

M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 10

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works. DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3062- Press Mis.
60-61

Dated 4-12- 1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 60. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Masulipatam, 20th October 1871, No. 90:—

In reply to G. O., No. 2,326, 13th September 1871, I have the honour to enclose copy of a notice which I published in the Gazettes of both the Kistna and Nellore Districts in 1869, having sent them with letters to the Collectors, requesting that, if they approved of my suggestions, they would issue similar orders to their subordinates.

* one copy of notice, dated 17th July 1869, A.; one copy of letter No 116, dated 20th March 1871, B; one copy of notice B., return requested.

2. In consequence of this lists were furnished by the Tahsildars showing *all* the irrigation works in their talooks, but without any remark as to their relative importance, etc.; in more than one instance suggestions were made as to the emergent necessity for repairing a tank which had been completed two or three months before.

3. I have not been favoured with any copy of Proceedings, Revenue Board, No. 470, 31st January 1871; but while travelling with Mr. VansAgnew in January and February last I mentioned these matters, and called his attention to the want of interest shown by the Revenue subordinates in the irrigation works, and on the 20th March sent him a letter, No. 116, of which I enclose a copy (B), to this I have received no answer. I submit therefore that the Collector's remarks regarding the Department Public Works are not justified by fact.

4. The allotment for irrigation repairs has not been sufficient for some years past.

5. Estimates considerably in excess have been sanctioned, and Range Officers have been obliged to execute only a portion of the work required during the current season, and to apply for a fresh appropriation for the balance at the commencement of the next year.

6. Many works are consequently only patched up instead of being thoroughly repaired.

7. Last year, to add to our difficulties, the Pennair anicut was breached. This caused a further drain on my scanty allotment; Rupees 10,000, which were very badly wanted for tanks, etc., have been appropriated to its repair in 1871-72.

8. As regards paragraph 28 of Collector's remarks, I would point out that Mr. VansAgnew only gives "popular rumour" as his authority, he does not appear to have really examined into the statements which he has heard and which he has thus endorsed.

9. I am at a loss to understand how the Head Accountants of ranges are supposed by Mr. VansAgnew to be able to control the rates. They rarely, if ever, leave the head-quarters; whereas arrangements for work generally are made primarily by the Overseers on the sites of the works, subject to confirmation by the Range Officer, and in some cases submitted to my assent.

10. I have very little hesitation in saying that Mr. VansAgnew is quite mistaken in his ideas as to the influence of Head Accountants. If they do receive

money it must be in connivance with the Overseers, who have far more dealings with the work-people, whom, generally speaking, the Head Accountants do not see.

11. The rates paid now in Nellore are pretty much the same as those paid by Major Mullins when he was District Engineer, Captain C. J. Smith, and Mr. R. Smith, all founded on data carefully examined by those gentlemen, and more lately by Messrs. Lyon and Target.

12. Mr. R. Smith, partly under the impression that he would obtain stone in the channel and so save something on the double charge, only allowed Rupees 1-2 0 per cubic yard for pitching.

13. Major Mullins after personal examination raised this rate (see letter to Government, 9th February 1871,) to Rupees 2-2-0. Mr. Roscrow (the European Contractor of whom Mr. VansAgnew speaks) has undertaken the work for Rupees 2-0-0, and I understood from him last month that he was making a bare livelihood by it.

14. Mr. VansAgnew appears to have been misled by a casual statement of Major Clay's, made in conversation, that "Mr. Roscrow had tendered for quarrying at 8 Annas," that being half the usual rate, but it turned out that it was far very inferior stuff.

15. As President of the Municipal Commission, Mr. VansAgnew has given employment to Mr Roscrow at much the same as our rates.

16. In fact, as Major Mullins himself remarked to me, the hire of a labourer has increased very little since he left the district; but it is notorious that, in consequence, we only procure his attendance at his leisure; if we attempted to compete with the agricultural market, we should have to offer very much higher sums.

No. 61.

ORDER THEREON, 4th December 1871, No. 3,962.

IRRIGATION, No. 2.

