

(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. 1116	(W)	Press ~~Mrs.~~
Dated	4-4-	1877.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

15

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No 1,116.*

Read the following papers —

✓ No 37 From Colonel A S MOBERLY, R E, District Engineer, Cuddapah, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Camp, Poolavandla, 22nd February 1877, No 2,671

I HAVE the honor to submit, for the orders of Government, the accompanying original correspondence. It seems to me that the Inspecting Postmaster, Nellore Division, has quite forgotten himself, the Post Office at Cuddapah had been handed over to the Public Works Department for repair, and so Mr Theobalds had no business to be occupying it, and I have now written to him and requested him to vacate it.

2 If Mr Theobalds had any complaint to make about the work he could have seen me on the 9th or 10th of this month, when I was in Cuddapah, or have written to me about it.

From Mr C SETON, Sub-Engineer in charge, Cuddapah Range, to Colonel A S MOBERLY, R E, District Engineer, Cuddapah, dated Camp, Ippentah, 17th February 1877, No 573

I do myself the honor to forward, for such notice as you may deem proper, an original letter from the Inspecting Postmaster, Nellore Division, No 5,557, and dated the 15th instant.

2 To understand Mr. Theobalds' complaint correctly, it is necessary to submit a few preliminary observations.

3 When the repairs to the Cuddapah Post Office were taken in hand, about three weeks since, we found Mr. Theobalds in possession of the premises—occupying the building in fact as his dwelling house. No effort on our part was made to disturb or inconvenience his family or himself, and the contractor went on with the preparation and collection of the required materials. During this period I received more than one report of Mr Theobalds' interference, and on the evening of the 5th I went down to the office by special request of the Inspector, who said he had objections to the work being carried out.

4 On this occasion the objection raised was that the amount of the estimate was not sufficient, and I was informed that if any attempt was made to remove the roof of the front room the whole building would collapse. I considered attentively all that was said, and saw no

I was in Cuddapah from 9th to 11th, but heard nothing either from Mr Seton or Mr Theobalds.
(Signed) A S M

reason to delay the work. Had I done so I could at once have freed myself from all responsibility by referring to you, as you came into Cuddapah a day or two afterwards.

5 On this occasion Mr Theobalds spoke very improperly of the department—talked about his twelve year's experience in it, and of the rotten work he had seen executed during that time. I might then have noticed his objectionable language, but knowing his bumptious disposition, I thought his opposition would be disarmed by courtesy and attention, and I was not prepared for the active opposition which he now defends.

6 I visited the Post Office twice on the morning of the 15th. On the first occasion I was not informed of the Inspector's active interference, but subsequently Mr André, the contractor, told me of the stoppage of the work, and he requested Mr Theobalds to come and see me. I met him in the front room, and said "I understand you have stopped the contractor's coolies from going on with the work." He said, yes, and that he expected the Postmaster-General to inspect the building. I said, "don't you think it was right to inform me of your objections before you stopped the execution of work under my charge, and prevent the work-people from

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4th April 1877. No. 1,116.*

obeying my orders." He replied, "you were not here and I cannot permit such humbugging work and estimates to be carried out." I then left the building with the contractor, and told Mr Theobald I could not listen to such language. I expected him to vacate the building and not delay the work any longer. Thus he said he would not do, and I told him I would expect his written report for obstructing my work. This is all that occurred.

7. Considering what had occurred on the previous occasion, I deemed myself quite justified in refusing to listen to Mr Theobald's objectionable language in the presence of contractor and subordinates, and that I would have been wanting in self respect and dignity to uphold my position had I done so.

8. I now respectfully beg to make a few brief observations on the tone and language used in the enclosed letter. There is not a single statement contained in it with which I was not previously acquainted, and after due consideration to everything said I see no reason to delay the work. I stayed purposely in Cuddapah yesterday to accompany the Postmaster-General over the building, but was informed on my visit yesterday morning that he had arrived and again left the station, at which information I was very much disappointed, as I am certain he would not uphold his Inspector's conduct after receiving my explanation of what was being done.

9. After a careful perusal of the Inspector's complaint, I fail to gather any suggestions of what he requires, it is just the same when he has been spoken to on the subject, he merely harps on the same point, viz., that the estimate is not large enough.

10. Even if the statement contained in paragraph 3 was correct (which I do not admit), the work in execution could not possibly be a loss to Government, and I suppose from this that the Inspector is imperfectly acquainted with the nature of the repairs proposed, and I cannot accept the excuse contained in paragraph 4 as a justification of the Inspector's conduct to write to me, for as my camp was only 5 miles off a letter would have reached me in an hour.

