

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	227	Press
~~B.P. No.~~		~~Mis.~~
Dated	26 - 1.	195
		1875

Original

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
26th January 1875.*

No. 465.

Read the following :—

From the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, on leave, dated Madura, 16th
December 1874, No. 1.

ABSTRACT.—Submits explanation of his views in having planned for domed
roof for the Police huts at Ramaisweram.

No. 466.

ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1875, No. 227.

CIVIL WORKS, No 31.

ORDERED to be recorded,

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Tanjore.

Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies.

Enclosure B.

N^o 60

Pannalaw Sub Division
Pannalaw 8th September 1874

From

The Overseer in charge of
operations

To

Pannalaw,
The District Engineer
Madeira,

N^o 2639.

The work may be pro-
ceeded with at once. -

2. Mr. Fonseca should
arrange to provide mate^x
over the cesspools and
these cover the same
with tiles. -

Encl^{os} 2
original Plan 1
Indorsement
N^o 2423 of
2-9-74

3. The extra cost should be
met from the sundries provided
in the revised estimate. -

(Signed) A. J. Fischer Esq.

District Engineer.

Pannalaw
19th September 1874.

* if flat tiles are not
procureable. -

(Initialed) J. F. F.

This Madeira Range Officer

Let the work be
done by means of concrete
made up of Coral Stone and

Sir,

In compliance with
your Indorsement N^o 2423 of
the 2nd Instant, I beg to sub-
mit herewith the original Plan
of the Police Station under
construction at Pannalaw
together with a section shewing
the proposed tiled Roof suggested
in my letter N^o 52 dated 19th

Ultimo instead of a domed one.
The chief cause that led to the
idea of a domed roof instead
of a tiled one appears to be
the enormous expense of
procuring tiles from Colombo
or Karikal. In memo N^o 5154
dated 9th March 1874 from the
late District Engineer para 5,
I have been directed to construct
the dome by means of concrete
made up of Coral Stone and

line with the view to get the work done within the estimate, but I now find the lime obtainable at Pannaiyuram is inferior in quality and stones so much impregnated with salt that I am doubtful as to the stability of the work if carried out accordingly, hence the necessity of the proposed alterations. A sufficient saving has been effected in the estimate to tile the huts with a certain proportion of old and new tiles and the work may be carried out within the sanctioned amount. Awaiting early orders.

I beg to be
(Signed) Jno. Fonseca Overseer

In ch. of operations, Pannaiyuram.
(True Copy)

Pierpont Herbert Lieut Col R.
Super Engineer S. D. M. (Leave)

Copy of letter to be
sent to the Pannaiyuram
overseer with the
District Engineer's
sanction.

11/11/74
2/11/74

to
The Secretary to
Government
19th.
10th 16th December
1874.
Enclosure B.

Enclosure A

Pannaiyuram Sub Division
No. 52. Pannaiyuram 19th August 1874.
From
The Overseer in charge of
Operations,
Pannaiyuram.

To
The District Engineer
Madurai.

No. 2287.

Sanctioned.

(Signed) Jno. J. Fischer
Distt Engr's Office Distt Engineer of
Camp. Melacollah }
25th August 1874

Sir,
Adverting to para 5 in Memo
No. 5154, from your Office, I beg
to report that I find the lime
obtainable at Pannaiyuram
too inferior for reliance to carry
out the dome work to the Police
Huts with concrete. As I have
saved a sufficient amount
from the estimate to enable
my tiling the huts with old
and new tiles, the former to
be taken from those piled up
in the Department Public Works
Stores at this place, I beg to
request sanction for doing so.

I beg to be
(Signed) Jno. Fonseca, Overseer
In ch. of operations,
Pannaiyuram.

(True Copy)
Pierpont Herbert Lieut Col R.
Super Engineer S. D. M. (Leave)

Enclosure C

Extract from the Diary of the District Engineer,
Madura dated 18 March 1874.

Inspected the Cable House, at
Lonikral, on the 18th Instant, and I was
exceedingly annoyed to find such atrocious
work being done.

