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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	3418	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5/12/74	198

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th December 1874.*

No. 96. Read the following letter from Colonel A. S. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Cuddapah, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddapah, 22nd October 1874, No. 1,404 :—

In continuation of my letter No. 1,088, of the 8th ultimo, I have the honor to enclose, for the consideration of Government, copies of letters with which I have been favored from three of the Collectors with whom I served as Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division. Mr. Chase, the Collector of Kurnool, is absent on leave in England.

2. It is impossible for me to enter into any particulars until the Government are pleased to detail what they consider the shortcomings in the management of the division. I most fully admit that the execution of work was not satisfactory, but I repeatedly reported this and the inefficiency of my subordinates.

3. As the Government did not take any steps to improve the executive, over which I had no control, I submit that they acknowledged my difficulties, and could not in justice expect me to perform impossibilities.

4. I appeal to the records generally to support the statements made by the Collectors in the enclosed letters. I would markedly point out the case of Captain Begbie, of whom I repeatedly complained. That officer was actually promoted when he should have been removed from the department. He was censured in G. O., No. 2,390, of 4th October 1870, and promoted in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the same date.

5. Both these acts of Government were known throughout the division. The latter clearly nullifies the former, and, I submit, utterly weakened instead of strengthening my authority.

6. If the Government are still not satisfied, I would respectfully beg that a competent officer be sent to make local inquiry as to the manner in which I discharged my duties, and in what respect the ill-effects of my administration are still felt.

No. 97. ORDER THEREON, 5th December 1874, No. 3,418.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 7-A.

RECORDED, with reference to G. O.,
No. 3,022, of 24th October.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Cuddapah.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Blamed

21
Bellevue 5th September 1874.

My dear Mr. Herbert.

These

letters me

not to be

printed

or quoted

hmm?

1.12.74

You ask me my opinion of your Administration during the two years I was Collector of Suddapah (i.e. from October 1868 to October 1870) and whether you may, if you wish, use what I say. I believe there can be no objection to my repeating in this form and to your using what Howe often said on the subject, whenever I had an opportunity to several of those in authority over us. I believe remarks to the same effect may be found in my official reports from Suddapah. I felt sincere admiration for your great activity & vigilance and profound sympathy for the extraordinary difficulties of your position. Your Division (so enormous in extent that you could not properly cover it in the year) was the penal settlement to which every man was sent in the Department elsewhere seemed to be transported and you were expected to get good work out of them and keep them straight. An angel from heaven could not have done it. I have always said that you had the very worst team (not of your own selection) to drive of any public Officer I knew and that I thought your powers of driving did you vast credit. If the state of the Department was bad it was so because of the radically bad elements in it for which you were in no degree responsible. You, in my opinion, are the last person to be blamed

blamed for bad results, for you struggled
against them to the utmost. I believe I
recorded this opinion officially at the time.
The fact is no one who had not the actual ex-
perience or who had not the opportunity that
I had of being behind the scenes when travel-
ling over the District for months with you can
appreciate the difficulties you had to
 contend with. I have seen a great deal
of the P.W.D. in various parts of the Country,
but I never saw elsewhere such a set of
incompetent lazy good for nothing corrupt
subordinates as were furnished to you and
I well remember the great difficulty there
was in getting rid of many of them. Your
Administration of the Division was then, as
far as I am a judge, as successful as
circumstances would admit of. I don't
another man would not have succeeded as
well as you did, for you never allowed your
bad bargains to hoodwink you into a wrong
estimate of them and a correct discrimination
in such matters is not given to everyone. As
far as devotion to duty goes you certainly
deserved success.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. Davis

Bellary September 11th 1874

My dear Mr. Roberts,
I have no reference to criticisms on your

Administration as Superintending Engineer
have ever come to this Office. I am therefore in
ignorance of any matters to which exception
was taken. I am not aware in what respect
the defects of your Administration are still
felt in this District, but you will see that
in the absence of all information I am unable to
say for a certainty whether any are now being felt
or not. Believe me yours sincerely,

(Signed) H. Masters.

