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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2096	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	1-8-	876 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

- No. 1. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY,
Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Luckadie,
9th June 1874, No. 430:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of G. O., No. 1,187, dated 4th May 1874.

2. I am quite certain that when the Government has received the following explanation, it will regret that, before passing on me a censure in such unqualified terms as are contained in the last few lines of the above order, it did not give me an opportunity of affording such explanation before, in place of after, passing opinion.

3. Mr. MacGregor was entirely mistaken in supposing that I, in any way, resented his requiring explanation, or urging expedition. I have been too long in the department not to be well aware that the Collector of the district has a right to require information regarding all public works carried on within the limits of his jurisdiction; and my course of conduct during more than fourteen years which I have spent in this district is, I think, good argument that, having never hitherto lost sight of that point, it is not likely that I should now do so when there had been no provocation from the Collector to excite angry feeling on my part. The letter that Mr. MacGregor quotes as having been written by him to me was in fact signed by the Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Calicut Circle, for President; and as the hospital was being built from no funds contributed by the Local Fund Board, I believe I was correct in considering that the letter, which under the circumstances would appear in the records of that Board, was an informality, and my sole object in the last paragraph of my reply was to set this right. I was never more surprised in my life than when I learned the interpretation that had been put upon it. Had there been any antecedent difference between the Collector and myself either on this, or any other subject, it would be open for him to suppose that I had caught at an opportunity for giving him, what I cannot describe better than as, a snub; but nothing of the sort had occurred, and in confirmation thereof, I beg to enclose the accompanying correspondence, leaving it to speak for itself, and am only sorry Mr. MacGregor did not seek some explanation from me before coming to the conclusion he did, as then all this misunderstanding would have been avoided.

4. If dates are compared, it will be seen that, at the time when I received Mr. MacGregor's letter, and replied to him, I was waiting for the revised estimate to be sanctioned, and funds provided; and it was not an unnatural thing for me to bring this forward as an obstacle, inasmuch as I supposed that, by Mr. MacGregor's writing, it was his intention to move in the matter, and that thereby provision of funds would be hastened. I did not think it worthwhile to go into long details of the difficulties encountered in obtaining suitable labor and materials, as Mr. MacGregor and myself have had frequent conversations on that subject, and he was quite as well aware of the state of matters as any further information of mine could make him. I may here state that, although from the above difficulties, progress was slow, yet that the want of a grant did not stop such work as could be done; for in anticipation, and at risk of refusal, of funds being granted, I was advancing money from my private means.

item when a cart owner will not carry more than from 16 to 18 cubic feet for a load, and charges from Rupees 6½ to Rupees 10 for that; then unless some trustworthy person, or the Range Officer himself, goes down to the coast to inspect the materials before despatch, a very large proportion is sure to be unsound, or defective; and I do not suppose I shall be blamed for declining to use such; then unpunctuality in delivery is invariable, and either work must be left at a standstill with carpenters remaining idle, and ultimately absconding, or the material must be taken in dribbles, obliging the continual presence of some departmental employé to pass it; and this, with the dearth of superintendence, is no small objection. I am putting no imaginary case; in August last I ordered some planking for the Vythery Hospital from the firm of Messrs. Hinde, Massey and Co., who own saw mills at Calicut. I was told the order could be executed in three weeks. In December I sent a subordinate down to inspect the material, and send it up; he was detained ten days, and the result was that more than two-thirds of the planks were found defective, and rejected by him. In the beginning of March I gave another order to the same firm, and was assured it could be executed in ten days. I took advantage of the presence of a member of the petty establishment who was at Calicut on sick leave, to direct him to inspect both this and the balance of the first order; but it was well into April before the latter was completed, while though he remained a month at Calicut, he was unable to get a single piece of the other; nor up to this date has that material reached me, the difficulty now being to get carriage. At great inconvenience I have sent a man down again to procure carts from a cart owner who is under agreement with me, but I fully expect to hear that half the material intended to be sent is unfit for work. One more instance, being in urgent need of only two pieces of timber for the hospital, and finding it impossible at the time to obtain them up here, I wrote for them to Calicut, particularly impressing on the supplier that they must be of certain dimensions, and entirely free from defect; the order was tolerably quickly executed, each piece was about 11 cubic feet in measurement, and the cartman would only take one as a load, for which Rupees 10 had to be paid; on arrival, I found that they had been cut from such small logs that after the sap wood had been removed, scarce half the dimensions could be obtained, and they were besides defective and unsound in other respects. I recount all this because I think the Government scarcely appreciates the difficulty of carrying on work in this district, nor the embarrassing position of an Executive Officer who is trying all he knows to keep his work within estimate, and who, having imported his skilled labor from a distance, is obliged to find work for them; the materials that might have been counted on with tolerable expectation of being forthcoming fail; sickness becomes prevalent, and even when neither of these occur, he has generally the alternative of permitting a short tale of work at high rate, or of risking the loss of his work people should he attempt to obtain fair work from them. On the coffee estates the laziness of the ordinary laborer is the universal complaint, and yet has to be tolerated; to any one who knows what work ought to be, the way that it is executed, and the quantity done, when so-called skilled labor is in question, is absolutely ludicrous; and it is hopeless for the Public Works Officer

