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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.	323	Press
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Dated	31-1-	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st January 1873.*

No. 655. Read the following letter from the Officiating District Engineer, South Arcot, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 30th December 1872, No. 14 :—

In continuation of my letter, No. 11 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report, for the information of Govern-

- 1 Original letter, No. 211, of 24th September 1872, with four enclosures, from Range Officer.
- 1 Do. No. 684, of the 14th October 1872, to do.
- 1 Do. No. 251, of 30th October 1872, from do, with two enclosures
- 1 Do. No. 777, of 7th Nov. 1872, to do
- 1 Do. No. 778, dated 7th November 1872, to the Supervisor.
- 1 Do. No. 196, of 17th November 1872, from the Supervisor, with one enclosure.

ment, the circumstances under which I have considered it desirable to recall Supervisor Manickum Moodelliar from the Palandorai Anicut Project, in the No. 3 or Virdachellum Range, in charge of Assistant Engineer J. M. Bell, Esq.

2. In April last Major Vertue, R. E., then Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, transferred Manickum Moodelliar from the Villapuram Taluq, in the Cuddalore Range, to the Virdachellum Range, to have special and independent charge of the Palandorai Anicut Project, having the entire control of the works of the project, but submitting his accounts through the Range Office to the Controller.

3. I gather from Major Vertue's letter, No. 8 of the 3rd April 1872, to the Range Officer, that he considered this arrangement desirable as the Range Officer himself had abundant work in the range, being the most important irrigation range in the district, so that he could not possibly devote to the Palandorai Project the attention so large a work would necessarily require.

4. Since the above arrangement was made, Mr. Bell's charge was greatly increased by the addition of the Kallacoorchy Taluq to his range, and there was all the more reason for the Range Officer being relieved of this large and important work. Colonel Foord, though admitting this in his letter, No. 412 of the 8th July 1872, to Mr. Bell's address, appears *previously*, on the 5th idem, in No. 403, to the same officer, to have placed the Supervisor under the orders of the Range Officer, who was held responsible for that and all works in the range.

5. Mr. Bell joined the range on the 21st June 1872, and in a letter, No. 211 of the 24th September, reported to the Superintending Engineer that the unsatisfactory progress made in the anicut works was due to want of diligence and ability on the part of Supervisor Manickum Moodelliar; he further reports him to be physically unfit for field-work, and requests his removal.

6. Colonel Foord, in reply, * remarks that the backward state of the work was, in his opinion, due more to the bad arrangements made prior to the Supervisor taking charge than to any want of diligence or ability on his part; that Manickum Moodelliar had successfully carried out several large works in this district, and that he did not think anything would be gained by removing him from the work; he further suggested in his letter that a subordinate to be useful in such a position should be allowed a certain amount of discretion in the arrangements he makes with contractors and coolies, and he should, moreover, be invested with a certain amount of authority. I assume from this that the Supervisor complained person.

* No. 684 of 14th October 1872.

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31st January 1873.*

ally to Colonel Foord that he had been stripped of all authority and unnecessarily interfered with.

7. Mr. Bell again in letter No. 251, of the 30th October, to the Superintendent Engineer, reiterating the statements in his previous communication, insists that to Manickum Moodelliar's dilatoriness is due the slow progress of the work, and further reports that he had failed to make good use of what he considers the

* No. 777 of 7th November 1872.

best season of the year, from April to

October; in this Colonel Foord* does not agree with Mr. Bell; he considers the first four months in the year the best season, and states that in this year, owing to the storm in May and frequent rain and freshes since the middle of July, the season has been very unfavourable.

8. Before leaving this, Colonel Foord in forwarding to Manickum Moodelliar Mr. Bell's two letters complaining against him called upon him for his explanation, which was received on the 19th ultimo, and left to me to dispose of.

9. After a careful perusal of the correspondence referred to above, (which I have the honour to submit in original as they are too voluminous to copy,) and from my own knowledge of Manickum Moodelliar, who has served under me in various capacities for a number of years, I certainly coincide with Colonel Foord in his opinion that the unsatisfactory progress of the work is not entirely due to a lack of diligence and ability on the part of the Supervisor. Manickum Moodelliar joined the work in April 9th, and a great deal of time was lost in taking over charge, measuring up works, and settling accounts with the old contractors; indeed, these settlements were not effected till the beginning of July; much valuable time was wasted here; in fact, what could have been done in three or four weeks took as many months, and the fruit of this protracted and labourious proceeding was a lengthy, meaningless report from Mr. Hawksworth, with a comparative statement, the accuracy of which in regard to the rates of work done, from my previous connection with the work, I have more than sufficient ground to doubt.

