

(1) Number of pages 44.
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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2677 W .	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.

Dated	28 - 6 - 1878	197 .
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Cce

Not to be folded or roughly handled

2677
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

28th June 1878, No 2,677 W.

General
Establishment.

Read the following papers —

No 346 From the District Engineer, Salem, dated 2nd April 1878, No 3 S L
No. 346-A. From R J LOWRY, Esq, Executive Engineer, dated 30th March
1878, No A 2,152

No 347 ORDER THEREON, 28th June 1878, No 2,677 W.
RECORDED

2 ON reconsideration, and after perusal of Mr Lowry's explanation, His
Grace the Governor in Council is inclined to attribute to that officer less blame for
delay than the papers recorded with G O, No 228 I, dated 9th August 1877, would
seem to indicate, and at the same time to express his surprise that the matter was not
more fully explained by Major Montgomerie at the time.

(True Extract)

Colonel, R E,
Secretary to Govt, P W D

To the District Engineer, Salem

Lxd. T D Ryan
Spare Copies

25th May 1878
MORRIS W. S. 7.

COMMUNICATED BY
S. A. L.

25th May 1878

25th

25th

25th May 1878

25th May 1878

Government House.

Colacannu.

26th May 1878.

Dear Colonel Ford

The question of irrigation
in the Damanyam taluk having
again come under His Grace's
enquiry in March last I was
directed to write Mr. R. J. G. G. G.
Executive Engineer, District Divi-
sion for a personal expla-
nation as to his delay in
considering the plans on the
irrigation project - annexed.
Refer on in the order of Mr. J. J. J.

1877. 228.1

The Governor has here
most consideration in your
answer with enclosures, which
I have the honor to forward
for your information.

His Grace observes: "Mr. Lowry
seems not to have done
his work badly on the
whole."

I do not, after
reading these papers, see any-
thing to vary, except - that

I think, if the Chief
Engineer concurs, he may
be told that on the explanation

given of what was to be
done left blame attached
to him for delay. ²⁶⁷⁷/₃

I am also to communicate
to you the following ob-
servations. The Duke of

Northampton remarks:

"I am rather surprised that
Major Thompson did
not point this out to you!
himself, and I do not
think that he is by any
means blameless in the
matter of the delay; but it
is no use reopening the matter."

The file of papers connected
with the circumstances of
the case are this day re-
turned.

I remain
Yours Very Truly
Gottre Hobart

Colonel G. N. Ford
R. 2

No 726 Major General Office
Cofcor, 20th July 1877

From
28th / 7
The Executive Engineer
Cofcor Division
The District Engineer
of Salem

Sir
Referring to the question put
in your Dini Official letter of the 28th inst.
Concerning the Marandahully project I have
the honor to point out that I have already
on three several occasions Dini Officially
informed you that I had on two different
occasions appointed men to take sections
of the River, head of the Channel, Channel &c
in accordance with your instructions and
that both men one Chinnaswamy Naidoo
being a passed surveyor of the Civil Engineer-
ing College proved to be utterly unfitted for
the work and that I had no suitable man
in the Range for it except Surveyor Ponna-
runga Moodeli who is employed on the Barin
project

2. Mr. Barron appointed a tempo-
rary Overseer in your No. of 28th June 1877, who
will I hope be found to be a good surveyor
has today reported himself for duty and
I purpose putting him on the project at
once and as soon as the Barin project is
submitted which I hope will be in a few days.

Surveyor Tennant and others. It is
very Chimassawing. It is available
for it and I would say that in say two
months from this date all the project
will not be completed in every detail
that it will be in such a forward state
as to enable the Chief Engineer to pronounce
upon it.

I have seen
/s/ R. J. Lowry
Executive Engineer

(True Copy)

R. J. Lowry
Executive Engineer

267
5

N^o 570

District Engineer's Office,
Hampdenburg, 26th July 1877

To

The Officer in charge
Oposon Range.

Sir,

I have the honor to request
you will be so good as to report officially
but briefly for the information of Govern-
ment what steps have been taken to carry
out the carefully prepared instructions for
~~completing~~ completing the investigation of
the Maranabully Project issued from
this Office on the 19th of March 1877.

