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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

FW DEPARTMENT

|          |           |        |
|----------|-----------|--------|
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Not to be folded or roughly handled

256

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

17th May 1878, No. 2,186 W

General  
Establishment

Read the following paper —

No. 190 From W. S. HARRINGTON, Esq., District Engineer, Madura, to the  
Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 19th April 1878,  
No 24

In forwarding in extenso the accompanying copy of letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Law at present in charge of the Dindigul Division of this district, I trust I may be pardoned for in a manner transgressing the order conveyed in paragraph 4 of your No. 215, dated 14th January last, as I think it right that you should be made acquainted with the state of the division caused, I must believe, by the incapacity and incompetency of the officers who from time to time have been in charge of it, and entirely agreeing in all that Colonel Law says, I deem it right not to curtail his statement

2. If I have been zealous and forbearing as remarked by Colonel Law at the conclusion of his paragraph 6, I take no credit whatever to myself, perhaps I was too forbearing for a long time, but I looked and hoped for amendment and improvement which, I am sorry to say, never took place. I also regret to state that Mr. Paynter took umbrage at what he conceived to be my undue severity and requirements, whereas I can in all truth and honor declare that for many months I never wrote a line to this officer that he could mis-construe into harshness or unkindness. I wrote to him constantly, both privately and demi-officially, and it was only when advice and entreaties were alike disregarded that I was compelled to word my official letters somewhat more strongly, and to inform you that in my opinion Mr. Paynter's duties had not, from whatever cause, been properly carried out. I utterly disclaim the imputation of anything bordering on ill-feeling towards him, but my duty to Government is plain and imperative, my own efforts were, I trust, earnestly and conscientiously made, and I have been, and am, determined to improve the condition of this district generally so far as in me lies and so long as I am in charge of it

3 I have the honor very earnestly to request your attention to paragraph 2 of Colonel Law's letter regarding the "reorganisation of the department" I neither know nor have sought to know what that reorganisation is to be, nor when it is to be; but, believing as I have done that it has been under consideration for a long time, and that possibly it might but for the future have been ere this an accomplished fact, I have forbore to weary Government with my complaints or to suggest improvements and alterations which I felt it might not be possible to carry out pending the reorganisation, had it been otherwise I should months ago have proposed for the consideration of Government changes which as I gained experience of the district I felt and feel to be very necessary, and these chiefly are—first, the substitution of the Troo-mungalum Taluq for the Ramnad and Shevagunah Zemindaries, the Madura Range Officer's charge would then be as it used to be years ago, for I had it myself—the Taluqs of Madura, Melur, and Troomungalum. A glance at the map will show that they can be managed by a zealous and efficient officer and they run into each other. The

Madura Range Officer's charge at present consists of Madura, Melur, and the Ramnad and Shevagungah Zemindaries, though the latter are under a Sub-Divisional, he has under the Madura Divisional Officer, who has constantly to visit the zemindaries which he over an immense tract of country with many and divers works in it, Paumben channel, &c, included, and the travelling in which is both difficult and must be dilatory on account of the great distances and the incomplete and imperfect condition of most of the communications. This zemindari charge should in my opinion be under an Assistant Engineer who should correspond direct with the District Engineer, secondly, Tiroomungalum and Pereacolum are very large taluqs and at present constitute the charge of the Dindigul Sub-Divisional Officer, the distance between their boundaries is some 90 miles and the charge is too great a one for a Sub-Divisional Officer whose time can be very fully occupied in Pereacolum alone. As previously stated I do not know what the changes in the organisation of the department are to be, but as things are at present I cannot manage this district so completely as I earnestly desire to manage it, and the at times somewhat bitter experience of the last sixteen months has convinced me that many and radical changes are called for. I have instanced two or three, and it would be my duty to instance more and to beg Government to sanction them, did I not deem it advisable to wait till the reorganisation actually occurs. The Madura Range Officer cannot work properly the Taluqs of Madura and Melur plus the enormous zemindaries named, but he *could* work Madura, Melur, and Tiroomungalum, and these should be his charge. The Dindigul Sub-Divisional Officer's charge should in my judgment be Pereacolum only. The Dindigul Divisional Officer might I think then work Dindigul and Pulni with the addition of the Pulni Hills. The Sub-Divisional Officer would of course be under, and correspond with, him.

