M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(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.		Press / Mis.
381, 382	2286	
Dated	26. 9. 1872.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 381. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Courtallum, 22nd August 1872, No. 2,380 :—

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of G. O., 5th August 1872, No. 1,839, and to express my unfeigned regret at the amount of censure with which my name is coupled therein.

2. It is necessary to premise by saying that the works devised in connection with the restoration of Tiroomala Naick's Palace at Madura originated with His Excellency Lord Napier of Merchistoun, and they were carried out by His Lordship's express desire by the Government Architect, independent of the Superintending Engineer of this division.

3. This course had been pursued for some time anterior to my taking charge of the division, and it was not becoming on my part, as I conceived, for me to cavil at the arrangement. As, however, considerable irregularities occurred in the submission of the accounts, I made a representation* to the Government on the subject, and they were pleased in reply to order, that so far as "the accounts" were concerned (I quote from memory) these were to be submitted monthly direct by the Overseer in charge of the works to the Range Officer.

* Letter No. 38-A, dated 3rd April 1871, printed with G. O., No. 1,151, dated 24th August 1871.

G. O., No. 1,021, dated 13th April 1871.

4. Nothing was said at that time, or has subsequently been communicated to me, to the effect that these works were under my control, and I have studiously avoided, therefore, giving any instructions in the matter except in such minor details, which, on account of Mr. Chisholm's expressed desire and my wish to assist him as much as possible, as also the great personal interest I feel in the undertaking, I considered to require immediate attention.

5. I may now add that it was not until the receipt of the G. O. under reply, that I have been informed that Lord Napier's "express instructions" were that the repairs of the Hall, HH of the lithographed plan, were to be "the first taken in hand." Be this as it may, I cannot myself see how I have disregarded "Mr. Chisholm's own opinion" in submitting, as I did, an estimate prepared in accordance with that gentleman's directions, and forwarded by me at his particular request, *vide* my letter printed with G. O., 15th June 1872, No. 1,487.

6. I am next censured for including the Overseer's salary in Mr. Chisholm's estimate of Rupees 7,250, "contrary to standing order of the department and other positive Government orders." The arrangement of including this Overseer's salary in the estimate has been in force ever since the commencement of the work; the arrangement was made in Madras, and I had nothing whatever to do with it. During Mr. Chisholm's absence on private leave, during which period he requested me to have an eye on the work, I submitted an application from Overseer G. Soobroyaloo Naidoo, soliciting that he might be brought on the permanent strength of the department. And in G. O., 26th June 1872, No. 1,701, it was

ordered that he should be brought on the strength of the establishment "on the occurrence of a vacancy either in the Madura or Tinnevelly District."

7. I then explained, see my letter printed with G. O., 9th August 1871, No. 2,050, that as G. Soobroyaloo Naidoo was specially qualified for the Palace work, it was not advisable that he should be removed therefrom, and I suggested that he should be declared as having been appointed Taluq Overseer, on the *seconded* list, from the 13th August 1870, the date on which Mr. Chisholm nominated him to the work.

8. This suggestion was not acceded to, and as Soobroyaloo Naidoo is drawing Rupees 100 per mensem in addition to horse allowance at Rupees 15 (the rate of pay promised him, as he assured me, before he left Madras,) he informed me that he was not desirous of relinquishing his present position for the duties of an Overseer on Rupees 60 per mensem. As I have already stated, his appointment was made in Madras, and if it was no longer approved it could have easily been cancelled. I am in no way responsible for it one way or the other.

9. In the G. O. under notice, I am ordered to bring the Naidoo on the permanent establishment of the 8th Division "from 1st May 1872," and in a subsequent G. O. (8th August 1872, No. 1,869,) that date is altered to the 1st April 1872, but I shall refer to this matter in a separate communication.

10. In regard to paragraph 4 of the G. O. under notice, I shall take immediate steps to place myself in communication with Mr. Chisholm in regard to the plans and estimates required.

11. As regards the Napier Gate, the amount promised by the Nattoocottay Chetties for the same has not yet been placed at my disposal by the Collector, nor has it, I believe, yet been paid up by those gentlemen.

No. 382. ORDER THEREON, 26th September 1872, No. 2,286.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 21.

THE Superintending Engineer's letter shows clearly that there has been a misconception on his part as to the intentions of Government, and the Governor in Council therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished with a copy of Lord Napier's Minute, he will now be furnished with a copy of Mr. Chisholm's letter recorded in the same Proceedings of Government.

2. The last paragraph of the Superintending Engineer's letter shows more clearly than ever how necessary it is that works designed by the Consulting Architect should be estimated for and carried out under precisely the same conditions as any other public buildings, namely under the supervision of the Superintending Engineer with the official cognizance and concurrence of the Collector and Heads of other departments concerned. Great confusion arose from disregard of the ordinary course of business in the construction of the Lawrence Asylum buildings

at Ootacamund; and it was with a view to obviate similar confusion with reference to the Palace at Madura that the G. O. under reference was issued.

3. Separate orders will be passed on the subject of Overseer Soobroyaloo Naidoo.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

From the Consulting Architect to Government, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 10th November 1871, No. 250.

