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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 790 (W) Press
~~B.P. No.~~ Mis.

Dated ~~28~~ 3 1876.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 28th March 1876.

Read the following:—

No. 456. From the District Engineer, Chingleput, dated 7th March 1876, No. 4,793.

No. 457. ORDER THEREON, 28th March 1876, No. 790.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 30.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council resolves to cancel the Order, dated 12th February 1876, No. 384, directing Colonel Moberly, R.E., to proceed forthwith to take charge of the Tinnevelly District.

2. Since the question of removing Colonel Moberly from the Chingleput District was raised, it has become apparent to His Grace the Governor in Council that considerable changes are required in the system of preparing the designs and estimates and the appropriation of the moneys for Public Works in this Presidency, and under these circumstances, it may be well, with a view to avoid unnecessary changes, that Colonel Moberly's removal should not now take place, but that the question of when and how he can be best employed for the public service be further considered when the orders of Government, on the questions above referred to, shall have been given.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Chingleput.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Statement shewing the position of the Chingleput District as regards expenditure compared with other districts.

District	Years	Imperial Funds — New Works — Ordy. Establishment	Military	Ordy. Establishment	Civil Buildings	Ordy. Establishment	Agricultural	Imperial Funds — Repairs — Ordy. Establishment	Military	Ordy. Establishment	Civil Buildings	Ordy. Establishment	Agricultural	Provincial Funds — New Works — Ordy. Establishment	Civil Buildings	Establishment	Communications	Provincial Funds — Repairs — Ordy. Establishment	Mis: Petties	Implements	Ordy. Establishment	Civil Buildings	Ordy. Establishment	Communications	Ordy. Establishment	Mis: Petties	Implements	Ordy. Establishment	Local Funds — Public Works	Ordy. Establishment	Education	Ordy. Establishment	Total Expenditure	
Godavery	1870-71	"	"	12	14173	4	97272	"	"	6	3836	2	154241	"	"	17	481	2	3464	"	"	21	17519	1	9590	2	264295	"	"	3	566121		
	1871-72	"	"	1	13738	1	164187	"	"	"	1	1	159604	19	4208	"	"	"	"	5	5110	"	"	2	1544	2	270331	"	"	1	619522		Godav
	1872-73	"	"	3	7941	1	275079	"	"	"	"	1	177583	8	27720	"	"	"	"	8	4340	"	"	1	4967	6	190016	"	"	1	687636		
	1873-74	"	"	2	6010	1	258830	"	"	"	"	2	186097	12	24910	"	"	"	"	8	4791	"	"	1	7423	1	321828	5	875	1	824026		
Kistna	1870-71	"	"	17	4002	3	103235	14	384	11	2908	8	67165	"	"	18	386	6	677	"	"	14	35236	10	6	4	163712	"	"	7	377621		
	1871-72	"	"	"	"	3	114860	16	390	"	"	6	74785	20	4802	"	"	"	"	6	4706	"	"	"	"	4	205290	"	"	4	404833		Kist
	1872-73	"	"	7	864	4	112112	19	40	2	474	6	100461	22	5725	"	"	7	139	20	2146	"	"	"	"	5	195538	2	6135	5	423634		
	1873-74	"	"	6	827	2	137537	"	"	"	"	3	153558	7	32212	"	"	7	140	18	2065	"	"	4	2024	2	277078	3	2236	3	610593		
Bellary	1870-71	2	89466	4	35418	12	8361	3	26954	13	2500	12	46834	"	"	15	1337	"	"	"	"	5	49700	"	"	6	135066	"	"	5	396896		
	1871-72	1	57722	4	3000	9	10519	4	23862	"	"	11	52228	5	24803	"	"	"	"	12	3394	"	"	"	"	9	163955	7	300	7	339673		Bel
	1872-73	5	23011	2	8087	13	2842	3	23302	13	42	12	44047	9	26038	"	"	"	"	19	2414	"	"	"	"	12	160581	10	156	12	290523		
	1873-74	2	44678	1	7171	8	11693	3	36335	5	164	12	39569	6	36819	"	"	"	"	10	3819	2	765	"	"	18	171011	9	53	11	357331		
Presidency	1870-71	4	28780	1	139567	"	"	1	69274	1	24969	19	392	"	"	"	"	4	2030	"	"	22	19179	8	114	19	20498	1	51194	8	353967		
	1871-72	5	28743	11	289	"	"	1	66437	12	25	18	2015	1	86416	"	"	5	365	1	36713	1	19404	1	1880	22	1787	1	20214	11	262307		Pres
	1872-73	6	18877	1	18000	"	"	1	84235	"	"	19	1491	1	135630	"	"	3	12567	1	34247	1	19649	2	994	22	2273	1	24293	8	324256		
	1873-74	4	27390	3	2335	11	7151	1	76992	"	"	16	21896	1	66982	8	388	2	26946	1	49768	1	28448	5	410	22	283	1	65805	19	367841		
Chingleput	1870-71	1	98655	16	6860	1	183410	4	21105	4	4939	3	111743	"	"	4	25193	5	1318	"	"	2	76512	"	"	15	76871	"	"	1	607204		
	1871-72	2	43217	8	1073	2	119385	3	24116	"	"	4	101409	18	18219	"	"	"	"	3	4349	"	"	"	"	7	174070	"	"	3	485838		Ching
	1872-73	1	84069	12	720	3	126030	4	22672	14	20	9	66975	17	10232	2	29982	"	"	3	6518	6	470	6	145	11	161898	"	"	2	608331		
	1873-74	3	42377	8	409	3	123255	4	31088	"	"	1	195143	17	14967	"	"	"	"	3	2711	"	"	8	105	6	207233	"	"	2	625647		
Tanjore	1870-71	"	"	5	32412	7	58705	"	"	5	4812	1	163313	"	"	19	338	"	"	"	"	15	33410	5	534	1	309105	5	401	2	603030		
	1871-72	"	"	2	4170	4	111626	"	"	"	"	2	151338	18	6429	"	"	"	"	2	6342	"	"	4	597	1	277784	2	5750	2	564036		Tan
	1872-73	"	"	4	7918	6	56946	"	"	9	138	2	150037	3	50670	"	"	5	9149	4	6235	"	"	4	200	4	199358	"	"	3	480531		
	1873-74	"	"	5	1113	6	46785	"	"	"	"	5	117474	4	43010	"	"	6	12886	6	4961	3	298	"	"	10	191330	2	10137	5	420443		

