

(1) Number of pages 22

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	465	Press
		Mis.
Dated	21. 7.	18 77

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

21st July 1877, No. 465 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers:—

- No. 297. Proceedings in the Revenue Department, dated 23rd June 1877, No. 2,090-A.
- No. 297-A. Endorsement in the Revenue Department, dated 5th July 1877.
- No. 297-B. Letter from the District Engineer, Salem, dated 6th July 1877, No. 42 S.L.
- No. 297-C. Endorsement in the Revenue Department, dated 14th July 1877.

No. 298. ORDER THEREON, 21st July 1877, No. 465 W.

Mr. Epps' services will be dispensed with at once. Considering the gravity of the charges against Mr. Epps it is not understood why he was not dismissed in anticipation of the orders of Government. A separate report on the question of the accounts will be awaited. But the District Engineer is at liberty to proceed against Mr. Epps at once if he has good evidence of any fraudulent dealings on his part.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Salem.
„ Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
„ Revenue Department.

Exd. T. D. Ryan.
Spare Copies

112

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

23rd June 1877, No. 2,090-A.

Famine Relief.

Read the following paper:—

No. 508-A. Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 7th June 1877.

Read the following letter from C. T. LONGLEY, Esq., Collector of Salem, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated 1st June 1877, S. N. No. 309-1690.

THE Pennagondapuram Irrigation Project in the sub-division (the estimates, &c., of which were sanctioned in G.O., No. 923, dated 3rd March last) is now carried out by the Public Works Department, and its execution is entrusted to Mr. Epps, Special Relief Officer appointed by Government, and whose services have been placed at the disposal of the District Engineer; and on the recommendation of the Executive Engineer an Assistant on Rs. 100 has been appointed to aid him. As this officer was not appointed in the regular manner by the Public Works Department, he is not considered to belong to the Public Works Department Establishment, and his pay will not be paid from the Public Works Department Funds. I have therefore the honor to request that the Board of Revenue will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to his employment, so that his pay from the Civil Department may be passed by the Accountant-General.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 508-B.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1877, No. 2,090-A.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council resolves to direct that the work on the Pennagondapuram Project be carried out by the Public Works Department.

2. Mr. Epps will be borne on the Public Works Department Establishment for that purpose, as also any Assistant whom it may be found necessary to employ under him.

3. G.O., 11th May 1877, No. 1,695-B, is cancelled.

4. The papers will be transferred to the Public Works Department in order that effect may be given to these orders.

(True Extract.)


Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Public Works Department.
" the Accountant-General.
" the Financial Department.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.

20 Spare Copies

Madras Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
Road Proceedings Board
of Revenue dated 7 June 1877 No 2616
on the following letter from the Col. of
Salem dated 1 June 1877 No 309
1690

When Pennagundapuram Irrigation
project in the Sub-Division (the extent
of which was sanctioned in G.O.
No 923 dated 3rd March last) is
now carried out by the D.P.W.
and its execution is entrusted to
Mr. Epps, Special Relief Officer
appointed by Government and
whose services have been placed
at the disposal of the District
Engineer, and on the recommenda-
tion of the Executive Engineer
an Assistant on Rs 100 has
been

11/12 July 1877

P.W.D.

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No 572

Cottam Divisional Office,
Pernagondapuram, 21st June
1877

From

The Executive Engineer

Cottam Division

To

The District Engineer

of Salem

Sir,

In continuation of my D.O.
of the 16th and 18th instant, I have
now the honor to forward a statement
of the accounts of this work as I find
them, from which you will perceive
that the cost of the work done has
been excessive, and that the Super-
intending, Mr. J. Epps, has to
say the least, been guilty of serious
irregularities. The work done which consists of
earthwork and a little puddle

LC 21st July 77, LB No 297

is fairly good, but it will be seen that the former has cost $3\frac{1}{4}$ annas per cubic yard which is very high indeed, as the soil wherever it has been yet tried is easy of excavation, and neither the lift nor lead exercise.

