

(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.	1966	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
472-23		
Dated	22-7-1844	195.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd July 1874.*

No. 472. 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 Mootha-nainthal, 27th March 1874, No. 5,350:—

In obedience to the instructions contained in G. O., 7th March 1874, No. 607, wherein it is stated (paragraph 4):—"And remembering the great complaints which were made in 1872-73 as to similar obstructions to traffic on the road between Trichinopoly and Madura, within the limits of the latter district, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to be informed whether Mr. Leggatt was the officer also in the fault on that occasion," I have the honor to report that it is for the first time that I now learn that such complaints have been made, and I shall feel obliged therefore by your informing me from what quarter they proceeded, and how it has happened that my attention has never been called to the same.

2. I have been constantly up and down the road in question at the period named, and I am in a position to deny emphatically the truth of the complaints mentioned by you.

3. On the contrary, the road between Trichinopoly and Madura, in the limits of this district, has been maintained in a remarkably good condition ever since I have had charge of the district, now over three years. His Excellency Lord Napier and Ettrick, on the occasion of his last visit to Madura, was kind enough to compliment me on the good state of the road; while Mr. Mayne, the late Advocate General, who visited Madura in November 1872, and who wrote to the *Madras Mail* a very lively account of his sufferings *en route* on the road *within the Trichinopoly limits*, informed me that he could tell at once when he had entered the Madura limits, by the good state of the road in this district. Another gentleman, who travelled on the road in 1872-73, volunteered to me the information that the road in the Madura limits was so good that his transit bullocks did their mile after mile in ten minutes.

4. If therefore Mr. Leggatt, who was in charge of the road under notice at the period in question, can have fault imputed to him for alleged obstructions which never had any existence, he may be allowed, I think, to claim the consideration of Government for the good state in which that road was undoubtedly maintained.

5. As regards the other remarks in the Government order, I take leave to point out that the new form of bond was issued by me on the 19th May and not on the 18th August, as stated in paragraph 3 of the Government order, and further that the work on the road in question had not "crept on for two years" as mentioned in paragraph 6, but that it had been but little more than one year under progress, during which I had not only visited it, but I had myself set out the only difficult portion, where a slight deviation from the old line of road was necessary. I may mention that as the estimate provided for merely the restoration of an old line of road running as it does for the most part through a flat country presenting no engineering difficulties whatever, there was nothing in the work itself that called for the constant supervision of the Superintending Engineer, or District Engineer, especially considering the many new works of importance that are being carried out in all parts of so unusually a large district as Madura is.

6. As regards my deputing the Taluq Overseer to report, through the Range Officer, where the cart traffic left the road, my reason for doing so was simply because being at the time in indifferent health and under medical treatment, I was precluded from visiting the spot myself, and it was very desirable that the required information should be furnished as early as possible. I have already stated that the Range Officer was in another part of the district. So soon, however, as the Zillah Surgeon considered that I was well enough to stand the exposure necessary for such a detailed inspection as I had to make, I at once undertook the duty.

7. In conclusion, I cannot but regret that the Government should be led to believe "that a state of neglect and apathy has become chronic in this district." These indeed are harsh words, and being used to me for the first time in my career have caused me much pain. I can only say that I have, without a murmur, borne the vast amount of extra work thrown on me by having Mr. Leggatt as Range Officer of so important a Range as the Madura Range; and that it is with regret that I find that the infinite toil and trouble to which I have been unnecessarily subjected, not only in setting straight affairs connected with the cotton road, but with almost every other work in progress in that range, should only result in my being subjected to a rebuke of unusual severity on the part of the Government.

No. 473. ORDER THEREON, 22nd July 1874, No. 1,966.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 27.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to accept Colonel Roberts' personal explanations, and to withdraw the censures noticed by him.

2. The Government must however still express their regret that more assistance and encouragement in the execution of the work were not given to the Range Officer by the District Engineer, though it would appear that this may have been rendered difficult by the importance and variety of the other duties devolving upon that officer.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Lieutenant-Colonel R. A. Roberts R. E.
Officer in Charge

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

District Engineer's Office
No 5350 On receipt Moothanain that 27 March 1874
From
Lieut Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
District Engineer, Madura

To
Colonel G. W. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government S.W.

Sir
In obedience to the instructions contained in G.O. 7 March 1874 No 607 wherein it is stated (Para 4) "And remembering the great complaints which were made in 1872-73 as to similar obstruction to traffic on the road between Trichinopoly and Madura within the limits of the latter District His Excellency the Governor in Council desires to be informed whether Mr Leggatt was the Officer also in fault on that occasion." I have the honor to report that it is for the first time that I now learn that such complaints have been

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I have the honor to be
your most obedt servant
Richd. B. R. for S. Vient Collet

Journal of Management Studies, 19(6), 701-718.

100

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Mr. 1874 Reply
No. 5350 for No. 3350

From. No. 2005
The District Engr.
Madras.

To.
The Secy to Govt.
D.P.W.
Madras.

Dated 27th March 1874.
Recd 28th - 100 20
Received 4 Apr.

Furnishes Explanation
Called for in G.O. No.
607 dated 7th March
1874, enquiring whether
Mr. Leggat was also
in fault
G.O. No: 1966. 22-7-74

Your Most Obedt Servant
Wm. J. D. S. S. S.
District Engineer

1966
P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 187

Read the following:—

From
District Engr. Madras (H.E. No 5350 of 27th March 74)

His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is pleased to accept
Colonel Roberts'
personal explanations
and withdraw the
censure noticed by
him.

The Govt. must how-
ever still express their regret
that more assistance and
encouragement in the exe-
cution of the work was
not

Chapter III
with the addition
prepared in my report
100 20

assumed that the charge
of neglect and apathy
was made against
him. Fault was only
found with him for
not earlier taking
measures to put a stop
to it, ~~so that it became~~
~~chronic~~ the neglect
and apathy
of others, till
they became
chronic.

G.M.W.

This report is the
his own doing, in
which he is not
concerned.

must have
careful to obtain
for this inspection,
& ~~was~~ reject
that I hoped the
power S.O. in this
respect. //

It was also that
his conduct was
unrecorded & deserving
of reprobation?

This is strong language
which my report it
has been used without

after sufficient to fullest proof of
for the Officer I am authorized to certify
cannot that I omitted to mention
these words when I
reported to the D.O.

Letter from At. Lugo Madras 22nd March 1874 No 5350.
Mr. Leggatt's appeal dated 10th April 1874
The Secretary has determined
The Draft Order on 27th April. Re-
bates explanation, till he
had time to go into the de-
tails of Mr. Leggatt's Appeal.
He now submits a Draft
Order on the latter; & would
request with deference re-
quests reconsideration of
the original draft in the
latter - He cannot but con-
sider that the District Super-
visor was to blame for not
earlier personally taking up
the subject, and inspecting
the road in company with
his Range Officer; when he
would appear rather to
have kept at arm's length,
than attempted to influence
and guide, as he might
have done, considering
they both lived at Madras.

G.M.W.
23.6.74.

2005

Sgt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



Lieut. Col. R. A. Roberts RE

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 22 July 1874. No.

1966

Nos. 472-473.

Colonel R A Roberts. RE

The personal explanations of
Lieut. Roberts in connection with
the Madras Cotton road are
accepted and the same passed
on him with honours. Regret
expressed that more assistance
and encouragement in the exe-
cution of the work ~~was~~ were
given to the Range Officer by
the District Engineer.