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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W. D.

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1503. (W)	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	25. 3. 1878	197.

MS.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

1503
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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

25th March 1878, No. 1,503 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following papers :—

No. 342. Read again G.O., No. 2,964, dated 14th December 1872.

No. 342-A. Read also petition from Mr. J. Laskey, Supervisor, Chingleput District, dated 25th February 1878.

No. 343. ORDER THEREON, 25th March 1878, No. 1,503 W.

THE Government decline to reconsider a decision passed more than six years ago. Mr. Laskey's petition should have been submitted to Government through the District and Chief Engineers.

2. His future promotion must depend on his conduct.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.

Exd. A. F. Goodall.
Spare Copies

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GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1878) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The SUPERINTENDING, ENGINEER,
CHINGLEPUT.

Dated March 25th.

Recd.

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 25th March 1878, No. 1593 W.

MARCH.

Nos 312-313.

Mr. J. W. Laskey, Supervisor.—Declining to reconsider the decision already arrived at regarding the promotion of —.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th December 1872.*

No. 295. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 19th November 1872, No. 2,970:—

I REGRET to have occasion to bring to the notice of Government the very unfavourable opinion I have formed of Mr. Supervisor Laskey during my recent visit to his Range in the matter of rates for the Taluq Cutcherry at Yellamunchelly, and which Government will be convinced of on perusing the papers which accompany this report.

2. It will be observed from paragraph 3 of Major Beatty's report on this subject that Mr. Laskey pleads inexperience as the cause of his providing such a high rate as 3 Rupees per cubic yard of rubble masonry. This plea should not hold good when I mention that I had personally instructed Mr. Laskey to get his rough stone by opening a quarry on the hill side close by, which instructions he has set aside, or did not give effect to, from a spirit of obstinacy, and by which the cost of the building will be greater than otherwise—Rupees 3,000 instead of Rupees 1,750, as per paragraph 5 of Major Beatty's report.

3. Mr. Laskey has also put forward another reason for not having quarried for stone at a much shorter distance than he had, namely, that Major Beatty's subordinates had gone to the distant hill, and it follows consequently he allowed his men to go to the same place. It will be evident from this that Mr. Laskey did not look to the interests of Government, as he ought to have as a Range Officer, by opening out a new quarry at the place pointed out by me, when, as Major Beatty observes, he would have saved nearly all carriage.

4. I beg to state that, as I have every reason to think Mr. Laskey has not consulted the interests of Government at all in this matter, I have directed Mr. Assistant-Engineer Turner to relieve Mr. Laskey of charge of the Range. The latter will for the present be under the orders of Mr. Turner on sub-divisional duties.

5. I have further to add that whilst I was lately at Waltair Mr. Laskey informed me for the first time that he had disobeyed my orders to get his stone material from the adjacent hill at Yellamunchelly. I went to that place with Major Beatty and Mr. Turner, and was surprised to find he was paying 7½ Annas a cubic yard for stone material, of which 4½ Annas was for carriage alone, when he had an abundance of good stone at hand. I then directed Major Beatty to send me a comparative statement of his rates for similar work, and the enclosed is his report. It was Mr. Laskey who informed Messrs. Thornhill, Melville, and Kelsall that the outlay on this cutcherry had been Rupees 9,000 and omitted to show what the actual loss would be, and they took no trouble to inquire further but led the Government to suppose I had misled them; and it was Mr. Laskey who would insist upon using brick of the worst quality when splendid stone at far cheaper

1503
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th December 1872.*

rates was available at hand. I have, therefore, removed him from charge of a Range after the fullest and most careful inquiry and investigation.

6. I beg to forward some explanations Mr. Laskey has sent in since he was furnished with a copy of Major Beatty's report, and on these I have made some notes. I have only to add Mr. Laskey totally fails to explain why he had kept this office in ignorance of his proceedings though he had been called upon to explain the excessive rates he was charging, and it was only on finding I was in Waltair and likely to visit his Range he admitted he was using other stone than I had directed him to take and for which he had no authority, and I do not consider he had any sufficient reason.

See his letter, No. 487.

No. 296.

ORDER THEREON, 11th December 1872, No. 2,964.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 23.

Mr. Turner's services being required elsewhere, and the importance of the Golconda Range not such as to allow of

a Sub-Divisional Officer being entertained in it, other arrangements for its charge than those proposed by the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, must be made. That which commends itself most to the judgment of His Excellency the Governor in Council is Mr. Laskey's removal to the Chingleput District in place of Supervisor Ramiah Naidu. The unsuitness of Mr. Laskey for charge of a Range having been already noted in Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letters of 11th March and 21st December 1871, and in G. O., No. 2,006, of 29th August 1872, his name will be placed at the bottom of the list of Supervisors of the 1st Grade. And he will be warned that further bad report of him will lead to his reduction to the rank of Overseer.

2. It is incidentally brought to notice by this and former correspondence that a practice has arisen in the 1st Division of giving a Range Officer charge of special works beyond the limits of his own Range. The practice is contrary to the system of the Public Works Department of this Presidency, and is strictly prohibited for the future without the special sanction of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Vizagapatam.
To all other District Engineers.
.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Edw. A. S. Rodgers.

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Govt. of (1872) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
VIZAGATAM.

Dated December 14th

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 14th December 1872, No. 2,964.

RECEIVED
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RECEIVED
301.251.923

13/2/78
TO

COLONEL E. A. FOORD, R. E.,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, D. P. W.,
MADRAS.

SIR,

I beg leave most respectfully to address you on the subject of G. O. No. 2,964, dated 14th December 1872, and to represent for the favorable consideration of Government, that the punishment inflicted by degrading me from the top of the list of Supervisors of the 1st Grade, to the bottom was quite undeserved.

In the Proceedings of Government quoted above, it is shown that my unfitness for charge of a Range was noted in Colonel FISCHER's letters of 14th March and 21st December 1871, and G. O. No. 2,066, of 29th August 1872.

On the subject of Colonel FISCHER's letters of the 14th March and the one dated 7th December 1871, I shall respectfully refer Government to their Proceedings dated 16th February 1872, No. 449, and as for the one of the 21st December, I received no copy of it; perhaps it refers to the one of the 7th December; however, it will be seen from G. O. No. 449 copy F in appendices, that the Government found nothing against me; for they observe "that Colonel FISCHER had doubtless some reason for being dissatisfied with me," it follows then that they saw nothing in all that was reported against me. I now respectfully put the whole matter before Government for their favorable consideration.

Colonel FISCHER doubtless had reason to be dissatisfied with me, but this was displeasure given quite accidentally on my part; it related to an irrigation scheme which was sent up to the Superintending Engineer and returned for the purpose of answering certain questions and explaining the details of the project personally to the Collector. I was in Vizag and Mr. MELVILLE was in Vizianagram at the time. I consequently sent the whole of the papers by post to the Collector. He signed them and sent them direct to the Superintending Engineer; this circumstance gave Colonel FISCHER great pleasure, for, when I met him, he spoke very severely to me on this matter and told me that I had no business whatever to send those papers through the Collector.

My letter C No. 502, is the one of remonstrance referred to in G. O. No. 449 and E No. 520, the detailed explanation on Colonel FISCHER's letter D No. 2,806, giving cover to mine.

I obtained copy of Superintending Engineer's letter D No. 2,806, on applying for it, and as for his letter of the 14th March, I accidentally saw that with Mr. Hamnett against whom it was written, and who was eventually removed to another District and placed in charge of a Range. My reason for sending a copy of my explanation direct to Government, was from fear that the matter of my letter C. No. 502 would be disposed of by Government without any explanation before them, on Colonel FISCHER's letter D No. 2,806 reporting so seriously against me.

That G. O. No. 2,066 dated 29th August 1872, (marked G) had anything to bear against me, was, I beg leave respectfully to observe, quite a mistake, for my letter embodied in it, on which I was condemned for a want of alacrity in not

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responding to an urgent call in marking out the line of road required by Government, was not at all addressed to the matter in question.

Government under this mistake ordered that I should be forthwith replaced by some one more competent for charge of the Range. On receiving this G. O., I sent in my explanation H, No. 363. Colonel FISCHER then wrote his letter I No. 2,452 embodied in G. O. No. 2,577, dated 2nd November 1872, explaining particulars and asking Government to exonerate me from blame. Under these circumstances, it is not clear why those complaints of Colonel FISCHER's, should have been summed up in disposing his last report against me.

Colonel FISCHER's last report was that I had provided Rupees 3 per cubic yard of rubble masonry in the revised Estimate of the Yellamanchilly Cutcherry, and that the work was being done for less, and that the rate on Major BEATTY's works was still less; and that instead of quarrying stones at the hill close by the work, I had gone to one, some miles away from it, by which the cost of the building would be greater than otherwise.

