

(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.	2205	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	11-8-	C874 195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 209. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Madura, 30th June 1874, No. 1,316:—

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge, on the 24th June 1874, receipt of G. O. of the 11th May 1874, No. 1,262, and trust I may be allowed to submit some explanations in reference to the severe condemnation His Excellency in Council has been pleased to pass on me, and which I most sincerely deplore.

2. As regards the Gopāulpore Lunkah, I was never made aware that any such complaints had been preferred against me, and I most sincerely regret that, in the hurry of writing on a subject which I believed had been settled, I should have expressed myself in a way so as to cause any annoyance to any of the District Revenue Authorities; but I beg to add, Mr. Snaith charged us with exercising great injustice and oppression towards the proprietrix, an imputation I felt was quite uncalled for, and as he had never seen me in his life at the time, had been only a very short time in the district, and never once visited the locality, though within easy reach of his head-quarters by boat and canal, I considered he might have given me some credit for trying to do my duty conscientiously towards the Government; and in representing the matter to the Government, Mr. Foster, who has known me for many years, need hardly have put the very worst construction he could on all my correspondence, as if I had been actuated by personal motives only, and might have afforded me an opportunity to explain matters to him.

3. In refusing to pay compensation for the grass cut on the lunkahs, I beg to observe that, till the limits of the lunkah were defined, it was impossible to say whether the ground belonged to the proprietrix or the Government; it is true we were told her limits extended to low water-mark, but on inquiring at what level this was to be fixed in a river having such variable depths of water, we were informed that it was to be taken at dead low water summer level, which was tantamount to saying the lunkah boundaries extended from bank to bank of the river; when I found there was little probability of the matter being settled, I asked the Collector to take up the whole lunkah under Act X. of 1870; as soon as the Zemindarni heard of this—here I beg to observe she is an absentee and always resides at Vizagapatam—she sent some of her relatives and an agent to inquire into and arrange matters; these people at once dismissed the Manager who had been preferring all the complaints against the officers of the Department Public Works through the Tahsildar, repudiated all his transactions and claims for compensation, and came to me to withdraw my application to enforce the Act. I told them I could not now do this as so much injury had been done to the Government property, and so many complaints made against us of injuring their rights and property, and I had been forced to take this serious step to try and settle the matter; for a long time I gave them the same answer as they called on me almost daily when I was at Dowlaishweram, but at length I wrote demi-officially to Mr. Foster to explain their request to him, and to ask him if the matter could be stayed on the conditions they offered; to this I received no reply, and I heard no more of this subject till called upon to prepare the survey. I had hoped to send

this in before leaving the district, but at the last moment I found some omissions in the plan, and had to return it to the Range Officer for revision.

4. As regards my remark, that on every change of officers in the Sub-Collectorate similar complaints were made against the Department Public Works, I beg to observe it was very far indeed from my intention to be offensive in any way to Mr. Snaith, who had only lately joined the district; but, in confirmation of what I had alleged, I beg to observe that as soon as Mr. Horsfall returned to the district—and he knows it well—I spoke to him about this Gopaulpore Lunkah, and he at once admitted that before going to England on furlough in 1871 he had himself caused large quantities of grass to be removed from this lunkah, and given strict orders to the Tahsildar to prohibit its further extension; as soon as Mr. Stuart came in his place complaints were made against us for destroying the grass; when he went away similar complaints were made to Mr. Pearce, and as soon as Mr. Snaith came the same complaints were made to him, not by the Zemindarni from any personal knowledge of her own, as reported to the Government, but by a Manager who has since been discharged for his conduct in this matter.

5. As regards the Order No. 163, 14th August 1873, I would observe this could not bear on this subject at any previous time, and I believe there is an order in the Collector's Office by Mr. Fraser, confirmed by Mr. Sullivan, that the grass can be cut on any of the lunkahs below the anicut for the conservancy of the works and the river banks, and so far as I recollect no compensation was demanded for this in former years.

6. I trust I have now shown that in this matter I acted solely for the interests of the Government, and that I did not attempt in any way to injure the Zemindarni; I have been now nearly twenty-five years in the service, and no such charge has ever been preferred against me in any district of doing harm to any native wantonly; when Mr. Foster, then, charges me with using irritating and offensive language, which I sincerely regret, it would have been as well for him to recollect I had some cause for complaint in the manner I had been addressed; but so far from resenting this I had endeavoured to impress on Mr. Snaith that he was misinformed on the subject, and we were not doing such injuries as he supposed; if I had thought I should have caused him so much annoyance, I would have been careful not to write so hurriedly, but now it only remains for me to make all the reparation in my power and to apologize to him for causing him any pain.

7. Having now submitted my explanations in regard to the Gopaulpore Lunkah, I beg to add a few remarks with reference to the charge of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, as contained in paragraph 4 of his Note of the 25th February 1874 and 27th March 1874. In 1870-71, Colonel Mullins, during his first tour of inspection in the Godavery District, gave Major Hasted and Mr. Randall, the Executive Officers, detailed instructions as to the manner in which certain groyne works were to be carried out. Mr. Walsh succeeded Mr. Randall, and I appeal to Major Hasted and to him to state if I ever interfered with the Chief Engineer's orders being strictly attended to during that season; I was perfectly certain the designs would not answer in such a river as the Godavery

from my own experience of many previous years, and from the instructions of Sir A. Cotton and Colonel Orr; as soon as the first fresh passed over the anicut—a very moderate one—the whole of these works were swept away into the sea, and both the Executive Officers allowed that their season's work had been lost as I had anticipated. Years of neglect had brought the river banks into a dreadful state, and now another season was lost. I then undertook to carry out such works as I could to recover so much lost time and ground, and the general result of these operations was reported to Government by Major Oakes with cordial and

* The No. and date of this I regret I cannot give.