Worsley Road September 20th 1874.

My dear Mr. Roberts,

What I can say regarding
your Administration in this District must ne-
cessarily be of very little value and I am af-
raid I cannot assist you materially. During
the greater part of the time that you were Su-
perintending Engineer I was Judge and I
had no opportunities of forming an opinion
of your work. When I took Charge of
the District I had fault to find with Local
Fund and Imperial Works but it would
be unjust to blame you individually for
their Condition. You appeared to me
to have been the victim of a bad system,
the errors of which in spite of your great
activity in supervision and inspection you
could not correct. You had the Control of
a much larger range of Country than you
could possibly look after as a Superinten-
ding Engineer. The effect of this arrange-
ment was severely felt in this District
because

As Cause here we have been always under-
 officered and in some Cases will have been
 inefficiently provided for by utterly irrespon-
 sible men. The District being unpopular
 owing to natural disadvantages does not
 attract good men and you were powerless
 to a great extent to correct them and con-
 trol them. Government gave you bad ma-
 terial to work with and your position pre-
 vented you improving the materials though
 you did all that you could possibly
 do with it. In one important Range
 you had a succession of inefficient and
 inexperienced men to deal with, in
 another Range you had rascality which
 after great trouble you succeeded in
 stamping out and in another you had
 inefficiency to contend with. If there
 have been faults in your Administration
 in this District, a bad system and evil
 circumstances, for neither of which you can
 be held responsible, have been set against
 you. It has not been due to your neglect or
 want of exertion that faults have arisen.
 In ordinary circumstances, the results of
 your Administration in this District would
 have been decidedly good. You may
 make what use you please of this letter.
 Yours truly
 Signed L. D. Horsley.

(True Copies)

L. D. Horsley
 District Engineer
 Cuddalore

J. M. 6658/74
 1875 Dec 2/74
 1875 Dec 2/74

No 1404 Cuddalore District Engineers Office
 Cuddalore Dated 22nd October 1874

From
 The District Engineer
 Cuddalore

To
 The Secretary to Government
 P. W. Department
 Madras.

Enclosure

In Continuation of my Letter No.
 1088 of the 8th ultimo. Have the honor to
 enclose for the consideration of Government
 copies of letters with which I have been
 favored from three of the Collectors with
 whom I served as Superintending Engineer
 1st Division - Mr. Phage the Collector
 of Kurnool is about on leave in England.

2 - It is impossible for me to enter
 into any particulars until the Government
 are pleased to detail what they consider the
 shortcomings in the management of the
 Division. I most fully admit that
 the execution of work was not satisfactory
 but I repeatedly reported this and the

inefficiency of my subordinates.

3. — As the Government did not take any steps to improve the Executive Over which I had no Control I submit that they acknowledged my difficulties and could not in justice expect me to perform impossibilities.

4. — I appeal to the records generally to support the statements made by the collectors in the enclosed letters. I would markedly point out the Case of Captain Begbie of whom I repeatedly complained. That Officer was actually promoted, when he should have been removed from the Department. He was Censured in G. O. No 2390 of 14th October 1870 and promoted in the Fort Saint George Gazette of the same date.

5. — Both these Acts of Government were known throughout the Division. The latter clearly nullifies the former and I submit utterly weakened instead of strengthening my authority.

6. — If the Government are still not

satisfied I would respectfully beg that a Competent Officer be sent to make local inquiry as to the manner in which I discharged my duties and in what respect the ill effects of my administration are still felt.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most Obedient & humble servant

W. H. P. E.
District Engineer
Cuddalore

All A. V. papers - letters
 from the ~~at the~~ ^{for me only}
 Labritty copy of letters
 containing the opening of
 the certain letters
 regarding his administration
 of rights of the late
 3rd Dr. Leander.