M R O. 1—77,000—8-8-57.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3167 Press Mis.
Dated 16-12-97 18 97.

Not to be folded or roughly handled.

No. 280. Read the following letter from the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 18th November 1871, No. 184 —

With reference to G. O , No. 2,762, of 1st instant, I have the honour to state that the small expenditure on the Pelandorai Anicut Project in the current year is due mainly to four causes :—

1*st.*—To the failure of contractors to carry out their agreements.

2*nd.*—To the frequent changes of officers in charge of the project.

3*rd.*—To the very unfavourable working season as already experienced, and as still continuing

4*th*—To the very unsatisfactory distribution of work to contractors on the main channel, and to the difficulty of inducing other contractors to come forward until the case of the original contractors has been finally disposed of

2. *Nos* 1 *and* 4—These two causes being intimately connected with one another, I shall offer a few remarks on them. Very shortly after taking charge of the division, having ascertained that the work of this project was progressing most unsatisfactorily, I visited the locality and went over all the works, accompanied by the Assistant Engineer in charge of the Virdachellum Range. I found none of the contractors, and very little work being done in the main channel—the principal work.

The distribution of the work was unsatisfactory; the contractors had apparently been allowed to dig here and there and everywhere, and to remove the easy soil, leaving the harder, thus rendering it a difficult matter to measure work done, or to give out the work to other contractors; further, the principal contractors had done little or no work for the six months prior to my visit.

3. I at once caused the Assistant Engineer to issue orders to the contractors that if they did not show better work their contract would be cancelled, and, on 25th September, finding that this had not produced the smallest effect, I cancelled the contract in accordance with one of its clauses, and directed the Assistant Engineer to make other arrangements; since that time the state of the weather has been most unfavourable, and the work has, therefore, made very small progress It is much to be regretted that the first few months of the official year, when much might have been done, were allowed to go by without the contractors being brought to book.

4. *No.* 2.—The work of this project was commenced in April 1870 under Mr. C. Norfor's superintendence (Mr. R E. Norfor being the Executive Officer of the Range).

On the 18th July 1870, Mr. Bell joined the district, being specially ordered from Tinnevelly to take charge of this project, but had to take charge of the Range, Mr. R. E. Norfor having gone on leave.

The latter officer returned on 11th September, and Mr. Bell then took charge of the project; but himself taking a month's leave on 2nd November, Mr. C. Norfor again took charge

Mr. Bell returned on 3rd December and remained in charge till 22nd April, when he was appointed to the 3rd Range of the South Arcot District, making over

charge of the anicut and works to Overseer Coopoosawmy Moodelliar until the arrival of Mr. Hawksworth (gone on two months' leave before joining his new range), the range being made over to Mr. C. Norfor.

5 Mr. Hawksworth joined on 11th July 1871, and has since been in charge of the range, including the anicut and works; but he found things in the state already alluded to, and he has been so worried by the Controller's repeated calls for completion certificates and documents connected with works finished last official year (works on which he had never seen a stroke of work done, and for some of which, such as road maintenance grants, it is simply impossible he can furnish a certificate), and has had so much trouble with the number of "Incomplete" works handed over to him that it would have been scarcely possible for him to have done more than he has done

6 With regard to the latter part of last paragraph, I can see—and this I have intimated to the Controller—no reason whatever why an officer should not on 1st April be able to furnish completion certificates for such works as "maintenance grants," so that, even had he to leave the range the following day, this work need not be thrust on his successor, who has never seen the work done, and in fact *cannot* furnish the certificates required. As a rule, moreover, I think transfers from one range to another should be prohibited near the close, or soon after the commencement of that most inconvenient epoch—the official year.

7. *No.* 3 —This requires no remarks; since the end of September there has hardly been a single working day.