3. I have had great trouble in getting the accounts cleared up, as there was considerable confusion, several sums that had been paid were not entered, and credit had been taken for amounts one of Rs 85 and another of Rs 45-14-6 not paid, and again there was a sum of Rs 100 which had been received and not entered. There is an entry in Mr. Epps's explanation of his balance herewith forwarded (which I found written in pencil between the leaves of his cash book) of Rs 100 advanced to Baker and Co. the two bills for which I append; Mr. Epps had already been supplied with

a tent, two camp tables, two chairs and a clock and had, I thought, everything necessary to enable him to do his work, but without any authority from me he has thought fit to order furniture and a number of things which people generally supply themselves with from their own pockets, but which he has paid for from the public money in his hands.

4. The sum of Rs 919-15-7 had been charged in the accounts for gratuitous relief, but on going carefully through these accounts I found that of this sum Rs 495-11-10 only ought to be charged to this head of account the balance Rs 424-3-9. I am informed by the Inter, Mairies and all concerned who are still on the spot, was paid to coolies employed on the tank, but who being unable or unwilling to execute a

full task of 1 cubic yard of earthwork each when the work was measured and the nominal Rolls totalled for any period say one week, then the full amount due coolies according to the nominal Rolls was paid and gratuitous relief was charged with the difference.

5. There are two items of Rs 39-5-0 and Rs 5-15-6 respectively charged under the head (Gratuitous relief) in the cash book as paid, which the writer who made the entries and the Hospital Assistant, on the work (who says he was present when the entries were made by the order of Mr. Epps) state these sums were never paid. The coolies as entered.

6. Rupees 85 are charged in the accounts as having been paid to the bazaar man, who supplies the coolies with rice, but I find this sum is still due; there is, however, funds to meet it in the balance

on

on hand, or there would have been had the cash chest and the Cash not been stolen the night before last.

7. You will perceive from the statement that the superintendence and sundries amount to rather over 50 per cent on the whole expenditure and on cost of actual work done nearly to 80 per cent.

8. I regret to have further report that there are several charges of assault against Mr. Epps. The writer, Pandoo Rungtation accuses him of having struck him on the mouth with his clenched fist, knocked him down and loosened his teeth on the night of the 9th instant at about 8 o'clock and a pensioned Bandidar who was serving as a lascar makes a like charge against Mr. Epps.

In fact everyone here whether Maistry
or head cooly, or others accuse him
of ill treatment.

9. He is also on credible testimony

10. Said to have on several occasions
been seen running about the camp
drunk and naked and having

5. been picked out of the drains drunk
and having cold water poured

a in his head for hours by the
in advice of the medical man he

the being during this time miserable.
an 10. I would appear as if all

the who the bad characters in the District
order were here assembled as you have

were already learned from my letter
6. R. No 565 of 20. instance of the very same

as the robbery of the cool and cool chest,
man which was taken from the field

with I was sleeping in (it is true I had
is so no knowledge of its having been

from left there) and the Sub. collector

was sleeping nearly as close to
the place as I was with his friends
and my lascars surrounded, both

I suspect one of the latter and two
of my Epps' lascars of the robbery.

11. I think it will be evident
from what is here reported of the
truth of every word of which there is

plenty of proof that Mr. Epps is not
a fit person to be longer in charge
of this work.

12. In conclusion, I would state
that I have arranged with the Sub-
collector that in future the man

in charge here is to have nothing
whatever to do with gratuitous relief,
which is to be managed by the

Revenue Department.

13. I would now propose to give
out the work on task or petty contract,
when a good Maistry on salary is

14. I would now propose to give
out the work on task or petty contract,
when a good Maistry on salary is

monthly will manage it and the
Christmas Eve. Can make the
payments. I would not have any
cash kept here or any establishment
other than the Mission and couple
of lascar to look after this lot etc.

