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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	753	(W)	Press
~~B.P. No.~~			~~Mis.~~
Dated	24.3.		1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th March 1876.*

No. 384. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 6th March 1876, No. 319:—

ABSTRACT.—*Thousand Pillar Muntapum at Tripati in North Arcot.*—Agreeing with the Board of Revenue that the Collector is entitled to require the restoration of the — to be inspected by an officer of the Department of Public Works, and requesting the issue of the necessary orders to the District Engineer in the Public Works Department.

No. 385. ORDER THEREON, 24th March 1876, No. 753.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 36.

THE District Engineer will forthwith arrange for the periodical inspection of this work and supply of completion certificates by a competent officer. All *bond fide* expenses incurred for the work of inspection, &c., will be a charge on the estimate.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, North Arcot.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Financial „
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

No. 34. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th February 1876, No. 479:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot and President of the Local Fund Boards, to C. A. GALTON, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Calastri, 27th January 1876, No. 43:—

WITH reference to G. O., dated 17th June 1874, No. 1,017, Financial Department, sanctioning the revised estimate of Rupees 45,000 for improving and altering the Thousand Pillared Muntapum at Upper Tripati, the funds for which purpose are provided by the Mahout of Tripati, I have the honor to inform the Board that work to the extent of upwards of 10,000 Rs. has been executed up to the end of November last, and the contractor now requests me to measure and pay for the work thus done. I may add here that the repairs to the Mysore Maharajah's Choultry at Upper Tripati, at an estimated cost of Rupees 13,000, are also being carried out by the same contractor under my superintendence, the funds being supplied by the Mysore Government, at whose request the work was undertaken by me. The contractor has reported that this work is almost finished and claims payment.

2. Under the spirit of G. O., dated 15th February 1872, No. 438, Public Works Department, Parthasarathy Iyengar, the late Chittoor Range Officer, was in the habit of inspecting and examining the two works in question from time to time at my request; and, on his certifying to the accuracy of the contractor's bills, payments used to be made to him.

3. Parthasarathy Iyengar having recently been transferred from Chittoor to the Arnee Range, I requested the District Engineer, in my letter, dated 21st December last, No. 603, to let me know what other officer he would propose to depute to the hill from time to time, so that I may cause the work now reported to have been done to be examined and payment made to the contractor. In his reply, dated 7th instant, No. 3,459, copy of which is herewith forwarded, that officer, however, altogether refuses to permit any of the officers of his department to inspect and examine the works in question, especially the Thousand Pillared Muntapum, on the ground that they cannot be regarded as "Public Works."

4. Captain Pennycuik raised precisely the same objections in 1873 to his subordinates having any thing to do with these works, and a long correspondence ensued between him and this office; but at last he yielded, as will be seen from the enclosed copy of his letter, No. 1,371, dated 21st July 1873, with which the correspondence then ended. I beg further to forward, for the perusal of the Board, copy of Captain Pennycuik's letter, No. 1,090, dated 20th July 1874, from which it will be observed that he subsequently cordially co-operated with me in the matter. I am, therefore, the more surprised to see that he has now suddenly

changed his mind, and refuses peremptorily to render me the usual professional assistance that I conceive I have a right to expect from the officers of the Department of Public Works in matters of this kind which so intimately concern the public interest.

5. The Board are aware that the Upper Tripati Hill is visited throughout the year by thousands of Hindu pilgrims of every class from all parts of India, and the Thousand Pillared Muntapum, which is a building of great magnitude and importance, is intended, and will be available, for the accommodation of the large crowds of people who sojourn from time to time on the sacred hill. It was originally constructed centuries ago by the Chendragherry Kings for that purpose, and having in the course of ages fallen into great disrepair, the Mahout, at my suggestion, liberally consented to have it restored with the simple proviso that I, as President of the Local Fund Boards, would superintend the execution of the work, and to that end he has paid the large sum of Rupees 45,000 (as required on an estimate prepared by the Public Works Department) into the Huzur Treasury at Chittoor. The restoration of this building is therefore, I submit, essentially a public work, and I fail to see why Captain Pennycuik thus persistently refuses to regard it as such. Mahomedans and Pariahs do not ascend the hill, it is true, because their religion prevents their entering the temples to worship, but to all other classes the temples are open, and the thousands of persons who monthly visit the hill are entitled to use the Muntapum as a halting place. The Government moreover in their Proceedings on the subject of this restoration, and in reviewing the Annual Local Fund Budgets, have never questioned the propriety of the work being carried out under the supervision of the Public Works Department.

