

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	452	Press	<i>Original</i>
B.P.--No.--		Mis.	
Dated	23 - 2 -	1874	
		195	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd February 1874.*

Read the following :—

No. 456. From Mr. J. CROOM, dated 12th January 1874.
No. 457. From do. do. 21st do.

No. 458. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1874, No. 452.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 38.

ORDERED that the Memorial with its enclosures submitted with the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, and that the Memorialist be advised of its despatch.

(True Extract.)

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

To Mr. J. Croom.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 10 of 1874.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

Mr LORD,—We have the honour to forward herewith a Memorial from Mr. J. Croom, complaining of the manner in which his claims for work executed in connection with salt channel clearances were disposed of.

2. The correspondence herewith forwarded fully explains the grounds upon which our decision has been based, and appears to make further comment on the case superfluous.

We have the honour to be,

My Lord

Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servants,

FORT ST. GEORGE,
26 February 1874.

Ed. S. T. Austin.

FORT ST. GEORGE.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

*Letter to the Right Honourable
the Secretary of State for
India.*

*Dated 26th February
No. 10 of 1874.*

FORWARDING Memorial from Mr. J. Croom complaining of the manner in which his claims for work executed in connection with salt channel clearances were disposed of.

To
 The Honorable W. Robinson Esq. C. S.
 The Honored Sir,
 Having just submitted
 following Petition of Secretary, and not knowing
 if it will reach you in time, I most
 respectfully beg to put the liberty herewith to
 submit a copy of the same and beg to remain
 Your humble and obedient servant
 21st Jan^y 1876 }

P. S. With reference to the reply of
 Govt. dated 24th Feb^y 1873, and appended to my pe-
 tition marked B, I beg to observe, that the 4th para
 in the said reply, being rather complicated to be
 clearly understood, it nevertheless in no way bears
 upon, nor has any thing whatever to do in the present
 case, but contains simp. passing remarks.
 The said 4th para I beg to
 add, has reference to 3 channels, for the work of which

Board paid me in full. They were not 3 chan-
nels as stated in the said order but only 2, i.e., the
main channel, and 2 portions of the Kator channel.

It is likewise stated with re-
ference to these 2 channels, for the work of which the Bd.
had me in full, that though I finished the work a-
bout Sept 1871, the bill was not presented till Jan^y
1872. After I had excavated these 2 channels, and while
the boats floated out by hundreds, the rains sud-
denly came down and so visited them, that not a single
boat could pass, till I excavated again at my own cost
to save the salt. The Board being satisfied that the
Engineers measurements were thus lost, and also with my
Explanation for so presenting my bill in Jan^y 72, they or-
dered me full payment.

This full payment for the
work of these 2 channels was 4,865 Rs; but because I pre-
sented my bill late in Jan^y 72, the Deputy Col^l suggested an
arbitrary settlement, and gave about half the amt viz, 2582 Rs;
but when the Bd were satisfied with my Explanations, they then
ordered the remaining 2283 Rs to be paid also to me making the
original total of 4,865 Rs.

Finally I beg to observe, that the sub-
letting of works therein alluded to, could never be attributed
to me, as the Supt and the whole village could certify, that while
other Contractors entrust their work to Conocopolays, I toiled hard
in the sun every day, and lived in my boat.

Summary of my Petition
to the Madras Government
dated 12th March 1873

1st I executed work for Govt in
clearing out 5 Salt channels, and the payment
for 2 of them has been fully paid and settled. As
for the other 3 channels, the cost in the Estimate
for excavating them is 3,550 Rupees, and about
one half of this money is withheld from me.

2nd Prior to taking this work, I un-
consciously incurred the displeasure of the Executive
Engineer, when by his books he discovered in the cor-
respondence, that he contended (though respectfully)
with his predecessor about a portable Tannery
that I made ^{at my own cost} to show a saving to Govt, and eco-
nomize the work in storing their salt.