On this subject I respectfully refer Government to my letter B, No. 434, dated 8th November 1871, in reply to G. O. No. 2,400 dated 20th September 1871, from which it will be seen that in reply to Superintending Engineer's question, I stated that stone work laid in courses with rough dressing would cost Rupees 7-8 per cubic yard, and that the rate in the Taluq for random rubble in building thick and low walls was Rupees 2-8-0 per cubic yard; but in the case of thin walls carried up 12 or 14 feet high, the rates increase, and that I accordingly fixed Rupees 3 as the average in this Estimate; this explanation was accepted, and the estimate was sent up and passed in G. O. No. 2,500. My letter was before Government in their Proceedings on this matter, and I do not therefore see the justice of being found fault with now for having used this rate.

The actual cost of work being less than the rate allowed in the Estimate, was the result of my care—I was personally superintending this work.

Major BEATTY's rubble Masonry costing less than mine was due to this circumstance, i.e., his work related to filling in foundations and carrying up low abutments and piers of small bridges, while I was building high walls with greater care to load.

Major BEATTY kindly pleading that it was inexperience on my part for using the higher rate, was simply to show that rubble masonry for work of this description was never before this instance used in the taluq. and that I had consequently erred in using a rate that proved higher than was actually necessary.

Major BEATTY had charge of the Trunk Road running through my Range, and he was building some bridges at this time. His Overseer, I stated, went to the distant hill for stone for the same reason that took me to it, i.e., the stone at the hill near the Cutcherry was bad, and we both consequently went to the further hill for good material. Mr. Assistant Engineer TURNER was sent by Major BEATTY to report on the quality of the stones of both hills, and his statement fully supported my reason for going to the distant hill.

Colonel FISCHER says that I disobeyed his orders to get my stone from the hill near Yellamanchilly, and admitted the fact of using other stone than that, only on finding that he was in Waltair and likely to visit my Range.

When I met Colonel FISCHER in Waltair, he accused me of having given Messrs. THORNHILL, MELVILLE and KELSALL wrong information on the matter of the Cutcherry, which caused a great deal of unpleasantness to him, and said, that I was much to blame at the very first for having used brick when splendid stone was available at hand.

In answer to this, I mentioned that he was mistaken about my having given these gentlemen any information at all, and on the matter of the stone from the hill near Yellamanchilly, it was, I said, not suited for building, and that I was in consequence now obliged to go 3 miles for good stone, and that Major BEATTY's Overseer was for the same reason going to the distant hill for his material for a work a mile beyond mine.

Regarding the bricks used by me on this work being bad, Colonel FISCHER explained this to the satisfaction of Government, in reply to their Proceedings, No. 2,400, dated 20th September. His former remark about the material and workmanship in this building being inferior to bear a tiled roof was, he said, meant to express that a wall $1\frac{1}{2}$ brick thick in this country was not suited to sustain the weight that an English wall of that thickness would.

Colonel FISCHER says that I kept his office in ignorance of my proceedings, though I had been called upon to explain the excessive rates I was charging. I do not remember receiving any call of the kind from the Superintending Engineer, nor was there occasion given for a question of the sort, I was working below the rate allowed in the Estimate. When I handed over charge of the Range to Mr. Assistant Engineer BRICKWELL, I showed him by detailed accounts that there was a saving of Rs. 1,895 on this work.

My letters sent up with Colonel FISCHER's were certainly no explanation against the matter reported. I had no conception whatever that Superintending Engineer was obtaining them for the purpose of making a report to Government against me.

Major BEATTY assured me that he sent Colonel FISCHER, Mr. Assistant Engineer TURNER's letter reporting that the stones from the distant hill were superior to those of the hill adjacent to the work; this then must convince Government that I consulted their interest by using good material in their building.

This order of Government degrading me came to hand just a few days before I left Vizag for Madras. I was first by Demi-Official orders and Telegrams from General WALKER to District Engineer, relieved of charge of the Range, and told to hold myself in readiness to proceed to Jeypoor, and while in Vizag I received this G. O., so I could not reply to it, and when I came into Madras I saw General WALKER, and attempted to explain my case to show that I was very unjustly dealt with, he stopped me at once by saying "Remember you did not give me satisfaction while under me in Canara."

General WALKER's displeasure against me relates to a matter that took place 17 years ago. I appealed very strongly against him to the Chief Engineer, and asked for my removal from the District; General WALKER (then Captain) objected to send my appeal; I consequently sent it up direct and got my removal. A is Chief Engineer's Proceeding on the subject of my letter against Captain WALKER's treatment.

I could not, while General WALKER, I saw was so seriously displeased with me, appeal to Government to reconsider their order degrading me; I accordingly waited patiently for time in the hope of meeting with justice some day. I have been now 5 years in this District, and I understand that Colonel Moberly has been recommending me for promotion for the last 3 years in his "Quarterly Statement of distribution of officers and subordinates." I venture therefore to ask Government to reconsider my case and to do me justice.

In 1870, I addressed Government through Colonel FISCHER, representing my grievance; that I was far behind men in the Department who entered the service with me; their reply appended to my letter C No. 502, recognised my claims and promised that it would receive due consideration on the occurrence of a vacancy.

I have 22 years service, and I have served Government faithfully, and it is distressingly painful to find that I should have met with such severity without any cause whatever.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,



Supervisor, 1st Grade.

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT,
CARANGULI, 11th January 1878.

APPENDIX.

A.

No. 9,063.

EXTRACT FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Under date the 21st January 1861.

Read the following letter from Mr. Overseer J. W. Laskey, to the District Engineer, North Canara.

(Here enter No. 149, dated 19th December 1860.)

As Mr. Laskey has already been removed to the Cuddapah District, no separate orders upon the foregoing letter appear to be necessary.

(True Extract.)

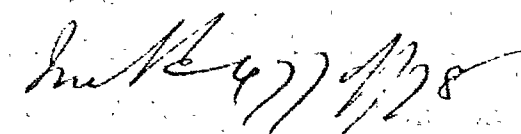
(Signed.) E. LAWFORD, LIEUT.-COL.,

Deputy Chief Engineer, C. C.

To

MR. J. W. LASKEY,

Overseer, D. P. W.



No. 454.

B.

No. 1, or Golconda Range Office,

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT,

Yellamunchilly, 8th November 1871.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

1ST DIVISION.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 2,400, dated 20th September 1871, I respectfully forward the Plan and copy of estimate of the Yellamunchilly Taluq Cutcherry, sanctioned in G. O. No. 1,119, dated 6th April 1869. The amount of the estimate is Rupees 18,780. The expenditure incurred is Rs. 8,920. The work was stopped in September 1869. The thickness of the walls with the exception of those of the Treasury and Police rooms are 15 inches.

2. The cost of the walls alone which are proposed to be pulled down is Rupees 2,850; the expense in pulling down 713 cubic yards of masonry that is now become quite firm, and removing the rubbish at 8 Annas per cubic yard, will cost, I would say, Rupees 300.

3. Rebuilding the walls as directed by you in "coursed work" in which the stones are to be roughly squared, sorted into sizes, and ranged in courses, will be very expensive. Rating the work at Rupees 7-8-0, per cubic yard, it will cost Rupees 6,345. Random rubble in building thick walls within $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet in height cost Rupees 2-8-0 per cubic yard, but in the construction of walls carried up 12 to 15 feet above the ground, the rates increase. Taking the average to be Rupees 3-0-0, the cost of the walls if built simply of rough stone in chunam will amount to Rupees 3,360, and stone in mud will cost Rupees 2,900.

4. The stability of a work depends considerably upon the bond. The bond in rubble walls of insufficient thickness built with stones of all sizes and shapes will be very imperfect; a few heading courses of brick-work put in at short distances apart is recommended to improve rubble work greatly, and removes the liability of such walls by the slightest settlement of foundation cracking and splitting into two halves. An instance of this kind occurred to the Police Station House at Rachapilly built under the agency of the Revenue Department in 1867; which was condemned on this account, and built afterwards with brick in chunam under the agency of this Department, vide G. O. No. 1,287, dated 19th April 1869.

5. The estimate now submitted is for walls 21 inches which is the thickness of the present basement. This arrangement, I beg leave respectfully to point out, will have the effect of reducing the superficial area of the rooms; and another circumstance that I have to bring to your notice is that the foundation is only a foot of stone in chunam over 9 inches of concrete, the soil on which they are founded is clay. The weight of a Rft. of wall of brick $15 \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times 1$ is 2,000 lbs., the stone wall to be built $15 \times 1\frac{3}{4} \times 1$ will weigh about 4,500 lbs.

h. K. 477/11/8

inferior to that in England, but the Government appear to have understood you to mean that the bricks used in this building are bad and hence decaying. These bricks I must respectfully say are equal to the best obtained in the district, and as for bond which in buildings in this country as Colonel Ford remarks receives very little attention, received in this instance ample care. The walls being a brick and half thick necessitated nearly every brick used being entire and laid in the order of good bond.