14. I may mention that I find
the coolies that have been on the
work completely demoralized, having
been paid work or play, they will
do nothing unless it pleases them
to do so and as they have been
in the habit of receiving the full
rate of daily hire whether they
completed their task or not.
they have struck work since
Saturday last the day of my
arrival, because I had their
work since the previous Thursday
when they were paid up, (i.e. three days)
measured, and finding that they
had done rather less than half
a cubic yard each per day, informed
them

them they would only receive pay
in accordance with the amount of their
work.

15. I had intended paying them up
yesterday (I only received money on
Tuesday evening) and sending them
off, but the robbery of the cash chest
prevented this. I have however

cash another cheque at Christmas
Eve, and the coolies will be
paid up to day and dismissed
and if you see no objection and
the collector has none, I will
at once inaugurate the piece work
system. All that are willing
to work will be employed by the
petty contractors and we will have
neither the cost nor annoyance
of keeping up such an establishment.

16. I am sure that in a short time
instead of 350 which was about

the average when Mr. Epp. was
in charge there will be more like
1500 or 2000 on the work.

I have &c

Signed, R. J. Lowry,

Executive Engineer

(True copy)

W. H. Steward
Collector
for collection

Camp
A. P.

District Engineer's Office

No. 104... Salem 27 June 1877

From,

The District Engineer
Salem,

To, The Collector of Salem,

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
to you copy of the Coosor Range Officer's
letter No. 572, dated 21st June 1877, bring-
ing to my notice the excessive cost of
the work at the Pennagoondapooram Tank
restoration - and also reporting certain irre-
gularities and grave cases of intemperance
on the part of Mr. Epps, the last individual
whose services you placed at my disposal
for the purpose of carrying on this work
in accordance with the elaborate system
of daily labor payments laid down by
Government

6 JUL 77

6599

40 21st July 1877

11/2/77

11/2/77

Government in their several recent orders
in the additional Revenue Department.

2. As it is quite impossible to carry
on work on this principle and at the same
time to give effect to the wishes of Govern-
ment contained in the Chief Engineer's
Memo: D. 22 S. L., dated 29 May 1877, and
which imperatively ordered that all work
under the control of the Public Works
Department shall be executed at the
Standard or estimated rates that prevailed
before the present distress, I have directed
the Range Officer to at once put in force
the piece work or petty contract system
on this work; and as Mr. Epps is no longer
required by this Department, I have
replaced his services at your disposal, and
have directed him to report himself to you
at

at an early date. This work will be in
charge of the Acting Overseer of Distri-
and no one will be required to take Mr.
Epps' place.

I have &c.

(Signed) P. Montgomery
Major R.E.
D. E. Engineer

/ True Copy /

P. H. H. H.
D. H. H. H.
for Clerk

Camp

W.D.
6 JUL 77

6599

40 210 July 11 100 212 297 28

Copy of the District
Engineer's letter to
the Collector of Salem
dated 29 June
1877. on the conduct
of Mr. Epps.

Enc. 1.

1 July 1877

For letter from the
Collector of Salem
to the Chief Secretary
at Govt. Madras
dated 30 June 1877
No 107
1986.

Salem Collector's Office
Camp Adamancotta
30th June 1877

$\frac{357}{2}$ No 1986.

From

The Collector
of Salem
To
The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Sir,

I have the honour
to forward a report received
to day from the District
Engineer and in reference
to the same, to state that
I have no further require-
ment for Mr. Epps' -
services and request, in
reference to G.O. dated 10th
March 1877 appointing him

Revenue
Dept

to this District, that
Government will relieve
me of his services from the
30th of this month.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

C. J. Longley
Collector.

Compd. Sdly

sent to the Collector, and the statement of the accounts has been submitted through the Examiner.