4 I will do myself the honor to bring these subjects again before you at a very early date, for the present I content myself with asking you to sanction if you deem it desirable the following —

A temporary writer for the Dindigul Sub-Division on Rupees 20 per mensem so long as the officer in charge of it has to look after the Taluqs of Pereacolum and Tiroomungalum

5 Mr Montserrat's expenditure as mentioned by Colonel Law in his paragraph 11 was unordinately large for March, and can only have been the result of what Colonel Law would call "spasmodic" efforts, which would not have been called for had the expenditure of each and every month been even and adequate. I have intimated to both officers that I deprecate these extraordinary payments as unnecessary if work is properly carried on during the year, but in this particular instance it is doubtless the result of Colonel Law's zeal and energy and on that account calls for commendation; up to the 1st of March when Mr. Paynter gave over charge the expenditure in the Sub-Division had been in quite an inverse ratio to that incurred in March, but then Mr. Paynter had never once visited the Sub-Division nor kept Mr. Montserrat up to his work.

6. I conclude my letter with an expression of my earnest hope that the strength of the department may be largely increased for the current official year, for at present officers and men are quite overworked and as a consequence the works are not, and cannot be, properly supervised or carried out. I must not be supposed for one moment to urge upon Government the adoption of views which may appear to them to be impracticable or impossible, but I believe that they are aware that the department is undermanned, and when I find that on this account I cannot execute their orders, however strenuously I may and do strive to do so, I conceive that it is my bounden duty to bring the fact to their notice.

No. 191.

ORDER THEREON, 17th May 1878, No. 2,186 W.

MR. EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PAYNTER having, it is presumed, rejoined the Madura District at the expiration of his leave, the District Engineer should, until all the

arrears brought to notice are cleared up, utilise his services under Lieutenant-Colonel G V Law.

2. The entertainment of an extra writer on Rupees 25 per mensem is sanctioned for six months

3. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 15 W of 1878-79.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, Madura  
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts

Exd T D Ryan  
Spare Copies

GOVT. OF INDIA  
PUBLIC WORKS.

1878-1879

No. 24. District Engineer's Office  
Madras 19<sup>th</sup> April 1878  
To, The District Engineer,  
Madras.  
The Chief Engineer,  
P.W.D. Madras

Enclosure

Sir,  
In forwarding in extenso the accompanying copy of letter from Lieutenant Colonel Law at present in charge of the District Division of this District I trust I may be pardoned for in a manner transgressing the order conveyed in para 4 of your No. 215 dated 14<sup>th</sup> January last as I think it right that you should be made acquainted with the state of the Division, caused, I must believe by the incapacity and incompetency of the officers who from time to time have been in charge of it, and entirely agreeing in all that Colonel Law says, I deem it right not to curtail his statement.  
Yours faithfully,  
J. I. I have been zealous and

forbearing as remarked by Colonel Law  
at the conclusion of his para 6 I like  
no credit whatever to myself - perhaps  
I was too forbearing for a long time,  
but I looked and hoped for amendment  
& improvement which I am sorry to say  
never took place. I <sup>also</sup> regret to state  
that Mr. Paynter took umbrage at what  
he conceived to be my undue severity and  
requirements, whereas I can in all truth  
and honor declare that for many months  
I never wrote a line to this officer that  
he could misconstrue into harshness or  
unkindness. I wrote to him constantly,  
both privately and semi-officially, and  
it was my warm advice and entreaties  
were alike disregarded that I was com-  
pelled to word my official letters somewhat  
more strongly, and to inform you that in  
my opinion Mr. Paynter's duties had not,  
from whatever cause, been properly carried

out. I utterly dis-approve the conduct of

of anything bordering on ill-feeling towards  
him; but my duty to Government is plain  
and imperative, my own efforts were  
I trust earnestly and conscientiously  
made, and I have been and am  
determined to improve the condition  
of this District generally - so far as in  
me lies, and so long as I am in charge  
of it.

3. I have the honor very earnestly to  
request your attention to para. 2 of Colonel  
Law's letter regarding the "re-organization  
of the Department." I neither know nor  
have sought to know what that re-organ-  
ization is to be - nor when it is to be,  
but believing as I have done that it  
has been under consideration for a  
long time, and that possibly it might,  
but for the famine, have been effected  
an accomplished fact, I have forbore  
to weary Government with my complaints  
or to suggest improvements & alterations  
which I felt it might not be possible  
to carry out, pending the reorganization;  
had it been otherwise I should months  
ago have proposed for the consideration

