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.
368, 389	2759	
Dated	23.11	1872.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 388. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Coimbatore, 30th October 1872, No. 175 :—

With reference to G. O., dated 17th October 1872, I have the honour to report that a Committee composed of Captain Wood, the Controller of Public Works Accounts, and myself assembled at Calicut on the 24th instant to investigate the charges brought against Mr. Overseer R. Arbuthnot, late in charge of the Calicut Range and Taluq, and beg to enclose our proceedings, together with the Controller's Notes on the examination of the Range Accounts, and an original letter No. 238, dated 23rd October, from Mr. Arbuthnot, to the address of Captain Wood for the orders of Government.

1 Proceedings.
1 Note by the Controller.
1 Letter from Mr. Arbuthnot, dated 23rd October 1872, No. 238.
1 Do. do. dated 7th September 1872.
1 Do. do. ,, 29th ,, ,, No. 234.
1 Do. do. ,, 12th October ,, ,, 235.
1 Do. do. ,, 24th ,, ,,

2. With reference to Captain Woods P.P.S. on the proceedings enclosed, I beg to note that Mr. Arbuthnot having already declared on oath the accuracy of some of the claims brought forward, and being prepared similarly to substantiate the others, there was, in my opinion, no alternative but to accept the bills in question.

3. Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot has been eight years in the Public Works Department, and, on the first occasion, he accidentally falls into the charge of a range; he has, from first to last, disregarded every Government order that has ever been issued in reference to the mode of conducting his executive and account duties; of his four letters of defence herewith forwarded, three of them are simply attempts to justify a line of conduct, which, if permitted to exist, would destroy all check and all departmental control, and he has proved himself to be not only a useless but most dangerous and untrustworthy member of the department he has disgraced.

4. As the papers regarding his conduct are now laid before Government, pending the receipt of orders passed on them, I have deferred dismissing Mr. Arbuthnot from the public service.

Proceedings of a Committee assembled on the 24th instant at Calicut, in compliance with G. O., dated 19th October 1872, to inquire into the charges preferred against Mr. Overseer R. Arbuthnot, late in charge of the Calicut Taluq.

Present.

Colonel W. F. Farewell, Superintending Engineer.
Captain H. W. Wood, R.E., Executive Engineer.
Mr. S. Brock, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

In the order above quoted the Committee are instructed (1) to report on the nature and degree of the Overseer's culpability, and (2) to decide whether Contractors are to be paid their claims, as per bills presented, or be referred to the Law Courts for satisfaction.

2. As regards the first of these points, the Committee observe that Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot fell into the charge of the Calicut Range, on Major Law's departure on furlough, on the 12th April last, and, under accidental circumstances, held it until the end of July, in addition to his own (the Calicut Taluq).

3. Before Major Law left Calicut, or on the 28th March last, the Committee note that that Officer issued the following memorandum to his Overseers :—

"(1.) A copy of the new form of measuring book is herewith forwarded.

"(2.) All measurements of work done and materials received must appear in it from the 1st April 1872.

"(3.) When filled the book must be placed on record, and new books applied for."

4. Notwithstanding these very clear and positive orders, Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot does not appear save, in one case, to have taken a single measurement of work done in his own taluq, or in the range generally. The exception referred to is the Lunatic Asylum at Calicut, in which case two sets of measurements of Local Fund Maistry Rarechend were checked on the 19th April and 10th May 1872. It is thus absolutely impossible to say, with any degree of certainty, whether Government have, in the case of any work which has been under execution in the Calicut Range from 1st April to 31st July last, received a fair return for public money expended upon it. In one instance, the Tambracherry road, the actual expenditure on repairs and improvements from 1st April to 30th September, as recorded in the Public Works Accounts, is Rupees 6,708-4-6. The only measurements forthcoming to account for this large outlay are those taken by Local Fund Maistry Rarechend from time to time under the instructions of Mr. Arbuthnot on portions of the road, and these represent an expenditure of Rupees 1,867-9-3. The Committee do not profess to say that the Government have been defrauded of the difference, namely, Rupees 4,840-11-3; but they adduce this particular case to show what little check has been exercised by Mr. Arbuthnot, and how a presumption of fraud has arisen. For the satisfaction of Government, the Committee consider it right to add, with reference to this road, that, in the opinion of the Superintending Engineer who lately inspected it, its general condition has doubtless been greatly improved since he last saw it (two years ago), although its state is still very indifferent, and not only shows that work charged for has been most slovenly done, but evinces also great want of careful supervision and neglect of orders.

5. The Committee have had before them eight vouchers,* bearing Mr. Arbuthnot's signature, connected with the accounts for August 1872. The Controller has produced these vouchers for consideration in connection with Captain Wood's remarks recorded on them, which, in nearly every case, are as follow:—

* For Rupees 290-9-0.

"The voucher cannot be checked owing to the irregular mode of carrying on works found to be obtaining" in the Calicut Taluq.

6. Captain Wood states that he cannot furnish the certificate prescribed by Government, as the Overseer is not in a position to supply measurements, and no information is forthcoming as to where the materials charged for were employed. Seeing that all these vouchers bear the signature of the Overseer who is a public servant, and was in independent charge of the range from April to July 1872, and bearing in mind the fact that it is now impossible for the Executive Engineer to verify the quantities by personal inspection and measurement, the Committee have come to the conclusion that there is no alternative but to admit these vouchers, and to pass the expenditure unconditionally.

7. Turning now to the claims which have yet to be settled in connection with Mr. Arbuthnot's late charge (the Calicut Taluq), the Committee proceeded to examine the following vouchers:—

							Rs.	A.	P.
1.	For road from Beypore to Baliapatam						24	0	0
2.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	24	1	0
3.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	28	0	0
4.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	5	12	0
5.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	30	12	0
6.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	61	7	4
7.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	...	14	5	0
8.	For road from Calicut to the Mysore frontier, via the Tambracherry ghaut...			...	...	...	16	0	0
9.	Do.	do.	...	...	...	...	129	2	8
10.	Do.	do.	do.		do.	...	7	8	0
11.	Do. from Ulleri to Tambracherry			...	...	...	22	14	0

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd November 1872.

						Rs.	A.	P.
12.	For repairing Revenue buildings at Calicut			...	...	38	12	0
13.	Do. West Hill Barracks			...	...	53	8	0
14.	For road from Calicut to the Mysore frontier			...	...	23	0	3
15.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	6	15	6
16.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	7	15	2
17.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	19	3	0
18.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	12	3	0
19.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	22	0	0
20.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	4	11	0
21.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	53	7	0
22.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	9	0	0
23.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	0	14	0
24.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	40	0	0
25.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	20	10	0
26.	Do.	do.	do.	...	...	10	8	0
				Total...		686	8	11

8. Of the above, those numbered 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 23, and 24 are now before the Law Courts, and it is expected that, unless the other claims are disposed of at once, suits in connection with them also will be instituted.

9. The Committee agree as to their being nothing that can be admitted as *bonâ fide* measurements of actual work done in the case of any of these vouchers; but in the face of their being signed by Mr. Arbuthnot as a Government Officer, who was for four months of the current official year in independent charge of the range, and having in view the declaration *on oath* made by him in some instances of the accuracy of the claims put forward, the Committee have had no alternative but to pass the bills for payment. Nevertheless the Executive Engineer's presumption is that the vouchers are incorrect, and that the Overseer has adduced nothing to show that that presumption is groundless. It is, however, impossible at this distance of time to put forward such measurements of actual work done as will disprove to the satisfaction of a Law Court that the documents signed by Mr. Arbuthnot as correct are fabrications, and it is this alone that has induced the Committee to admit the claims, and to authorize the Executive Engineer to pay into Court the money claimed on Nos. 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 23, and 24.

10. Enough, the Committee think, has been said above to show how remiss the Overseer has been in his duties as a public servant. Added to what has been stated, it has been proved to the Committee's satisfaction, and indeed Mr. Arbuthnot admits the circumstance that he has been in the habit of making advances of *private* money to petty contractors and suppliers, recovering such advances, by regular or irregular means, on the presentation and passing of bills in the authorized forms. That Mr. Arbuthnot has been guilty of actual peculation remains, in the Committee's opinion, to be proved; but the only inference that can be drawn from the Overseer's conduct is that he is morally guilty, inasmuch as, through his carelessness and inefficiency, some person or persons have defrauded Government to some unknown extent. There is, at least, nothing to show that they have not. The Overseer has neglected almost every rule and order communicated to him; has lost the confidence of his superior officers; has proved himself to be utterly untrustworthy *as an Overseer*, and not fitted for any position in the Executive Branch of the department.

