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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No.	2184	Press. / Mis.
Dated	21-8-1879	197 .

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2184
1

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st May 1871.

Read the following letters :—

No. 546. From Major J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

(Here enter No. 305, dated 29th April 1871.)

No. 547. From the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

(Here enter No. 341, dated 8th May 1871.)

No. 548. ORDER THEREON, 31st May 1871, No. 1,486.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 53.

THE Government observe that the allowances at present passed to Major Fischer are as noted below, a portion of which is a personal allowance granted in consideration of the circumstances attending his appointment to Nagpore and his return to the Madras Department Public Works, in order that he might enjoy the same income that he had prior to going to Nagpore :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Staff pay as Executive Engineer, 1st grade ...	600	0	0
Deputation allowance as Officiating Superintending Engineer	100	0	0
Military allowances as Captain	293	10	0
Personal allowance	100	0	0
	1,093	10	0

2. On Major Fischer's promotion to junior Lieutenant-Colonel he would if he elects the old rules during his continuance in his present employment be entitled to :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Military allowances	576	9	0
Staff pay as Executive Engineer, 1st grade ...	600	0	0
Deputation allowance as Officiating Superintending Engineer	100	0	0
	1,276	9	0

3. But in consideration of the circumstances referred to above, the Government resolve to continue to Major Fischer a personal allowance of Rupees 50 monthly, making up his salary to that of a Controller of the 2nd class, the salary of which for a Military Officer under the old regulations is Rupees 750, and which is the full amount that he would be entitled to on his promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel if he had not gone to Nagpore and had continued to be employed as Controller of Public Works Accounts which has been graded as 2nd class.

4. The Government will also continue the same allowances to Major Fischer on his further promotion to 1st class Lieutenant-Colonel, assuming that he continues to hold his present position in the department, and his salary would then be—

	RS.	A.	P.
Military allowances	758	12	0
Staff pay as Executive Engineer	600	0	0

Deputation allowance as Officiating Superintending Engineer	100	0	0
Personal allowance	50	0	0
	1,508	12	0

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

2

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE ACTING SUPERINTENDING

ENGINEER, 1st DIVISION.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 31st.

Rec'd. Encl.

G. O., 31st May 1871, No. 1,486.

MAY.

Nos. 540-548

* Major Fischer, C. S.—Passing orders on the subject of the salary of Major Fischer, Acting Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division.

2184/3

No. 235. Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 3rd June 1871, No. 608:—

ADVERTING to the Proceedings of Government, No. 1,486, dated 31st May 1871, I have the honour to offer the following remarks.

2. On the occasion of Major Fischer's re-transfer from the Central Provinces to Madras, the Government of India, in their Proceedings of the 23rd January 1869, No. 19—E. I., stated that, if the measure were thought desirable by this Government, they would not object to a *personal allowance* being passed to him* so as to raise his salary to that which he had previously drawn in this Presidency as Controller of Public Works Accounts.

* *Vide* paragraph 2 of G. O., No. 658, dated 6th March 1871.

3. The pay and allowances to which Major Fischer is entitled *under the rules* as an Executive Engineer of the 1st grade, Officiating as a Superintending Engineer, is Rupees 993-10-0,* but as this is less than the salary† which Major Fischer drew in this Presidency prior to his transfer to Nagpore, a personal allowance of Rupees 100 is passed to him under the orders of the Government of India above quoted.

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Pay as Executive Engineer ...	600	0	0
Deputation allowance... ...	100	0	0
Military allowance	293	10	0
	993	10	0
† Staff Pay	800	0	0
Military allowances	293	10	0
	1,093	10	0

4. It has always been understood that a personal allowance ceases as soon as the officer to whom it is granted draws, on promotion or otherwise, a salary equivalent to, or higher than, that which he was in receipt of before the orders for that personal allowance were issued. In Major Fischer's case a personal allowance of Rupees 50 is authorized in paragraphs 3 and 4 of the Proceedings under reply, notwithstanding that, on that Officer's promotion to the rank of 2nd* and 1st† class Lieutenant-Colonel, respectively, his receipts, *in accordance with rule*, will be higher than the pay‡ and allowances to which he was entitled prior to his transfer to Nagpore. Moreover, in the concluding paragraph of the order of the 31st ultimo, the Government grant to Major Fischer, on promotion to the rank of 1st class Lieutenant-Colonel, pay and allowances at the rate of Rupees 1,458-12-0, which is in excess of the maximum salary (Rupees 1,350) prescribed for a Superintending Engineer of the lowest grade by Rupees 108-12-0. In addition to this, the order in question gives Major Fischer a personal allowance of Rupees 50, thus raising that Officer's receipts to Rupees 158-12-0 in excess of what he would be entitled to as a *permanent* Superintending Engineer of the 3rd grade.

	Rs.	A.	P.
* Pay as Executive Engineer, 1st Grade	600	0	0
Deputation allowance ...	100	0	0
Military allowance	576	0	0
	1,276	0	0
† Pay and Deputation allowance as above	700	0	0
Military allowance... ...	650	0	0
Maximum provided for a 3rd Grade Superintending Engi...	1,350	0	0
‡ Staff pay	800	0	0
Military allowance	293	10	0
	1,093	10	0

5. The pay and allowances authorized in the order under acknowledgment are *special*, and appear to have reference to what Major Fischer's receipts would amount to if, continuing in the position of Controller of Public Works Accounts in this Presidency, he had elected the old rules; but as, under the Circular recorded in Proceedings of the 3rd April 1871, No. 978, the sanction of the Supreme Government is necessary to the passing of establishment charges not provided for by rule, I respectfully beg that the Proceedings of this Government may be reported to the Government of India for confirmation.

