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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1069	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	16-4	28-75
		195

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1875.*

No. 436. Read the following letter from Mr. C. SETON, Sub-Engineer, in charge Sidhout Range, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Wontimettah, 3rd April 1875, No. 5:—

With reference to G. O., No. 822, dated the 23rd ultimo, I regret to observe that my letter, No. 516, dated 22nd February, forwarded through the District Engineer for the information of Government, has been suppressed. I therefore take the liberty to enclose a copy, and respectfully request that it may be laid before His Excellency the Governor in Council for his gracious consideration and orders.

2. I think it is probable that the tenor of the Government Order quoted above might have been different had my letter been submitted for the gracious consideration of his Excellency, and if reasonable opportunity is afforded me I have no doubt I will be able to satisfy His Excellency and also a Medical Board that the extreme step contemplated of dispensing with my services is for the present unnecessary.

3. I submissively and respectfully appeal to His Excellency in Council to grant me the necessary leave of absence for the purpose of visiting the Presidency, and afford me an opportunity of explaining matters in person.

4. I appeal for this indulgence on the grounds of my long and faithful service as frequently testified by Government and my official superiors. I am most unfortunately situated at this crisis, inasmuch as there is not a single officer at present doing duty in the department under whom I have served. Had it been otherwise, I am confident any one of them would have been happy to apply for a transfer of my services if my present District Engineer is not satisfied with me. The remark made by District Engineer to the effect "that the state of my health has been against me," in his letter No. 2,248, dated February 25th, is calculated to lead Government to suppose that I have not been active in the performance of my arduous duties. I therefore very respectfully request my inspection reports, since the re-organization of the department in 1872, may be called for and scrutinised by His Excellency in Council, and compared with those of the District Engineer and other officers in charge of ranges in this district.

From Mr. C. SETON, Sub-Engineer, in charge Sidhout Range, to Colonel A. S. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer, Cuddapah, dated Nandalore, 22nd February 1875, No. 516.

I HAVE the honor to report that in compliance with G. O., No. 316, dated the 4th February, I presented myself before the Zillah Surgeon at Cuddapah on the morning of the 15th instant, and beg to submit the certificate furnished, which is exactly the same as that forwarded with my No. 387, dated 7th December 1874.

2. The Zillah Surgeon has also forwarded with his certificate a statement, but as this is not demanded by Government it is not apparent why it is submitted. It is herewith enclosed with a view of your doing with it what you may consider proper.

3. Having now undergone an examination from two medical men, I may perhaps be permitted to state, for the information of Government, that my own impression is from what they have told me that I am quite capable of serving Government efficiently for many years.

4. Since the re-organization of the department in December 1872, the work of this range has been materially increased by the addition of Budwail Taluq, and my labor is incessant. I have to work on Sundays and holidays as hard as any other time to prevent office work and accounts from falling into arrears. My office people have to work in a similar manner. We never have a day's rest unless incapacitated by sickness.

5. During a considerable portion of this time I have had to provide and keep an office tent at my own cost, and in addition to pay an extra writer from my own funds Rupees 15 per

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th April 1875.

mensem. I mention these facts simply to show Government that I have been zealous and anxious to please.

6. When the new ranges were formed I was recommended to Government for my present charge by Major Vertue, because "he considered me very competent," vide G. O., No. 2,243, dated 21st September 1872. I have reason to suppose that I have given every satisfaction to Major Vertue's successors, viz., Colonel Bean, Mr. Sage, and subsequently yourself, and that you will be good enough and testify the same to Government.

7. But, in addition to this, I beg to point out that although Mr. Hayes, Supervisor, was appointed as Sub-divisional Officer to this range when the re-organization took place, he never joined, and although Serjeant Ward was promoted to the vacancy on Mr. Hayes' retirement, yet he has never done any duty as a Sub-divisional Officer, and I have, therefore, performed the duty of two officers. I, therefore, respectfully submit that it is not unreasonable to expect that I will occasionally be affected with the fever peculiar to this district as well as others.

8. Although the present season has been peculiarly unhealthy, yet I have not been sick nearly so much as the other subordinates of this range, and the hard work and mental anxiety I have to undergo is, I respectfully submit, far greater than theirs, and I had to take a few days' leave in November last, owing to my having to travel and measure work in a hot sun whilst suffering from fever.