11. The Committee feel that they ought not to close this report without bringing to the notice of Government the absolute necessity which exists for a Public Works Code. The most glaring irregularities are committed, and culpable ignorance is displayed of important orders, and when explanation is demanded, the absence of a code is almost invariably brought forward by defaulters in justification. The Committee are aware that orders can be traced on nearly every matter of importance that will serve as a guide to members of the Public Works Department, but these are scattered over several years of records and in several books, and are seldom, if ever,

available for ready reference. In this respect, the officers and subordinates of the Public Works Department labour under a very great disadvantage, and the Committee trust that the representation now respectfully made will receive the favourable consideration of Government.

(Signed) W. FAREWELL, Lieut.-Colonel, S.C.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

(Signed) H. WOOD, Captain, R.E.,
Executive Engineer.

(Signed) S. BROCK,
Controller of Public Works Accounts.

P.S.—The Committee beg to enclose the following papers:—

(1.) Note by the Controller of the general results of his examination of the Calicut Range Accounts.

(2.) Letter from Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot stating that there are no claims in connection with public works within his late charge which have not been considered and disposed of by the Committee.

P.P.S.—I must add that I agree in the necessity of the bills incurred by Mr. Arbuthnot being paid, *vide paragraphs* 6, and 9; only because I am told that acts of an Acting Range Officer and apparently of any public servant are binding on Government. I confess personally I should like to be advised authoritatively on this point.

(Signed) H. WOOD, Captain, R.E.

Note of an Examination made of the Accounts of the Calicut Range of the Malabar District.

THE cash book of the range is very neatly written up, and copies of the cash accounts of the two* Overseers have been rendered up to the 15th instant. The Executive Engineer's cash balance on the 24th idem was Rupees 62, and this agreed with the amount appearing against that date in his cash account.

*Mr. Bond and Iyanarcootty.

2. The Range Officer keeps *two* cheque books, one for the Calicut and the other for the Ernad Taluq. *One* is sufficient for all purposes; and the Executive Engineer, agreeing in my opinion that two cheque books are confusing and needless, will follow the practice of other ranges and maintain one only as soon as the cheques in one or other of the present taluq books have been used up.

3. One very serious irregularity which I noticed in this range is the absence of original measurements taken, checked, or certified to, by the late Acting Range Officer. This has formed the subject of a separate report signed by myself and the officers marginally noted, and no special remark here seems necessary.

Colonel W. Farewell.
Captain H. Wood.

4. Another irregularity which attracted my attention was the system of making advances which is followed by Mr. Overseer Bond, late of the Cannanore Range, and now attached to Calicut. A reference to paragraph 22 of my report No. 1,634 of the 5th August 1868, and paragraph 7 of the Order thereon (No. 2,724, dated 25th idem) will show that the practice has been distinctly prohibited. Notwithstanding the positive orders of Government, I observe that between the 1st and 15th October 1872 Mr. Bond's receipts in cash amounted to Rupees 582-2-3, of which Rupees 300 were disbursed in the way of *advances* to petty contractors, and the only actual outlay recorded as such is a sum of 8 Annas paid for the carriage of tools. The Executive Engineer, noticing these advances, at once called upon the Talook Overseer for

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd November 1872.

explanation. Mr. Bond's reply would lead to the assumption that the disbursements in question were not really *advances*, but *payments on account* of work done. Seeing that Mr. Bond's charge is restricted to the Tambracherry road, there seems no good reason why such work was not measured up and paid for in full, and this view of the matter is concurred in by the Executive Engineer, who will take measures for effectually preventing a recurrence of the irregularity. When advances are made under the Range Officer's or Superintending Engineer's orders, they should appear, with the recoveries, in the accounts rendered to this office, which will thus have the means of checking the transactions, and of ensuring their authorization by competent authority as well as their prompt adjustment. One of the advances made by Mr. Bond amounted to Rupees 70, which it was not even in the power of the Range Officer to sanction, the Superintending Engineer's authority being requisite under the rules. The Ernad Taluq Overseer (Iyanarcootty) makes no advances, or at least no trace of any is discoverable in his accounts.

5. In connection with credits, I noticed that, in one case, the Executive Engineer, finding himself in need of funds in the Ernad Taluq, drew a cheque on the Calicut Treasury in favour of the Deputy Collector, who thereupon appears to have transferred the amount to Ernad. This procedure is irregular, and I explained to Captain Wood that transfers of credits from one treasury to another within the same district should be made by the Superintending Engineer, in communication with the Treasury Officer. This will be attended to in future.

6. I examined the Range Pass Book, and found the entries in it correctly recorded. Extra receipts, as a rule, are promptly paid into treasury, and no balance remained to be remitted on the date of my examination.

(Signed) S. BROCK,
Controller of Public Works Accounts.

October 1872.

No. 389 ORDER THEREON, 23rd November 1872, No. 2,759.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 26.

HIS Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to find it clearly established from the report of three most competent authorities that Mr. R. Arbuthnot, an Overseer of upwards of eight years' standing, has proved to be wholly unqualified to undertake the responsibility of a range charge, even for a few months. His complete failure even to attempt the check of work by the necessary measurement would even, if it had been accompanied by no other proof of inefficiency, have been sufficient to show his entire unfitness for that position. Bearing in mind that no complaints have come before Government having reference solely to his management of a taluq, His Excellency in Council resolves to give him a further trial as an Overseer; but directs his reduction to the lowest grade from date of his suspension, and that he be granted suspense allowance only until his resumption of work; his management of which and of his accounts will be specially reported on every six months, commencing with the 1st May.

2. The attention of the Malabar Range Officers will be called to the Controller's remarks on the practice of making advances; and the Superintending Engineer will inquire from them as to the extent to which it prevails in the Malabar District, and adopt measures to repress it accordingly.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Publ. of {1872} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

7TH DIVISION.

&c, &c, &c.

Dated November 23rd.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 23rd November 1872, No. 2,759.

NOVEMBER

Nos. 383 389

Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot.—Passing
ders on papers relating to certain
arges preferred against Mr. Overseer
buthnot, Malabar District.

No 2175 Supt: Engineer's Office, 7th Div.
Coimbatore 30th October 1872.

Upon,

The Superintending Engineer
7th Division

To,

The Secretary to Government
P.W.D. Madras

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No— dated 17th October 1872, I have the honor to report that a Committee composed of Captain Wood, the Controller of Public Works Accounts & myself assembled at Calicut on the 21st instant to investigate the charges brought against Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot, late in charge of the Calicut Range and Valooth, and beg to enclose our Proceedings, together with the Controller's Notes on the examination of the Range Accounts, an day original letter No 238 dated 23rd October, from Mr. Arbuthnot, to the Address of Captain Wood for the orders of Government.

2. With reference to Captain Wood's P.P.S. on the Proceedings enclosed, I beg to note that Mr. Arbuthnot having already declared on oath the accuracy of some of the claims brought forward and having prepared similarly to substantiate the others, there was, in my opinion, no alternative but to accept the bills in question.

3. Mr. Overseer Arbuthnot has been

Enclosures.

Proceedings
Note by the Con-
troller
Letter from Mr. Ar-
buthnot, 23rd Oct
1872. No 238
Do Do 27th Sept
1872. No—
Do Do 29th Sept
1872, No 231—
Do Do 12th Oct
1872, No 235—
Do Do 24th Oct
1872—

right of parol in the Public Works Department -
and on the first occasion he accidentally falls
into the charge of a Range he has from time to
time disregarded every Government order that
has ever been issued in reference to the mode
of conducting his Executive and Account duties;
of his four letters of defence herewith forwarded,
three of them are plainly all simple to justify
a line of conduct, which if permitted to exist,
would destroy all check and all Departmental
Control - and he has proved himself to be not
only a useless, but a most dangerous and
pernicious Member of the Department he
has disgraced -

11. On the papers regarding his conduct
are now laid before Government, pending
the receipt of orders passed on them, I have
deferred drawing Mr. Arbuthnot from
the Public Service -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obd. Servant
Wm. Mc. Hall
Ships Engineer &c.