6. The District Engineer, the Board will observe, seems to have less objection to regard the Mysore Maharajah's Choultry, the restoration of which is now just finished, as a public work, and to arrange for its periodical examination. But Mahomedans and Pariahs will not be allowed to reside in it. It is designed, as in the case of the Thousand Pillared Muntapum, to provide shelter for all classes of Hindus who visit the Upper Hill on pilgrimage, or to attend the great periodic feasts. The only difference is that the funds for the restoration of the one are provided from the Mysore State Revenues by the Chief Commissioner on account of the minor Maharajah, while the cost of the other, and far more important work, is defrayed from the funds of the Tripati Devasthanum, administered by the Mahout as the present manager, and those funds themselves are the joint subscriptions of the very pilgrims for whose accommodation the Muntapum is now being restored. Of the two therefore it seems to me the Thousand Pillared Muntapum is the more deserving of designation as a "Public Work" in the true sense of the term.

7. This restoration will be a work of years. It occupies constantly a large number of workmen, and the situation is so unhealthy that the very greatest difficulty is experienced in getting people, even when paid double rates, to work continuously on the hill. They go up to work seven miles every morning, and return again at night to the town of Lower Tripati; but even then few men are found able to work for more than a week or ten days without an attack of fever, and the contractor latterly has been trying the experiment of double

gangs, who work one week at the dispensary now under construction at Lower Tripati (under the supervision of the Public Works Department from funds provided by the Mahout as in the case of the Thousand Pillared Muntapum) and the next week on the hill. In this way the work is now progressing fairly, but the refusal of the District Engineer to have any thing to say, in his official capacity, to the supervision of the work of restoration will assuredly, if permitted, seriously retard its execution, and possibly enable the contractor to render bad work, or use inferior materials.

8. The Mahout has, I consider, acted in the most liberal and public-spirited manner in thus placing at the disposal of the Local Fund Board so large a sum from the Pagoda Funds of which he is Trustee. I have assured him that the work shall be well and thoroughly carried out, and it will be great matter for regret if my wishes and hopes in this respect are thwarted by what I cannot but regard as the unreasonable refusal of the District Engineer to render me the professional aid on which I had counted, and which I consider I have a right to expect at his hands. In an archaological point of view the restoration of this ancient edifice is also a work of great interest, and, if on that ground only, I imagined Captain Pennycuik would have willingly co-operated with me as I requested. As, however, he now decline to do this, I have no alternative but to submit the matter, through the Board of Revenue, for the early orders of Government.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 3.—Copies of Correspondence.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The order of the 15th February 1872 quoted by the President, Local Fund Board, has not been communicated to the Board, but it seems to them that the District Engineer is not justified in refusing the aid asked by the President, and that the latter is entitled to require that the work shall be inspected by an officer of the Public Works Department as a matter of right and not merely out of courtesy, as stated in the District Engineer's letter of the 7th January 1876.

3. The work was approved by Government and sanctioned for execution under the Local Fund Board, the estimates having been originally framed and subsequently revised by officers of the Public Works Department; it appeared as an item in the Supplemental Local Fund Budget for 1870-71, and has been repeated in every subsequent budget; the expenditure is scrutinized and audited by the Controller, and, being a work of considerable importance, it is essential that it should be periodically inspected and completion certificates furnished by a competent officer of the Public Works Department before payment is made to the contractor by whom the work is being executed.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. A. GALTON,
Acting Secretary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
6th March 1876.*

No. 35.

ORDER THEREON, 6th March 1876, No. 319.

Miscellaneous.

THE Government agree with the Board. The necessary orders to the District Engineer will be issued in the Public Works Department.

(True Extract.)



Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
„ the Public Works Department.

408 - March 10 12.56. aig
 .. 19 - Aug 5/11 .. 113 -
 - 15 - Feb 12/12 .. 1,38
 - 6 - July 1/14 .. 29
 - 22 - Jan 1/16 .. 225

P. W. 1876 Sept
 M 17 09

Thousand Pillar Mountapum at Tripali in North-
 Arcot. — Agreeing with the Board of Revenue
 that the Collector is entitled to require the restora-
 tion of the — to be inspected by an officer of the
 Department of Public Works; and requesting the
 issue of the necessary orders to the District Engi-
 neer in the Public Works Department.