3rd Concerning the said correspon-
dence, he wrote a very offensive letter to the Salt
Dept, and protested against giving me the work.
This letter I understand was so offensive, that any
body would be ashamed to read it to me, although
I never gave him any offence whatever, and had more-
over executed this ^{channel} work previously to his satisfaction.

and the most I said of my Tramway was, that I could judge of it as well as any body.
Besides this he was not deputed to interfere in this matter.
4th After I had finished this work

and rendered all the Channels navigable, and the object of Govt was fully realized in all their salt being dispatched 20 miles away to Madras to be stored, without the loss of a fraction, the Engineer measured my work in these 3 channels, and withheld about half the payment estimated for ~~the work~~ ^{it}; and when I appealed to the Board and Govt, he completely misrepresented my case as shown in the petition marked ~~B~~ ^B and of which I knew nothing, till I got the last reply from Govt, and thus he accomplished my ruin.

5th Not satisfied with this injury, he likewise got me dismissed from getting any more work in future, while Govt suffered nothing by me, and thus deprived me of my bread also, although he approved of my work before he discovered that I attempted this Tramway, and while moreover Govt fully realized their object in this work.

6th To ensure my dismissal, he stated that I was not competent for this work, while I previously to this carried on a business of a scientific nature, in building Organs, and repairing Pianos, and while this channel work is more commonly given to the very rascals of no capacity whatever ~~than~~ ^{but} to excavate mud to a given depth

of 3 or 4 feet, and who likewise never as much talked to an Engineer on the subject of these works, but had just come fresh from the villages.

In addition to this, the Secretary likewise has dealt very strangely with my Petition in this matter ^(it is hoped unpunishingly). For while the objections set forth against me by the Engineer should have been inserted in the replies of Govt made to me, to enable me to defend my cause, this was not done, except in the last instance, and in doing so in this last instance, he at once shut me out from further appeal.

When in this last instance therefore I saw the misrepresentations that caused the defeat of my case, I at once wrote a letter showing the misrepresentations, and sent it to His Excellency the Governor. His Excellency then sent the said letter to the Secretary to disprove my statements; but without any attempt to do so, he at once wrote out another brief reply, stating that my case will not be reopened; and as is customary, sent this reply with my voluminous papers to a Member of Council who, as a rule, relying on the Secretary, and without time to spare to read such papers, at once obtained sanction for this reply also.

I now revert to the subject of the Channels. I stated that I excavated 5 channels. The Board however paid me in full for 2 of them, although in this instance, the Engineer did not measure this work for the following reason:— After I had excavated these 2 channels, and the salt-laden boats were floating out by hundreds, the rains came down immediately, and so resulted there, that not a single boat could pass, and thus the Engineer's measurements were lost. So I excavated again at my own cost, as the salt was in danger by the rains, and made the channels navigable again without extra charge also.

The other 3 channels, for the work of which this stoppage in my bill was made, were likewise in the same predicament, only that the rains resulted there before the work was begun; and here too the Engineer's measurements were lost, of which he and I knew nothing till after I had excavated and he had measured my work, for reasons which I will now explain.

This work is always given immediately after the Estimates are made. In this case however it was given me 4 months after; and in the interval of these 4 months, a Bad commencing

with these channels had burst from the sea, and heavy rains also had fallen, of which I nor the Engineer knew nothing.

But after he had measured my work, deducted my bill, and was gone ^{as shown in Petition dated} Madras, it was then only discovered and proved, while 12 inches of silt were to be excavated according to the Estimate, 18 inches of it (more or less) in addition to the 12, accumulated during the interval of the 4 months. But as only 3 or 4 inches of Excavation (which is of no consequence to a Contractor) could be owing to the annual Estimates grow up during that period and as we dare not question the correctness of Engineer's Estimates, the people were at once sent to the Channels to work.

