

(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.	1219	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
485-486		
Dated	29-4-1873	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department,
29th April 1873.*

No. 485. Read the following letter from R. E. NORFOR, Esq., District Engineer, South Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Tindevanum, 13th March 1873, No. 67:—

In conformity with the orders of Government, conveyed in No. 518 of the

5 Demi-official letters.

1 Official cover.

1 Letter from Chengleroyen Moodelly, with memorandum from Mr. Bell.

1 Copy of demi-official letter to Mr. Bell, dated 2nd March 1873.

1 Official Memorandum to Assistant Engineer, No. 3 Range, dated 22nd February 1873, No. 261.

17th February last, and after carefully considering the question of re-employing Chengleroyen Moodelly as Head Accountant in No. 3 or Virdachellum Range, I communicated to the Range Officer, Mr. Bell, my orders on the subject, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, sending him at the same time a printed

copy of the orders of Government above quoted.

2. In reference to this subject, I wish it to be distinctly understood that it is a matter of perfect indifference to me which of the two men (as far as they are personally concerned) hold the post of Head Accountant in the range; in fact, Ponurungum Moodelly, whom I have reasons for removing from the No. 3 Range, owes his introduction into the public service and advancement in it to my recommendation and interference, while Chengleroyen Moodelly, who was first entertained in the department in 1865 (three years before me), has really nothing to thank me for.

3. I need hardly therefore state that the object I had in view in making the arrangements I did was to secure the interests of the public service, giving due consideration to the relative merits and claims of the two men.

4. Whether Chengleroyen Moodelly went to the 3rd Range or not, I should feel it my duty to remove Ponurungum from a range in which he has so many relations. A. Coopposawmy Moodelly, Taluq Overseer, in charge of the Pelandorai Project, who is working most satisfactorily there, is a brother-in-law of his, and he has his father and others employed in minor situations. It has, moreover, come to my knowledge that, through the influence of the Head Accountant over the Range Officer, he obtained from him a letter suspending Taluq Overseer D. Coopposawmy for alleged irregularities, intimidated him in this way, and ultimately got the suspension order cancelled on receiving from D. Coopposawmy Rupees 300.

5. I have determined to defer the inquiry* into the details of this till the official year is over, as the investigation

* Magisterial.
will involve the examination of most of the subordinates of the range, who cannot be spared from their work in this last month of the year, more especially as the works in the range are very backward.

6. I am not prepared therefore to say how much of the story is true, and how much false, but I have sufficient reasons to believe it is not altogether unfounded, as the Overseer has admitted that he was asked for the money, but of course denies having paid it, and as I was informed that one of Ponurungum's relations acted mediator in the matter it will of course be difficult to prove the payment, but if this be true it shows the use the Head Accountant makes of his relatives.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1873.*

7. I would not have brought this subject up just now except that I wish you to see that there are sufficient reasons justifying my action in the matter of the appointments in the Range and District Offices.

8. The order communicating the arrangements I had decided upon was despatched to Mr. Bell on the 22nd ultimo, and on the 23rd idem I met that officer at Virdachellum, when he expressed himself dissatisfied with the arrangements, as he did not wish to part with Ponurungum. I asked him to give me any good reasons for not wishing to have Chengleroyen, such as would justify my re-considering the matter, and I was informed that the office would be sure to fall into arrears, and that the records in the office were not neatly kept by Chengleroyen Moodelly in his time. Mr. Bell was told that I could not on these grounds cancel my arrangements, as it was very easy for him to report Chengleroyen at once if he found him lazy, and I would remove him, but I did not anticipate any such failing on his part; but Mr. Bell was not pacified till I promised to think over the matter again.

9. On the 2nd instant I wrote to Mr. Bell demi-officially after re-considering the matter, declining to cancel my previous orders, and setting forth my reasons for doing so. I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of this letter marked A.

10. On the 7th instant Chengleroyen Moodelly reported himself at Virdachellum, but was ordered by Mr. Bell not to attend the office,* thus setting at defiance my instructions in the face of my demi-official, in which, I consider, I have very clearly given the Range Officer my reasons for removing Ponurungum. I do not see that I was in any way obliged to give him this explanation, but as he appeared to think my motive was to deprive him of the services of Ponurungum without good cause, I went out of my way to explain matters.