of Government changes which as I gained  
experience of the District I felt & feel  
to be very necessary, and these chiefly  
are 1<sup>st</sup> the substitution of the Tirumungalam  
Taluk for the Ramnad <sup>and Chevungah</sup> Gemindari, the  
Madura Range officer's charge would  
then be, as it used to be years ago. for  
I had it myself, the Taluks of Madura  
Melur and Tirumungalam. a glance  
of the map will show that they can be  
managed by a zealous and efficient officer  
and they run into each other. The Madura  
Range officer's charge at present, consists  
of Madura, Melur and the Ramnad  
and Chevungah Gemindaries, though  
the latter are under a sub-Divisional,  
he is under the Madura Divisional, officer,  
who has constantly to visit the Gemindaries  
which lie over an immense tract of  
country with many and diverse works  
with Pambien Channel &c. included, & the  
travelling in which is both difficult &  
must be dilatory on account of the great  
distances and the incomplete and  
poor condition of the

communications. This Gemindary Charge  
should in my opinion be under an <sup>180</sup>/<sub>2 1/2</sub>  
Assistant Engineer who should cor-  
respond direct with the District Engineer,  
2<sup>ndly</sup> - Tirumungalam & Peracolum  
are very large Taluks and at present  
constitute the charge of the Divisional  
Sub-Divisional officer - the distance  
between their boundaries is some  
40 miles and the charge is too great  
one for a Sub-Divisional officer whose  
time can be very fully occupied in  
Peracolum alone - as previously stated  
I do not know what the changes in  
the organization of the Department  
are to be, but things are at present  
I cannot manage this District so  
completely as I earnestly desire to  
manage it, and tho' at times somewhat  
bitter experiences of the last sixteen months  
has convinced me that many and radical  
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of my earnest hope that the strength of the  
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for the current official year, for at present  
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Department is undermanned and when  
I find that on this account I cannot  
execute their orders, however strenuously  
I may and do strive to do so. I conceive  
that it is my bounden duty to bring the  
fact to their notice.

I have the honor to be  
Sir,

Yours most obedient servant

W. Harrison  
Chief Engineer

C E No 16888/5-4-78  
C E No 215 of 14-1-78  
C E No 1996W-29-4-78

Transfer to S.I. for  
work of specimens  
Wt  
3570

From

The District Engineer  
Madurai

To  
The Chief Engineer  
D.P.W. Madras

No 24.

Dated 14<sup>th</sup>  
Despatched  
Received } April 1978

Enclosure one

Attachment

Reporting about the  
condition of the

The Madurai District

Recd 15.5.78. Dtd 17.5.78.  
to Cdy 24-4-78  
Cir 4.5.78. Dtd 7.5.78.

Divisional Office.

My dear Farnwell

I do not see that much  
can be done further to stabilize -  
ments in Madurai pending  
the reorganization - The present  
state of affairs is due to inefficiency  
of the present Range officers to at  
least a very great extent &  
the best of the work is not  
done.

without some assistance <sup>2/3</sup>  
Perhaps this could be given for  
a time for the Foreign Sub

The only migration work  
involving much later work  
is the forwarding of tanks &  
very many & far too long  
delays. I have had only  
few estimates from Madras  
and a single energetic officer  
could have accomplished  
much more than has been

done altogether. I should much prefer to see  
a generally efficient staff to the appointment  
of a special officer for carrying out the  
migration work because it is very long that the  
regular staff in Madras should know about  
such work. Migration is a difficult matter.  
The present staff has large experience in Madras  
and have been successful in many other cases.

C E No 16000/5-4-78  
C E No 2150/14-1-78

When I take leave to examine - I want to indicate  
every expense incurred in the last month or two of  
the year as it is impossible to estimate work properly  
under such circumstances.

Yours sincerely,  
Colonel Law

Divisional Officer

No 136

Camp, Peralakumbura 16 April 1878

From

Lieut Colonel Law

Divisional officer, Dindigul

To

W S Harrington Esqre M I C E  
District Engineer, Madurai

Sir,

I have the honor to report, that, in  
justice to my sub divisional officer, myself,  
and my successor, I feel it my duty to report  
on the state of the Dindigul Division.

2. I had intended to have done so, during  
the Easter holidays, but as Chief Engineer  
Memo No. 1688, 5 April 1878 refers to a coming  
"reorganization of the Department" I have  
thought it better not to delay.

3. With the establishments of Dindigul  
and Pulney I have no fault to find. The  
Taluk Officer, Dindigul and the Acting over-  
-seer of Pulney, are both young men, have  
joined the Division but a few months,  
I have shown zeal and intelligence.

