

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.,	613	(W)	Press -Mis.-
Dated	23 - 2 -	1877.	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd February 1877. No. 613.*

No. 565. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Marutham, 15th February 1877, No. 3,973:—

I HAVE the honor respectfully to point out that G.O., No. 384, of 30th ultimo, designating the officer whom I am to employ on the preparation of estimate and plan appears to show want of confidence in me, through whom I presume the papers are to be laid before Government. The procedure has, I believe, come into force only of late years in the Public Works Department and is unknown to other branches of the service.

2. It is not that Captain Smith is detailed for duty not concerning me, and that I had another officer appointed in his stead, or could make other arrangements for the execution of his proper work which is already heavy, and for the delay in which I am held responsible.

3. I have been hurt at having been excluded from every Committee on works in my own district during the last $4\frac{1}{2}$ years; but feel the present order the more, in that, under the circumstances below mentioned, I was placed on the Ordnance Committee at the last moment.

4. This Committee had selected the sites for the buildings at St. Thomas' Mount, which Lord Napier of Magdala was invited to inspect. I was ordered by the Chief Engineer to attend His Excellency so late in the previous evening, that I could not warn Captain Smith, a Member of the Committee but who was not actually in the station.

5. Being asked by Lord Napier the grounds for the selection, I was obliged to say that I was not a member of the Committee; on works of very great importance in my own head quarters.

6. His Lordship examined all for himself two days after and, having condemned the position, accepted my suggestion of Avady; the ground near the Red Hills was also proposed, but it entailed a road across irrigated land or through Peralur, &c., (a crowded suburb) to Perambore Station.

7. Some days after I was placed on the Committee *vice* Lieutenant-Colonel Shaw-Stewart; they had then already reported favorably on Avady. I prepared as District Engineer all the plans, rough estimates, &c., in my own office and submitted them in due course; they are all on standard plans and no objections have been made to them. I trust that I have shown grounds for feeling hurt at the very unusual step taken in G.O., No. 384 superseding me.

No. 566. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1877, No. 613.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 32.

COLONEL F. J. MOBERLY will be informed that no slight to him personally was intended by G.O., No. 384, of the

30th January 1877. It had to be determined to what Public Works Officer the Committee should look for the required information, and as no one but Captain A. C. Smith could be nominated his name was mentioned at once for the infor-

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mation of the Military Department instead of instructing the Superintending Engineer to select an officer for the duty. It is observed that the order was communicated to the Superintending Engineer and not to Captain A. C. Smith, thereby indicating that the subordination of Captain Smith to the Superintending Engineer had not been lost sight of, though it was desired that Captain Smith should for the purpose required be placed in direct communication with the Committee.

(True Extract.)

Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No 613

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 23 Feb/77.

Read the following:—

From

The Supg. Engr. Chingleput (M.C. No. 3973. d. 15 Feb. 1877)

Colonel F. J. M. ...
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C. I. Chingleput

Disp 10-3-77

Superintending Engineer to select an Officer for the duty. It is observed that the order was communicated to the Superintending Engineer and not to Captain A.C. Smith, thereby indicating that the subordination of Captain Smith to the Superintending Engineer had not been lost sight of, though it was desired that Captain Smith should for the purpose required be placed in direct communication with the Committee.

by 21/2

Nov 1870
Govt. of Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The S. E. Chengelput

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 23 Feb 1877, No. 673

nos. 565-46
Col F. Moberly R.E.
The Major Chengelput
informed that no slight to him ~~was~~ personally was intended by G.O. 384 of 30 Jan 77 by the reorganization of the selection of Capt. A.C. Smith to prepare certain plans required by the Ordnance Commission.

Contd. in 21/2

22-2-77