Chingleput Supdg. Engrs Office
Madras 7th March 1876

H. Hubbuck Coll. R. &
Supdg. Engr. Chingl.

Enclosure from the Sub-Sec. Chingleput Div. Secretary to Gov. Dept. No. 47 March 1876.

Rd 1417/76

Rd 28 March 76 W 1.56

Statement referred to in para. 43.

5

October	1847	Coimbatore removed to	
September	1849	Rajahmundry	As an officer of some experience to undertake the charge of all repairs, and leave other officers free to the Anicut.
	1850	Eastern range do	On the Anicut Establishment to design channels &ca.
October	1852	Western range	On Lieut. Chambers removal to the Kistna, I was transferred to complete his designs
May	1854	Kist	do do on Lieutenant Chamber's going as District Engineer to Nellore, favourably mentioned to Government of India for skill in design.
February	1856	Vizagapatam	District Engineer.
February	1857	Ganjam	On special duty, my report on which was acknowledged by the Private Secretary to Lord Harris, who brought me down to
June	1857	East Coast Canal	Appointment being abolished,

May	1858	Civil Architect	I applied for Madura District but it was thought necessary to remove Major Ryves.
August	1858	Trichinopoly	from Trichinopoly and I was sent there in October 1858 I was desired to take charge of Tanjore in addition
February	1859	———	Relieved of Tanjore
June	1860	South Canara	No reasons except necessity of public service were given. During the next 2 years I received orders of Government censuring and fining me for my actions in Trichinopoly, which were cancelled on my explanation. I heard privately that Major Ryves whom I had relieved in 1858 reported that the District had improved very much during my tenure of the appointment. I cannot therefore but suppose that this removal was made under some misapprehension - the more so as I was at my own request transferred in
April	1862	to Chingleput	and promoted to Superintending Engineer in
May	1863	Madura & Tinnevelly	Superintending Engineer
November	1865	———	Removed from Department.
December	"	Coimbatore	Executive Engineer
June	1866	Godavery - Vizagapatam - Ganjam	Superintending Engineer
April	1867	To England	on Sick leave
May	1868	North Arcot	Executive Engineer
August	"	Presidency	do
November	"	Kistna & Nellore	Superintending Engineer
May	1872	4th Division only acting for Col. Wilkinson	At my own repeated request, the Secretary to Government having previously said that he had a difficulty in replacing me.

