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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. <i>233</i>	Press <i>Original</i>
B.P. No.	Mis.
Dated <i>26. 1.</i>	<i>1957</i> <i>1875</i>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

10

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

Read the following papers:—

No. 477. Read again papers recorded in G. O., No. 2,786, dated 2nd October 1874.

Read also the following letter from Lieut.-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 24th December 1874, No. 4,080.

ADVERTING to G. O. of the 2nd October 1874, No. 2,786, I have the honor to report that on my visit to the Dindigul Range in November last, I found

1 Letter.

the following books had been brought up:—

1. Cash Abstract of Receipts and Disbursements.
2. Station Books for Dindigul and Tiroomungalum Taluqs; those for the sub-division are kept in that office, but I have now ordered them to be sent to the Range Office for regular filing and record after scrutiny.
3. Contractors' Ledger and Petty Contractors' Accounts.
4. The register of works had not been brought up in full, and as my last visit was very soon after the receipt of the Government Order under reply, and I fully purposed to return soon to this range, I postponed reporting upon the matter to give time to bring those up, and I am glad to say they are now written up to October last.

2. Paragraph 3.—The names of the subordinates required by the Government are—

Taluq Overseer Mooroggesem Moodelliar.
M. Venketachellam Pillay, Head Accountant.

3. Paragraph 4.—Mr. Hawksworth's letter of explanations regarding this matter is herewith sent, and I would respectfully solicit the Government to relieve him of this penalty, as he appears to have followed a precedent existing in his range apparently on account of its large area, scattered works, and it has been found necessary to create a sub-division with a separate establishment to do the work formerly devolving on one officer and one office.

4. Copy of Mr. Hawksworth's explanations in reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of Deputy Controller's report is herewith sent. I was not aware of this irregularity, nor do I think my predecessor was.

5. The cost of locks has been settled, as pointed out by the Controller.

6. I am taking care to see the station books properly brought up.

7. A register for the Pereacolum Taluq Cutcherry was opened from March 1873, and appears to have been kept up to September 1873, and discontinued when a change was made by the transfer of the Head Accountant to the Madura Range temporarily; it is now properly worked up to August 1874, since then there has been no further outlay on the work.

8. All arrears of rent, except about Rupees 10, have been paid up, and this matter it is expected will be shortly adjusted.

9. Madura Range.—The books referred to in paragraph 1 of Government Order are now complete up to date.

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10. In consequence of the Contractor leaving the district, the works had to be completed by departmental agency, and as they are in the Zemindary sub-division, the Local Fund Maistries immediately in charge were authorized by me to make cash disbursements to complete the works.

11. The value of the lock referred to has been adjusted as directed.

From J. M. HAWKSWORTH, Esq., Executive Engineer in charge of No. 2 or Dindigul Range, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, dated Camp at Pulney, 21st October 1874, No. 927.

In reference to G. O., No. 2,786, paragraph 14, of the 2nd instant, and your No. 2,985, dated 14th instant, I beg you will kindly, with your recommendation, submit my reply to the favorable re-consideration of Government.

2. The two Goomastahs were employed long before my time, and when I took charge I was informed that they were absolutely necessary for the due performance of the work in the Range Office; this I am informed was known to the District Engineer. The work of the Office is very heavy, as is invariably admitted, and I may say safely that there is not a Range Office in the Presidency that does its work by the hands allowed it alone. This range consists of four taluqs, and the whole of the work passes through my office as regards accounts, as well as that of the Goodaloor Ghaut works, of which Lieutenant Greer, R.E., was in charge. These extra writers were engaged in copying progress reports of which five or more have to be despatched monthly, also returns and letters in books, etc. As they were employed on public duty for public purposes and were absolutely necessary for that purpose, I trust that Government will see the injustice of compelling me to pay for them. Had I thought it was required to report the matter, I should have done so, but I hope my not having done so will not be placed to my discredit.

3. As to the extra hand in my office as a tracer (maistry), I beg to draw your attention to my letter, No. 190/319, of 19th July 1873, and to the circumstance that I was without a Draughtsman the whole of last year, as will be seen from G. O., No. 637, 12th March 1874, and leave granted to Thoyamana Pillay who did no work in this office. I was not provided with a suitable Draughtsman and Estimator the whole of last year and was making shift with the hands available; although I represented this several times to the late District Engineer, nothing was done for me. I trust, under these circumstances, and the fact that numerous plans and tracings were called for by the District Engineer as well as for the prosecution of the works, that Government will see that the employment of a hand, which would be called a maistry, and which I observe is distinctly stated to be employed in the Madura Range (as also in other ranges) where the assistance of a maistry is obtained (*vide* paragraph 15) has been absolutely necessary, without inflicting a penalty as that now imposed on me.

4. As these "Goomastahs" have been in employ since 1872, I do not understand whether it is expected that I should "make good the amount of their pay, with all arrears," from that date (there are no arrears); the pay amounts to Rupees 249-1-2.

5. With regard to the employ of three extra lascars, I beg to state that I had the charge of the sub-division thrust upon me in July last year without a single additional hand, not even a clerk or lascar of the sub-division; they were all taken by Lieutenant Greer to the Goodaloor Ghaut works of 4½ miles, and I had charge of four taluqs; of the three lascars allowed by Government, one had to be in the circuit office in charge of records, etc., one or more was generally on the sick list from exposure or from lameness and other complaints, so that I was often dependent on the Overseer's lascars or others picked up for assistance in levelling, measuring, etc.; often, without this extraneous help, I should not have been able to get anything done. I found that this kind of proceeding exceedingly detrimental to work and retarded it considerably, because I did not know the men and men did not know me, and for such like work it required trained men with some

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amount of agility and expertness, I, therefore, engaged these three in August last year. I trust Government will, under these circumstances, be pleased to withdraw their order and acquit me of any blame, as I certainly thought that the employment of such necessary hands was within the discretionary powers of an Executive Engineer. Their pay amounts to Rupees 182-8-0.