No. 236. ORDER THEREON, 14th October 1871, No. 2,620.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 19.

ORDERED that the Government of India be addressed on the subject of this letter.

(Here enter No. 2,621, dated 14th October 1871.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Ed. S. T. Augustin.

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2184/5

Public Works Department,
Ootacamund, 14*th October* 1871.

237.

No. 2,621.

To

The SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT of INDIA,
Public Works Department.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

Sir,—In their letter of the 23rd January 1869, No. 19—E. I., the Government of India, in replacing the services of Major Fischer at the disposal of this Government, remarked that they "would be glad if the first opportunity were taken to give him employment in the Madras Presidency in a position suitable to his standing in the service and his qualifications," and they added that "if it be thought desirable by the Madras Government, the Government of India would not object to permitting Major Fischer to draw as a personal allowance such higher rate of salary in addition to that of any post to which he could at once be appointed as will place him on the footing which he would have occupied had he not been transferred to the Central Provinces." Since Major Fischer's return to the Madras Department Public Works this Government have not been able to assign to him a higher position than that of an Executive Engineer of the 1st Grade, officiating as Superintending Engineer, and in consideration of the circumstances of his case and the wish of the Government of India, Major Fischer has while in the grade of Regimental Captain and employed as Acting Superintending Engineer been paid as follows:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
Staff pay as Executive Engineer, 1st Grade ...	600	0	0
Deputation allowance as Officiating Superintending Engineer	100	0	0
Military allowances as Captain	293	10	0
Personal allowance	100	0	0
Total ...	1,093	10	0

the personal allowance of Rupees 100 having been granted to prevent his being subjected to any loss of income.

2. On his renewed application as to what his pecuniary position would be in the event of his Regimental promotion, G. O., No. 1,486, 31st May, was issued, which in his letter as per margin the Controller points out will have the effect of securing to Major Fischer while officiating as a Superintending Engineer Rupees 73-7-0 a month in excess of the authorized salary of the appointment for such period as he may be a Lieutenant-Colonel on Major's pay, and Rupees 108-12-0 in excess of the authorized salary so soon as he attains the Regimental position of Lieutenant-Colonel on Lieutenant-Colonel's pay. As Captain (Major) Fischer will shortly be promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel by the demise on the 8th

No. 603, dated 3rd June 1871.

ultimo of Colonel A. J. M. Boileau, it becomes necessary to take action on the Controller's letter, and I am accordingly directed to request the sanction of the Government of India to the Order of this Government, No. 1,~~8~~6, 31st May 1871.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

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

Secretary to Government.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

6

Govt. of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE SECRETARY to the GOVERNMENT

Dated October 1871.

Read

Encl.

G.O. 25, 11th October 1871, No. 2,621

OCTOBER

No. 237

Requesting sanction to the Collector
the Madras Government, Dept. Pub. W
1871, No. 3,188, regarding the
allowances of Major Fischer, Acting Su
Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division.

2184
7

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 18th December 1871.

No. 319. Read the following letter from the Officiating Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Establishment—Irrigation,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 5th December 1871, No. 334-E. I :—

In reply to your letter No. 2,621 of the 14th October last, I am directed to communicate the approval of the Governor-General in Council of the orders passed by the Government of Madras relative to the allowances to be drawn by Major Fischer on his promotion to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, and his continuance in his present departmental grade.

No. 320. Order thereon, 18th December 1871, No. 3,188.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 16.

Communicated to the Controller of Public Works Accounts, with reference to his letter dated 3rd June 1871, No. 608, and to Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer.

(True Extract.)

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

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division.

Rxd. S. T. Augustin.

2184/8

Proceedings of the Madras Government. Public Works Department, 9th May 1874.

No. 228. Read the following letter from T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 21st April 1874, No. 618 :—

ADVERTING to the Acting Under Secretary's memorandum, No. 108 of the 20th instant, in which it is stated that the transfers notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 14th idem are to be regarded as being made at the public expense except in the case of Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, R.E., I have the honour to inquire whether, in carrying out the orders of Government communicated in G.O., No. 2,867, dated 28th November 1870, "that no salary or travelling allowance can be passed for the interval that elapses between the date of giving over charge of the old, and that of assuming charge of the new, appointment," this Office is to consider the Military pay and allowances of Colonel Fischer as forfeiture in addition to the staff salary of his appointment.

2. Colonel Fischer draws the following pay and allowances as Executive Engineer :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
First Grade	600	0	0
Personal allowance	150	0	0
Military allowance	758	12	0
Pay proper	243	8	0
Total...	1,752	4	0

No. 229. ORDER THEREON 9th May 1874, No. 1,254.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 12.

His Excellency the Governor in Council observes that it was not intended that Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's transfer should entail the forfeiture of any portion of his salary, his travelling expenses only being borne by himself.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Govt. of 1874 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

THE OFFG. CONTROLLER OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS &c. &c. &c.

Dated May 9/4.

Read

Ans[illegible]

O. C. 9th May 1874, No. 1,254.

MAY

Nos. 228-229

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer.—Intimating that Lieutenant Colonel Fischer's transfer does not entail the forfeiture of any portion of his salary, his travelling expenses only being borne by himself.