Proceedings of a Committee assembled on the 24th Instant at Calicut, in compliance with G.C. No. — dated 19th October 1852, to enquire into the Charges preferred against Mr. Overseer R. Abraham, late in Charge of the Calicut Talaq.—

Present

Colonel W. F. Farewell — Superintending Engineer.
Captain M. W. Ward R.E. — Executive Engineer
Mr. S. Brock — Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Enclosure 1

1. In the Order above quoted, the Committee are instructed (1) to report on the nature and degree of the Overseer's culpability, and (2) to decide whether Contractors are to be paid their claims as per Bills presented, or be referred to the

Law Courts for satisfaction.—

2. As regards the first of these points, the Committee observe that Mr Overseer Ashrithnot fell into the charge of the Calicut Range, on Major Law's departure on furlough, on the 12th April last, and, under accidental circumstances, held it until the end of July, in addition to his (the Calicut) Taluq.—

3 Before Major Law left Calicut, or on the 25th March last, the Committee note that that officer issued the following Memo: to his Overseers.

"1. "A copy of the new form of measuring books is herewith forwarded."

2. "All measurements of work done and materials received must appear in it from the 1st April 1872."

3. "When filled, the book must be placed on record, and new books applied for."

4. Notwithstanding these very clear and positive orders, Mr Overseer

Ashrithnot does not appear, save in one case, to have taken a single measurement of work done in his own Taluq, or in the Range generally. The exception referred to is the Lunatic Asylum at Calicut in which case, two sets of measurements of Local Fund Masonry Karchend were checked on the 19th April and 10th May 1872.— It is thus absolutely impossible to say, with any degree of certainty, whether Government there, in the case of any work which has been under execution in the Calicut Range from 1st April to 31st July last, received a fair return for public money expended upon it. In one instance, the Tarrabracherry road, the actual expenditure on repairs and improvements from 1st April to 30th September as recorded in the Public Works Accounts is Rupees 6,708-4-6. The only measurements forthcoming to account for this

large outlay are those taken by Road Fund Majesty Marchand time to time under the instructions of Mr. Arbuthnot, on part of the road, and those represent an expenditure of Rupees 1864-4-3. The committee do not propose to say that the Government have been defrauded of the difference, viz: Rs. 4840-11-3, but they address this particular case to show what little check has been exercised by Mr. Arbuthnot, and how a presumption of fraud has arisen. For the satisfaction of Government, the committee consider it right to add, with reference to this road, that in the opinion of the Superintending Engineer, who lately inspected it, its general condition has doubtless been greatly improved since he last saw it (2 years ago), although its state is still very indifferent, and not only that the work charged for has been most cleverly done, but evinces also great want

want of careful supervision and neglect of orders.-

5. The Committee have had before them eight vouchers, bearing Mr. Arbuthnot's signature, connected with the Accounts for August 1872. The Controller has furnished these vouchers for consideration in connection with Captain Wood's remarks recorded on them, which, in nearly every case, are as follows:-

"The voucher cannot be checked owing to the irregular mode of carrying on works found to be obtaining in the District Jalna."

6. Captain Wood states that he cannot furnish the certificate prescribed by Government, as the Overseer is not in a position to supply measurements, and no information is forthcoming as to where the materials charged for were employed. Seeing that all these vouchers bear the signature of the

Overseer, who is a public servant, and was in independent charge of the Range from April to July 1872, and bearing in mind the fact that it is now impossible for the Executive Engineer to verify the quantities by personal inspection and measurement, the Committee have come to the conclusion that there is no alternative but to admit these vouchers, and to pass the expenditure unconditionally.

7. Turning now to the claims which have yet to be settled in connection with the Arbuthnot's late charge (the Calicut Talook), the Committee proceeded to examine the following vouchers.

1.	For Road from Beypore to Baliapatam			22	A.P.	
2.	do:	do:	do:	24	—	—
3	do:	do:	do:	24	1	—
4	do:	do:	do:	25	—	—
5.	do:	do:	do:	5	12	—
6.	do:	do:	do:	30	12	—
7.	do:	do:	do:	61	7	4.
8.	do:	do:	do:	11	5	—
9.	For Road from Baliapatam to Calicut			16.	—	—
10	do:	do:	do:	129.	2	8
11.	do:	do:	do:	7	8	—
12	For Repairing Revenue Buildings at Calicut			22	14	—
13	For repairing West Hill Barracks			38	12	—
14.	For Road from Calicut to the Mysore Frontier			53	8	—
15	do:	do:	do:	23	—	3
16	do:	do:	do:	6	15	6
17	do:	do:	do:	7	15	2
18	do:	do:	do:	19	3	—
19	do:	do:	do:	12	3	—
20.	do:	do:	do:	22	—	—
21	do:	do:	do:	4	11	—
22	do:	do:	do:	53	7	—
23	do:	do:	do:	9	—	—
24	do:	do:	do:	—	14	—
25	do:	do:	do:	40.	—	—
26	do:	do:	do:	20.	10	—
				10.	8	—
			Total	686	8	11

8. Of the above, those numbered 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 23 & 24 are now before the Law Courts, and it is expected that, unless the other claims are disposed of at once, suits in connection with them also will be instituted.

9. The Committee agree as to their being nothing that can be admitted as hard & fast measurements of actual work done in the case of any of these vouchers; but in the fact of their being signed by Mr. Arbuthnot as a Government officer, who was for four months of the current official year in independent charge of the Range, and having in view the declaration on oath made by him in some instances of the accuracy of the claims put forward, the Committee have had no alternative but to pass the bills for payment. Nevertheless, the

Executive Engineer's presumption is, that the vouchers are incorrect, and that the overseer has adduced nothing to show that that presumption is groundless. This, however, is impossible at this distance of time, to put forward such measurements of actual work done as will disprove to the satisfaction of a Law Court that the documents signed by Mr. Arbuthnot as correct are fabrications, and it is this alone that has induced the Committee to admit the claims, and to authorise the Executive Engineer to pay into Court the money claimed on Nos. 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 23, 24

10. Enough, the Committee think, has been said above to show how remiss the overseer has been in his duties as a public servant. Added to what has been stated, it has been proved to the Committee's satisfaction, and indeed Mr. Arbuthnot admits the circumstance

that he has been in the habit of making advances of private money to petty Contractors and Suppliers, receiving such advances, by regular or irregular means, and the presentation and passing of Bills in the authorized forms. That Mr Arbuthnot has been guilty of actual peculation remains, in the Committee's opinion, to be proved; but the only inference that can be drawn from the Overseer's conduct is that he is morally guilty, inasmuch as, through his carelessness and inefficiency some person or persons have defrauded Government to some unknown extent. There is, at least, nothing to shew that they have not. The Overseer has neglected almost every rule and order communicated to him, has lost the confidence of his Superior officers, has proved himself to be utterly untrustworthy as an Overseer, and not fitted for any position in the Executive

Branch of the Department.

11. The Committee feel that they ought not to close this report without bringing to the notice of Government the absolute necessity which exists for a Public Works Code. The most glaring irregularities are committed, and culpable ignorance is displayed of important orders, and when explanation is demanded, the absence of a Code is almost invariably brought forward by defaulters in justification. The Committee are aware that orders can be traced on nearly every matter of importance that will serve as a guide to Members of the Public Works Department, but these are scattered over several years of records, and in several books, and are seldom, if ever, available for ready reference. In this respect the Officers & Subordinates of the Public Works Department labor

under a very great disadvantage, and the Committee trust that the representation now respectfully made will receive the favorable consideration of Government.—

W. Yeamen Lt Colonel R.E.
Superintending Engineer Chief Division

B. Wood
Captain R.E.
Electric Engineer.

J. Rhodes
Controller of P.V. Accounts.

P.S.

The Committee beg to enclose the following papers.

(1) Note by the Controller of the general results of this examination of the Calcutta Range accounts.

(2) Letter from Mr. Engineer Admiral stating that there are no claims in

connection with Public works within his late charge which have not been considered and disposed of by the Committee.—

P.P.S.

I must add that I agree in the necessity of the bills, incurred by Mr Admiral being paid & passed; not because I am told that, acts of an acting Range Officer, and appointed by any Public Servant are binding on Government. I confess personally, I should like to be advised definitively on this point.

B. Wood Capt. R.E.

In a letter from the Superintendent of the Secretary to Government Public Works, dated 30th Dec 1872

P.W. 5373/72.

Proceedings of a Committee assembled at Calicut to enquire into certain charges brought against Mr. Overseer R. Arbuthnot.

Note of an examination made of the Accounts of the Calicut Range of the Malabar District.

1. The Cash book of the Range is very neatly written up and copies of the Cash Accounts of the two Overseers have been rendered up to the 15th Instant. The Executive Engineer's Cash balance on the 24th Idem was Rupees 62, and this agreed with the amount appearing against that date in his Cash Account.