10. The Supervisor's field of action was, moreover, very considerably crippled, in finding that the greater portion of the main channel and masonry works had been given to Contractor Subaraw Moodelliar & Co., introduced on the work from Bangalore by Major Vertue, R. E., and from whom that officer expected a great deal, but who utterly failed, and finally threw up his contract.

11. The unusual rainfall in this year throughout the district and frequent freshes in the river has also undoubtedly been one of the causes of delay in the prosecution of this work.

12. From all these circumstances I am disposed to think that the delay in the work has been to a very great extent unavoidable. But the correspondence I am now submitting will show the hostile and unpleasant feeling that exists between the Range Officer and the Supervisor, which is certainly not conducive to discipline, and which will most undoubtedly interfere very seriously with the future prospects of this important work. Mr. Bell has also demi-officially begged me to recall Manickum Moodelliar, and to permit him to replace him by Overseer A Coopoo-sawmy Moodelliar, who was recently transferred to this district from Salem by Colonel Foord. I have therefore, in the interests of the public service, considered it advisable to comply with Mr. Bell's request, and have intimated to that officer

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that in doing so I hope the utmost advantage would be taken of the next three months in the year, which is usually the most favourable working season, to fully utilize the allotment at his disposal for expenditure on this work in the current official year.

13. I have also made arrangements to send Mr. Bell a large gang of Wudders from the No. 1 Range, for employment on the main channel, and have every hope that there will be no more delay in the rapid prosecution of this work.

14. The manner in which I have employed Supervisor Manickum Moodelliar, pending instructions from Government, has been communicated in my No. 11 of the 23rd instant.

No. 656.

ORDER THEREON, 31st January 1873, No. 323.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 48.

THE Government will not interfere with the arrangement made by the Acting District Engineer of South Arcot, and in the opinion of His Excellency in Council the delay in the progress of the Palandorai Anicut cannot fairly be laid to the charge of Supervisor Manickum Moodelliar.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting District Engineer, South Arcot.

Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

No 14 District Engineer's Office, S. Arcot,
Cuddalore 30th December 1872

To, The Offg. District Engineer,
S. Arcot.
The Secretary to Government,
D. P. W.

Sir, In continuation of my letter

Enclosure 6
1 Original letter No. 11 of the 23rd Instant, I have the
21st of 21st Sept 72 with honor to report, for the information of
4 Enclosure from
Group Officer
1 No. 10th 68th of the 11th Government, the circumstances under which
Oct 72 to do. I have considered it desirable to recall
1 No. 12th 251 of 50th
Oct 72 from 21st with
1 No. 10th 777 of 7th 2 Enclosures
November 72 to do. Supervisor Manickam Modaliar
1 No. 11th 778 of 7th from the Palanitorai Amicul Project
to the Supervisor in the No. 3 or Vadachellam Range
1 No. 10th 196 of 17th in charge of Assistant Engineer S. M.
November from this Bell Camp.
Supervisor with
Enclosure.

2. In April last Major
Verdun R. E., then Superintending Engg,
5th Division, transferred Manickam Modaliar
from

from the Villupuram Talook to the
Cuddalore Range, to the Virudachellam
Range, to have special ^{and independent} charge of the
Palandurai Ancient Project, having the
entire control of the works of the Pro-
ject, but submitting his accounts through
the Range Office to the Controller.

3. I gather from Major Verdues' letter No. 8 of the 3rd April 1872 to the Range Officer that he considered this arrangement desirable as the Range Officer himself had abundant work in the Range, being the most important irrigation Range in the District, so that he could not possibly devote to the Palandurai Project the attention so large a work would necessarily require.

4. Since the above arrangement was made, Mr. Bell's charge was greatly increased by the addition of the Kallacorchy Talook to his Range,

and there was all the more reason for the Range Officer being relieved of this large and important work. Colonel Ford, though admitting this in his letter No. 412 of the 8th July 1872 to Mr. Bell's address, appears previously, on the 5th June in No. 403 to the same Officer, to have placed the Supervisor under the orders of the Range Officer, who was held responsible for that and all works in the Range.

