

(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. 490

Press
Mis.

262-63

Dated 15 2 1892.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 262. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 23rd January 1872, No. 4,083:—

I REGRET to have to trouble the Government on such a trivial subject as the loss of a two-foot iron straight-edge, the value of which is Rupees 4-7-10; but, as Assistant-Engineer Mr. Hawksworth, who lost it when in charge of the late 2nd Range, Tinnevely, declines to make good the value of it, I have no alternative left but to bring the matter to the notice of Government for such orders as they may deem proper to pass on the subject.

2. On my becoming aware, in the manner mentioned in paragraph 8 of this letter, of the loss of the iron straight-edge in question, I wrote to Executive-Engineer Mr. Rundall to ascertain and report why the loss, in 1869, of the straight-edge was not reported to this office before 21st April 1871.

3. In compliance with the above request Mr. Rundall forwarded the accompanying copies of correspondence, marked A., between Supervisor Mooneappah Pillay and Assistant-Engineer Mr. Hawksworth, from which it appears that on the 19th April 1869 the Supervisor wrote to Mr. Hawksworth asking him to return a number of articles, the property of Government, belonging to the 2nd Range, Tinnevely, among which is included the two-foot iron straight-edge.

4. To the above call Mr. Hawksworth replied on the 29th July 1869, returning at the same time a number of articles, but not the straight-edge, and some articles of stationery.

5. The Supervisor, therefore, again addressed Mr. Hawksworth, viz., on the 12th August 1869, annexing a list of the articles still due by that gentleman.

6. In reply Mr. Hawksworth stated that "the straight-edge must have been lent to the Ambasamoodrum Overseer, of which the estimator will best know."

7. To the above letter Mooneappah Pillay replied, on the 25th August 1869, to the effect that the Ambasamoodrum Overseer states that the straight-edge had not been given to him and that the estimator had no knowledge of the matter, and requested that some arrangements might be made for the early supply of the straight-edge, pen-knives, etc., still due by Mr. Hawksworth. To this letter no reply was sent by Mr. Hawksworth, and there the matter rested.

8. On the 8th April 1871, in letter No. 13, marked B., Supervisor Mooneappah Pillay annexed a list of unserviceable articles and requested my permission to dispose of them by public auction. In granting this authority I took the opportunity to call upon the Supervisor for a report as to how it happened that the iron straight-edge was no longer of service as alleged. In reply he stated, for the first time,* that the straight-edge was lost by Mr. Hawksworth.

* N. B.—The words "lost by J. M. Hawksworth" were added in the Range Office after the 15th April, when the letter marked B. was forwarded to the Range Office with endorsement No. 103.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th February 1872.*

9. On my becoming aware of this fact I at once addressed the Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division, viz., on the 21st April 1871, requesting him to call upon Mr. Hawksworth for a report on the subject.

10. In reply to my letter the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, forwarded to me on the 28th August 1871 the accompanying letter, marked C., from Mr. Hawksworth, in which occur these words, "The 'missing' article was never used by me nor ever in my possession that I am aware of."

11. To the above I replied on the 16th September 1871 to the Officiating Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division stating that it appears clear that Mr. Hawksworth has rendered himself responsible for the loss of this straight-edge, and I suggested, therefore, that he should make it good and so put an end to this correspondence, which otherwise would have to go up to Government.

12. With reference to the above Captain Vertue forwarded the accompanying letter, No. 593, dated 26th September 1871 and marked D., from Mr. Hawksworth representing that the adoption of the course suggested by me would be "establishing an improper precedent, and feeling no inclination to make it good under the circumstances, he saw no alternative but to submit the matter for the orders of Government."

13. It will be observed from the foregoing correspondence that Mr. Hawksworth had been in the habit of keeping his personal property and the Government stores and records in various boxes belonging to Government, and that in proceeding to Madura from Tinnevely he took away the keys of these boxes, which boxes were eventually, at his own particular request, sent to him to Madura to enable him to recover his private property, on securing which he returned the boxes (viz., five large and one small one) to Tinnevely, with the articles enumerated in the list accompanying his letter No. 221, dated 29th July 1869.

14. It will be seen, therefore, how little foundation there is for the statement contained in Mr. Hawksworth's letter, No. 593, dated 26th September 1871, that "the officer who relieved him took over the whole and relieved him entirely."

15. As I consider that there can be no reasonable doubt of Mr. Hawksworth's having made himself directly responsible for the loss of the missing straight-edge, I trust that the Government will be pleased to direct the Controller to cut the sum next pay abstract and remit the amount to this office. As Mr. Hawksworth is no longer under my orders I refrain from remarking on his conduct in this transaction, the more especially as I feel satisfied that the Government will not allow it to pass unnoticed.

Lake, crimson, cakes, small...	2
Burnt sienna ...	2
Camel-hair brushes ...	6
Pen-knives ...	3
Ink bottles ...	7

16. As for the other articles still due by Mr. Hawksworth and noted in the margin, it appears to me that they may be considered as having been used up, and that no further notice, therefore, need be taken of the same.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th February 1872.*

No. 263.

ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1872, No. 440.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

As it is clear that Mr. Hawksworth is responsible for the missing iron straight-edge he will be required to make good its value, viz., Rupees 4-7-10.

2. The Government have observed with displeasure the querulous and disrespectful tone in which Mr. Hawksworth has couched his letter to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, under date of August 18th, 1871.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

440
No. 440

As it is clear that Mr. Hawken
is responsible for the missing iron
straight edge he will be required
to make good its value vizt. \$2.00

The Gov. has heard with
displeasure the querulous and
disrespectful tone in
which Mr. Banks with
has couched his letter to the Super.

Engineer 5th Division under date
1st of Aug 1872
to
Controller

N.

Dec 16/2/72
*with four enclosures

Ordered by Court.

Govt. of 1872 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

*to the Superintendent of
Public Works*

Dated

Recd.

E-1

G. O. No. 1872, 20.5.

Nos.

1872, 20.5.

*Large quantities of
water have been
the result of the
rain which has fallen
the time of the letter, and
the water is very
the 5th inst.*