Mr. Bond Iyanarcooty

2. The Range Officer keeps two Cheque Books, one for the Calicut and the other for the Ernaud Talug-

One

One is sufficient for all purposes, and the Executive Engineer a strong opinion that two Cheque Books are confusing and needless, will follow the practice of the Rangers and maintain one only as soon as the cheques in either of the present Talug Books have been used up. The very serious irregularity which I noticed in this Range is the absence of original measurements taken, checked or certified to by the late

Acting Ranger Officer. This has formed the subject of a separate report signed by myself, and the Officers marginally noted, and no special remarks there seem necessary.

Colonel Farewell
Captain Wood.

4. Another irregularity which attracted my attention was the system of making advances which is followed by Mr Overseer Bond, late of the Canganore Range and now attached to Calicut. A reference to para 22 of my report No 1634 of the 5th August 1868, and para 7 of the Order thereon (No 2724, dated 25th Idem) will show that

that the practice has been
distinctly prohibited. Not-
withstanding the positive
orders of Government I observe
that between the 1st and 15th
October 1872 Mr Bonds recei-
pts for cash amounted
to Rupees 582-2-3, of which
Rupees 308 were disbursed in
the way of advances to
petty Contractors, and the
only actual outlay recorded
as such, is a sum of eight
Annas paid for the Carriage
of Tools. The Executive
Engineer, noticing these
advances, at once called
upon the Taluq Overseer

for explanation. Mr Bonds
reply would lead to the
assumption that the dis-
bursements in question were
not really advances but
payments on account of work
done. Seeing that Mr Bonds
charge is restricted to the
Tambrachery road, there
seems no good reason why
such work was not mea-
sured up and paid for in
full, and this view of the
matter is concurred in by
the Executive Engineer, who
will take measures for
effectually preventing a
recurrence of the irregularity.

When

When works are undertaken under the Ranger, Officer or Superintending Engineer's orders, they should appear, with the vouchers, in the accounts rendered to the office, which will thus have the means of checking the transactions, and of ensuring their authorization by competent authority, as well as their prompt adjustment. One of the advances made by the Bond amounted to Rupees 70, which it was not even in the power of the Ranger Officer to sanction, the Superintending Engineer's authority being requisite under

under the Rules. The Cranod Talug Overseer, I am sorry to say, makes no advances, or at least no trace of any is discoverable in his Accounts.

5. In connection with Credits, I noticed that, in one case, the Executive Engineer, finding himself in need of funds in the Cranod Talug, drew a cheque on the Calicut Treasury in favor of the Deputy Collector, who thereupon appears to have transfered the amount to Cranod. This procedure is irregular, and I explained to Captain Wood that transfers of Credits from one Treasury to

to another within the same
District should be made
by the Superintending Engineer,
in communication with the
Treasury Officer. This will
be attended to in future.

3 I examined the Range
Pass Book, and found the
entries in it correctly recorded.
Extra receipts, as a rule, are
promptly paid into Treasury
and no balance remained to
be remitted on the date of
my examination.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works accounts
Fort St George. October 1872

J. Woodall
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

To.
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort St George.

A

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To.
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort St George.

A

In a letter from the Supt Engineer of 6th Dec 1872 to the Secretary to Govt dated 30th Oct 1872 No 575

P. W. 5373/72.

Work by the Comptroller
of an Examination of
the Calicut Roads
Accounts

From 23d Nov/72 to B.N. 388.

No

Calicut 7th September 1872.

37

To

Captain R. W. Wood. R.E.
Executive Engineer

Rec'd 11th Sept. 1872

Sir

With reference to your Endorsement No. 250 dated 2nd September 1872. On memo from the Superintending Engineer dated 31st august, I beg to state that I have ever since I arrived in Malabar, found it absolutely necessary to make advances either private or public to carry on work, to prove myself in a state of efficiency.

2. I did all I could here to get on with works, without these advances as I have done in other talugs under my charge but the System in vogue prior to my taking over charge (for I suppose One generation at least,) could not under an Ordinary Overseer like me, be transmuted; and if, as it will be found on investigation, that those who make advances alone, get on with works in Malabar whether it be Public money Entrusted to them and Subsequently written off on the vouchers, from the recipient as part payment for work done, or private money disbursed in the same way for which a private receipt is obtained and destroyed, after full measurements have been taken. I do not think that I am to blame. The complaints that have been made against me in this particular are what I have heard of no where in the other talugs, and the only Conclusion I can come to is, I beg respectfully to submit, in Malabar alone, prevalent and a great many more not dreamt of [illegible] may be forth coming.

This I merely Guess from the fact that a bounty or act of kindness to assist any of these Malayalees

of whatever caste he may be, whether such act is performed with future feelings of generosity, or is purely Ostentatious; the Recipient of it does not see in the act, the great, and generous Soul who tenders it, no Matter whether he be, too Self Confident, and issue Public Money or Private, for the poor Man's assistance, and hence he thinks there is a blemish in the identical Soul and turns, after the ways of his fathers, to peck him to death. But Succinctly "he would Sell his own Jeneral for his pence"

3. Col. Farewell when Executive Engineer on the Neilgherries authorised such advances, to Enable, good but poor labourers to get on with work, out of Public Funds — They signed Vouchers and received their money (as part payment when it had been determined, either from a Maistry or overseer's Statement, that materials were collected by the Recipients, or that work had been done to the Extent to warrant the advance

4. From what I have previously stated it will be seen again, that I have adduced another instance, abiding by which I could not have gone astray and I have told Major Law repeatedly, that work here could not be carried on Simultaneously, rapidly and efficiently (Considering the time which Estimates are put in hand to be Executed, the monsoons, the people and every thing of Malabar generally) unless some advances are made, and he has been so kind as to allow me sometimes the means of making such advances, when positively I could not, out of his private funds

5. To have noted the particulars of works. I had not measured, but simply inspected, and asserted to my Superior Officer, as sufficient to warrant me making an advance would have been a Mendacious act. Besides this it was the Constant practice

to attach no measurements to vouchers. The Executive officer simply checked final measurements and passed them off correct, and I made payments after seeing that the vouchers were drawn up correctly by the writer, or other individual deputed by me for the purpose, according to circumstances i.e. while on inspection and distant from Head Quarters or the contrary.

6 A Maistry on 8 annas a day, looking after only two coolies at work, tho appearing preposterous and showing a waste of Government Money, is in Malabar sometimes Necessary but when Carts, bullocks, Cartmen, Cooking Stones, refuse fodder and Excrements are left on the Centre of a great Imperial Road and Maistries on Imperial and Local Funds have to look after it and cant Simultaneously manage their business. I beg respectfully to state, that in my opinion it may be performed by a Head Constable — Sort of a Maistry on Rs. 1-8 Annas a day, with no cooly to look after, but walking or riding to and fro and looking to this business Entirely. The Maistry on 8 annas a day reverted to in the Superintending Engineer Memo No. 250 Para 2, was employed on Jeneral duty to look after coolies, instruct them how to do their work and put up any case of Carts &c. aforesaid which may occur as directed in Mr. Macgregors Memo regarding which I have already written, before some Magistrate who would investigate the Case. The man failed in his duties and I have summarily dismissed him — and he has since told me, that he could not get coolies without advances I have under Col. Farewell, employed in 69 and 70 Maistries on 45 Rs a Month who rode on miserable beasts but managed their work to the Ex. Engrs Satisfaction. Each was

charged to the Road on which he was employed.

7. The cart employed was at 1 Rupee a day. The work done by it is reported by the Maistry in charge as having brought so many trips of gravel, and the average weight being 700 lbs to each load during wet weather, and about 850 in the dry season the quantity would be approximately 11 Cubic feet to a load allowing 54. or 60 lb to a cubic foot. The No. of trips then depending on the distance, a cart would do 8. trips for two miles of going and returning making 16. miles a day Vera. and hence if gravel which has been once excavated. is carted, about 88. cubic feet or more than 3. cubic yards are carted per day. This is a differencial quantity, entirely dependant upon distance, the increment determines the proportion whether or not the proper quantity has been delivered.

8. The Roads as complained of being in a lamentable state and in disrepair are, I am tolerably certain, in better order than they were previous to my taking over charge of them, this fact is easily obtainable from other sources if Cartmen's Statements will not Suffice.

