

(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.	1486	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
44 650		
Dated	3-2-1894	195

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department.
3rd July 1874.*

Read the following papers :—

- No. 44. Kurnool Administration Report for 1873-74.
No. 45. Chief Engineer's Memorandum on the above, dated 11th May, No. 333.
No. 46. Acting District Engineer's letter, dated 2nd May, No. 15.
No. 47. Do. do. do. 21st May, No. 29.
No. 48. Do. do. do. 20th May, No. 30.
No. 49. Do. do. do. 21st May, No. 31.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 3rd July 1874, No. 1,786.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 2A.

THE above papers give some details of a lamentable state of affairs as regards the management of Public Works in

Kurnool under the late District Engineer.

2. The third on the list will be transferred to the Judicial Department for report by the Inspector-General of Jails of the action taken by him on Judicial Department Order No. 1,441 of 31st August 1869, wherein Government declined to incur any further expense on the old jail, ordered a new one to be designed, and instructed the Collector to secure the proposed site for a new jail. It would appear that designs for a new jail were prepared by a former Range Officer; but that nothing further was done either by the then Superintending Engineer or by his successor in sole charge of the district; and that the Range Officer commenced in June 1873 the emergent renovation of two condemned wards of the old jail, but was stopped by the District Engineer, who made a reference to the Inspecting Engineer, which was transferred through the Government office to the Inspector-General of Jails, since which nothing has been done, though an unauthorized outlay of Rupees 302 is reported to have been incurred.

3. The fourth paper will be transferred to the Revenue Department in view to the site being definitely fixed by the Collector for the new Taluq Outcherry at Cumbum as soon as possible, and communicated by him to the District Engineer, who will then lose no time in submitting revised estimates with site plan for its construction on the original plan; the modifications proposed in it for Koilguntla, to admit of the use of the fine building stone there available, not being applicable to Cumbum.

4. Captain Taylor will expedite submission of the report called for by the Chief Engineer regarding details of the large expenditure incurred by the late Mr. Fraser, and will inform the Government as to the present state of affairs with reference to the work, i. e., whether it is progressing under orders laid down by the late District Engineer, or has come to a stand-still owing to his death.

5. Paragraph 4 of the sixth paper will be communicated to the Financial Department, in order that concerted action may be taken between the President of the Local Fund Board and the District Engineer with reference to the com-

deep bed of clay. Mr. Howell having been

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
3rd July 1874.

munications of the district, all work on which, beyond mere maintenance, appears to have been stopped by the late Mr. Fraser, with a view to the introduction of some better system of laying out and making roads than that in actual practice.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Kurnool

„ Judicial Department.

„ Revenue do.

„ Financial do.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

4 Spare Copies

District Engineer's Office.

Camp Pagidial, 25th May 1874.

H. M. M.

The Acting District Engineer,

Kurnool.

H. M. M.

The Chief Engineer, D. P. M.

Madras.

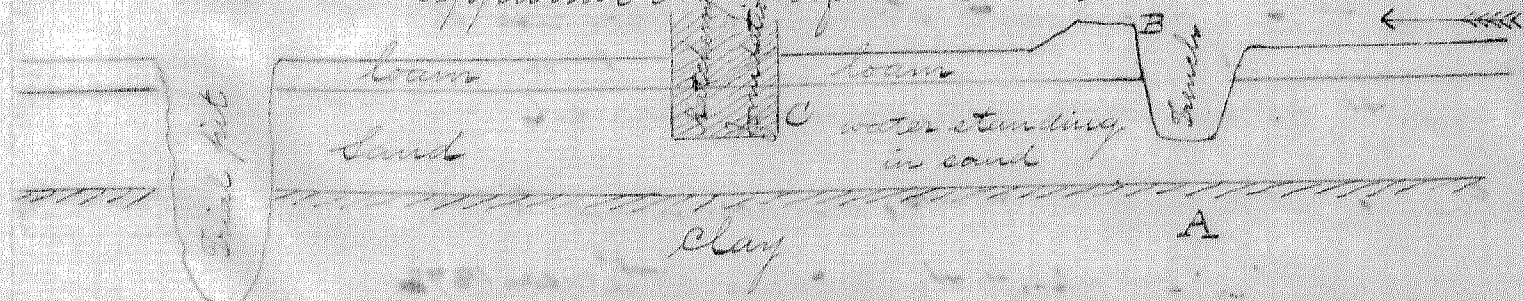
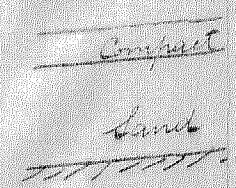
Sir,