MARCH.
 Nos. 34-35.

G.O., 6th March 1876, No. 319.

Dated March, 6th.
 Recd.

Do, do, do.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE,

Govt. of 1876: REVENUE.
 REVENUE.

Recd 8 March 1876

Ph. 24 March 16 13 384

Cir 14-3-76.

North Arcot
 District Engineer's Office
 No. 1371
 Villore 21st July 1873.

From
 The District Engineer
 North Arcot
 To
 The Collector of North Arcot

Sir
 In reply to your letter No.
 280 of the 15th Instant, I have the
 honor to observe that there is a difference,
 which it seems to me you have some-
 what overlooked, between the Mysore
 Makarajaki Choultry and the
 Thousand Pillar Mountapum.

2
 Whether Building can as
 regards the use to which it is put
 be called a public building in the
 sense which I attach to the word
 public, seeing that although either

5. These are the reasons why I have thought it wrong as a matter of principle for this Department to undertake the supervision of the works in question.

6. There are also special reasons which make the supervision of these works by the Chittoor Range officer undesirable. That officer has charge of an enormously large Range; at the moment he has, in addition to the current work, special calls to be at Tripatti, at Copam and at the extreme corner of the Pongamur Zemindari, three points forming a triangle whose sides are as the crow flies, about 50, 80, & 100 miles.

130
7. Moreover from the nature of the case, the works which he is now asked to supervise cannot be inspected by any superior officer, and I do not like the idea of entrusting such extensive works as these to the uncontrolled management of a subordinate, however honest or intelligent he may be.

8. You will see from the above remarks that it is not without reason that I have hesitated to comply with your request in this matter.

9. Nothing can be further from my wish than to throw any obstacle in the way of the execution of work which you or any other competent officer may consider to be of public usefulness, and as there appears to have been an understanding that the

works on the Trepatti hill should be supervised by the Chittoor Range Officers. I am willing on this occasion to allow that course to be followed. But I hope that on future occasions you will find it possible to make such arrangements as will render it unnecessary to call upon a subordinate of this Department to execute works lying beyond the limits of his charge, which cannot be inspected by a superior Officer, and the application to which of the terms public is to say the least, of doubtful propriety. I have &c.

(Signed) John Pennycuik, Captain R.E.

District Engineer North Arcot.

(True Copy)

Whitling

Collector

EX CASES.

nt No.

of 187

North Arcot

District Engineer's Office

20th July 1874, Camp

N^o 413 =

(True Copy)

Whitling

3-26 824-3-26

Collector

works on the Trepatti hills should be
 supervised by the Chittoor Range Officer

Lug 11/10/76

Aug 20/76

Enclosed in a letter
 from the President
 Local Govt Board
 with a letter to the
 Secretary to the Board
 of Revenue dated 27
 January 1976

17/10/76

G.O. No. 753 24-3-76

By 24 March 76 N. 753

[Signature]

[Signature] Collector

FORMER CASES.

Current No. of 187

" " "
 " " "
 " " "

LATER CASES.

Current No. of 187

" " "
 " " "
 " " "

N^o 413

Gen 21-3-76 224-3-76

Collector

works on the Tripatti hills

M. WORKS FORM No. 3.

Current No. 2062

From

The Chief Engineer
for Irrigation

No.

17

Dated

15

Recd.

20

March 1876.

Subject:—

Note on Estimate
for improving the bund
and revetment of the
Chintalacheruvu Tank
in the Gundapala Sh

ENCLOSURES. 6

From

to

"

"

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"

"

Orders and Proceedings in file.

Depart- ment.	No.	Date.	ENDORSEMENTS.		
			Depart- ment.	No.	Dated.

North Arcot
District Engineer's Office
20th July 1876, Camp
Vencatagherikotah.

No. 1090

From

The District Engineer,
North Arcot.

To

The Collector of North Arcot.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 302
of the 14th Instant, I have the honor
to state that the Chittoor Range Officer
will be authorized to visit the Tripatti Hill
from time to time as requested by you.

