

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of reply _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 842	Press
	Mr.
Dated 26-3-18	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th March 1872.*

No. 577. Read the following letters:—

From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
(Here enter 16th February 1872, No. 250.)

No. 578. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
(Here enter 22nd February 1872, No. 252.)

No. 579. ORDER THEREON, 26th March 1872, No. 842.

IRRIGATION, No. 27.

In the first of these letters the
Superintending Engineer surrenders
a further sum of Rupees 14,000 from

the allotment for the Pelandorai anicut thereby reducing the allotment to Rupees 46,000, and requests that this amount may be added to the allotment for 1872-73; the latter cannot be done but, should a sum, in excess of the allotment for 1872-73, be required application should be made for it, and there will probably be no difficulty in providing it.

2. In the second letter the Superintending Engineer points out certain causes which have led to the unsatisfactory progress and execution of the work. These appear to be due chiefly to carelessness in drawing up the contracts, to a general laxity in laying out and superintending the works, and to neglect in issuing detailed instructions for the guidance of the contractors; all causes within the control of the Superintending Engineer. It does not transpire whether the contracts were submitted to and approved by the Superintending Engineer as they should have been. Frequent changes both in the Superintending and Executive Engineers have doubtless tended to bring about the unsatisfactory state of things described.

3. The Government are glad to learn that the Superintending Engineer has now been able to arrange for the satisfactory completion of the work by the 30th June 1873; it would be well to urge the contractor to complete the work somewhat earlier, if possible, as new lands are not likely to be taken up in the season of 1873-74 if the channels are in an incomplete state till so late a date as the 30th June when the freshes have already commenced.

4. The Government are glad to learn that Sub-Engineer Balasoondrum Moodelliar, owing to his local knowledge and influence, has been able to render material aid in procuring labour, and trust that the admonitions of the Superintending Engineer will not be lost on Overseer A. Coopoosawmy Moodelly.

5. In the last letter the Superintending Engineer states that he has made arrangements for the investigation of the project to provide for the cross drainage, the discharge of surplus and the storage of water to which his attention was called in G. O. No. 171 of 19th January; the Government trust the project will soon be matured as it should, if possible, be completed simultaneously with the project now under execution.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Ag. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. T. O'Conn

No. 250.

Suply. Engrs. Office, 5th Div.,
Kerinjapady, 16th February 1872.

From

Captain A. Forbes R.E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer,
5th Division.

To

Colonel A. Carpenter R.E.,
Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department.

In continuation of letter No. 244
of 9th February 1872, intimating that I was
obliged to surrender Rs. 14,000 of the
reduced allotment of Rs. 20,000, allowed
for expenditure in the current year on
the Palameter Project. I have the honor
to explain fully the cause of this sur-
render, the present state of the work, and
its future prospects as regards comple-
tion.

3 From a reference to my letter
of 25th September 1871, it will appear
that I looked to the three last months
of the year to retrieve the husbandry
of affairs but if I had stated that there
are two months more the subject of these
I would have been nearer the mark for
what with the numerous public holidays
and the stopping of the harvest nearly
a month is entirely lost for with the excep-
tion of the village which has sprung up
close to the "Parish" and is inhabited by
people who work as if it is almost impos-
sible to get a body during the harvest which
is estimated to last a month. The wages
there given by cultivation far exceed what
we are offered to give not to mention that
in very many cases the laborers are the
handsome of the "Rye".

4 There is then at present, too

far as the Channel work is concerned,
an almost paralysis of labor, the Revenue
authorities whose co-operation I requested,
and who responded most cordially to the
call, have promised to provide 5000 coolies
if required as soon as the harvest is over,
but at present their coolies are only conspi-
cuous from their absence for they have not
been able to scrape together above two dozen.
I may add too that the repair
of extensive damages in neighbouring Dis-
tricts and a scramble to spare "Mekong",
has rendered fruitless all my endeavours to
secure labor from those quarters. It may
not be out of place to remark that throw-
ing back the official year by one month
deprives us of the month of April, perhaps
the very best working month in the year.
It will at once be said that this would mat-
ter little if the first month of the year had

been fully able to do, but this is precisely
what was intended, for as remarked in
the concluding paragraph of para 3 of letter
No 185, before referred to, it is much to
be regretted that the first few months
of the year were not fully taken advantage
of. Could the coming year's expenditure
have been included in that of the current
year, the amount would have been much
less, very possibly a half, and of Government
could add it to the Budget allocation of Rs. 20
lacs 60000 for the coming year, I could guarantee
that the total amount spent by the end of
March will be spent.