entire approval in his Notes of inspection published in a G. O. of July 1872; * after this order I did not consider I was

restricted in my operations as regards the conservancy of the river banks, and in their orders of the 13th October 1873, No. 2,502, on my letter explaining what I had done, the Government expressed no disapproval; why the Chief Engineer for Irrigation should *now only* charge me with disregard of his instructions and also of the orders of Government during three years, I am quite at a loss to understand; during his absence in England the officer acting for him reported the matter favorably to the Government, and on his return the necessity for undertaking the works on emergency was further explained, and elicited no disapproval in either instance from the Government, under these circumstances it is with great regret I find he now characterizes my proceedings as being far from satisfactory. As the works have not failed in one single instance, and there is not a set of the river which has not been rectified or much improved, the results of the works can be seen at once and bear their own record. I trust, then, the Government will be pleased to exonerate me from blame in this matter. I am the only officer now left in India who has had much to do with the Godavery river, I cannot therefore appeal to any one to support me in the view I took of this matter and acted upon for the best interests of the Government; but I explained it to Colonel Randall when he visited the district, and he entirely approved of all I had done, and in writing I have laid the whole subject before Sir A. Cotton, who cordially approved of the system I had adopted. I beg then most respectfully to submit that, under the circumstances, I had no other course open to me to serve the Government interests, and that I did not act against their orders or instructions from a spirit of defiance or disobedience; the works were of the most emergent nature, and much time had already been lost when another season was again lost in attempting to introduce a new system and it failed; the Chief Engineer was absent on leave, and as soon as an officer acting for him came to the district he was shown the state of affairs and the works being executed: all this has been laid before the Government, and no disapprobation expressed; it is then very painful to me now to be charged with, and condemned for, these proceedings, the more so as I have only conscientiously done what I considered it was my duty to do under such very peculiar and trying circumstances; and in regard to such repair works no such restrictive orders had ever been issued to any of my predecessors, or in any other district. I would gladly have made matters far more complete if I had had the means and the time, but I could get no Surveyors for all the works we had in hand, and had to train men; in the meantime these river works

required to be attended to at once to prevent further loss and damage, and sanction for extra establishments was not until only very lately easy to be obtained. The Government will, I earnestly hope and trust, see the difficulties I had to contend with and give me credit at least for acting with good intentions for their interests.

8. As regards Kakurapurroo groyne works, of which the Chief Engineer complains, I would observe that at the time, early in November, I dissented from the suggested operations; no further orders or instructions were given to me, and I had to leave Colonel Mullins for a few days to attend to other duties; on my rejoining his camp I heard no more of this matter until Mr. Walsh sent me the estimate for the works prepared as described by him in paragraph 2 of his No. 482, dated the 21st December 1873, under the verbal orders of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and on the 22nd I wrote to Colonel Mullins for full instructions in this matter, sending the plans of the locality; in reply to this I received memorandum of the 7th January 1874, No. 13, detailing the work to be done, as marked in the plans, but these were not returned to me till the 13th February, as remarked in my No. 3,404; long before all this occurred, our repair funds had been exhausted, and I had applied for an increase of allotment, and had been told no more was available, and subsequently I have been told I was not even justified in pushing on with work as I had done on sanctioned estimates; it was impossible then for me to provide funds for this particular work, but in March I had it put in hand and paid for in April and in May; before leaving the district I saw that the Chief Engineer's orders had been fully carried out. Had a memorandum been sent to me at once after the inspection early in November, as had been done in the matter of the Pillunaka groyne, there could have been no misunderstanding in the matter, and I should not have had to complain of the discourtesy of verbal orders being given to my subordinates; but as this had been done on a former occasion with anything but satisfactory results, I must confess I felt greatly annoyed at the time on its being repeated as I supposed, but if I am wrong in this I am very sorry for it; but Mr. Walsh says, in his letter printed in the Government Order under reply, he had these verbal instructions, and he certainly received no such orders through my office; for I apprehended very great danger in cutting away any of the lunkah when there was so little left between the river and the bank canal, as if in so doing we should expose any sandy stratum the canal would inevitably breach into the river; and after personal inspection last year I was quite certain there was no strong set of the current along this lunkah as remaining, and gave this explanation to the Chief Engineer, who seemed to be satisfied with it at the time.

9. Having now, I trust, exculpated myself on the two main counts on which I have been condemned, I beg to add a short account of work done in the district in the last five years, in the hope the Government will be pleased to receive this favorably in mitigation of the heavy sentence and censure passed on me.

10. When I took charge in April 1869, I was told the irrigation under the anicut was falling off, and such I found to be the case; very little or nothing had been done for the works for nearly twelve years, and the completion project which had been repeatedly called for by the Government of India for several years was all returned on my hands so incomplete, and for two of the deltas only,

the whole had to be taken up afresh, even to obtaining correct data of irrigated areas and probable extension of irrigation. I found the river banks in the most terribly neglected condition. I fully expected at one time that the Central Delta would have been cut off from the anicut, and that the east flank of the Naggaram aqueduct would be turned by the river and all the irrigation by it destroyed; there were large balances of local funds in the treasury, and in the dry taluqs nothing had been done to open out roads, and in the deltas mud roads only had been made. On a visit to Madras in April 1870, I explained fully to Colonel Orr the state of affairs in Colonel Mullins' presence, and I appeal to him to say if Colonel Orr did not entirely approve of all I then laid before him.

11. Up to date of my leaving, the irrigated area had been increased by 60,000 acres of land yielding a water-rate of 2,40,000 Rupees to the Government; of this area 10,000 acres are in the Central Delta, for which no new works have been sanctioned, but the increase has been realized by utilizing the repair grants in a proper manner; the completion projects for the Eastern and Western Deltas have been submitted, sanctioned, and are well in hand, and up to this time there had been no failures in executing any of the large works provided for in these estimates and no excess in cost; that for the Central Delta has been twice prepared according to different instructions and sent in a year ago, together with a proposal for establishing a canal in a feasible manner between Cocanada and Nursapore, and so connecting all the ports of the district with the main lines of communications leading into the interior.

