M.R.O. 1—10,006—23-2-50.

(1) Number of pages_____

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(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

pub. works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 2829	Press
~~B.P. No.~~ 3208321	~~Mis.~~
Dated 22. 11. 1873	195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 320. Read the following endorsement of the Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings, dated Vellore, 31st October 1873, No. 1,379 :—

From Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Chingleput, to Colonel E. A. FOORD, R.E., Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings, dated Guindy, 24th October 1873, No. 1,936.

I HAVE the honour most respectfully to protest, through you, against the censure passed on me in G. O., No. 2,510, dated 15th instant, before I have had any opportunity of explaining.

2. One of my first acts as Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, in May 1872, was to nominate an officer to join a Committee to choose a site for a temporary hospital at Poonamallee, which, I observed, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief recommended "should be erected as soon as possible," see G. O., No. 65, dated 8th April 1872.

3. Some time passed before the Report of the Committee reached me, during which I was very busily occupied with the repairs of cyclone damages. I did however apply to the Military Authorities to know the object of the hospital, and asked whether it was to be purely temporary, pending alteration of the existing hospital, or of a more substantial character in supersession of, or in addition to, the present accommodation.

4. In No. 7,115, dated 23rd September, the Quartermaster General informed me that it was " not in substitution but in addition to the present building, and was only temporary as not expensive." As I had reported that I could not cover 100 beds for Rupees 4,000, His Excellency allowed me to reduce the accommodation to 50.

5. When the plans were prepared the local officers pointed out that the site selected in May was not accessible from the existing hospital, except by a considerable circuit, the fort ditch, always troublesome for invalids and holding much water in the rains, being between the two buildings. They therefore insisted that new out-houses must also be built.

6. Considerable discussion took place over these points, nearly all personal ; to expedite matters I waited on the General Commanding Centre District, and procured the appointment of another Committee to reconsider the site, and on their report I desired the immediate preparation of an estimate for the hospital only. This, I beg to point out, was forwarded to the Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General on the 9th December, and returned on the 26th December with the approval of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, notified in letter No. 9,712.

7. You had not then taken up your appointment, and it was not till some time after that date that I received any instructions as to your duty or my communications with you.

8. I must acknowledge my omission of not submitting the papers to Government. I was in the confusion of moving my office, sorting papers, etc., with two utterly new establishments in North Arcot and Chingleput. I knew that the Military Authorities were urgent, and I overlooked the fact that they had not laid the papers before Government.

9. The plans, I further submit, would not show the number of couples. One figure in the estimate alone would tell this, and it was accidentally passed in my office; here again I must remark that the new organization of 1st December reduced the pay of Superintending Engineer's Estimate-makers so much that both members of my office procured other employment. I had a young inexperienced lad for North Arcot and none in Chingleput, as I was obliged to leave the man whom I promoted from a Range Office to teach his successor, who came direct from the College.

10. I trust that, with this explanation, you will support my request to be relieved of censure. I must again point out that during 1872-73 we had a very severe cyclone, an unusually heavy monsoon, and an unprecedented storm in February, changes of department, organization involving alteration in Range and District Officers and offices, and that this district has nearly the largest expenditure in the Presidency under Irrigation, Military and Communication.

SUBMITTED for the favourable consideration of Government.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Inspecting Engineer for Civil and Military Buildings.

No. 321. ORDER THEREON, 22nd November 1873, No. 2,829.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 27.

HIS Excellency the Governor in Council accepts Colonel Moberly's explanation, but regrets that he is unable to absolve him entirely from blame in respect to delays and other matters noticed in G. O., of 15th October, No. 2,510.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Inspecting Engineer for Buildings.
,, District Engineer, Chingleput.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

H. E. the G. in C. is not satisfied that a Temporary Hospital which H. E. the C. in C. recommended under date the 23d July 1872, for immediate erection as soon as possible; for which it would appear from para 4. of the same letter that an Estimate of Rs 4000 had already been made; and for which that sum was appropriated under date the 27th March 1872, could not, under anything like good management, have been commenced before January 1873, and a larger sum than Rs 1732 utilized on it within that official year.

The details now given by Col. Moberly, only serve to show that probably others besides himself were to blame for the initial delays; and had he explained their causes, and submitted his Plan & Estimate when these at last were ready, the share of blame might have been more ac-

: mately apprehended. But for entire neglect to submit the Plan & Estimate for sanction, according to Standing Orders; and for passing a Plan & Estimate allowing for an impossible roof. H.S. the G. of C. must continue to hold Col. Baker solely responsible. The amount of work behind in hand, and the inefficiency of Establishment as he alleges, cannot absolve him from blame for non-performance of his own personal duties of supervision. It was otherwise left of those that the Order to which he objects called his attention; and H.S. the G. of C. regrets his inability to see the matter in another light.

Gen.
7.11.70.