2184/9

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1874.

Read the following papers:—

No. 243. Endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th February 1874.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 12th February 1874, No. 298.

Read again Board's Proceedings, dated 25th April and 19th September 1873, Nos. 649 and 1,878.

Read also the following letters:—

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 29th November 1873, No. 391.

As directed in the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 1,878, of the 19th September 1873, I have the honour to forward copies of all the papers connected with the planting of lunkah grass on an Island in the Godavery river, with a report on all that has gone before.

2. I do not, however, think that the actual state of the dispute has much to do with the question of the terms used by the District Engineer in one of his letters on the subject (No. 1,578 of 16th August), which is the paper I object to. But I proceed to give a full analysis of the dispute in the hope that it may lead to some good result.

3. All the letters, of which copies are enclosed, refer to an Island in the Godavery river belonging to the Zemindarni of Gopaulpuram. Lunkah grass is growing (whether spontaneously, or planted by the ryots, or the Zemindarni, or both is not known) on the banks of this Island, and the result has been damage to the river, danger to certain public works on the opposite (the west) bank of the river, and expense to Government. The Public Works Department have repeatedly cut this grass. The Zemindarni demands payment, and the Engineering Department refuse to pay. The latter wish to compel the Zemindarni to refrain from planting, and the Zemindarni wishes to sue the Department Public Works for the value of the grass cut.

4. The law with regard to *Government* Islands compels the cultivators to allow the officers of the Department Public Works to cut grass whenever they think fit without compensation. But in this case the Island is a *proprietary* estate; there is no dispute whatever as to that point. The law gives to the proprietor all the land above low water-mark, and this grass stands within that limit. At the same time the law gives, I conceive, the right of civil action on the part of the Government against the Zemindarni for such an extension of her Island as may injure the Government land or works on the opposite bank of the river. There might be grounds for prosecuting the planters of the grass criminally for mischief if it could be found who did it, but the chances of conviction are very remote, and the officers of the Department Public Works are themselves averse to such a course, as they are not prepared with sufficient proof. On the other hand the Zemindarni has, I should imagine, clear grounds of complaint against the Department Public Works, not for their cutting the grass, as she has signified her consent to their doing so on previous notice being given, but for their refusing to pay her the smallest compensation for the grass they cut.

5. The case under consideration at present is one which has given rise to the correspondence enclosed between the District Engineer and his executive officers, and the Sub-Collector. It is very similar to a previous case which was conducted principally between the Collector and the Department Public Works, and which, the Board of Revenue will remember, was the cause of the issue of their Proceedings, No. 686, dated 30th April 1873, and G. O., thereon, No. 707, dated 22nd July 1873.

6. The following are the facts of the present case.

7. On 8th June 1872 Mr. Walch, the Executive Engineer in charge of No. 3 or Western Delta Range, requested* the Superintending Engineer to inform him of the actual boundaries of the Gopaulpuram lunkah, as much damage was being done to Government works by the extension of that Island. The Superintending Engineer addressed the Sub-Collector,† asking for the requisite information.

* No. 93, 8th June 1872, Enclosure 1.

† No. 1,001, 13th June 1872, Enclosure 2.

I beg to point out that in this letter the Superintending Engineer uses language calculated to irritate the Sub-Collector as implying a sort of threat of reference to the Collector in case the Sub-Collector does not do what the Superintending Engineer imagines to be his duty to do.

8. The Sub-Collector then wrote* to Mr. Walch, suggesting that if clear evidence was procurable as to who planted the grass which caused the damage those persons might be prosecuted, and asking for a report on the facts and a list of witnesses to prove, 1st, who planted the grass; 2ndly, whether the Zemindarni abetted the planters; 3rdly, what evidence is forthcoming that the planters knew of the damage they were causing; and, 4thly, what damage had actually been done. The Sub-Collector also called on the proprietrix to explain.

* No. 76, 22nd June 1872, Enclosure 3.

9. The proprietrix replied† that she had not planted any grass, but had actually sustained loss by refusing permission to her ryots to plant on their lands which lay on the margin and had been washed away, and that what grass there was was self-sown, germinating from seeds blown there by the wind and roots washed down by floods. She also stated that she had given permission to the Circar to remove the grass, and that she herself had actually removed some. Further, that the Department Public Works officers had been cutting grass whenever it suited their convenience, but had uniformly refused to pay compensation. She courted full investigation.

† Marked C., 8th July 1872, Enclosure 4.

10. Meanwhile Mr. Walch had replied,‡ stating that no good evidence was forthcoming, and that in his opinion *Judicial proceedings were unadvisable.* He states that the injury done by the extension of the Island ("*by self-sown grass if not by manual planting*") [*sic*] is extensive erosion of the right bank of the river, rendering costly works necessary. All that he wants is, he says, that his department should be informed of "the exact boundaries of that portion of existing

‡ No. 91, 30th June 1872, Enclosure 5.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11*th May* 1874.

lunkah over which the Zemindarni has rights," so that it may be decided how much of her property it might be necessary to acquire under Act X. of 1870.

11. On 13th July 1872 the Superintending Engineer again addressed§ the Sub-Collector on another matter, a branch of the same subject. Mr. Walch, in his notes to the Inspection Report for June 1872, stated that the work on a groyne on the right bank of the river had been stopped by the Gopaulpuram Zemindarni's refusal to allow lunkah grass to be cut on her Island. The Superintending Engineer commenting on this urges a speedy defining of the limits of the lunkah.