11. The whole of paragraph 6 is, I think, couched in most objectionable language. I have explained my reasons for not listening to the Inspector in paragraph 7, and it is evident from his written report that he had no information to give with which I was not acquainted. I could not possibly listen to his objectionable language in the presence of my subordinates unmoved, and if I had been rude enough to disturb the equanimity of an officer of Government in official intercourse, I would have taken the opportunity to apologise and refrain from making it the subject of an official report. I am therefore glad to say that I said nothing or did anything at which the Inspector could take offence, and had he been actuated by the feelings becoming his position he would have taken advantage of his written report to express regret at the language used by him.

12. The interference of the Inspector and his refusal to vacate the Post Office has caused considerable delay in repairing the building, and will probably deter the contractor from finishing the work in time to abide by his agreement, or else cause him to hurry over the work and do it in an unsatisfactory manner.

13. In conclusion I respectfully request your approval of the course pursued by me.

From Mr H D THEOBALDS, Inspecting Postmaster, No 10 Ins. Bn. to the Range Officer, Department Public Works, Cuddapah, dated Cuddapah, 15th February 1877, No 5,537.

I have the honor to inform you that on returning from Cuddapah, on the evening of the 12th instant, I found workmen engaged stripping the terrace of the Post Office. I was aware they would have commenced work as soon as the necessary order had been issued, and the receipt of terrace bricks before long.

2. Owing to my detention here, by order of the Postmaster-General, I was not able to see the vacant back rooms, everything was covered over with the same dirt. I therefore desired the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No 1,116.*

workmen to stop, perhaps a few minutes earlier than they would have themselves brought their day's work to a close.

3. However, such work of picking out terrace as they did revealed cracks and bad work in other places, and for which, as far as I understand, the small repair estimate now in hand does not provide for putting to rights, and the building would thus again be in an unsafe condition for occupation, and the working out of the present estimate would be a loss to Government, as most probably some of the work intended now would have to be pulled down in doing other repairs.

4. I was led to understand that you would have returned from Chint Commadunny on the 13th. You had not returned on that day or on the day following, I was therefore unable to communicate with you, as in a matter like this your presence only would have ensured your correctly judging. Anyhow, your absence prevented me informing you before you appeared yourself.

5. I was expecting the Postmaster-General yesterday, and wished to show him what he was to expect after the repair estimate, Rupees 240, was carried out. He did not come, but may by this evening or to-morrow, when I hope he will see matters more in skeleton, and judge whether it would be worthwhile carrying out present estimate.

6. I regret you should have put yourself out of temper this morning instead of listening to the reasonableness of my action, and particularly so when I informed you that it was desirable the head of my department, who was hourly expected, should see the place himself and decide, as with me the Postmaster-General would naturally evince a desire that Government money should not be wasted, and the lives of the Post Office subordinates jeopardised again.

7. You thrust the responsibility of my action upon me. I accepted of it pending arrival of the Postmaster-General, and it therefore not a little surprised me to see that you ordered the workmen to go on with their work of picking out the terracing.

No 517.

REFERRED to the Postmaster-General.

(By order)

(Signed) W. FAREWELL, Colonel,
Acting Joint Secretary to Government,
Buildings and Roads Branch

FORT ST GEORGE,
1st March 1877

No 37-A From H G TURNER, Esq, Acting Postmaster-General, to the Acting Joint Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch, dated Madras, 14th March 1877, No 11,886—972

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence forwarded with your No 517, dated 1st March 1877. I cannot too strongly express my dissatisfaction at the language which Mr Theobalds used in describing the nature of the work undertaken by the Public Works Department on the Cuddapah Post Office.

2. But although I deprecate the nature of the language, I must say that I entirely agree with him in thinking that the work itself is likely to prove useless, and to cause a waste of Government money. I personally inspected the Post Office, and I think that the repairs contemplated are wholly inadequate, and I have instructed the Inspector not to take over charge of the building from the Public Works Department unless the repairs are more efficiently carried out than they now promise to be.

(20)

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th April 1877. No. 1,116

No. 33.

ORDER THEREON, 4th April 1877, No. 1,116

CIVIL WORKS, No. 5.

RECORDED and communicated to the
District Engineer, Cuddapah, who will
submit a further report with regard to

paragraph 2 of the Postmaster-General's letter.

(True Extract.)

Colonel,
Acting Joint Secy. to Govt, P.W.D.,
Buildings and Roads Branch.

