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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1335  | Press |
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| Dated    | 14-5- | 1848. |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
14th May 1873.*

No. 187. Read the following letter from R. B. NORFOR, Esq., Officiating District Engineer, South Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 25th April 1873, No. 20 :—

I HAVE just returned from a tour of inspection in the Virdachellum Range, and I regret to have to request the Government will be pleased to take into consideration the advisability of finding Mr. Assistant Engineer Bell employment in some other district, as it is quite impossible for me to get on with an officer who sets at defiance every order given him; whose conduct towards myself is highly insubordinate and positively insulting. Every letter and every order issued from my office is made a subject of controversy.

2. On the 22nd instant, when at the Pelandorai Anicut with Mr. Bell in course of conversation on official matters, I had occasion to draw his attention to the rules of the department in which he as Range Officer is required to make disbursements to contractors direct by means of cheques, and not conveyed to them through the medium of the Overseers, or allow the Overseers to pay them from their own cash-chests; this rule, as I have already reported to the Chief Engineer, being one of many that Mr. Bell has altogether disregarded. Mr. Bell, in reply, stated he would do as he liked in the matter, and remarked also that I had not examined *his* cash book to see if the rule had been infringed upon. I thereon requested Mr. Bell to be so good as to produce his cash book for examination, and if he had not it with him to send for it, as Virdachellum was only ten miles from Pelandorai. Mr. Bell positively *refused* to produce his cash book unless I gave him the order in writing, and said he would obey *no* verbal orders. I could not see that such a proceeding was necessary; in a matter of this sort I considered it was quite sufficient for me to *ask* him for his cash book, and I considered it was his duty to have complied with my request at once. I advised him to take time and consider over the matter, as I should be compelled to report him to Government if he did not obey me; but was told he did not want any time to consider, and flatly refused to let me see his cash book except on his own conditions. Mr. Bell, in fact, made himself so very disagreeable, and was so very insulting and insubordinate, that I was obliged to tell him that I did not wish him to accompany me any further in his range; that I would go over the rest of the Pelandorai main channel and works with the Overseer in charge of the anicut.

3. The Overseer had previously been told he was to accompany me down the channel to Streemashnum where I halted the next day, and that I would start at six in the morning. When I was accordingly about to start I was rather surprised to see the Overseer was not prepared to accompany me, and on asking him the reason, he informed me Mr. Bell had sent him a message *not* to accompany me. Of course I countermanded that order and took care that he *did* accompany me.

No. 188. ORDER THEREON, 14th May 1873, No. 1,335.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 30.

RECORDED with reference to G. O.  
No. 1,219 of 29th April 1873.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,  
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, South Arcot.  
Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No 20

District Engineer's Office, S. West  
Massachusetts 25<sup>th</sup> April 1870

From

The Offg. District Engineer  
S. West.

To

The Secretary to Government  
D. S. H.

Sir

I have just returned from a tour  
of inspection in the Tindachellum Range,  
and I regret to have to request the Government  
will be pleased to take into consideration the  
advisability of finding Mr. Assistant Engineer  
Bell employment in some other District, as it  
is quite impossible for me to get on with an  
officer who sets at defiance every order given  
him, whose conduct towards myself is highly  
insubordinate and positively insulting. Every  
letter, and every order issued from my office  
is made a subject of controversy.

2. On the 22<sup>nd</sup> instant, when at the  
Plandraai camp with Mr. Bell, in course  
of conversation on official matters, I had  
occasion to draw his attention to the rules of the  
Department in which he as Range Officer

is required to make disbursements to Contractors direct by means of cheques, and not conveyed to them through the medium of the Overseers, or allow the overseers to pay them from their own Cash chests - This rule as I have already reported to the Chief Engineer being one of many that Mr. Bell has altogether disregarded. Mr. Bell in reply stated he would do as he liked in the matter, and remarked also that I had not examined his Cash book to see if the rule had been infringed upon - I thereupon requested Mr. Bell to be so good as to produce his Cash book for examination, and if he had not it with him to send for it, as Andachellum was only 10 miles from Plandoray. Mr. Bell positively refused to produce his Cash book unless I gave him the order in writing, and said he would obey no verbal orders. I could not see that such a proceeding was necessary, in a matter of this sort. I considered it was quite sufficient for me to ask him for his Cash book, and I considered it was his duty to have complied with my request at once. I advised to take time and consider over the matter, as I should be compelled to report him to Government if he did not obey me, but was told he did not want any time to consider, and flatly refused to let me see his Cash book except on his own conditions. Mr. Bell in fact

made

made himself so very disagreeable and was so very insulting and insubordinate, that I was obliged to tell him that I did not wish him to accompany me any further in his range, that I would go over the rest of the Plandorai main channel and works with <sup>the</sup> Overseer in charge of the canal.

3 The Overseer had previously been told he was to accompany me down the channel to Thoomshum where I halted the next day, and that I would start at 6 in the morning - when I was accordingly about to start I was rather surprised to see the Overseer was not prepared to accompany me, and on asking him the reason, he informed me Mr. Bell had sent him a message not to accompany me. Of course I could not annul that order, and took care that he did accompany me.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedt. Servt.

Alvord

Offg. Dist. Engineer

P.O. 1873 Webster

Nov 26 20.

Mr District Engineer

South Street

My dear Sir

Yr. H.

Nov 23rd

Nov 28 1873

Nov 28

Regarding to various  
matters, that the Engineer  
will be pleased to find  
the report of the  
Engineer and some other  
particulars as to the  
possible for the District  
Engineer to perform with an  
office like mine

With an only

Nov 23 5

Received with reference to

40 N. 1873 of 29 April 1873.

Amn

70 N. E. 5. 1873.

Chas. F. 21-5-73.

8-187-88

Amn to Bureau 28 Nov 1873

C/2 2620  
Cobl. of 18731 Madrid

PUBLIC WORKS.

The District Engineer  
South Arcot

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 14<sup>th</sup> May 1873, No 1335

Nov. 1874/88

Mr. Asst. Eng. Bell.

Letter from the S. Eng. Supt.,  
South Arcot, reporting  
on the conduct of Mr. Bell  
& requesting his removal  
to some other District,  
Recorded.