In the above letter the Superintending Engineer replies generally to the Collector's observations relative to the increase of rates of labour and materials in the Nellore District.

2. The Government observe that the Collector's statement in paragraph 28 of his letter No. 1,226, dated 24th June 1871, is not supported by figures, and direct that he be called upon to submit a statement of the cost of labour* and materials† in 1854 or 1855, or in the year immediately preceding that of the transfer of the executive of public works to the professional department, and to compare the rates which then prevailed with those at which work is now being executed for the Municipality at Nellore. The Collector should at the same time submit a statement of the cost of the food grains and of firewood for quinquennial periods, commencing with 1855.

* Men Coolies.
Women do.
Boys.
Carpenters.
Blacksmiths.

† Departmental bricks per 1,000.
Terrace do. per 1,000.
Chunam per parah.
Rough stones built per cubic yard.
Do. do. in chunam.
Brick-in-chunam per cubic yard.

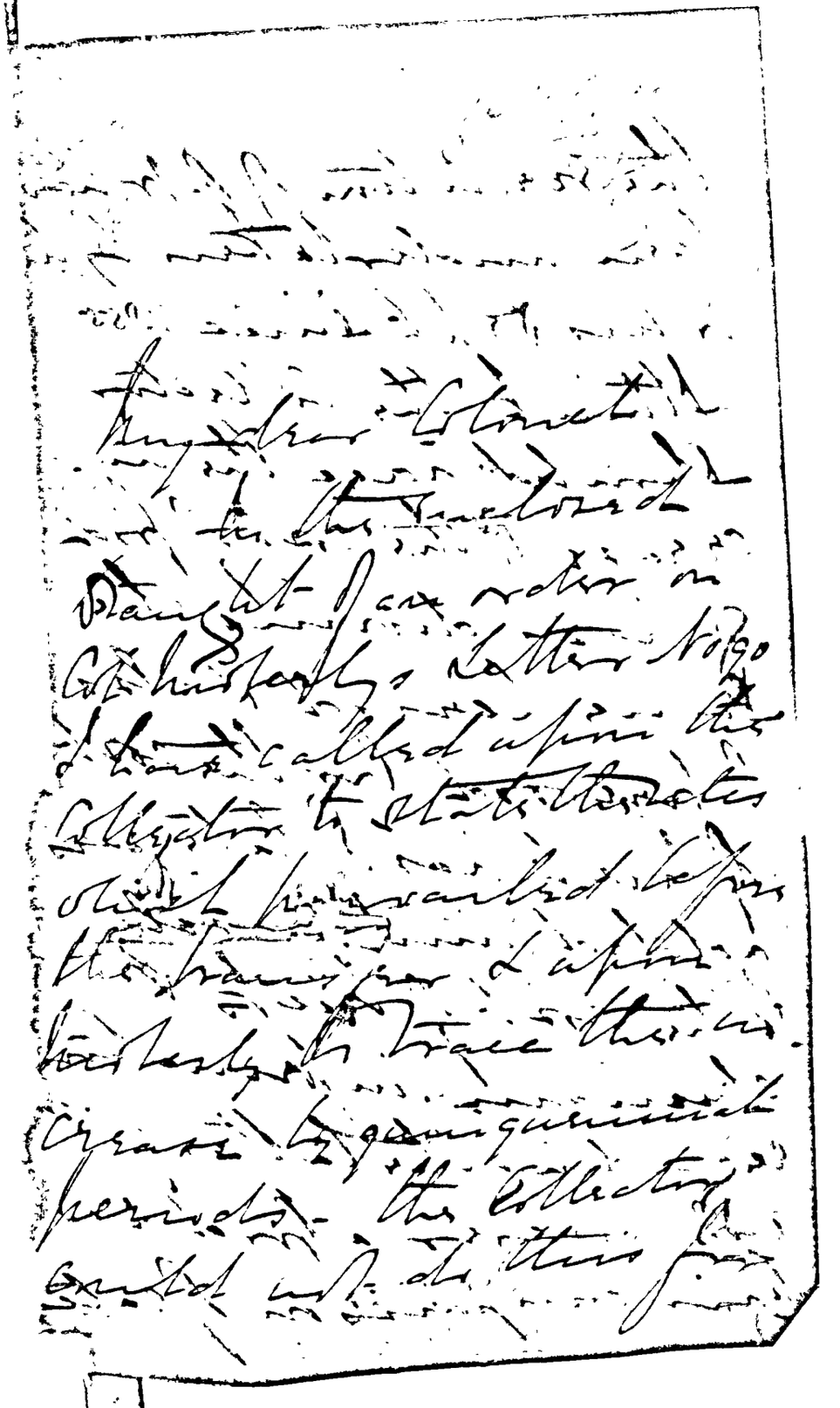
3. The Superintending Engineer will submit a statement of the cost of labour and materials in 1855, 1860, 1865 and 1870 at Nellore, and will afford such explanation relative to any increase in the rates as he may deem necessary.