2. The stones used in the new wall
are not only too small, but they are most
carelessly laid. This wall should be rebuilt,
and the top foot be laid in Chunam
instead of mud. Before the struts that
now support the ceiling are removed, the
new wall must be allowed to settle, and
be tightly wedged up, when dry, with
small timber wedges.

3. The old windows are very bad.
yet one of them has been put back again
in the new wall, although Papes 7 is allowed
in the estimate for renewing each of the
2 windows.

4. The work is by no means creditable
to Mr. Fonseca, who should have reported
earlier the incompetence of the Kungany,
as.

and received by
dated 16th November 1874
to
The Secretary & Co.
P.O.

Mr. J. J. J. J.

Copy of letter sent to
the 19th August 1874, from
the Overseer in charge
of the works, Bangalore,
with the Bill of Materials
for the same.

as the latter is clearly unequal to the work.

5. A maistry will be selected and sent to Pambum immediately after the close of the current official year.

/signed/ P. A. Roberts Licut. Col. R.
District Engineer of Madras.

/True copy/

P. A. Roberts Licut. Col. R.

Superintendent Engineer 5th Div. on leave

Enclosure C

no leave on 1

dated 16th December

The Secretary to Govt.

Prin. Secy

Mr 9964/74

Copy of the Extract from the District Engineer's diary dated

18th March 1874.

Madras

16th December 1874

No 1

From

Lieutenant Colonel P. A. Roberts C.E.
Superintending Engineer
3rd Division,
On Leave.

To
Colonel G. W. Walker C.E.
Secretary to Government,
Madras

Sir, In reference to G.O. 20th November 1874, No 3285, wherein I am censured by implication for not having ascertained the competence of the materials available at Pambum for carrying out my design for the construction of 3 Police Huts at that place, I have the honor to solicit a perusal of the following remarks with a view of the Government being pleased to withdraw the reprimand to which, as I shall show, I have in no manner rendered myself obnoxious, and against which therefore I may claim a right to protest.

2. I may premise by saying

that, as regards the Island of Ronaiveram,
I believe that there is no other Officer
in the Presidency who has enjoyed the
opportunities that I have, for becoming
acquainted with its capabilities as regards
building materials &c. - I have visited
the Island on many occasions, and I
have spent an entire Christmas Holiday
there for the express purpose of exploring
the Island, and studying in all its
bearings, the question of the proposed
Ship Canal at Pannibew.

3. Under these circumstances, I
have reason to complain that on a
number of occasions on the part
of a Junior Officer, I should be taken
to task without the opportunity having
been afforded to me of explanation.

4. I find from the Records of
the District Engineer's Office, Madras,
that the alterations in the design of the
Police Huts in question was made on
a representation by Overseer Mr. Fonseca
that he found the lime obtainable at
Ronaiveram too inferior for reliance
to carry out the stone work to the

* See enclosure B.

Police Huts with concrete, and he suggested
therefore that a tiled roof should be
substituted.

5. I find that although, at that
time, Lieutenant Colonel Fitcher had never
visited the Island, nor had he, as I believe
ever seen the Plan, he nevertheless at once
sanctioned the alteration. - It is right to
add, however, that this sanction was
subsequently temporarily rescinded, but
removed on receipt of the revised Plan
and estimate.

6. I have known Mr. Fonseca
for many years to be about the feeblest
executive in the Madras District,
and it is clear that finding himself
incapable of carrying out the work, as
sanctioned, he thought it easier to invent
excuses for not doing so, and to recommend
therefore a go-down style of building,
which was within his capacity. As an
example of Mr. Fonseca's style of work,
I append an extract from my diary
for the 18th March 1874.

7. Considering that the lime used
at Pannibew is made of coral brought

* See enclosure C.

from a point nearly mid-way between that place and Ramanavaram, the statement that the lime obtainable at Ramanavaram is "inferior" is simply ridiculous. In fact it is about on a par with the statement that the lime is impregnated with salt, as reported, by Mr. Foucaud's authority, by Lieutenant Colonel Fischer in his letter printed with the G. O. under reference.