251 of 26/3/72

Chingl. Supg. Engr. Office
Mount 7th March 1876

[illegible] Col. R.E.
Supg. Engr. Chingl. Dt.

Pl. 28 March 76 Ch. 458

Enclosed is a
letter from the Ship
Engineer Schuyler
to Lieut. Wood
Dist. Lighthouse Secretary
to Lieut. Wood
Light House Board
Washington D.C.

Pl. 1171/76

P.W. 1717/2/76

Endorsed in a letter from the Supt. Engineer Ohingleput District to the Secretary to Government P.W.D. No. 4793 dd 7th March 1876

P.G. 28 March 76 RW 456

List of papers put up -

9

G.O. 26th March/73 No. 251 Orig.l
" 23d March " " 819
" 6th June " " 1390.
" 1st March/73 " 662
" 28th " " 968
" 17th Novr " " 3814
" 28th July/74 " " 238
Extract from G.O. 20th Novr/73 No. 96.
G.O. 13th June/74 " 159
" 18th March/75 " 768B
" 2d April " 880
" 14th " " 1032
" 17th " " 1081.
" 12th Febry/76 " 384. Orig.l
" 4th March " " 589 Orig.l

Overseer Veenanagavoolvo Naik's case.

G.O. 29th Jany/74 No. 207 Orig.l
" 16th March " " 722 -"-
" 30th July " " 2062 -"-

Please turn over.

File relating to Coll. Moberly's removal from Trichinopoly District –

Gd 10th Septr/60 No 1901
Gd 24th Septr/60 No 1990
" 1st Octr " 2039
" 26th " " 2205
" 30th Novr " 2610
" 3rd Decr " 2480
" 18th March/61 " 547
" 13th June " 1088
Home Despatch of 15th June No 56 of 1861
Gd 15th Octr/61 No 1904
" 19th June/62 " 1403
Home Despatch of 25th July No 70 of 1862
Gd 6th Novr/62 No 2669
Home Despatch of 13th Novr No 101 of 1862

No 4793 Superintending Engineer's Office Chingl. Dt.
Mount 7th March 1876

From
The Superintending Engineer
Chingleput.

To
The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works.

Enclosures
2 Statements

Sir,

I have the honor respectfully to solicit the consideration of Government to the following remarks with reference to order No 384 of 12th ultimo.

2 When I joined the 4th Division in 1872, there were 4 regular ranges in the Chingleput District. The 1st consisted of the Ponery and Trivellore talugs, and a portion of Sydapett lying north of the Western road from Madras.

Mount Palaveram Poonamallee

3 The 2nd of the Sydapett Talug South of Madras, including the 3 Military cantonments and Guindy house. but the Western road was under the charge of the 3d Range

Officer, who had also the supervision of Conjeveram and Chingleput Talugs.

4 The 4th range was coterminous with the Madrantikam Talug.

5 Beside these 4 Range officers, there was a special officer for the Chembrambakam tank and its head works, distant 24 miles from it in the North Arcot district. and a 6th who had charge of the East Coast Canal, and the Madras Water Works.

6 In May 1872 Mr Lowry was removed from Chembrambakam to the 4th range; that large work being added to the Mount range.

By desire of the Sup. Engr. Ter G.O. No. 819 of 23rd March 1872.

7 In June 1872 the 3d and 4th ranges were joined together under Mr Lowry; and all the Sydapett talug was attached to the Mount range, to which in March 1873 was added the charge of the Madras Water Works. the Northern branch East Coast Canal was joined to the 1st, the Southern branch to the 3d range.