9. When a new Officer takes over charge of a Range avowedly in not a state of optimism. I beg to state it may be possible such an Engineer (having come from other districts where every thing has been already kept in order, and there are not 6 months of constant rain) will in the course of investigation determine, that money has been misused in going over the Roads of this Range. But by this I do not really mean that such an argument would be based upon false premises or Syllogistic reasoning as regards Engineering in Malabar for I have found those works which had been executed by my predecessors (whom

I consider thoroughly able to execute any thing an under Strapper or Ordinary Overseer can execute) in carrying out the works ordered by his Range officer, did no more than I could have executed concentrating all my energy. To adduce one or 2. instances, I beg to mention the fall of the Koodatye Bridge two miles from Tamberchery Eastwards built scarcely 4. years ago on an Estimate of course of several thousands and the platform of which on the Tamberchery side was pulled down by me last year to save material. 2nd The Bridge over Charoopoya (when it has been intended that the centre pier of laterite should be left as a "add-new-cloth-to-an-old-garment-to-make-it-wore," Sort of Specimen) has been built by other overseers under Ex Engineers or Sub Engineers properly authorized by Government to see rightly to their Stability Vera. 10.

Under the conflicting conditions of having to perform Range and taluq office work, of measurements of works executed and inspected by me over long distances, of preparing Estimates Specifications and Plans for works, which in the Public interests were in my opinion necessary of attending to payments to contractors, and of answering all correspondence and signing all accounts, it could not be expected that under the salary I draw I could do all this having now by entirely obeying my orders (unless given in black or white. to preclude the possibility of mendacity afterwards) and get a Malayalim Moonshee on 15 Rs. a Month (besides supporting myself and family not to mention the calls for travelling purposes) all I could do under such circumstances was to learn the colloquial Malayalim to enable me. to carry on my work single in the course of complicated duties,

such as these. I may be Excused for Neglect of some important duties, such as filleing implicit confidence in Ramiree Coney or Cussed as cooty or others. and I beg you will do all you can to recommend me to the favorable consideration of the Superintending Engineer

11. In disobeying your verbal orders of the 24th august I beg to State I am in fault, so far as my memory is concerned, it was Nothing wilfully done and in truth. I have disobeyed No orders from my Superior officer wether written or verbal provided that pressure of circumstances, did not hinder me Executing those Orders, as early as it was intended by the officer oder me.

12. I beg now to recapitulate briefly the whole of my defence, which I hope you will Submit to the Superintending Engineer, with a recommendation, that what I have done, has been owing to my pure ignorance of the regime of Malabar Contracts and Maistries, of their mendacity &c, and that it would be a pity to remove me from this Salary just at a time, when I had acquired the least knowledge of it, and am thoroughly Conversant with rates of labor and material. I understand that if you will kindly help me out of trouble, I shall in future abide my own Counsel, and adopt a regular System of Contracts, Competent Maistries &c. At present my Constitution has been shattered by Constant work, worried as I have been with people making false Complaints &c, and I beg you will also recommend me, for two months privilege leave from the date of my last handing over charge of my Cutcherry Cabient. I have had no such leave since I entered the Department in 1861 except Casual leave for ten days, as Stated in my application to the Superintending Engineer, for the same indulgence

13. Briefly then, I beg to State, that
1° I could not avoid advances, Such having been in vogue previously, and authorized in Malabar and elsewhere
2° That only regular Contracts were measured
3° That a Maistry on Sannas a day, has been kept not only to look after the Coolies but Carry up cases of Cart-men using the centre of the road as camping ground
4° That the lamentable State of the road as Complained of, is ten times better, than it has ever been in previous years.
5° That the Cart was employed on one rupee a day, and brought the gravel to where required, making so many trips, the number of which varied according to distance.
6° That your verbal orders were disobeyed from fault of memory.
7° That I have hitherto obeyed all orders from my Superiors, except hindered by much work
14. Parichen has got a measurement book which I have checked and will be produced * if required
15. I have already Submitted one for Net book of measurements taken by me, I beg to State that the accuracy of the one now Submitted, as regards the Quantities may be determined after inspection personally of the different works by yourself.

I have the honor to be
Sir.
Your most Obed. Hble
Servt
John Laban Beasley
Asst. D. P. Wks

P. S. I have called upon Ramen maistry Parichen

P. S. (contd)
to produce his measurements
of regular work she has
owing to other engagements
I suppose not done so yet.

To Captain Rowe R.E.
Executive Engineer
Dinapore

Sir, Captain Rowe R.E.
Executive Engineer & Dist. Officer
Dinapore Cantonments

Sir,

Captain Rowe R.E.
Executive Engineer
Dinapore

Sir

With reference to your memo
No. 186 of 20th September/72
and my communication of the
29th in reply thereto, I
submit the accompanying
abstract of my defence as
therein contained, and trust
you will forward it to the
Right Superintendent for consideration
along with the defence already
submitted by me. The painful
position in which I am now
placed, and the serious conse-
quences that may ensue from
a misapprehension of the meaning
intended to be conveyed by me
in my former defence will, I trust
plead my excuse for this supple-
mental explanation, which I
deem advisable to transmit to you
herewith.

I On the charge of delaying in
sending in vouchers, I adhere
to the defence already submitted
by me in para 2 of my letter of
the 29th Septr and which is struck

No. 235

Calcutta
12th Oct. 72

sufficiently explanatory of my meaning

II. As to the Tamberchemy Road

On this head of the charge three points are to be considered.

(a.) Is the Road in a worse condition than it has ever been before?

(b) If so, is it through any negligence or default that it has degenerated?

(c) Has there been any waste or misappropriation of public funds?

(a) As the question of the former condition of the Tamberchemy Road, I would respectfully appeal to the Superintending Engineer's experience of its state during his inspections in former years viz 1868 & 69

In the course of the year 1869 and under the supervision of Mr Dawson Hyde Rs. 12970 were expended on it. Notwithstanding this enormous outlay I can confidently assert that at the time of my taking charge of this Taluq in April 1870, it was the worst Imperial Road I ever came across.

The whole allotment for repairs in 1870 amounted to Rs 2970 that is 10000 Rupees less than the previous year. In 1871, a sum of Rs. 7970 was provided to maintain and improve the road, and as the Supt. Engr. can testify, the account however moderate I was forced to recommended to the Local Fund Board that it was absolutely necessary, in order to make a decent road at all, the annual allotment must be increased on it to 220 Rs on a mile. the allotment for both Improvements & Repairs amounted this year to Rs. 8140. Apart from other considerations this fact alone, will account for the fact that was required when a Board has decided on a large outlay being necessary & obtained the Sanction of Government for it.

(b) A right determination of the second question involves a consideration of many important points which I have alluded to in parts of my previous letter and which I now collect & condense.

1. The enormous rainfall during 6 months of the year.
2. The unauspicious nature of the country through which this Road runs.

the soil off the greater part of it being somewhat of a retentive loamy nature, soft & slushy instead of sandy & gravelly & not easily absorbing moisture & consequently peculiarly susceptible to the influence of the monsoons.

3. The unhealthy hands, material being scarce, and the fact that gravel or road material to make the surface of the road hard, cannot be obtained under great difficulties & at heavy cost.

4. That owing to the duties devolving on me after Major Law left, I was compelled to entrust the Road & Bridges, who had had no previous experience of this Road & the unusual difficulties attendant on its maintainance, but that I did attend to its improvements. I witness that at Padawellum Bridge.

(C). If the cash books for 1868-69 & 70 are examined it will be found that I have greatly reduced the rates for material Broken stone had, hitherto, to my taking charge, been paid for at 1.8.0 per Cub. Yard while I have reduced it in some

instances to Rs. 1.4.0 and in others to 0.13.6.

The inspection of this Road in September or subsequently when the utmost violence or heaviest bursts of the monsoon are over, and the contradictory statements of coolies & cooly maistries are, they respectfully to state, no fair criteria as to the amount & expended or quantum of work executed when the road had been put at first in fair order or to this condition before it had been put in order.

The heavy rain, has impaired it and a wide margin must be allowed for this fact, (if it has to be decided even by a trial superintendent of the whole allotment available, during the next monsoon) merely as the grounds that the monsoons have been on the average heavier than those of previous years.

III. As to the Provincial school with reference to this building, I have the same charges to answer - Laxity in framing Estimate and high charges, and as to both this and the Jail, I submit it would have been more in keeping with official routine & etiquette had my superior Officer, called

upon any other than a ministry
under me, but more completely
from experience of Malabar
buildings. Other repairs require
his opinion as to the actual
quantity of work done, instead
of subjecting me to the indignity
of having my work measured
by my subordinate, who knows
nothing about it & who is under
no obligation to render a faithful
account even if he did.

I have already in my former letter
drawn attention to work done &
not provided for in the Estimate
such as tarring, scraping &
painting a room for the
Head Master. It would be
but fair that the H.M. should
be called upon to state whether
or no I have actually done all
the work I have particularized.
In the case of tiling especially,
which is the main cause of com-
plaint against me, I would
lay stress upon the fact that
allowance has not been made
for old tiles being turned, or
new ones being externally used
& undersigned tiles from old.

by reason of the action of the
weather & termites, and the 57
rapid luxurious growth of
Malabar.