Towards the close of the year 1868

Government decided on erecting a new Katcherry at Kottakimtha to afford proper accommodation for the Revenue, Police, and Postal Officers in charge of the Taluk. Plans &c for the new building were prepared by the Government Architect, the site was selected by the Collector Mr. Chase, and approved of by Colonel Moberly, the Suptg Engineer of the Division, a map of the ground showing the position of the main & subsidiary buildings was prepared by Mr. Howell, who also collected large quantities of material. The trial pit showed that the surface soil for a depth of two feet consisted of a compact loam, underlying which was a bed of sand 4 to 5 feet in thickness, which in its turn rested on a deep bed of clay. Mr. Howell having been

invalided Colonel Moly directed Lieut. Taylor in January, 1869 to assume temporary charge of the Sandial Range, and when measuring the materials collected at Kila Kumtha, this Officer brought to Mr. Howell's notice the fact that a bed of sand 4 to 5 thick intervened between the surface loam, and the clay, and that as the depth of the foundations had been fixed at 4 feet a layer of 2 to 3 of sand would interpose between the concrete (of the foundations) and the clay below, so that there was danger of the building being undermined by water passing between the surface soil, and the clay.

Mr. Howell pointed out to Lieut. Taylor that the sand was not subject to the influence of running water being perfectly dry, that there was sufficient foreign matter mixed with it to enable it to hold together, and lastly that the Superintending Engineer had directed a trench to be cut and filled with puddle round the ground. Channels were also to be excavated for carrying off the surface water to some natural courses near the site; he further more explained, and pointed out to Lieut. Taylor that these trenches had already been commenced,



N.B. had the trench been cut down to A and puddled no water could have passed towards C

but that their further progress was arrested by the interference of the village and others, but that the Sahibdar promised to adjust, and settle all differences; as the plans of the Supt. Engineer seemed most judicious, and would have had they been fully carried out secured the site most effectually, Lieut. Taylor deemed it unnecessary to apply for further instructions, it so unfortunately happened that payment for the land &c was not adjusted during the short time that Lieut. Taylor had charge of the Range, it also unfortunately happened that the Sahibdar was shortly afterwards removed, and the succeeding Range Officer, and Officers apparently made no efforts to carry out the orders of the Superintending Engineer, hence the protective measures contemplated, and left incomplete eventually proved a source of danger, and led to the dismantling of the structure, this will be at once apparent on a reference to the section below.

The land has a gentle fall towards the site, and the surface water which would have drained off had the trench not been cut, was unfortunately stopped above the foundations at B and probably passed through the sand bed till stopped at C by the walls, and in the course of years undermined portions of the foundations causing the cracks &c which were found, this seems to be the only rational way of accounting for the failure. The late District Engineer in his examination highly approved of the quality of the materials used in the building (and has renewed it all) he also admitted that the work had been well put together, on removing the foundations ^{he} found water between B and C which flooded the trenches, but the well or pit 15' deep just below the building was perfectly dry.

Mr Tandon the permanent incumbent should have carried out the protective works suggested by Colonel Moberly, but there is this excuse in his favor that Government stopped all progress a month or six weeks after he had assumed charge, still he is to blame, for according to his own admission about the middle of the year 1872 he observed 3 fine cracks yet did nothing to ascertain their cause, 8 or 9 months afterwards

the number increased to 9 even then he did not make any examination whatever, and no active steps were taken till Mr Fraser inspected the work in December 1873, or some 18 months after the first cracks appeared, when he found the clay was so soft, and plastic from long saturation as to compel him to remove the whole structure. Mr Tandon ought to have known that sand only makes a sound foundation when not subject to the action of running water, and if he did not feel that confidence in his abilities which might reasonably be expected from a Gauge Officer, he ought not to have hesitated one moment to have called on the Superintending Engineer for advice, there is no knowing but that at a small cost the works might have been entirely saved, and rendered perfectly secure, had this Officer acted with decision and promptness, at the same time I believe his was an error of omission rather than of commission, but I consider all these facts should be brought to light in order that Colonel Moberly's conduct may be viewed impartially, and that he be not censured when blame if any should attach to others; Lewis Taylor.

should no doubt have personally seen the trench
cut, and the muddle wall put in, but not liking
to interfere with the P.W.D., and compensation for
land &c. being usually left to the Subordinate, he
did not wish to bring pressure to bear on ^{that} Official,
more especially as the supposed owner of the
land had not been found.

