

(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.	2247	Press
307-308		Mis.
Dated	21- 9-	1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21st September 1872.*

No. 307. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 28th August 1872, No. 1,182:—

With reference to G. O. No. 73 of 6th ultimo, I have the honour to submit a letter,* in original, from the Executive Engineer, Bellary Range, giving full explanation on all the points adverted to in the Controller's report, on which the above G. O. is made.

2. Accompanying this is a copy of a letter some time ago addressed by the Executive Engineer to me, with the view of accounting for apparent delay in responding to calls made on him, and showing that the time of his office establishment was so occupied by extraneous work, to wit, the matter of the timber deficiency case, as seriously to impair its ability for the execution of current work.

3. Mr. Fraser has entered *seriatim* and fully into each of the matters brought to notice by the Controller; and, as he has engaged that the irregularities brought to notice shall not recur, I do not see that I need trouble Government with any remark beyond that, in the matter of the so-called advance of 4,000 Rupees, Mr. Fraser had satisfied himself that he had more than value for his money; the payment, therefore, really was a "payment in part."

4. With reference to the unsatisfactory state of the accounts submitted by Mr. Barnes, the Overseer of the Adony Taluq, I have before me ample evidence that the Range Head Accountant was a deadly enemy of Mr. Barnes, and took every opportunity to harass and persecute him. He was in the habit of returning to him his station books and accounts with *pencil* corrections, insisting not only on the re-submission of the accounts thus returned, but also of fresh ones. I have no doubt that a great deal of the censure passed on Mr. Barnes is due to the workings of this man, who has now been removed to Madanapalli Range, where he is under a Range Officer with whom he will find he cannot take liberties.

No. 308. ORDER THEREON, 21st September 1872, No. 2,247.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 24.

His Excellency the Governor in Council having lately passed orders on the subject of the irregularities to which a desire on the part of Range Officers to expend the balances of their allotments in the last month of the year has given rise will only on this occasion express a hope that Mr. Fraser, in common with all other officers in the department, will see the necessity for a more careful compliance with the wishes of Government expressed on this subject.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.
,, Major R. B. Kennedy.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

than of current work.

Mr.

No. 1182

Superintending Engineer's Office.

3rd Division.

Bellary 28th August 1872

From,

The Superintending Engineer

3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Government

Public Works Department

Fort Saint George

Enclosures. 2

No. 335 dated.
2nd August 1872.

Sir,

With reference to G. O. No. 73 of 6th ultimo,
I have the honor to submit a letter, in original,
from the Executive Engineer Bellary Range,
giving full explanation of all the points adverted
to in the Controller's Report, on which the above
G. O. is made.

2. Accompanying this is a copy of a letter
some time ago addressed by the Executive Engi-
neer to me, with the view of accounting for appa-
rent delay in responding to calls made on him,
and showing that the time of his Office Establi-
ment was so occupied by extraneous work, as
with the matter of the Timber Deficiency case -
as seriously to impair its ability for the execu-
tion of current work.

W^m

4. With reference to the unsatisfactory state of the Accounts submitted by Mr. Barnes, the Officer of the Adony Talook, I have before me ample evidence that the Range Head Accountant was a deadly enemy of Mr. Barnes, and took every opportunity to harass and persecute him. He was in the habit of returning to him his Station Books & Accounts with pencil corrections, consisting not only in the re-submission of the Accounts thus returned, but also of fresh ones. I have no doubt that a great deal of the trouble & expense propped on Mr. Barnes is due to the workings of

I have the honor to be
Sir

James Little Major R.E.
Offg: Supt. Engineers &c. &c.

Billery 2^d August 1872
335 - Despatches 14th -

From,

The Officer in Charge
of Bellary Range

To,

The Superintending Engineer
3^d Division
Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your memo dated the 18th but received here on the 27th. At times for forwarding for my information the Controller's report on the Accounts of this Range and the Government Order thereon # 73 dated the 6th Ultimo.

2 I beg to make the following explanation which I trust will be considered satisfactory. I shall take the Controller's objections as they occur in his report.

No 6 Bellary 2^d Aug 1872

From, *Billery 2^d Aug 1872*
The Superintending Engineer
3^d Division.

To,

The *Secy to Government*

A. N. Department

Chattanooga

No. 1182

Dated 28th August 1872

Received *28th August 1872*

Approved copy to G.O. No. 73 of 6th Ultimo with accompanying original

Letter from Mr. H. H. H.

