

- (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.	784	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
262-263		
Dated	12 - 3	18'13

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th March 1873.*

No. 262. Read the following letter from the District Engineer, North Arcot:—
(Here enter No. 347, dated 22nd January 1873.)

ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.

I.—Sub-Engineer Smithers complains of a letter from the Collector to the Superintending Engineer, stating that having written to the Sub-Collector to ascertain what materials had been stored at Kalastri and Pootoor for the construction of Cutcheries and Subsidiary Jails at those stations, he could only hear of 370,000 bricks, valued at Rupees 1,483, being stored at Kalastri (whereas by an endorsement of the Superintending Engineer's it appears that an expenditure of Rupees 6,216-5-5 had been incurred on the Kalastri Cutcherry up to the 31st March 1872). He considers that the Collector's procedure affected not only his character but that of Colonels Wilkieson and Bean, who passed the materials, and that he should have applied to the Superintending Engineer or Range Officer for the information.

II.—He complains of the nature of the notice taken by the Collector of the action of the Sub-Magistrate of Tirupetty, in calling upon the Range Officer to report whether he had carried out the work of the Thandalum spring channel according to estimate.

III.—He complains of the Head Assistant Collector having treated him as a subordinate in having sent him a verbal order by a peon to meet him next morning at 7 o'clock, and subsequently by requesting him in writing to clean up the Pootoor bungalow, a building in his own charge, and where no sweepers were entertained. Also for ordering him, in writing, to remove certain timber from the Pootoor bungalow.

IV.—He brings to notice a letter from the Head Assistant, requesting his return to headquarters, Raneepett, his presence there during the rainy weather being considered necessary, for preparation of estimates, and that he might be on the spot to be consulted. He also objects to the Head Assistant having obtained for perusal a document belonging to the Range Office records in the absence of the Range Officer.

V.—Mr. Smithers complains generally of the Superintending Engineer's inattention to these complaints, and specially of his having taken the part of an Assistant Engineer and Tahsildar, both natives, against him, on a charge of discourtesy in his style of addressing them.

VI.—This latter subject, namely, an objectionable mode and tone adopted towards the Wallajah Tahsildar, is the theme of a letter, No. 404, from the Collector to the District Engineer. The portion of yadasht objected to appears to be that in which Mr. Smithers intimates that the Tahsildar would be better employed in seeing that the villagers did their duty in cutting the bunds of tanks when overfull, than in sending him reports of tanks breaching. But the Head Assistant further complains that the Range Officer has sent him no report concerning any of the breached tanks, or communicated his opinion on the state of the Cauverypauk tank in particular.

VII.—This complaint is enlarged on in the Collector's letter, No. 408, giving cover to a docket from the Head Assistant, calling on the Range Officer "to submit a brief report showing what breached tanks he had visited, and what measures he had taken for their repair in each case." Also to "submit a report as to the subsidence of the Cauverypauk tank bund, with his opinion as to what should be done." The Range Officer's reply names twenty tanks and anicuts as having already been visited and estimated for, besides various roads. Of the Cauverypauk tank he observed that it had slipped in four places, but that Colonel Moberly was of opinion that no danger was to be apprehended, and had approved of the measures adopted by him. He also states that he had already reported himself, two days before the Head Assistant wrote, as being busy in framing estimates, stating the manner in which he was getting work done. Finally he objects to being addressed by docket.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th March 1873.*

No. 263.

ORDER THEREON, 12th March 1873, No. 784.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 34.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has not sufficient information before him to enable him to judge of the nature and propriety of the action taken by the Collector to inquire into the details of the materials said to have been collected for the Kalastri and Pootoor Cutcherries. These are stated in G. O., No. 2,149, of 10th September 1872, to have cost Rupees 6,216 and Rupees 4,937, out of total sanctions of Rupees 10,810 each. The Superintending Engineer has not yet responded to the call made in that order for report how matters really stood with reference to those Cutcherries, the very sites of which were stated not to have been made over to the Public Works Department; and it may possibly have been similar neglect on the part of the Superintending Engineer to furnish the Collector with the information wanted, that induced him to depute his Sub-Collector to obtain it. At any rate it is unwarrantable on the part of the Range Officer to assume that his character or that of former Superintending Engineers was affected by the Collector's procedure.