G.O. No. 1390 of 5th June 1872 - By express desire of the Collector.

G.O. No. 662 of 1st March 1873

8 In lieu of three officers thus

removed, 3 Supervisors were attached to the 3 talugs. I may observe that during the past 3 years all the officers have been changed.

9 Very little alteration has been made in numbers of establishment, but the classification and pay of members was so altered as between Superintending Engineer and District Engineer's offices that the efficiency of the latter was very much decreased.

The Mount Range Office was considerably strengthened.

10 In May 1872 a very heavy cyclone injured the district, followed by almost continuous rain till December, and an unusual storm of rain in February 1873; the District officers were in great difficulties as regarded the preservation of the revenue.

11 The Madras Water Works were seriously injured. the anicut was breached, the supply channel torn in pieces, the banks of both the Cholaveram and Red Hill tanks endangered by land slips.

12 The Kesaveram and Koratur anicuts supplying Chembrambakam tank were also breached, and but for openings made on

the high ground beyond its weirs the bank of that reservoir would probably have also given way.

13 Mr. Harington the Executive Engineer Mount Range was obliged in June 1873 by fatigue and ill health to give up his work, and went on privilege leave to England for 3 months. in reply to my application for an officer in his place I was desired to take charge of the range myself.

14 In G. O. No 3814 of 17th November 1873 a Committee was appointed to select sites for Ordnance buildings at the Mount; of this Captain A. C. Smith R.E. (then newly posted to the charge of the Mount Range instead of Mr. Harington) was nominated a member.

15 This Committee's report was forwarded by the Quarter Master General in March 1874 and in G. O. No 2214 of 14th July (Military Department) the Government suggested the employment of a special officer, in communicating this order to me Government in Department Public Works 31st July 1874 only placed Captain Smith and myself

myself on the Committee and desired that Captain Smith should prepare the plans.

16 In G. O. C. C No 96 of 20th November 1873 I was desired to attend a Committee assembled for the purpose of reporting on the accommodation required for the depot at Poonamallee. on their report G. O. No 159 of 13th June 1874 desired me to prepare the necessary plans and estimates for a barrack for 200 men, a hospital, 30 family quarters and other out buildings.

17 In May 1874 another cyclone fell upon the district again followed by unusual rain, continued into the regular North East monsoon. the works lately repaired after the injuries of 1872-73 again suffered, and I was kept in great anxiety by the condition of the large lakes above Madras. I had satisfied myself in 1873, that the means provided for the security of these works in exceptional falls of rain were quite insufficient. I had not statistics to carry

conviction to the mind of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

18 Finding Captain Smith after his experience of 1874 fully in accord with me, and having perfect confidence in his examination of these points, I left them to him, and undertook the preparation of the plans &a which in ordinary Departmental procedure would have been originally entrusted to him.

19 I had the same difficulties as in 1873 - even to the breaking down of my officers. Mr Bowyer Smyth whose survey I counted upon partly for Captain Smith, partly for 3d range requirements, fell ill, and was obliged to go to England. Mr Lowry Executive Engineer 3d range was quite knocked up, and, I was compelled on the 16th June 1875 by the state of his health, to allow him 3 months privilege leave, and to undertake his work in addition to my own.

20 Sub Engineer Donaghue relieved me of the range on 29th July 1875, When Mr Lowry

returned on 14th September Mr Donaghue took up Mr Bowyer Smyths work - but on the 6th November 1875 was sent by me to relieve Captain Taylor, remanded to Military duty - this arrangement was again altered by Mr Lowry's removal to Salem. Mr Donaghue's posting to Chingleput, and Lieutenant Smithers' to Sirulur, vice Captain Taylor.

21 The accompanying statement will shew the expenditure made in Chingleput, 4 other districts which are entered in the 1st class, and the Presidency in Chief Engineer's Memo No 221 of 14th November 1872 this district is entered as 3d class, but in G.O. No 965 of 28th March 1873 it has been raised temporarily to 2d class, till the large irrigation works are finished. I have selected these districts because for some reason they have been placed in a higher class and better position as regards establishment than Chingleput.