Secy. Engineer Bellary, & of Mr. Ramo Chakraborty.

Secy

No 2243-21st Bellary

I Cheques not always entered in consecutive order: Para 3:-

There is ^{only} one case of this where Cheque 259 was entered after No. 265: It arose thus:- Cheque 258 had been issued to Contractor Dyapury and so were 260 to 265: No. 259 had been issued to Contractor Subana: The H^d Ac. - countant in entering them completed the entries of those given to Dyapury and then entered the one to Subana -

II In accuracies in the classification of items of extra receipts &c.

III Accounts not being corrected according to the clearances.

IV The transaction not being always brought under appropriate heads &c.

As regards ^{nos II and IV} these ~~objections~~ the Head Accountant desires to say

that these were mistakes on his part which he will take care shall not occur again: As regards No. III the omission to make the corrections, ~~occasionally~~ occurred only in the Cash Abstracts, which he considered should not be changed as it was prepared from the Cash book. - These inaccuracies are almost altogether confined to the ~~Account for February~~ ^{March} and ^{April}. With regard to these and other matters affecting the Head Accountant he refers to the occupation of his own time and the crippled condition of the Range Office for a considerable period in consequence of the ~~investigation~~ of the timber deficiency. This, unfortunately, occurred at a time when he and the whole establishment should have been able to give their undivided attention to the business of the Office:- I am aware that he was constantly interrupted by give an explanation _{= lion}

tion of matters which had taken place years before; and he was deprived altogether of the aid of the Second Accountant.

At the Head Accountant's request I forward with this letter a copy of my letter to your address A-216 dated 27th June 1872, which will show how this Range Office Establishment was crippled at that period, and I have to request that you will be good enough to forward it with this letter.

V Non periodical signing of the Cash Book

There is one instance of this at the end of March: I had checked the items with the Treasury Pass Book and my Cheque Book up to the 28th of March inclusive, and had initialed them; but had omitted at the

5.

end of the month to write the words "Compared with the Treasury Pass Book". The Controller saw that I had checked them.

VI Alleged advance of \$1000

I really thought that the Controller understood that though this payment is called an advance and was so entered in the Accounts, because such is the system; it was not a real advance; that is, it was not a payment in advance for work not then done - but was simply a part payment on account for work which was actually done on the date on which the Cheques were issued.

The facts are as follows:

A Considerable part of the

Amount paid was due for
wrought timber which the Contractor
was having prepared, fitted &c.
at Madras; but which his
Agent there had delayed
sending on to Bellary as it was
Completed: This delay was
so far important that, if I
could not make a payment
on this timber I could not
expend the whole of the allot-
ment for the Current Year:

The Contractor showed me
his agent's letters to the effect
that a large quantity of
timber was ready and that
certain distinct orders had
been fully complied with:

I satisfied myself of the
correctness of these statements
by independent enquiry at

Madras:

At the time the Cheques
were issued three truck loads
had arrived at Bellary,
and I received the Railway
receipts for more than sufficient
to cover the Amount of the
Cheques about the 8th of
April:

I had a rough statement
of the value of the work done
at Bellary, and, as above
explained, I was satisfied
about the timber, and I had
thus no doubt whatever that
at the time the Cheques were
issued their Amount did not
cover the value of the work done
up to that date.

I trust that no blame
will fall on Colonel Kerby

in this matter: If there is any thing blamable I alone am responsible:-

In the early part of March I was uncertain whether the timber would be delivered within the month even at the Madras station, so that I might be satisfied by the Railway receipts, that the work was done before it was paid for:

So particular was I about making a payment in advance, that I intended running down to Madras for a day to see the Condition of the timber myself; and I then consulted Colonel Moberly and explained the Circumstances:

He said that even knowing the timber to be ready at Madras I would be justified

in paying; but that as the payments would be treated as Advances. I should (according to a rule which prevails in this Circle) send in a list before the end of the month and he would sanction it:

The preparation of the list was delayed until late in the month because of the uncertainty as to what the balances on the works really were. This arose from the timber deficiency Accounts which were so mixed up with those of works that it was difficult to separate them:

Colonel Moberly was then on Circuit and the list did not reach him until, I believe, the 8th of April when he declined

10
to Sanction the payments
because the list had not
reached him before the close
of the Official Year. Long
before his refusal reached me
however, all necessity for discuss-
ing the matter further had
ceased by the arrival of the
timber.