12. Estimates have been prepared and sanctioned for gravelling most of the roads in the delta, to make them efficient at all times of the year, and a good deal of the work performed.

13. Most of the drainages have been cut out so as to carry off efficiently all surplus water in the Eastern and Western Deltas; in the Central Delta for want of sanction to the completion project nothing more could be done than clear out some of the old drainages as well as we could from repair grants.

14. The Unnamoo Lunkah project, for irrigating a large area* of land in the Yernagodem Taluq and protecting the Western Delta from the floods of the

* 45,000 Acres.

Weyeroo river, has been investigated, prepared, and sent in.

15. All the balances of Local Funds in hand have been fully utilized, and roads opened out in all the dry taluqs; so much work has been prepared and sanctioned the Local Fund Boards of both Circles have had to apply to Government to raise the rate of assessment to maintain the rate of progress these works were making.

16. The river banks have been thoroughly and efficiently protected both above and below the anicut in all places where so much danger existed, and a great deal done to recover the losses of previous years; the Naggaram aqueduct is, I believe, quite safe, the threatened danger to it having been arrested. At the head of the Central Delta the banks have been well and efficiently protected, and so far as I could judge all danger there has for the present been arrested; the anicut itself is, I believe, in first rate order, as described by Colonel Rundall, all danger to its apron slipping having been arrested by the groyne works I had introduced below; the large hole below the Dowlaishweram under-sluices, into which

large portions of the apron used to slip every year, has been filled in, and the apron thoroughly secured, and steps taken to secure the Bobber Lunkah under-slucies in the same manner; the only portion of this work which caused me any anxiety was the Muddoor branch of the anicut; I did all I could to secure the work before I left the district, but it will require very great care and attention to protect it properly, as the river has made a strong set against it all; other portions of the anicut are, I believe, perfectly safe.

17. Measures had been adopted to obtain reliable information regarding the trade up the river, so that the Government might be in a position to judge if the navigation scheme could be again taken up, and it had been ascertained that a trade worth about five lakhs a year, without the value of rafts and timber, already existed, and as this is more than the value of imports at Cocanada before the anicut works were constructed, there is sufficient evidence to show that the project is a feasible and promising one if extended to reach the larger inland markets of the country.

18. The expenditure in the district when I took charge was a little over 5 lakhs, principally for repair works; last year's expenditure under all Budget heads was over 8½ lakhs chiefly for new works; the value of work turned out at the work-shops and quarries has almost doubled in the same time, making the total value of the work done in the district 10½ lakhs of rupees in that season. I would here respectfully solicit the Government to consider the work done for the whole district in the year for which I had to arrange for the expenditure, and I trust then it will be admitted the management was satisfactory. I tried my utmost, by all the expostulation I could make use of, to avoid the miscarriage in the Eastern Delta, but unhappily failed in this, and so I have had to bear the blame.

19. In 1870 Lord Napier told me that very strong remonstrances had been addressed to him by the Secretary of State, at the instance of Sir A. Cotton, regarding the condition of the Godavery Anicut Works, and he hoped I would do something to improve this state of affairs; from Sir A. Cotton I have received letters conveying to me the warmest and most cordial approval of all I had done for the works, written after he had received an account of them from Colonel Rundall; Colonel Orr was fully satisfied with everything I laid before him, and these three officers have had more to do with these works than any other officer in the corps; yet I am now condemned because after a novel system had been tried and failed I undertook the responsibility of preventing further injury to the Government works and this river during twenty years fully warranted, in the absence of the officer who had proposed to set this aside, which had been inspected by the officer acting for him and reported to Government as most satisfactory, and which have not failed in one single instance to secure the object in view. Had the Godavery river been like any other ordinary jungle stream of the country, the works on it could have been done in the ordinary routine manner, but I would most respectfully observe there is no other river of the kind, at least in this part of India; that every officer who has been trained on it knows how difficult its heavy floods and currents are to manage; that after years of neglect it was most hazardous to set aside all the experience of former years to try a novel system, and that when this had failed

and I had no means or time to prepare detailed surveys, etc., there was no alternative for me but to arrest further injury and lose no more time, particularly as I well knew I could do the work, and have proved this by its success. I trust the Government will pardon my making this boast; had I not been compelled to do so in self-defence I should never have said a word about the matter, and never once reported all the failures which had occurred, but endeavoured to recover all the losses I could without further delay.

20. As regards Mr. Foster's complaints, I have taken advantage of the first opportunity afforded me to make all the reparation that it is in my power to do, and to express the most sincere regret for having, in the hurry of business and whilst carrying on very hard work in constant exposure, written in a curt or irritating manner; as I had known Mr. Foster for many years, and was constantly meeting him in the district, he might have told me of the complaints he had preferred against me; but during all these months he has not said one word to me on the subject, and in fact when I wrote to ask him if it was possible to stay the proceedings for taking up the Gopaulpore Lunkah, he did not answer my letter; it has not been my fault therefore that Mr. Snaith had no apology sent in before. I never had any wish or desire to offend him or any other man wilfully, and this, I think, Mr. Foster could easily have given me credit for, but I have now done all I am able to do, and regret I could not have done so before.

21. In conclusion, I beg to observe that so far as the Gopaulpore Lunkah is concerned, I have proved, on the testimony of Mr. Horsfall, that I acted only as he had done in preventing further encroachments being made and injury done to the river banks and Government property; that Mr. Snaith in entertaining the complaints against us did not make himself sufficiently acquainted with the facts when he imputed injustice and oppression to us; that he never visited the locality at all to see what damage had been done, though it is within a few hours run by boat and canal from his own head-quarters, and now that as soon as I was aware he felt aggrieved at any language I had used, I made him all the reparation in my power; that the Zemindari's accredited agents admitted the justness of our proceedings and Mr. Horsfall's by at once dismissing the Manager of this property immediately they were aware of his acts and proceedings and disavowing his claims for compensation.