Besides this, a period of 4 months having elapsed, and the Deputy Collector having bound me down to a very short limit for the completion of the work owing to the coming rainy season which would endanger the salt, not a day was to be lost, and to send for the Engineer to remeasure the depths of the channels while there was no cause to expect extraordinary silting, and while it takes him a week or two to arrive was quite out of the question; and these rains came down at a very unreasonable time of the year, the

of the Bar in particular must have caused this

The above particulars are all satisfactorily Explained in my Petition marked B. The Collector Mr Barlow also strongly protested against the stoppage in my bill; and though he afterwards urged the Engineer of the Extraordinary Sittings of which he knew nothing when he deducted my bill, he would not take any cognizance of the matter; though in my humble opinion, the Collector was the Authority to decide since the Engineer's measurements were quite lost and he had no data for correct measurements.

Lastly. In the final decision of the case a very small gratuity of 150 Rs was allowed me; and owing to the very depressed circumstances into which I am thrown I accept under protest for it does not even cover the interest of the money thus withheld from me.

With regard to the several versions of the Petitions sent to the Secretary, the one in manuscript marked B fully explains the whole matter - the others are but superfluous repetitions too tedious for perusal.

Yours

To

The Honorable W. Robinson Esq.
C. S. I.

Honored Sir.

Having posted to you a letter regarding the ruinous treatment I received from certain Officials, and solicited the favor to wait upon your honor, I most respectfully beg to state, that I have now taken the liberty to do so, and before entering into further particulars I here beg to submit an outline of the matter.

In endeavouring to make a large saving for Government in constructing a portable tramway, to economize the work of storing their Salt, I unconsciously incurred the displeasure of an Executive Engineer and some of the Profession, who I am sorry to observe, have sought and accomplished my ruin, as will be seen in a Petition in which I am claiming a thousand and odd Rupees withheld from me, and which Petition is now sent to Government through the Secretary.

of the Public Works Department, for despatch to the Secretary of State, although Government do not as yet understand my case, owing to the strange manner it was put before them by the said Officials, who thereby elicited the replies sent to me.

This circumstance having for a long time been a sore burden on my mind in being hunted by Bailiffs &c, all I beg to crave of Your honor is a patient perusal of the enclosed Summary of my Petition.

As this case is pending for about 2 Years, if Your honor could exercise Your prerogative in calling for my papers now with the Secretary, and as I could rely on the integrity of Government for a decision of this case on their pure conviction. I would be satisfied with that decision whichever way it may be, and would ever remember Your Kindness with feelings of the deepest gratitude, and

I beg to remain
Honored Sir

Your most Obedient & humble servant
J. Croom

Pursewalltum
Tannah Street
12th January 1874

Petition from J. Croom, dated
Madras 12th January 1874.

Circulated for
orders whether the Petition is to be laid before the Home Government.

Wm. the Secy. P.E.
Secy; Government

Fort St George
19th January
1874

2/11
McGovern

Mr. the Secy. P.E.
I am of the opinion of the
Hon. Secy. the matter is
pleas urged - the matter is
a profession - other measure
ment were fair &c. - and Col. M
has had the matter lay & brought
before him. I am of the opinion that it is not
easy to follow the thread of fact &

Have had an interview
with Mr. C. & carefully examined
these papers.

The man misman-
aged his contract - a large
- time one in the hands of most
who get it - from year to year -
& lose heavily - But so far as
I can gather he has been fully
paid for all that was actually
executed under his super-
vision or want of supervision.

Govt. has sent it on
- I don't do so of the rules
- I don't require Govt. to
pay & return it to me.
24/1 JH

2

2. take
3. I don't know of

Extract from the Port of George's Gazette
dated 6 September 1867. Page 889.
• Notification No. 3742, dated 21 Sept
1867.

XIII. The Government and Adminis-
tration in India are vested with
discretionary power to withhold the
transmission of memorials addressed
to Her Majesty, or to the Secretary of State,
in the following cases:-

1. When a memorial is couched in
disrespectful or improper language.
2. When a second memorial is presented
after a decision has already been given
by the authority to which it is addressed
on the subject of it, and no ^{new} facts or cir-
-cumstances are adduced which would
afford grounds for a reconsideration
of the case.
3. When a memorial is a mere applica-
-tion for pecuniary assistance by a
person manifestly possessing no claim.
4. When a memorial is an application
for employment under one of the Govern-
-ments in India from a person not
belonging to the Covenanted Service.