On this question of
Advances I have always
felt very strongly, and have
always opposed the system,
which, as you are aware, was,
practically, the rule of our
Department up to a compara-
tively short time ago. As
early as 1858 I addressed
the Chief Engineer several
times on the subject; and
I have reason to believe that

11
my Arguments and remonstrances
had something to do towards
putting down a most pernicious
habit. My own practice
has proved that there is
no necessity for making advances
for, during the 17 or 18 Years
I have been employed in
India, I never made a pay-
ment in Advance but once,
and that was under excep-
tional Circumstances.

I think it is not quite
fair to Officers who object to,
and never make, Advances,
to have their payments on
Account for work actually
done, Confounded with the real
Advances for work not even
Commenced.

VII With holding Cheques
To this I must plead guilty;

12.
but I believe it is the first
time I ever withheld a Cheque,
and I need hardly say that
I do not approve of the practice.

Except on this occasion I
have had no necessity to keep
a Cheque back, for I have
generally had the allotment
expended, and Bills made
out by the end of the Official
Year; and it would have been
the same last year only that
I lost over two months work
by a strike amongst the Con-
tractors soon after I came to

Bellary, for reasons explained
in my letter No. 367 dated 28 October 1911
and this led to the work being
hurried towards the end of
the year.

I retained the Cheques

3
until I could examine the
timber: I knew that the
quantity was sufficient but
I did not know how much
I might have to reject:

The Cheques would have
been given to the Contractor
within the first week of
April only that he went to
Madras, suddenly, about
the 14th or 15th and did not
make his appearance in the
Office until the 28th when the
Cheques were given to him

VIII
The Executive Engineer
Keeping a regular Note Book:

I do keep a "note" book
in which I enter copious Memoranda
of everything I see, and have
always done so: I cannot
imagine an Engineer without

a Note Book: I understand the Controller to refer to a "Measurement" Book, which I do not keep: Any measurements I make I enter in my Note Book; and, in this Range, I have not usually done more than take a few general measurements which are marked upon the Plan, and as the Controller states, the Overseer's measurements are thus checked: The mode is very simple and is the one usually adopted in the case of buildings:

It would not of course answer in Ordinary Ranges:

In measuring a building, when the measurement is not a final

one, it is not usual to go into all the details of the work; that is to measure the difference in height of the walls arising from the difference in numbers of courses. The number of courses is taken for an average height is taken for one or a number of walls, and the simplest way to check is to note the heights assumed and to check from the Plan.

In future very few measurements of any kind will be required here in the case of new works, as the Estimates are being prepared in sections, (See that for the Telegraph Office) as for example
I From the foundation to the level of the basement
II Basement to Cornice

16
As these sections are completed
in succession, they can be
paid for, if the dimensions
have been adhered to.

The present system of
measuring is most tedious here,
and if the Contractors were paid
twice a month as they should
be, would occupy the whole
of the Overseers time. If I
followed in the same track
I should have time for
nothing else. This you
will understand when I
tell you that the detailed
measurements for the last
lot of Bills sent in occupy
160 pages of foolscap.

TX - Bills not signed by the
Contractor although Cheques
had been delivered

17
This is the only instance in
which this has occurred: The
usual habit is this: I
hand the Cheque to the Contractor
who then goes into the Office
and signs the necessary papers.
In this case the Contractor
had received a telegram to
come at once to Madras, and
after he had got the Cheque he
had, it seems, only just time
to catch the train: In
future I shall reverse the
present order of things and
see that the receipts are
signed before issuing Cheques.

3 In Conclusion I trust
that the Government will
be satisfied with my explana-
-tions regarding advances,
and that the fact of one

departure from strict rule under
any one head in a whole year's
Accounts, is no evidence that
they are not carefully kept
on the whole.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant

William Halsey Esq.
Executive Engineer

1872-73.
From,
The Officer in ch:
Bellary Range.

To, The Superintending
Engineer & Co.

D of 14 August 1872.

cc 2/4
W. P. 11/22/72

Explanation on
the report made by
the funder to Govt.
regarding the keeping
of Accounts in Bellary
Range.

N^o 216.
Bellary
27th June 1872.
From The Executive Engineer
In charge of Bellary Range
Co. The Superintending Engineer
Sir. 3rd Division.