to expect to be able to enforce a different state of things in both respects in the midst of so much licence.

9. I believe I have given ample proof during the time I have been in the department of the interest I take in my work, and so far as personal exertion goes I have certainly not spared myself; the Government has not had much occasion to remark on the failure of the work done by me, and I think under all circumstances I may fairly claim to be credited with having done my best; and when I have failed to make such progress as would be expected in more favorable localities, I may, I respectfully submit, also lay claim to the presumption that the difficulties have been too great. If it is remarked that I did not name to the Collector all these obstacles but only that of want of funds, I can only reply that he could not be ignorant of the difficulties to be encountered, and is powerless to render any assistance in overcoming them, so I considered it useless to repeat so often told a tale, and confined myself to the one obstacle in which he could help me.

From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad, to A. MAC-GREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, dated Luckadie, 20th May 1874, No. 367.

IN certain Proceedings of Government received by me, I find embodied a letter from yourself to the Acting Secretary to Government, No. 13, dated 28th February 1874, in paragraph 6 of which you write that I resent your having asked me for information, etc., and as the Government has thought fit to censure me on that score, a censure against which I am going to remonstrate, I shall be much obliged by your informing me whether your opinion as to my feeling was formed from anything antecedent to the letter you wrote me, and my reply thereto, or whether you were led to it solely by the wording of that letter. I take the opportunity of mentioning that if the concluding paragraph of my letter was the cause of your forming the opinion you did as to my feeling, you altogether mistook my intention. The letter to which mine was a reply was signed for you by the Vice-President of the Local Fund Board, Calicut Circle, and consequently would appear among the records of that Board; and as the work in question is not being carried out with any funds supplied by the Circle, nor does it appear in any Budget or Proceedings of the Board, it appeared to me that a mistake had been made which I cannot see that I did anything wrong or uncourteous in pointing out, nor can I see anything objectionable in even the words which I used for the purpose.

2. As Collector of Malabar I am quite aware that you have the right to any information about work carried on in your district that you may require; and although I thought it necessary to point out what I considered a mistake, I did not on that ground refuse other reply to your letter. I have been more than fourteen years in this district, and my study has always been to carry out such official duties as brought me into communication with other officers in the district, high or low, in a spirit of good-will and cordiality, the more so that in the difficult position I have been placed with the planting community, and their not easily satisfied wants, I have needed all the support I could possibly be afforded. I was so thoroughly under the impression that I had succeeded in preserving, both publicly and privately with yourself, the same cordial and friendly relations I had with your three predecessors, that I cannot express how completely I was taken by surprise at finding any misunderstanding had taken place, and I can only say that it is impossible for anything to be more entirely at variance with the feeling that I was actuated by in writing than the meaning which my words appear to have presented to you. If you can endorse what I say regarding our antecedent relations, and feel satisfied with the explanation I have given, I trust you will reply in such terms as will most fully bear me out. I enclose a copy of my letter of 19th February 1874, No. 149, as you may not have immediate means of reference to the original.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st August 1874.

From A. MACGREGOR, Esq., Collector of Malabar, to Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, Special
Executive Engineer, Wynaad, dated Angadipooram, 25th May 1874, No. 1,405A.

