

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	918	Press Mis.
660-61		
Dated	28 - 3 -	1871.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th March 1871.*

No. 660. Read the following letter from the Collector of Cuddapah, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Proddavoor, 15th February 1871, No. 9:—

In submitting, for the sanction of Government, certain charges emergent, incurred in tank repair by the Revenue Department in October and November last, I have the honour to request your attention to the copies of correspondence on this subject, which has passed between myself and the Superintending Engineer.

2. It is, you will observe, in compliance with that officer's request that I submit the matter for the consideration of Government; and since the opinion of Colonel Moberly differs from my own as to the construction to be placed upon the orders of Government upon the question of "emergent repairs executed by the Revenue Department," it is well perhaps that our doubts should be settled by competent authority.

3. The facts of the case are shortly these. On the morning of October 21st, the Dougala tank, lying on the east of the town of Cuddapah, breached in consequence of an excessive rain-fall of some 10 or 11 inches of rain in three days. The tank was empty by the evening of the same day; and on the next day the convicts, *under my orders*, erected a ring-bund to cover the breach. The country was still full of water, which pouring into the tank carried away the ring-bund once; but the convicts erected another, strong enough to stand until the main breach was repaired. Meanwhile, my Assistant, Mr. Boyle, had, with my permission, made arrangements with a party of Wudders to repair the main breach at a cost of Rupees 490. Upon the execution of a proper stamped agreement, the work was, with my sanction, put in hand, and by the middle of November the breach was repaired and the tank full.

4. Up to this point, you will observe, the repairs had been undertaken at my instance, and executed under my orders as Collector, because I deemed it to be a case of emergency which called for the efforts of the Revenue Authorities to supplement those of the Department Public Works. I can hardly imagine a clearer case of emergency, for within a five miles radius of Cuddapah no less than six or seven tanks and several lines of road had been broken up by the sudden and heavy rain-fall of October 18th and 21st. It was, therefore, with the sole idea of relieving the overtaxed staff of the Department of Public Works that the Dougala tank repairs were undertaken by me as Collector; and it is not without surprise that I now find this intervention resented as improper interference by the Range Officer and Superintending Engineer.

5. To the contract executed by Mr. Boyle with the Wudders a condition was appended, that the work, on completion, must be inspected and approved by the Collector and Range Officer. Accordingly, on November 27th, the bill for Rupees 490 was forwarded by me to the Superintending Engineer, with a request that after the Range Officer's inspection the bill might be paid.

6. On December 8th, or some six weeks after the tank had breached, and three weeks after it had been repaired by me, I received an estimate for its repair from the Superintending Engineer. This, I may remark, was the first intimation of any kind that reached me of the Department of Public Works having taken any steps for the repair of the tank. During the progress of the work no subordinate

officer of that department ever visited it, and this is proof sufficient that their hands were full of work elsewhere.

7. Now, however, that the Range Officer is called on to certify to the work and pass the contracted sum to the Wudders, he declines to certify that the work is properly executed; and the Superintending Engineer very naturally observes that, as he is unable to over-rule these so-called conscientious objections to the quality and quantity of the work done, he must refer the matter for the orders of Government.

8. The whole question at issue resolves itself into this. Whether work emergently executed by the Revenue Department is to conform to the same standard as work leisurely executed by the professional officers of the Department of Public Works; and I must also ask Government to express an opinion whether it is fair that when Revenue Officers with the best intentions, and I may add with the best results, step in to assist officers of the Department of Public Works in work so emergent as tank repair, that department should stand by without a word of advice or criticism, and then bluntly refuse at the end to acknowledge the assistance or even to pass the work.

9. I am not prepared to enter into a controversy with the Range Officer whether the work is or is not as good as it might be; I can only affirm that the bund was repaired in a fortnight, and has since supported a full tank, while the Department Public Works in four months have only succeeded in repairing one of the other numerous tanks that burst at the same time. The Revenue Officers have, by these emergent repairs, saved the revenue under the tank, which the delay of a few more days would assuredly have lost; and I therefore conceive that Government can have no hesitation in authorizing the payment in full of the contracted sum, Rupees 490, to the Wudders who did the work. I do not profess to offer an opinion of any professional value as to the character of the work, but I am bound to say that, so far as I can see, the work is quite equal to that of the rest of the bund of the same tank; and, without venturing to prophesy, I see no reason to doubt that it will stand for many years.