When

Cir 23 Jan 74
Cir 19 Jan 74 Rep 23 Jan 74

5. When a memorial is a mere appeal from a judicial decision.

6. When a memorial is illegible or unintelligible.

7. When a memorial is addressed by a person still in the public service and has reference to his prospective claim to pension.

XIV A list of memorials the transmission of which may have been withheld under Rule XIII will be forwarded quarterly to the Secretary of State.

Memorial put
up with original
of G. O. No 456-458
Transmitting Bill
Original Memorial
to the House of
23^d February 1874

There would appear to be no objection to the transmission of Mr. Crook's appeal to the Secy of State for his consideration; but great objection to its being given publicity. The Chief Justice's opinion of the measure is in his first draft of the order which also contains the substance of his recommendation. It is appended to the order which he sends every day. These are

Mr. J. Russell
of Hon. Secy of State
a Mr. [unclear]
the many [unclear]
of [unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]
[unclear]

The Hon^{ble} Mr. Ellis
took an extraordinary
interest in the ~~case~~
case; and the Chief
Justice, with the
it with him ~~not~~
fully twice, in his
own house. It was
Mr. Ellis who ordered
full payment to the
Benedict ~~in~~
stead of the ~~compensation~~
which had been
suggested; and the
gratuity of the £150
set down for ~~contin-~~
gence. But with
all his good will he
could not stretch a
pound further for
Mr. ~~Ellis~~ - The Hon^{ble}

25
Mr. ~~Ellis~~, it will be seen,
went through the pa-
pers after Mr. Ellis

G.M.W.
22.1.74

[Faint, illegible handwriting]

27
M. de la Vallée
From what
Kubler's fair
fancy for the
South a hand
in

you
M. de la Vallée

24/1

He had
H. de la Vallée

J.

Col. G. W. Walker - R. E. Secretary to Govt
in the Public Works Dept. & & &

Sir

It being my object to represent to
His Royal Highness the Right Honble the Secretary
of State for India, the manner in which the Mad-
ras Govt disposed of my Petition in the matter of
stoppages made in my bill for the work of excavation
in 3 Boyalur salt-channels, and to show that the
manner in which it was laid before Govt was such as
could not but keep them in ignorance of the real
state of my case, I respectfully beg to submit here-
with 3 papers herein enclosed, and containing re-
spectively - 1st My Petition to His Highness - 2nd My
Petition to Govt marked B, which contains the sum-
mary and substance of the whole matter, together with my
remarks on the proceedings in the disposal of my case
and 3rd - A brief Summary of the whole, and beg you
will be so good as to submit them to Govt for dispatch
to His Highness.

Madras Pursuamum

Tannah Street

12th Jan 1874

I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedt Servt

J. Room

in order to understand fully your intentions, and to
 be prepared to receive and answer them, I have the
 honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th inst.
 Secretary to the State, Mr. W. H. R. E.
 I am, Sir, very respectfully,
 Sir, I find it necessary to submit
 the following to the Government for a clearer
 understanding of my case. I respectfully beg
 you will be so good as to attach it to my petition
 marked "P", and I would feel thankful for
 the prompt attention given to it.
 I am, Sir, your most Obedt. Servant, J. C. Brown.

P.S. With reference to the reply of
 Government dated 24th February 1873, and
 which is appended to my petition marked
 "P", I beg to observe that the 4th para-
 graph in the said reply, being in my humble
 opinion rather complicated & to be clearly
 understood, it nevertheless in no way bears
 upon

P. M. 1874 10th Feb.

No. 219 d.

I am

W. J. Brown.

Recd 12th 3rd January 1874
 No. 3.

I have the honor to
 inform you that the
 petition of the
 Secretary of State
 for the State of
 New York, dated
 the 10th inst., has
 been received.

No. 456.

No. 452. 23-2-74.