15. Bricks made in this country will never admit comparison with those of England as long as the process in making them differs so widely. Earth in this country undergoes no preparation whatever, but in England it takes from autumn to the following spring, and the longer it undergoes this exposure to the weather the better are the bricks formed. Two or three years, says Mr. Brees, would not be too much. The quantity of sand and water used in the clay are quite different in proportion to what they are in this country.

16. The crushing weight of the English red brick is 807 lbs. and of the pale red 562 lbs. by a rude experiment, i. e. by piling stone flags and finding their weight by their cubical contents, I approximately obtained the crushing weight of the bricks used in this building to be 250 lbs. A cubic inch of chalk which under properly conducted experiment would have crushed under 334 lbs. yielded to this test under 216 lbs. The brick used in this building may therefore be safely considered as being equal to half the strength of the pale red English brick, and the mortar used in the building crushed under 135 lbs. The thickness of these walls although not adapted to resist a lateral strain are nevertheless equal to bear a vertical pressure within crushing weight. Taking 250 lbs. to be the crushing strength of my bricks, I find that the pressure on the stone slabs that are to be put under the end of the tie-beams of the truss 15" x 15" inches, would require 8,27,550 lbs. to effect not the crushing, but the breaking of the bottom brick. The pressure at the end of the trusses would amount to nothing over 7,000 lbs., and as trussed roofs exert no side thrust, the walls are in my humble opinion in no way inferior to bear the weight of the roof with the provision of an additional pressure of 5,000 lbs. per square in case of hurricanes. I would therefore respectfully suggest that instead of pulling down a brick wall for the purpose of substituting rubble with a little additional thickness, it would be far better to carry up pillars here and there, and by removing the 200 bad brick and rebuilding the 6 arches (out of the 51) that have cracked, would, I can assure you, supply all that is necessary to render the building secure, and superior to a rubble wall with the disadvantages explained.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

(Signed) J. W. LASKEY,

Range Officer.

C.

No. 502.

No. I, or Golconda Range Office,
VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT,
Camp Yellamunchilly, 1st December, 1871.

From

THE OFFICER in CHARGE

of No. I, or Golconda Range,
VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT,

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
1ST DIVISION.

SIR,

Having had an opportunity lately of seeing a report of yours to Government, dated some time in March last, complaining of Mr. Supervisor Hamnett, I was very much surprised to find mention made therein, about your having found things very unsatisfactory even in my Range, and that you had warned me, and that you would have contented yourself in doing the same in Mr. Hamnett's case, had things been less serious; and your suggestion that the three Ranges in this District be converted into two, and placed in charge of Engineer Officers, conveying thereby an expression evidently of my unfitness to hold one, alarmed and distressed me, I must respectfully say very much. Especially to find that you made such a report, when you really had no cause to do so. You sent me a warning, it is true, but pardon me, saying that when there was not the slightest occasion; your remarks in it were to the purport that you noticed the Ava Channel embankment repair being done in a very inefficient and unsatisfactory manner, and as that was your first inspection in this Range, you would not report the matter to Government but that you warn me against doing so in future.

I knew you were bearing me a feeling of displeasure, and I was sensible to its being due, as I have told you in my letter No. 456, dated 10th October 1871, to my over-ambition to distinguish myself in the matter of the Kondakirla Project. I foresaw therefore by this warning that it was a thing that would be eventually put against me, and it was fear of this kind that forced me at once repeating in my letter, No. 561, dated 7th March 1871, all that was verbally explained to you for not doing my bank repairs with watering and ramming.

The practice of repairing such low banks, which are not much above two yards in height, in that elaborate style, i. e., throwing up earth in layers and watering and ramming them, was, I told you, never practised in this District for various reasons:—the argillaceous nature of the soil of this country, its great cohesive attraction, and being found commonly (or all through the year) in a wet state, enabled the Engineer here, dispensing with the method requisite in working large banks, where the soil is either porous or spongy, such as the red sandy or black cotton common to the Southern Districts.

Turfing would make a bank look nice, and add to its stability, but the usual

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6. The ground being on a little incline necessitated the basement on one side being raised 2 feet more than the other, and the arches that have cracked, being on this very side, point to this little additional weight having had something to do with the settlement being so perceptible on that side.

7. The arches that have cracked are only 6 out of 51, and as the size of the cracks with one or two exceptions, are so small, that you hardly noticed them during your first visit in February 1871, explains that the settlement of the foundation under the piers of the openings could not have been even as little as a 20th of an inch. In all such openings of doors and windows it is recommended to connect the piers with inverted arches, so that the weight would be equally distributed over the foundation. It is also a favorable practice to allow walls to settle properly before turning arches over doors and windows. I could allow only a very short time for this purpose. Settlement of walls takes place very slow and slight cracks in the chunam over doors, &c., will appear sometimes in spite of all care on the part of the builder to avoid them. As the top of the crowns of the arches in this building reach the very top of the wall, it is easy to have them removed and rebuilt, if necessary, which could be done at a very slight cost.

8. A small number, less than 200 insufficiently burnt bricks finding their way into the building unnoticed, presenting now a melted appearance, should not, I would respectfully say, stand as a reason for condemning walls built with materials in every way equal to the best used in the District.

9. There are 2,88,765 bricks in the walls of this building, and from the circumstance of the thickness of the walls being a brick and half, one of their sides is exposed to view, it is easy therefore to decide if they are equal or otherwise to those used by the Executive Engineer of No. II. Range on his works, a few unburnt bricks from appearing red, do enter a work without intention of the builder, it would be impracticable for one to guard against this altogether; these being to all appearance well burnt, and the circumstance of their being formed of red clay, renders them deceptive in their appearance. One under-burnt brick in 1,000 entering a work, will be a difficult question for any builder to answer. You must have noticed bricks presenting a similar decayed appearance in the Thallapole bridge which was in construction, I think about the same time as this Cutcherry. The work in both places have been tested, and proved to their being very strong. The bridge stood the force of heavy freshes during the last rainy season, and this building stood the exposure to four monsoons and the force of a violent cyclone that swept over the country with a velocity more than 90 miles in an hour, and a force equal to 45 lbs. on a Square Foot.

10. The bond employed in the brick work of this building is the old English bond in favor of which Engineers agree that it is the strongest, simplest in execution and least wasteful. Mr. Brees says that it is to be lamented that any other bond should have found preference to this. The 200 bad bricks removed and replaced by others will, I respectfully assure you, be all that is now required to render these walls perfect and pleasing in appearance.

11. That the bricks in this building are decaying by the action of the sea air, I must respectfully say, is not the case. They exhibit nothing of the salts that destroy them. Permiabie building materials are liable to decay under the influence of atmospheric changes as well as from the acids and salts in the sea air. When materials are exposed to the alternation of wet and dry. A chemical effect of a complicated nature takes place; new salts are formed by the decomposition of the original elements under the influence of the water, and the gases which permeate their various substances. This action observes Mr. Burnell, not only causes the bodies exposed to it to decay on account of the chemical changes it superinduces, but the efflorescence of the salts thus formed tends to destroy the substance in which they are formed by the mechanical force developed in the process of their crystallization. The generally received opinion on this subject is that they consist of the Nitrate of Soda. The atmosphere in its normal state is considered to be composed of Oxygen and Nitrogen, but it also contains in variable proportions—numerous other gases dependent upon local causes. Carburetted hydrogen is found most abundant in the neighbourhood of marshes and wet cultivation. Nitrous acid gas is plentiful in districts subject to strong winds and violent storms; the air of shores is said to contain hydrochloric acid. All these have the tendency of working rapidly or gradually, the destruction of permiabie materials. If the cause of the bricks melting in this building is due to the agency of any new salts forming in them, it could be easily detected; a fibrous efflorescence will occur if it is nitrate of potash or soda; the crystals will be translucent; it will have a saline and cooling taste; it will effervesce when placed on a hot coal. If it is carbonate of soda, it will effervesce violently with acids. This salt is commonly to be seen on the surface of the earth and on old walls. Nitrate of lime is another salt that is found in silky efflorescence on old walls; on burning coals to it, it melts with slight detonation; its taste is bitter and disagreeable. Sulphate of Magnesia is a salt often detected in the foundations and lower walls of houses; it issues in efflorescence from the mortar, arising from its decomposition, and therefore to the injury of buildings. The Muriate of Soda which is the most abundant substance of nature forming nearly one-thirtieth part of the waters of the ocean has the effect of destroying materials when subject to alternation of wet and dry.

12. I find nothing of such salts in these bricks, the melting of the few in this building is therefore due, to nothing else but their being a little under burnt and had suffered by the rain beating strongly against them, especially during the prevalence of the monsoons.

13. The bricks used in this building on being tried under weights to test their strength with those collected for bridges on Trunk Road, proved my bricks less brittle. This is a circumstance due as Colonel Foord remarks to the soil obtained in the vicinity of a work, i. e. where it is of a suitable nature very excellent bricks are obtained, and where otherwise they are in like degree inferior.