§ No. 1,411, 13th July 1872, Enclosure 6.

12. In reply the Sub-Collector wrote‖ that he was waiting till he had opportunity to inspect the Island referred to before attempting to define its limits, and to satisfy the Superintending Engineer that he had not neglected the subject he sent him copies of the correspondence between himself and Mr. Walch.

‖ No. 89, 22nd July 1872, Enclosure 7.

13. On 27th July Mr. Walch wrote a demi-official to Mr. Stuart, Sub-Collector, in reply to which Mr. Stuart, on September 30th, wrote as requested an official letter, No. 129, (Enclosure 8), sending his opinion on the matter, which shortly comes to this—that by law the proprietor has a right to all land appearing at low water; that low water-mark, therefore, is the only boundary that can be laid down; and that if the Department Public Works want any land to be taken up under Act X. of 1870, Mr. Stuart would recommend "them to take such a strip of the lunkah or river bed as may be considered necessary." It appears, however, that no notice was taken of this by the Department Public Works, who thus seem to be themselves solely responsible for the delay. They never sent in any list of lands they wanted.

14. In reply to a letter of the Sub-Collector the proprietrix wrote to the Sub-Collector,* reiterating her former statements and complaining that, though the Department Public Works had cut as much grass as they wanted, and though she had suffered loss of revenue, they never paid her for the grass taken.

* Dated 21st October 1872, Enclosure 9.

15. Mr. Pearse, then Acting Sub-Collector, wrote to the Superintending Engineer,† forwarding this petition, and stating that the proprietrix had no objection to the grass being cut if she was paid for it.

† No. 163, 3rd December 1872, Enclosure 10.

16. The Superintending Engineer replied‡ very curtly on December 7th, simply sending copy of a letter addressed by him the *previous day* to the Collector, apparently after receipt of Mr. Pearse's letter. I can see no reason for this irritating tone, unless he wished Mr. Pearse to understand that the Superintending Engineer declined further correspondence with him, and had gone to his superior on the matter, as if in fact Mr. Pearse had been doing something wrong.

‡ No. 56, 7th December 1872, Enclosure 11.

17. This enclosed letter was dated 6th December 1872, (Enclosure 12), and states that great injury had been done by the planting of grass; that it is impos-

sible to prove who plants the grass, and *therefore* (!) the Zemindars are not entitled to any consideration or compensation. He states that "the same excuse" is made by the Tahsildars, namely, that it is impossible to prove who planted the grass, and he accuses the Tahsildars of wilful neglect of their duty, and wilful withholding of complaints as to injury, however large, done to Government works. This is bad enough. Colonel Fischer must surely be aware that Tahsildars are powerless to punish when there is no evidence to show who the offenders are, and he knew well when he wrote that the Sub-Collector had been taking all possible pains to put the matter right, and had told him two or three days before that he had obtained the consent of the Zemindarni for the Department Public Works to cut the grass whenever they thought fit if they only paid her its proper value. He also refuses to pay for what he takes, though he admits that there are no grounds for supposing the Zemindars responsible. But even worse remains. In his 2nd paragraph Colonel Fischer again proceeds to threats, and implications that the Revenue officers do not do their duty. Writing to the Chief Revenue officer of the district he tells him that no doubt the Government will call for an explanation of the whole matter, and that he has repeatedly pointed out the injury done, implying that the injury is therefore the result of the Collector's neglect of his duty.

18. Similar language was used a few days later, (December 20th), and that letter being sent to the Board of Revenue they in their Proceedings, No. 649, dated 25th April 1873, condemned Colonel Fischer's tone.

19. The correspondence then passed into my hands and led to the issue of G. O., No. 767, dated 27th July 1873, approving of my proposals for securing the safety of the river and the works by the taking up of a strip of land all along the edge under Act X. of 1870.

20. On 25th June 1873, (Enclosure 13), the proprietrix again complained of large quantites of lunkah grass having been cut by the subordinates of the Department Public Works and payment being withheld. Mr. Snaith, Sub-Collector, sent this complaint with a covering letter* to the District Engineer, and his reply† was received on 7th August.

* No. 126, 10th July 1873, Enclosure 14.

† No. 1,510, 7th August 1873, Enclosure 15.

21. This letter simply referred Mr. Snaith to the Superintending Engineer's letter of the 7th December 1872, which itself merely enclosed his letter of 6th December 1872 to the Collector, and concluded with the following paragraph, the extremely offensive tone of which will, I think, speak for itself:—"It has been ruled by the authorities that the Government have reserved all rights to cut lunkah grass in the bed of the river for its proper conservancy, and this fact is well known in your office; but at every change of officers this office is troubled with the same complaints and references."

22. Mr. Snaith pointed out in reply‡ that the only order extant referred to *Government* not *proprietary* lunkahs, and concluded with a remonstrance against the tone of Colonel Fischer's letter.

‡ No. 163, 14th August 1873, Enclosure 16.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11*th May* 1874.

23. Colonel Fischer immediately on receipt of the letter replied by letter, No. 1,578, dated 16th August 1873, (Enclosure 17), the tone of which is, I contend, most offensive and annoying, and such as no officer should for a moment be permitted to use to another. It would be waste of time to comment on the language used, as that speaks very plainly for itself; but I think it necessary to point out how extremely inaccurate Colonel Fischer is in his comments on this case, and how utterly uncalled for are his remarks.

