in charge of No 3 Range to investigate certain charges of fraud preferred against Choosalingum Ellay, the Overseer already mentioned. I should like to double up No 3 & 4 Ranges at once, see my Report No 247 of the 19th May 1871, and place them under the temporary charge of Mr. McVair, until a special officer can be appointed for that duty. But as Mr. McVair has already had 9 years of that somewhat solitary region, No 3 Range, I think that a certain amount of consideration is due to him especially for his good services while so employed.

11 I ought to state here that I should not have submitted.

as I did, with my Memo No. 12570
of the 27th ultimo, Mr. Randall's
application for leave, but for the
exceptional circumstances for
which it was required, and
taking into consideration that
his services could be spared
with less disadvantage now
when little work is actually going
on, than in the regular working
season.

12/ In conclusion I have the
honour to point out most earnestly
that if this Division is ever to be
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can only be by the nomination
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to the charges of Ranges. Two such
officers are now urgently needed
for this Division: one for the charge
of the Dindigul Range and
one for that of the Irigation
circle Tirunelveli. Until these officers

are appointed, my personal efforts
must be unavailing to ^{put in} an
efficient check to the vice that
has been running rampant for
so long a period in this Division,
and without the assistance now
solicited I cannot hold myself
responsible for any further scandals
which, under the present peculiar
circumstances of the Division, may
be developed.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
Richd. Roberts (Lieut. Col. R.E.
Mys. Superintg. Engineer 8th Div.)

Proceedings of the Indian Government.

Read the following

From

The Super Engineer

84 June

(G. E. 24734) 6 June 71

The Acting
Chief Engineer of the 8th
Division will observe
from the Gazette of the
13th instant that the
services of one officer
have been placed at
his disposal for em-
ployment in the Madras
District, and the Board
find it impracticable
at present to provide
the additional officers
represented to be needed
His Excellency the
Governor

Dec 14th 1880-81
 5th June 25th Dec
 6th June 59th Dec

G. W. 1871 Oct 20
Hornby's & Co. Ltd
No 2627
The City of London
8-11

So the Secretary to
Government Office

Dated 6 June 1871
 Received of ———

80734



Bring to the
notice of Government
the present
state of affairs in
the several Ranges
constituting the 8th Div.
& solicit the ap-
pointment of a Special
Officer for the efficient
working of this Division
1864, 25 Dec 31

working of the Bureau
Oct: 1884 25. Dec: 31

62361

To the Secretary of the
Board of Education

Governor in Council
resolved to draw Lieut.
Col. Roberts attention
to the fact that the
Public Works Establish-
-ment of Officers has not
been organized on such
a scale as to admit of
an Engineer being
appointed to the charge
of each Range.

5/13

To
The Super Engineer 8. on

Desp 2/6/71

5 June 11 A. 16

Further Pro 12833 of 12 July 71
" " 1907 of 11-11-71

Governor in Council

Sept of 1871 ^{DAY} Wadsw.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Hoag Superintending Engr
8th Division

Date

Recd

G 20 June 1864.

Nos. 361 & 362

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly a receipt or acknowledgment.]