

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	373	(9)	Press
B.P. No.			Mis.
Dated	11-2-	1876	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th February 1876.*

No. 179. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS,
R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Mount, 20th January 1876,
No. 4,199 :—

I REGRET to have to report that Rupees 232-8-11, in addition to the excess
sanctioned in G.O., No. 1,706, of 17th
June 1875, are required to complete the
bridge near Tandalam at the head of the
water-spread of the Chembrumbaukum
tank. I enclose a comparative statement

1 Comparative Statement.

1 Letter from Mr. Lowry, No. 1,487, dated
12th September 1874.

1 Do. do. No. 1,575, dated 21st Sept. 1874.

1 Do. do. „ 2,123, „ 22nd Dec. 1875.

and copies of letters which, Mr. Lowry thinks, will explain the matter fully.

2. You will observe that these letters were written in September 1874, long
before the revised estimate was submitted by Mr. Lowry; as I could not understand
them; I desired his attendance at my office with the accounts and persons concerned.

3. He came on 19th January 1875. I found then that the only accounts were
the station books kept by the Sub-Overser Vencoba Row, who Mr. Lowry thought
should also keep the register. I pointed out that this was impossible, and desired
that the Range Head Accountant should open one immediately, and that the revised
estimate should be drawn up to cover the work actually executed and the work
remaining to be done on the rates thus known by experience; it appeared also that the
Sub-overseer received two estimates differing one from the other, one is authenticated
with Mr. Lowry's signature, but differs very considerably from that submitted to
Government, of which Vencoba Row was also allowed to take a copy.

4. Mr. Lowry also admitted that he had not marked out the foundations on the
ground, but expected the Sub-overseer to do all this, and reported him incompetent
because he did not do it as Mr. Lowry intended. It must be remembered that the
new bridge is built on the ruin of an old one, and that the approaches were very
rough, standing as the flood had left them.

5. Mr. Lowry acknowledged that he did not consider that any fraud had been
committed, and, with the exception of the mistake of excavating the whole surface to
the depth of the foundation, no unnecessary work really appears to have been done.

6. The revised estimate, which should have covered this and the rates which it
was found necessary to pay, was submitted on 17th February 1875, forwarded by me
on 24th February 1875, sanctioned in G.O., No. 1,269, of 5th May, and forwarded to
Mr. Lowry for execution on 19th May.

7. He went on leave on 15th June; at the end of the month, when I was taking
accounts from the range subordinates, I found that nothing was begun.

8. The Sub-overseer informed me that Rupees 681-6-1 had been due to work
people for six or eight months. I desired him to give me a memorandum of names
and amounts which I would pay, and to proceed with the work as rapidly as possible.

9. I found further that my order, as to the opening of a register in the range
office, had not been obeyed; the work is in excess of Rupees 2,500, and therefore no
order of mine should have been required.

10. I desired the Head Accountant to prepare it immediately from the station
books, but some days after I found that he had kept the Sub-overseer himself in

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Chingleput, and that eventually this man (considered by Mr. Lowry incompetent) has really afforded all the information, measurements, &c., required.

11. On my again insisting on Vencoba Row's going to Tandalam and immediately resuming work, I found that Mr. Lowry had stopped the preparation of materials for the arches, which must be wanted whether the abutments and piers were 12 or 9 feet high; the estimate in fact provided for brick in mortar, but Mr. Lowry wished to use laterite, and instead of openly asking permission to make the alteration, preferred to wait till the sanction of the vague terms of the revised estimate should allow him to go on without such application to me.

12. Mr. Donaghue took charge of the range on the 29th July 1875, and on 8th September 1875 reported to me that he had been obliged to pull down some bad work, and that the bridge was going on very slowly, for this, in addition to Vencoba Row's previous faults of keeping me in ignorance of the state of matters regarding debts to coolies and non-preparation of materials, I applied to the President, Local Fund Board, to reduce him from 2nd to 3rd grade.

13. Mr. Donaghue has since reported favorably on Vencoba Row, and particularly as to the correctness of his accounts. Vencoba Row also pleaded that it was difficult to report his range officer, and that the bad work removed by Mr. Donaghue was really due to the inferior workmen whom he was obliged to employ when his credit had been ruined by Mr. Lowry's delay in paying coolies.

14. Taking all this into consideration, I have obtained from the Local Fund Board President his restoration after three months and nine days; even Mr. Lowry (see paragraph 6 of his letter, No. 2,323, of 22nd December 1875,) acknowledges that the bridge is well built, the arches sank only $\frac{1}{4}$ th and $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of an inch.

15. I believe that the work is worth the money it has cost, and that the errors are entirely in the estimating; they should have been corrected in the revised estimate, as most, if not all of them, were known before it was prepared; and if the register had been in existence and all debts paid the rates would have been clearly ascertained.

16. The Sub-overseer points out that in neither the original nor revised estimate is sufficient allowance made for removing the debris of the old bridge, which Mr. Lowry had at first thought was all lying lower down-stream, whereas very much was actually in the site itself and had been mistaken for hard soil; for its removal gunpowder was found necessary, and long before the revised estimate was prepared.

17. The centring sent from Madrantikam for the Tandalam bridge, 30 feet span, had been made for arches of 20 feet; there were only the skeletons, no backing of palmyras, &c., were provided; the Sub-overseer received no plan, and put them according to his own light.

18. Under the head of Sundries the pay of a watchman, &c., during the unexpected delay of some months, affords fair excuse for excess.

19. I particularly asked Mr. Lowry in January 1875 to consider the matter thoroughly, and received his assurance that the revised estimate was sufficient; there is nothing, even by his own showing of grounds for the further charge in the work done since, except under sundries.

20. I am obliged therefore to attribute it to his neglect in keeping a register and disobedience as to preparing it before he made the revised estimate.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th February 1876.*

No. 180.

ORDER THEREON, 11th February 1876, No. 373.

IRRIGATION, No. 19.

THE Most Noble the Governor in Council sanctions an addition of Rs. 233 to the revised estimate of Rupees 11,120

for the bridge in the 20th mile of the Western Trunk Road. The correspondence submitted and foregoing papers show that the management of this work has been very unsatisfactory.

2. The amount to be contributed from Imperial Funds, Agricultural, and chargeable to the Chembrambaukum Tank Project, will now be Rupees 5,793. No further charge can be made to Local Funds to compensate for the inefficient arrangements which have caused increased outlay and great delay in the completion of the bridge.

3. This sanction has been registered as Irrigation No. 3 ~~W~~^I of 1875-76.

(True Extract.)

Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

- „ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- „ Controller of Public Works Accounts.
- „ Collector of Chingleput.
- „ Financial Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

No 373

P. W. Dept^g

Proceedings of the ^{Legis} Government
Date 11th Feb 1876.
Read the following -

From
The Supt^g Eng^g (H. R. No 4199 & 20 - Jan 1876)

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the completion of the bridge.

by 3/2
G.M.V.

* This sanction has
been registered as irrigation
No. 3. W. of 1875-76

To The Suptg Engr Chingleput
Chief Engr for Irrigation
Controller of O.W. accounts
Collector of Chingleput
Finl ~~Dep~~ of Revenue

Recd 17

S. 2 982

937
Govt. of 1876 Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Supg. Engg. Chingleput

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. *11 Feb.* 1876, No. 373

Nos. 179-180

Widder near Sankalam,
Chingleput Dist

An additional front of
Rs 2.33 to the revised estimate
of Rs 11,120 for completion
the — — — — — Sanchoreil with
Remarks —