Not first time I read
your letter. Then on second
when we left Fort here
and the [illegible]
[illegible]
Fort Erie

Fort Erie
Oh yes I see what the
[illegible] of Canada has
[illegible] on me —
right to [illegible]
[illegible] from Prince in
[illegible] the delays and
[illegible] matter [illegible] in
[illegible]

8/71

5970

Rec'd 16th Oct 73

Nº 1936. Chiengleput Dist.t Engr.s Office
Guindy, 24th October 1873.

From,

The District Engineer
Chiengleput

To

The Inspecting Engineer
for Civil & Military Buildings

Sir,

I have the honor most respectfully to protest through you against the censure passed on me in G.O. Nº 2510, dated 15th instant, before I have had any opportunity of explaining.

One of my first acts as Superintending Engineer 4th Division in May 1872 was, to nominate an Officer to join a Committee to choose a site for a temporary Hospital at Poonamallee, which I observed His Excellency the Commander-in Chief recommended "should be erected as soon as possible" see G.O. Nº 65, dated 8th April 1872.

Some time passed before the report of the Committee reached me, during

Rec'd 16th Oct 73

Nº 5970

Chiengleput
Nº 5970

during which I was very busily occupied with the repairs of Cyclone damages. I did however apply to the Military authorities to know the object of the Hospital and asked whether it was to be purely temporary pending alteration of the existing Hospital; or of a more substantial character in supercession of or in addition to the present accommodation.

In No. 7115, dated 23rd September, the Quarter Master General informed me that it was "not in substitution but in addition to the present building and was only temporary as not expensive" as I had reported that I could not cover 100 beds for Rs. 4,000. His Excellency allowed me to reduce the accommodation to 50.

When the plans were prepared, the Local Officers pointed out that the site selected in May was not accessible from the existing Hospital, except by a considerable circuit the fort ditch, always troublesome for invalids and holding much

much water in the rains, being between the two buildings. They therefore insisted that new outhouses must also be built.

Considerable discussion took place over these points, nearly all personal; to expedite matters I waited on the General Commanding Centre District, and procured the appointment of another Committee to reconsider the site, and on their report I desired the immediate preparation of an estimate for the Hospital only. This I beg to point out was forwarded to the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General on the 9th December and returned on the 26th December with the approval of His Excellency the Commander in Chief notified in letter No. 9712.

You had not then taken up your appointment, and it was not till some time after that date that I received any instructions as to your duty or my communications with you.

I must acknowledge my omission

omission of not submitting the papers to Government. I was in the confusion of moving my Office, sorting papers &c. with two utterly new establishments in North Arcat and Chingleput. I knew that the Military authorities were urgent and I overlooked the fact that they had not laid the papers before Government.

The plans I further submit would not show the number of couples. One figure in the estimate alone would tells this, and it was accidentally passed in my Office - here again I must remark that the new organization of 1st December reduced the pay of Superintending Engineer's Estimate-makers so much that both members of my Office procured other employment. I had a young inexperienced lad for North Arcat and none in Chingleput, as I was obliged to leave the man whom I promoted from a Range Office to teach his successor, who came direct from the College.

I

11 TM

I trust that with this explanation you will support my request to be relieved of censure. I must again point out that during 1872/73 we had a very severe cyclone, an unusually heavy monsoon, and an unprecedented storm in February, changes of Department, organization involving alteration in Range and District Officers and Offices and that this District has nearly the largest expenditure in the Presidency under Irrigation Military and Communication.

I have &c.

Signed / F. J. Moberly Col. R.E.
Dist. Engr. Chingleput

No. 1379

Submitted for the favorable consideration of Government.

Office of the Sup. Engr. for Civil & Mily. Buildings
Vellore 31st October 1873

E a Mord Coll. R.E.
Inspecting Engineer for
Civil & Military Buildings

To
Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

P. W. 1873 Department.

From
The Inspecting Engineer
for Buildings
To
The Secretary to Govt.
P. W. D.

Dated 31st October 1873.
Recd 1 November
Recd 3 "

No 1379

Submits for favorable consideration copy of letter from the Dist. Engr. of Chingleput protesting on the censure passed on him in G.O. No 2510, dated 15th October 1873.

With an order.

No 2824

N. E. the Governor in Council accepts Col: Goldsby's explanation, but regrets that he is unable to absolve him entirely from blame in respect to delays & other matters noticed in G O of 15 Oct: No 2510.

Lyttn.

To
J. Lyon Esqr Bar
Dy Chingleput
Dated Fort St. G. 25/11/73

R. 12 Nov 73
Issued to Addl Govt 4 Nov 73

No. 597

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Inspecting Engr for Buildings

Dated 12th Nov

Recd. Encl.

G. O 22 Nov 1873, 2829.

Nos. 3201321

Temporary Hospital at Poonamallee. Passing orders on letter from the Dy Surgn Chengalpat Provisions against the censure passed on him in G O No 2570 of

15 Oct 73 in connection with the Temporary Hospital at Poonamallee.