Some of course have expected that
I should have been to some extent Govern-
ment a second time with a remission of
funds, but I do not hope whatever of spend-
ing the whole allocation by the end of March,
and I may truly say that I have spared
no exertions to bring about a happier result.

I have written to all quarters, and to numerous
private individual Contractors, with whom I
am acquainted, urging them to take up work.
Some have declined, pleading their pressing
engagements to complete work by the end
of the official year in other Districts, some
have looked at the work and have shied at
its unfinished state, and the low rate of the
rates and others have I believe been repelled
by the false statements and misrepresentations
of rascally Contractors formerly con-
nected with the work. I really do not
wonder at Contractors fighting shy of it; a
more complete mistake it has never been my
lot to witness, and it is my deliberate opinion
that one of the principal causes of the pre-
sent state of affairs is the haste to achieve
results and to spend the allocation.
I think in all such works it would
be best to the interests of Government that
not a stroke of work proper should be done
until all the preliminary work is properly
finished and a considerable stock of mate-
rials laid in. By the preliminary work I
mean building the Barrages and other and
other sheds required for fixing trials and starting

been done along the channels, fixing a sufficiency
of proper Bench Marks, marking out top
the Middle of Channels and the Bottom of
the Embankment Higher &c. &c. & these may
be some trivial matters but I know from
my experience that they are most valuable
of time and expense better and more economical
real work. In addition to this I would
strongly recommend that a plan, Estimate
and Specifications should be prepared
for Contractors and arrangements made to
secure the services of them while the preliminary
work is going on so that by the time the
plan is finished, Contractors may be ready to
commence work. As far as I am aware
an allotment is not infrequently made
without even consulting the Officer who has
to spend it and who is blamed if he fails
therein.

I cannot too strongly reprobate the
course that has been pursued since the com-
mencement of this work. The preliminary
work can scarcely be said to be complete
and now the monstrous proceeding of giving
an average rate for the whole depth of

excavation has thrown things into the
most dreadful confusion. A uniform deduc-
tion of a certain per centage seems to have
been supposed adequate to cover the excess
rate for the upper grade but it is evi-
dent that for different depths the per-
centage should vary, for to take an exam-
ple - a deduction of 25 per cent from an
average rate of 2 Rupees per Cubic Yard
would give the monstrous rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ an
Rupee per Cubic Yard as that paid to the
Contractor for the 1st yard. It is no won-
der that under these circumstances Con-
tractors remove the top soil and then
levanted, or lay on their cans.

As a rule no security whatever was
given but to that I do not demur as 99
out of 100 Contractors either cannot or will
not give security, in fact if you insist
on security, you will get very few Con-
tractors.

As a far preferable plan - I would
recommend a deduction of a certain percent-
age of money from each payment the
total amount of which at any time to

be forfeited should the Contractor fail in his Contract, while on the other hand the aggregate should be returned to him when he completes his Contract satisfactorily. The effect of this would be to indemnify Government for the failure, and to operate as an inducement to the faithful fulfilment of his agreement by the Contractor, and the further the work proceeded the greater would be the amount of the fine levied from him in proportion the greater would be the inducement to be had properly and to cover the amount of the stoppages.

10. As to claims, however, to the system of measurement. I have abolished what has hitherto prevailed, and have substituted payments to be made ratably for each yard in accordance with the average rate. Why this very simple and common Sense System was ever departed from I cannot conceive.

11. It should be understood that the Channel work has been entirely in the hands of Contractors; of all but two who are

working satisfactorily, and who have entered into fresh agreements, the Contracts have been cancelled, and justice against a set of partners it would be recommended prosecution for Breach of Contract.

12. The work of the Amnicut and Head Race has always been Departmental, and their progress is very satisfactory. The Government are aware the Head Race is nearly completed, about 100 feet of the Foundation of Amnicut and Head Retaining Wall, together with the intermediate Brick in Chamara A from has been laid. The Foundation of the South Wing Wall has been completed and that of the North has been commenced, so that the work of the Amnicut has proceeded satisfactorily, (and is now proceeding rapidly, so that by the end of March should nothing unforeseen occur, I hope to lay the entire Foundation of the Amnicut, complete the Brick in Chamara A from, and lay the greater part, if not the whole, of the Cut Stone A from.