As the Government are desirous
that some irrigation works in the Haram-
pury taluk should be put in hand by our
Department, I have to request you will at
once put on the two best Surveyors at-
tached to your Range to complete the survey
and levels of this work ordered in my Division
of instructions and at the same time put
in hand with the numerous draftsmen
at your disposal the preparation of the
maps on mounted or ten in paper as
explained in the same Memo.

Mr. Mahoney has been directed
to report to you when he will be ready to
take over charge of the Harampury sub-
Division from you. But as he is not likely
to be ready before the 1st of August and of

it will be a privilege for you to hand over
the plans and small works if it, it will
probably be about the 6th or 7th Idem before
you hand over the Maryland Public Project
I shall endeavour to be present in the
fall about that time for the purpose
of going over the project with you, and I
trust that before then all my instructions
will have been fully and carefully carried
out, so that there may be no delay in
submitting the Prop. to Government.

I have very

P. Montgomery

Chief Engineer

(True copy)

R. D. Long
Chief Engineer

2677
7.

Superintendent Office
No 768
Pondicherry 31st July 1877

From
The Executive Engineer,
Pondicherry.

To
The District Engineer,
Salem.

Sir,

In reply to your letter No. 510 of 24th July 1877 calling on me to report what steps have been taken for completing the investigation of the Marandam River Project I have the honor to state that Longitudinal and Cross sections of the Head of the Channel between the Vrukut and the Sargambasavan tanks have been taken both on the old Channel and that of the line proposed by you that will enable you to select the best line for the Superfluous Channel. The survey being laid down on 5 extension paper and is nearly completed on two sheets and the Sections will be plotted on the

same

Temporary Curator Barron and assistant
Surveyor Thomasammy Manda start
to night for Marandakully and I hope
to have everything ready to enable you
to be as to the last time for the new channel
on the "ore" when now ^{bring} ~~you~~ ^{you}
over the project with me.

I have &c. &c.
"Signed" R. J. Lowry
Executive Engineer
"True Copy"

R. J. Lowry,
Executive Engineer.

No. 2152.

-From-

To

Copoor Divisional Office
Copoor, 30th March 1878.

The Executive Engineer
Copoor Division

Major Percie Hobart, R.A.
Military Secretary
Government House.

Sir,

In accordance with request
conveyed in your letter No. 117, of the 28th March/78
I have the honor to state that the plans of the
Marandakully project were forwarded to me
with a letter of instructions on the 19th of
March 1877 and not as I had supposed in
June of that year and as I erroneously informed
His Grace the Governor when she done me the
honor of granting me an interview.

2. I also forward copies of all the
correspondence between the then District Engineer
and myself regarding that project which
is to be found in this office. The instructions
of the 19th March 1877 that accompanied the
plans were I find handed over to Mr. Su-
pervisor Mahoney when he was placed in charge
of the work and not returned by him. I
have requested the District Engineer to forward
you a copy from his office.

3. The mistake I made in answering the
question of His Grace as to the date on which
I received the plans of this project I must have

Yours

arising from my having, I am sure, that it
was in the month of June I let it up, I am
not desirous of it will be seen from my
letter No 72 of the 20th July 1877 that I had
no competent surveyors to do the work

It will be seen from my letter
No 788 of the 31st of July 1877 that on that date
the necessary revised sections and surveys
had been prepared to enable the District Engi-
neer to select the line of channel, site of lock, and
other modifications of the original plans
which I deemed to be necessary, but for which
the consent of the District Engineer had to be
obtained before the project could be proceeded
with. It was absolutely necessary to enable
him to do so in the alignment of the
lock and to see the project was given the pre-
ferred line; this he did for the first time on
the 13th of August 1877 and it was then only that
I saw & knew what was required to be planned
and estimated for.

If the Government will be pleased
to see the District Engineer's letter to me of
the 25th of July 1877. He will see by it that
he (the District Engineer) admits this and
orders me to have all ready to allow him to
decide what he should do when he visits
the works so that there should be no delay
in submitting the project to Government, as the
same time in his letter No 27 of the 28th July 1877

which was the cause of censure being passed
on me in G. O. No. 2281 of the 9th August 1877.
He informs that it was owing to my backward-
ness in the preparation of the estimates that
the project was not before submitted, I would
beg to call attention to the fact that there
was only one day's difference in the date of these
two letters.