No 573 of 1876-77

17 February 1877

From
The Officer in charge
Cuddapah Range
Of
The District Engineer
Cuddapah.

Sir

Enc 1

I do myself the honor to forward
for such notice as you may deem proper
an original letter from the Inspecting Post
Master, Bellare Division No 5557 and dated
the 15th Instant.

I understand Mr. Theobald's complaint.
correctly it is necessary to submit a few pre-
liminary observations.

When the repairs to the Cuddapah Post Office
were taken in hand, about 3 weeks since we
found Mr. Theobald in possession of the premises
occupying the building in fact as his dwelling house.
No effect on our part was made to disturb or
inconvenience his family or himself, and the
contractor went on with the preparation and
collection of the required materials. During this
period I received more than one report of Mr.
Theobald's interference, and on the evening of the
(20)

5th I went down to the Office by Special request of the Inspector, who said he had objections to the work being carried out.

4. On this occasion the objection raised was that the amount of the Estimate was not sufficient and I was informed that if any attempt was made to remove the roof of the front room, the whole building would collapse, I considered attentively all that was said, and saw no reason to delay the work.

Had I done so I could at once have ^{excused} myself from all responsibility by referring to you, as you command Lensofah as my or two afterwards.

5. On this occasion Mr. Sheehals spoke very improperly of the Department, talked about his twelve years experience in it, and of the rotten work he had seen executed during that time.

I might then have noticed his objectionable language, but, knowing his presumptuous disposition, I thought his opposition would be disarmed by courtesy and attention, and I was not prepared for the actual opposition which he now defends.

6. I visited the Post Office twice on the morning of the 15th - on the first occasion I was not informed of the Inspector's action interfered. Subsequently Mr. Andrie the contractor told me of the stoppage of the work, and he requested Mr. Sheehals to come and see me. I met him in the front room, and said "I understand you have stopped the

I was in Gaddagel from 17th to 18th but had nothing to do from 18th to 19th - 11th Sheehals

11th 11th

contractor's coolies from going on with the work. He said Yes, and that he expected the Postmaster General to inspect the building, I said "don't you think it was right to inform me of your objections before you stopped the execution of work under my charge, and prevent the work people from obeying my orders?" He replied "You were not here, and I cannot permit such humbugging work and Estimates to be carried out." I then left the building with the contractor, and told Mr. Sheehals I could not listen to such language. I expected him to vacate the building and not delay the work any longer. This he said he would not do, and I told him I would expect his written report for obstructing my work. This is all that occurred.

7. Considering what had occurred on the previous occasion, I deemed myself quite justified in refusing to listen to Mr. Sheehals's objectionable language in the presence of the contractor and Subordinate, and that I ^{would} ~~must~~ have been wanting in self respect and dignity to uphold my position, had I done so.

8. I now respectfully beg to make a few brief observations on the tone and language used in the enclosed letter. There is not a single statement

contained in it with which I was not previously acquainted and after due consideration to every thing said I see no reason to delay the work. I stayed purposely in Jerusalem yesterday to receive the amount. ^{Get the} General over the building, that I was informed on my visit yesterday morning that he had arrived and again left the station, a to which would be I am certain he would not uphold his Inspector's conduct after receiving my explanation of what had I was being done.

from at 9. After a careful perusal of the Inspector's Complainant, I fail to gather any suggestion of what he requires; it is just the same when he has been informed of the subject, he merely harps on the same point viz that the Estimate is ^{not} large enough.

10. Even if the Statement contained in para 8 was correct, (which I do not admit) the work in execution could not possibly be a loss to Government, and I suppose from this that the Inspector is imperfectly acquainted with the nature of the repairs proposed, and I cannot accept the reasons contained in para 8 as a justification of the Inspector's omission to write to me, for as my camp was only 5 miles off, a letter would have reached me in an hour.

11. The whole of para 6 is I think couched in most objectionable language. I have explained (V.C.)

my reasons for not listening to the Inspector in para 7. and it is evident from his written report that he had no information to give, with which I was not acquainted. I could not possibly listen to his objectionable language in the presence of my Subordinates unmoved, and if I had been good enough to disturb the equanimity of an Officer of Government, in Official intercourse, I would have taken the opportunity to apologise and refrained from making it the subject of an official report. I am therefore glad to say that I said nothing or did anything at which the Inspector could take offence, and had he been actuated by the feelings becoming his position he would have taken advantage of his written report to express regret at the language used by him.

