M.R.O. I—10,006—28-2-50.

(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.	2767	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
204-205		
Dated	14-11-	~~195~~1873

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 204. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. ROBERTS, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Pereacolum, 29th September 1873, No. 2,769:—

I HAVE the honour to state, in reference to the enclosed petition received with your docket, No. 2,242, dated 15th instant, that Ellia Chetty, the petitioner, appeared this day before me and Mr. Hawksworth.

2. Mr. Hawksworth explained that he did not sign the two cheques in question, because he wished certain inquiries to be instituted before the money was actually paid to the contractor.

3. I explained, however, to Mr. Hawksworth that this was not the proper course to pursue, and that he should either issue a cheque or else not issue it, and that this half-way process is irregular and meaningless, and that it is improper to enter in the cash book and progress report as expenditure the issue of cheques which, without signature, have no value whatever, and cannot therefore represent disbursements.

4. Mr. Hawksworth accordingly signed the two cheques in my presence; and on my offering them to the contractor, that individual refused to receive them without interest.

5. This conduct on his part will give you an insight into his character. When he received the cheques in the first instance, he should have applied to me; but his plea for not doing so is that in the case of some man or other who sent a petition to me, I had "referred the matter to the Range Officer for report," as if I could possibly dispose of a question of the kind without inquiry.

6. I may mention that a duplicate copy of the petition was addressed by the Chetty to the Controller and received by me on the 17th instant from that gentleman.

7. I have since ascertained from the Tahsildar of Pereacolum that Ellia Chetty is a man of notoriously bad character as an extortionist, his practice being to threaten respectable individuals with shameful charges unless they will consent to pay him to keep quiet. He has frequently been brought before the Tahsildar charged with these offences; and the Tahsildar has only recently fined the Chetty in the sum of Rupees 70 for extortion in a case of the kind mentioned.

No. 205. ORDER THEREON, 14th November 1873, No. 2,767.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 17.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council is surprised to learn from the District Engineer's report on a contractor's petition that an Officer of the Public Works Department, of sufficient standing to have been lately promoted to the rank of Executive Engineer, 4th grade, could be found capable of issuing unsigned cheques in payment of bills for work performed, and entering their amounts in his cash book and progress report as expenditure. The strange irregularity, to use no harsher term, displayed in this transaction, after the unsatisfactory reports of Mr. Hawksworth's work in the South

Arcot and Salem Districts, gives rise to grave doubts of that gentleman's fitness for continued employment in a department which demands the greatest precision in the performance of its duties and correctness in keeping its accounts. Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts will accordingly resume till further orders the practice lately discontinued of reporting half-yearly on Mr. Hawksworth's qualifications in every respect as a Public Works Officer; the first report to be due after 31st December next.

2. The 5th, 6th, and 7th paragraphs of the District Engineer's letter are irrelevant to the subject. Whatever a man's character may be he is entitled to be paid for his work if duly passed, and His Excellency the Governor in Council sees nothing extraordinary in the demand made for interest under the circumstances.

(True Extract.)

No 2769. District Engineer's Office
Camp Tirucalam 29 September 1873

From

Lieut Colonel R. A Roberts RE
District Engineer, Madura

To

Colonel G. W Walker RE
Secretary to Government &c.

Sir

I have the honor to state in reference to the enclosed Petition received with your Docket No 2242 dated 13th instant, that Ellia Chetty the Petitioner appeared this day before me and Mr Hawksworth.

2. Mr Hawksworth explained that he did not sign the two cheques in question, because he wished certain enquiries to be instituted before the money was actually paid to the Contractor.

3. I explained however to Mr Hawksworth that this was

unless they will consent to pay him to keep quiet - He has frequently been brought before the Tahsildar charged with these offences; and the Tahsildar has only recently fined the Chetty in the sum of Rupees 70, for extortion in a case of the kind mentioned.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obt servant,
(Signed) Forbes Lieut Col R.E.
District Engineer

Received on the 31st of the same month

Enclosure

Cheques Rs 2928 for Rs 500 } 31-7-73
Do Rs 228 for Rs 10 } 31-7-73

By Re-Settlement

Wm. Le Hir Esq. 22/8/73

Cuttack the 11th Augt 1873

To
The Secretary to Government of Bengal
Revenue Department

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith Petitions of Cultivators of Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station, praying that the Petitions may be enquired into and that the Petitions Cultivators may be allowed to pay their Rents in Cowries instead of Rupees.

The following Mouzahs in the Cuttack District have taken Settlement for the year 1280 Fuslee and are desirous of paying their Rents in Cowries instead of Rupees.

1. Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station
2. Mouzah Cossaibarry
3. Mouzah Bidanasy
4. Mouzah Bidanasy Khalsah
5. Mouzah Bidanasy Chowdhry
6. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun
7. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun Khalsah
8. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun Chowdhry

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
C. Ravenshaw
Commissioner

Cuttack the 11th August 1873

To
The Secretary to the Government of Bengal
Revenue Department

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith Petitions of Cultivators of Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station, praying that the Petitions may be enquired into and that the Petitions Cultivators may be allowed to pay their Rents in Cowries instead of Rupees.