- I HAVE the honor to acknowledge your letter of the 20th.
2. It was solely from the wording of paragraph 3 of your letter of 19th February that I was led to think that you resented my application for information and suggestion to expedite the completion of the hospital.
 3. You now inform me that I altogether mistook your intention, which was to cause the letter to be transferred to the file of the Collector from the file of the Local Fund Board, on which you imagined it had been inadvertently brought by the Vice-President. Also that you believed that your reply contained all the information desired.
 4. Had I attached this meaning to the letter, I should have not thought it necessary to take any notice other than to request some explanation of the delay, such as the subscribers and rate-payers seemed fairly entitled to require, and to explain that under the present system the Local Fund Board were collecting rates from the land-holders of South Wynaad for sanitary purposes, and that there was an allotment of 2,000 Rupees in the Budget which could not be utilized till the building was completed.
 5. I will add that hitherto there has been nothing to interrupt the harmony and good understanding between us in official matters, as well as privately, and I much regret that anything should have occurred calculated to alter these relations.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st August 1874, No. 2,096.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 1.

His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy erred in replying to Mr. MacGregor in the terms of his letter, No. 149 of 19th February, whether signed by or for him, as Collector or President of the Local Fund Board. With which proviso he accepts Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy's explanation, and acquits him of any intentional discourtesy.

2. Every credit is given to Lieutenant-Colonel Kennedy for the difficulties met with in the execution of good work in Wynaad. But it would appear to His Excellency the Governor in Council that he is working in unnecessary isolation from the rest of the Public Works Department in Malabar, who might (as they formerly did) assist him greatly in procuring materials and labor from the coast.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Lieutenant-Colonel, R. B. Kennedy.
To the District Engineer Malabar.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No. 367. Special Executive Engineer's Office
Wynaad, South India. 20th May 1874.
To the Collector of Malabar.
Sir,
On certain proceedings of Government received by me I find embodied a letter from yourself to the Acting Secretary to Government No. 13 dated 28th February 1874, in para. 6 of which you wrote that "I regret your having asked me for information &c" and as the Government has thought fit to censure me in that sense a censure against which I am going to remonstrate, I shall be much obliged by your informing me whether your opinion as to my feeling was formed from anything antecedent to the letter you wrote me, and my reply thereto; or whether you were led to it solely by the wording of that letter. I take the opportunity of mentioning that if the concluding para. of my letter was the cause of your forming the opinion

you did as to my feeling you altogether
mistook my intention. - The letter to
which mine was a reply was signed
for you by the Vice President of the
Local Fund Board Mahant Circle,
and consequently would appear among
the records of that Board, and as the work
in question is not being carried out with
any funds supplied by the Circle, nor
does it appear in any Budget, or Proceed-
ings of the Board, it appeared to me
that a mistake had been made which
I cannot see that I did any thing wrong,
or uncounteous in pointing out, nor can
I see any thing objectionable in even the
words which I used for the purpose.

As Collector of Malabar I
am quite aware that you have the right
to any information about work carried
on in your District that you may re-
quire, and although I thought it necessary
to point out what I considered a mistake,
I did not on that ground refuse other reply
to your letter. I have been more than
14 years in this District, and my study
has

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has always been to carry out such official
duties as brought me into communication
with other Officers in the District, high or
low, in a spirit of goodwill and cordiality,
the more so that in the difficult position
I have been placed with the Planting
Community, and their not easily sa-
tisfied wants, I have needed all the
support I could possibly be afforded.
I was so thoroughly under the impres-
sion that I had succeeded in preserving
both publicly, and privately, with yourself,
the same cordial and friendly relations
I had with your three predecessors, that
I cannot express how completely I was
taken by surprise at finding any mis-
understanding had taken place, and
I can only say that it is impossible for
anything to be more entirely at variance
with the feeling that I was actuated by
in writing, than the meaning which
my words appear to have presented to
you. - If you can endorse what I
say regarding our antecedent relations,
and

and feel satisfied with the explanation I
have given. I trust you will reply in such
terms and will most fully bear me out.
I enclose a copy of my letter of 19 February
1874, as you may not have immediate
means of reference to the original.