In the Presidency though the work is much the same, under the designation of district, as it was under that of a range; its establishment has been increased by 2 officers lately, and the office increased in 1872 from 10 men drawing Rs 430
to 11 " 520.

22 I beg to urge that the irrigation revenue of this Tringhut district stands very high; that its Military works are exceeded only by the Presidency, Bangalore, and Bellary. in the first of which there are no roads. in neither is there much in the form of irrigation works.

23 With all this work burdening me, I undertook the preparation of the plans for the new buildings at Poonamallee. every sketch was drawn with my own hands, and my rough papers were submitted first to the members of the local Committee by whom they were approved, and afterwards, at my own

own request, to Army Head Quarters. I make bold to say that the objections made by Doctors Massy and Gordon were originally owing to misunderstanding of the design, and their not having acquaintance with the site and the difficulties caused by it.

24 In my No. 827 of 5th June 1875 I pointed out the state of affairs at Poonamallee, and left the decision to Surgeon General Gordon, particularly stating that I had no personal interest in the arrangements, and wished to carry out his instructions. His general approval has been accorded to the original design, very slightly modified by the introduction of a window or door between each bed, instead of each pair of beds, and the removal by a few feet of the passage to the latrines.

[illegible] No. 1032 of 4th April 1875

25 That officer pointed out certain arrangements of sanitation, and referred me to a pamphlet of Suggestions which I had not heard of, and borrowed from him. The design for a ridge ventilating shutter was complicated, I therefore had a drawing

carefully made, and sent it to the Superintendent Public Works Workshops with a request that he would estimate for it.

26 The shaft ventilator. I proposed to use in a very simple manner, by omitting such portions of the wall as would afford the means of inlet and exit for air; I did not think it necessary to have any shutters valves &c as the whole would be under cover.

27 I cannot account for the extraordinary mistake which I have made in placing its inlet near the floor instead of the roof of the room. I would respectfully observe that the very grossness of the mistake should shew that it was an oversight, committed in the press of work. I cannot but think that if the plan had been returned to me, I should have seen the error.

28 As regards the roof I would point out that you had condemned the modified Bengal roof, flat tiles and lime terrace, which I had proposed; that Surgeon General Gordon had urged the necessity, or strong advisability of having a ridge ventilator, and

and with this opinion in my mind I misread your No 297 of 18th March 1875 as allowing me to build with the ordinary terrace. I quite overlooked the word flat. If I had noticed it, I should have felt that under the circumstances I had no alternative but to provide an ordinary tiled roof, which I objected to only because the soldiers are likely frequently to use the tiles as missiles, and so to injure the roof.

29 I would urge that the very openness of my entries in the estimate prove that they were made through oversight; and not from any perverse disobedience, which must have been discovered immediately but in any case I must respectfully but strongly deny having had any such intention.

30 I beg to observe that the plans and estimates for the barracks, family quarters &c &c, are all nearly ready, and have cost me a great deal of personal trouble and time, early in the morning

and late each evening - and that I have also been called on to design a school of agriculture at Lydapett Farm, and a Residence for the Superintendent, the rough drawings of which I have had also to prepare.

31 I am further charged with similarly opposing the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and the Local Fund Board.

I can most conscientiously say that any discussion that I have raised was from honest motives. As I have said in para 17 above I was not satisfied with our arrangements for discharging floods. I stated my views to the Chief Engineer; on his overruling them I prepared tables to facilitate calculations according to his theory; these tables have been issued by Colonel Mullins to the Department generally Circular No 66. I believe I am right in saying that their publication, raising doubts in other officers minds, and the experience of 1874, have induced Colonel Mullins to reopen the question.

See Circular No 73

32 I at any rate, have received his instructions to provide even more than

I

I asked of means for discharging floods through the large lakes &c.

33 I found a very lax system of irrigation estimating in the district when I came. I was obliged to allow its continuance for a short time in consequence of the cyclone. my endeavours to introduce an improved method were resisted by the Range officers, who were anxious to get the tanks into condition to afford a revenue. in this resistance they were, I would respectfully submit, strengthened by the action of Government who restored Overseer Veeraraganalu Naidu, whom I had dismissed for making fraudulent entries as to the repair of breaches which did not exist.