5th. Mr. Bell joined the Range on the 21st June 1872, and in a letter No. 211 of the 24th September reported to the Superintending Engineer that the unsatisfactory progress made in the Ancient works was due to want of diligence and ability on the part of Supervisor Maichurri Modakar, he further reports him to be physically unfit for field work, and requests his removal.

6 Colonel Ford in reply to
remarks that the backward state of
the work was in his opinion due more
to the bad arrangements made prior
to the Supervisor taking charge
than to any want of diligence or ability
on his part, that Manickam Mooda-
liar had successfully carried out se-
veral large works in this District,
and that he did not think anything
would be gained by removing him from
the work; he further suggested in
his letter that a subordinate to be useful
in such a position should be allowed
a certain amount of discretion in the ar-
rangements he makes with Contractors
and Coolies, and he should moreover
be invested with a certain amount
of authority. I assume from this
that the Supervisor complained
personally to Colonel Ford, that
he had been stripped of all authority
and unceasingly interfered with.
7 Mr. Bell again in letter

to 681 of the
October 1872

No 251 of the 30th October to the
Superintending Engineer, reiterating
the statements in his previous com-
munication, insists that to Manickam
Moodaliar's delatoriness is due, the slow
progress of the work, and further
reports that he had failed to make
good use of what he considers the best
season of the year from April to October.
In this Colonel Ford does not agree
with Mr. Bell, he considers the
first four months in the year, the
best season, and states that in this
year owing to the storm in May and
frequent rain and frosts since the
middle of July, the season has
been very unfavorable.

277 of
November 1872

8. Before leaving this
Colonel Ford, in forwarding to
Manickam Moodaliar Mr. Bell's
2 letters complaining against him,
called upon him for his explana-
tion which was received on the 19th
Ultimo

Ultimo, and left to me to dispose
of.

9 After a careful perusal of
the correspondence related to above,
which I have the honor to submit
in original as they are too voluminous
to copy, and from my own knowledge
of Manickum Moodahar, who has
served under me ⁱⁿ various capacities
for a number of years, I certainly
coincide with Colonel Ford in
his opinion that the unsatisfac-
tory progress of the work is not
entirely due to a lack of diligence
and ability on the part of the Super-
visor. Manickum Moodahar joined
the work in April 9th and a great
deal of time was lost in taking over
charge, measuring up work, and
settling accounts with the old con-
tractors, indeed these settlements were
not effected till the beginning of

6 *
July. much valuable time was wasted
here, in doing what could have been
done in 3 or 4 weeks. As many
months and the fruit of this pro-
tracted and laborious proceeding was
long thrown away. I have found
the following with a comparative
statement the accuracy of which in
regard to the rates of work done,
from my previous connection with the
work, I have more than sufficient
grounds to doubt.

10. The Supervisor's field of
action was moreover very considerably
diminished in getting the quarters
berth of the H.M. Channel and Ma-
sonry works had been given to Contractor
S. L. Moodahar & Company in-
stead of the work from Ban-
galore by Major Victor A.C. and
from whom that officer expected a great
deal, but who utterly failed and
finally

11.

12.

12.

12.

12.

6*

Main Channel, and have every hope
that there will be no more delay in
the ^{rapid} prosecution of this work.

13. The manner in which I
have employed Supervisor Manick
in Modolaw, finding instructions
from Government, has been commu-
nicated in my No. 11 of the 25th instant.

Have the honor to be
Sir
Yours Most Obedt. Servant.

Alm
Offg. District Engineer

27th 1873 Rept.
from C. No 20

Ad 323

W. R.

The City District Judge

of South West

of the City & Government
of S. W.

Under 30th

28th 30th

1873

City No 23

Regarding the account
of the City District Judge
of the City & Government
of S. W.

With due order.

I would not say more than
that the City will not in.

Before with the arrangement
and that the Governor in Council has no doubt

of the City in that the City District Judge
Council the City of South West has presented in
in the purpose of the City District Judge
the City District Judge in Council has no doubt

which cannot be done without the City District Judge
which cannot be done without the City District Judge
which cannot be done without the City District Judge

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Ad 323

W. R.

C/20*

Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the District Engineer
South Arcot

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 3

G. O. 31st Aug 1873. 823.

Nos 655 & 656

Pelandorai Aicut

Project - Paper orders

on letter from the

to the South Arcot

explaining the cause of

the removal of the

mainstream

From the work
and by ~~the~~ re-
porting as to the
slow progress of
the project.

1873/10/10