2. The notice taken by the Collector of the Chandergherry Tahsildar's and Tirupetty Sub-Magistrate's action in the case of the Thandalum spring channel is not open to the construction put upon it by the Range Officer, whose language with reference to the matter is improper.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is not of opinion that the procedure of the Head Assistant Collector with reference to the Range Officer can be justified in the following instances, namely,—

1st.—Requesting his return to head-quarters at Rancepett on the plea of his presence there during the rainy weather being considered necessary for preparation of estimates, and that he might be on the spot to be consulted.

2nd.—Insisting on his reporting what measures he had taken for repairing each breached tank, and communicating his opinion on the state of the Cauvery-pauk tank in particular.

4. The Range Officer was evidently exerting himself to the utmost to visit every work in turn, to adopt such remedial measures as were emergently required, to estimate for further repairs, and to report his proceedings to his own immediate superior. And His Excellency the Governor in Council holds that he gave quite sufficient information as to his proceedings in the letter to the Head Assistant, of which the Collector complains; the curt tone of which is accounted for by impatience at unreasonable demands made upon his time when he felt that he had not a moment to spare for unnecessary reports, and at what he conceived to be a peremptory form of address on the part of one to whom he was in no wise subordinate.

5. How far the Range Officer was justified in complaining of the Head Assistant on the score of the points noted in Section III. of the Abstract of Correspondence, His Excellency the Governor in Council is not in a position to judge for want of information on the other side of the case. But he requests that the Collector will instruct his Head Assistant to treat with becoming courtesy an

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
12th March 1873*

Upper Subordinate of the highest rank in the Public Works Department, who bears an unblemished character throughout a long service, one of whose chief faults is evidently extreme susceptibility as to his treatment by the European officials with whom he is associated.

6. The Government have forbidden the practice of correspondence by dockets, which so frequently leads, first, to an abrupt style of communication, and, subsequently, to complaints of discourtesy. Mr. Whiteside will issue the necessary instructions to the officers under his orders to discontinue the use of dockets, for which the usual official letters should be substituted.

7. In conclusion, His Excellency must seriously warn Mr. Smithers to be more considerate and civil in his dealings with native officials and natives generally, and to abstain in his official letters from general reflections on the native character.

8. The evidence of determined prejudice against natives, with whom an officer in Mr. Smithers position is in constant personal communication, seriously lessens his usefulness as a public servant, and if continued to be shown by Mr. Smithers may prove a serious impediment to his future advancement in the Department of Public Works.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
" Revenue Department.
" Judicial "

Erd. S. T. Austin.

No 314

North Arcot
District Engineer's Office
Cuddalore 22nd January 1872

From

Colonel F. J. Moberly R. E.

For District Engineer North Arcot.

To
Colonel G. W. Walker R. E.

Secretary to Government.

Public Works Department.

Enclosures 12

Sir,

Madras.

Letter No 508 of 13 Jan'y/72
from Mr. Smithers
copy of letter from the
Collector of N. Arcot to the
District Engineer, Cuddalore
marked 1.
Letter from the Collector
of N. Arcot to the District Engineer
dated 31st 12/72
marked 2.
Letter from the District Engineer
Collector of N. Arcot to the
Sub-Engineer, Hallajah Range
No 295 of 29th Decr/72
marked 3.
Letter from the District Engineer
Collector of N. Arcot to the
Sub-Engineer, Hallajah Range
No 303 of 5th Jan'y/72

I have the honor to enclose a letter
from Mr. Smithers, in original, as I have
failed to satisfy his feelings.

I do not know the cause of
the Collector's proceeding mentioned in
para 1, but I urged on him that such
enquiry in the Range Officer's absence
was irregular and likely to cause
offence.

The other matters I only heard
of a few days ago, and suggested to Mr. Smithers
that he should let me know more about
them to enable me to set them right.
The enclosed is his reply.

As regards the final para I
beg

Enclose correspondence
regarding the Tahildar and Head Af
Collector.

I should not have troubled you
with the matter, if it had not been for
Mr Smithers persistence.

I have the honor to be,

Wm. L. Garrison

Yours Most Obedt Servant.

Respectfully Colonel R. E.