14. The objection you expressed to these walls being unsuited to bear a heavy tiled roof applied I understood to the insufficient thickness of walls in the instance of brick work in this country, where the material and workmanship are

allotment for irrigation repairs being small, never allowed anything more than simply throwing up the earth, sloping the sides and finishing it with what is called surface ramming; my predecessors, some of whom were Engineers, for the reasons assigned here, have never attended to any other form than this plan of repairing banks; and the former District Engineers who had their supervision on irrigation works from Survasiddy and Golgonda (being the only two Government Taluqs, confined, I may say, to works in this Range alone,) appear never to have followed any other method, than the one for which you have found fault with me. I can produce old estimates to shew that they contain nothing of these elaborate details of work. Why Sir? you have had it quite plain, this year, under your own administration to see that the thing is quite impracticable. Estimates to the amount of Rupees 18,127 receiving appropriation to the limited sum of Rupees 8,237, would not allow a proceeding of too great an exactness on just a few works, when there were others where the revenue for simply the want of earth work was exposed to the danger of being lost. These, Sir, are the particulars of my faults for which I have been so unfavorably represented to Government.

In your letter to the Collector, embodied in G. O. No. 1,334 dated 15th May 1871, I see, you have condemned my scheme of the Kondakirla Ava as being unsuited to the Locality; from what you told me personally, I understood, you entertained nothing more than a fear that a heavy cutting like the one I proposed would bring us unexpectedly on rock, I urged you to inspect the locality, which I was confident, would have enabled you clearing this doubt, for the line runs over ground perfectly smooth; you proposed revising the scheme by running 20 miles round the hills, which has been since attended to, and now seeing the impracticability of it, you expressed your willingness the other day to adopt my plan.

You remarked in your letter to the Collector that the scheme was a good one, and as I have now ascertained by sinking a trial shaft to enable me, with a sufficient degree of precision, saying that the under stratum of the cutting will be nothing more than gravel and other drift deposits. You will therefore, I doubt not, now allow me to realize the promise you made me, in a Memo. last year "That on the work being finished in good style, I would not be forgotten." I feel assured that I fulfilled my part, for you received it satisfactorily and returned it only to enable me, stating exactly the number of acres proposed to be brought under cultivation, and the rates at which they were to be assessed and to explain the particulars of the scheme personally, if necessary, to the Collector.

This is a scheme which the Revenue Board wanted an Engineer Officer to investigate and decide. A question of such importance being answered by a subordinate, of my humble position, and the fact of the scheme being matured and brought home so successfully after some years' labor, you will naturally allow, excited a hope that it would be the means of bringing my merits to the notice of Government, and advancing my prospects in the Department; but the misfortune of possessing your displeasure has quite disappointed me. The circumstance

is one of grievance, and I must therefore respectfully solicit the favor of your representing the matter for the favorable consideration of Government.

As it is necessary that such a representation should be supported by some documents that speak for my efficiency, I respectfully submit the annexed copies of testimonials, etc., to enable the Government giving my case their favorable consideration, and in explanation for my anxiety in wishing to have the matter laid before Government, I must respectfully say that it is simply this, that as a report of so serious a character, adding its force to the quarterly unfavorable remarks to keep my advancement down, must now, I seriously apprehend, have its full power to effect my ruin, I have, Sir, I must respectfully say, given you no cause to adopt such severe means to do me injury. Permit me, humbly asking you to point the instance in which I have failed in efficiency, energy, or evinced at any time a want of respect to you as my superior. I feel, I must respectfully say, conscious that I have discharged my duty faithfully, and have always trusted to nothing else, but honesty, industry, and perseverance being the surest road to advancement, and it is confidence of a pursued conduct undeserving censure, that gives me courage now to ask you to point any instance of my failing. It is, Sir, really painful and most distressing to the peace of my mind to find an Officer of your exalted position bearing against me a feeling which must before long end in the ruin of a large family.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. W. LASKEY,
Range Officer.

(True copy.)

J. W. LASKEY,
Range Officer.

COPIES OF TESTIMONIALS.

Mr. Uncovenanted Assistant Overseer J. W. Laskey, is an able Engineers' Assistant (late Revenue Surveyor, under the old regime) in the field and in office.

He can design and plan, and estimate for works.

His bridge designs, seldom require any alteration when submitted to me.

He has had an experience of four years in his branch of Engineering, the two latter years of which have been under my observation and I am happy to signify my sense of his very satisfactory acquaintance with his duties.

At present he is appointed to a post much below what I consider him qualified for, but the Chief Engineer, Fort Saint George, did not see fit to comply with a request, I of late made for Mr. Laskey's promotion to a rank which it appeared to me his acquirements entitled him to and hence his present inferior position.

(Signed) J. GODDARD, LIEUT. R. E.,
District Engineer.

MANGALORE, 12th May, 1858.

EXTRACT from CANARA DISTRICT ENGINEER's letter No. 506, dated 12th October 1859.

2. Here is a man in this District, however now an Assistant Overseer, who is well worthy of advancement, and him, I should recommend for the Overseership to be vacated on the promotion of an Overseer to the vacancy in the higher grade, I allude to Mr. Laskey, whose qualifications as a Surveyor and Draftsman, are of a superior kind, indeed he is the only man in Canara at present available for this sort of employment for though in course of time when the present system shall be in full operation, subordinates of the department will be qualified for this as for other work, yet at present this is certainly not the case.

Mr. Laskey, was one of the old Revenue Surveyors and one of the few men whom the change in the Department in 1857, affected disadvantageously. He has always borne a good character, and in surveying, and estimating work in the District especially in the Coast Canal work has done excellent service. I should be very glad to see his steady work and good conduct rewarded by promotion.

Mr. Laskey served under Captain Walker and Lieutenant Goddard, and was good opinion from them both, and to me he has been useful in surveying and assisting in the estimating of the Coast Canal from Mangalore to Hessdroog, as well as many other works.

(Signed.) J. N. HUNTER, LIEUT. R. E.,
Acting District Engineer.

CAMP HONORE, 12th October, 1859.

No. 6,506. EXTRACTS from the PROCEEDINGS of the CHIEF ENGINEER in the Department of Public Works, under date the 25th October, 1859.

As Mr. Lowry, Sub-Engineer, has been transferred from Canara to Coimbatore, the District Engineer of Canara should nominate some others for the charge of the Ranges Nos. 1 and 2 in his District; one range should be reserved for the 1st Assistant District Engineer, and the other placed in charge of Assistant Overseer Laskey, who is so well reported of in Lieutenant Hunter's letter, No. 506, dated 12th instant.

(Signed.) J. CARPENDALE, CAPTAIN, R. E.,
For Deputy Chief Engineer, N. Circle.

COPY of COLONEL HENRY's letter embodied in G. O. No. 2,418 dated 25th August 1863.

1. With reference to order of Government No. 2,283 of the 13th Instant, I have the honor to submit the following remarks on the promotion of Mr. S. Howell, Taluq Overseer, Cuddapah, to act as Supervisor 2nd Class.

2. In my distribution statement of Officers and Subordinates for the Quarter ending 31st July 1863, Mr. Howell's name stands fifth in the order of merit in the grade of Taluq Overseers.

3. This document was most carefully prepared, as I was under the impression that it was required by Government as a guide in making promotions to the Upper subordinate

grades, and accordingly the names were arranged more with regard to good conduct and efficiency than to length of service alone.

4. Mr. Howell's conduct was, on two occasions, unfavorably brought to the notice of the late Chief Engineer, once in connection with the new School House at Cuddapah and again with reference to the Anantharazupett tank, and although he has lately conducted his duties in a satisfactory manner, I do not consider him so deserving of promotion as the four men who stand before him in my statement on the 31st Ultimo, and I would respectfully beg to recommend for promotion Mr. J. W. Laskey who whilst in charge of the Rayachote Range, from January to April 1863, during Mr. George's absence on leave, performed his duties much to my satisfaction.

No. 517.

ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1863, No. 241.

Under the circumstances stated in this letter, Mr. Howell's promotion sanctioned in G. O. No. 2,283, dated 13th August 1863, will be considered cancelled, and

* See G. O. No. 2,349, dated 18th August 1863.

Mr. Overseer Laskey will act as Supervisor 2nd Class, vice Campbell, and be posted to the Tanjore District.*

(True Extract.)

(Signed.) W. J. BIRDWOOD, COLONEL, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

BERHAMPORE, 21st June 1865.

Mr. Supervisor Laskey has been under my orders from 15th October to 20th June, during which time he has been employed in Surveying, Levelling, Estimating, and for a short time, in constructing a portion of the Soorada Road.

He has given satisfaction and has evinced always a lively desire to make himself useful and to please.

I consider him a useful subordinate being better up in his work, as Surveyor, Leveller and Estimate Maker, than any other subordinate in the District.

(Signed.) C. G. PHILIPPS, CAPTAIN, R. E.,

Executive Engineer, Canjam.

Read the following letter :—

From the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division.

Here enter No. 4,355, dated 16th March 1870.

ORDER THEREON, 26th March, 1870, No. 151.