It may be asked after what has been stated
whether a better site was not available, whether
with a tank, or pool of water (concealed from view
standing just) above the Cutcherry, the walls of
which may (not inaptly) be said to have formed
its bund, whether with a thick bed of sand
resting on soft clay, a circumstance involving
deep foundation trenches and necessitating a
deep and broad bed of concrete for the superstructure
to rest upon were desirable conditions?

In spite of all these drawbacks there is not a doubt
the site was the best in the neighbourhood, Lieut
Taylor when in temporary charge explored the
country round for miles, and in November last year
told Mr Fraser that a more favorable locality
was not to be had within 2 miles of the village.
The late District Engineer on receiving this infor-
mation had trial pits excavated in different spots
near Kailakmitla, and finding that in no one of

them was the substratum of sand of less thick-
ness than 9' to 10' was reluctantly obliged to admit
that the original site was well chosen in so much
as it would prove the least costly, he therefore
commenced operations at once, and did not
stop till he had expended Rs 13,599; there is
nothing on record to explain the cause of this
unusual expenditure, but from the very substance
and decided way the late Mr Fraser spoke (in
April of the gross ignorance and inefficiency
of the Range Officer, and Overseer to Captain
Taylor, it is manifest that he did not desire
to leave the work in their hands till he had satis-
fied himself that the progress made was sufficiently
advanced to secure the structure from any future
mishap; it should also be noted that Mr Fraser
was very dissatisfied with the exorbitant rates
at first charged for materials, and labor,
(as an instance the breaking of 1 cubic yard
of stone necessitated an expenditure $2\frac{1}{4}$ Rs)
and he wished to personally teach Mr Tandon,
and Overseer. Muniising their duty as also to
impress on their minds the necessity there was
for all Public Works Officials to carefully
scrutinize their rates, he was also most anxious
to determine, and ascertain what course he should

to pursue to obtain first class work, whether to
or import skilled labor, or not, these and other matters
to of great importance involved him to work
to without an estimate, and when he had estimated
to in very materially reducing price, & in training
to the workmen he left. Mr. Taylor has been
to twice called upon by me to supply informa-
tion of the cost of work actually executed, value
to of materials collected, value of old materials
to received, &c, but I regret to say that he has not
to up to date afforded any information in regard
to to this Hatchery.

The estimate is now under preparation in
to the District Office, and will be sent in as
to soon as completed, with specifications &c,
to as far as I can gather the trenches are $7\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep
to and 6 feet broad, they have been filled up to a
to height $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet with well prepared concrete, and the
to masonry work (coursed rubble) commenced,
to the pool above the verandah walls has been
to drained, and to better secure the structure
to from damp a vertical puddle wall has
to been dropped just in front of it, the material
to now collected is from the quarry selected by
to Lieut Taylor.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servant

W. Taylor Captain
District Engineer.

I would say that the Range

pursue to obtain first class work, whether to

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

18 May 1874

No. 31

District Engineer's Office.

Camp Nagatir, 21 May 1874.

From,

The Acting District Engineer,
Chumool.

To,

The Chief Engineer D. J. H.
Madras.

Sir,

In reply to your memorandum
No. 333 dated the 11th Instant, I have the honor to
report for your information that I have sent
separate Reports on the Katcheries at Kambam,
and Koriakumthla, they are not as full of
information as I should have wished, but
this is owing to my not having received
replies to my letters to the several Range
Officers concerned. I hope however shortly
to be able to supply the full details called
for by you.

* Ch. 3213 sent to D. J. H.
on the 30th May
Ch. 3112 sent to
D. J. H. on the
27th May
These Reports
for all purposes
are made up.