I would further beg to point out, that
when it is said in the above quoted G. O. that
the plans of this project when sent to me only
required some further information to com-
plete them, that the Government had not been
correctly informed, as the scheme required to
be completely remodelled and I may add
as a proof of the impossibility of my being
able to submit these plans and estimates
within the month of July as was it appears
expected of me, that there has been employed
on this project since early in the month of
September a first grade mechanic and an
Assistant Engineer with a staff of surveyors
and subordinates and that the plans have not
yet been completed, while the only Assistants
I had were boys fresh from the Civil Engineer-
ing College who had never previously been
employed on works and, I had not only this
scheme in hand, but, the Barrow and Puna-
goondapuram large projects and several smaller
ones, besides the charge of my range which during
- the

the Tamara was more than sufficient of
itself to fully employ one man.

7. Still with all these disadvantages
I managed to commence the Pennagoinstaparam
tank project in March 1877, when owing to
my arm being broken I had to work the
levelling instrument and correct level with
one hand. I sent up the Baroor Project
complete in September, and set out on a
commencing work on the Marundakully project
on the 28th of August and on the Baroor Project
on the 1st of September 1877.

8. I hope with these facts before him
that His Grace will see that my conduct
did not deserve that I should be censured
and deprived of my hard earned promotion.

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedt servant

R. L. Lowry,
Executive Engineer

Recd. 17th Oct. 1877
File 87/104

District Engineers Office, Salem,
Salem, 1st October 1877

2677
11
Memorandum

Letter No 1173 of 27th ultimo, to
Sub Collector.

It is not clear why this
letter and the one from the
Sub Collector which preceded it
should have been sent to this
Office.

As however, the correspondence
has been forwarded, the under-
signed deems to state that
he looks with extreme displeasure
upon the sort of wrangling which
appears to be continually going
on between the ^{Division} Range Office
and that of the Sub Collector.

Nothing whatever is gained
by these perpetual mutual
recriminations, which only waste

time which might be very much better employed

The undersigned has reason to believe that his views are fully shared by the collector, and he hopes that they will be adopted in future by Mr. Lowry.

The facts which have given rise to the correspondence in question are now things of the past, and if Mr. Lowry has been prevented from doing his work by any want of co-operation on the part of Revenue Officers, he can state the facts at the proper time, but it will be true enough to do this when he is blamed by Government or the District Engineer, to whom alone he is responsible.

Signed John Cunningham Macpherson,
District Engineer

1 True Copy

John Cunningham Macpherson,
District Engineer

2677
12

Enclosure to letter
2nd April 1878 to
District Engineer at
the Secretary to Govt

N^o A

Copier Divisional Office,
Dacca 27th February 1878

From
25/3 J. Lamy Esq.,
Executive Engineer,
Copier Division

To
The District Engineer,
Dacca

Sir,

Referring to the promotions in
this Department which appeared in
the Fort St. George Gazette of the
26th December 1877, I have the honor
respectfully to protest against the
injustice that has been done me
in promoting Messrs Smith and
Pringle to 3rd grade Executive while
I altho. first on the list since Capt.
Bailey was promoted in March 1876
have been left still in the 4th grade.

2. I submit that I have neither
done anything or left anything undone
in carrying out the duties of my
appointment

appointment to permit this treatment
3. In L.O. No 228 I of the 9th
August 1877, I was censured for
not having before that date
submitted in a complete form
the plans of the Barsoor and
Dhar and Ahully Irrigation Projects.
In my report forwarded the former
Project in the month of September
1877, I took the opportunity of
showing the impossibility of doing
what was expected from me in
that instance; I take the liberty
of extracting what is there said
which is as follows:-

"In explanation of the delay"
"in forwarding this and the Dhar and"
"Ahully Project for which I am"
"censured in the Government order"
"No. 228 I dated 9th August 1877,"
"I would respectfully point out"
"that I have in the last months"
"had the investigation of no less"
"than"