10. The Range Officer's list of objections is as formidable as it is long; but I would venture to remark upon it that as none of his subordinates visited or superintended the work while in progress, he must derive his impressions of the manner in which it was built from intention, and not from observation. It would be well, at the same time, if he could devise some remedy less crude than that of pulling down the whole bund and building it up again. I beg to state, in conclusion, that the Wudders have already received Rupees 318-10-0 in part payment. The sum therefore of Rupees 171-6-0 is still due to them, and for this I request the special sanction of Government under the circumstances stated in this letter. There is a further sum of Rupees 31-14-0 due to the convicts who worked upon the ring-bund, which must be added to the total cost of the repairs.

No. 661.

ORDER THEREON, 28th March 1871, No. 918.

IRRIGATION, No. 55.

From the correspondence transmitted by the Collector of Cuddapah, it appears that the Dugala tank, near

and to the east of Cuddapah, having breached in October last, the repairs were undertaken on emergency by the Revenue Officers, and successfully completed in a short time. The tank subsequently held a full or nearly full supply of water, and the crops were saved. The Collector on applying to the Superintending Engineer for the amount, Rupees 490, for which the Revenue Officers had contracted to get the breach closed, was informed by that officer that a bill, countersigned by the Collector, was necessary, and that upon this only, after the verification of the amounts by the measurements of the Range Officer, could payment be made. Colonel Moberly also noticed that the action of the Revenue officers in undertaking this emergent work, without reference to the Range Officer, was not in accordance with the orders on this subject.

2. The course followed by the Collector was perhaps not in strict conformity with the Standing Orders quoted by the Superintending Engineer; but His Excellency the Governor in Council, taking into consideration the importance of works on which revenue is so directly dependent as tanks and channels, is of opinion that considerable latitude should be allowed in the application of any orders which may have for their effect the postponement of measures for the restoration of such works in cases of the emergency described by the Collector.

3. It is clear that the extent of damage to irrigation and other works by the excessive rains of last October imposed on the members of the Public Works Department in Cuddapah such an addition to their ordinary labours as to make it desirable that the department should receive the assistance which the Revenue Authorities are best able to afford.

4. The Collector is frequently in a position to receive the earliest information of damages occurring to works of irrigation, and more especially of the breaching of tanks, and he would be neglectful of his duty if he hesitated to take immediate measures for effecting such repairs as might be required to save a supply of water and to prevent serious loss of produce. He should, however, communicate at once with the Public Works Department, whose duty it would then be to give their co-operation by rendering assistance in supervising and in examining the work when completed.

5. When, under circumstances such as those above described, work is undertaken by Revenue Officers, the Public Works Department should not criticize its details too minutely. Emergent repairs carried out in haste cannot fairly be judged by the standard of excellence of ordinary work, for which regular and systematic arrangements can be made, nor can it be expected that the cost will tally exactly with the ordinary departmental rates.

6. In the present case, His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that the defects noticed by the Range Officer might have been avoided had he at the commencement given a few simple instructions for the guidance of the Maistry or other subordinate in charge of the work, and given a little of his personal attention to it while in progress.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
28th March 1871.*

7. The disbursement of the amount, Rupees 490, of the contract, as also of the sum of Rupees 31-14-0 reported to be due to the convicts employed upon the the ring-bund, is sanctioned.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Acting Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

„ Revenue Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

*P. H. Dept.
No 918
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 28 March 1871
Read the following
from the Collector of Cuddalore / H E No 9 of 15 Feb 1871*

*From the
correspondence transmitted
by the Collector of Cuddalore
it appears that the Dougala
Tank near and to the
east of Cuddalore
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October last the repairs
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Officers and suc-
cessfully completed in
a short time. The Tank
subsequently held a full
or nearly full supply of
water.*

water, and the crops were saved. The collector on applying to the Superintending Engineer for the amount Rs 490, for which the Revenue officers had contracted to get the breach closed, was informed by that officer that a bill countersigned by the collector was necessary and that upon this only after the verification of the amounts by the measurements of the Range officer could payment be made. Col. Inoherly also noticed that the action of the Revenue officers in undertaking this emergent work without reference to the Range officer was

was not in accordance with the orders on this subject. The course followed by the collector was an perhaps not in strict conformity with the standing orders quoted by the Superintending Engineer, but in His Excellency the Governor in Council, taking into consideration the importance of works on which Revenue is so directly dependent, as Sars and Channels, His is of opinion that considerable latitude should be allowed in the application of any orders which may have for their effect the postponement of measures

measures for the restoration of such works in case of the emergency described by the collector.