The claims of Supervisor Laskey to promotion, will receive due consideration on the occurrence of a vacancy.

(True Extract.)

(Signed.) C. A. ORR, COLONEL, R. E.,

Secretary to Government, P. W. D.

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D.

No. 2,806

Superintending Engineer's Office, 1st Division,
DOWLAISWARUM, 7th December, 1871.

From

MAJOR J. FISHCHER, R. E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

To

COLONEL J. CARPENDALE, R. E.,
Secretary to Government, P. W. D.,
MADRAS.

SIR,

I have the honor to forward herewith for the orders of Government, a letter in original with its accompaniments received from Mr. Laskey, Supervisor in Charge of the No. I Range, Vizagapatam District, on the subject of the unfavorable mention made of him in my report* to Government against Mr. Hamnett, Supervisor, who has been transferred since to the 2nd Division.

2. In para 8 of Mr. Laskey's letter, he states that he has not given me any cause for having sent in a report of so serious a character as that alluded to by him, and wishes me to point out the instance in which he has failed in efficiency, energy, or evinced at any time, a want of respect to me as his superior.

3. For the information of Government, I must in the first place state that Mr. Laskey has been absenting himself from his Range for several days in August last without leave, on the plea of attending the meeting of the Local Fund Board. The explanations offered by him for this unauthorized proceeding were most unsatisfactory, and he was warned that any further dereliction of duty on his part would be reported to Government; on this occasion too, Mr. Laskey did not hesitate to offer a most frivolous and unfounded excuse for remaining in Waltair, viz., that he could not obtain bandies to go 20 miles into his own Range, and notwithstanding that he was fully aware I was in that station at the time, he simply took as much leave as he required, never applying for any at all.

4. With regard to his inefficiency or energy in the conduct of his Range duties, I beg to state that I have often had to complain of his dilatoriness in connection with the Kondakirlah Ava Project, and other things, and after frequently returning to him for revision, the papers therewith connected, I have had to resort to a threat to report him to Government as unfit for the charge of a Range. On personally examining the work prepared by Mr. Laskey for the Kondakirlah Ava Project I was far from satisfied with the levelling work, it was quite evident he was himself but very imperfectly acquainted with the locality, and the work had been done by a temporary surveyor without any proper check, and he had failed altogether to take out even trial line for a Channel round the hills which I ordered him to do, the Cutting proposed by him may be the right line to adopt, but he had made no trial pits to ascertain the nature of the soil below, and I refused to accept his rates of 5 Annas a cubic yard on an average for a cutting of 45 feet in depth. Only lately Mr. Laskey has sent in an Estimate for re-building the walls of the new Yellamunchilly Taluq Cutcherry with stone and charged Rupees 3 per cubic yard for

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works with this material, although the stone is procurable at the surface and within a short distance of the site of the building and now complains that I had not accepted his proposals for a much larger and far more difficult work at about 50 per cent. less rates than he has thought proper to declare absolutely necessary for ordinary wall work.

5. In regard to his conduct as a subordinate Officer of the Department, I have only to bring to notice that, recently I have had occasion to point out an unauthorized proceeding of his, in the punishing of a Goomastah and two Lascars without any reference whatever to this Office, and as it was a most arbitrary and irregular one, the punishment was disallowed by me, but I fear without any result as the men's pay was entirely stopped by Mr. Laskey for two whole months for some alleged neglect of duty, but what he has wholly failed to specify or to establish whilst he himself does not hesitate when it suits his own personal convenience to absent himself from his Range or to remain at his Head Quarters as long as he pleases though repeatedly directed not to do so.

6. Mr. Laskey must be held responsible, I beg to add, for my troubling Government with this report, he has thought proper to address the enclosed to me without even explaining how he had obtained access to this Office records, and as he has considered it necessary to enter into details long since forgotten, I have no alternative left but to give the fullest explanation; as regards the earthwork he alludes to, the matter is simply this, last March I saw some Wudders at work on the Kondakirlah Ava throwing up earth in the most slovenly manner and no attempt was being made to tamp this though it was required to fill in a breach in a tank bank, I complained of this and received the usual excuse of these Districts from Mr. Laskey "that it was the custom here," and I told him he ought to know better from his services under Colonel Hemery in Cuddapah, and this he admitted then, on further enquiry, I found the Wudders were being paid 6 pie a cubic yard for this earth work, the Contractor for the work was receiving 8 pie a cubic yard, and Mr. Laskey's Estimates provided one anna a cubic yard, beyond saying I hope I should see no more of such proceedings and directing such contracts to be cancelled, and that in future I must have the work far better done according to the ordinary rules for tank repairs, I took no further notice of the case then as I had so much to do in preparing the Godavery Delta completion projects, I had been unable to pay so much attention as I wished to other Districts.

I have &c. &c.,

(Signed.) J. T. FISCHER, MAJOR, R.E.,
Acting Superintending Engineer 1st Division.

No. 2,345.

Copy forwarded to

Mr. LASKEY,

Supervisor, in Charge No. I Range, Vizagapatam.

With reference to his letter, No. 502, dated 1st December 1871.

A. R. F. DARWARD, LIET., R.E.,

for Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Dowlaiswerum, 13th December 1871.

To the Supervisor in Charge

No. I Range, Vizagapatam.

E

No. 520.

No. I, or Golconda Range Office,

VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT,

Yellamanchilly, 19th December 1871.

From

THE OFFICER IN CHARGE

Of No. I, or Golconda Range.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

1st Division.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No. 2,806, dated 7th instant, to the Secretary to Government, forwarding my letter of grievance, No. 502, I beg leave most respectfully to address you, on the subject of your various remarks against me.

The question of my remaining in Vizagapatam for a few days, in the discharge of my office duties after the Local Fund Board meeting was dissolved in August, I thought was fully and satisfactorily explained in my second letter, No. 456, dated 10th October, and I regret now, to see you remark that my explanation was frivolous, and that the plea was simply, that I could not get bandies to go 20 miles.

Regarding your remark in the 4th para, that the Kondakirla Ava Project was frequently returned for revision, I have most respectfully to observe, that I do not remember the instance of its being returned for revision. I submitted the paper on the 7th of October 1870, and they were returned with your Memo. No. 2,769, dated 15th November, not for revision, but to their being re-submitted with a full report as to the exact number of acres of land to be irrigated, and to state the rates of assessment proposed for these lands, and to explain personally to the Collector all the details regarding the scheme. I accordingly resubmitted the project through the Collector with my letter, No. 397, dated the 28th of November.

The remark, that you resorted, owing to my dilatoriness to a threat to report me to Government, as unfit for the charge of a Range, is an allusion, to what your Memo. No. 7, of the 4th April 1871 contained. Regarding this remark, permit me respectfully pointing out the undue severity used in this instance. In a Memo. dated 3rd March, you gave me instructions to run 20 miles of contour levels round a chain of hills, and 60 odd of zig-zag lines, and 20 odd miles of survey, in all about 100 miles; and on the 4th of April, just a month after, you question the non-submission of a report connected with this amount of work in so severe a manner; on this subject, I respectfully refer you simply to my reply No. 16, dated 14th April 1871.

My proceeding in punishing the men of the Niranicum Establishment, for neglect of duty, i.e., the Gumastah, to 2 months, and the two Lascars with only 15 days suspension, was a measure necessary as explained in my correspondence on the subject. It was not weight to the mere omission of a simple duty that was to

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be given in the case, but the magnitude of the result was to be viewed, in the punishment of men on this establishment for neglect of duty, which effects the interest of Government; and where the individuals are liable to neglect their duty wilfully from temptations offered by Ryots, it necessitates the measures used being severe. I mentioned the case similar to this, when the Principal Assistant Collector in 1867, thought fit to suspend the same Gumastah and a Lascar for 6 months.

Your remark about the Wudders, on the work alluded to being paid 6 pice a cubic yard, the Contractor getting 8 for it, and the estimate providing 1 anna, conveys something of a reflection. On this question I have respectfully to state, that my letter No. 561, dated the 7th March 1871, contained also an explanation, as to what the nature and object of this contract system was, and which was only just about the time of your visiting my Range introduced. I changed the old system of giving my temporary Maistries and Gumastahs a monthly rate of pay, and took to this method of getting them to do the work, at so much per yard. The contract was of a petty nature, the man in this case was a Maistry, who, previous to this arrangement, was on the receipt of Rs. 20 a month. The amount of the estimate of this work was Rs. 246. The Contractor paid, it is true, 6 pice to the Wudder, which was for simply throwing up the earth; for the other two pice, you must consider, there was still the breaking of the clods and forming of the slopes, the levelling of the bank, and finishing it with surface ramming—there was very little profit after doing all this for his (Contractor's) trouble and compensating him for the heavy rate of interest at which money is borrowed.

This system was introduced to avoid petty advances being given to Wudders.