9. If it were possible to compare the out-turn of work in the several ranges of this district and the amount of travelling performed by each officer and subordinate, I am confident my work and extent of travelling will compare favorably with that of others, and in addition I am the only Range Officer who has not vacated the district since the appointment of the District Engineers; thus in Madanapally Range there have been three, viz., Messrs. O'Ratigan, Hudson, and Montserrat; in Cuddapah there has been three also, viz., Messrs. Hunter, Thorpe, and Donaghue, the latter though little more than twelve months in the district finds it necessary to recruit his health, and has sent in an application for leave for that purpose.

10. In conclusion, I respectfully submit that as Serjeant Ward will shortly assume charge of the sub-division of this range, he will materially reduce my labors and afford me that relief which is contemplated by the medical officers who have examined me, and which I myself desire.

No. 437.

ORDER THEREON, 16th April 1875, No. 1,069.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 36.

MR. CONDUCTOR SETON'S action in addressing the Government direct as he has done is highly irregular, and quite unbecoming to the District Engineer, who was not in the least bound to forward the letter in question, but would no doubt have done so if specially requested. The expression used by him that Colonel Moberly suppressed his letter is, therefore, most reprehensible.

2. In the opinion of His Excellency the Governor in Council the District Engineer exercised a wise discretion, for that letter pleads for a continuance of employment in his present post, whereas his first letter of 17th November pleaded for easier work at some station where he should not be much exposed to the sun.

3. His Excellency in Council would not be justified under all the circumstances in retaining Mr. Seton on the active list.

(True Extract.)

To Mr. Seton, through District Engineer of Cuddapah.
To the Military Department.
Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Secretary to Government.

Colonel, R.E.,

Madras

No 316 23rd February 1875

From

The Officer in Charge

Sidhant Range

The District Engineer

Cuddapah.

Sir

Enc 2

I have the honor to report that in compliance with L.O. No 316 dated the 4th February I presented myself before the Ballah Surgeon at Cuddapah on the morning of the 15th Instt. and beg to submit the certificate furnished which is exactly the same as that forwarded with my No 387 dated December 7th 1874.

2. The Ballah Surgeon has also forwarded with his certificate a statement but as this is not demanded by Government it is not apparent why it is submitted. It is herewith enclosed with a view of your doing with it what you may consider proper.

3. Having now undergone an examination from two medical men I may perhaps be permitted to state for the information of Government that my own impression is from what they have told me that I am quite capable of serving

serving) Government efficiently for many years.

4— Since the reorganization of the Department in December 1872, the work of this Range has been materially increased by the abolition of Budwail Trading, and my labor is incessant. I have to work on Sundays and Holidays as hard as any other time to prevent office work and accounts from falling into arrears. My Office people have to work in a similar manner. We never have a day's rest unless incapacitated by sickness.

5.— During a considerable portion of this time I have had to provide and keep an office tent at my own cost and in addition to pay an extra writer from my own funds \$15 per month. I mention these facts simply to show Government that I have been zealous and anxious to please.

6— When the new ranges were formed I was recommended to Government for my present Charge by Major Virtue, because he considered me very competent. Vide G.O. No 2243 dated September 21. 1872. I have reason to suppose that I have given every satisfaction to Major Virtue's successor viz. Col. Beane. Mr. Sage and

subsequently yourself and that you will be good enough and testify the same to Government.

7— But in addition to this I beg to point out, that, although Mr. Hayes Supervisor was appointed as Sub Divisional Officer to this Range when the re-organization took place he never joined, and although Sergeant Ward was promoted to the vacancy on Mr. Hayes' retirement yet he had never done any duty as a Sub Divisional Officer, and I have therefore performed the duty of two Officers. I therefore respectfully submit that it is not unreasonable to expect, that I will occasionally be affected with the fever peculiar to this District as well as others.

8— Although the present season has been peculiarly unhealthy yet I have not been sick nearly so much as the other subordinates of this Range and the hard work, and mental anxiety I have to undergo is I respectfully submit far greater than theirs, and I had to take a few days leave in November last, owing to my having to travel and measure work in a hot sun whilst suffering from fever.