I HAVE the honour to submit the following report on the progress of the works and restorations being carried out at the old Palace of Teroomala Naick at Madura. My last report on this subject was dated the 11th March 1871.

2. *Vault at the west end of the court-yard.*—The method employed to tie in this vault and the removal of the broken portions, mentioned in my last report, have been quite successful; there is no sign of movement of any kind, and the work is sounder and probably more lasting than when first erected.

The exterior façade has been entirely completed with the exception of the stone bases to the columns, work now in active progress. The whole of the exterior of the vault has been re-plastered. The interior has been fine plastered, and moulded according to original models, and surface coloured almost equal in extent to the old colouring. The latter, when viewed at a proper distance, presents that peculiar "bloom" so characteristic of oriental colouring, and to my eye is as pleasing as any other system of polychromatic decoration with which I am acquainted. There is a peculiarity about this system of colouring worth mentioning; only the *crude* colours are employed, such as red, blue, yellow, orange, green, and black, but they are invariably laid on so as to balance and neutralize the general effect: in a row of leaves, for instance, primary and secondary tints will be used alternately, such as red and green. The effect, when seen at a distance, being a tertiary, or the same effect will be produced by colouring the leaves in triplets of red, yellow, and blue, but I know of no case where the primaries are first mixed and then laid on as a tertiary tint. If a richer effect is desired a primary will alternate with a primary, such as red and blue, resulting in the effect of purple. This system of colouring probably arose from the few pigments employed: indigo, green, and the ochres, raw and burnt; but from it arose a very peculiar and important effect, an artificial aerial perspective. All the colours near the eye are of the brightest, but quickly fade as they recede, until they resolve themselves into a general neutral bloom, which an artist would call "texture." The importance of such a system to describe vastness of space will readily be seen.

A small quantity of internal plaster work and moulding yet remains to be completed in the interior.

3. *New Municipal Office.*—The new offices for the Municipality have been completed, and will be ready for use as soon as the doors and windows have been fastened.

They have now the following rooms:—

1. Entrance Hall.
2. Board Room.
3. Clerks do.
4. Store do.

The Municipality have expressed their satisfaction in having obtained these offices, and it is their intention, I believe, to apply to me for designs for suitable furniture.

4. *New Court to the south-west.*—This room has been enclosed by an additional wall partially replastered, and will, I trust, be shortly in a condition to allow the Judge to move in.

5. *General remarks.*—As His Excellency the Governor only recently inspected the Palace works it would be superfluous for me to make any general descriptive remarks; I would beg leave, however, to place it on record that, in my opinion, no more money should be spent on decorative works until the whole structure is rendered safe and durable.

6. Only lately, during heavy rain, a large piece of masonry, nearly a ton in weight, fell from one of the side arcades, and several other portions are in a most critical condition; although little damage is done to the building by such accidents, they are calculated to shake the confidence of the public, who are not in a position to judge of the adequacy of the preservative measures employed. For this portion of the work a reliable estimate might be framed by the Department Public Works on my specifications.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No 2380 Superintg Engineer's Office &c
Courtallum 22 August 1872

From

Lieut. Colonel H. A. Roberts R.E.
Superintg Engineer 8 Dn.

To

Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government Dpt of W.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of G.O. 5 August 1872 No 1839, and to express my unfeigned regret at the amount of censure with which my name is coupled therein.

2. It is necessary to premise by saying that the works devised in connection with the restoration of Tirumal Nayck's Palace at Madura originated with His Excellency Lord Napier of Merchistoun and they were carried out by His Lordship's express desire by the

Government Architect independent of the superintending Engineer of this Division.

3. This course had been pursued for some time anterior to my taking charge of the Division, and it was not becoming on my part, as I conceived, for me to cavil at the arrangement. As, however, considerable irregularities occurred in the submission of the accounts, I made a representation to the Government on the subject, and they were pleased in reply to order that so far as the accounts" was concerned (I quote from memory) these were to be submitted monthly direct by the Overseer in charge of the works to the Range Office.

4. Nothing was said at that time, or has subsequently been communicated to me, to the effect that these works were under my control, and I have studiously avoided therefore giving any instructions in the matter except in such minor details which, on account of Mr Ishistolins expressed desire and my wish to assist him as much as possible, as also the great personal interest I feel in the undertaking I considered to require immediate attention.

5. I may now add that it was not until the receipt of the G.O. under reply that I have been informed that Lord Napier's "express instructions" were that the repairs of the Hall ~~H~~ of the Lithographed Plan were to be the first taken in hand. So far as it may, I cannot myself see how I have disregarded Mr Ishistolins own opinion" in submitting, as I did, an estimate prepared in accordance

× Letter No 38 A dated 3rd April 1871, printed with G.O. No 1157 dated 24th Sept 1871.

G.O. No 1021 dated 13th April 1871.

with that gentleman's directions, and forwarded by me at his particular request. Vide my letter printed with G.O. 15 June 1872, No 487.