No. 250 1/2 250 1/2 250 1/2
 No. 250 1/2 250 1/2 250 1/2

upon, nor has any thing whatever to do in
the present case, but simply contains
passing remarks, which here I reserve I beg
to explain.

The said 4th para I beg to add,
has reference to 3 channels, while in fact
there are only 2, viz. the main Royal
Channel, and 2 portions of the Katoor
Channel. I find it necessary to submit
this correction on this point, as otherwise
it clashes with my statement in referring in
my Petition to 2 channels, and for the
work of these 2 the Board paid me in full.

It is likewise stated in the said 4th
para with reference to these 2 channels, that
though I finished the work by September,
1871, the bill was not presented till January 1872.

With reference to this I beg to state
that I explained to the Board, that after
I had excavated these 2 channels the
laden boats floated out by hundreds,
and

33
and when the rains came down almost
immediately after they resulted that
not a single boat could pass, and that
I again excavated and made them navigable at my
own cost to save the salt.

The Board being satisfied that
by this resulting the Engineer's measurements
were lost, as well as with my explanations
for presenting my bill in January 1872,
they ordered me full payment.

But prior to my appeal to the
Board, the Deputy Collector suggested
an arbitrary settlement, owing to the
late presentation of my bill and gave me
about half the amount, viz. 2582 Rs., while the
full amount was 4865 Rs.; but when late
the Board were satisfied as explained that

above, they gave me the remaining 2283 Rs.
making the original total of 4865 Rs.
Lastly, in the said reply of Govt.
allusion is also made about Contractors' bill
letting.

23.05.72

letting these works to others. This I beg to
state cannot be attributed to me; for the
Superintendent of the Division, as well
as the whole village, could certify that

I not only lived on the spot in my boat,
but also personally superintended my work,
and that every day, under a burning sun,
while others leave their work to the super-
vision of their Maistries and Concofolays.

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]

O. W. S. L. & Co. 26/26/54
20/10/1874

18/11/1874
No. 553

From
Attested U. Brown

Dated 21st 1874
29/11/1874

The Principal Secy. Genl.
of the India Office

Circular of 27th Nov. 1874
Circular of 27th Nov. 1874

Circular of 27th Nov. 1874
Circular of 27th Nov. 1874

Circular of 27th Nov. 1874
Circular of 27th Nov. 1874

Circular of 27th Nov. 1874
Circular of 27th Nov. 1874

N^o 452 R D
Pw. of the Madras Govt. Civil No. 10/10
35
Read the following
From Mr. J. Croome - (4th dated 12 Jan 74)
Do - - - - - 21st do.)

[Faint, mostly illegible handwritten text]

Ordered that the
Memorial with its en-
losures submitted
with the foregoing
letter be forwarded
to the Right Honorable
the Secretary of State
for India, and that
the Memorialist be
advised of its despatch.

18
Mr. J. Croome.
Despatched - 25/1/74
L.

My Lord Du' Re.

The correspondence
herewith forwarded
fully explains the
grounds upon which

our appreciation.

My dear Mr. West
 Dear Mr. West

Black Hills. 1871.
The Great Falls.

1. *Handwritten signature*
 2. *Handwritten signature*

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[illegible]

our decision has been
 handed and appears to
 make further comment
 on the case superfluous.

Lyman

Fort St. George
Public Works Dept.

Letter to the Right Honble
the Secy of State for India.

Dated 26 Febuary

No. 10 of 1874

Origl & copy sent per Overland
Mail on the 27 Feby 1874

Copy sent to Govt of India
on the 27 Feby 1874 -

Forwarding Memo-
rial from Mr. J. Croome
complaining of the man-
ner in which his claims
for work executed in
connection with Salt Chan-
nel Clearances were
disposed.

103219 + 553

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. J. Croome.

Date

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 23 Feb: 1874. No. 452.

No. 456 + 458.

Memorial. Orders that
the memorial from Mr. J.
Croome complaining of the
manner in which his claims
for work executed in con-
nection with Salt Channel
clearances were disposed of
be forwarded to the Right
Hon: the Secy of State for
India.