24. He says, "I have only to observe that the complaint of the proprietrix referred to was of a vague and general nature, and no officer was specified against whom her charges were preferred." This then Colonel Fischer considers to be a sufficient ground for deliberately refusing to take any notice of her complaint, though he perfectly well knows that his subordinates are cutting this grass, and he himself defends the practice! I think the Government will not support him in his endeavour to ignore all complaints made against his officers of things done by them which he knows them to have done.

25. Colonel Fischer says, "She (the proprietrix) fails to show the limits of her lunkah." The foregoing outline of this case will show that the Department Public Works were invited by the Sub-Collector more than a year previously to point out what land they wanted to acquire of this lunkah, and were informed that no limits except low water-mark could be defined. The Department Public Works are alone responsible for the delay. They never replied to the Sub-Collector's invitation.

26. Colonel Fischer then argues that he has a right to cut the Zemindarni's grass because the Zemindarni has not taken any notice of a complaint made against her by the Superintending Engineer. I can scarcely believe that Colonel Fischer is so ignorant of common law as really to hold this view seriously.

27. He then argues that the Zemindarni's proprietary rights do not confer on her any right to injure her neighbour as much as she likes. It is perfectly true that she may be suable in the Civil Courts, but it is plain that this right of action can confer upon the District Engineer no right to injure the Zemindarni as much as *he* likes.

28. In paragraph 3 Colonel Fischer says that he had before suggested to former Sub-Collectors to see for themselves how much the property of Government had been injured by the planting of lunkah grass, and that his suggestion was never noticed by them. How much truth there is in that allegation will appear from the history of the case as given above. What the meaning of his next remark, "I had hoped the matter was at rest," is I leave it to the Board to determine. I am at a loss to understand it.

29. Colonel Fischer proceeds, without a word of apology, to reiterate *verbatim* the irritating words which Mr. Snaith objected to in his letter under reply. I cannot conceive a much more positively insulting course of action.

30. He then deliberately writes that, "after several minute and careful inspections of the locality," he regrets to say that the Revenue Department have "entirely neglected" their duty to "see that the Government they serve have their interests faithfully attended to." I leave the Board to dispose of this very serious charge, merely remarking that had Colonel Fischer done as he was asked by the Sub-Collector to do fourteen months before, viz., point out the

land he wanted to take up under Act X. of 1870 to preserve the river, the transaction could have been completed, and all the injury done to the Government works this year would have been avoided. Instead of which he has remained inactive, contenting himself with invading proprietary rights, carrying off property without paying for it, and writing offensively worded letters to the Collector and Sub-Collector.

31. He concludes with accusing the Sub-Collector of declaring the proprietrix to have legitimately a right to "do as much injury as she likes to her neighbours"—a position never of course for one moment assumed—and winds up with a threat of going to Government for redress, and for an extension of his powers to enable him to "defend their rights and property."

32. Now I hold that this style of correspondence should not be permitted between one officer and another. If it were allowed every district would be, officially, in flames, and the work of the Government would be neglected in the excitement and irritation of constant squabbles. The Board of Revenue have already had occasion to notice the irritating tone of Colonel Fischer's correspondence, and I think that the letter now before the Board calls for very serious notice.

33. I, therefore, request the Board to ask the Government to put a stop to the issue of letters of this kind from Colonel Fischer's office. I trust that the above narrative will show that the Revenue Department are in no way to blame in the matter of the injury to the Government works, and that if anybody is to blame it is the District Engineer himself for not having marked out the limits of the lands he requires to preserve. I also ask the Board to request the Government to direct Colonel Fischer at once to pay for whatever grass his subordinates have cut on this estate during the past year and a half, and to continue so to pay in future. If he thinks the Zemindarni to blame he can sue her in the Courts for the injury.

ENCLOSURES Nos. 1 to 18.—Copies of Correspondence.

From the same Officer, dated Cocanada, 8th December 1873, No. 401.

In my letter, No. 391, dated 29th November, reporting on all the circumstances leading to the issue from the District Engineer's office of a letter* to the Acting Sub-Collector of this district, which I consider contains language which should not be allowed. I stated that the District Engineer had never applied to the Revenue authorities to take up the Gopaulpore lunkah for public purposes, though requested to do so should he so desire, and that in my opinion the injury he complained of to the river works was due simply to this neglect, and not to any carelessness on the part of the Revenue Department.

* No. 1,578, 16th August 1873.

2. I have the honour now to mention that my statement has reference to circumstances occurring *before* 21*st August* 1873, on which date the Acting Sub-Collector wrote to me complaining of the tone of the District Engineer's letter. I do this to prevent any misunderstanding, as *since that date*, namely on 11th September 1873, Colonel Fischer has written to me requesting that the Island may be taken up under Act X. of 1870, and the matter is now under consideration.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11*th May* 1874.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Collector of the Godavery District submits a letter from Colonel Fischer, the District Engineer, to the Sub-Collector, dated the 16th August 1873, No. 1,578, and requests that Government may be asked to prevent Colonel Fischer from writing in a manner so insulting and irritating.

3. The correspondence, which is very fully summarized by the Collector, bears reference to the injury done to the western bank of the Godavery by the planting of lunkah grass on the eastern bank and the lunkahs near it, and more especially to such planting on the border of the Gopaulpore lunkah.

