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. 348A 348B 348C 348D	2470 A	Press ~~Mis.~~
Dated	19-10-	1842.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers:—

No. 348A. From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Cochin, 5th October 1872, No. 155.

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of the very unsatisfactory state of Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot's accounts while acting as Range Officer at Calicut I directed Captain Wood, R.E., the present Range Officer, to refuse to pay certain petty Contractors' and Supplier's bills of various small amounts of from 20 to 100 Rupees each, aggregating from 500 to 600 Rupees, until each petty contractor or supplier had pointed out the work done or materials supplied for which they claimed to be paid. Intimation to this effect appears to have been given to them by Captain Wood, but in preference to acting as directed, two or more of the persons concerned have filed suits in Court for the recovery of their claims against Captain Wood. As the instructions I had given appeared to me to be such that no Court could take exception to, I authorized Captain Wood not to defend the suits but simply to attend the Court and state that he was prepared to meet the claims on the claimant pointing work done or materials supplied equivalent in value to the claim. Captain Wood, however, now reports that he anticipates some twenty similar suits to be filed against him. As it would take up much of his time to the hindrance of his other duties to attend to these suits and plead his readiness to meet them as explained above, I request the permission of Government to employ a Government Vakeel to defend the cases in the manner pointed out. Mr. Arbuthnot's conduct forms the subject of another letter this day addressed to you.

No. 348B. From the same Officer, dated Camp at Cochin, 5th October 1872, No. 156.

I HAVE the honour to report that on Major Law's proceeding to Europe on furlough, as a temporary measure Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot was placed in charge of the Calicut Range. Captain Ross Thompson, whom Government, at my request, appointed to the Range, was daily expected to join, but subsequently Captain Wood was posted to it by Government, and thus Mr. Arbuthnot remained in charge from 12th April till July 1872 when relieved by Captain Wood.

2. On Captain Wood taking charge of the Calicut Range that Officer found the state of the accounts to be in a most unsatisfactory condition and difficult to adjust. Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot who has been suspended by me has been called upon for his explanation of the matter, but has as yet afforded none or can give none. Captain Wood reported some of the vouchers produced as very questionable, and in some cases the work charged for appeared in excess of what could be found. The Chief Magistrate of the district was consulted and expressed his opinion that the evidence obtainable was not such as would ensure Mr. Arbuthnot's conviction if a criminal charge were preferred against him, and therefore his case must be dealt with by me in due course.

3. The Controller of Public Works Accounts examined the accounts of the Calicut Range in March 1872 and reported well of them, but under the circumstances now brought to notice, as Captain Wood is naturally anxious to start

Vide—G. O., No. 101 of 11th March 1872.

fair, I think it is very desirable that the accounts should again be examined by the Controller or his Deputy, and beg respectfully to suggest that Government direct the Controller to do so, and submit his report on them.

4. The chief points to be noticed are the very questionable vouchers produced by Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot, the absence of nearly all measurements of work done or materials supplied, the measurement books kept by Mr. Arbuthnot being either blank or here and there containing unintelligible notes, and a few mere copies of exact quantities from estimates and record of one or two measurements made subsequent to his relief by Captain Wood.

No. 348c. Telegram from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, Madras, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 14th October 1872.

WILL despatch July's accounts this week and leave for Calicut next Monday. More by post.

No 348D. ORDER THEREON, 19th October 1872, No. 2,470A.

ACCOUNT, No. 26A.

THE Controller of Public Works Accounts has intimated by Telegraph his intention of starting from Madras on the 21st instant to inspect the Calicut Range accounts, and Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell and Captain Wood having been instructed to meet him there will report decidedly on the nature and degree of Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot's culpability. They will at the same time decide whether Contractors are to be paid their claims or referred to the Courts for satisfaction, according to the validity of the vouchers presented by them, and other circumstances regarding which the Government are not informed; and a Government Vakeel may be employed to defend such cases as shall be held defensible by the Controller, Superintending Engineer, and Range Officer.