34 It is true that he was dismissed afterwards, but it was on Captain Smiths representation of the same facts, and the feeling was, and is strong in the district, that unless I was supported by my Range Officers I should be powerless. As referring to this point I would ask attention to G.O.

No 1224 of 1st May 1875 in which I was desired to prepare estimates for roads with my own hands, because my Range Officer (Mr Lowry) would not do his duty. He had executed work differently from the plans sanctioned and delayed giving any reasons for his action. I respectfully submit that he should have been censured.

35 Mr Lowry took very great advantage of this, and after having returned his estimates several times, I was at last obliged to forward them to the Chief Engineer. I was possibly wrong in not mentioning the circumstances to Colonel Mullins officially, but I was anxious to avoid injury to Mr Lowry a man older than myself. Colonel Mullins' remarks on the estimates, had the desired effect, as more care was paid to the preparation of papers afterwards. it must be remembered that a considerable number were sent in to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation

before any objections were received; even now Lieutenant Smither, who has just joined the district, has complained of unnecessary strictness on my part, as unknown to him in a service of many years.

36 I feel confident that Colonel Mullins will acquit me of such motives as perverse or factious opposition. I have received all instructions with respect, and loyally carried them out to the best of my ability.

37 As ex officio member and professional adviser of the Local Fund Board, I gave my opinions on matters proposed for discussion. on more than one occasion these were written, in order that members who understood but little English might read them when in circulation. I submit that in reporting me to Government as obstructing progress

the President interfered with my independence as a member. I carefully refrained from any direction of the works as my action might have been misinterpreted.

38 Facts have however shewn that I was right. The Chingleput Circle Board which was most strongly opposed to the manage=ment of works by the Department Public Works have given up all other agents. I expect shortly to hear that the Lydapett Circle Board have come to the same opinion.

39 In the latter the experiment was made of employing contractors directly under the Board to avoid the heavy charge (as it was considered) of 25 percent for Depart=ment Public Works supervision. and not on account of any difference with the Department Public Works or disapproval of their work. this fact has been distinctly stated by the President &c.

40 The Chingleput Board have expressed their dissatisfaction at the small expenditure on new roads; but in the first place my revised estimates, obtained with great difficulty from Mr Lowry, submitted in April 1875 have been returned sanctioned only in January February 1876. secondly Mr Lowry's treatment of his subordinates was harsh, and progress was much delayed in consequence.

41 Since his removal, contractors have applied largely for work and I have every reason to believe that in a few months more, roads will be com=pleted which were behind hand before

42 I have travelled largely over all parts of the district, and have acquired a knowledge of topographical details which I believe no other officer in the Department has had the opportunity of gaining. I have had great trouble in getting matters properly examined, and properly executed, and if I am removed I shall lose all the fruit of my labour, and the Government of my experience.

43 I beg attention to the enclosed statement of appointments that I have held; when I complained of the short tenure of several of these offices not allowing me to see the issue of my plans and arrangements, I was on several occasions told that my professional superiors were satisfied, and that I was sent to my new post to introduce the same arrangements or to design works which others had delayed.

The proofs of these assertions are not forthcoming

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
F. J. Moberly. Colonel R.E.
Superintending Engineer
Chingleput.

Please see for put up papers in the list annexed with this

P. W. 1876 Dept
Trans.
The Sup. Gen. Engineer
Chingleput Dt.
No. 1717
To,
The Secy. to Govt.
Public Works Dept.

Dated 7th
Rec'd 8th March 1876
No. 4793

Submits for the consideration of Government certain remarks with reference to their order transferring him to Tinnevelly.

P.G. 28 March 76 RV 456

R-C 13-3-76 R 28-3-76
Cir 11-3-76 R 13-3-76

Colonel Moberly's explanation is submitted with the following Notes.

Paras. 1 to 9. The arrangements made were mainly in accordance with the suggestions of the Sup. Eng. & Collector. The Mount Range Establishment was considerably strengthened. The number of Officers & Subordinates maintained at Six. And Col. Moberly's own charge reduced from that of 2 Districts to 1 only.