* Ch. 3111 sent to
D. J. H. on the
27th May
D. J. H. on the
11th June

2 I have also sent in a plan, & Estimate for
the wards commenced by me last year in the
Jail at Chumool; the report will explain all
matters. —

3 Sir Thomas Munro Choultry, and
well, I would observe, will be reported on in
a day or two. —

4 In regards to the state of the roads
I would respectfully point out that the Range

Officers are not at all to blame. In Kumool Range
 the late Mr Fraser without a reference to the Range
 Officer, stopped all progress on the new roads,
 and surrendered the funds allotted for them,
 he did not examine the Survey of the New Line
 from Pampur to Gashadine, but (a year
 afterwards) in November last selected a
 fresh route on the south side of the same
 valley, the first trace keeping entirely to the
 north, and being two miles the shorter of the
 two routes. Mr Fraser stopped all work on
 the road from Tadicherla to Buddapah, and
 also on the Sandikanama Ghat, the work of
 the Contractors pleased him no more than that
 carried out by Departmental Agency, not
 because it was bad, but because he wished
 to revolutionize the whole system of road
 making, he in fact wished to introduce
 Telford's method inclusive of the sand
 joints, concrete bottom &c &c, but by
 degrees he modified his orders, even now
 a however mile for mile as compared with
 the ordinary modes in use the late Distt
 Engineer would be as 4:2 & 4:1.

Recd of 10/10/84 30 June 1874



This is a time
 ble state of
 things.
 See anything
 recommended
 and stopped
 & also built
 nothing else
 need intend
 him

ES. H. H. #6

156

I have the honor to be
 Sir,
 Your most Obedt Servant
 W. H. Ingham Captain
 Dy District Engineer

J

Notes on the Administration:
- tin Report for Kurnool.

The Grant for Kailgumtha
Cutchery, originally Rs 7500,
was reduced to Rs 5500. The
Expenditure is set down at
Rs 13599. For which, apparent-
ly, all there is to show is a
certain amount of masonry
formulation, & some puddle
work in part of a boundary
Wall; also an ~~und~~ indefinite
amount of Hindling Stone
collected and dressed - No:
thing whatever is said about
probable cost, which the D.S.
th? endeavor to estimate
for as soon as possible -
Meanwhile special reports
required as to details of ex-
penditure, of which an Ab-
stract should be sent; stating
existing payment for work
completed, for materials
at site, and advances -

Nothing whatever appears
to have been settled as to the
Lunabum Cutchery; the Site
of which must be reported on

8.11.1874 Kurnool.

From D. S. 3214.

The Deputy Engineer

Kurnool.

10. The Deputy Engineer

1874

Notes 21st

Dec 31 1874

No 31.

states that he has sent
in separate reports
on the Cutchery and
Kailgumtha Kutchery
and the cause of
shortfalling on several
new works

8.11.1874 1786-3-7-74

8.11.1874 1786-3-7-74

on at once, need not be
min of revised ~~Plan~~
Estimate expedited - Si:
similar papers relative to
the Sir Thos. Mearns (Chm):
Day at Puttikhanda should
no longer be delayed -

Report is req? regarding
the 2 Jail Wards at Kur:
work in which Rs 302 are
said to have been spent
without sanction -

Nothing could be more un:
satisfactory than the Re:
port of Progress with Road
Work generally - Range of
pieces seen to have been a:
ble to do nothing them:
selves, and to have been
unable to get work done
either Departmentally or
through Contractors - The
entire neglect to utilise
a grant of Rs 12000 in im:
proving that valuable
work The Municipal Comm:
much shame, especially
demands explanation;
in special connection with
The conduct of the Municipal
Account Officer, Mr. Supervisors

Varden, which is not well
reported of in general -

CHAMBER
0.5.74

3111
3162

Kurnool

C No 3216
given to the
Rgs
2/7/74

Chs 2607
Memo. by 3333
11/5/74

CF
P. W. D.
1786

P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
Under date the 187

Read the following:—

1. Kurnool Administration Report for 1873-74.
2. Ch. Engg. Memo. on the above No 3333 of 11 May
3. Actg. D. Engg. letter No 15 of 22 May
4. — do — letter No 29 of 21st May
5. — do — letter No 30 of 20th May
6. — do — letter No 31 of 21st May.