I am, Sir,
Yours faithfully,
Signed R. B. Kennedy
Special Engineer
Weymouth

True copy
R. B. Kennedy
Esq. Weymouth

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Malabar Collector's Office S. D. 11
Angamoodam 25 May 1874.

From
Mr. Macgregor Esq.
Collector of Malabar
To
Colonel R. B. Kennedy
Special Engineer
Weymouth

I have the honor to acknowledge
your letter of the 20th.
It was solely from the
misreading of para. 3 of your letter of 19th
February that I was led to think that
you presented my application for informa-
tion and suggestions to expedite the com-
pletion of the Hospital.
You now inform me that
I altogether mistook your intention which
was to cause the letter to be transferred
to the file of the Collector from the file
of the Local Fund Board on which you
imagined it had been inadvertently
brought by the Vice President. Also that
you

you believed that your reply contained all the information desired.

4. Had I attached this meaning to the letter I should have not thought it necessary to take any notice other than to request some explanation of the delay, such as the subscribers and rate-payers seemed fairly entitled to require, and to explain that under the present system the Local Fund Board were collecting rates from the land-holders of South Weymouth for sanitary purposes and that there was an allotment of 2,000 Pounds in the Budget which could not be utilized till the Budget was completed.

5. I will add that hitherto there has been nothing to interrupt the harmony and good understanding between us in official matters, as well as privately, and I much regret that anything should have occurred calculated to alter these relations.

Yours &c
Signed J. Macgregor
Collector
(True Copy)

Wm. H. Keen
Special Ex. Engr
Weymouth

Copy to Mr. Keen

Received of Mr. Macgregor
the sum of 2,000 Pounds
on the 12th day of March 1891

N^o 430. Special Executive Engineer's Office
Wynand, Sec Road 4 June 1874.

From, The Special Executive Engineer
Wynand

To, The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works
Madras.

Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge
receipt of G.O. N^o 1187 dated 4th May 1874.

2. I am quite certain that when
the Government had received the following
explanation it will regret that, before passing
on me a censure in such unqualified
terms as are contained in the last few
lines of the above order, it did not give
me an opportunity of affording such ex-
planation before, in place of after, passing
opinion.

3. Mr Macgregor was entirely
mistaken in supposing that I in any
way, presented his requiring explanation,
or urging expedition. I have been too long
in the Department not to be well aware that
the Collector of the District has a right to

Enclosed

On a letter from the
Special Executive En-
gineer Wynand dated
4 June 1874 N^o 430
To, The Secretary to
Government P.W.
Madras.

P.W. 3557/74

Office of correspondence
deemed alluded to in

the above.

By, 21st of Aug 1874
L. B. N^o 1

Wynand

require information regarding all Public
Works carried on within the limits of his
jurisdiction, and any course of conduct
during more than 14 years which I have
spent in this District is, I think, good
argument that, having never hitherto lost
sight of that point, it is not likely that I
should now do so when there had been no
provocation from the Collector to excite any
angry feeling on any part. The letter
that Mr Macgregor quotes as having been
written by him to me was in fact signed
by the Vice President of the Local Fund
Board, Patient Circle, for President; and
as the Hospital was being built from no
funds contributed by the Local Fund
Board, I believe I was correct in considering
that the letter, which under the circumstances,
would appear in the records of that Board, was
an informality, and my sole object in the
last para: of my reply was to set this right.
I was never more surprised in my life
than when I learned the interpretation that
had been put upon it. Had there been
any antecedent difference between the

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Collector and myself either in this, or in
any other subject, it would be open for
him to suppose that I had caught at an
opportunity for giving him, what I cannot
describe better than as, a snub, but nothing
of the sort had occurred, and in confirma-
tion thereof, I beg to inclose the accompany-
ing correspondence, leaving it to speak
for itself, and am only sorry Mr Macgregor
did not seek some explanation from me
before coming to the conclusion he did, as
then all this misunderstanding would
have been avoided.