4. The Government would also wish to be furnished with information regarding the rise in the price of land both wet and dry during the periods above referred to.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Ag. Joint-Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, with three Enclosures.
,, Revenue Department.



No. 90

Superintending Engineer
Office 2nd Division
Masulipatam
20th October 1871.

From

Colonel H. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer
2nd Division

To,

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,

In reply to G.O. No. 2326. 13th September 1871, I have the honor to enclose copy of a notice which I have published in the Gazettes of both the Kistna and Nellore Districts in 1869; having sent them with letters to the Collectors, requesting that, if they approved of my suggestions they would issue similar orders to their subordinates.

2. In consequence of this lists were furnished by the Tahsildars shewing all the irrigation works in their talugs, but without any remark as to their relative importance &c., in more than one instance, suggestions were made as to the emergent necessity

Enclosures
1 Copy of notice dt 17 July 1869 A
1 Do of letter No 116 of 20 March 71. B
1 Do of notice B
3 return requested

for repairing a tank which had been completed 2. or 3 months before.

3. I have not been favoured with any copy of Proceedings Revenue Board No 470. 31st January 1871, but while travelling with Mr. Vans Agnew in January and February last, I mentioned these matters, and called his attention to the want of interest shown by the revenue subordinates in the irrigation works - and on the 20th March sent him a letter, No 116 of which I enclose a copy to this I have received no answer - I submit therefore that the Collector's remarks regarding the D. P. W. are not justified by fact.

4. The allotment for irrigation repairs has not been sufficient for some years past -

5. Estimates considerably in excess have been sanctioned; and Range Officers have been obliged to execute only a portion of the work required during the current season, and to apply for a fresh appropriation for the balance at the commencement of the next year.

6. Many works are consequently only patched up, instead of being thoroughly repaired.

7. Last year to add to our difficulties the Permanent Anicut was breached; this caused a further drain on my scanty allotment - Rs 10000 which were very badly wanted for tanks &c have been appropriated to its repair in 1871.72

8. As regards para 28 of Collectors remarks I would point out that Mr. Vans Agnew only gives "popular rumour" as his authority - he does not appear to have really examined into the statements which he has heard, and which he has thus endorsed.

9. I am at a loss to understand how the Head Accountants of ranges are supposed by Mr. Vans Agnew to be able to control the rates - They rarely if ever, leave the Head Quarters; whereas arrangements for work generally are made primarily by the Overseers on the sites of the works; subject to confirmation by the Range Officer, and in some cases submitted to my assent -

10. I have very little hesitation in saying that Mr. Vans Agnew is quite mistaken in his ideas as to the influence of Head

Accountants. If they do receive money it must be in connivance with the Overseers who have far more dealings with the workpeople; whom, generally speaking, the Head Accountants do not see.

11. The rates paid now in Nellore are pretty much the same as those paid by Major Mullins when he was District Engineer, Captain C.J. Smith and Mr. R Smith; all founded on data carefully examined by those gentlemen, and more lately by Messrs Lyon and Target.

12. Mr. R Smith, partly under the impression that he would obtain stone in the Channel, and so save something on the double charge, only allowed Rs. 1-2-0 per Cubic Yard for filling.