9— If it were possible to compare the outturn of work in the several Ranges of

of this District and the amount of travelling performed by each officer and subordinate. I am confident my work and extent of travelling will compare favorably with that of others and in addition I am the only Range Officer who has not vacated the District since the appointment of the District Engineer. Thus in the last three years there have been Hudson and Montserrat, and in the last year there has been three also viz. Messieurs Hunter, Thorpe and Donoghue the latter though little more than 12 months in the District finds it necessary to recruit his health and has sent in an application for leave for that purpose.

10 In Conclusion I respectfully submit that as Capt Ward will shortly assume Charge of the Sub Division of this Range, he will materially reduce my labors and afford me that relief which is contemplated by the District Officers who have examined me, and which I myself desire.

I have &c
(sd) G. Satow

(True Copy)
Sub Engineer in Charge
British Range
Sub Engineer

From

The Officers in Ch
Sidhout Range

To

The District Engineer
Cuddalore

Dated 22nd February 1875

Submits Medical Cer-
tificate in Compliance
with the Order of Govern-
ment.

90-16 P. J. 2184/95
in B. N. 1435

No 5

Wontimittab

3rd April 1875.

From

The Officers in Ch
Sidhout Range

To

Col. G. W. Walker P. E.
Secretary to Government
P. W. Department
Fort St George.

Sir

Enclosure,

With reference to G. O. No 822 dated
the 23rd ultimo, I regret to observe that
my letter No. 516 dated 22nd Feb. forwarded through
the District Engineer for the information of
Government has been suppressed. I therefore
take the liberty to enclose a copy and respect-
fully request that it may be laid before
His Excellency the Governor in Council
for his gracious Consideration and orders.
2. I think it is probable that the tenor of
the G. O. quoted above might have been dif-
ferent had my letter been submitted for the
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and if reasonable opportunity is afforded
me I have no doubt I will be able to
satisfy His Excellency and also a Mil-
cal Board that the extreme step contempla-

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-ted of dispensing with my services is for the present unnecessary.

3. I submissively and respectfully appeal to his Excellency in Council, to grant me the necessary leave of absence for the purpose of visiting the Presidency and afford me an opportunity of explaining matters in person.

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I am confident any one of them would have been happy to apply for a transfer of my services if my present District Engineer is not satisfied with me. The remark made by District Engineer to the effect "that the state of my health has been against me," in his letter No 2348 dated February 25 is calculated to lead Government to suppose that I have not been active in the performance of my arduous duties. I therefore very respectfully request my Inspection Reports since the reorganization of the Department in 1872 may be called for and scrutinised by His Excellency in

in Council and compared with those of the District Engineer and other officers in Charge of Ranges in this District.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Charles Scott
Sub Engineer in Charge
Sidhaur Range.

1875.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following:—

From

The Officer in charge of } H.C. No. 5 dated 3rd April 1875.
Siddhant Range,
Cuddalore Dt.

G.O. no. 1069 of 16th April 1875

M^r. Conductor

Seton's action in addressing the Govt. direct as he has done is highly irregular, and quite uncalled for by any action on the part of the District Engineer, who was not in the least bound to forward the letter in question, but would no doubt

have done so if specially requested

Recd
C.M. 10/4/75
M. 10/4/75

11/11

11/11

Letter to the District Engineer
Cuddalore Dt. 10/3/75
G.O. 21/4/75
2nd Dec 74
4th Feb 75
23rd March 75

P. N. 1875
From No 2184

The Officer in charge
Siddhant Range

The Secretary to Govt.
P. N. 1875
Siddhant Range

Dist. 3rd
Dist. 5th
Dist. 7th

Enclosed for consideration
a copy of letter addressed to District Engineer, but not submitted to Government.

G.O. 1069 of 16/4/75

C. 1-4-75

7/18/74

Govt. of 1875: Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To Mr. Dixon
through
Mr. Lushner
Baddapur
Dated
Recd.
Encl.

G. O., Baddapur 1875, No. 1069

Nos. 436-437.

Mr. Conductor C. Lemon,
Sub-Eng., Sidhant, Cud.
dapah B. ^{considering} Action of -
in addressing the foot. dist.
~~considered~~ highly irre-
gular and intimating
that foot would not be
justified in retaining
him on the active list.

N-436/7