Condition of the District
Some years has been excellent
bad - It will need all the Ch. Engg.
vigilance to keep it up to the mark
It will be well to revise the Regs.
These Regs. subordinate officers with
a view to replace an inefficient & de-
moralized staff of transfers of officers &
efficient men
12/6

The above papers
give some details of a la-
mentable state of affairs
as regards the management
of Public Works in Kurnool
under the late D. Engineer.

The 3rd on the list will
be transferred to the Judicial
Department for report
by the Inspector General
of Sails of the action
taken

A great
change of staff
has taken place -
Mr. Goodrich was
D. Engg. & Mr. Jones
was vice Capt. Taylor.
Mr. Keel is also
to the District. There
is only one person
brought in to the
D. Engg. staff.

taken by him on Judi-
cial Department Order
N: 1441 of 31st August 1869,
wherein Government
declined to incur any
further expense on the
old Jail, ordered a new
one to be designed, and
instructed the Collector
to secure the proposed
site for a new Jail. It
would appear that de-
signs for a new Jail
were prepared by a for-
mer Range Officer, but that
nothing further ^{was} done
either

is the whole
done by the
Jail Officer
or a third
person
10/11/69

either by the then Super-
intending Engineer ~~Lieut.~~
~~A. Motley~~, or by his suc-
cessor in sole charge of
the District. And that
the Range Officer com-
menced in June 1873
the emergent renovation
of 2 condemned wards
of the old Jail, but was
stopped by the S^t Engi-
neer who made a refer-
ence to the Inspecting
Engineer, which was trans-
ferred through the Govt.
Office to the Inspector
General of Jails; since
which

which nothing has been done, though an unauthorized outlay of Rs. 302 is reported to have been incurred.

The 4th paper will be transferred to the Rev. Secy. ~~in view of the~~ ^{in view of the} ~~for report, with~~ ^{being} ~~not freighter delay, of~~ the city definitely fixed by the Collector for the new Talook Cutcherry at Cumbum ^{as soon as possible} and communicated by him (of such decision to the Lt. Engineer, who will then lose no time in submitting revised estimates

with ~~late~~ ^{late} ~~plans~~ ^{plans} estimates for the construction in the original plan, the modifications proposed in it for Fortanjilla, to admit of the use of the fine building stone there available, not being applicable to Cumbum.

Capt. Taylor's ~~report~~ ^{report} in the Fortanjilla Cutcherry is useless for any practical purpose. He will expedite submission of the report called for by the Chief Engineer regarding details of the large

large expenditure incurred
by the late Mr. Fraser;
and will inform the Govt.
as to the present state of
affairs with reference
to the work, i.e. whether
it is progressing under or-
ders laid down by the
late St. Engineer, or has
come to a stand still
owing to his death.

Para 4 of the 6th
paper will be communi-
-cated to the Financial
Department in order
that concerted action
may be taken between
the President of the Local
Fund

Fund Board, and the
St. Engineer with reference
to the communications
of the District, all work
on which beyond mere
maintenance appears
to have been stopped by
the late Mr. Fraser, with
a view to the introduction
of some better system
of laying out & making
roads than that uia ac-
tual practice, but to-
~~wards which it is feared~~
~~that his confirmed ha-~~
~~bit of procrastination~~
~~has prevented any~~
real

real practical steps

bring them

Quar

Wm. J. Shivers
St. Louis
1876

P

To The St. Engineer General
with City of the Ch. Engineer's Office

Just. Depart. with Surge
Rev

Fl. Depart. with Perm
4 of the Sixth Bureau

Sign off. Copies sent
to all 9/7/74

44-50

Col 10/6/74, Ret 10/6/74

3/11

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



The Dist. Insp.
Kurnool

Recd.

Encl.

a. a. 3rd July 1874. No. 1766

Nos. 44-50.

~~Public Works in Kurnool~~

Gumbam and Kula guntla

Encl. chernus and Jail

Kurnool Bill Passing

is on papers relating

the construction of the

Encl. chernus & Jail and with

reference to the management

of Public Works under the

the District Engineer.