The revised Plans and Estimates
for the new Telegraph Office were for-
warded to you Yesterday.

With reference to your docket No.
520 dated the 21st instant, complaining
of the delay in sending in these Plans
and Estimates, I have the honor to
state that you have no idea of the
extreme difficulty I have in getting a
Plan or an Estimate completed.

It is the weak point in the esta-
-blishment of this Range, that, with
the exception of the Overseer, there is no
one competent to prepare an estimate;

and his time is so fully occupied in the superintendence of the numerous works in actual operation and in the preparation of Bills that I cannot expect him to attend to the estimates.

It seems strange that in a Range like this, where estimates and valuations of houses are being perpetually called for, there should be no estimator.

2 I am aware that the Drafterman is supposed to be the Estimator; but unfortunately, he knows very little about drawing, and still less of estimating:

I do not mean to throw any blame on him: No one could be more attentive to his work, nor more anxious to give satisfaction; but the work is far beyond his powers.

3 In the case of the telegraph Office, the delay has arisen, in some measure, from an alteration I have made in the mode of preparing estimates

here: Hitherto the items from the foundation to the Coving, have been thrown together without any regular order or sequence being observed; indeed the generally the excavation of the foundation trenches is the last item in the Estimate:— This confusion leads to great trouble in the preparation of the Contractors' Bills, and it prevents one from getting a clear idea of the probable cost of any portion of the work:— In this case (and in all future cases) I directed the estimate to be prepared in sections:— Thus, —
To the level of the basement:

Verandah walls to the cornice: Main walls to cornice &c. &c. and this change which should have simplified the preparation of the estimates delayed it; until at last I had to write out the details myself.

1. As bearing upon this and other delays, I beg to remind you of the extent to which the Office establishment has been crippled for several months past in consequence of the investigation of the accounts connected with the timber deficiency: I am sure that the following statement will surprise you.

I. Head accountant — was employed occasionally, that is every 2^d or 3^d day, on this investigation from the 22^d of March until the 29^d of May: and continuously from the 30^d of May to the 1st of June and also on the 11th and 12th.

II. Second Accountant: was employed continuously on this investigation and did nothing else, from the 5th of March until the 12th of June.

III. Draftsman: — Employed occasionally every 2^d or 3^d day in checking the measurements.

measurements of the timber from the 16th of February to the 13th of June.
IV. Overseer's Writer: Employed, continuously from the 5th of April to the 12th of June.

This occupation of so large a part of this establishment has greatly interfered with the regular despatch of the routine work of the Office; and it will take some weeks still to get matters square.

(Signed) W. Fraser J. E.
Executive Engineer

/ True Copy /
William Fraser J. E.
Executive Engineer S. P. W.

Public Works Deptt
 Proceedings of the Madras Govt
 Read the following

From the Deputy Engineer
 of the 3^d Division } H. C. 1182d/28 Aug/72

His Excellency the
 Governor in Council
 having lately passed
 orders on the subject of
 the irregularities to which
 a desire on the part of
 Range Officers to ex-
 pend the balances of
 their allotments in the
 last month of the
 year has given rise,
 will only on this occasion
 express a hope that
 Mr. Fraser in common
 with all other Officers in

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Mr. Fraser
 Deputy Engineer

in the Department
will see the necessity
for a more careful
compliance with the
wishes of Government
expressed on this subject;
there is little doubt
that with foresight
and care the delivery
of wood which took
place on the 8th April
might have been secured
during the last week in
March. The retention
of the cheque and failure
to take receipts from
the Contractor is a

Fraser fails to justify
The Superintending
Engineer has not fur-
nished the information
called for by Govt
with reference to paragraph
7 of the Controller's
Report. Major Vertue
will now be requested
to supply the omission

C.H.S.

G.M.W.

100
1

A.R. 30 Dec. ✓
All other S. Eng. ✓
Major Kennedy
Controller

Dec. 27/9/72

C/4221

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS. ✓

To
The Superintending Eng.
S. Division

Dated

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Recd.

Encl 2 ✓

G. O. 21st Sept. No. 2247.

Nos. 307 & 308

accounts. Referring to
the form the sub.
3rd & 4th offering ex-
amination with reference
to G.O. 73 dated 6 July
the joint report upon
the accounts of the
survey party
engs.