

(1) Number of pages _____

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(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1965	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	9-7-	875 -195-

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th July 1875.*

No. 264. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Officiating Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Guindy, 15th June 1875, No. 1,032 :—

REFERRING to G. O., No. 1,490, 31st May, I have the honor to observe that I am not aware of having passed censure on any one in my No. 356, dated 28th April 1875.

Three copies of letters from the Executive Engineer, Mount Range, No. 2,457, dated 15th December 1874, No. 529, dated 2nd June 1875, and No. 534, dated 4th June 1875.

2. I beg to point out that the Progress Report for me is prepared quite independently of the annual accounts required for the Controller; and might, with very simple arrangements, be drawn up before they are received. I took some trouble to explain this to the Head Accountant, Mount Range, but without success.

3. I would recall to Government that, after personal experience during three months' of the Range Office, I proposed alterations which they disallowed; it is very hard on me that, after overruling me in my management of the district, and distinctly in more than one instance preferring my Range Officer's opinion to my own, the Government should hold me responsible for shortcomings, such as the delay at the Reserve Powder Magazine, due to the Mount Range, if to any members of the Department Public Works.

4. Again, in Order No. 1,224, of 1st ultimo, the Government call on me to make any estimates which I cannot procure from my subordinates, however idle and inefficient they may be, the extra trouble is to fall on me, but I am unsupported in maintaining discipline.

5. I enclose copies* of three letters from Captain Smith asking further assistance. I am not prepared to say that it is necessary, but I can understand that with the present Head Accountant and Estimate Maker it is necessary. I would observe

* No. 2,457, dated 15th December 1874, No. 534, dated 4th June 1875, and No. 529, dated 2nd June 1875.

that one of the extra draughtsmen granted in G. O., No. 2,248 of 14th August 1874, is permanently attached to the Mount Range Office.

6. If Captain Smith is right in his belief of their capacity and diligence as also of those of Supervisor Watkins, I must attribute the delay in the procural of any paper only to want of method and good arrangement.

7. I cite the following only as a specimen of this.

For four months, and in spite of many reminders, no unanswered reference list was sent. That for April was sent on 31st May, it mentions eight letters but omits eight. It promises answers to six of the former by certain dates which have all passed, but no answers have been received.

8. My Administration Report was drawn up in accordance with precedent of former years, with which no fault was found.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th July 1875.

No. 265.

ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1875, No. 1,945.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 25.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

N^o 529. ... Mount Range Office
2^d June 1875

Dear

The Executive Engineer

Mount Range

The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput

I have the honor to bring to your
notice the fact that there is more work in
my Supervisor's Office than he can possibly
get through.

2. I have in addition to his written allowed
him a temporary aid but in spite of this
the accounts and correspondence are too
much for him to do.

3. In addition to this the drawing and
estimating form very heavy items and
know the Supervisor has for some time past
employed on his own account an extra hand
to help him through with his work and I am
satisfied

Satisfied from what I have seen that he could not get through his work without some such aid.

4. You will agree with me that such a state of things ought not to be.

5. I am aware that you consider the supervisor somewhat indolent but I am satisfied that this is not the case he is a little slow but he is diligent and his abilities and certainly fairly good and he understands and carries out the hydraulic calculations necessary for the works correctly and with judgment and I feel that I can rely upon him to get a thing done but so great is the pressure of work that it must take him some time to do it.

6. I write this in order to try and disabuse your mind of the idea that it is his laziness which delays work and I feel sure that were any one appointed to examine into the amount of work that has to be got through in his charge they would come to the same conclusion that I have.

7. If he had nothing to do but to stay in

one place he could then perhaps get through his writing, accounting, drawing and estimating with few arrears, but he has to be perpetually travelling about and as he has no Overseer under him he has to be perpetually on his work; I am of opinion that a man in his position with none to rely upon but very shady measures should spend 9/10 of his working time on the works but he cannot do this without getting in his arrears with his office work as he is thereby upset all punctuality.

8. The result is that both in door and out door work suffers.

9. With regard to his estimating and drawing I cannot possibly help him for as his measuring, drawing, and sanding are perpetually full as a glance at my office registers of estimates passing through the office will show.

10. We have therefore just to be thankful on as best we may but in the mean time everything and everybody suffers and what is worse the Supervisor himself sees that as long as this state of things continues he cannot give satisfaction and that therefore his chance of promotion is nil. Now it is very hard for a man to work under such an incubus.

11. He has a large charge and certainly much more work than there is in many a Range and I have to leave a great deal to him and he therefore has much Responsibility he should certainly therefore have a larger office.

12. I therefore request as an exceptional case he may be granted the services of an extra worker and a draughtsman.

13. If there is any difficulty about this request that this letter may be forwarded for the consideration of Government for I feel satisfied that though the troubles of a Supervisor may be a comparatively small matter yet that the amount of work is so much increased everywhere that a great deal of good may be done by bringing such cases to notice.

14. I may probably be told that my case is not exceptional and that to use an old phrase what is fair for the goose is fair for the gander and that if any thing is done for me there are many others who have claims.

if

if so this only shows that the inefficiency of the department is greatly caused by the weakness of our hands.

15. I have stated facts and if there is any doubt I ask for an enquiry to be made feeling sure of the result.

16. In conclusion I may add that I have no objection to hard work but to have more than can possibly be got through is very distressing. My establishment is so small compared to the amount of work to be done that I feel it an impossibility to punish others for shortness of work.