If dates are compared it will
be seen that, at the time when I received
Mr Macgregor's letter, and replied to him,
I was waiting for the revised estimate to be
sanctioned, and funds provided; and it
was not an unnatural thing for me to
bring this forward as obstacle in as much
as I supposed that, by Mr Macgregor's
writing, it was his intention to move in
the matter, and that thereby provision of
funds would be hastened. I did not think it

—it

it worth while to go into long details of the difficulties encountered in obtaining suitable labor and materials, as Mr. Macgregor and myself have had frequent conversations on that subject, and he was quite as well aware of the state of matters, as any further information of mine could make him. I may here state that, although from the above difficulties, progress was slow, yet that the want of a grant did not stop such work as could be done, for in anticipation, and at risk of refusal, of funds being granted I was advancing money from my private means.

5. — In the absence of any antecedents to support such an interpretation, and also in the absence of the slightest intention of showing either discourtesy, or resentment, for which I must ask my word to be taken, I submit that the wording of my letter, taken par se, is inoffensive. And if I have, as I trust, succeeded in satisfactorily showing this, I hope that I am not asking too much in respectfully requesting that so much of the order as bears on that point may be formally withdrawn.

6. I do not clearly understand

the

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the expression of the first sentence in para: 3 of the order under acknowledgment; I cannot of course deny that it was open to me, and that I ought to have submitted the revised estimate at an earlier date; nor have I any thing to say in defence of myself in that particular; except that when I went on leave in February 1873, I left a quantity of material for the roofing, which by mistake was, in my absence, used for other purposes; a circumstance that I only discovered after last Monsoon; the materials in question having been prepared at Sultan's Battery, and being damaged during the wet weather being both difficult to obtain, and expensive, until I succeeded in getting Carpenters, and was ready to use them, I deferred sending for the materials to Hospital site, so it was only when I did so, that I found out the mistake that had been made; work was thereby very much thrown back, the difficulty being greatly enhanced by the season, that then set in being the same when Sawyers are so much in request on the Coast that it is almost impossible to get them to come up here. Work from that time

time was carried on as materials were obtained, partly from recoveries from the works on which those before mentioned had been voraciously used, and partly from funds advanced by myself; I will only add that I was also actuated by a rather weak feeling of unwillingness to go up to Government with a revised estimate, until I saw no help for it; hoping that I might be able to complete the work within the permitted margin of 5 per cent, and intending, should such not prove possible, to provide the balance by a second donation to the funds raised by private subscription: an experience I learned regarding the Machine made files proved that a more expensive style of roofing would be necessary, and this raised the probable cost too much for one to meet by my intended donation.

There are circumstances connected with this work which I think I may be permitted to mention. I see that Mr. MacGregor alludes to a letter he received from the Secretary to the Weymouth Planters Association; this letter I have not seen, but presume it was in accordance with certain proceedings of a meeting of that Association which appeared in the Madras papers, and which gave a very erroneous color to the history of the Vyttery Hos.

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Hospital, and the long delay in carrying out the project. The first move in the matter was made by Mr. Ballard in 1866, and in reply to his letter Government promised a moiety of the cost of building a Hospital as good as the other moiety should have been realized from private contributions: some little while after a subscription list was started by Mr. Ballard but the amount promised fell short of the necessary sum, and much of this was never realized. Mr. Ballard tried several times, I believe, subsequently to collect a further contribution, but failed. Of the subscriptions promised, I believe, Rs 530 were in the names of Public Officers connected with the District, Rs 556-4 in those of Native landholders, and the balance Rs 1907 promised by European Planters. Of the above, up to August 1870 the whole of the first of these items had been realized; all but Rs 106 of the second; and Rs 237 of the third, of this latter sum Rs 500 was subscribed by the South of India Coffee Company, Rs 200 by Messrs. Boyd & Co, and all the rest of the European Planters in South Weymouth together contributed only Rs 137. From 1866 to 1870 with the exception of Mr. Ballard's unsuccessful attempts to get increased con-

contributions, or payment of those promised, nothing appears to have been done; and as far as I am aware no one seems to have troubled himself in the business. On my annual reports I made pointed allusions to the want of this institution, and at last seeing that no one else taking any interest in the subject, I took it on myself to make direct appeals to individual Planters who had not subscribed, or who had not paid up their promised subscriptions. By this means I managed to realize sufficient to enable the Collector to go up to Government with request that the work might be commenced, an estimate having been sanctioned. The Government, warned by the precedent of the Goodloe Dispensary, where, owing to promised contributions never having been paid, it had been compelled to make up a large deficiency, at first declined until the whole required sum had been realized. But on further representation, contented, this was in September 1871. I think I may assume that had I not stirred in the matter, it would probably have been another year or two before the funds would have been raised, and that therefore it is due to myself that the institution is now so near being an accomplished fact as it is.

