M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

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(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 24-28	2578	Press / Mis.
Dated	2- 11-	1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 2nd November 1872.

No. 27. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Trunapally, 4th October 1872, No. 2,883:—

In reply to your No. 11, dated 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that till 31st July I was limited to making estimates for impracticable designs prepared by the Telegraph Superintendent.

2. My plan was sanctioned on 30th August, and the iron-work was immediately put in hand at the workshops, and will be probably completed by the end of the week.

3. The Telegraph Superintendent applied for information as to our progress; but, instead of waiting for a reply, has complained to Government. I trust the Government will be pleased to take some notice of his proceedings. He has caused much unnecessary delay in preparing plans impossible of execution instead of leaving to this department the duty of carrying out his requisitions. My proposal for carrying the wire across the Pennar in Nellore was so ungraciously received that I refrained from any action in the case of the Palar.

4. Nor is this the first time the present Telegraph Superintendent has complained without cause. He asked for information regarding the supports and dip of the wire across the Kistna; he was aware that it over-hung the anicut, but asserted that the officers of the Department Public Works afforded no aid, because we did not send the information during the wet season, when it was utterly impossible to get near the wire.

5. In the present case, so far from being in any way to blame, I undertook the execution of the work before allotment was made contrary to the orders of the Government of India, the proceeding being, as you will see by the enclosed copy of a letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, even now irregular.

No. 28. Order thereon, 2nd November 1872, No. 2,578.

TELEGRAPH, No. 1.

In his letter No. 322 of 6th May, the Superintendent of Telegraphs at Madras requested the Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division to have prepared by the Chingleput Range Officer an estimate for sinking and building a well to a depth of 16 to 18 feet in the bed of the Palar river, for planting a telegraph mast in the well, and for filling it in with concrete.

2. With letter No. 949 of 30th May, the Superintending Engineer forwarded plan and estimate for sinking wells, expressing great doubt as to the possibility of executing the work at all, and his assurance that it would cost much more than the estimate allowed.

3. In his letter No. 542 of 31st May, the Superintendent of Telegraphs called for a revised estimate of work for which he gives particular details; but requests the Superintending Engineer to propose any other method of carrying out the

object in view, bearing in mind the necessity for completion of the work before the commencement of the north-east monsoon. And he requested early reply—

First reminder, No. 701 of 20th June.
Second ,, ,, ,, 777 of 1st July.

Receiving no answer, the Superintendent of Telegraphs sent to Government, with letter No. 849 of 8th July, copies of the above correspondence, and requested permission to put up a line of telegraph permanently or temporarily on the piers of the Palar bridge.

4. In his No. 940 of 16th July he reported having received revised plan and estimate for mast and well in the river-bed, and that the use of the Palar bridge piers was required only for a temporary line.

5. In the meantime the Chief Engineer had ascertained from the Superintending Engineer that there was no objection to the Palar piers being used as permanent supports for the telegraph line under certain conditions, and wrote to the Superintendent of Telegraphs in memorandum No. 215 of 20th July, advising their being so utilized.

6. On the 30th September the Superintendent of Telegraphs telegraphed to Government that nothing had yet been done, and that telegraphic communication with Southern India was likely to be interrupted by the monsoon, although funds for erection of telegraph posts on the Palar bridge piers were placed at the disposal of the Superintending Engineer on the 3rd September.

7. Before exonerating Colonel Moberly from blame in this matter, the Governor in Council requests him to explain why he did not take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the Superintendent, in his letter dated 31st May, to suggest some other mode of carrying the telegraph wire across the river than that of erecting a mast of which he disapproved, and why even the revised plan for a mast was not forwarded until the middle of July. Colonel Moberly will also state when his plans for carrying the wire over the bridge were sent to the Superintendent, when they were sanctioned by him, when funds were placed at his disposal, when the work was commenced, and when it was finished, as by this time it doubtless has been. Colonel Moberly will observe that the very simple operation of carrying the wire over the river was occupied from the beginning of May to at least the beginning of October, and will be careful fully to explain the various causes of delay.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

No. 952

Office of the Controller of Public Works Accounts

From

The Controller of Public Works Accounts.