Paras. 10 to 16. See marginal notes in pencil.

Paras 17 to 22. Contain general remarks.

Paras 23 to 30. The call of G.O. No. 159 of 13th June 1874, having resulted in the Court in Chief's appeal to Govt. against Col. Moberly's perversely, recorded in G.O

No. 1032 of 14th April 1875, the correspondence embodied in that Order, and Ch. Engr's Memo. with G.O. No. 384 of 12th Feby dispose of these paras. The papers finally sent up by Col. Moberly in Nov. 1875 showed no signs of care, such as might have been expected from the delay in supplying them, & the paras he states to have been taken in their preparation.

Paras 31 to 36. Col. Mullins can best deal with these generally and with para 17. But the misstatements regarding the action of Govt. in the matter of Overseer Veerarangavoloo Naidu will be evident from perusal of the Original files of G.O. No. 207 of 29th Jany 1874 & —— 722 — 16th Mar —— Immediately that inefficiency was proved against

the man the Govt dismissed him; they only protected him against harsh treatment when certified to be suffering from a dangerous complaint.

Paras 37 to 41. Do not agree with representations of Local Fund Boards up to date.

Para. 42. No amount of local knowledge will ~~at~~ counterbalance an evil spirit of disputation.

Para. 43. and Statement referred to therein. The value of the laudatory assertions made in the above, may be estimated from the file relating to Col. Moberly's removal from the Trichinopoly District in 1860. That the censures of Govt. and of the Secy of State were ever cancelled is not true; G.O. No. 1403 of 19th June 1862 compassionately relieved him of

further penalty, under wh. his behaviour seems to have improved. So it may now, while suffering from the consequences of past perverseness; the slightest favour shewn will however lead to relapse. As in November 1865, he had to be degraded from the rank of Sup Eng., and removed from the Dept.

—

Major General Walker's personal experiences of Col. Moberly are, (1) That in 1853 Col. M's ~~his~~ work was not giving satisfaction to Col. J. C. Cotton under whom he was then employed in the Godavery — (2) That in 1862 when he succeeded Colonel Moberly in South Canara, he found Public Works at a stand still, and Establishments at sixes & sevens — (3). That he had a very bad time of it when Col. Moberly was placed under

his orders as Executive Engineer from Nov. 1865 till June 1866. and (4) That Col. Moberly has given no satisfaction to any Dept. for which he has had to plan or carry out work, during the 4 years that Major General Walker has held his present Appointment.

G. W. Walker, Major Genl.
Secy to Govt. D.P.W.

11.3.76.

Major Montgomerie appointed to relieve Col. Moberly has reported his arrival at Madras this day —

[illegible]

Ans 11-3-76 [illegible] 3-3-76

[illegible]

[illegible] Moberly's Case

Hon. R. [illegible]
Hon. S. W. [illegible]
[illegible]

[illegible]

Pg 28 March 76 Rt 450

[illegible]

No. 790 d/20th [illegible]

43

39

on first circulation of the case

I have already noted at considerable length on Col Moberly's removal to another District which I deprecate because this removal was ~~equally~~ based on alleged persevering insubordination to the Chief Engineer as shown in his deviations from instructions given to him in preparing plans for the Military Hospital at Poonamalee I do not think Col

I pass by the mistake as regards the ventilation wh. I believe, from its nature, to have been purely accidental

R.H.

[illegible]

No. 490 d/ 28th ...

43

41

Moberly intended to be insubordinate - He was firmly of opinion that a particular form of roof was the best suited for this building & kept it in the plan. He was wrong no doubt in doing this - but he knew the plan must go through the Chief Engineers hands before it was finally sanctioned - when the correction, if still held necessary could be made. and surely the

Colonel Moberly is deaf to everything but a peremptory order - and that he tries to evade -