The rate 1 anna provided by the Overseer in the estimate, was in consideration of the time at which the work was to have been done, when the bank had water on one side, and wet fields on the other; work then, would have been difficult, but giving this high rate two months later was unnecessary. No. 2 Range Earth-work dug out from side channels in forming Poodimadaka Road in its immediate vicinity, you are aware, was being done at 10 pice per cubic yard. Giving these works my immediate superintendence at the time you visited the Range was, you know, due to the circumstance of Overseer Kelly's absence on 2 months leave.

The rate allowed for rebuilding the Yellamunchilly Catcherry walls with stone, although the material is to be obtained near the work has been explained in my letters Nos. 484 and 487, which letters, I have no doubt, you will in justice to me, submit as my explanations to Government on the subject of your proposal to pull down the existing brick walls and of rebuilding with stone in chunam.

I beg, &c.,

(Signed) J. W. LASKEY,

Range Officer.

F.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, Public Works Department, 16th

February 1872.

Read the following papers :—

No. 279. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

(Here enter No. 2,806, dated 7th December 1871.)

No. 280. From the Officer in charge of No. 1 Range, Vizagapatam.

(Here enter No. 523, dated 19th December 1871.)

No. 231. ORDER THEREON, 16th February 1872, No. 449.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 21.

In his letter of the 14th March 1871 No. C. C., the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division in reporting on the unfitness of Mr. Supervisor Hammet for the charge of a Range, remarked that he was not quite satisfied with the state of affairs in No. 1 Range of the Vizagapatam District, and that he had warned Mr. Laskey, the Supervisor in charge.

2. No specific grounds of complaint were then urged, but having, by some means not stated, perused not only Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letter quoted above but the one which gave cover to the Supervisor's remonstrance, Mr. Laskey submits detailed explanations.

3. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer had doubtless some reason for being dissatisfied with Mr. Laskey's conduct, but as he observes in paragraph 6 of his letter of the 7th December last, No. 2,106, that the matters to which Mr. Laskey adverts "have long since been forgotten" the Government do not consider it necessary to further notice the papers above recorded.

4. Mr. Laskey's addressing Government direct instead of through the Superintending Engineer was improper.

(True Extract)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, COLONEL, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To

The Acting Superintending Engineer,
1st Division.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, P. W. D., 29th August 1872.
No. 496. Read following letter from the ACTING SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER 1st Division, to the SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT, P. W. D., dated Dowlaiswaram, 8th July 1872, No. 1,346.

With reference to paragraph 3 of my letter No. 485, dated 6th May 1872, I have the honor to forward herewith a list shewing the grants sanctioned for famine relief works in the Vizagapatam District, as well as the probable expenditure therefrom during the current official year as ordered in paragraph 3 of G. O. No. 254, dated 25th April 1872.

2. Adverting to paragraph 2 of the above G. O., I beg to state that I have called the attention of the Supervisor in charge No. I Range, Vizagapatam, to paragraph 9 of G. O. in the Revenue Department, No. 621, dated 17th April 1872, regarding the rectification of the Toonee and Pentacota line of road, and the enclosed is a copy of Mr. Laskey's reply to my call, which I forward for the information of Government.

From Mr. J. W. LASKEY, Officer in charge of No. I Range, Vizagapatam, to the SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, 1st Division, dated Yellamunchilly, 2nd July 1872, No. 220.

With reference to your Memorandum No. 1,130, dated 21st June 1872, I beg leave respectfully to state that I have been, since the middle of last month, waiting to go over to Pentacota for the purpose of having the necessary survey for another line of road taken, but the weather, since the 14th Ultimo, has been keeping wet with constant showers of rain, but as it is now beginning to clear up, I shall start to-morrow and attend to this question at once.

No. 497. ORDER THEREON, 29th August 1872, No. 2,066.

ACCOUNT No. 42.

3. The Supervisor in charge of No. I Range does not appear to have shown much alacrity in responding to the call made on him for a proper trace of the Tuni and Pentacota Road. Wet and showery weather is alleged by him as sufficient reason for delaying nearly two months to attend to a work, the first and second traces of which had been pronounced unsuitable, and the rectification of which the Government had desired might be "taken in hand at once," as it was desirable to give employment there, and to facilitate the salt trade. It might be a desirable step to supersede Mr. Laskey in charge of the Range, by any other competent person such as Assistant Engineer Brickwell or Supervisor T. Ramiah Naidu, who appear to be available.

(True Extract)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, COLONEL, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 2,297.

Communicated to the Supervisor in charge Golconda Range, Vizagapatam District, for information, and with a view to his offering explanation on the remarks made by Government regarding the delay in furnishing a proper trace of the Toonee and Pentacota Road.

(Signed) J. F. FISCHER, Lt. COL., R. E.,
Acting Suptg. Engineer 1st Division.

Dowlaiswaram, 23rd September 1872.

(True Copy.)

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From

T₂

1st Division.

SIR,

With reference to G. O. No. 2,066, dated 29th August, censuring me for not giving prompt attention to the Order of Government regarding the rectification of the Tunni and Pentacota line of Road, and my letter embodied in the G. O. being taken as explanation for delaying the work for two months I must say, has taken me quite by surprize. My letter, you will observe, from what I will explain, was not intended as an explanation for not attending to the marking out of a trace, for a line, you will remember, was marked out in the middle of April, (vide your instructions in No. 3,828, dated 14th March, forwarding Collector's letter requesting that I be instructed to do so,) which was a month after Messrs. Thornhill and Melville visited Tooni, so that when the G. O. came to my hand, the question was already answered.

2. When Messrs. Thornhill and Melville went to Tuni (which was the 15th of March) they could have had nothing more than the direction in which the survey was taken shown to them. Their objection to the 2nd line was only with reference to a bit in the last mile near Tuni, which from going through cultivated lands, whilst a track leading into Tuni existed, led both the gentlemen to view this, disregarding an existing track, as unnecessary and objectionable. A better line you would have seen from my report and survey, could not have been chosen, and the impracticability that presented itself to the adoption of the line desired by the Collector, was really the circumstance that forced me deciding on taking a Survey when the question of the required report was referred to me by the Executive Engineer.

3. The order of Government required that the marking out of the line be taken on hand at once; this was already done, but what was wanted by your Memo. which accompanied the G. O. was a report from the Executive Engineer as to the measures taken in the rectification of the line; this question was referred to me by the Executive Engineer which came to hand about the middle of May. This I could have furnished at once, but delayed it on account of the Survey, and as nothing was being done at the time on the road, I thought I could effect some little change in the line, which, you must have noticed on the plan, was not to any advantage.

4. As regards the delay in answering this question, you will remember that about the time I got the Executive Engineer's instruction, I had my hands filled with business, and that I was not in a position to attend to it at all. I had Rs. 15,000 for Famine Relief to be expended on irrigation works; this was quite a difficult task, not such as spending grants given for roads. I had to attend personally to every work. I had to see first what was to be done, and then start work,

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and send in estimates afterwards, I had to see to these relief works being so portioned out as to their giving work to the distressed poor all over the Taluqs.

5. I had no Overseer at this time to assist me, Mr. Kelly went away on leave in May, and Mr. Jeffery, the Local Fund Overseer who was appointed to act for him, relieved me of the Overseer's duties only on the 26th of June.

6. By the 15th June my arrangements in carrying out Famine Relief works had received all that was necessary in attention and were going on satisfactorily. Hence it occurs you will observe for my stating in that letter which is dated 2nd July, that I had been awaiting a fortnight past to attend to the question, and that it was the inclemency of the weather that prevented it. My letter was an explanation not called for, I was simply told in your Memo. No. 1,130, dated 21st June, that the Executive Engineer in charge of No. II. Range having reported that I had been asked to report direct to you on the Tunni and Pentacotta Road, I was accordingly requested to expedite the same.

7. Explaining that the weather interfered in my taking a Survey owing to its being wet and showery, was not meant, that it would bear simply as much as my words expressed, for you must be aware that the S. W. Monsoon this year broke in about the middle of June with great violence. A fact that I concluded must have been felt even in the Godavery District.

8. My letter from all the facts now brought forward, taking the place of an explanation against so serious a question as to a want of alacrity on my part in not responding to a call, that required prompt attention, and receiving my condemnation as being incompetent for the charge of a Range has taken me, I must most respectfully say quite by surprise.

9. That I have been a subordinate working with energy, and perseverance, and have always evinced an amount of emulation to distinguish myself, and to rise in the service by merit, will not, I know, be denied to me when the several large irrigation schemes that were brought to notice received consideration. I have been 17 years in the Department, 12 of which have been in the capacity of Range Officer. I have always, I must respectfully say, worked with determination and never allowed reverses that have occurred to my prospects discouraging my spirit, nor weakening the hope that industry and perseverance would some day receive their reward.

I have, Sir, a large family, and to have me superseded, would be a measure to stop my future prospects in the Department. I will say nothing further, but submissively throw myself on your mercy, and beg that you will give my case your favorable consideration.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) J. W. LASKEY,

Range Officer.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, Public Works Department,
2nd November 1872.

