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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	711 (G)	Press	Original
B.P. No.		Mis.	
Dated	16. 3.	1874	1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th March 1874.*

No. 419. Read the following letter from Captain J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Vellore, 19th February 1874, No. 3,461 :—

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 236, of 5th February 1874, I have the honour to enclose copy of a letter from Ensign Smither, the Assistant Engineer in charge of Wallajah Range.

2. The statement that he has only been over the bridge twice since he took charge of the range (in August 1872) is not quite satisfactory, and steps will be taken to ensure a more systematic inspection of roads in future.

3. Ensign Smither has also been informed that the position of the bridge was such as to render it absolutely certain that deposition on one bank and scour on the other would take place, though their effects might not show themselves for some time.

4. I freely admit the claim put forward in the last paragraph of the letter. Mr. Smither has, since I have been in the district, displayed most praiseworthy industry and energy in the discharge of his executive duties.

5. The range is a very large one, and it must be noticed that during the last five years it has been in the hands of five officers; as the action which destroyed the bridge in question has certainly been going on for many years, it is impossible to consider a single officer out of the many who have held charge of the range as responsible for that action not being detected and stopped.

6. The case is one of insufficient inspection, and is only one out of hundreds tending to show that we cannot at the same time have the apparent economy of small establishments and the efficiency of large ones.

From Ensign T. SMITHER, Assistant Engineer, Wallajah Range, North Arcot, to Captain J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., District Engineer, North Arcot, dated Raneeput, 14th February 1874, No. 1,052.

I HAVE the honour to report, in reply to paragraph 2 of your memorandum No. 3,344, dated the 11th instant, that I was only over St. Andrew's bridge twice since I took charge of that portion of the district, and, as far as I can recollect, the channel was full on both occasions.

2. Had the channel been a natural one liable to scour, I certainly should have not failed to have tested the action of the current; but I had no idea that there was any danger to be apprehended from a regulated flow of water under a structure that had stood over thirty years.

3. I trust that my previous industry will of itself be sufficient to remove any idea of the want of will in the matter, and that my not having inspected the work in the dry season was really want of time.

• The excavations are being made.

4. The work will be examined as directed as soon as possible.*

District Engineer

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th March 1874.

No. 420. ORDER-THEREON, 16th March 1874, No. 711.

IRRIGATION, No. 34.

THE explanation offered by the Range Officer is unsatisfactory; but is accepted in consideration of his general character for carefulness, and of the steps promised to be taken by the District Engineer to ensure more systematic inspections of bridges in future.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.

.. Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

.. Inspecting Engineer for Communications.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies.

N^o 1052

N^o 1 on Wallajah Range Office
Ranapet 14 February 1874

From

The Officer in charge of
Wallajah Range North Arcot

To

The District Engineer
North Arcot

Sir

I have the honor to report in reply to para 2 of your memo N^o 3344 dated this 11th Instant, that I was only over St. Andrew's bridge since I took charge of that portion of the District and as far as I can recollect the channel was full on both occasions.

2. I had the channel been a natural one liable to scour, I certainly should have not failed to have tested the action of the current: but I had no idea that there was any danger to be apprehended from a regulated flow of water under a structure that had stood over thirty years.

3. I trust that my previous industry will of itself be sufficient to remove any idea of the want of will in the matter and that my not having inspected the work in the dry season was really want of time.

The excavations are being made

4. The work will be examined as directed as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be

(Sgd) T. Smith Assistant Engineer
Wallajah Range N. Arcot

(True copy)

Ben Perryman Captain P.E.

District Engineer North Arcot

Handwritten signature: *James B. Smith*

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[The page contains several lines of handwritten text in cursive script, which is mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through from the reverse side.]

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ausgegeben und erhalten, P. (H. 10)
der R. V. 1890/91

20-10-1940

3 1/2

No. 3461
DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
Vellore 19 February 1874.

From
The DISTRICT ENGINEER,
NORTH ARCOT.

To
The Secretary to Government
P. W. Department

With reference to para 2 of Q. Q. No 286 of 5 February

I have the honor to enclose copy of a letter from Ensign Smither, the
Assistant Engineer in charge of Wallajah Range.

2. The statement that he has only been over the bridge twice since he took charge of the Range (in August 1872) is not quite satisfactory, and steps will be taken to ensure a more systematic inspection of roads in future.

3. Ensign Smith has also been informed that the position of the bridge was such as to render it absolutely certain that debris on one bank and scour on the other would take place, though the effects might not show themselves for some time.

4. I freely admit the claims put forward in the last part of the letter; Mr Smith has, since I have been in the District, displayed most praiseworthy industry and energy in the discharge of his executive duties.

5. The Range is a very large one, and it must be

that during the last five years it has been in the hands of 5 Officers; as the action which destroyed the bridge in question has certainly been going on for many years it is impossible to consider a single Officer out of the many who have held charge of the Range, as responsible for that action, not being detected and stopped.

6. The case is one of insufficient inspection, and is only one out of hundreds tending to show that we cannot at the same time have the apparent economy of small establishments and the efficiency of large ones.

I have the honor to be
 Your most obedient servant
 Captain P. E.
 District Engineer North Arcot

1008

711

P. W. D.
 8.4

Proceedings of the Madras Government,
 Under date the 187

Read the following:—

From:

The District Engineer
 North Arcot

(H. E. No. 3461 of 19th July/74)

unsatisfactory but in

Md 25/2

The explanation offered by the Range officer is accepted in consideration of his general character for carefulness, and of the steps promised to be taken by the District Engineer to ensure more systematic inspections of Bridges in future.

By Engr. North Arcot
 Ch. Engr. for dist.
 Engr. for Engrs.

Despatched - 18/3/74

1008

Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Dist. Engineer
North Arcot.

Dated

Recd.

Encl. 1/11

G. O. Belach No. 711.

No. 419-420.

St. Andrew's Bridge over
the Govindowady Chamel,
North Arcot District

Passing orders on the
explanation of Ensign
Smith, in charge of Walla-
jah Range in connection
with his inspection of this
Bridge as well as of the
Roads in his Range -

419-420.