The season for making Bricks in Wynnad is confined to the months of December, January, February & March: before, and after these months rain may be expected, and Contractors will not undertake work.

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unfortunately the season of 1870-71 had been most unfavourable, and the slopes incurred, thereby deterred contractors from coming forward to make Bricks; and though every effort was made we only succeeded in getting sufficient for the main walls of the Building to be raised about two thirds of their height: the same difficulty occurred about obtaining material for wood work, but nevertheless all the Doors and Windows, with their frames, were made, and a portion of the timber sawn into scantlings for the roof, Tiles being purchased at Mangalore, and transported to site. Up to the end of January, when I went on leave, the season had been tolerably favourable, but very heavy rain fell several times in February, and throughout April, interfering very seriously with the manufacture of the remaining materials, and retarding the work: before the Monsoon of 1872/73, the walls of the main Building had been completed, but sufficient Bricks had not been manufactured for the outhouses. Since then the Brickwork of the latter has been completed, and the building is now being tiled.

At the ~~case~~ of this, as in that of every other
building here, the great difficulty is in obtaining,
and the still greater difficulty in keeping, skilled
labor, such as Bricklayers, Carpenters, and
Sawyers; and the past season has been, & is
especially so, such that never has more trouble
been experienced on this point: it is no answer
to say that timber cut up into scantlings
can be obtained on the coast; such a resource
is so obvious, that I think the Government
may safely give an Officer of my long experience
credit for not neglecting to try it; in the first
place, the cost of the material is high, and
to that has to be added the cost of carriage,
no unimportant item, when a Cart owner
will not carry more than from 16 to 18 Cubic
feet for a load, and charges from Rs 6 1/2 to Rs 10
for that; then unless some trustworthy
person, or the Range Officer himself, goes down
to the Coast to inspect the materials before
despatch, a very large proportion is sure to be
unsound, or defective; and I do not suppose
I shall be blamed for declining to use such:
their unpunctuality in delivery is invariable,
and either work must be left at a stand still
with Carpenters remaining idle, and ulti-

mately

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mately absconding, as the materials must
be taken in dribble, obliging the contractor
to preserve of force Departmental employees to keep
it, and thus, with the dearth of superintendence,
is no small objection. I am putting no
imaginary date. In August last, I ordered
some planking for the Vything Hospital from
the firm of Messrs Hindle Mapey & Co, who
own saw mills at Patent, I was told the
order could be executed in 3 weeks; in Decem-
ber I sent a subordinate down to inspect
the material and find it up, he was detain-
ed 20 days, and the result was that more
than two thirds of the planks were found
defective, and rejected by him. At the begin-
ning of March I gave another order to the
same firm, and was assured it could be executed
in 10 days. I took advantage of the presence
of a member of the Petty Establishment who
was at Patent on sick leave, to direct him to
inspect both this, and the balance of the
first order; but it was well into April
before the latter was completed, while though
he remained a month at Patent, he was
unable to get a single piece of the other;
now

not up to this date, has that material reached
me, the difficulty now being to get carriage.
At great inconvenience I have sent a man
down again to procure Carts, from a Cart
owner who is under agreement with me,
but I fully expect to hear that half the ma-
terial intended to be sent is unfit for work.
One more instance, being in urgent need
of only two pieces of timber for the Hospital,
and finding it impossible at the time to
obtain them up here, I wrote for them to
Cabot, particularly impressing on the supplier
that they must be of certain dimensions,
and entirely free from defect; the order was
tolerably quickly executed; each piece was
about 11 Cubic feet in measurement, and the
Cartman would only take one as a load for
which \$10 had to be paid: on arrival, I found
that they had been cut from such small logs
that after the sap wood had been removed,
leaving half the dimensions could be obtained,
and they were besides defective, and unsound
in other respects. I recount all this, because
I think the Government scarcely appreciates
the difficulty of carrying on work in this Dis-
trict, nor the embarrassing position of an
Executive Officer who is trying all he knows to
Keep

