

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 96	Press Mis.
200-01	
Dated 13 . 1	1871 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 200. Read the following letter from Mr. A. COLQUHOUN, Sub-Engineer, Tinnevely, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 10th January 1871:—

I HAVE this day been favoured, through the Military Secretary to the Right Honourable the Governor, with a copy of His Lordship's Minute on my memorial, dated 5th instant, informing me Government have determined to give me a fair trial before a Commission appointed for that purpose, and that I shall have a full opportunity of clearing myself before a perfectly impartial tribunal.

2. I feel deeply indebted to Government for the great consideration shown to me in giving me this opportunity.

3. I would most earnestly and respectfully ask Government, in constituting this Commission, to graciously exclude from it *any* of the Judicial, Civil, and Public Works Officers serving in the Tinnevely District. I beseech of Government, as my only chance of fair play and justice, to compose it of officers *entirely* unconnected with that district.

4. It is in my power to prove that Major Payne has so effectually biassed every officer in that district that my only hope of that "fair trial" before a "perfectly impartial tribunal," promised me by His Lordship, is before a Commission in no manner connected with Tinnevely, and free from Major Payne's influence.

5. From letters received from Tinnevely, Major Payne has already prejudiced Mr. Puckle so far as to have induced that gentleman, always hostile to the Public Works Department, to get up, behind my back, evidence prejudicial to me. Even Mr. Child, the Judge, has been embittered against me, and he did not hesitate to tell a Commissioned Officer at Palamcottah that I had been "playing such tricks" as would oblige Mr. Puckle to cause a warrant being issued for me. I have not to this day seen Mr. Puckle, and yet he has been set against me already. Not only has Major Payne biassed him, but Motha, whose character is fully described in the Judgment of the Civil Court, forwarded for submission to Government with my letter dated 8th instant, has also instigated complaints, taking advantage of the protection and encouragement afforded him by Major Payne.

6. By the provisions of the Criminal and Civil Law, if the accused feels his trying officer is biassed, he is at liberty to move for a transfer of his case to another officer, or even to another district.

7. An instance of this nature, which will be fresh in the recollection of Government, recently occurred in the North Arcot District.

8. I would therefore, as an old servant of Government of 20 years' standing, who has invariably won the approbation of his superiors, crave this just request at the hands of Government. I am positive that, if the Commission is composed of officers free from local prejudices, which have and are being kept alive, and quite unconnected with the district, I shall have no cause to fear the result; but if it is otherwise, I have no hesitation in stating that I am a doomed man, and that I shall be crushed. My experience of Tinnevely assures me that there will be no difficulty in attaining this end.

9. I would now crave the indulgent consideration of Government as to whether it is desirable my suspension should still continue. Is, I would humbly

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
13th January 1871.

ask, such a severe step necessary? It is sufficient to unman me, and to afford my enemies the advantage of hunting me to the earth. Its degradation is unendurable, and I would ask Government to release me, and give me the opportunity of defending myself with my hands free, leaving it to the Commission, should it be necessary, to suspend me.

10. I am not aware of another instance where a member of this department was suspended, pending a departmental enquiry as to the description of his works which his own immediate superior had passed.

11. I beg the Government will generously give my unfortunate position due consideration, and may I also solicit of you, Sir, as the head of the Department, to afford me your protection, and, in laying this at an early date before Government, to generously intercede on my behalf.

No. 201. ORDER THEREON, 13th January 1871, No. 96.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 23.

Mr. Colquhoun will be informed that the investigation of the charges which have been preferred against him

will be entrusted to a gentleman totally unconnected with Tinnevely.

2. The Government do not however consider it expedient to relieve Mr. Colquhoun from suspension till the result of the coming inquiry has been made known, but they are pleased to direct that, meanwhile, a moiety of Mr. Colquhoun's salary be disbursed to him.

3. Mr. Colquhoun will return to Tinnevely with all practicable despatch.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To Mr. A. Colquhoun.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Madras
No. 7, Rindalls Road
Vepery
10. January 1871
Colonel C. A. Orr R.E.
Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Madras
I have this day been favored, through the Military Secretary, to the Right Honble the Governor, with a copy of His Lordships Minute on my memorial dated 5th instant, informing me Govt have determined to give me a fair trial before a Commission appointed for that purpose, and that I shall have a full opportunity of clearing myself before a perfectly impartial tribunal.
2. I feel deeply indebted to Govt for the great consideration shown to me in giving me this opportunity.
3. I would most earnestly & respectfully ask Govt in constituting this Commission, to graciously exclude from it any of the Judicial, Civil and

Public Works, Officers serving in the Timewelly District.
I beseech of God, as my only chance of fair play and justice, to compose it of Officers entirely unconnected with that District.