8. In conclusion I would add that the Assistant Engineer is doing his utmost to bring about a better state of things, and evoke order out of the chaos left to him; also that he has been specially enjoined to on no account fail in spending the 60,000 Rupees which is now the reduced allotment for the project It cannot be said there are more than three working months left—the expenditure up to the end of September was only in round numbers 14,000 Rupees, leaving 46,000, or upwards of 15,000 per month, to be worked out in three months. I do not think it possible more than this can be spent.

No. 281. ORDER THEREON, 16th December 1871, No. 3,167.

IRRIGATION, No. 12.

THE Government observe that four reasons are adduced for the unsatisfactory progress of the Pelandorai Project.

2. One of the reasons is said to be the unfavourable working season, but no explanation is afforded relative to the manner in which the season has proved to be unfavourable. It is believed there have been frequent falls of rain and freshes in the river; these might retard operations in the river-bed but would prove rather favourable than otherwise towards the excavation of the main and branch channels, and in these the work appears to have progressed most unsatisfactorily.

3. The Government regret that the frequent though unavoidable change of officers has tended to retard the prosecution of work, but, had the work been carefully laid out and distributed among competent contractors in the first instance by

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th December 1871.

Mr. C. Norfor who appears to have had charge of the work from April to September and again in November, even an Overseer might have superintended the actual execution of the work. The Government cannot, therefore, but regard Mr. C. Norfor as in a great measure responsible for the unsatisfactory progress made in the work. In the specifications it should have been distinctly shown what progress should have been made in each working season, and the order and manner in which the works were to be carried out; this should be done in drawing up contracts with fresh contractors.

4. The Government look to Mr. Hawksworth to place matters on a satisfactory footing, and trust that more rapid progress will be made on the work during the remainder of the year.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Offg Joint Secretary to Government.

Per 1st Nov/71 No 7-8

Public Works Dept
No 3167
Proceedings of the Madras Govt
Read the following

From
The Supdg: Engineer
5th Division
H.C.C. No 184 of 18th Nov/71

To
The Chief Secy: to Govt:
P.W. Department

Dated 18th November 1871
Rec'd 21st

No 184.

Palamcotta Project in
South Arcot.

Furnishing explanation as to the cause of the surrender of the Current Year's allotment for the Palamcotta Project in South Arcot.

No 3167 - 16th Dec/71

No 3287

The Government observe that four reasons are adduced for the unsatisfactory progress of the Palamcotta Project.

One of the reasons is said to be the unfavorable working Season, but no explanation is afforded relative to the manner in which the season has proved unfavorable. It is believed there have been

frequent falls of rain and freshes in the River these might retard operations in the River bed but would prove rather favorable than otherwise towards the excavation of the Main and branch channels and in these the work appears to have progressed most unsatisfactorily.

The Govt. regret that the frequent though unavoidable change of Officers has tended to retard the prosecution of the work, but had the work been carefully laid out and distributed among competent Con-

tractors in the first instance by Mr. C. Harper who appears to have had charge of the work from April to September and again in November, even an Overseer might have superintended the actual execution of the work. The Govt. cannot therefore but regard Mr. Harper as in a great measure responsible for the unsatisfactory progress made in the work. In the Specifications it should have been distinctly shewn what progress should have been made in each working season

and the order and manner
in which the works were
to be carried out: this
should be done in
drawing up Contracts
with fresh Contractors.

The Govt. look to
Mr Hawkesworth to
place matters on satis-
factory footing: and
trust that satisfactory
progress will be made
on the work during
the remainder of the
year.

I have said

29 Nov

To the Public Engineer S.W.D.
" Ch. Engineer for Irrigation.

Dec 2 1872

17-11-31 1211

No. 5549.

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Executive Engr.
5th Division

Dated

Rec'd.

16th Oct. 1871.

Nos. 280 & 281

Palandoni Road. Grant
Sanctioned. Copies
orders made under same
be duly forwarded to 5th Div.
Regard the charges
Sanctioned in the Palandoni
Project during the current
year.

Dept 18/12/71.