4. The general question of the injury thus done, and of the measures which are to be adopted in order to remedy it, is disposed of in G. O., dated 22nd July 1873, No. 767, and in their Proceedings of the 28th January 1874, No. 145, the Board have submitted to Government an application for taking up the whole of the Gopaulpore lunkah, as a piece of land from which "more immediate danger is apprehended" under the Land Acquisition Act.

5. It appears that on the 10th July 1873 the Sub-Collector forwarded to the District Engineer a complaint from the proprietrix of the Gopaulpore lunkah, to the effect that officials of the Public Works Department had cut 5,000 bundles of lunkah grass without her permission at places chosen by themselves, and had not paid for it. The District Engineer replied in a somewhat irritating manner. The Sub-Collector remonstrated, and the District Engineer then wrote the letter which is complained of.

6. The letter incorrectly accuses the Sub-Collector of ignorance of orders on the subject of the planting of lunkah grass in the bed of the river, and advises him to consult the Collector before he commits himself on the subject. It implies that the Sub-Collector had stated that the proprietary rights of the Gopaulpore proprietrix justified her in injuring her neighbours as much as she likes, whereas the Sub-Collector had said nothing of the kind. It states a mistaken view of the law as to the right of the proprietrix in the lunkah ceasing when it became attached to the left bank of the river. It groundlessly insinuates that the injury done by he proprietrix had been represented to the Sub-Collector's predecessor and no notice taken of it, and that a question previously at rest had been revived simply because there had been a change of Sub-Collectors. It informs the Sub-Collector that it is the bounden duty of Revenue officers to protect the interests of Government faithfully, and that this duty has been entirely neglected in the locality of the Gopaulpore lunkah. Finally, he states that if any attempt is made to enforce what the Sub-Collector has declared to be "a legitimate" claim he "will report the matter at once to Government and ask for further powers to defend their rights and property:" this amounts to the repetition of a threat to report the Revenue officer for neglect and incapacity which had been previously made to the Collector under similar circumstances, and pronounced quite uncalled for in Board's Proceedings, dated 25th April 1873, No. 649.

7. As this is not the first time the Board have had to notice the irritating manner in which Colonel Fischer writes, and as it seems likely to cause difficulties in the administration of the district, the Board resolve to lay the matter before Government, and request that Colonel Fischer may be peremptorily required to write more courteously and more reasonably.

8. They think also that Colonel Fischer should be required to investigate the claims of the proprietrix of the lunkah, and pay what is really due to her for grass cut by officials of the Public Works Department.

(True Copies and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

TRANSFERRED to the Department Public Works for disposal.

(Signed) D. F. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government, R.D.

No. 244. Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Revenue Department, dated 26th February 1874, No. 261.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd February 1874, No. 206.

From W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Cocanada, 7th January 1874, No. 4.

IN forwarding, herewith, copy of a letter, dated the 2nd instant, No. 2,890, from the District Engineer, asking me to compel the Curnams of Mokhasa villages to render Returns of Irrigation, I have the honour to observe that Colonel Fischer threatens to stop the water-supply to the lands of the village.

2. I do not know if Colonel Fischer means to carry out his threat if the Curnams neglect to furnish returns. It is objectionable to stop the supply of water to ryots if the Curnam omits to do his duty.

3. I may remark that I have not the means of compelling a Zemindari Curnam to render an account of irrigated areas, though I have asked the landlord to induce the Curnam to do this.

4. Certainly there would be loss from the absence of correct statistics, but the loss of Government revenue, if water is not supplied, would far exceed it. The matter, therefore, deserves sufficient timely attention.

5. It would be far better to have the Engineering Department keep to their proper business. The Collector certainly could get the accounts from the Curnams with less trouble than the District Engineer.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, to W. S. FOSTER, Esq., Acting Collector of the Godavery District, dated Dowlaishweram, 2nd January 1874, No. 2,890.

IN forwarding, herewith, copy of a letter from the Executive Engineer in charge of the Western Delta Range, and its enclosure, (to be returned,) relative to the difficulty experienced by that officer's subordinates in getting Statements of Irrigation from a Zemindari or Mokhasa Village,

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I have the honour to request you will be good enough to take steps to compel the Curnams, etc., of those villages to send in proper returns, as otherwise I will have to stop the water-supply to their lands.

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government.

2. The Board are of opinion that the District Engineer would not be justified in withholding water from the lands of a Zemindar on the ground that his Curnam had neglected to furnish accounts; the Collector will do all he can to arrange with the proprietors for the submission of the required returns.

Irrigation, No. 1.

THE Government concur with the Board. The District Engineer's threatened proceedings will be noticed in the Department Public Works.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government, R.D.

No. 245. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Tanjore, 27th March 1874, No. 247.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Dowlaishweram, 13th March 1874, No. 3,709.

ADVERTING to your memorandum of the 25th ultimo, No. 181, I have the honour to inform you that funds were not appropriated or reserved for the work to be done at the Kakarapurru set, as the plans were received late after the intimation that no funds for Agricultural Repairs were available as the whole allotment for the District was appropriated, and besides it was presumed that this work would have been taken up in the same manner as the Pillunka groyne work and funds sanctioned from the Reserve at the disposal of Government. The work has anyhow been in progress ever since the plans were returned to this Office I believe.

SUBMITTED for the information of Government in continuation of the correspondence forwarded with this Office endorsement No. 180 of the 25th ultimo.