12. The interference of the Inspector and his refusal to vacate the Port Office, has caused considerable delay in repairing the building and will probably delay the contractor from finishing the work in time to abide by his agreement, or else cause him to hurry over the work and do it in an unsatisfactory manner.

13. In conclusion I respectfully request
 Your approval of the course pursued by me.
 I have the honor to be

Sir
 Your most obedient servant

Charles Selow
 Sub Engineer in charge
 Cuddapah Barracks

General N^o 2671
 From
 I

Cuddapah District Engineer's
 Office Camp Poolamandla
 Dated 22nd February 1877.
 Des^{ts} 24th 69
 The District Engineer
 of Cuddapah

The Chief Engineer
 Roads and Buildings

Sir
 I have the honor to submit for the orders
 of Government, the accompanying original
 correspondence. It seems to me that the Inspecting
 Postmaster Nellore Division has quite forgotten
 himself; the Post office at Cuddapah had
 been handed over to the Public works Department
 for repair and so Mr. Thorbold had no business
 to be occupying it and I have now written to
 him and requested him to vacate it.
 2. If Mr. Thorbold had any complaint to
 make about the work he could have seen me on
 the 9th or 10th of this month when I was in
 Cuddapah or have written to me about it.

I have the honor to be
 Sir
 Your most obedient servant

A. M. Selow Col. R.E.
 District Engineer Cuddapah

Comp^d P. P.

b. 37

20573 of 1876/77
 The Office in which
 the Correspondence
 is kept
 Cuddapah Barracks
 22nd Feb 1877
 Charles Selow
 Sub Engineer in charge
 Cuddapah Barracks

POSTMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE
Madras 14 March 1877

No 11886

972

To

The Joint Secretary
to Government
Buildings & Roads
Madras

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence forwarded with your No. 517 dated 1st March 1877. I cannot too strongly express my dissatisfaction at the language which Mr. Theobalds used in describing the nature of the work undertaken by the Public Works Department on the Cuddalore Post office.

But although I deprecate the nature of the language, I must say that I entirely agree with him in thinking that the work itself is likely to prove useless and to cause a waste

2040

changed to 2040

From
The District Engineer
of Madras
To
The Joint Secretary
Buildings & Roads
Madras
Dated 1st March 1877
Enclosed for
Post Office Inspector
Towards the correspondence
between the Engineer and
the District Engineer
Madras & District Division
about the
orders

No. 517
Referred to
the Joint Secretary
General

by order
W. M. Theobalds
Acting Joint Secretary
Buildings & Roads

For L. S. George
1st March 1877

No. 37

the waste of Government money. I per-
sonally inspected the Post office and
I think that the repairs contemplated
are wholly inadequate and I have
instructed the Inspector not to
take over charge of the building from
the Public Works Department unless
the repairs are more efficiently carried
out than they now promise to be.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt Servt

W. J. Turner

Ag Postmaster General

2771

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Read the following —

Letter from the District Engineer Cuddalore
No. 2671 dated 22^d Feb. 1877

FOR ORDERS.

Wm. H. Colonel
Adj. Genl. Secy. to Govt.
P.W.D.

No. 11886

No. 11886
972

The Postmaster General,

MADRAS

The paid drawing
of the building
for the
Postmaster General

Dated 14 Decr. 1877.

Received 1877

SUBJECT

Report on the status
of the language used by
the students and
teachers, that the work
of the school is
being so likely to
be done.

Ch. Secy. 4/19 8/16. Harp.

10. 37A

10. 37A

FOR ORDERS.

Ct. d. 517 of 1. March 77.

Referred to the Post
Master General, Madras

By order of

H. J. Lanevell
By J. H. Lee
A.D.O.

(u) d. c. f. a. l.

2771
2040/3352

Referred

Cir

No 1116

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 4 April 77
Read the following

From the S. Eng. Cuddapah (H.E. No 2671 of 22 Feb 77)
" Post Master General (— 11886 of 14 March 77)

Recorded and com-
municated to the Dis-
trict Engineer, Cuddapah,
who will submit a further
report with regard to para-
2 of the Post Master
General's letter
22.3.77

S.P.

S. Eng. Cuddapah ✓
Lt. Dept ✓ d. 20-4-77

W. A. P.

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Ct. of 1877
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The H. B. Cuddalore

Post
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G O H. April 1877, No 116

Nos. 37-38

East India Co.

Post Office at Cuddalore
Correspondence on the
subject of the faulty
construction of the
bridge to the District
of Angkor for submission
of a further report