No. 25. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaisweram, 5th October 1872, No. 2,452:—

With reference to paragraph 3 of G. O., No. 2,066, dated 29th August 1872, I have the honour to state that I called upon Mr. Supervisor Laskey for any explanation he may have to offer in connection with the delay in responding to the call made on him for a proper trace of the Toonee and Pentacottah road.

2. Mr. Laskey has sent in his explanation, from which I observe that he states his letter embodied in the above G. O. was not intended as an explanation for not attending to the marking out of a trace which had already been marked out by him, and this, I must observe, is correct; but Mr. Laskey further states, it is only in connection with the report called for as to the measures taken in the rectification of the line that the delay occurred, and this too at a time when he, without the aid of the proper number of Overseers, had to expend 15,000 Rupees on famine relief irrigation works, which he had to see so portioned out as to their giving work to the distressed poor all over the taluqs.

3. Mr. Laskey, moreover, states that explaining that the weather interfered in his taking a survey, owing to its being wet and showery, was not meant that it would bear simply as much as his words expressed, for the south-west monsoon this year broke in about the middle of June with great violence. A fact I can bear him out in.

4. As, under the foregoing circumstances, I trust Government will exonerate Mr. Laskey from blame in the matter of delay, I beg to state in conclusion that a survey of the proposed line of the Salt road from Toonee to Pentacottah was forwarded on the 1st August last to the Collector of Vizagapatam for approval, and I have not yet been favored with a reply from that officer, although again on the 23rd September 1872 I invited his attention to my letter of the 1st August.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, 2nd November 1872, No. 2,577.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. F. OAKES, Major, R. E.,

Acting Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer,
1st Division.
No. 2,883.

Communicated to Supervisor in Charge,
No. I, or Gollgonda Range.
By order.

JAS. WAKEFIELD, Manager,

Suptg. Engineer's Office, 1st Division.

Dowlaiswarum, 13th November 1872.

To the Officer in Charge,
No. I Range, Vizagapatam.

1/16 477/11/78

J.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT, Public Works Department,
14th December 1872.

No. 295. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER.
R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Chief
Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 19th
November 1872, No. 2,970 :—

I REGRET to have occasion to bring to the notice of Government the very
unfavourable opinion I have formed of
Mr. Supervisor Laskey during my
recent visit to his Range in the matter
of rates for the Taluq Cutcherry at
Yellamunchelly, and which Govern-
ment will be convinced of on perus-
ing the papers which accompany this
report.

One copy of a report, No. 112, dated 7th Novem-
ber 1872, from Major Beatty, R. E.
One copy of data for rubble masonry per cubic
yard at Vizagapatam and Yellamunchelly.
One copy of list of rates for rubble masonry.
Mr. Supervisor Laskey's explanations regard-
ing rates of material, No. 449, dated 13th
November 1872.
Mr. Supervisor Laskey's letter, No. 487, dated
29th November 1872.

2. It will be observed from paragraph 3 of Major Beatty's report on this
subject, that Mr. Laskey pleads inexperience as the cause of his providing such a
high rate as 3 Rupees per cubic yard of rubble masonry. This plea should not
hold good when I mentioned that I had personally instructed Mr. Laskey to get his
rough stone by opening a quarry on the hill side close by, which instructions he
has set aside, or did not give effect to, from a spirit of obstinacy, and by which the
cost of the building will be greater than otherwise—Rupees 3,000 instead of
Rupees 1,750, as per paragraph 5 of Major Beatty's report.

3. Mr. Laskey has also put forward another reason for not having quarried
for stone at a much shorter distance than he had, namely, that Major Beatty's
subordinates had gone to the distant hill, and it follows consequently he allowed
his men to go to the same place. It will be evident from this that Mr. Laskey
did not look to the interests of Government, as he ought to have as a Range Officer,
by opening out a new quarry at the place pointed out by me, when, as Major
Beatty observes, he would have saved nearly all carriage.

4. I beg to state that, as I have every reason to think Mr. Laskey has not
consulted the interests of Government at all in this matter, I have directed
Mr. Assistant-Engineer Turner to relieve Mr. Laskey of charge of the Range.
The latter will for the present be under the orders of Mr. Turner on sub-divisional
duties.

5. I have further to add that whilst I was lately at Waltair, Mr. Laskey
informed me for the first time that he had disobeyed my orders to get his stone
material from the adjacent hill at Yellamunchelly. I went to that place with
Major Beatty and Mr. Turner, and was surprised to find he was paying 7½ Annas
a cubic yard for stone material, of which 4½ Annas was for carriage alone, when he
had an abundance of good stone at hand. I then directed Major Beatty to send me
a comparative statement of his rates for similar work, and the enclosed is his
report. It was Mr. Laskey who informed Messrs. Thornhill, Melville, and Kelsall
that the outlay on this Cutcherry had been Rupees 9,000 and omitted to show what
the actual loss would be, and they took no trouble to inquire further, but led the

Inc 12 27/11/78

Government to suppose I had misled them; and it was Mr. Laskey who would insist upon using brick of the worst quality when splendid stone at far cheaper rates was available at hand. I have, therefore, removed him from charge of a Range after the fullest and most careful inquiry and investigation.

6. I beg to forward some explanations Mr. Laskey has sent in since he was furnished with a copy of Major Beatty's report, and on these I have made some notes. I have only to add Mr. Laskey totally fails to explain why he had kept this

See his letter, No. 457.

office in ignorance of his proceedings though he had been called upon to

explain the excessive rates he was charging, and it was only on finding I was in Waltair and likely to visit his Range, he admitted he was using other stone than I had directed him to take, and for which he had no authority, and I do not consider he had any sufficient reason.

No. 296.

ORDER THEREON, 14th December 1872, No. 2,964.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 23.

Mr. Turner's services being required elsewhere, and the importance of the Goleonda Range not such as to allow of

a Sub-Divisional Officer being entertained in it, other arrangements for its charge than those proposed by the Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, must be made. That which commends itself most to the judgment of His Excellency the Governor in Council is Mr. Laskey's removal to the Chingleput District in place of Supervisor Ramiah Naidoo. The unfitness of Mr. Laskey for charge of a Range having been already noted in Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letters of 14th March and 21st December 1871, and in G. O., No. 2,006, of 29th August 1872, his name will be placed at the bottom of the list of Supervisors of the 1st Grade. And he will be warned that further bad report of him will lead to his reduction to the rank of Overseer.

2. It is incidentally brought to notice by this and former correspondence that a practice has arisen in the 1st Division of giving a Range Officer charge of special works beyond the limits of his own Range. The practice is contrary to the system of the Public Works Department of this Presidency, and is strictly prohibited for the future without the special sanction of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, COLONEL, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Vizagapatam.

To all other District Engineers.

.. Controller of Public Works Accounts.

No. 113.

Communicated to Mr. Laskey, Supervisor, for his information.

(Signed) J. BEATTY, MAJOR, R. E.,

District Engineer.

Vizagapatam, 27th December 1872.

(True Copies.)

W. W. Walker
Sd/- D. G. Walker

No. 305

CHINGLEPUT SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
SAINT THOMAS' MOUNT, 23 January 1873

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CHINGLEPUT.

To

*The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department.*

Sr.

*Enc: 2
Letter to Secy
to Government
P. H. D. from
Mr. Laskey
11 Dec 1872
with 1 enclosure*

I have the honor to forward herewith, an appeal to your address with its enclosures, received from Supervisor Mr. Laskey employed in this District, against his degradation in the List of Supervisors of the 1st Grade, ordered in G. O. No. 2964 dated 14th December 1872 for your consideration and orders. I am unable to state any thing on behalf of Mr. Laskey, as I have been but a short time in charge of the District.

I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant

W. W. Walker
Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Chingleput.

80 No 2964 8/14/12/72
 2577 8/21/11/72
 20668 29/18/72
 1939 8/14/8/72
 1715 8/17/7/72
 252 8/1/4/72
 458 8/17/2/72
 457 8/17/2/72
 449 8/16/2/72
 2500 8/2/10/71
 2400 8/20/9/71
 152 8/21/6/71
 1334 8/15/5/71
 157 8/26/3/70
 1287 8/19/4/69
 1119 8/6/4/69
 2418 8/25/8/63
 2349 8/18/8/63
 2203 8/13/8/63

From the Supr. Engineer
 Chingfat D.

No. 305

Dated 23rd Jan'y 1878
 Rec'd

No. of Enclosures.

Appeal from Supr.
 Mr. Laskey against
 his degradation -
 Forwards for Consi-
 deration the.

P.W.D.

No. 594 of 1st February 1878

Memorandum.

Letter from the Supr. Engineer Chingfat
 No 305 of 23rd Jan'y 1878

The Chief Engineer cannot
 reopen a question settled six years ago,
 or resubmit it to Government

2. Mr. Laskey's promotion must
 depend on subsequent reports on his
 conduct and qualifications

3. The Petition is returned

(SD) E. J. Ford, Colonel Rtg
 Chingfat P.W.D.