For District Engineer,

North Brook

1 Letter to 404 of 12 Dec/92
from the collection of the
The British Library

1 Copy of No. 10682 of 5 Dec 1872
from Mr. Williamson to the
Collector of A. S.

1 yadastat. 1056 of 3 recd 1772
from the Sahibdar of
Hallaiah Taluk to the H. H.

Wallajah, Calicut to the H^{rs}
A full collection
1. Copy of yacast ch: 153 d/30
Nov 172 from the Wallajah

172 from the Hallajik
Range. Officer to the La Luta
1 Copy of Translation of so

Letter No. 408 of 12 May
from the collector of
to the district.

1 Copy of book at #30207
5 heavy 42 from the Red Sea
Call...

Collector to the Range-
Officer.
Copy of Letter to ...

9 May 72. from the Acting
Officer of the District
Collector.

Enclose correspondence
regarding the Tahildar and Head Af
Collector.

I should not have troubled you with the matter, if it had not been for Mr. Smith's persistence.

I have the honor to be,

Wm. L. Garrison

Your Most Obedt Servant.

Yours truly Colonel R. E.

For District Engineer,

North Brook

1 Letter to 404 of 12 Dec/92
from the collection of the
The British Library

1 Copy of A. 10682/5 sent off
from Mr. Wilkinson to the
Collector of A. 10682

1 yd cast at 1056 2/3 sec off 72
from the Subalut

from the Sahibdar of
Hallaiah Taluk to the H. J.

A few Collectors
1 Copy of your list

1 copy of yacast No. 153 of 30
Nov 172 from the Hallaj

Range Officer to the Land
1 Copy of Travel

1 Copy of Translation of ...
1 Letter to ...

Letter No 408 of 12 May
from the collector of the

to the "Litt. Engg"
1 copy of each

Copy of bucket at 3022
5 bear 72 from the Pond
L

Collector to the Range
Officer.

Copy of Letter to [illegible]

9. May 72. from the Rain
Collected by D. S.

Officer of the District
Collector.

1873, 1874
 From Mr. J. J. Moberly R. E.
 District Engineer,
 North Arcot.
 To Colonel G. H. Walker R. E.
 Secretary to Government,
 Public Works Department,
 Madras.

Dated 22nd
 Recd 24th } January 1873.

No 347
 Enclosures 12

Submits correspondence
 taken place between Mr.
 Sub Eng. Smithers in charge of
 Walajah Range & the Head
 Office Collectors of North
 Arcot & other officers regarding
 the style of communication
 with each other on public
 business.

No 784. 3rd Decr 1872.

262

619 Feb 1873

9-2-73
 Public Works Department
 No 784
 Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From The D. Engineer North Arcot. No 347 of 22nd Jan 1873

His Excellency the
 Governor in Council has
 not sufficient information
 before him to enable him
 to judge of the nature and
 propriety of the action taken
 by the Collector to inquire
 into the details of the
 materials said to have
 been collected for the
 Galat and other
 Entrenchments - These are
 stated in G. O. 10249
 of 10th September 1872 to

MR

have not obtained
Rs. 4,974 out of the total
sanctions of Rs. 10,810
The Superintending
Engineer has not yet
reported to the Public Works
Department. And it may probably
have been similar neg-
lect on the part of the
Superintending Engineers
to furnish the Collector
with the information
wanted, that induced
him to depute his

11-6
Sub-Collector to obtain
it. At any rate it is
premature and ridiculous
unwarrantably
on the part of the Range
Officers to assume that
his character or that of
former Superintending
Engineers was affected
by the Collector's pro-
cedure.

The notice taken
by the Collector of the
Chandergherry Tahildar
and District Sub-Ma-
gistrate's action in the
case of the Shundabum
Spring Channel is not
open to the construction
any unwarrantably put upon
it by the Range Officer,
whose language with

reference to the matter is
to be ~~reprobated~~ improper

His Excellency
the Governor in Council,
is not of opinion that
the procedure of the
Head Assistant Col-
-lector with reference
to the Range Officers
can be justified in the
following instances - viz.
1st Requesting his return
to Head Quarters at
Sanipetta on the plea of
his presence there, during
the rainy weather being
considered necessary for
preparation of Estimates,
and that he might be
on the spot to be consulted.
2^d - Insisting on his

reporting what measures¹³⁺
he had taken for repair-
-ing each breached tank,
and communicating his
opinion on the state
of the Carvery tank
Tank in particular.