2577/41
"than 9 projects in hand in this"
"Range. This is one of them and I"
"would bring to the notice of the"
"Chief Engineer for Irrigation"
"that nothing had been done on"
"it not a single section or survey"
"taken before I commenced it in"
"the month of March last that"
"I have had but one fairly efficient"
"man at my disposal to take the"
"survey and levels draw the plans"
"and prepare estimates. That at"
"the same time in addition to the"
"extra work brought by the famine"
"on every officer in the District, I"
"was trying all in my power to"
"investigate and remodel the"
"Dhar and Ahully and Pernagonda"
"poram Projects. The allahum"
"channel and cement and some"
"half a dozen smaller works"
"accrues for a time the Irrigation"
"and"

"and Malappara Projects and at
"the same time, I sent up 4th Com-
"plete ordinary Irrigation Estimates
"and trying to do all this with the
"assistants which the District
"Engineer truly says he placed
"at my disposal who were without
"an exception, boys fresh from
"the Civil Engineering College"
"without any previous experience
"on works or in a Range. Could
"I have placed one or two boys
"under a subordinate of some
"experience on each project, no
"doubt they would have proved
"useful and the work would
"have been done, but the sub-
"ordinates I had in the Range
"were a boy not long passed
"out of the College as Talaf
"Overseer of Damboony Talaf,
"Overseer Tydeman in Broomer"

and

257/5.
"and a good hardworking man but wanting
"professional knowledge in this department
"I need hardly say that I could get
"little or no trustworthy work from
"such assistants under the circum-
"stances."

"In any I hope that with the
"facts of the case before him that
"the Chief Engineer for Irrigation"
"will see that under the circum-
"stances it could not have possibly
"done more and that he will be
"good enough to use his influence
"to have the censure which
"has been passed on me rescinded."

The censure has not been
withdrawn and I fear this may
have injured me in the opinion of
His Grace the Governor in Council,
but I feel convinced you will do
me the justice to vindicate my
conduct in this matter seeing that
altho' there has been a first grade
Executive and 1st grade Assistant
Engineers

Engineers in Charge of the Irrigation
and Reclamation project since early in
September, time has not yet
been found to complete the plans
and estimates and that although the
Barrow Scheme was submitted
by me in the month of Sept.
it had to be entirely revised by
order of the Chief Engineer for
Irrigation and is yet incomplete.
I submit I was in no way to blame
in this case.

4. The statements made by
the Subcollector respecting the
conduct of me in the Barrow
were refuted in my letter No. 291
of 2^d September 1877 and in your
letter No 299 of the 10th November
and as they were made under a
wrong impression and the only
serious charges contained in them
withdrawn and apologized for in

the

2677
the Subcollector's letter No 1197 of the
19th November 1877. It could not be
on this account that I have had
my promotion stopped.

5. In the above I have endeavored
to show how little cause there
is for blame in what I conjecture
to have been said against me, but
altho' I have been severely punished
I am refused all knowledge of
the charges against me and there-
fore unable to defend myself as
I could otherwise do.

6. I appeal to you as my
District Engineer to be good enough
to use your influence to get me
righted in this matter, you know
how I have done my duty since
I have been under you, and can
say if I deserve this treatment, by
which I not only suffer a great
pecuniary loss but am disgraced.

7. Unfortunately

7. Unfortunately your knowledge
of me only extends over a compar-
atively short period, but a
reference to the correspondence in
your Office will show you how
I have worked all through the
famine altho' partially disabled
by a broken arm and dislocated
wrist for three months of the time.

8. As a proof that I know
my work as an Engineer and
do it, I may point to the Chomoran
bankum bank Project - the revised
plans and estimates for which
were made and the work nearly
completed by me, not one of the
many Calingulals, sluices, bridges,
or other masonry works con-
nected therewith have ever shown
a symptom of giving way, nor
has the bank itself been the
cause of a moment's inundation.
I

2677
17.

I have &c.,
Signed R. J. Loring
Executive Engineer.

N.B.L.

Encls.

1 Copy of Memo
C-10.860-87
1st Oct 77

District Engineer's Office,
Salem 2nd April 1898

Submitted for the favorable Consider-
ation of Government.

2. Without for a moment desiring
to question the right of Government
to grant or withhold promotion
with or without assigning a reason,
I feel bound to say that if in this
case, Mr. Loring has been superseded
on account of any supposed short-
comings on his part, he has been
treated with undeserved harshness.