11. On the 7th instant I received from Mr. Bell the enclosed demi-official marked C, which I wish to lay before you. I exceedingly regret the circumstances which compel me to take this step, as nothing is further from my wish than to see a young brother officer at the outset of his career in the department involved in difficulties which might seriously compromise his character and chances of advancement; but Mr. Bell's letter is couched in language so offensive and insubordinate that I could not pass it over without feeling that I shall be wanting in self-respect, more especially as I have already on a previous occasion† overlooked a similar offence, and my warning then has proved of no avail. On this occasion also I gave him an opportunity of withdrawing his letter, with a suitable apology, of which he has not taken advantage.

12. A great deal of Mr. Bell's letter will, at first sight, appear ambiguous to those who are unacquainted with the antecedent circumstances in connection with the various points mooted therein, and to enter into detail particulars here would considerably lengthen this letter. I have therefore considered it advisable to attach my remarks against the several paragraphs in his original letter (in the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1873.*

hopes of simplifying matters), retaining for discussion here only such subjects as bear upon the points at issue, viz., the insubordinate character of the communication. I feel it my duty to lay before you, for consideration and disposal and the advisability or not of retaining Ponurungum in the 3rd Range, and reducing a man of more experience and three times the service from Head Accountant on Rupees 50 in the Range Office to clerk on Rupees 30 in the District Office.

13. With reference to the first of these points I think I need say but little, the letter speaks for itself. I have endeavoured to do my duty conscientiously and impartially in the position which I have occupied since December last, and, with the exception of Mr. Bell, I do not think my administration has proved distasteful to the members of either this or the Revenue Department; if I am strict, I am so to all alike, as my records will show. But ever since a controversy which arose between Mr. Bell and myself in 1871, which Captain Vertue, when Superintending Engineer here, finally disposed of, Mr. Bell views every action of mine with an utterly erroneous impression that I continue to entertain an ill-feeling towards him, though I have endeavoured to disabuse his mind of this.

14. Acting upon this impression, Mr. Bell, I regret to say, has not given me that satisfaction in the discharge of his duties as I should expect from an officer in his position; requisitions from this office are attended to in a half and half sort of way, replies being incomplete and unsatisfactory, promptitude being seldom or never observed; a list of reminders sent him will be forwarded if necessary, which will show how difficult it is to get any thing out of him, and this, I need hardly say, adds very considerably to the work of the District Office. Nothing of this sort is experienced with the two other ranges, where promptitude and strict observance to rules is invariably maintained.

15. With reference to the second point, I would refer to paragraph 22* of Mr. Bell's letter; as it is a short paragraph, I quote it in the margin: this very clearly shows how little regard

* Should you think A. Coopposawmy's retention inadvisable, his transfer may be effected.

Mr. Bell has for the interests of the public service when he suggests the removal of the Overseer in charge of the most important work in the district, on which he is doing excellent duty, and where so much difficulty has been experienced in the execution of the work from its very commencement, rather than part with Ponurungum his Head Accountant, who is easily replaced, and in fact who ought ere this to have been replaced. I have no hesitation in saying that one of the two should be moved, and even had there been no suspicious circumstances in connection with the Head Accountant's proceedings, I still consider it would be most unwise to disturb the Overseer from Palandorai; the changes on that work have been already sufficiently numerous, and to make another move now would prove ruinous to the prospects of the completion of the work. In fact, if I am allowed my way, I should keep A. Coopposawmy there until the last rupee on the project was worked out, and hold him strictly responsible.

16. Begging to be excused for troubling you with this perhaps unnecessarily long letter.

No. 486.

ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1873, No. 1,212.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 45.

2. Such conduct cannot be tolerated, and the displeasure of Government will be marked by Mr. Bell's removal from the South Arcot District and by the loss of seven steps of departmental rank. He will be replaced by Mr. O'Riagan, who will hand over charge of the Madanapully Range to Mr. Supervisor Schoury. Further orders will be passed as to the posting of Mr. Bell.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, South Arcot.
 " " Cuddapah.
 " Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No. 67
District Eng'g Office, S. Arch,
London 11th March 1873
Tideonau 13th

From
 The District Engineer
 South Arcot
 To
 The Chief Engineer
 Public Works Department

Enclosures 9
5 Semi Official
Letters
1 Official Cover
1 Letter from Chas.
gleason Mudaly
with Memo from Mr.
Bell.
1 copy of Semi Official
letter to Mr. Bell of
24 March / 73
1 Official Memo to Chas.
gleason Mudaly, No 3
Range of 28 Feb / 73
to 366.