13. Major Mullins after personal examination raised this rate (see letter to Government 9th February 1871) to Rs. 2-2-0. Mr. Rosecrow, (the European Contractor of whom Mr. Vans Agnew speaks) has undertaken the work for Rs. 2-0-0; and I understood from him last month that he was making a bare livelihood by it.

14. Mr. Vans Agnew appears to have been misled by a casual statement of Major Clay's, made in conversation that Mr. Rosecrow had tendered for quarrying at 8 As.; that being half the actual rate. but it turned out that it was for very inferior stuff.

15. As President of the Municipal Commission Mr. Vans Agnew has given employment to Mr. Rosecrow at much the same as our rates.

16. In fact as Major Mullins himself remarked to me the hire of a labourer has increased very little since he left the district. but it is notorious that in consequence we only procure his attendance at his leisure. if we attempted to complete with the agricultural market, we should have to offer very much higher rates.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servant
J. Cheesley Colonel R.E.
Superintending Engineer &c &c

P.W. Dept.

No 3062.

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 4th November 1871

Read the following

From the Supt Engineer
2nd Division.

Here enter Nos 12 & 30th Nov 1871

In the above

Refer the Superintending

Engineer to his letter

Enquiries regarding

to the Collectors observa-

tions relative to the

increase of rates of labor

and materials in the

Madura District

The Government

desire that the Collector

should be furnished with

a copy of this letter No 1230 dated

24th

No 5147.

The Supt Engineer
2nd Division

To

The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D. Madras

Dated 20th October 1871

Rec 30th Nov 1871
Encls 3

Submits explanation regarding the agricultural repairs, rates paid & transport Range Accountants remarked on by Mr Vans Agnew in his annual Report for 1870/71 and encloses Copies of certain documents.

No 3062 - 4th Dec 1871.

With an Order

I think that the Collector should be called upon to furnish his statements in Para 8. respecting the alleged exorbitant rates for labor & materials by company time now given with those given 5. 10. 15 years ago with the rates paid by Municipalities & the rates paid by Govt Depts. Such vague statements

Communicated to the

Revenue Board with refer-

-ence to G.O. No 2326 dated 13th Sep-

tember in the Public Works Dept.

N.

W.F.

unsupported by figures very

cause very unjust impressions.

I would call

To The Board of Revenue for

Revenue Department

explanation

but would not imply that Nos. 8 &

at all except Col Ward only

view. Probably the Collector

this whole two

A.J.V.

10th Nov 1871 Rs 18

24th June 1871 is not supported by figures and direct that he be called upon to submit a statement of the cost of labor and materials in 1854 or 1855 or in the year immediately preceding that of the transfer of the executive of Public Works to the professional Department, and to compare the rates which then prevailed with those at which work is now being executed for the Municipality at Kellore. The Collector should at the same time submit a Statement of the cost of

* Mem Coolies Women — do Boys — Carpenters Blacksmiths

* Departmental Bricks per 1000-
Terrace — Do per 1000-
Chunam per parah-
Rough Stones built per cubic yard.
Do- Do in chunam-
Brick in Chunam per Cubic yard-

the food grains and of firewood for quinquennial periods commencing with 1855.

The Superintending Engineer will submit a Statement of the cost of labor and materials in 1855-1860 1865- & 1870 at Nellore and will afford such explanation relative to any increase in the rates as he may deem necessary.

The Government would also wish to be furnished with information regarding the rise in the

in the price of land both
wet and dry during the
periods above referred
to.-

If
No. 23rd

46

To The Supt Engineer
2nd District
Revenue Dept.- Lucknow

Dated 6/12/71.

in the price of bricks used

(1547)

Govt. of {1871} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr
2nd Division

Dated

Rcvd. Encl.

G. O. 4th Dec 1871. No. 3062.

Nos. 6 & 61

Public Works. Passing orders on the letter from the Supg. Engr 2nd Div. forwarding explanation in connection with the Head Clerk's report on Public Works in the Nellore District during 1870/71.