IIII. Touch the same observations
apply to the Jail, and the
Prisoners Sheds, with reference
to which, I have recorded my
explanation in my previous
letter.

V. I would in conclusion, humbly
draw attention to the following
facts which I maintain to be
may be taken into consideration
in deciding on the merits of
my case. I have been called
upon, at the most trying time
of the year for Public works
in Malabar, to take charge
of a large & important charge,
in addition to my own duties
as Salt Overseer, duties diffi-
cient in themselves to tax
the energies of any one man
for long months, I have, as
humble overseer, been en-
trusted with responsibilities
attaching to an Executive Offi-
cial receiving for the
additional duties so each
upon me, one single Rupee by

by way of remuneration.
Cheerfully & hopefully as any subordinate Officer in my position would bear such a burden, in order to shine & get on in the Department, as it was the case with me, I find the result of all my labor cruelly staring me in the face is Degradation, Suspension & possibly Dismissal by reason of the charges which have been preferred against me. Prepared as I am, to plead guilty to many acts of omission, with the extra duties imposed upon me render excusable I feel that I have during the past eight years of my service in this Department served Government conscientiously & to the best of my ability. Excepting in the present instance, I have never found a Navy Officer under whom I served had breathed a word of suspicion against my honesty; and assuming that my present difficulties, are not the result of suspicion alone, I should long ere this, have been placed before a criminal court.

I confidently apply for support to those who are in authority above me, and appeal to the Superintending Engineer to mete out to me that same justice which often in my position would desire, & have done them, and in their hands I leave my case and future entirely dependent upon me for the bare necessaries of life.

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient
Robt Armstrong
Asst. E. U.S.N.

Calcutta
24. 10. 72

2 Rec. & Enc.
7 Nov.

Sir

I have received your letter of the 12th instant, with its enclosures, and have laid the same before the Lieutenant Governor.

I am directed to inform you that the Lieutenant Governor has no objection to the Bengal Government granting the petitioner Ramkanai Sen, a Bengal Pensioner, permission to reside at Chandernagore, as requested by him.

I am, Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed) H. Beverley
Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

To
The Chief Magistrate of Chandernagore.

Fort William, the 14 Oct. 1872.

Endorsement.

From the Chief Magistrate of Chandernagore to the Secretary to Govt. of Bengal, No. 235, dated 12th Oct. 1872.

Forwarding a petition from Ramkanai Sen, a Bengal Pensioner, praying permission to reside at Chandernagore.

P. R. 5373/72.

Recd. 23rd Nov. 1872 in B. No. 388.

Therewith to redeem
the Past by a future
careful, diligent &
conscientious discharge
of my duties.

Least myself &
my dishonored family
in your commiseration
with the hope that I
may not be divided
with the sacred measure
of this misfortune from the
Service.

I am Sir
Your most Obed. Sert
Robt Smith Wood

Calicut. 23rd Oct. 72

No. 238.

To

Capt.n H.M. Wood R.E.
Executive Engineer

Sir

I beg to state that the twenty five vouchers, submitted by me on 25th for payment together with the Cardozai pay from 17th July to 7th August and amounting in all to Rs. 686. 8. 11. are the only claims made by people whom I have not paid.

Beyond these there are no demands to be met for work done, material supplied or Superintendence employed, in connection with my charge in the Malabar District.

I beg to remain
Your most obedt Servt
Dod Scrutton
Asst. D.P.W.

23/Oct.
[illegible]

Executive Engineer
The Superintending Engineer
Southern Circle
Dindigul

Dod Scrutton's letter
dated 24th Oct/72

P.W. 5378/72

Calicut 67
29th Sept 72

Recd 1/10/72 No 234

To
Lt Colh H.C. Wood R.E.
Executive Engineer
Sir

With reference to your Memo No 106. dated 20.9.72. I have the honor to submit my defence with the following abstract of charges & pleas as contained in your memo & Pro Supdg Engr No. 107 & 210 dated 5th & 18th Sept respectively

Letter No 197 dt 5.9.72.

1° That I delayed my accts for 12 days after your orders to produce them and to stop work, but that your Memo work is still being carried on, against your orders.

2° That you conceive from your inspections of works in this taluq, there is ample moral proof of misappropriation of public funds

3° That annual sums of Provincial School & New Jail might have been executed for Rs. 115. 9. 4. and Rs 36. 4. 0 respectively & that therefore Rs. 177. 12. 8 and Rs. 154. 40 respectively have been overcharged

4° That because I had no measurements of daily labor by coolies & coolly ministries on the works (the School, Jail &c.) but that if asked I should certainly reply that work & the extent paid for, has actually been performed, all or some of the

Asstt Engr Calicut
Pro Supdg Engr
Asstt Engr Calicut
Pro Supdg Engr

No 537 3/72.

Pro Supdg Engr
Asstt Engr Calicut
Memo No 238 dated 23 Sept 72
Rec 28th Sept 72 & Ans 29th Sept 72

vouchers submitted by me must have been fabricated by myself or others.

5° That I had charged a Ret. for Repairs to Troop Sheds at Bey- hoor 352. 12. 6. That the work might have been executed for Rs. 214. 6. 0. and that I must have consequently overcharged Rs. 138. 6. 6.

2) I shall now proceed to answer to each charge se- parately. The delay in submitting vouchers is chiefly owing to the Executive & Contractor having the sent for at so short a notice from long distances & this could not have been done within an unreasonable delay. It was a time when I was ex- tremely pressed and charged with Range Accts. Taluq Works &c besides having orders of Specifications for Sub Ord. had been sanctioned. It struck that Mus- tries Jagannum & Ranchen being under charge might have assisted me in measuring & submitting at least their own accts, which they did not. This must be respectfully stated that I was acting Range Asst, acting draftsman, acting Surveyor and doing an overseers work, and solely attended to on

Letter 210. dated 18.9.72

* As every maistry and contractor owned him a million separately. It is possible that some of them may not come for a month: an order to bring in books for inspection & sample proof - A sub- ordinate's manner requires sometimes necessary being some times necessary to get back half a dozen bills from a maistry who lives within Calicut limits.

no other grounds could allow- ances exist but the mode for any delay in submission of accts &c. The method of payments es- tablished on this taluq to di- distribute money & work people are entirely a new thing and they being perfectly aware of this fact will only come when they think their work will be paid for. * But when I am called upon suddenly to stop work & send in vouchers for everything up to date, there must be a delay of several days (at most 15) before I could be expected both as required.

3) Regarding 2° I have briefly stated that I placed Ranga Pillai Mistry Ranchen on charge of the Tamburcherry Road. He having never any knowledge been in charge of it before & judging this Road in the dry season did all his best to get the road into fair order, as he thought. On the whole, subject to all his suggestions, it was as I thought they would find & keep the road in fair condition. I gave him my verbal and sometimes written instructions when I disapproved of what he intended doing. The Road has such a variety of soil about it & so unlike the Cascor Shat Road (Gravel or hard soil or sand or shingle) procuring stones (for bases) unless at great cost & from long

that Major Law actually requisitioned me on several occasions to inspect the Carcoor Chah Road. I did inspect this Road but found that not only was the soil different, but that there were jungle trees of different form which I saw on the Samulcherry Road, and observed an antiquated track here belonging to a Moplah in the Samulcherry Road and not one with me on the first breach at Kellimmer scarcely half its age. The whole of the Carcoor Road is thick scrub jungle & trees of rapid growth, while that of the Road & the foot of the Samulcherry Ghat is thro' dense forest and small undergrowth. Captain Bailey who has been living in malabar will be found the best authority on the State of Roads, during the monsoons in this Range, if questioned but independently of Col. Farquhar's testimony, as to what he saw of this identical road when he came to inspect the district before 1868. or 69, is quite sufficient. From a two years experience I am had of Malabar I am certain that 5/6 of the annual allotment at least should be expended, in order to keep the

III

Samulcherry & other Roads in fair order, and they dislike that if during the monsoons the roads are not kept up for traffic, very little need be done during the dry season.