I have the honor Yrs.

(Signed) A. B. Smith Capt. R.E.
Executive Engineer.

(True Copy)

Respectfully Colonel R.E.
Superintending Engineer
Chief Rep.

No. 2457

Mount Range Office
15th December 1874

From
The Executive Engineer
Mount Range
To
The Superintending Engineer
Chungking District

Sir,
I have the honor to report that after a
years fair trial I find it next to impossible
to get through the amount of Draughtman
and Estimator's work that flows through my
office.

I have delayed writing on this matter
before though I have more than once spoken
to you on the subject because I thought I would
give it a fair trial, but now find I cannot
go on without some assistance in justice
to the work and myself. It is most annoying
to get things in arrears, not only for the work
done but for the perpetual worry it causes all
round; I therefore request you will be good

Yours
Dunlop

Enclosure in a letter
from the Chief Engineer
re his report to the Secy
to Govt - J. M. Dwyer
No. 1032 of 15th Dec 1874

Mr. Dwyer
12/12/74

90-9th Dec 1874
Mr. Dwyer

enough to apply for an assistant draftsman
on Rs 15 Per month to be attached to this
office.

If you require any positive guarantee
of the amount of work scrambled through
I can at any time show you my registers
of estimates in the office, a book I started
in order that I might check the actual
amount and despatch of work done in this
line in my office.

I have the honor &c.

Signed/ A. C. Smith Capt. R.E.
Executive Engineer Mount Range

N^o 534

Mount Range Office
Camp Poornamallee
4th June 1875.

From
The Executive Engineer
Mount Range

To
The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput

Sir,
With reference to your N^o 749 dated 31st
ultimo

Bydaiyath Form A. I observe I have the honor to request that I
claim to be made
Vide this office letter
N^o 464 of 1st June 1874
D. N. 257 of 15th Dec 1874
Some time ago brought to your notice the fact
that I found it liberally impossible to take
copies of plans and estimates forwarded
for sanction. Now I do so work would be
even more delayed than it is at present.

2. Besides which many estimates are very
much altered and others are altogether cancelled.
I save all unnecessary work by keeping no
copies of these.

3. Moreover I consider that an Executive
Engineer is fully entitled to a sanctioned
record in his office and it is impossible
to certify to a true copy of sanctioned estimates
and plans unless such estimate and plans
have been actually viewed by the Executive
Engineer. Mistakes have ere now happened
and in self defence the Executive should
have such a record by him.

4. I observe that you do not say whether
you have applied to Government for copies
of these sanctioned works I trust you have
done so not only because I see several alterations
suggested by Chief Engineer but because I
can not

5. If the Government insist upon Copies of all these estimates &c being made in the first instance by Government Offices I must Request you to make an application to Government for an extra draughtsmen for this special purpose there will be quite enough work for one man and this physically impossible to do it with my present strength.

Winged - 6 - the last one?

(True copy)

H. M. Herberty, Colonel R.E.
Supg Engrs. Chief Engt

Chingleput District

THE Secretary to Government

Enclosure 1
3 Copies of letters from the Secy. of the Mount Range
No. 2457 d/15 Decr. 1874 - No. 529 d/2 Jan/75
No. 534 d/4

Sir,

Referring to G. O. No. 1490, 31st May, I have the honor to observe that I am not aware of having passed censure on any one in my No. 356 of 28th April 1875. I beg to point out that the Progress Report for me is prepared quite independently of the annual accounts required for the Control, and might, with very simple arrangements, be drawn up before they are received. I took some trouble to explain this to the Head accountant, Mount Range, but without success.

3- I would recall to Govt. that, after personal experience during 3 months of the Range affair, I proposed alterations which they disallowed; it is very hard on me that, after overruling me in my management of the district, and distinctly in more than one instance preferring my Range Officer's opinion to my own, the Government should hold me responsible for shortcomings, such as the delay at the Reserve Powder Magazine, due to the Mount Range, if to any members of the D.M.R.

again

4. Again in order to 1222 of 1st ultimo, the Government call on me to make any estimates which I cannot procure from my subordinates - however idle and inefficient they may be, the extra trouble is to fall on me, but I am unsupported in maintaining discipline -

5 I enclose copies of 3 letters from Capt. Smith asking further assistance. I am not prepared to say that it is necessary - but I can understand that with the present Head accountant and Estimate maker it is necessary - I would observe that one of the extra draughtsmen granted in G. O. No 2248 of 14th August 1874 is permanently attached to the Asst. Range Office.

6. If Capt. Smith is right in his belief of their capacity and diligence as also of those of Supervisor Watkins I must attribute the delay in the procurement of any paper only to want of method and good arrangement -

7. I cite the following only a specimen of this -

"For 4 months and in spite of many reminders no unanswered reference list was sent - That for April, was sent on - 31 May it mentions 8 letters but omits 8. It promises answers to 6 of the former by certain dates which have all passed, but no answers have been received -"

8. My adm. report was drawn up in accordance with precedent of former years with which no fault was

found

found -

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

H. B. B. B. B. B.
Superintending Engineer,
Chingleput -

No 2457715
December 1874
No 534874
June 1875
No 5297220
June 1875

not better
from his
with instance
from 1872 -

Range Accounts for
March 1875. 1875.

for the delay in such
business concerns.