To

The Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division

Fort Saint George Madras 30 Septr 1872.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No 2660, dated 23rd September 1872, and to observe that, in the absence of the information now afforded in the 1st para of the above this Office was not aware that the work in question was comprized in your 4th Division -

2 The work is apparently one, for which provision has been made in the Budget of the Telegraph Department, and if it was considered necessary to have it executed by the Public Works Department, the requisite funds should have been placed to the credit of that Department, viz by a transfer from

from the Land to the Public Works Budget, a measure for which however the sanction of the Government of India should be previously obtained -

3 The transaction cannot therefore be shewn in the Public Works Accounts as a debit against the Public Works Budget Grants; As however the work has been executed on emergency, and should be paid for, there appears no alternative, but that the money should be received from the Telegraph Department, in the manner proposed, and passed through the accounts of the Rajs concerned, simply as a credit to "Deposits" and per contra by a Debit to the same head for the expenditure incurred on the work.

I have &c
(signed) L. Brock
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

(True copy)
F.J. Moberly Colonel RE.
Superintendent

Camp Jeminapolly
Supt Eng Office 4th Div
4 October 1872.

No 2883

From

Colonel F. J. Moberly R.E.
Superintending Engineer 4th Div

To

Colonel G.H. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir

In reply to your No 11 dated 2nd instant I have the honor to report that till 31st July I was limited to making Estimates for impracticable designs prepared by the Telegraph Superintendent.

Any plan was sanctioned on 3rd August and the iron work was immediately put in hand at the work Shops, and will be probably Completed by the end of the week.

The Telegraph Superintendent applied for information as to our progress, but instead of waiting for a reply, has Complained to Government. I trust the Government will be pleased to take some notice of his proceedings. He has caused much unnecessary delay in preparing plans impossible of execution, instead of leaving to this Department the duty of carrying out his requisitions - My proposal for carrying the wire across the Pennar in Nellore was so ungraciously

Received

Enc 1.
× A-Copy

received that I refrained from any action in the Case of the Palar.

Nor is this the first time the present Telegraph Superintendent has Complained without Cause. He asked for information regarding the supports and dips of the wire across the Kistna. he was aware that it was hung the Anicut: but asserted that the Officers of the D. P. W. afforded no aids because we did not send the information during the wet season when it was utterly impossible to get near the wire.

In the present Case, so far from being in any way to blame, I undertook the execution of the work before allotment was made Contrary to the orders of the Government of India. The proceedings being as you will see by the enclosed Copy of a letter from Controller P. W. Accounts ~~was~~ now irregular.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
J. Lesbey Capt R.E.
Superintending Engr 4th Div.

P. W. 1872 Despatch.
From Supt Gen Telegraphs
No. 4856
The Supg Engineer
4th Division

To The Secretary
to Government P.W.D.
dated 4/12
Rec'd 7 Dec 1872
Encl. 1 No. 2883

Reporting on the Telegraph Posts on the Piers of the Bridge at Chingleput.

No. 2578-2 Nov 72.

No 27

Entd 6 Regd 7 Dec 1872

Rec'd 25th Rd. Telegraph 3

Rec'd 26th Mem. Kandas Govt. 6

" Read the following:

From the Supt Engrs { No 2883 of 24 Augt 72

Vide Jr No letter No 322 of 6th May the Superintendent of Telegraphs etc Madras requested the Superintending Engineer 4th Sr Wks to have prepared by the Chingleput Range Officer an estimate for sinking and building a well to a depth of 16 to 18 feet in the bed of the Palar River, for planting a telegraph Mast in the Well, and for filling it in with concrete.

With letter No 949 of 30th May the Superintt forwarded Plan and

and estimate for sinking
Wells; expressing great
doubt as to the possibility
of executing the work
at all, and his assurance
that it would cost much
more than the Estimates
allowed

On his letter No 542
of 31st May the Superin-
tendent of Telegraphs
called for a revised Estimate
of work for which he
gives particular details;
but requests the Superg
Engineer to propose any
other method of carrying
out the object in view,
bearing in mind the
necessity for completion
of

of the work before the
commencement of the
North East monsoon.
which he requested early
reply

1st Reminder No 701 of
20th June

2nd do - No 777 1st July

Receiving no answer the
Superintendent of Telegraphs
sent to Government,
with letter No 849 of 8th
July, copies of the above
correspondence, and re-
quested permission
to put up a line of
Telegraph permanently
or temporarily on the
Piers of the Palar Bridge.