The work on any particular portion of this road having been once executed by a mistry or contractor, may after 2 hours of heavy rain, show only 1/6 of the actual work done to it. and, simply from any observation it is, of what I had previously noticed as requisite, that I determine, what has to be paid for. But even after then after-

4) Vide reference to the 3d. the Provincial school. they to offer

The following explanations. when an estimate is called for (supposing the building to have been in a shaky state last monsoon) in the dry season. it is scarcely possible to draw up one accurately. Evidence of leaks may be seen on the rafters, floor &c., but I have found that even daylight thro' a roof is no criterion. Abiding such evidence, I found that an Estimate drawn up in

Mah
Quis

4) continued

the dry season, did not at all answer the purpose intended. Again, an estimate submitted during the monsoon, when one has really evidence of the leaky state of the buildings, and when that is sanctioned only during the ensuing dry season, for execution. I find that, after executing the work agreeably to the estimate the building is pronounced ill repaired at the next monsoon and another estimate has to be sent in. However from my own experience I have found that the best thing to be done is to look on turning the tiles, during the monsoons just as often as leaks occur when leaks occur in ridges of a roof during the monsoon chunam has to be used & the parts covered with cadjan or tarpaulin; if there is heavy rain it is probable that the work may have to be done a Quadruplicate number of times as is the case with the West Hill Barracks; for when the buildings were given on contract and when the works were completed to all intents & purposes then masons used to complain from the Commanding Officer & others, as to the leaks being as

IV

67 before

wife as were they mentioned in this Estimate the Estimate amount in this case was 3000 Rs. and the Estimate for this year only one half that amount or less, the masons employed by me has executed his work so well that I have scarcely need a complaint, & except verbally, & he ascertained from this may be the Commanding Officer & the Officers in the detachments at West Hill.

I beg to state further, that I could not be present at every building tiles. were turned or buildings scattered all over the town and it could not be expected and it could not be expected that I should look after every Work &c. and so about measuring work. Had I done so, or allowed Masters Gajambrum & Ranchen to do their work, neglecting more important duty, myself, & making them do the same thing I should have been entangling myself in to greater difficulties & have had to answer graver charges than what I have to answer at present.

In the case under consideration the work might have been inspected weekly at most had Gajambrum, Ranchen or I chosen to do so, not neglecting more important work.

It is notorious that in Malabar with 7 or 8 months of rain on [illegible] & intermittent the fungous growth, mouldiness mildew, smut, &c causes like cloth or any thing else left exposed abroad, to exhibit an appearance so vastly different from what one had expected that it would be impossible after an interval of two days, to identify the object.
Then has each, that Chunam but or ridge, may require renewing, & tiles once shifted will have the done again, will cost for cooly &c labour in Malabar.
It will thus happen that what has been estimated for, will require a quadruplicate cost probably; and even supposing the rate prevalent, at the time the Est is sanctioned to be lower than what stood laid down, or the contrary (for rates, even for coolies & cart hire vary in Malabar) the whole thing even then will entirely depend on the state of the weather, the time when the estimate was submitted and when it was put in hand

It is evident from what I have already stated that it would not only be impossible for any person deputed for the purpose, to give the precise measurements of work executed after any length of time, beyond two or 3 days in Malabar, (and I am astonished that Ravichen who has a great deal of experience about repairs has not mentioned the circumstance) but it would be equally impossible for him to decide whether the tiles he saw on a building & looked new were not bottom ones turned up, or were really new tiles purchased & put up; and if the turning process has been annually or biennially carried out it would be still more difficult for a man to decide whether or not tiles have been turned at all supposing one of the two following cases: that the building had continuous row under the tiles or flat tiles over recess, & the whole roof roof presented a speckled appearance merely from new tiles, or no such appearance i.e, either all new tiles used

below & Jungons covered & old looking ones used above & in the other case here & there a few new tiles used on the surface, which may actually be old bottom ones turned up. This may appear quibbling, but I have seen a building with its tiles turned entirely, which resembled all the appearance of not having had any thing done to its roof with the exception of 3 squares or so of new tiles, and if I had believed, in my sense of vision alone, and discarded other testimony, I should as Mr Rainchen has done, put down, the tile shifting & the 3 squares of new tiles I saw on the roof; instead of concluding that entire old tiles, Jungons covered from repeatedly being turned, had been used as the tiling was in progress, the broken ones in one row being substituted by good ones in another till ultimately the entire of broken tiles were replaced by 3 squares of new ones.

I beg you will also take into consideration that the work executed to the School is lastly in excess of what has been laid down originally in the Schedule. The Sub provides for tile shifting and while making while I have done tarring & pillars when necessary and built a small room of timber frame work and bamboo matting for the use of the Head Master Mr Barrow. If that Gentleman is called upon to assert what in his opinion has been really done, I beg respectfully to state that more information will be had as regards these repairs. To my certain knowledge Mr Barrow has not emitted or verbally complained that any part of the building leaked during rain while the buildings were being repaired, & ought & the allended to & c. The whole of the charges devolve upon a difference of value the quantity of work done, being from what I have already stated somewhat indeterminate.

The calls for labor as laid down by me in 10 annas & 8 as for tile shifting combined with charges for material used as stated in the vouchers submitted by me which make exactly the ~~quantity~~ sum laid down by me in the Sch. of 1.8.0 Rupees, with this Simple

difference that I have anticipated
rotten rafters having to be renewed,
ridges plastered & burning the
several times repeated, while
the rains came down heavily
and strong wind blew off or
displaced what had already
been done.
In white washing, tarring is
also included. Of this portion
of the repairs estimated for, I
beg respectfully to state I have
found it absolutely necessary
to allow 4 annas pr square for
scraping off fungus & mildew
on exposed parts, and after-
wards white washing. In this
case I have allowed only 2½ an-
per square. The greasy backs of
windows, in a state of semi-mildew
makes it necessary to scrape
portions they recline upon of a
wall, even in the interior of a
building, sometimes necessary, and
in this charge at least of 2 annas
and six pies pr square, it would
not be exorbitant, every thing
being taken into consideration.
4½) With reference to the Jail
work I beg to state that when
in the first place, it was found
very little work had been done
and but very few materials had
been supplied, for the work to
be executed, either the Range

officer, or the Jail Superintendent
should have been informed
that such was the case. 73
Marshy Jagannum retained
for the Jail buildings, and that
included 21 in all, at a cost of
Rs. 230. — My own Est in 1870
Rs. 230. — My own Est in 1870
Exceeded twice that amt of 20 Rs,
and that only 11 buildings down
for repairs, the others being con-
sidered not requiring repairs at
present.
Dr Roberts complaining to the
Range Mistry Kanichen of
little work executed, made me
believe that that Gentleman or
his subordinates were aware that
work to the extent stated, was
& for which I had made payts
had not been actually done
but after a reference to the Super-
intendent, I discovered that he
could not actually state what had
been done. I beg respectfully to state
that any officer not belonging to
Public Works, may express his
opinion regarding quantities,
without at all being acquainted
with the matter i.e., making
such a statement, as in saying
one Square only has been done
in turning tiles, because on that
particular Square alone, were the

VII-I

are also seen, inlets opened were
I beg further to state that Mr.
Roberts is not aware that
only 50. P. Cent of burning tiles
have been provided for in the
present Est. compared with
that of 1870, that the few
tiles stated to have been used
were 500 a month, an avge
of 20 to a square, would go over
250 squares of roofing, and that
one tile being weighed, it has
been found an ordinary cart
& pair of bullocks in Malabar,
will carry 2500 tiles at a time, but
not beyond 6 miles a day.
I beg to state that I do not at all
grumble, that either Mr. Roberts
or Raichem are mistaken in
the views they have taken of the
matter, and I respectfully sub-
mit that had I been deputed
to measure Raichem's work
I should have taken the measurements
just as he has done, & measured
up the work I thought had been
executed by them, but I think also
I should have not accepted
as a position fact, that any
X. Squares had been executed
not burning, as I should be aware
from the rules & figures from the
what may or may not have been
executed one week prior during
the erection of the work.