22. That as regards disobedience of Government orders and the Chief Engineer's instructions during three years, in the peculiar circumstances in which I was placed, with no means or time to prepare full detailed plans and estimates, and to secure the river banks and works from further damage after the failures above noted had occurred, I had no alternative but to act at once in the matter; that the works were inspected by Major Oakes in the absence of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and most favorably reported on by him to Government without its being considered I was acting otherwise than I should have done; and that even up to the 13th October 1873, G. O., No. 2,502, no disapprobation was expressed at what I had done in this matter, I would then respectfully submit I am not to blame now for what has been passed by my superiors with commendation and by the Government without disapproval. Again, after the entire failure of the system which had been ordered for adoption and trial and the river banks were again left

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th August 1874.*

exposed to its heavy floods in the terribly neglected state already reported to Government by Major Oakes, what would the Government have said to me if any serious accident had occurred, and I had pleaded I could do nothing for want of proper surveys and estimates? When at the time I was quite sure I could remedy all defects by ordinary care and attention and the success of the operations in all instances, which the Chief Engineer does not and cannot deny, proves I was acting entirely for the benefit of the Government and the district by utilizing the knowledge and experience I had gained on the river and its works; it is, I most respectfully submit, very hard to charge and condemn me for systematic disobedience of orders during three years, and omit to take any extenuating facts or circumstances into consideration; no officer of the department has ever been placed in a more trying position, and told he was not at liberty to use the ordinary repair grants of his district to the best of his judgment and experience for the most emergently necessary works required to be executed for the preservation of life and property, and after twenty-five years' service in the country, and receiving the full approval of Sir A. Cotton, General Orr, and General Rundall, regarding these works, it is a most painful circumstance to me to be told I was not fit to be trusted with ordinary repair works; whenever the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has called for detailed surveys and estimates for such works they have been sent in as soon as these could be prepared, but it is only since I was removed from the district that anything like proper survey establishments have been sanctioned for such works.

23. Having already detailed all that has been done for the district whilst I was in charge, and the approval it had met with from the officer the best acquainted and most interested in the works, it would be unbecoming in me to make any further reference to this matter, I will now only solicit the Government most respectfully to consider the circumstances of my case. I have been condemned unheard, and removed from the charge of a district with the severest censure without even hearing of one of the charges preferred against me. I have been threatened with further loss of salary, and ordered to pay my own expenses, and I have been superseded in promotion, and the worst that can be said against me is that in writing hastily I had given offence to some of the Revenue Authorities, for which no apology was ever demanded, and that I had executed works without proper sanction *apparently* when the whole of the transactions had been reported to the Government as being very satisfactory and no disapprobation ever expressed; to me the sentence so unexpected has been most distressing and humiliating. I had endeavoured by all means in my power and knowledge, when Lord Napier explained to me what reflections had been against his Government regarding the condition of these works, to restore the irrigation as soon as possible, to prepare and put in hand all the necessary new works as fast as sanction could be obtained for them, to utilize the large sums collected for Local Fund works, to secure the safety of the ancient, the Naggaram aqueduct, and all the river banks in the most dangerous localities, and to develop in every possible manner the resources of the district on the principles on which the project had been based by Sir A. Cotton and sanctioned by former Governments, and having, by God's blessing, succeeded in a great measure in establishing and carrying out the necessary operations, I have been dismissed in this manner for a few hasty words, and because it was alleged

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th August 1874.*

I had wilfully disobeyed the orders of the Government, and no consideration shown for all the hard work I had in hand, the constant exposure and the enormous responsibility and anxiety resting on an officer who had not only to complete all the new works for the most important project of the Presidency, but had to recover the waste and loss of years which threatened at one time to ruin the whole scheme. I am far from wishing to say no blame does attach to me at all, but I would simply crave to submit, for the consideration of His Lordship in Council, that taking all the circumstances of the case into account, I have been very hardly dealt with, far more so than the nature of these required, and I trust I may now be restored to my position and relieved of much of the censure which has been passed on me.

No. 210.

ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1874, No. 2,205.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

ORDERED to be recorded.

2. The Government decline to reopen the matter.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,

Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
District Engineer, Madura.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No 1316

District Engineers Office
Madura 30 June 1874

From

Vicent Colonel J. Fischer R.E.
District Engineer, Madura

To

Vicent Colonel J. Mullins R.E.
Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge on the 24 June 1874 receipt of
y^r of the 11 May 1874 No 1262,
and trust I may be allowed to
submit some explanations in
reference to the severe condemnation
His Excellency in Council has
been pleased to pass on me and
which I most sincerely deplore.

2. As regards the Gopaulpore
Sunkah I was never made
aware that any such complaints
had been preferred against me.

and I most sincerely regret that in
the hurry of writing on a subject
which I believed had been settled,
I should have expressed myself
in a way so as to cause any
annoyance to any of the District
Revenue Authorities but I beg to add
Mr Smith charged us with exercising
great injustice and oppression
towards the proprietors an imputation
I felt was quite uncalled for and
as he had never seen me in his
life at the time had seen only
a very short time in the District
and never once visited the locality
though within easy reach of his
Head Quarters by boat and canal
I considered he might have given
me some credit for trying to do
my duty conscientiously towards
the Government and in representing
the matter to the Government

Mr Foster who has known me for
many years need hardly have
put the very worst construction
he could on all my correspondence
as if I had been actuated by
personal motives only and might
have afforded me an opportunity
to explain matters to him.