8. In Colonel Foord's letter printed with G. O. in the Judicial Department 20th February 1874, at 293 it is particularly explained that the buildings under notice are to be built "with sandstone and Chumam". As it appeared to me, afterwards, that a saving could be effected by using concrete blocks I instituted experiments for the purpose during my visit to Ponnambur in March last. The result of these was the formation of concrete blocks which Mr. Foucaud reported subsequently to be "excellent". Under these circumstances, I directed, on the score of economy, that concrete should be used in lieu of the sand stone slabs

in Chumam provided for in the estimate, as the carriage of the sand-stone (the quarries being 4 miles off) was rather a heavy item. -

9. If therefore the concrete was of "very inferior quality", as stated by Lieutenant Colonel Fischer, it was clearly his duty to have carried out the provisions of the estimate, and to have had the building constructed in sand-stone in Chumam. - Materials of which the very ~~fine~~ extensive pagoda of Ramanavaram is constructed and against which no bona-fide objections can possibly be raised.

10. It is evident, moreover, that if, as reported by Lieutenant Colonel Fischer, after personal inspection, the walls will not bear the weight of a domed roof, they must indeed be very badly constructed. -

11. I have only to state in conclusion that had I remained District Engineer of Madurai, the alteration of the Roof of the Police Quarters would not have been permitted by me; but the same would have been completed by this date. I

such a very exposed situation as that
of the Police Huts under notice, the
construction of tiled huts is, as I have
all along pointed out, a fatal mistake.
If the domes could not be managed,
at least a terraced roof made with
sand-stone slabs might have been
built according to the ordinary practice
adopted in the houses at Rangoon.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt.

Richd. Roberts Lieut Coll R.E.
Superintd Engineer 5th Divn



Proceedings of the Madras District
Read the following
from the Superintending
5th Divn Engineer } (H. E. Dec 13/16 Dec 1/17)

For say

All the G.I. is not taken
from the Col. Roberts by
planctum & Result how
that his design was faulty
in more respect than
the work was to proceed
with as proposed any expenses
being met from

Under the circum-
stances brought to light
by the Superintending
Engineer, the District
Engineer will be required
to make good all losses
of expenditure incurred
over the sum of Rs 100
sanctioned for which
refused in the order
of 28th October 1871
by the Superintending
as the fault was
in Madras District
proposed to be met
by the Government
of Rs 200 as indicated

The Lt. Col. observes his con-
duct carefully

As no do this the increase
was allowed to meet cost of
living the contingencies certain

him in G.O. No. 2336 of 20th
September 1873 on that officer's
recommendation. Annual
report will be called for
in the Judicial Department
from the Inspector General
of Police of the state of the
buildings till further orders.

Lieut. J. M. Roberts
having had full opportu-
nity given him of setting
to rights any misconcep-
tion caused by his suc-
cessor's report, has not
in the opinion of His
Excellency the Governor
in Council any reasonable
grievance to complain of.

G. W. W.

I think he had
better record this
and let the matter
drop. Id. 29.12

I agree with
you
11/11

P. W. 1874 Sept.
Pro: off for Land

From No: 7964
The Superintendent
5th Division
On Leave

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

Dated 1/6th
Dec 1/95

Lab. No. 227.26-1-75

Autobooks - See 3.
 Replacing ^{him} to the East
 of his views in having
 planned for Bombed Roof
 for the Police Hecto at
 Raccoon Mountain (W)

229
 Mutual Or recorded

Miss

Wm. L. E. Vaughan
Dec 27/11/55

669-1-75 Re 12th June / 75
C: 23, 12.76

in in G.O. No 2336 of 20.

7964

Govt. of 1874 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

Melupphigir

Jaigrie

Encl. 3

26 Jan 1875 No 227

No 465-466

Police Station at

Ramaiswaram, Madras

Col. Roberts

Explanation of

in connection with the

design for a

domed roof for the

halls, recorded -