I should also have tried every
means to detect glow kilns
after inside roof, before
being certain about measuring
what had been actually executed.
The rate I have laid down as
this Estimate is 1.4.0 Sq: Square
including everything; if this is
compared with the measurements
taken by Raichem, including later
and material, the rate allowed
by him, turns out to be 1.10.0
per Square. But I beg it will
not be inferred from this, that
had Raichem's Estimate for the
buildings, he would have in-
creased the rate 6 annas pr
Square; what I intend is that
his present measurements &
his opinion, would have been
different from what they are!
5). Regarding the Cook Sheds,
I beg respectfully to state that
the upper cadjans, exposed as they
are to rain & sun, assume a
blackishly appearance, from which,
one may be led to believe, that,
they are perfect, but on trial I have
found that not only is the whole
top coating useless, from 8 or 10
months of exposure, but is actually
in a semi-cinder state, when touched.
Renewing of Cadjan is generally
done with old, available cadjans
above and new cadjans beneath
the new cadjans, being used the

following year for upper mes
so m. I have further remark
that Cadjans looking new today
may before tomorrow morning
be taken by white ants, if as I
have seen, a pair of books &
a leather bag could be so defaced
by white ants, that one could
not swear to their being used
the next morning, even after
they had been laid on a chunam
floor, I cannot conceive how
Raichen could determine that
at the camp ground, a double
coating of Cadjan had been
done on some Sheds, and
half old & new to others & nothing
at all to the remainder.
From my statement, it will be
seen that decay, white ants &
the weather have a great deal
to do with such work, and in
drawing up the Est for repairs
one has to be careful, that
such contingencies are pro-
vided for. If such provision
runs over 50 P. Cent of the Est
actually required, the availabl
amt goes to supply what is
required, after the sanction of the
Govt. Rifles perhaps, hooks, bolts
padlocks &c blown off by wind
& destroyed by monsoons, by cattle
or stolen by day or night by thieves
since the Sheds were without
a superintendent, during the

time the repairs were
carried on, & were only once
a fort night or once a week
inspected by Mr Heron the
Commissariat Serjeant which are
The excess amount, stated to
be surreptitious & drawn at
home, is that for 50 Sqrs
in these sheds, or about 1/7
the quantity provided in the
Estimate. If it is considered
that this is actually so much
a quantity as to exceed the
amount provided for Sundries
as 3/70 ths or as Estimate of
380 Rs. it will be seen from
what I have already stated,
that there was no intention
in my part to defraud.
I intended originally that
Raichen should execute the
work, but he having too much
work, but he having too much
to do set a Temporary mason
at work which did
not in fact not make
progress or could not, under
pressure of more important
business, while I was in the
same predicament (as acting
Range Officer) myself having
to do more than I could at the
time. They besides the
following data for estimating
which I have drawn up from

my own experience, which I find is less on the average than that of other surveys, and which in my opinion of three times of what you have laid down in your report regarding the roof sheds of the Supt. Engr.

Data for Labor only
in thatching 1000 Sft.

A. 3 Coolies taking off all cadjans in 1000 Squares, carefully so as to make the greatest amount of old ones available, even supposing the maximum ½ of the number beneath @ 5 annas per day — Rs. As. P.
— — 15 — "

B. 4 Coolies carefully picking and assorting those to be again used on the upper part @ 4 annas per day — 1 — " — "

C. 6 coolies carefully recovering roof and placing bamboo balans of bamboo, one ch to keep them from being blown off — at 6 annas each. 2. 4. 0

D. Slab as below for 1000 Square feet of rethatching during monsoons & heavy weather

Labor on the average per Square of 100 Sft.

A. " — 15 — "
B. 1 — " — "
C. 2. 4. " — 8 — 4.
D. X " — 6 — 6.

in fair weather, & during the dry season, when a man does get to about his work or that of others, Jones, Labor is easily obtained & when in fact the nearby workers season of other districts is in full play, I find that labor is somewhat diminished in value.

Sum for rethatching 1000 Sft.

A. 3 Coolies at 4 as. 0. 12. 0
B. 4 do at 4 as. 1. 0. 0.
C. 6. do at 4 as. 1. 8. 0
D = — — — — — — 3. 4. 0
X = — — — — — — 0. 5. 3

The rate so far as shown laid down will amount to, cadjans in the material viz cadjans at 12 Rs. P 1000, green cadjans for laying and bamboo for Balans at 2. Anna 6 pies each W. about 1 Rupee per Square, just a little more.

(6) About the Tambachery Road, which as the Landing all the trouble I have taken in getting into order, and been times better order than it was in 1869, I beg respectfully to state, in vindication of the charges against me on this

particular work, viz having misapplied public funds. That Mr Hyde in 1869 spent 12970 Rs. in Repairs and Improvements - that in 1870 there was no allotment for Improvements but that only Rs. 2970 were provided for repairs; that in 1871 a total sum of Rs. 7970 were spent to maintain the Road in decent order; (about $\frac{1}{5}$ of what it is at present) and that this official year Rs. 8140 have been provided, and I find the road still bad, tho' ten times better than it had been when Hyde charge of it.

From the simple facts, that the Coast Road was being in such disrepair, the first 8 miles from Calicut of the Tamarachery Road being good, and that the Local-fund Board has determined to provide an extra allotment on the remaining 42 miles,

what is absolutely required to maintain the Road can be duly recognised. If my statements are considered "fear of false hood," (as the reply from the Individual of the moment I am verbally questioned I contradict myself, or do so purely for misconception of questions verbally put to me) I beg respectfully you will allow me the benefit of what you doubt or submit the whole for the arbitration of the Superintending Engineer. If the pages of the Cash book here examined for 1868-69 and part of 1870, it will be seen that since I came into this Valley I have considerably reduced the rates. Broken stone for metal has been paid for at 1. 8. 0 per lineal yard, while I have reduced it to 13 annas & 6 pie for cutting on some places not favourable & to 1. 4. 0. in the most unhealthy parts. It simply requires a six months trial to discover at actually what rate the work can be performed of the written contract.

a Stamped paper, which I can produce cannot be relied on.

Lastly, I am very much grieved to find that you will recommend my dismissal from a department, in which I had a predilection and in which I have served for upwards of eight years. I have devoted all my energies to it. I have done my best for it, as I think, and it would scarcely credited if I made such a statement, that I have slaved a whole day, or stopped out a whole day, looking after my work - in rain, or sunshine, and suffered afterwards from months of intermittent fever. Yet never took any privilege leave.

I beg however respectfully I may notice it, that you will after taking the whole matter into consideration, recommend me to the Supt Engr to be dismissed the service in consideration of my service at least, for this Gentleman knows that tho' I have failed in the performance of important duties I have endeavoured to do them to some extent.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obed't Sv't
Robt Arbuthnot
Asst. D.T.S.

No 231.

Camp Candy. 2 Oct 1872

Submitted to Lt Supt Engr 7 Dec 1872
It will be observed that adoption of Mr Arbuthnot's arguments, would nullify all responsibility for the Execution of work by an officer of the D.W. and render the application of any check useless

Harwood
Capt RE
Ex: Engr Calcutt

P.R.O. 16
85

Rev. Wm Marsden Sandy.
Read the Petition.

From the Rev. Wm Marsden Sandy. {Petition praying &c &c &c}

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to find it clearly established from the report of three competent authorities that Mr R. Chisholm not an Overseer of upwards of 8 years standing has proved to be ~~altogether unfit~~ ~~incompetent~~ unfitted for ~~the~~ to assume the responsibility of a Range charge even for a few months. Not only is

W.E.

It is much to be regretted that Mr Chisholm should have been placed in a position for which he was unfitted. I agree in the leniency proposed. There is no proof of any dishonesty.
P.E

Petition from the Rev. Wm. Sandy Esq. Rector of the Ecclesiastical Province praying for a Grant of Land.
1842.

P.R.O. 53/42.

Read 5th Sept 1842.
Read 7th Sept 1842.
Sent to Chief Justice

is he thus proved utterly
unfit for promotion
from his present rank
but unworthy of the rise
from the 3rd grade lately
accorded to him. To
incapacity and feeblenes
of character, as further
evidenced by the rambling
incoherent nature of his
so called defence, rather
than to dishonesty, does
His Excellency the Governor
in Council attribute
his entire failure even
to attempt the check
of work by the necessary
measurements. The Range
charge in addition to that
of his Paloork, have

evidently overwhelmed
a man of his limited
calibre - Taking this view
of his professional character,
and bearing in mind
that no complaints
have come before Govt
having reference solely
to his management
of a Paloork, His Excellency
in Council resolves to
give him a further trial
as an Overseer; but
directs his reduction to
the lowest grade from
date of his suspension,
and that he be granted
suspence allowance only
until his resumption
of work; his manage
=ment of which and

of his Accounts will be specially reported on every six months, commencing with the 1st of May.

The attention of the Malabar Revenue Officers will be called to the Controller's remarks on the practice of making advances; and the Superintending Engineer will inquire from them as to the extent to which it prevails in the Malabar District, and adopt measures to repress it accordingly.

Genl. Dept.

D. 2125
6 Nov 72 No. 141
Nov 72

To
The Secy to the Govt
Central
Ootacamund 26/11/72

Ole 5373

Govt. of [1872] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr.
Cy. Circle

Dated

Read. Encl. 1

G. O. 23rd March, No. 2759.

Nos. 3884 3874

Exr. Assistant.

Papers relative to
certain charges pre-
ferred against Exr
Assistants,
Malabar Dt.