Gen

punishment proposed wh involves a very heavy expense to Col Moberly (who has a large family & has recently met with severe domestic affliction) is excessive

on going through these papers again I am struck with the want of personal communication between the Chief Engineer and Col Moberly. Col Moberly lives close by - and I am convinced that this case would never have come before the Govt if Col Moberly had been sent for, the point at issue discussed - and advice and assistance offerred by the Chief Engineer - Col Moberly has very heavy work to get through and it would have been much better if the design had

been prepared by the Civil Architect ~~and~~ or ~~f~~ in the Chief Engineer's office —. ~~Because~~ Col Moberly is an old officer. he is not idle — he is not incompetent. but he has an unfortunate disposition* which requires some tact to turn to useful account. In proof that this may be done I have enquired from W. Melville. Acg Collector of Chinglesput and he assured me that Col Moberly, with a little management ~~was~~ is in no way obstructive & that he has found him a willing colleague on the Local Fund Board & very hardworking — The same is told me by

* he is exceedingly confident in himself RLE

Mr Bonlow the pre-manent member will kindly confirm this. GMM

a large family & has recently met affliction) is expensive

43

the Examiner of Public Accounts who found Col Moberly most willing after personal explanation to work cordially & well with him. I think Col Mullins will bear favorable testimony to Col Moberly's industry & good intentions —

Hill is pawed with them

Note

* I of course must bear my share of the blame of this * having passed many of the Secretary's drafts — generally with much modification of harsh expressions. RLE

* I think Col Moberly has been too constantly (& with unnecessary severity sometimes —) been reprimanded on paper, when he might have, with

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45 47

much advantage, been communicated with personally. — I do not follow General Walker in his criticisms on Col Moberly's letter of explanation. I do not think the tone of his remarks generous — nor is there any necessity to revert to events which have occurred so long ago as 16 years. For any transgressions

Sent Walker [illegible] just before he comb[illegible] generous — Once his [illegible] is respected he bears no ill will [illegible]

same is told me by

of that period Col Moberly was quite sufficiently punished. —

I feel satisfied that the ~~[illegible]~~ persistence shown by Col Moberly in the matter of the Poonamalee Barracks was not meant as "insubordination" — and that it will be amply met by a reprimand ~~which~~ I shall feel greatly relieved if such a course is

note

× I venture to suggest that this would be most effectually done by His Grace the Governor — [illegible]

considered possible
by my hon'ble Colleagues. and Iventure to press
a reconsideration of the
decision of Govt. feeling
certain that the removal
of Col Moberly
to Tinnevelly will not
be for the good of the
public service - and
that Col Moberly can
be more usefully employed
in the Chingleput
district Wll

13 March 76

I think that these
letters ol^d go to
H. Grace after
Mr Ellis
16/3 Wll

Pl 28 March 76 Pt 456

Same is told me by

M.R.O. 1 9-48.

Read letter
from the D. E. Chingleput -

No 790 d/28th March 1876 -
47
No 4793 - 27 March - 1876.

His Grace the Govr. in Council
resolves to cancel the
order directing Col Moberly
R.E. to proceed forthwith
to take charge of the Tin-
-nevelly Dist:
Since the question of
removing Col Moberly from
the Chingleput District
was raised, it has become
apparent to His Grace
the Govr in Council that
considerable changes are
required in the system

Bol d/12th Feby/76 No 384

Wll
28/3

of preparing the designs and estimates and the appropriation of the monies for Public works in this Presidency, and under these circumstances, it may be well, with a view to avoid unnecessary changes that Col Moberly's removal should not now take place, but that the question of when and how ~~[illegible]~~ he can be best employed ~~best employed~~ for the

public service, ~~for~~ further considered when the orders ~~[illegible]~~ of Govt, ~~[illegible]~~ on the questions above referred to, shall have been given.

D. E. Chingleput
M. S. Dispd = 28.3.76
S Copies Dispd 4 Apl 76

same is told me by

Very
Urgent
Draft GO.
on Col Moberly's case

K-M-S

Read 6 P.M.

Pg 28 March 76 Bk 456–457

[illegible] 456

Same is told me by

[illegible]

1717

Govt. of {1876} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

urgent Sr. Engr.

29/3 Chingleput

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 28 Mar 1876, No. 791

Nos. 456-457.

Col. F. J. Moberly R.E.

The order directing the transfer of — to the Minervally District, can be called.

Sub. in Regr. 6/4.