3 In refusing to pay com-
pensation for the gaps cut on the
SunKahs I beg to observe that
the limits of the SunKah
were defined it was impossible
to say whether the ground belonged
to the proprietors or the Government.
It is true we were told her limits
extended to low-water mark,
but on enquiring at what level
this was to be fixed in a river
having such variable depths
of water we were informed that
it was to be taken at dead low
water summer level, which was

tantamount to saying the Sunkah
boundaries extended from bank
to bank of the river when I found
there was little probability of the
matter being settled, I asked
the collector to take up the whole
Sunkah under Act X of 1870:
as soon as the Zemindar
heard of this here I beg to observe
she is an absentee and always
resides at Vizagapatam. She has
some of her relatives and an
Agent to enquire into, and arrange
matters, these people at once
dismissed the Manager who had
been preferring all the complaints
against the Officers of the D.P.W.
through the Tahsildar, repudiated
all his transactions and claims
for compensation and came
to me to withdraw my application
to enforce the Act. I told them

I could not now do this as so much
injury had been done to the Govern-
ment property and so many complaints
made against us of injuring
their rights and property, and I
had been forced to take this serious
step to try and settle the matter.
For a long time I gave them the
same answer as they called on
me almost daily when I was at
Dowlaisware. At length I
wrote Derr. Officially to Mr. Foster
to explain their request to him
and to ask him if the matter could
be stayed on the conditions they
offered, to this I received no reply
and I heard no more of the
subject till called upon to prepare
the survey I had hoped to send
this m. before leaving the District
but at the last moment I found
some omissions in the plan

and had to return it to the
Range Office for revision.

As regards my remark
that on every change of Officers
in the Sub Collectorate similar
complaints were made against
the D.H. I beg to observe it was
very far indeed from my intention
to be offensive in any way to
Mr. Smith who had only lately
joined the District, but in confirmation
of what I had alleged, I beg
to observe that as soon as Mr. Horsfall
returned to the District and he
knows it well, I spoke to him about
this Lopaupore Sunkah and he
at once admitted that before
going to England in 1871, he had himself caused
large quantities of grass to be
removed from this Sunkah
and given strict orders to the

Tahsildar to prohibit its further exten-
sion and soon as Mr. Stuart came in
his place complaints were made
against us for the destroying the
grass, when he went away similar
complaints were made to Mr. Pearce
and as soon as Mr. Smith came
the same complaints were made
to him, not by the Zemindar
from any personal knowledge
of her own as reported to the
Government but by a Manager
who has since been discharged
for his conduct in this matter.
5 As regards the order
No 163, 14. August 1873, I would
observe this could not bear on
this subject at any previous time
and I believe there is an order
in the Collector's Office by Mr. Fraser
confirmed by Mr. Sullivan that
the grass can be cut on any of

to the Sunnahs below the limit for
the conservancy of the works and
the river banks and so far as I
recollect no compensation was
demanded for this in former years -
I trust I have now shown
that in this matter I acted solely
for the interests of the Government
and that I did not attempt
in any way to injure the
Sunnahs. I have been now nearly
25 years in the service and
no such charge has ever been
referred against me in any District
or doing harm to any Native
tribe, when Mr. Foster then
charged me with using irritating
and offensive language, which
I sincerely regret, it would have
been as well for him to recollect
I had some cause for complaint
in the manner I had been

addressed but so far from resenting
this I had endeavoured to impress
on Mr. Smith that he was mis-
informed on the subject and
we were not doing such injuries. It
as he supposed, if I had thought
I should have caused him so much
annoyance, I would have been
careful not to write so hurriedly
but now it only remains for
me to make all the reparation
in my power and to apologise
to him for causing him any
pain.

Having now submitted
my explanations in regard
to the Gopalspore Sunnah
I beg to add a few remarks
with reference to the charge of
the Chief Engineer for Irrigation
as contained in para 4 of his
note of the 25 February 1874.

and 27 March 1874. In 1870-71 Colonel
Mullins during his first tour
of inspection in the Godavery
District gave Major Stacket and
Mr. Rundall the Executive Officers
detailed instructions as to the
manner in which certain graine
works were to be carried out,
Mr. Walsh succeeded Mr. Rundall
and I appeal to Major Stacket
and to him to state if I ever
interfered with the Chief Engineer's
orders being strictly attended
to during that season, I was
perfectly certain that Designs
would not answer in such a
river as the Godavery from
my own experience of many
previous years and from the
instructions of Sir A. Cotton
and Colonel Orr: as soon as
the first fresh passed over the

12
Ancient, a very moderate one, the
whole of these works were swept
away into the sea, and both the
Executive Officers allowed that
their seasons work had been lost
as I had anticipated - years
of neglect had brought the river
into a dreadful state
now another season was lost
I then undertook to carry out
such works as I could to recover
so much lost time and ground
and the general result of these
operations was reported to Govern-
ment by Major Oakes with
cordial and entire approval
in his Notes of inspection
published in a L.O. of July 1872
after this order I did not consider
I was restricted in my operations
as regards the conservancy of
the river banks and in their orders

and date
I regret
not give

of the 13 October 1873, No 2502, on
my letter explaining what I had
done; the Government expressed
no disapproval, why the Chief
Engineer for Irrigation should
now only charge me with dis-
regard of his instructions and
also of the orders of Government
during 3 years, I am quite at
a loss to understand, during his
absence in England the Officer
acting for him reported the
matter favorably to the Government
and on his return the necessity
for undertaking the works on
emergency was further explained
and elicited no disapproval ^{in either instance}
from the Government. Under these
circumstances it is with great
regret I find he now characterizes
my proceedings as being far from
satisfactory. As the works have not failed
in one single instance and there