The Range Officer
was evidently contribut-
-ing self to the utmost to
visit every work in turn,
to adopt such remedial
measures, as were emergent-
-ly required, to estimate
for further repairs, and
to report his proceedings
to his own immediate
superior - And His
Excellency the Governor
in Council holds that
he gave quite sufficient
information, as to his
proceedings in the letter

to the Head Assistant
of which the Collector
complains; the evi-
dence of which is account-
ed for by impatience
at unreasonable demands
made upon his time when
he felt that he had not
a moment to spare for
unnecessary reports, and
at what he conceived to
be a peremptory form of
address on the part of
one to whom he was in
no wise subordinate.

How far the Range
Officer was justified in
complaining of the Head
Assistant on the score
of the points noted in
Section III of the Abstract
of Correspondence; this

is a question which
the Commission
must decide. It is
not the duty of the
Commission to
interfere with the
administration of
the Department
in the absence of
evidence of gross
misconduct. It is
the duty of the
Commission to
investigate the
charges made
against the
Officer, and to
report the results
of its inquiry to
the Government.
The Commission
finds that the
Officer's conduct
was not
unreasonable
under the
circumstances.
The Commission
therefore
recommends
that the
Officer be
reinstated in
his position.
The Commission
also recommends
that the
Head Assistant
be reprimanded
for his
conduct.

15
Excellency the Governor
in Council is not in a
position to judge for
want of information, on
the other side of the
case - But ^{the reports} considers it
would be well that the
Collector ^{with} should in-
struct his Head Asst.
-ant to treat with ^{beginning} ~~proper~~
courtesy and ^{beginning} ~~proper~~
ordinate of the highest
rank in the Public
Works Department
who bears an establish-
ed character throughout
a long service, one of
whose chief faults is
evidently extreme sus-
ceptibility as to his treat-
ment by the European
Officials with whom he
is associated.

But there is another grave
fault of which His Ex-
cellency in Council can-
not but take notice, in
the behaviour of the
British Officers towards
Native Officials, whether
of his own or of other
Departments - That
behaviour is evidently
characterized by want of
temper and consideration
- generated by ignorant
and consequently sus-
- picious and illiberal
views of native character
rendering him ever
ready to take and give
offence - Thrown as he
is by his public duties
into situations requiring

The Govt have forbidden
the practice of correspondence
by dockets which so frequently
leads first to an abrupt
style of communication &
subsequently to complaints
of discourtesy. Mr. Whitlock
will issue the necessary
instructions to the officers
under his orders to discontinue
the use of dockets for which
the usual official letters should
be substituted.

In conclusion His Excellency
must seriously warn Mr.
Smithers to be more considerate
& civil in his dealings with
Native officials & Natives
generally & to abstain in
his official letters from
general reflections on the
Native character. which
when made without any
evidence
The evidence of determined

prejudice against the
Natives, with whom an
officer in Mr. Smithers
position is in constant
personal communication,
seriously lessens his
usefulness as a public
servant, & if continued
to be shown by Mr. Smithers
may prove a serious
impediment to his
future advancement
in the Department of
Public Works. - ~~here~~
see also PR

17-9
the cordial cooperation
of the Native Revenue
Officers of Talooks, the
Government have a
right to insist on Mr.
Smithers casting aside
personal prejudices,
working harmoniously
with those about him,
and if aggrieved by
them representing the
facts of their treatment
of him in temperate
language, and with-
out indulging in of-
fensive general re-
marks on native
character. He is
further to be encouraged
and employed
on any depend in great

measured upon his fu-
ture behaviour in this
respect.

GMM

The following is a list of
the names of the persons
who have been admitted
to the school since the
last meeting of the
Committee. The names are
given in alphabetical order
of surnames. The names
of the persons who have
been admitted since the
last meeting of the
Committee are given in
italics. The names of the
persons who have been
admitted since the last
meeting of the Committee
are given in italics.