13. As regards the future progress

of the remainder of the work, I may mention that I have concluded an agreement with a Contractor, sent by Sub. E. ^{belonging to the 6th Division} ginner Balasundaram Mandellian whose services in endeavoring to procure earth and Contractor, have been beyond all praise.

14. This Contractor has bound himself to execute by 30th June 1873 all the work of the main and Branch Channels, and the minor draining works, in fact every thing but the Silt and Head Shores, which for many reasons I prefer to execute Departmentally. By this arrangement the Channels will be ready to give water for the cultivating season of 73/74, and this is after all the main point, this would be in great degree in finishing the work some months earlier than would be the full allotment of the balance of the Estimate is not granted for next year, and for many many months there has not been the remotest shadow of a hope that the work would be completed before the commencement of the cultivating season of 73/74. So far then nothing

has really been lost, and as matters are now in a satisfactory feeling, I think Government may look forward with confidence to the completion of the Project by the time named, while, should they be in a position to buy and buy Supplement the allotment of next year, it is quite possible that the work may be completed sooner.

15. If I have done nothing else, I think I have done something in introducing to this District a man whom I believe to be a thoroughly respectable Contractor, capable of undertaking operations on a large scale. This District swarms with Petty Contractors, men of no capital and less character, who have no security to give, who have no interest in the work they undertake, and whose only aim is to make as much as they possibly can, to sack a crew, and such a system I do trust the engagement now made will give a severe shock.

16. There is one point to which I would bespeak the special attention of Government, and that is the matter of rates. There

seems to me in tendency it may be natural
suggestion on the part of the designers of
these estimates to under-rate, and put down
low, but I am not to praise the design
up to a certain point of moderation
without which it is well known govern-
ment will not come. But at the same time
say this is designedly done by no means
but I do think there is a tendency in this
way, which cannot be too fully
guarded against. If such work is taken
on a large scale by respectable contractors
rates should be liberal and not carried
down to the lowest possible point. Liberal
rates constitute the economy when they
secure respectable contractors possessed
of means and who have a character to
lose. The Railway Department, the
Mysore Government, and others find no
difficulty in obtaining such but there are
very few who undertake work for our Depart-
ment in the Mysore, and I think what
I have indicated is the true reason of it.

17 The note by the Chief Engineer for
Navigation No 498 attached to G. O. No
3880 of 10th December 1869, the Chief Engineer

remarks that the rates appear to be generally
rather low, which is a qualified method
of expressing what he evidently thinks that
the rates are too low.

18 It must be remembered too that
the original estimates were prepared three
years ago. If it be said the lapse of time
is too short to have exercised any influence
on rates, I would ask what is the neces-
sity for entering the revision every six months
of the schedule of rates and prices.

19 I am what I have myself seen
I have no hesitation in saying that the
Chief Engineer was fully justified in
the remark he made, and if it be urged
that the conclusion of the Agreement just made
 militates against such a view I say that -
strange as it may appear, I believe the
Contractor has undertaken this work more
for the sake of acquiring a name, and of
extending his connection than for any profit
he expects to make from it.

20 In conclusion I feel it my duty
to make some remarks on those entrusted
with the carrying out of the work.

21 In my letter No 154 of 18th November

21. I fully explained ^{the} numerous charges made
in the reports of the various officials to
find any fault. On this Government was
pleased to perform its duty well. Mr.
Noyes, for his faulty arrangements with
regard to the work, I think may be ex-
cused if I suggest that the real fault
consisted in placing in charge of a large
Project, and perhaps the most important
Range in the Division a young lad fresh
from the Civil Engineering College, and
utterly inexperienced. Another error was
in removing from the charge of the Pro-
ject the Officer who was sent from
Financially to Specially Superintendent.
I feel just as sure as that I am writing
this letter, that if the best had been left
in charge, and not removed to Superintend
a Range, there would have been very little
if any of the original blunder of this
year's experiment. I really think it would be well
to rule that an officer placed in special
charge of a Project should not be removed
without the sanction of Government.

22. The present Range Officer found
things in a terrible state of confusion, and

had had many difficulties to contend with
the Project, the Controller, and the conduct of
his own Subordinates. He is a most con-
scientious, painstaking Officer, determined
to push his work, and, serious that Govern-
ment should have money ^{to} pay always
deducted to make payments in full until he
has had an opportunity of personally in-
specting the work. But this conscientious but
unaccountable delay has occurred, and this
Subordinate, instead of giving him every
assistance, seems to me to have succeeded
in multiplying the complications and to have
formed a regular cabal against him. The
principal fault I find with him is that he has
been too lenient and forbearing. I have
myself been obliged to resort to severe measures
to stop the spirit of intrigue, and procure re-
sistance to authority, which is so rampant
in this Range, and the good effects of this
are already very apparent.