is not a pet of the river which has
not been rectified or much improved
the results of the works can be seen
at once and bear their own record,
I trust then the Government will
be pleased to exonerate ^{me} from blame
in this matter. I am the only Officer
now left in India who has had
much to do with the Godavery
river, I cannot therefore appeal to
any one to support me in the
view I took of this matter and
acted upon for the best interests
of the Government. but I explained
it to Colonel Studdall when he
visited the District and he entirely
approved of all I had done
and in writing I have laid
the whole subject before Sir
A. Cotton who cordially approved
of the system I had adopted.
I beg then most respectfully to

submit that under the circumstances
I had no other course open to me
to serve the Government interest and
that I did not act against their
orders or instructions from a spirit
of defiance or disobedience, the
works were of the most emergent
nature and much time had
already been lost when another
season was again lost in attempting
to introduce a new system and
it failed, the Chief Engineer was
absent on leave and as soon as
an Officer acting for him came
to the District, he was shown the
state of affairs and the works being
executed, all this has been laid before
the Government and no disapprobation
expressed, it is then very painful to
me now to be charged with and
condemned for these proceedings
the more so as I have only

conscientiously done what I considered
it was my duty to do under such
very peculiar and trying circum-
stances and in regard to such
repair works no such restrictive
orders had ever been issued to
any of my predecessors or in any
other District. I would gladly
have made matters far more
complete if I had had the
means and the time but I
could get no surveyors for all the
works we had in hand and
had to train men in the
meantime these river works require
to be attended to at once to prevent
further loss and damage and
sanction for extra establishments
was not until only very lately
easy to be obtained. The Govern-
ment will I earnestly hope and
trust see the difficulties I had
to contend with and give me

credit at least for acting with good intentions for their interests.

8 As regards the Kuraparro
gravel works of which the Chief
Engineer complains I would observe
that at the time, early in November,
I dissented from the suggested
operations, no further orders or instructions
were given to me, and I had to
leave Colonel Mullins for a few
days to attend to other duties, on
my rejoining his camp I
heard no more of this matter
until Mr Walsh sent me the
estimate for the work prepared
as described by him in para 2
of his No 482 dated the 21st December
1873 under the verbal orders
of the Chief Engineer for (the)
and on the 22nd I wrote to Colonel
Mullins for full instructions in
this matter sending the plans of the
locality in reply to this & reviewed

Memo of the 7th January 1874 No 13
detailing the work to be done, as
marked in the plans, but these were
not returned to me till the 13th Feb.
January as remarked in my No 3404
long before all this occurred our
repair funds had been exhausted
and I had applied for an increase
of allotment and had been told
no more was available and sub-
sequently I have been told I was
not even justified in pushing
on with work as I had done
in sanctioned estimates. It was
impossible then for me to provide
funds for this particular work
but in March I had it put
in hand and paid for in
April and in May before leaving
the District I said that the
Chief Engineer's orders had been
fully carried out ^{and a strong} at once after
the inspection early in November

as had been done in the matter
of the Sillunakah groynes there
could have been no misunderstanding
in the matter and I should not
have had to complain of the
discourtesy of verbal orders being
given to my subordinates, but
as this had been done on a
former occasion with any thing
but satisfactory results, I must
confess I felt greatly annoyed
at the time in its being repeated
as I supposed, but if I am wrong
in this, I am very sorry for it,
but Mr Walsh says in his letter
printed in the G.O. under reply
he had these verbal instructions
and he certainly received no
such orders through my Office
for I apprehended very great danger
in cutting away any of the Sunkah
when there was so little left between

the river and the bank/canal as
if in so doing we should expose
any sandy stratum, the canal
would inevitably breach into ^{the} river
and after personal inspection last
year I was quite certain there was
no strong set of the current along
this Sunkah as remaining, and
gave this explanation to the Chief
Engineer who seemed to be satisfied
with it at the time.

9 Having now I trust
exculpated myself on the two
main points on which I have
been condemned, I beg to add
a short account of work done
in the District in the last 5 years
in the hope the Government will
be pleased to receive this favorably
in mitigation of the heavy sentence
and censure passed on me.

10 When I took charge in April
1869 I was told the irrigation under

the Ancient was falling off and such
I found to be the case, very little
or nothing had been done for the
works for nearly 12 years, and the
completion project which had been
repeatedly called for by the Govern-
ment of India for several years
was all returned on my hands
so incomplete, and for two of the
Deltas only, the whole had to be
taken ^{up} afresh, even to obtaining
correct data of irrigated areas
and probable extension of irrigation.
I found the river banks in the
most terribly neglected condition
I fully expected at one time
that the Central Delta would have
been cut off from the Ancient
and that the east flank of the
Naggarum Aqueduct would
be turned by the river and all
the irrigation by it destroyed.

there were large balances of local funds
in the Treasury and in the dry
Talooks nothing had been done to
open out ponds and in the Deltas
mud roads only had been made.
On a visit to Madras in April 1870
I explained fully to Colonel Orr
the state of affairs in Colonel
Mullins' presence and I appeal
to him to say if Colonel Orr
did not entirely approve of all
I then laid before him.
Up to date of my leaving,
the irrigated area had been
increased by 6000 acres of land
yielding a water rate of 2,40,000
Rupees to the Government, of this
area 10,000 acres are in the Central
Delta for which no new works
have been sanctioned but the
increase has been realized by
utilizing the Repair grants.

in a proper manner. The completion projects for the Eastern and Western Deltas have been submitted, sanctioned and are well in hand and up to this time there had been no failures in executing any of the large works provided for in these estimates and no excess in cost. That for the Central Delta has been twice prepared according to different instructions and sent in a year ago, together with a proposal for establishing a canal in a feasible manner between Bocomadah and Nursapore and so connecting all the ports of the District with the main lines of communications leading into the interior.

12/ Estimates have been prepared and sanctioned for gravelling most of the roads in the Delta to make them efficient at all times of the year and a good deal

12/13 of the work performed. Most of the drainages have been cut out so as to carry off efficiently all surplus water in the Eastern and Western Deltas; in the Central Delta for want of sanction to the completion project nothing more could be done than clear out some of the old drainages as well as ~~are~~ could from repair grants.