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6. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun
7. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun Khalsah
8. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun Chowdhry

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
C. Ravenshaw
Commissioner

From C. Ravenshaw Esq
Commissioner of Cuttack
Dated 11th August 1873
To
The Secretary to Government of Bengal
Revenue Department
Calcutta

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith Petitions of Cultivators of Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station, praying that the Petitions may be enquired into and that the Petitions Cultivators may be allowed to pay their Rents in Cowries instead of Rupees.

Enclosures:

Petitions of Cultivators of Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station (8 Nos)

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
C. Ravenshaw
Commissioner

Cuttack the 11th August 1873

To
The Secretary to the Government of Bengal
Revenue Department

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith Petitions of Cultivators of Mouzah Kuttuck Sudder Station, praying that the Petitions may be enquired into and that the Petitions Cultivators may be allowed to pay their Rents in Cowries instead of Rupees.

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8. Mouzah Bidanasy Mahajun Chowdhry

I have the honour to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
C. Ravenshaw
Commissioner

Petitioner in the Road No 20 was sent by the
late Local Fund (Ouerseer) Sirisena de Silva
to whose Succesor the present Talug (Ouerseer)
received the cheque No 288 of the date 31st July 70
without Signature and showed him (the
Petitioner) those cheques of no use because
they bear no signature of the Range officer
Upon this the Petitioner Compliand & the
Ouerseer. If Contractors is favoured with
such useless cheques How is it possible to
execute the given work in due time stated
in the bond the Talug Ouerseer forwarded
these cheques & the Range Officer who
returned them again & him without
Signature without any explanation whatsoever.
After this the Ouerseer according to the
instruction of the Range Officer Called
for the Petitioner and ordered him to
Sign in the Bill & be forwarded to
the Range Officer and gave the Petitioner
these cheques which are herewith enclosed
for your honour's kind perusal. This is not
only the first instance If your honour
order all the Talug Ouerseers under the
2nd Range - Hadura Distrct to send
at once all the cheques in their

possession at present you will find most of the
are of the above said nature. Not only do the
Contractors experiance this difficulty but ma
The Petitioner likes to bring to light a few mor
As the Contractor do not get money properly
from the Gouernment They are quite una
to execute ~~their~~ works and when the Range
Officer finds this the fines them heavely
Sometimes the fines is so heavy that half or 2/3
part of them expended amount they lose
During the time of Mr. Haynes Esq
Captain Pennycuick and Cunningham the expendit
for the works was nearly 30 or 4000 per mensem
while Confusion & loss to the Contractors is the sa
Many Contractors of this place Complained
all their grievances to the District Enginer
who forwarded them to the disposed of the
Range Officer and that Officer growing angry
at them hearing reported the matter to his sup
has done to them great many injurous
while all the Contractors of the place
are ready to prove by the records.
The Petitioner therefore begs that
Your honour will be graciously pleased to
enquire into the grievances fully and

...under justice & the poor unhappy Petitioners

For which act of charity and

benevolence the Petr shall ever pray

6th September 1839

Peria Colmn 3

Petition Recd. No 2242 of 1839

To the District Engineer,

Madura

for Report.

Collector

Secy to Govt.

matter of his not having been paid for certain works executed by him on Contract in the Peraktolum Valley.

Enc. 1 In a letter from the District Engineer Chingleput to the Secretary to Govt P.W.D. dated 29th Sept 1873 & No 276.

Secretary to Govt

No P.W. 5430/73

To the District Engineer

Chingleput No 276 7-14th Oct 73

Water 13th December 73

Read

Abstract

Transfer for the District Engineers report a petition from Erichetty Contractor at Peraktolum bringing to notice the irregularity taken place in the indigent charge in issuing unsigned receipt for the works executed by them and requesting to enquire into the

No 276 P.W. Dept Dated

Pro: of the Madras Govt.

Read the following

from

The Dt. Engineer of Chingleput } (No 276 & 294 Sept 1873.)

His Excellency the Governor in Council is solicited to learn from the District Engineers Report on a Contractors Petition that an Officer of the Public Works Department of sufficient standing who have been lately promoted to the rank of Executive Engineer

4th grade, could be found capable of issuing unsigned cheques in payment of Bills for work performed, and entering their amounts in his cash book and Progress Report as expenditure. The eccentricity of character to use no harsher term displayed in this transaction, after the unsatisfactory reports of Mr. Hart Penworthie work in the Leeds and Selby Districts, gives rise to grave doubts of that Gentleman's fitness for continued employment in a Department which demands the greatest precision in the performance of its duties, and correctness in keeping its accounts. Lieut. Colonel Roberts will accordingly resume till further orders the practice lately discontinued of reporting Half yearly on Mr Hart Penworthie qualifications in every respect as a Public Works officer; the first report to be due after 31st December next.

The 5th, 6th and 7th

paras

parce of the District
Engineer's letter and
utterly foreign to the
subject submitted to
him for report.
Whatever a man's
character may be
he is entitled to be
paid for his work
if duly passed; and
His Excellency the
Governor-in-Council
sees nothing extraor-
dinary in the demand
made for Interest
under the circumstances.

GMW

Dist. Engr. Medora
L.C. ouch 25/11/73

H. 204.5

No. 5430

PUBLIC WORKS.

The District Engr
Indiana

14 Nov. 1867.

Nos 2D, 1918

Cheques. Papers order-
ing a letter from the Dist.
Engr. Indiana, referring
to a petition from
a Contractor complaining
of unrevised cheques
being issued to him
by Disbursing Officer in
Indianapolis