2. The explanations given by Colonel Fischer are somewhat contradictory, and if the Pillunka groyne had been a precedent, the work would, as in that case, have been authorized so far as was necessary in anticipation of sanction. No estimate, moreover, has been submitted for sanction, and it is presumed that such would have been forwarded had it been supposed that the sanction of Government was necessary. Time was of very great consequence, much of the work consisting of a nanul or grass revetment, which, unless well-grown by the time the freshes came down, will be of little use.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 246. Endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Kallakoorchi, 25th February 1874, No. 180.

No. 13.

MEMORANDUM.

THE undersigned has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the letters, Nos. A-1 of the 22nd ultimo and 2,882 of the 24th idem, from the District Engineer, Godavery, and in reply to remark that paragraph 2 of the former letter is not an exact description of what is intended to be done at the Kakarapurru set, and the opinion which was expressed regarding the best remedy for the state of affairs when the lunka had been almost entirely cut away to the embankment, was given when the District Engineer was present and he dissented therefrom. It was left until the detailed circumstances of the site were put on paper to determine generally what should be done, and the instructions were at the time confined to the comparatively short length which was in a really dangerous state, and which, therefore, demanded immediate attention. In the enclosure to the District Engineer's later letter the description given by Mr. Walch indicates correctly what was proposed to be done.

Vasista Godavery—Kakarapurru set.

Enclosures three Maps.

2. The Survey in three sheets, now forwarded, enables the present circumstances of this set to be appreciated, and the following remarks will, it is hoped, render clear the way in which this part of the right bank of the river should be treated. It will be well to notice here that the detailed maps on a large scale require to be accompanied by, or examined in connection with, the charts of the river showing both banks, and that it is hoped these latter will very soon be completed and forwarded, so that they may be copied, when it will be much more easy to discuss questions relating to river conservancy. Without these charts the proper width and course of the river throughout cannot be determined, neither can the record of operations and their results be made, and, as was pointed out three years ago, no satisfactory management is possible without such continuous records. In the next place, it will be convenient to have the mileage of the river embankments laid down on all maps in miles and furlongs in order to facilitate reference to particular localities.

3. First, with regard to the part of the river margin from the 2nd to the 5th stop bank on the maps, dated 21st December 1873, the undersigned considers that the action of the river current has been much aggravated by some of the defensive works which have been constructed during the last two or three years, and that what is now urgently required is the elimination of the projections which cause powerful return currents, and the formation of a regular outline along which the current may glide without any special obstruction. An approximate outline for the top of the bank has been laid down* on the map herewith returned, and below this a uniform slope, the toe of which and the slope up to 3 or 4 feet above the water-level of this season, that is the present water-level, should be protected by stone pitching about 1 yard in thickness, and the slope above this by lunka grass revetment; the grass used should be long, and the ends should be laid well into the earthwork, and consolidated as far as possible. As the season is

* In blue pencil.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th May 1874.

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advanced, and the grass can hardly be expected, even with all the attention to watering, etc., which can be given, to be well-grown by the time the river rises in July, it will be well if bamboo thorn can be obtained to protect it by tatties of this material laid on the slope and secured by long bamboo pegs. Mr. Walch will understand the construction of these tatties, which are commonly used in Tanjore. This emergent work can be gone on with at once in anticipation of the sanction of the estimate, which should be prepared and submitted as soon as possible. The total length of river bank to be thus treated is about 300 yards. It is probable that as the slope at different points will vary in the compactness of the soil, owing to some parts being cut back and others more or less made up to line, slight slips and settlements will occur, and these must be watched and repaired as occasion may require.

4. Turning next to the state of the river generally in the part shown on these maps, it may be noticed that the set has manifestly worked down from north to south gradually, and it seems probable, taking the direction of the current on to the left bank above Ramachendrapuram into account, that it has nearly reached its limit. It is necessary, in the first instance, to lay down an approximate line for each bank of the river, from the anicut downwards, allowing a sufficient but not excessive mean width, and securing the best general direction available. The boundaries thus laid down will then need to be worked up to progressively, and it must be borne in mind steadily that all sets to be effectually controlled must be acted upon from above rather than at the points where they occur. Although in the absence of the charts, and of the information which they will give as to the proper course of the river in the reaches above Kakarapurru, the exact arrangements cannot be determined, it may be noticed that the great sand bank in the northern part of the maps occupies a considerable part of what should be the deep bed of the river, and that it will be requisite to operate upon this by works on the left bank higher up, which will doubtless have their commencement beyond the northern limit of these sheets. No serious difficulty in obtaining ultimately a proper alignment for the right bank above the sets is anticipated if the sand bank be worked from downwards. It is not understood what is meant by the lunka grass revetment shown to the north-east of Mr. Walch's signature on the map; but this would seem to be part of the plantation which was aligned by the undersigned in November last, and provided this be continued to the north-west on a proper line, and prevented from being turned by water entering at the head of the old set, and if it be continued to the south-east as circumstances will permit, the current will be gradually forced out, and the correct alignment year by year worked out to. What that correct alignment may be is, as before noticed, not at present capable of determination owing to the absence of the charts.