4. My Head Accountant thoroughly

understands his work, and is very hardworking.

5. The second accountant has joined the office but a few months, and has been entirely in charge of "the correspondence". He has done much to get things in order, but records of the past are in hopeless confusion, and chaos.

6. The whole office have been working without a murmur, from 1/2 past 6 to 7.15 each morning to candle light, with but a single hour at noon for refreshment, but the office work is hopelessly in arrears, whilst the countless reminders, remonstrances and reprimands show how zealously and at the same <sup>time</sup> forbearingly, you have tried to obtain answers to the unanswered references of years.

7. It took me hours to get the irrigation papers in order, and try to find out what had been done, and the result was, with the exception of a few spasmodic attempts. Nil.

Grouping of tanks Nil.

Reports on Tanks affecting the South Indian Railway. a single return in Mr. Langford's time sent back for revision.

Reports on Irrigation works constructed under British rule Nil.

8. Estimates for important ailments pre-

pared on suboverseers' measurements, never inspected by Range officers not always by Taluk Overseers.

9. The state of the sub Division is still worse. arrears of years, now quite unanswerable; records simply chaos.

10. It seems to me that the Pudukottai and Tirumangalam Taluqs are far too large a charge for a sub divisional officer with so small an establishment as that detailed below.

1 sub divisional accountant Rs. 25

1. \*Temporary Writer — 20

Mr. Montserrat's expenditure last month was Rs. 36,447.4.10

11. The Tirumangalam Taluk is, I believe, not in the charge of the sub Collector of Pudukottai.

12. The work of the Pulney Hills comprise new Pulney ghaut 30 miles, old ghaut 12 miles, roads about 24 miles, a new cattle ghaut to Pulney, north of the hills, and numberless traces to join the different hill villages. In anticipation of sanction I have retained the services

\* Not sanctioned for current year

of Krishna Row sanctioned up to 31<sup>st</sup> March  
in G.O. 27 September 1877, No. 788. W; though  
an unpassed man, he is a good surveyor  
and draftsman, and has shown a natural  
turn for ghaut tracing. He has as yet no  
office help; and to pay him from this  
year's allotment of Rs. 10,000 for new Pully  
ghaut, would be a heavy charge on the  
estimate.

13. In conclusion I have the honor  
to report that no man could do justice  
to the Diindigul Division without a fair  
start. The current work is far too heavy  
to admit of time to take up the irrigation  
demands referred to in paras 7 & 8. I can  
only suggest the sanction of a special  
officer of irrigation experience for at least  
six months.

I have the  
signature of George V. Law Esq. Coll.  
Divisional officer.

(True copy)

W. Livingston  
District Engineer,  
Madras

Enclosure in a letter from  
the District Engineer  
Madras to the Chief Engineer  
D.P.W. Madras No 24 dated  
19<sup>th</sup> April 1878

Transferred to S.D.

2106-17-78

Copy of Letter

2186 W Public Works Department  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.  
Under date the 17<sup>th</sup> May 1878.  
Read the following

From the Chief Engineer (H.E. No 24 of 19 April 78)

As Executive Engineer  
near Paynter having, it  
is presumed, resigned  
the Madras District  
at the expiration of his  
leave, the District Sur-  
geon should, until  
all the arrears brought  
to notice are cleared  
up, relieve his services  
under Local & T. Law

The entertainment  
for extra work on the  
25 per annum, so far  
limited for six months  
1878 1879

This sanction has been  
registered as Provincial  
No. 1510 of 1878/79

As  
Sd/- Under M. S. to  
Jamin Davis, Chairman  
of the Ganga, in which  
in any case. The District  
is in the State of affairs  
to do the work.  
The Board of the  
of the Board of the  
This is the first of the  
of the Board of the  
of the Board of the

21-5-78

Re-arranged to the  
Hon W. Huddleston with  
a copy of L.O. 1996 H of  
23 April 1878. the letter  
printed with which  
explain the nature of  
the work to be done in  
the Ramnand and Shoon  
gungah Zeminaries.

227

15. 5. 78.

15. 5. 78.

Recd 15. 5. 78. H. 7. 5. 78  
C. 4. 5. 78. H. 7. 5. 78  
15. 5. 78

4764



Govt. of (1878) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS

To

D. L. Madhava

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 17 May 1878, No 21851

For.

Mr. Executive Engineer Paynter

The services of — to be  
utilized in Madras under  
Pub. Law; and an addition-  
al writer sanctioned for  
six months.

For D. L. Madhava