3. I have taken some pains to as-
certain the actual facts connected
with the submission of projects for
the Opopo Division, for delay in
which

which Mr. Louny was censured in G.O. No. 228 I of 9th August last and cannot but think that this censure was passed under a misapprehension of the real nature of the case.

The surveys by Mr. Blacket which apparently are the plans prepared years ago, alluded to in the second para of the above quoted order were of little value, and the whole project had to be entirely remodelled and it was not until August that Mr. Louny received the instructions necessary to enable the plans to be prepared.

5. The Range is a difficult one to manage under ordinary circumstances, and the addition to the current work of the large irrigation projects was enough to overweight the most competent and energetic Officer; it certainly does

does not appear to me ²⁶⁷¹that Mr. Louny received either the instructions or the assistance which alone would render it fair to censure him for shortcomings.

6. The arrangement referred to in para 4 of my predecessor's letter printed with the G.O. under reference, of making the Darapour Taluk a separate subdivision only lasted a very short time, as Mr. Mahony was retransferred to Salem in September; one of my first actions on taking charge of the District was to revert to this arrangement (though I did not know that it had been adopted before) as the Range was evidently too much for one man.

7. Since that the Darapour Taluk has had more than its share of the District staff and of my own personal attention, but the complete plans

plans of the Bras and Abulky Project
are not ready yet, and I should be
sorry to name a date for their
completion.

8. Mr. Lowry has also been
blamed in connection with his
relations with the subcollector,
the enclosed Memorandum written
on the very day after I took
charge of the District will show
that I was by no means disposed
to encourage him in raising dis-
putes; but I am bound to say
that these papers which I after-
wards saw convinced me that he
was but little to blame. The
subject is one on which I desire
to say as little as possible, and
will only add that Mr. Lowry
can hardly be found fault with
for not doing what ^{hardly} any officer of
my Department has succeeded in
doing.

done yet.

2677
19.

9. If Mr. Lowry has been passed
over simply because the Govern-
ment do not think proper to
promote him, there is no more to
be said, but if, as seems possible,
his supersession has been due to
dissatisfaction with his performance
of his executive work, it is only
right to say that after personal
observation and careful enquiry
there appears but little real reason
for such dissatisfaction.

John Perry & Majors, Esq.,
District Engineer.

2677
200

G.O. 124th April 1875 no 1051
 " 5th June 1875 " 1586
 " 15 October 1875 " 2953
 " 20 Nov 1875 " 3397
 " 15th Dec 1875 " 36245-
 " 13th July 1877 " 41871
 " 9th Augt 1877 " 2289

From

The District Engineer
 Salem

To The Secretary
 to Government
 S P W

Dated 2nd April 1878
 Recd 3rd

H.E. - S.L.

Encl. 1

Executive Engineer Mr.
 R. Lowry - Submitting for
 favourable consideration
 of Government letter from -
 - representing that he
 has been superseded by
 many of his juniors in
 the late arrangement
 of promotions

Cir 18.6.78 Dtd 20.6.78
 to Cnty 30.5.78

No 2677

Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

Read the following.

From the District Engineer - (H.E. No 3 S.L. 720 April 78)
 Mr R. Lowry. Ex Engr - 2152 730 March 78

Recorded

On reconsideration, and
 after perusal of Mr. Lowry's
 explanation, His Grace
 the Governor in Council
 is inclined to attribute
 to that Officer less blame
 for delay than the paper
 recorded with G.O. No 2285
 dated 9th August 1877 would
 seem to indicate.

11/12

20/6

D. S. Salem
 (signed) 24th Dec at City.
 11-4-78
 All at his desk on 15-1-78

2672
22

for 18.6.78 to 20.6.78
of fuel & gas

7/81
733

Court of (1873) [unclear]

PUBLIC WORKS

The D. & Saline

1000 *1000*

1000 *1000*

1000 *1000*

1000 *1000*

Marandahally Project

Passing order on the
explanation of Mr. R. J. Jorgy
regarding deficit in working
of the — papers about
his promotion, recorded

repa
1000 *1000*

1000 *1000*