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Keep his work within estimate, and who, having
imported his skilled labor from a distance,
is obliged to find work for them; the materials
that might have been counted on with tolerable
expectation of being forthcoming, fail, sickness
becomes prevalent; and even when needed
of these occur, he has generally the alternative
of permitting a short tale of work at high
rate, or of risking the loss of his work people.
Should he attempt to obtain fair work from
them. On the latter estimate the business of
the ordinary laborer is the universal com-
plaint, and yet has to be tolerated; to any
one who knows what work ought to be, the
way that it is executed, and the quantity
done, where so called skilled labor is in
question, is absolutely ludicrous; and it is
hopeless for the Public Works Officer to expect
to be able to enforce a different state of things
in the present state of the country.

9. I believe I have given ample
proof during the time I have been in the
Department of the interest I take in my
work, and so far as personal exertion goes
I have certainly not spared myself; the
Government has not had much occasion
to remark on the failure of the work done
by

by me; and I think under all circumstances
I may fairly claim to be credited with having
done my best; and when I have failed to make
such progress as would be expected in more fa-
vourable localities, I may, I respectfully
submit, also lay claim to the presumption
that the difficulties have been too great.

If it is remarked that I did not name
to the Collector all these obstacles but only that
of want of funds, I can only reply that he
could not be ignorant of the difficulties to be
encountered, and is powerless to render any
assistance in overcoming them, so I consider
it useless to repeat so often told a tale,
and confined myself to the one obstacle in
which he could help me.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

W. B. Kew
Special Exp. Engineer
W. B. Kew

Received by Mr. J. H. H. H. H. H.

Forwarded copies
of correspondence which
has place between
him and the Collector
of Malabar -
H.O. No: 2096. 1-8-74.

Date 9th June 1874
Dec 12th 1873
H.O. No: 2096.

Enclosure 2.
The Special Ex-
-cutive Engineer
to the Secretary to
Government
H.O. No: 2096.

2096 S.H.O. 31
Proceedings of the Madras Board
Read the following:
From,
The Special Ex-Engineer
Signed } (H. E. No 43079 June 1874)

His Excellency the
Governor in Council
considers that Mr. Kennedy erro-
r considers that Mr. Kennedy erro-
still of opinion that
Lieut. Mr. Kennedy com-
-mitted a mistake in
replying to Mr. McGregor
in the terms of his letter
Dec. 14th of 19th February,
whether signed by or for
him, as Collector, or
President of the Local
Land Board. With
which proviso he ac-
-cepts Lieut. Mr. Kennedy's
explanation, and acquits
him of any intentional

M. 2096

3-7

Copy to Mr. P. B. Kennedy

discretionary-

Every credit is given to Lieut Colonel Kennedy for the obstacles met with in the execution of good work in Wynnad. [of which he gives so graphic a description] But it would appear to His Excellency the Governor and Council that he is [of his own choice] working in unnecessary isolation from the rest of the Public Works Department in Malabar, who might (as they formerly did) assist him ^{greatly} in procuring materials and labour from

difficulties
? difficulties

I don't think it is
for a long time
entirely a new thing

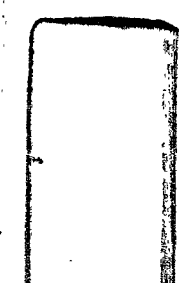
Wynnad

1881

the coast. [It is at his own request that the Wynnad Range continue also worked separately from the Coast Range, and it cannot but be that some remediable inconvenience results therefrom.]

Wyn

1. Mr. P. B. Kennedy
2. Mr. D. E. Malabar
3. Copies despatched 8/8/14.



35

11/1/74
11/1/74
11/1/74

11/1/74

11/1/74

1-2-

60/6/1/74 13/7/74



Ch 3557.

Sob. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



Lt. Col. R. B. Kennedy

Date

Recd.

Encl. 2

G. O., 1 Aug 1874, No. 2090

Nov 1-2

Lt. Col. Kennedy. Piping

Orders in letter from the
Spt. Engrs. W. G. M. S.,
Offering explanations
with reference to the
censure passed on
him in G. O. No. 1187 of 1874
for the tone assumed by him
in replying to representations
made by the Member of
Council on the subject of the
works of the V. G. M. S.