3. It is clear that the extent of damage to irrigation and other works by the excessive rains of last October imposed on the members of the Public Works Department and Buddapak such an addition to their ordinary labors as to make it desirable that the Department should receive the assistance which the Revenue authorities are best able to afford.

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When

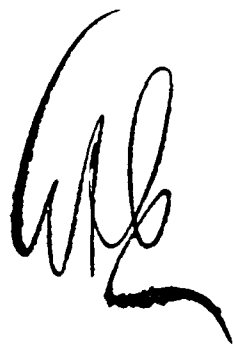
5. When under circumstances such as those described above, work is undertaken by Revenue Officers, the Public Works Department should not criticize its details too minutely. Emergent repairs carried out in haste cannot fairly be judged by the standard of excellence of ordinary work, for which regular and systematic arrangements can be made, nor can it be expected that the cost will tally exactly with the ordinary Departmental Rates.

6. In the present case fr. His Excellency the Governor to his Council observes that the

the defects noticed by the Range Officer might have been avoided had he at the commencement given a few simple instructions for the guidance of the Ministry or other subordinate in charge of the work, and given a little of his personal attention to it while in progress.

7. The disbursement of the amount, Rs 490, of the contract, as also of the sum of Rs 31-14- reported to be due to the convicts employed upon the ringbund, is sanctioned.

45
5
The Supergr. 3rd Div.
Controller P. W. Accts.
Sd/- Chief Engr. for Bng.
Rev. Departt.



Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the

Read the following

From The Collector of Cuddapah / H.E. No. 9 of 15th February 1911

From the correspon-
dence transmitted by the
Collector of Cuddapah,
it appears that the Donga
la Tank near and to
the east of Cuddapah,
having breached in
October last, the repairs
were undertaken on
an emergency by the Reve-
nue Officers, and suc-
cessfully completed in
a short time. The Tank
subsequently held a full

200
100
50
25
10
5
2
1
0

or nearly full supply of water, and the crops were saved. The Collector on applying to the Superin-

tending Engineer for the amount, Rupees 490 for cart in hand &c. As which the Revenue officers the D.P.W. is the 24- had contracted to get the centine agent, it breach closed, was in-

formed by that Office

that a bill, countersigned by the Collector, was necessary and that upon this only, after the verification of the amounts by the measurements

of the Range officer, could payment be made.

Col. Inoherly also noticed that the action of the Revenue officers in undertaking

The order is, I think, correct. Ru- amount, Rupees 490 for cart in hand &c. As which the Revenue officers the D.P.W. is the 24- had contracted to get the centine agent, it breach closed, was in-

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of the Range officer, could payment be made.

Col. Inoherly also noticed that the action of the Revenue officers in undertaking

repaired the Tank the should be re- traced - see also para 9. Why has not Col Inoherly try to the assistance of the Col. have previously? / D.P.

I would add and his use times have been nice. C. S. pl.

vide bottom of page 10

undertaking this emergency work, without reference to the Range officer, was not in accordance with the orders on this subject.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council does not doubt that the Collector acted throughout with the best intentions but he appears to have lost sight of the rule, which is laid down in the standing orders of the Board of Revenue, that Revenue officers should undertake such work only in the absence of a competent member of the Public Works Department. This rule has recently been reaffirmed in G.O. Revenue Department No 1676 of the

31st Oct 1870, and it is necessary and right that it should be acted upon. The Range officer, Mr O'Ratigan, was, it is reported at Cuddalore at the time the Tank breached, and he would appear to have taken measures for its repair. It is clear that the proper course would have been for the Collector to have ascertained whether the Public Works officer would be able to attend to the emergent repairs required at once: if so, there would have been no necessity for the execution of the work by the Revenue Department. If not, the latter would have

2. No doubt the course followed by the Collector was not in strict conformity with the standing orders quoted by the Sup. Engineer; but H.E. the Gov. in C., taking into consideration the importance of works on which Revenue is so directly dependent as Tanks and Channels, is of opinion that considerable latitude should be allowed in the application of any order which may have further effect the postponement of measures for the restoration of such works in cases of the emergency described by the Collector.