2. It is noted that under ordinary circumstances Captain Ross Thompson might have been expected to take charge of the Calicut Range direct from Captain Law, or within a few days after he took preparatory leave, and while he was within reach for reference of any matter connected with the accounts; and that Captain Wood was appointed to the Range immediately it became evident that Captain Ross Thompson's return to duty was unavoidably delayed; but that Captain Vibart's state of health precluded Captain Wood's relief till Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot had been three months in charge. Mr. Arbuthnot, however, being an Overseer of eight years' standing might well be considered competent for such temporary charge.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ixl. T. O'Connor.

No. 156. Supg Engineer's Office 7th Div.
Camp Cochin 5th October 1872

From, The Superintending Engineer
7th Division

To, The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.
Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to report that in consequence of the very unsatisfactory state of Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot's accounts while acting as Range Officer at Calicut I directed Captain Wood R.E. the present Range Officer to refuse to pay certain petty Contractors and Suppliers Bills of various small amounts of from 20 to 100 Rs each aggregating from 5 to 600 Rs until each petty Contractor or Supplier had pointed out the work done or materials supplied for which they claimed to be paid and explanations to this effect appears to have been given to them by Captain Wood but in preference to acting as directed two or more of the persons concerned have filed suits in Court for the recovery of

of their claims against Capt: Wood
as the instructions I had given
appeared to me to be such that
no Court could take exception to.
I authorized Captain Wood not
to defend the suits but simply
to attend the Court, and state
that he was prepared to meet
the claims on the claimants
painting work done or materials
supplied equivalent in value
to the claim, Captain Wood
however, now reports that he
anticipates some twenty simi-
lar suits to be filed against
him, as it would take up much
of his time to the hinderance
of his other duties to attend to
these suits and plead his readi-
ness to meet them as explained
above. I request the permission
of Government to employ a
Government Vessel to defend
the cases in the manner pointed
out. Mr Arbuthnot's conduct
forms the subject of another
letter this day addressed to
you.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed[t] Servant

Lt Col. S.C. &c
Superintending Engineer

my request appointed to the
Range was daily expected to join
but subsequently Captain Wood
was posted to it by Government
and thus Mr Arbuthnot remain-
ed in charge from 12th April till
July 1872 when relieved by Capt Wood

2. On Captain Wood taking
charge of the Calicut Range that
Officer found the state of the
Accounts to be in a most unsa-
tisfactory condition and
difficult to adjust Mr Overseer
Arbuthnot who has been
suspended by me has been
called

No. 156

Surveying Engineer's Office 7th Div.
Camp Cochin 5th October
1872

From

The Superintending Engineer
7th Division

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Deptt
Madras.

Sir, I have the honor to report that on Major Lewis proceeding to Europe on furlough as a temporary measure Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot was placed in charge of the Calicut Range, Capt. Ross Thompson who Government at my request appointed to this Range was daily expected to join but subsequently Captain Wood was posted to it by Government and thus Mr. Arbuthnot remained in charge from 12th April till July 1872 when relieved by Capt. Wood

2. On Captain Wood taking charge of the Calicut Range that Officer found the state of the accounts to be in a most unsatisfactory condition and difficult to adjust Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot who has been suspended by me has been called

R. D. No. 1872 Received 18th Oct. 1872
Surveying Engineer's Office No. 5118.
7th Division

To

The Secretary to
Government
Public Works Department
Madras.

Dated 5th October 1872
Rec'd Oct 21st
Read 21st Oct 1872
No. 155

Reports their Calicut Range accounts in an unsatisfactory state and requests instructions regarding disposal of certain suits brought against Government Officers

Ans. 24th Oct

of his other duties to attend to these suits and plead his readiness to meet them as explained above. I request the permission of Government to employ a Government Vakil to defend the cases in the manner pointed out. Mr. Arbuthnot's conduct forms the subject of another letter this day addressed to you.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant

[signature]
Lt. Col. S.C.
Superintending Engineer
7th Division

called upon for his explanation
of the matter but has as yet
afforded none or can give none.
Captain Wood reported some
of the vouchers produced as
very questionable and in some
cases the work charged for ap-
peared in excess of what could
be found, the Chief Magistrate
of the District was consulted
and expressed his opinion
that the evidence obtainable
was not such as would ensure
Mr. Arbuthnot's conviction if
a criminal charge were prefer-
red against him and therefore
his case must be dealt with
by me upon these Copies

3. The Controller of Public Works
accounts examined the accounts
of the Cabinet Range in March
1872 and reported well of them
but under the circumstances
now brought to notice
Captain Wood immediately
exercises to start four straight
forts is very desirable that the
accounts should be requested
examined by the Controller
or his Deputy and he respect-
fully to suggest that Govt.
direct the Controller to do so
and submit his report on them

vide Lo No. 104
of 11th March
1872.