3. I may here inform you that Mr. Epps did not belong to the P. W. D. but his services were specially placed at my disposal by the Collector of the District, who was particularly anxious to carry out the work on the Pennagoondapuram Tank as a famine relief on the daily task work system laid down by Government in their several orders in the additional Revenue Department.

As it has been found impossible to carry out work on this system except at a loss

to

to Government, I have already ordered its discontinuance and have directed the Range Officer to carry it out at the estimated rates on the piece work system as authorized by Government for this District.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt servant,

W. J. R. E. Major R.E.,
District Engineer, Salem.

Recd. 1877 Dfth
7. 5350
9. 1177
3682
The District Engineer,
Salem.

Through the Additional
Secretary, Revenue Dept.
The Chief Engineer,
D.P.W.

The Govt. having advised that
Mr. Epps was to be home
on the 23rd of June 1877.
The Dist. Engr. has no authority
to transfer him to the Coll.
The Dist. Engr. has no authority
to transfer him to the Coll.
The above is in full
of the Govt. and therefore
be dealt with
of the D.P.W.
J.H.P.

Dated 6th } July 1877.
Recd. 7th }
No. 42 Sh

Informing that
Mr. Epps' services were
replaced at the disposal
of the Collector on the
27th June 1877, as he
did not belong to
the P.W.D. and that
the Range Officer has
carefully taken over
the accounts of the
work on which he
had been employed.
Circulated.

49 21st July 1877. D.D. 22970
The Range Officer
P.W.D. reported that
the work on which he
had been employed
was in full
of the Govt. and therefore
be dealt with
of the D.P.W.
J.H.P.

49 2970-
Sent 9-7-77. 6107-77 1213-77

2.0
Return from the Dist.
Public works.
Mr. Epps having been
ordered to be home
on the strength of the
D.P.W. in G.O. of June
23rd No. 2090A.
The above is in full
of the Govt. and therefore
be dealt with
of the D.P.W.
J.H.P.

(By order)
J.H. Paulie
2958. Sent. 6.50
14/7/77

MSW. 21 May 1877

40 21st July 1978

No 1387. Rev. Sept 17
 Pres. of the Quadra Govt.
 S/o "March 177.

His Grace the Governor in
Council is pleased to appoint Rev.
J. Epps to the Salem Dist^{ct} in con-
-nection with Famine Relief work.

His salary will be Rs 200 and
3, Rs horse allowance.

She will report himself to the
collector for orders.

To
Mr. Epps
of Salem
Acc^{to} General.

Col 17
No. 465 W. Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT

UNDER date the

21st July 1877

Read the following:—

not done
in the Revenue Depart. (H. C. No 2090 Ad/23rd June 1877).
document in the Revenue Dept. (..... 5th July 1877).
letter from the D. C. Salem (..... 42 p.d. 6th).
document in the Revenue Dept. (..... 14th).

S.P.B.
Mr. Epps's services
will be dispensed with at
once. Considering the gravity
of the charges against Mr.
Epps it is not understood
why he was not dismissed
in anticipation of the orders
of Government. A separate
report on the question of
the accounts will be await-
ed. But the District Engineer

is at liberty to proceed against
Mr. Epps at once if he has
good evidence of any frau-
dulent dealings on his
part.

EO7

7/7

Ms. Copy Despd
21-7-77

The Dist. Ldg^r Salary with
GO 2090 A Res: Dep't -
The Examiner of P.W. Accounts
with GO 2090 A Res: Dep't
The Revenue Department
5 Copies Despd. 31-7-77

W. L. L. 16-7-77

10547
Cord. of 1877 *Ind.*
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. H. E. Salinger

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 21 July 1877, No. 465W

No. 297-298

*Mr. Epps Special Relief
Officer, Salem Or. The
Services of — ordered to be
dispensed with at once*

Dr. H. W. Epps

*one name
with 36 2990 A - Geo. W. Epps
The Revenue Department
5 Copies disp. - 31. 7. 77*

10547
10-7-77