2. It is hoped that this permission
will be used as sparingly as possible, as
the Range Officer's own work is quite enough
to occupy his time fully.

I have &c.

(Signed) John Pennycuik Capt. R.E.
District Engineer North Arcot

(True Copy)

L. Chittling

Collector

PM

No. 3459

North Street District Engineer's Office

Telluride 7 January 1896.

From

The District Engineer

North Street District

To The Collector of North Street

Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 603 of 21st ultimo I have the honor to state that I am not prepared to make any special arrangements for the inspection of the work in question. Either it is in public work, or it is not; in the former case it must be inspected in the ordinary way by the officer in whose range it is situated; in the latter, this Department is not concerned with it.

2. I shall if you wish it, direct Lieutenant Bevan (not Captain Morris, who is in charge of another Range) to inspect the bridge across Chautauque which has some claims (though not very strong) to be considered.

Enclosed in a letter

from the President

of the Board

of the North Street

Secretary to the Board

of Revenue dated 27

January 1896 No 43.

Per 7307/6

July 1896 7946/96

in public works.

3. The repairs to the Thousand Pillars mandapam can in no sense be called a public work, the funds being found by a private individual, the building when finished being devoted to the use of a limited portion of a single religious community. I have always considered the arrangement formerly made for the inspection of this work as objectionable in the extreme, and only restrained from disturbing it because my predecessor (though, as I think, under a misapprehension of the circumstances) had consented to it.

4. Now however that this arrangement has been put an end to by the removal of Parthasarady Iyengar to another part of the District, I am not prepared to incur any further responsibility in the matter, if the Mahant wishes to spend money in building, he must obtain professional assistance in the same way as other private individuals do.

5. I shall be very happy to accompany you in a visit to the hill, and when there to give an opinion on any matter connected with the works which may be referred to me, but it must be clearly understood that this opinion is given as a personal courtesy to yourself, and not in any official capacity.

6. I fear however that it will not be practicable for me to go there during the present month, and I should be glad if your visit could be postponed until the second week in February, when I shall be glad to accompany you.

I have &c
/Signed/ John Pennycuik
Capt R.E.
District Engineer.

/True Copy/

b/Whiting
Collector.

PM

60000 724/76
 4
 100 725/76

No 453

CIVILS
 Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 24th March 1876.

READ the following:—

Pro: Madras Government } abstract
 Pub. Department } N. E. No 319 of 6th March 1876

The District Engineer
 will forthwith arrange for
 the periodical inspection
 of this work and supply
 of completion certificates
 by a competent officer. All
 bonafide expenses incurred
 for the work of inspection
 will be a charge on the
 estimate.

J. G. N. A. 1 6
 Rev. Dept 1 21
 Fin. Dept 1 7
 Exr. P. W. Dept 1 5

Draft - 1st April 76

Ex. C. L. S.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the

Read the following:

Pro: Madras Government
Rev: Department } (P.E. No. 19 of 12 March 1901)

GoL

The District Engineer
will arrange for the pe-
riodical inspection
of their work and supply
of completion certificates
by a competent officer.
But inasmuch as each
inspection, as well as
the original preparation
of Plans, Specifications
and Estimates by Public
Works Agency, amount
to a considerable demand
on the Public Works Agency,
especially as requiring
the

I would submit
that it is
necessary
to lay all the
expenses incurred
for the work of inspection
and the preparation
of Plans, Specifications
and Estimates on the
Public Works Agency.

C No 170

the services of a native
of good caste who has
to quit his own Range
for the special purpose
and encounter a noxious
climate; a charge of 5
per cent will be added
to the amount of the
original estimate and
credited to Public Works
Establishments as each
Certificate is furnished.

San. Secy. R. K. K. K. K.
San. Secy. R. K. K. K. K.

J. H. K. K. K. K. K.
San. Secy. R. K. K. K. K.
San. Secy. R. K. K. K. K.
San. Secy. R. K. K. K. K.

1709
Govt. of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

H. E. S. S. S.
H. E. S. S. S.

Dated

Issued

Recd

Encl.

G. O. 11 Mar 1876 No.

753

584-385.

Thousand Pillar Monument
at Tripali, North Arcot.

The Brit Eng directed to ar-
range for the periodical in-
spection of the — and supply
of completion certificates
by a competent officer —

Subd. in
1/4.