To
 The Supr. Engr Chingfat
 With Petition

C. 594

W. A.

Memorandum

Letter from the Superintendent (Chimble)
- put to 305 of 23 January 1870.

The Chief Engineer cannot propose
a question settled six years ago or
resubmit it to Government

2. Mr. Laskey's promotion must
depend on subsequent reports on his
conduct and qualifications.

3. The Petition is returned.

For. Saml. George } Signed E. A. Ford Col. R. S.
1st February 1870 } Chief Engineer Plond.

No. 609.

Encls.
1 Petition
with enclosures. True copy - forwarded to the
Officer in Charge of Works Range.
For communication to Mr. Laskey.
His Petition and its enclosures
are also herewith returned for
transmission to him.

Super. office Chimble } Signed P. French Col. R. S.
At No. 12 Nov. 12th Feb 1870 } Super. office
the 1st 1870

No. 5210

Copy forwarded to the Sub-
Divisional Officer for information
Letter.
Enclosure 1 ~~Letter~~ with enclosures.

W. B. Rangia
Lieut. Col.
13 Feb 1870.

[Signature]

Sub Engineer

TO

HIS GRACE THE MOST NOBLE
RICHARD PLANTAGENET CAMPBELL, G.C.S.I.,
DUKE OF BUCKINGHAM AND CHANDOS,
GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

The Humble Memorial of J. W. LASKEY,
Supervisor, 1st Grade, D. P. W.

SHREWETH,

That your Grace's Memorialist submitted the accompanying Appeal on the matter of his degradation which took place in 1872 for the favourable consideration of Government, but is now informed in reply by the Chief Engineer that he cannot lay the subject before Government on account of the lapse of time—5 years having intervened—since date of your Memorialist's degradation.

2.—That your Grace will see from Memorialist's Appeal to Government and its Appendices, that there was nothing whatever in his conduct and in the discharge of his duties as a public servant that merited the censure of his superiors; and that Colonel Fischer reporting unfavourably, and General Walker punishing Memorialist emanated from feelings of private resentment.

3.—That all Colonel Fischer's reports against Memorialist up to December 1872 were fully and satisfactorily cleared in letters appended to Memorialist's Appeal; and that the last one marked J. on which the Government passed their order degrading Memorialist, contains nothing of weight whatever to have exposed your Memorialist to such severe punishment, although from the manner in which Colonel Fischer opens his letter, it would seem that the charge was something serious, and that he only then for the first time discovered the high rate of Rupees 3 per cubic yard of rubble masonry in the matter of the Taluq Cutcherry Estimate; whereas it will be evident from his letter D in Appendices that he pointed this out to Government a year before this report, and that Memorialist's letter E will show that the question was fully discussed and explained to Superintending Engineer before the Estimate was accepted and sent up to Government for sanction.

4.—That Major Beatty, while reporting a fact, that carting stone from the distant hill entailed higher cost on the work, wholly omitted to explain Memorialist's reason for going to a distance for his material, but this omission he assured Memorialist was supplied by his sending Mr. Assistant Engineer Turner's report, that the stone was superior to that of the adjacent hill. This fact therefore explained to Colonel Fischer, Memorialist's reason, and warranted his proceeding in

going to a distance for good material, and that Major Beatty after his report continuing still to get his stone from the same place, and that Memorialist's successor Mr. Assistant Engineer Brickwell obtaining all his subsequent supply for the very building in question from the same hill stands strongly against Colonel Fischer's report, that Memorialist did not consult the interest of Government, and that "Memorialist's removal from charge of a Range was after the fullest and most careful enquiry and investigation", was as Your Grace will see not the case.

5.—That Memorialist addressed Government in 1870 through Colonel Fischer representing his grievance, that he was far behind men in the department who entered the service with him, pointing to two who were then Executive Engineers and to one holding a Sub-Engineership, First Grade. Government in their reply appended to his letter C No. 502, recognized his claims and promised that it would receive due consideration on the occurrence of a vacancy; that had Memorialist obtained his promotion after Assistant Engineer Lever's, whose name then stood in the Gradation list above Memorialist's, he should have been Sub-Engineer 3rd Grade in 1871, and would have stood in the 1st Grade since 1875. That the loss Memorialist suffered by the injustice done him has been most serious; that by his degradation to the bottom of the list, he was superseded by 17 of his juniors, and that he now stands 3rd on the list of Supervisors 1st Grade; and that to add to all the injury he sustained, he has had further the humiliation of being for the last 2 years subordinate to a junior who superseded him.

6.—That Memorialist's reason for having delayed 5 years in representing this grievance to Government, is fully explained in his Appeal as having occurred from unavoidable circumstances; that Memorialist having a large family feared that to have rushed against General Walker's displeasure, would have plunged him into more serious ruin.

7.—That Memorialist for the last 5 years that he has been in this District worked hard especially during 2 Cyclones as is borne out by Colonel Moberly in his reports of 1875-76, and thus succeeded in saving a large amount of revenue which was exposed to the danger of being lost.

8.—That your Memorialist with the greatest deference submits the whole of his case to your Grace's consideration, and humbly supplicates your clemency, and solicits that Your Grace will use your high prerogative in waiving the rule that now bars the doors of justice against your Memorialist obtaining redress.

And your Memorialist as in duty bound,

SHALL EVER PRAY,

J. W. C. Moberly

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT,
CARANGOLI, 25th FEBRUARY 1878. }

Government of Madras.

Pub. Works DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 477 of 1878.

From *Mr J. W. Laskey*

Occupation *Supervisor 1st*
Grade D. P. W.

Village
Talook *Barangoli*
District *Chingleput*

Dated 25th
Received 27th } February 1878

Enclosures. 12

ABSTRACT.

Referring to the en-
closed endorsement of
the Chief Engineer to
the

from feelings of private
resentment; that Col.

Fischer's last report
marked J. on which the
Govt passed their order
degrading J. contains
nothing to warrant such

a severe punishment;
that the high rate of Rs 3
per cubic yard of rubble
masonry, which he alleges
it was to have been for the
first time discovered, was
fully discussed and ex-
plained to the Superintendent

ing Engineer before the
estimate was accepted
I stand up to Govt for same.

that should have been
considered before, because
they

they were superord-
inate of the 2nd grade
hill; that by his de-
gradation to the bottom
of the list, he was de-
-hered by 17 of his
juniors; that he now
stands 3rd in the list
of Superintendents 1st grade;
and that to add to all the
injury he sustained, he
has had the further hu-
-iliation of being, for
the last two years, sub-
-ordinate to a junior
who superintended him;
that he has for the
last 5 years worked
hard especially in 2
cyclones, as is borne
out by Col. Moberly in
his reports of 1875-76,
& this succeeded in sav-
ing a large amount of
revenue to Govt.

Prays that Govt
may redress his grievances.

C. H. 20596/11/2/78

the appeal, that he can
not submit this as
competing appeal. &
Govt. in a matter, which
was decided five years
ago; brings to notice that
the cause for delay in
submitting the appeal is
fully explained in this
that J. P. having a large
family, feared, that to
have involved against
General Walker's displea-
sure, would have plunged
him into more serious
trouble; that Col. Walker
reporting unfavourably
and General Walker per-
mitting the appeal to
be from

Cor. 16.3

No. 1503 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 25 March 78
again
Read the following: - J. P. 2964

dated 14th Decr 1872.

Read also Petition from
Mr J. Laskey, Supervisor, Chingleput District, dated
25th Feb 78

His
The future promotion

~~Mr Laskey must not~~
~~with the Chief Engineer~~
~~depend on his conduct.~~

D. The Government decline
to ~~in any way~~ reconsider
decision.
a ~~motion~~ passed more than
six years ago. ~~They are~~
~~with dissatisfaction that~~

~~should~~
Mr Laskey's petition, have
been ~~submitted~~
~~addressed direct to~~
Government. ~~tho the J.~~

+ (Ch. Eng. P. 2964)
16/3

S. I. Chingleput

1878-79

W. P.

90 14.12.72 No 2965
 2. 11.72 " 2577
 27.8.72 " 2036
 14.6.72 " 1929
 17.7.72 " 1715
 4.72 " 254 hrs
 17.2.72 " 468-657
 16.2.72 " 249
 2.10.71 " 2500
 28.9.71 " 2400
 21.8.71 " 164 hrs
 15.6.71 " 1334
 26.3.70 " 151 hrs
 19.4.69 " 1287
 6.4.69 " 1117 orig
 25.8.68 " 2410
 12.8.68 " 2349
 13.8.68 " 2283



Gobt. of (1878) Hyderabad.

PUBLIC WORKS

To

26

Dated

By

For

Encl.

25 Mar 1878 No. 1573/1

Res.

Mr. L. L. Lasky
 per Mr. - Deciding
 to reconsider the de-
 -cision already arrived
 at regarding the pro-
 -duction of -

Annexure