To H. St. Louis N. Arambur
" Rev. School twelve hundred
" Just

Desp. 15/3/9

in full

(21-1)

Spa

1. not to be taken by P. J. 1871

2. not to be taken by P. J. 1871

3. not to be taken by P. J. 1871

The same

271

271

1871

Abstract of Correspondence

I Sub-Engineer Timmer complains of a letter from the Collector to the Superintending Engineer stating that having written to the Sub-Collector to ascertain what materials had been stored at Kalastri and Portoon for the construction of Cutcherries and Embankment works at those Stations, he could only hear of 3,70,000 Bricks valued at Rs. 4,83 being stored at Calastri - (whereas by jam endorsement

Q. 254

1954/73

of the Superintending Engineer
it appears that an expenditure
of Rs 6216-5-5 had been
incurred on the Salabing
butchery up to the 31 March
1872.) - He considers that
the Collector's procedure af-
fected not only his character,
but that of Colonel Wilkie,
Law and Bean who passed
the materials, and that
he should have applied to
the Superintending Engineer
or Range Officer for the
information -

II He complains of the
nature of the notice taken
by the Collector of the action
of the Sub Magistrate
of Simppetty in calling
upon the Range Officer
to report whether he had
carried out the work of

23-11
the Shandahm Spring
Channel, according to Esti-
-mate -

III He complains of
the Head Assistant Collector
having treated him, as a
subordinate in having
sent him a verbal order
by a Peon to meet him
next morning at 10 o'clock.
And subsequently by
requesting him in writing
to clean up the Pootoor
Bungalow, a building
in his own charge, and
where no sweepers were
employed - Also for
ordering him in writing
to remove certain timbers
from the Pootoor Bunga-
low -

IV He brings to notice
a letter from the Head
Assistant requesting his

return to Head Quarters
Ranepeth his presence.
Therefore during the rainy
weather being considered
necessary, for preparation
of returns, and that he
might be on the spot to
be consulted. He also
objects to the Head As-
sistant having obtained
for himself a document
belonging to the Range
Office Records in the
absence of the Range
officer.

V (Mr. Smithers com-
-plains generally of the
Superintending Engineer's
inattention to these com-
-plaints, and especially
of his having taken the
part of Mr. Assistant En-
-gineer, and Tahsildar,
both natives, against

him, on a charge of dis-
-courtesy in his style of
addressing them.

VI This latter subject,
viz, an objectionable mode
and tone adopted towards
the Mallajah Tahsildar,
is the theme of a letter
No. 404 from the Collector
to the District Engineer.
The portion of Yashwanth
-jected, appears to be that
in which Mr. Smithers in-
-tricates that the Tahsil-
-dar would be better em-
-ployed in seeing that
the Villagers did their
duty in cutting the bunds
of tanks when overful,
than in sending him
reports of tanks breaching.
But the Head Assistant

Further complains that
the Range Officer has
sent him no report
concerning any of the
breached tanks, or
communicated his opinion
on the state of the
Canveybank Tank in
particular -

VII - This complaint is
enlarged on in the
Collector's letter No. 408,
giving cover to a Letter
from the Head Assist-
ant calling on the Range
Officer "to submit a brief
report shewing what
"breached tanks he had
"visited, and what mea-
"sures he had taken for
"their repairs in each
"case" - Also to "submit
"a report, as to the sub-
stance of the Canveybank

22-4
"dence of the Canveybank
"Tank band, with his
"opinion as to what should
"be done" - The Range
Officer's reply names 20
Tanks and Ancients as
having already been visit-
ed and estimated for,
besides various roads-
Of the Canveybank
Tank he observed that
it had slipped in 4
places, but that Colonel
Moberly was of opinion
that no danger was
to be apprehended, and
had approved of the
measures adopted by
him - He also states
that he had already
reported himself 2
days before the Head
Assistant wrote, asking
22-5

being inspecting Timber
and framing Estimates,
stating the manner in
which he was getting
work done. Finally
he objects to being ad-
- dressed by Doct.
GMW

Op 171
Govt. of 1873 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

*The District Eng.
North. Area*
[Signature]

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 12th Dec 1873. No. 784.

No. 262.63.

Circulars &c.
Passing orders on
the subject of the
collection of materials
for certain Circulars
in the N. Area
& the correspondence
that has passed between
the Revenue & P. W.
Officers in regard to
the matter

No. 262.63.