3. It is clear that the extent of damage to irrigation and other works by the excessive Rains of last October imposed on the settled

Members of the Pub. works dept. in Calcutta
lack ~~any~~ ^{adequate} ~~adoption~~ ^{to}
their ~~XXXX~~ ordinary labors
as to make it desirable that
they ^{Department} should receive assistance
~~from the~~ which the Revenue
authorities are in the best
position to afford.

~~It appears that the Collector received earliest intimation of the breach to the Dangola Tank, ~~he should have informed the Range officer as soon as it would~~ and that he immediately took the necessary steps for closing the breach. He should then have informed the Range officer of the measures adopted so that if possible there have been to render all possible assistance in showing how the work was to be done.~~

[illegible]

The matter settled

and providing for its delivery
while in progress, and for
prompt payment when
completed.

5. When, under Bureau Notice
invites to be described above,
work is undertaken by the
Revenue officers - the Pub-
lics officer whose duty it is
to examine the work should
not criticize its details too minutely
- urgent work carried out in
haste can not fairly be judged
by the standard of excellence of
ord. work, for which regular
systematic arrangements can
be made, nor can it be expected
that the cost of such work will
 tally exactly with the ordinary
Departmental Rates.

6. By the present H. L. G. & C. Order
that the defects noticed by the
Range Officer might have been avoided
that the officer at the commencement
gives a few simple instructions
for the guidance of the masons.

the Subaltern in charge
of the work, and ~~that~~ provided
for inspection ~~during the progress~~ which
the work was in progress either personally
or by his ^{Patook} overseer.

have been free to act, and
there would have been no
room for subsequent mis-
conceptions.

3. It may be noticed
here that, when such work
as that referred to in the
correspondence may be
undertaken by Revenue
officers, it should not be
considered requisite
to criticize too minutely
its details, provided it
is such as to answer the
intended purpose. A
revelment may under
such circumstances be
made too thick or too
thin, the rates also may
be higher than those
ordinarily paid, but if
such points have been
settled

settled by a responsible
Revenue Officer, no useful
purpose can be served
by making a direct objec-
tion to the work on
such grounds. The Exe-
cutive Officer should
note such particulars
in his certificate of exami-
nation, and the Supy.
Engineer should then
either sanction the dis-
bursement of the money
or, if he considers it neces-
sary, he should apply
to Govt. for orders, taking
care at the same time to
remember, in making
his recommendations,
that work done in a
hurry, whoever may be
looking after it, will
probably

As he appears to have
received the earliest
intimation of the
injuries sustained,

? Should the
Chief ask Mr.
R. or V. V.?
I think the latter.

Should have informed
the Range Officer, who
only at last has been
been to look the Collector
if the presence of other matters
hindered him from personally
the work.

probably be inferior in
quality, and perhaps more
costly, than that for which
regular and systematic
arrangements can be made.
4. ... On the occurrence
of the severe rainfall
which occasioned the
breaching of the Dougala
Tank, and damage to
several other works
near Buddapah, the
Collector might with
advantage have asked Mr.
O'Ratigan whether the
assistance of the Revenue
Department would facili-
tate the execution of the
emergent work thus
unexpectedly rendered
necessary, and probably
with

with that assistance the
Range officer might have
been enabled to do far
more in a more
satisfactory manner
than would otherwise
have been possible.

Revenue officers should
do a minimum of the
actual execution of work,
but there is no reason
why they should not, and
every reason why they
should, give such assistance
in procuring labour, and in
obtaining the aid of the
village officers, as would
practically have the effect
of trebling the number
of individual workers
which the Range officer
would

would be able to carry
in a given time. It
is required in con-
nection with it was shown
the case under notice
consequently a long ex-
penditure, which is
seldom, if ever, of use
has occupied time which
could have been devoted
to better purposes, had
the collector in the first
instance requested the
Range officer to discuss
with him personally
what arrangements would
best secure the early re-
pair of the damaged tanks
and roads. It may be
added that when the
execution of works may
be undertaken by Revenue
officers

1/2802

Govt. of (1871) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Superintending Engr.
3rd Division

Dated

Recd.

Dec. 6

G. O. 28 March 1871, No. 918.

No. 66-661

Dongala bank in the Juddapah
District. Vulping orders in the
letter from the Mchbr of
Juddapah in the subject of the
refusal of the P. H. Range
Officer to pay the bill for
emergency repairs carried
out to the Dongala bank
by the Rev. Dept.