6. I am next censured for including the Overseers salary in Mr Chisholm's estimate of Rupees 7,250, "contrary to standing order of the Department and other positive Government orders." The arrangement of including this Overseers salary in the estimate has been in force ever since the commencement of the work; the arrangement was made in Madras, and I had nothing whatever to do with it. During Mr Chisholm's absence on private leave during which period he requested me to have an eye on the work, I submitted an application from Overseer G. Soobrayaloo Naidoo, soliciting that he might be brought on the permanent strength of the Department. And in G.O. 26 June 1872, No 1701 it was ordered that he should be brought on the strength of the Establishment "on the occurrence of a vacancy either in the Madura or Tinnevelly District."

7. I then explained, see my letter printed with G.O. 9 August 1871, No 2051, that as G. Soobrayaloo Naidoo was specially qualified for the Palace work, it was not advisable that he should be removed therefrom, and I suggested that he should be declared as having been appointed Salook Overseer on the Seconded List from the 13 August 1870, the date on which Mr Chisholm nominated him to the work.

8. This suggestion was not acceded to, and G. Soobrayaloo Naidoo is drawing Rupees 100 per mensem in

addition to Horse Allowance at Rupees 15
(the rate of pay promised him, as
he assured me, before he left Madras)
he informed me that he was not
desirous of relinquishing his present
position for the duties of an Overseer
on Rupees 60 per mensem. As I have
already stated his appointment was
made in Madras, and if it was no
longer approved, it could have easily
been cancelled. I am in no way
responsible for it one way or the other.

9. In the 4th Q.O. under notice
I am ordered to bring the Naidoo on
the permanent establishment of the
8th Division from 1st May 1872; and
in a subsequent Q.O (8 August 1872,
No 1869) that date is altered to the
1st April 1872, but I shall refer to
this matter in a separate communication.

10 In regard to para 4 of
the Q.O. under notice, I shall take
immediate steps to place myself in
communication with Mr Thisholm
in regard to the plans and estimates
required:

11. As regards the Napier Gate
the amount promised by the Nattocottah
Chetties for the same has not yet been
placed at my disposal by the
Collector, nor has it, I believe, yet
been paid up by those Gentlemen.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your Most Obt Servant
Rice J. Roberts Lieut Coll &c &c
Superintg Engineer 8th Div.

The Superintending Engineer's letter shows clearly that there has been a misconception on his part as to the intention of Government, and the Governor in Council therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished with

a copy of Lord Napier's
minute, he will now
be furnished with a
copy of Mr. Chisholm's
letter recorded in the
same proceedings of
Government.

2. The last para of
the Supt Engineer's
letter shows more
clearly than ever
how necessary it is
that works designed
by the Consulting
Architect should
be estimated for and
carried out under
precisely the same

conditions as any other
Public Buildings viz.
under the supervision
of the Supt Engineer
with the official cog-
-nizance and con-
-currence of the Col-
-lector and heads of
other Departments
concerned. Great
confusion arose from
disregard of the ordinary
course of business
in the construction
of the Lawrence Asylum
Buildings at Botacamand;
and it was with a view
to obviate similar
confusion with

reference to the Palace at Madura, that the G. O. under reference was issued.

Separate orders will be passed on the subject of Overseer Soobroyaloo Davidoo.

Fort St. George
Public works Dept.
No 2280.
19

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Read the following
From the Supdg. Engr. of the 8th Division
Ho. Ex. No 2380 d/ 22 August 19

I understand the Retd. letter to be really an effort to relieve himself from censure incurred in the last G.O. There has evidently been wanted mis conception in the C. E's mind as to his boundaries - I would say 1.st That the Supdg. Engr. does clearly state that there has been a misconception in his mind as to the intentions of Govt. and the first therefore relieves him of all blame in the matter. He has already been furnished

The Superintending Engineer will be furnished with a copy of the Chief Engineer's Memo: on which Government order dated 1839 of 5th August was based - In it he will find noted the paper containing Lord Napier's instructions and Mr Chisholm's

opinion referred to; the latter of which will now be printed for record and reference.

2. The last para of the Supt Engineer's letter shows more clearly than ever how necessary it is that work so designed by the Consulting Architect should be estimated for and carried out under precisely the same conditions as any other Public Buildings, viz, under the supervision of the Supt Engineer with the official cognizance and concurrence of the Collector and heads of other Departments concerned. Great confusion arose from disregard of the ordinary course of business in the construction of the Lawrence Asylum Buildings at Ootacamund; and it was with a view to obviate similar confusion with reference to the Palace

at Madura that the
G.O. under reference
was issued.

Separate orders
will be passed
on the subject of
Overseer Soobroya-
-loo Naidoo.

LMW

To
S.E. 8th Div. with printed
Copies of Mrs Christolini letter
Consl Architect

Desp. 3/10/22
25/11/22

Corr. 11th Sept.

C/R 4197

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engineer
8th Division

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O 26th Sept No. 2286.

Nos. 381 & 382

Veroomala Naiks Palace
at Madura. Passing
orders on letter from the
Supdg. S. the 8th Divn. Speaking
explanations with de-
ference to G O No 1397
of 72 regarding the co-
toration of Veroomala
Naik's Palace.

25/10/72

Cr. 11th Sept