* 45,000 acres

14/ The Unnamoo-Sunkah project for irrigating a large area of land in the Geruagoodem seed Salook and protecting the Western Delta from the floods of the Weyeroo river has been investigated, prepared and sent in.

15/ All the balances of local funds in hand have been fully utilized and roads opened de

out in all the dry Salooks; so much
work has been prepared and
sanctioned the local Fund Boards
of both circles have had to apply
to Government to raise the rate
of assessment to maintain the
rate of progress these works were
making.

16 The river banks have been
thoroughly and efficiently protected
both above and below the Aicut
in all places where so much danger
existed and a great deal done
to recover the losses of previous years.
The Naggaram Aqueduct is I
believe quite safe, the threatened
danger to it having been arrested.
At the head of the Central Delta
the banks have been well and
efficiently protected and so far
as I could judge all danger
there has for the present been

13
arrested, the Aicut itself is I believe
in first rate order as described by
Colonel Rundall - all danger to
it apron slipping having been
arrested by the groynes works I
had introduced below the large
hole below the Dowlaiswarum
under sluices into which large portions
of the apron used to slip every
year has been filled in and
the apron thoroughly secured
and steps taken to secure the
Bobber Sunkah under sluices -
in the same manner the only
portion of this work which caused
me any anxiety was the
Mudloor branch of the Aicut
I did all I could to secure the
work before I left the District
but it will require very great
care and attention to protect
it properly as the river has made

at strong set against it all other
portions of the Aricut are I believe
perfectly safe.

17 Measures had been
adopted to obtain reliable information
regarding the trade up the river
so that the Government might
be in position to judge if the
navigation scheme could be
again taken up and it had
been ascertained that a trade
worth about 5 lacs a year without
the value of rafts and timber
already existed, and as this is
more than the value of imports
at Socorinadah before the Aricut
works were constructed there is
sufficient evidence to show that
the project is a feasible and
promising one if extended to
reach the larger inland markets
of the country.

14
18 The expenditure in the District
when I took charge was a little over
5 lacs principally for repair work
last year's expenditure under all
budget heads was over $8\frac{3}{4}$ lacs
chiefly for new works, the value
of work turned out at the work-
shops and Quarries has almost
doubled in the same time making
the total value of the work done
in the District $10\frac{1}{2}$ lacs of Rupees
in that season. I would here
respectfully solicit the Government
to consider the work done for
the whole District in the year
for which I had to arrange
for the expenditure and I trust
then it will be admitted the
management was satisfactory
I tried my utmost by all
the expostulation I could
make use of to avoid the

miscarriage in the Eastern Delta
but unhappily failed in this
and so I have had to bear
the blame.

19 In 1870 Lord Napier
told me that very strong recom-
mendations had been addressed
to him by the Secretary of State
at the instance of Sir A Cotton
regarding the condition of the
Godavery Ancient Works and
he hoped I would do something
to improve this state of affairs.
From Sir A Cotton I have received
letters conveying to me the warmest
and most cordial approval of
all I had done for the works, written
after he had received an account
of them from Colonel Brindall.
Colonel Orr was fully satisfied
with every thing I laid before
him and these three Officers have

15
had more to do with these works
than any other Officers in the Corps
yet I am now condemned because
after a novel system had been
tried and failed I undertook
the responsibility of preventing
further injury to the Government
works and property by carrying
out works in a manner which
all the experience acquired in
this river during 20 years fully
warranted, in the absence of
the Officer who had proposed
to set this aside, which had
been inspected by the Officer
acting for him and reported
to Government as most satisfactory
*which I have not failed in
one single instance to secure
the object in view. Had the
Godavery river been like any
other ordinary jungle stream
of the country the works on it

16
could have been done in the ordinary
or routine manner but I would
most respectfully observe there is
no other river of the kind at least
in this part of India that every
officer who has been framed on
it knows how difficult its heavy
floods and currents are to manage
that after years of neglect it
was most hazardous to set aside
all the experience of former years
to try a novel system and
that when this had failed
and I had no means or time
to prepare detailed surveys &
there was no alternative for me
but to arrest further injury and
lose no more time particularly
as I well knew I could do the
work and have proved this
by its success. I trust the Govern-
ment will pardon my making

this boast had I not been compelled
to do so in self defence I should
never have said a word about
the matter and never once reported
all the failures which had occurred
but endeavoured to recover all
the losses I could without further
delay.

20 As regards Mr Foster's
complaints I have taken advantage
of the first opportunity afforded
me to make all the reparation
that it is in my power to do and
to express the most sincere regret
for having in the hurry of business
and whilst carrying on very
hard work in constant exposure
written in a curt or irritating
manner, as I had known
Mr Foster for many years
and was constantly meeting
him in the District he might

have told me of the complaints
he had preferred against me
but during all these months
he has ^{not} said one word to me
on the subject and in fact when
I wrote to ask him if it was
possible to stay the proceedings
for taking up the Gopaulpore
SunKah he did not answer
my letter, it has not been my
fault therefore that Mr Smith
had no apology sent in before,
I never had any wish or desire
to offend him or any other man
wilfully and this I think
Mr Foster could easily have given
me credit for, but I have now
done all I am able to do and
regret I could not have done so before.

21 In conclusion I beg to
observe that so far as the Gopaulpore
SunKah is concerned I have
proved on the testimony of Mr Storsfull

that I acted only as he had done
in preventing further encroachments
being made and injury done
to the river banks and Government
property that Mr Smith in
enterprising the complaints against
us did not make himself sufficiently
acquainted with the facts when
he imputed injustice and oppression
to us, that he never visited the
locality at all to see what
damages had been done though it
is within a few hours run by
boat and canal from his own
Head Quarters, and now that as
soon as I was aware he felt aggrieved
at any language I had used
I made him all the reparation
in my power; that the Zemindars
accredited agents admitted the
justness of our proceedings and
Mr Storsfull by at once dismissing

the Manager of this property immediately
they were aware of his acts and
proceedings and disavowing his
claims for compensation.