23. I would have called the attention of
Government to the very bad results of the ex-
pense of petitions, which has now reached a
fearful length. No one would wish to deny
justice to even the lowest of the low, but when

very wonderful, by expending half an hour
for a Stamp, can send a Petition to Govern-
ment on which, unless it be unreasonable,
I presume no one would have any objec-
tion of some action properly done to be taken.
I think it best that steps should
be taken to render possible the identification
of the writer, with a view to render feasible
prosecution for slander and misrepresentation.
I feel certain that the principal of this ap-
peal was true very much the authority and in-
fluence of Government Officers, and it must
under any circumstances cause them great
annoyance, this of itself a source of triumph
to the Writers.

24. I regret that I am obliged to speak
unfavorably of a S. Cooperian my Meddler.
The Officer in charge of the Project, who
has not exerted himself as he should have
done, and he has not given to the Range
Officer that assistance and co-operation he
had every right to expect, and which an
honest servant of Government should not
only have rendered with alacrity, but have
felt it his privilege to render. Without the

co-öperation of the writer, connected
and subordinate, it would be almost im-
possible for the Range Officer to succeed. This
Officer has been successful in getting up a
number of Reports on this Range and
very imperfectly. I think of him, who
was for some time in the charge of
the Project. I cannot help thinking of
him when I would say that he had been
of long time in charge of the Project, and
that he felt very much disappointed
when he found that the Range Officer
on whom I think he has rather been
spoiled, was the only man
who could explain his conduct.

25. I think, however, a young man. He
has very considerable abilities. I have
spoken very strongly to him, and I think
he is impressed with what I have
said. I have further pointed out to him
the grand field he has for the display
of his abilities in having the immediate
charge of so important and interesting
and that his demand of praise will be
amply accorded to him if he further

production of the work he creditable. I
have therefore great hopes that this public
notice of my disapproval of his conduct
will cause him to mend his ways and
ensure for the future his zeal and cordial
co-operation with his Superior Officers.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant.

James C. Butler Capt. R.R.
Army of the Potomac, 5th Corps.

He has also been of late engaged in
marking out the Branch Channels in
Milong, and otherwise dividing the Main
Channels, doing in short preliminary
work, which I think should have been
done long ago.

3 The crop Drainage was not
done very good, and the surplus at the
tail of the Canal will be perfect through
the Branch Road by the Channels dis-
charging into the Ceramun Tank. These
Channels have been marked out and
the Rebarbs required in the Road are
provided in the Estimate for the Ex-
penditure. There should be no difficulty
in completing all these works by the
commencement of the cultivating season
of 1874.

4 The Storage question will now
be at once taken up, the Officer in
charge of the Main River (Barant being
detained for the purpose of making the
requisite Surveys and Section. This
Overwar is the only extra hand (as it were)
in the Range capable of doing the work,
and up to the present time he has been

engaged in Survey Duty connected with
the Milong Salt Pans, with taking sections
of the numerous branches made by the
Head of Overwar, and with carrying
the main line of Road to the Western ex-
tremity of the Range. This last very
important work has, I am glad to say,
been accomplished, and should please
the Executive Engineer, to check
it by a line of Levels from the Rail-
way at Salim.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Yours Most Obedt Servant

James W. D. Esq. C.E.

Executive Engineer, S. D.

W. D.

Pharm



I hope we can
utilize the evening
also in some way.

application should be made for it and there will probably be no difficulty in providing it.

In the second letter the Super Engineer points out certain causes which have led to the unsatisfactory progress and execution of the work. These appear to be due chiefly to carelessness in drawing up the contracts, to a general laxity in laying out and superintending the works, and to neglect in issuing detailed instructions for the guidance of the Contractors; all causes within the control of the Super Engineer.

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5/7/75

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H.
March 12.

Super General S. S. S. S.
Controller
Chief Engineer Goodwyn
Despatch 27/3/72

1885-
909

GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS,
PUBLIC WORKS.

The Superintending Engrs.
5th Division

Date

Sheet

Foot

28. mounds 842.

No. 577 (579)

Palandornai Ancient Project.

Copying orders on letters from
the Engrs. (the 5th Div.)
extending a further from
No. 14. was from the allot.
meant for the Palandornai
Ancient Project.