6. With reference to paragraphs 5 and 6, I beg to say that there was no "disobedience" on my part.

7. With regard to the maistry with a petition about his pay, I beg to inform you that the value of tools in his charge, and which he failed up Reported in my letter, No. 947, of the 27th October 1874. to the date of presenting his petition to deliver over to the Overseer to whom he had given receipts for the same, had been withheld, as he well knew.

8. With regard to cheques, the system of sending them to the Overseers to pay over to Contractors had been in vogue since 1868-69 and long before my time. In fact, the great extent of the range and the complaints of the Contractors to wander after the Range Officer over hundreds of miles rendered this necessary; however, on the receipt of orders in G. O., No. 92, of 14th January 1874, cheques were sent to the Sub-division Officer on his arrival for disbursement until the arrival of Lieutenant Boddy when the cheque books of the sub-division were handed over to him.

9. The other cheques were paid in my office. In this Mr. Mills is somewhat inaccurate in his report as also in—

Paragraph 10.—The work register for this Pereacolum Taluq Cutcherry was opened in May 1873, and is herewith sent for your inspection. I do not know why Mr. Mills did not see it. Had he mentioned this to me, I should have caused him to have seen it. The Goodaloor Ghaut works has been a separate charge, and until June, when I inspected the work, I was not aware but that a register had been maintained by Lieutenant Greer, R.E.

10. With regard to Pereacolum Taluq Cutcherry the expenditure up to date of my taking charge is	Rs. 2,808 8 0
Amount paid last year	„ 6,584 0 4
Out of which paid by me	„ 2,460 6 6
Do. by the Overseer on daily labor task work	„ 4,123 9 10

The other points shall be attended to at once and disposed of and reported on.

11. Paragraph 3.—The names of the Accountants are M. Venketachellam Pillay and J. Gopaul Iyer, and Overseer C. Moorogeesem Moodelliar.

12. Paragraph 14.—The recovery of rents has been made and there are now no arrears whatever.

13. I would beg to add that the compilation of work registers has received my best attention, and it is these that I have been endeavouring to bring up; but, owing to neglect for many years and change of Accountants, I have not been able to get complete, but trust to do so soon.

14. I hope Government will recognize my endeavours to carry out their wishes and orders in every respect, and not believe any statement to the contrary, but that everything is not as they wish it to be is due to circumstances beyond my control.

P.S.—Reply* regarding the entertainment of Local Fund Writer will be forwarded as soon as the correspondence on the subject has been found and collected in my office.

N.B.—* Up to this date the Range Officer has not submitted his explanations, and he has been again called upon to do so, but I am unwilling to delay any longer disposing of the other subjects on which the Government required explanations.

(Signed) J. F. FISCHER, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.

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26th January 1875.

No. 478.

ORDER THEREON, 26th January 1875, No. 233.

ACCOUNT, No. 22.

It appearing that Taluk Overseer Moorogeesem Moodelliar and M. Venkatchellam Pillay were the subordinates concerned in the irregularity referred to by the Controller of Public Works Accounts in paragraph 3 of his report recorded with the above G. O., they will be warned that further disregard of the rules and falsification of the accounts, even without fraudulent intent, will be severely punished.

2. Mr. Hawksworth does not appear to have been responsible for the employment originally, without sanction, of the three Goomastahs referred in paragraph 4 of the Controller's report, but his explanation in regard to the three lascars engaged by him in like manner is not satisfactory. Their pay and that of the Local Fund Writer will accordingly be recovered from him, but payment of the Goomastahs' salaries will not be enforced.

3. The Deputy Controller appears to have been mistaken in regard to the extent of money payments made by Overseers to petty Contractors. The outlay noticed is explained by the Range Officer to have been for task work and labor.

4. The explanation of the District Engineer relative to the authorization of the Local Fund Maistries to make cash payments in the case referred by the Deputy Controller is accepted, but the practice should be discontinued.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.

.. Controller of Public Works Accounts

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

Spare Copies

P.W. Dept.
Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following -
ad again papers recorded in G.O. 2786 of 2nd Oct/74
from

The Dist Engr. Madura (H.O. No. 4080 of 24th Dec/74)

233

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M. Venkatchellam

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in para 3 of his report

MOB
7/11

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in regard to the three
Lascars engaged by
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not satisfactory. ^{These} ~~These~~ ^{being} ~~being~~ ^{written} ~~written~~
^{by the local agent} ~~by the local agent~~ ^{will} ~~will~~ ^{be} ~~be ^{considered} ~~considered~~
- ~~over the recommendation~~
~~and with reference~~
~~of the District Agent~~
~~to the Government~~
~~His Excellency in Council~~
~~Salaries will not~~
~~will not enforce payment~~
~~be enforced~~
~~of the wages of these men~~
~~by the Range Officer.~~~~

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Accepted

W. M. M.

Nov 6-1-75

To The Dist. Engr. Masura
Controller ✓
Recd. to letter 27/11/75.

by order of the

8098

Govt. of 1874 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
91
The Dist. Supt.
Madras

Dated
Recd.
G. O. 26 June No. 233

Nos. 277-678

Establishment. Madras.

Talag. Quince. Muroogarseni
elboorlian and Varkatachilun
Talag. warned that further disre-
gard of Rules and falsification
of Accounts was without
~~any~~ fraudulent intent
will be severely punished. We
Harkowattis explanation regarding
the establishment of 5 Saccars con-
sidered unsatisfactory and their
pay and that of the local Saccars
order to be recovered from him
the payment of the Saccars and
the order enforced. The explanation