On his No 940 of
16th July he reported
having received Revised

Plan and Estimate
for Mast and Well
in the River bed, and
that the rec. of the Palar
Bridge Piers was required
only for a temporary
line. In the meantime
the Chief Engineer had
ascertained from the
Superintending Engineer
that there was no objection
to the Palar Piers being
used as permanent supports for the Telegraph
line under certain conditions, and wrote to
the Superintendent of
Telegraphs in Memo: No
215 of 29th July ad:
vising their being so
utilized
On the 30th Septr
the Superintendent of

Telegraphs telegraphed
that nothing had yet
been done, and that
telegraphic communica
tion with Southern India
was likely to be in
terrupted by the mon
soon, although funds
for erection of Telegraph
Posts on the Palar Bridg
Piers were placed at the
disposal of the Super:
intending Engineer on
the 31st September
The above correspond:
ence does not bear
out the statement in
the first para of the
Superintending Engineers
letter No. 2883 of 4th
October, wherein he
has requested that
Government will take
some

some notes of these proceedings. So far back as the 31st May he was requested with case of his disapproving of the erection of a Wharf in a Well to mention some practicable way of effecting a safe crossing, bearing in mind that the roof is to be completed before the beginning of the North East monsoon. The present crossing being only temporary and incapable of resisting an ordinary flood". Instead of which a revised Plan and Estimate

letter of 31 May suggest them the best mode of carrying the Tel: line across the River than that of erecting a Wharf which he disapproved: by reason that it would be liable to be carried away by the violence of the current in the rainy season. He stated in his letter that he would be glad to receive the opinion of the Executive Engineer as to the best mode of crossing the River for the Telegraph line, and that he would be prepared to carry out any plan which might be approved by the Executive Engineer.

for a Wharf and Well
Executive Engineer by
which finds with
Wharf at this
River - it is the
best mode of crossing
when it can be built
in the dry season
Nevertheless he does
not think the
danger of carrying
the line on the
Wharf is so great
from the keeping of
boats at least
the keeping of both
and will be complied
with by the Executive
Engineer

supplied by him in
the middle of July
although from his letter
of the 24th July it
appears that he dis-
approved of the execution
of such a work. The
sanctioning powers of a
Superintendent of Telegraphs
although to in the last
paragraph of the Superintend
ing Engineer's letter of 24th
July does not differ from those
of other local heads of
Civil Departments in
no respect relatively to
the Superintending duties, which are in
each case to assume
all responsibility as
to the adaptation of
the means estimated for

to the purposes in view

The Governor in Council is distinctly of opinion that Colonel Moberly's action in this matter has been very unsatisfactory and renders him responsible for any possible interruption of communication with Southward India which may be caused by destruction of the temporary line laid in the Palar River bed. And he requests to receive from the Resident in his letter of the 4th October to Government controversies that occurred in the 2nd Div that such action has been caused by feelings of personal ill will which

should not for a moment have been allowed to influence him in carrying on Government work.

Col. Moberly has been confirmed in the 1st Div which comprises the Presidency Town, and is a post above all requiring to be filled by an Officer of tact, temper, and sound discretion; the entire want of which qualities evidenced in the present case will lead to arrangements being made for severing his connection with Madras when Distt Engrs are introduced in the place of Supt Engrs.

The

The Superintendent of Telegraphs will in future invariably make arrangements for transferring to credit of the Public Works Deptt and such sums as are sanctioned in the Telegraph Budget as he is desirous of having expended by Public Works Agency

35

To The Superintending Engineer

Cp. 4856

Govt. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engineer
" Executive

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 2nd November 1872, No. 2578.

Nos. 27 & 28

Telegraph. Paperwork

Letter from the Supt. of Telegraphs to the Secretary in the complaint made by the Supt. of Telegraphs, Madras, as to the delay in the erection of telegraph posts on the Palar Bridge Piers.