4. It is in my power to prove, that Major Payne has so effectually, biassed every Officer in that District, that my only hope of that "fair trial" before a perfectly impartial tribunal "promised me by His Lordship, is before a Commission in no manner connected with Timewelly, and free from Major Paynes influence.

5. From letters received from Timewelly, Major Payne has already prejudiced Mr. Puckle so far as to have induced that Gentleman, always hostile to the S. W. Department, to get up, behind my back, evidence prejudicial to me. Even Mr. Child the Judge has been embittered against me - and he did not hesitate to tell a Commissioned Officer at Salisbury that I had been "playing such tricks" as would oblige Mr. Puckle to cause a warrant being issued for me. I have not, to this day, seen Mr. Puckle, and yet he has been set against me already. Not only has Major Payne biassed him, but Motha, whose character is fully described

in the judgement of the Civil Court forwarded for submission to God, with my letter dated 8th inst. has also investigated complaints, taking advantage of the protection and encouragement afforded him by Major Payne.

6. By the provisions of the Criminal and Civil Law, if the accused feels his trying Officer is biassed, he is at liberty to move for a transfer of his case to another Officer, or even to another District. An instance of this nature, which will be fresh in the recollection of God, recently occurred in the North West District.

8. I would therefore, as an old servant of God, of 20 years standing, who has invariably won the approbation of his Superiors, crave this just request at the hands of God. I am positive that, if the Commission is composed of Officers, free from local prejudices, which have, and are being kept alive - and quite unconnected with the District - I shall have no cause to fear the result. But if it is otherwise, I have no hesitation in stating that I am a doomed man, and that I shall be crushed. - My experience of Timewelly assures me that there will be no difficulty in attaining this end.

Public Works 1871 Department
Proc. of Govt. for January
From No. 123

A. Colquhoun
Sub: Engineer
D.P.W.

To the Secretary to Government
D.P.W.
Madras

Dated 10th } January 1871
Recd 11th }

Submits for the generous consideration
of Govt. that the Commission may be
composed of Officers unconnected
with Timmvelly for reasons
assigned - and that he be
released from suspension pending
the inquiry. -

No 96-13 Jan 71

No 200

Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 13th January 71

Read the following
letter.

From Mr. A. Colquhoun
Sub Engineer D.P.W.

Submits for the generous
consideration of Government
that the Commission may be
composed of Officers un-
connected with Timmvelly
for reasons assigned, and
that he be released from
suspension pending the in-
quiry.

Mr. Colquhoun
will be informed that
the investigation of the
charges which have
been preferred against
him will be entrusted
to a gentleman totally
unconnected with

Tinnelly
March 17th 1871

2. The Government
do not, however, con-
sider it expedient to
relieve Colquhoun
from suspension till

the result of the coming
inquiry has been
made known, but
they are pleased to
direct that, meanwhile,
a moiety of a lv
Colquhoun's salary be
disbursed to him.

Mr. Colquhoun will
return to Tinnelly with
all his effects & baggage
on the 1st inst. & will
be accompanied by his
family & servants.

Monday 15th 1871

Wm. Colquhoun
Esq. Tinnelly
The enclosed is a
copy of the order
of the Treasury
relative to the
suspension of Mr.
Colquhoun.

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To Mr. A. Colquhoun
S. Eng. 3rd Div.
Controller.

M.S.
Despatch. 13/1/71
13/1/71

UP 723

Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. J. Colquhoun.

Dated

Recd.

P.L.

G. O. 13 Jan'y M. N. 96.

No. 200-201

Charges. Referring to the
letter from Mr. Colquhoun
Colquhoun requesting that
the Commission, the ab-
sented business of the
certain charges preferred
against him, may be
composed of Officers un-
connected with the
charge he is alleged to be
connected with.

Further Proct 366 of 7 Feb 71
1663-6-3-71