Sir,

In conformity with the orders of Government, conveyed in No. 518 of the 17th February last, and after carefully considering the question of re-employing Chas. gleason Mudaly as Head Accountant in No. III or Verdachellum Range, I communicated to the Range Officer Mr. Bell my orders on the subject, a copy of which is herewith enclosed, sending him at the same time a printed copy of the orders of Government above quoted.

2. In reference to this subject I wish it to be distinctly understood, that it is a matter of perfect indifference to me, which of the two men as far

as they are personally concerned, hold
the post of Head Accountant in the
2 Range - in fact Ponningum Mudaly,
whom I have reasons for removing from
the N. 3 Range, over his introduction
into the Public Service and advance-
ment in it to my recommendation and
interference, while Chingleroyan Mudaly
who was first undertaken in the Depart-
ment in 1865/3 years before me, has
really nothing to thank me for.

3 I need hardly therefore state
that the object I had in view in making
the arrangements I did, was to secure
the interests of the public service, giving
due consideration to the relative merits
and claims of the two men.

4 Whether Chingleroyan Mudaly
went to the 3rd Range or not, I should
feel it my duty to remove him
from a Range in which he has so
many relations. &c. Coopersamy

Wonderful
man that
he is to
be! min
very boy!

Mudaly Salug Overseer in charge of
the Pelandrai Project, who is working
most satisfactorily, there is a brother
of his, and he has his father and others
employed in minor situations. It has
moreover come to my knowledge that
through ^{the} influence of the Head Ac-
countant over the Range Officer, he
obtained from him a letter suspending
Salug Overseer D. Coopersamy for
alleged irregularities, intimidated him
in this way, and ultimately got the sus-
pension order cancelled on receiving from
D. Coopersamy Rupees 300.

*Registered

5 I have determined to defer the
inquiry into the details of this, till the
Official year is over, as the investigation
will involve the examination of most
of the subordinates of the Range, who
cannot ~~consequently~~ be spared from
their work in this last month of the year,
more especially as the work in the

Range are very backward.

1. I am not prepared therefore to say how much of the story is true, and how much false, but I have sufficient reasons to believe it is not altogether unfounded, as the Overseer has admitted that he was asked for the money, but of course denies having paid it, and as I was informed, that one of Ponnurungum's relations acted as mediator in the matter, it will of course be difficult to prove the payment, but if this be true, it shows the use the Head Accountant makes of his relatives.

7. I would not have brought this subject up just now except that I wish you to see that there are sufficient reasons justifying my action in the matter of the appointments in the Range and District Offices.

8. The order communicating the arrangements I had decided upon

was despatched to Mr. Bell on the 22nd ultimo, and on the 28^{id}em I met that Officer at Viraschellum, when he expressed himself dissatisfied with the arrangements, as he did not wish to part with Ponnurungum. I asked him to give me any good reasons for not wishing to have Chingleroyen, such as would justify my reconsidering the matter, and I was informed, that the Office would be sure to fall into arrears, and that the records in the Office were not neatly kept by Chingleroyen Mudaly in his time. Mr. Bell was told that I could not on these grounds cancel my arrangements, as it was very easy for him to report Chingleroyen at once if he found him lazy, and I would remove him, but I did not anticipate any such failing on his part, but Mr. Bell was not pacified till I promised to think over the matter again.

9. On the 2nd Instant I wrote to

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the post of Head Accountant in the
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Mr. Bell drew Officially after considering
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a copy of this letter marked A.

10 On the 9th Instant, Chinglerow
Mudaly reported himself at Virdachel:
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the Office, thus setting at defiance my ^{ordered} instructions in the face of my demi official
marked B
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for removing Ponurungum. I do not
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him of the services of Ponurungum
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22 Jan 1873

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With reference to the first of these

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ever since a controversy which arose be-
tween Mr. Bell and myself in 1891, which
Captain Vertue when Superintending Engineer
here finally disposed of, Mr. Bell views
every action of mine with an utterly erro-
neous impression, that I continue to entertain
an ill feeling towards him, though I have
endeavoured to disabuse his mind of this.