22. That as regards disobedience
of Government orders and the Chief
Engineer's instructions during 3
years, in the peculiar circumstances
in which I was placed, with
no means or time to prepare
full detailed plans and estimates,
and to secure the river banks and
works from further damage after
the failures above noted had
occurred I had no alternative
but to act at once in the matter that
the works were inspected by Major
Oakes in the absence of the Chief
Engineer for irrigation and most
favorably reported on by him
to Government without its being
considered I was acting otherwise
than I should have done and

that even up to the 13th October 1873
G.O. No 2512 no disapprobation was
expressed at what I had done
in this matter. I would then
respectfully submit I am not to
blame now for what has been
passed by my superiors with
commendation and by the Govern-
ment without disapproval. Again
after the entire failure of the system
which had been ordered for adoption
and trial and the river banks
were again left exposed to its
heavy floods in the terribly
neglected state already reported
to Government by Major Oakes
what would the Government have
said to me if any serious accident
had occurred and I had pleaded
I could do nothing for want
of proper surveys and estimates?
When at the time I was quite sure

I could remedy all defects by ordinary care and attention and the success of the operations in all instances, which the Chief Engineer does not and cannot deny, proves I was acting entirely for the benefit of the Government and the District by utilizing the knowledge and experience I had gained on the river and its works, it is I most respectfully submit very hard to charge and condemn me for systematic disobedience of orders during 3 years and omit to take any extenuating facts or circumstances into consideration, no Officer of the Department has ever been placed in a more trying position and told he was not at liberty to use the ordinary repair grants of his District to the best of his judgment and experience for the most emergently necessary

works required to be executed for the preservation of life and property and after 25 years service in the country and receiving the full approval of Sir A. Colton General Art. and General Dundale regarding these works, it is a most painful circumstance to me to be told I was not fit to be trusted with ordinary repair works; whenever the Chief Engineer for Irrigation has called for detailed surveys and estimates for such works they have been sent in as soon as they could be prepared but it is only since I was removed from the District that anything like proper survey establishments have been sanctioned for such works.

23 Having already detailed all that has been done for the District whilst I was in charge and the approval it had met

can with from the officer the best acquainted
and most interested in the works
th it would be unbecoming in me
to make any further reference
to this matter. I will now only
solicit the Government most respect-
fully to consider the circumstances
of my case. I have been condemned
un-heard, and removed from
the charge of a District with the
severest censure without even hearing
of one of the charges preferred against
me. I have been threatened
with further loss of salary, and
ordered to pay my own expenses,
and I have been superseded
in promotion, and the worst
that can be said against me
is that in writing hastily
I had given offence to some
of the Revenue Authorities for
which no apology was ever

20
demanded and that I had executed
works without proper sanction apparently
when the whole of the transactions
had been reported to the Government
as being very satisfactory and no
disapprobation ever expressed; to me
the sentence so unexpected has been
most distressing and humiliating.
I had endeavoured by all means
in my power and knowledge
when Lord Napier explained
to me what reflections had been
against his Government regarding
the condition of these works to restore
the irrigation as soon as possible
to prepare and put in hand
all the necessary new works
as fast as sanction could be
obtained for them, to utilize
the large sums collected for
local fund works, to secure the
safety of the Arment, the Naggarum

Aqueduct and all the river banks.
in the most dangerous localities
and to develop in every possible
manner the resources of the District
on the principles on which the
project had been based by Sir
A. Cotton and sanctioned by
former Governments, and having
by God's blessing, succeeded in
a great measure in establishing
and carrying out the necessary
operations. I have been dismissed
in this manner for a few hasty
words and because it was alleged
I had wilfully disobeyed the
orders of the Government and no
consideration shown for all the
hard work I had in hand
the constant exposure and the
enormous responsibility and
anxiety resting on an Officer
who had not only to complete

all the new works for the most important
project of the Presidency but had to recover
the waste and loss of years which threaten-
ed at one time to ruin the whole scheme.
I am far from wishing to say no blame
does attach to me at all but I would
simply crave to submit for the consid-
eration of his Lordship in Council
that taking all the circumstances of
the case into account I have been
very hardly dealt with far more so
than the nature of these required
and I trust I may now be restored
to my position and relieved
of much of the censure which
has been passed on me.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Most Obedient Servant
W. T. Tucker Esq. Col. R.E.
District Engineer

P. W. 1874 Sept.
No: 4533

From

The Dist. Engineer
Madras

To

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation
Madras

Dated 30 June 1874
Received 22 July 1874

G.O. No: 2205. 11-8-74

Affords explanation
on the remarks
passed on by G.O.
No 1262 dated
11 May 1874-

P. Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
2205- Read the following
From The Dist. Engineer
Madras To Secy to Govt. dated
30 June 1874.

For more say
Recorded
The Gov. decline to open
the matter
14/7 W.D.
J.B.S.
15.7.

Recorded with
the remark that
the Government are
quite satisfied that
the censures passed
on Lieut Colonel Fischer's
conduct were fully
deserved, and that
they are not prepared
to enter into any
further discussion
of the subject.

30
The Chief Engr for Govt
D. E. Madras.
d. Copies despatched 18/8/74.

W.D. 7/7/74
G.M.

11533 ✓

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.



To
The Chief Engr. for
Irrigation

Dated

Recd.

Encl

G. O. 11 Aug. 1874, No. 2245-

Nos. 209-210.

Lieutenant Col. Docher

Letter from Lt. Col.
Docher offering explanations
in regard to the errors
perpetrated in his conduct in
connection with his proceed-
ings in the Dooley &
Co. case.