4. The chief points to be noticed
are the very questionable vouchers
produced by Mr. Overseer Arbuth-
not, the absence of nearly all
measurements of work done or
materials supplied, the measure-
ment books kept by Mr. Arbuth-
not being either blank or here
and there containing unintel-
ligible notes and a few mere
copies of exact quantities from
Estimates and record of one or
two measurements made
subsequent to this relief by
Captain Wood.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. Servant

W Harman Lt. Col. S.C.
Supg Engineer
4th Div.

INDIAN TELEGRAPH.

Local No.

(Station)

FROM (Station)

No.	Words.	Time tendered for transmission. (Madras time.) Day.	H.	M.
223	29	14	11	50

OFFICIAL INSTRUCTIONS.—

(Person)

From (Person)

(L. L.)

M., on the

SENT TO (L. L.)

AT H. M., on the

BY Telegraph Master.

MADRAS 14·10·12

)—Alipore Jail Press.

there will report

P. R. 1872 Mehtab
Superintendent
Telegraph Office
Meerut

Dated 21st October 1872.

To
Postmaster
Meerut

Please deliver the accompanying letter to Mr. Mehtab
Superintendent Telegraph Office
and obtain receipt.

Signature of Postmaster
Meerut 21st October 1872.

CR-2148-8/72

Rec'd
No. 5121.

No. Mte Barracas Sept. 13
Read Mte Barracas

From the Paymr Supp. of U.S.S. "Cactus"
To — — dated Mte Barracas Sept 13 1872
Subject, Mr. Cook's — Report

The Controller of
Public Works Accounts

has intimated by tele-
graph his intention
of starting from Barracas
on the 21st Instant
to inspect the Calicut

Range Accounts, and
Lieutenant Colonel
Farewell and Captain
Good knowing this -
-structed to meet him
there will report

P. W. 1872 Depart
No. 5121 Rec'd

Telegram.

From.
The Controller of
P.W. Accounts.

Dated 14th October 72.
Rec'd 21st " "

Intimating
that the accounts
for July will be
despatched this
week and report-
-ing his intended
departure for
Calicut on
Monday
No. 2477 Oct. 19 Oct 72

1872 C
Rec'd 21 Oct/72

decidedly on the nature and degree of Mr. Overear Arbuthnot's culpability. They will at the same time decide whether Contractors are to be paid their claims or referred to the Courts for satisfaction; according to the validity of the Vouchers presented by them, and other circumstances regarding which the Government are not informed. And a Govt. Vakeel may be employed to defend such cases as shall be held defencible by

the Controller, Supt. Engineer, and Range officer. 15

It is noted that under ordinary circumstances Captain Ross Thompson might have been expected to take charge of the Calicut Range direct from Captain Law; or within a few days after he took preparatory leave, and while he was within reach for reference of any matter connected with the accounts and that Capt. Wood was appointed to the

Range immediately &c.
became evident that
Capt. Coen thompson
returned to duty some
considerably delayed.
but that Capt. Grant
state of health precluded
Capt. Broadbridge
till Mr Queveen
Mr Steinthal had been
3 months on change.
Mr Steinthal returned.
- ever being an average
of 8 years standing
might well be con-
- sidered competent
for each temporary
change.
Willis.

Capt. Coen
Mr Steinthal
Mr Queveen
Capt. Broadbridge
Capt. Grant
Mr Steinthal

Nos. 5718, 5719 & 5721

Govt. of [1872] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr. Presidency Division

Dated

Recd. Encl.

No. 1935 dated 24 October 1870 &

Nos. 3458 & 3459 dto

Calicut Range Accounts.

Passing orders on papers relating to the irregularities of Mr. Overseer Krishnan's accounts while acting as Range Officer at Calicut.