Acting upon this impression, Mr.
Bell I regret to say, has not given me
that satisfaction in the discharge of his
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15 With reference to the second point,
I would refer to para 22 of Mr. Bell's letter,
as it is a short para, I quote it in the mar-
gin - this very clearly shows how little re-
gard Mr. Bell has for the interests of
the public service, when ^{he} suggests the re-
moval of ^{the} Overseer in charge of the
most important work in the District.

* Should you think
S. Coorasinga's re-
tention inadvisable
his transfer may be
effected.

6
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16 Begging to be excused for troubling
you the Government with this perhaps unnecessary
sarily long letter.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your Most Obedt Servant

W. Morison

District Engineer South Creek

Dec 17 February 173 N 380 387

P. N 1873 Department
From: Off. Dist. Engineer
South Arcot

The Chief Engineer
S. P. N.

Dated 13th
Recd 15th March 1873

Enclosure
Forwarding for orders, in
duci official letter from
the Off. Engineer, Vindachellu
Lund Range, couched in
most offensive language
protesting against the
appointment of Chow-
gloray and also as
N. 3 change
South Arcot
N 1219-29 April 173

64445 N 485
228 March 173 Letter to Arch 18 Oct 173

P. N. Dept
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the March 1873
Read the following

From the Off. Dist. Engineer
South Arcot } N 6 N 6 13 March 1873

in the name of the
District Engineer
South Arcot

His Excellency the
Governor in Council
regrets to find his order
of 17 February, which
left it to the discretion
of the District Engineer
of South Arcot to make
such arrangements as he
thought best for filling
up the Public Works
Establishments of that
District has been dis-
regarded by Mr. Assistant
Engineer Bell. And that
that Officer has addressed

the District Engineer on the subject of the appointments made by him in the Tiruchellam M. Bell there.

Range in a grossly insubordinate manner. I think M. Bell should

Such conduct can. displeasure of Govt not be tolerated and the displeasure of Govt will be marked by Mr. Bell's removal to the Madanapally Range of the Cuddalore District from which it is understood that Mr. Patigara desires to be relieved on account of his health requiring a change. The latter officer will therefore hand over his charge to Mr. Supra. vizor Acharya after

as a mark of the removal to the bottom of the list of Assistant Engineers 2nd Grade. Mr. Mifore's Memo. was a mark of consideration. The reply of Mr. Bell was full of insults.

I would deal with this in a separate order. The object to be aimed at now is to support the authority of the District Engineer & bring M. Bell to his senses.

closing the accounts of 1872-73 and proceed to relieve Mr. Bell with all reasonable despatch.

The action of the District Engineer with reference to the Range accounts as shown in para 4 to 7 of his letter cannot quite be approved. He should have at once suspended a man against whom he was prepared to bring so grave a charge, and will adopt that course without further delay.

think so. if as stated in an O.M. as it is an

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side. Some words like "Circular" and "District" are visible.]

N^o 485.86.
Cir. 22 April/73

N^o 219
[Faint handwritten text, mostly illegible.]

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to find his order of 17 February, which left it to the discretion of the District Engineer of South Arcot to make such arrangements as he thought best for filling up the Public Works Establishments of that District has been disregarded by

[Handwritten initials or signature.]

Mr. Assistant Engineer
Bell. And that that
officer has addressed
the District Engineer
on the subject of the
appointments made
by him in the Verda-
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paraly

Such conduct can-
not be tolerated, and
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Mr. Bell's removal from
the South Arcot District
and by the loss of ^{seven} ~~the~~
steps of Departmental
rank. He will be replaced
by Mr. Rategan who
will hand over charge

13
of the Madanapilly
Range to Mr. Supervisor
Schoury. Further orders
will be passed as to
the posting of Mr. Bell.

EMW

To The District Eng^r South Arcot & Bell & Encl^s.
Madanapilly
Controller of P. W. & C.

Decr. 7-5-78.

3-11-86

Copy

Colt. of 1873

PUBLIC WORKS.

No. 100
No. 100
No. 100

Index

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 29th Feb. 1879

No. 1185456

Mr. Asst. Surg. Bell.

Passing orders on letter
from the Asst. Surg. &
Frank Green, submitting
correspondence on the
subject of the ~~discharge~~ ^{discharge}
made by ~~the~~ ^{the} in the
Vindictive House and
bringing to notice the recent
which ~~has~~ ^{has} been in which

Mr. Asst. Surg. Bell has
addressed him on the
subject.

20.2.5.18.79