5. As far as the undersigned can judge, the first or upper groyne marked on the Survey maps may remain as it is. The second, B, the District Engineer proposes to make more oblique and to lengthen; the still greater obliquity shown by the blue pencil line, which is intended to represent its axis, will be advisable, and the length has been made 90 yards. Groyne C has done harm, and as its direction cannot be improved without difficulty, and D groyne is but a few yards

A, in blue pencil.

lower down, the latter may be improved in direction and length, as shown by the blue pencil line, and C should be removed. Lastly, E should be extended as shown by the blue pencil line. Below this down to the 5th stop bank no groynes or projections should be left. All the groynes should start from ordinary high fresh level at the bank, and be sloped down to present water-level, which is approximately the high water L. of the range datum, in one uniform slope of in these cases about $\frac{20 \text{ or } 25}{270}$ or, say, 1 in 10. Below water-level the noses may have a slope of 3 to 1.* The noses should be protected by stone aprons of splayed form,* so as to prevent undermining. The outer 50 feet of the groynes may be of stone entirely, the rest a core of earth revetted with lunka grass, and covered with rough stone, which latter may even be packed, while the nose need only be of stone thrown in loosely so as to settle without difficulty; one estimate for these alterations should be submitted, with working designs for the groynes, as soon as possible, the latter will be returned after approval.

* On the line of the axis.

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

7th January 1874.

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Dowlaishweram, 13th February 1874, No. 3,404.

Adverting to your memorandum of the 7th January 1874, No. 13, I have the honour to inform you that I have this day only received the plans referred to therein, and as no funds are available from Repairs, Agricultural, it is now impossible for me to put the work in hand till next official year, unless some funds can be allotted from the amounts given up from the Loan Funds to be repaid in April next.

2. I would take this opportunity of observing, with reference to paragraph 3 of your memorandum, that I pointed out on the spot that the gullies which it was supposed were made by the river current, were really due to the rainfall of October last; that I had examined the place after the last heavy fresh of September 1873 with Lieutenant A. Dorward, who quite agreed in this, as I had pointed out to him then how much less the action of the current was, and in this opinion Mr. Walch also concurred. I regret I cannot admit that the works we had constructed in the last two or three years had created this state of affairs, and such was also the opinion* of Major Oakes after personal inspection of the locality.

* G. O., No. 1,786, dated 26th July 1872.

3. I do not think it is the wish of the Government that the local head of a department should have his opinion set aside without any consideration by orders given directly to his subordinates; in the matter of these river protective works, I have not only had to remedy what Major Oakes characterized as the grossest neglect of years, but I have also had to take steps after my plans had been openly set aside to remedy the total* loss of a whole season's work and all the many and the additional damage done by this measure; under these circumstances, I beg you will be good enough to submit these explanations to

* G. O., No. 2,302, dated 13th October 1873, with my letter therein.

Government for their orders and consideration, as it is hardly fair to their interests to be told by an officer that we had been fully alive to this kind of work and now find the whole set aside on a wrong supposition that I did not know what was due to the river current and what had been caused by ordinary rainfall.

No. 181.

MEMORANDUM.

The undersigned has the honour, with reference to paragraph 1 of the letter No. 3,404 of the 13th instant, from the District Engineer, Godavery, to request explanation as to how it has occurred that no funds were appropriated or reserved for the work to be done at the Kakarapurru set, the whole of the Budget grant for Agricultural Repairs having been placed at Colonel Fischer's disposal, and it being well known to him that certain work was deemed to be emergently required to prevent the washing away of the small margin of berm between the river bank and the embankment. It is to be noticed also that all, or nearly all, the stone required had been collected before the undersigned visited the place, and that some additional material was available from the groynes which were to be removed, so that the further outlay necessary could have been but very small.

Camp at Kallakoorchi, (Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
25*th February* 1874. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Camp at Nursapur, 22nd December 1873, No. A 1.

I have the honour to request you will be good enough to give me full instructions, in writing, as to the measures you wish carried out near Kakarapurru to prevent the river breaching in and destroying the Bank Canal in the Western Delta of this district.

2. Mr. Walch informs me you had ordered the removal of the whole of the groynes and the sloping down of the bank, and that stone pitching is to be placed thereon; but unfortunately I was not present when these orders were given to the Executive Engineer, and as I am of opinion the result of them will be a great loss in arresting the progress of the river set and of valuable material at a site where every cubic foot of earth is of the greatest importance, I am anxious to be able to place on record the measures ordered to be adopted, as very great responsibility attaches to all engaged in these works.

3. As the Executive Engineer is prepared to carry out your instructions, I beg you will be good enough to let us have these as soon as possible, as our working season has fairly opened and gangs of work people are being collected everywhere so as to complete all the works put in hand for the season.

From the same Officer, dated Dowlaishweram, 24th December 1873, No. 2,882.

In continuation of my letter No. A 1, dated 22nd instant, I have the honour to forward copy of a docket from the Executive Engineer in charge of No. 3 Range, No. 482, dated the 21st instant, and the Survey maps he refers to, and to request you will be good enough to return these with full detailed instructions to enable me to put the work in hand at once as Mr. Walch shows that whatever is to be tried this year must be done soon, and I have very grave doubts if any of the material thereabouts ought to be cut away at all, and have had no orders to do so.

1 Copy of letter No. 482, of 21st December 1873, from the Officer in charge of No. III. Range.
3 Maps, despatched by baughy.

From G. WALCH, Esq., Officer in charge of No. 3 or Western Delta Range, Godavery, to Lieut.-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Godavery, dated Camp at Nursapur, 21st December 1873, No. 482.

In accordance with your wish I have the honour to forward herewith Plans (3) of Godavery Western Bank in connection with the Kakarapurru "Set."

2. The verbal instructions of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation to me were to remove all projections between Nos. 2 and 4 stop banks, and to slope back in as easy a curve or curves as possible, and then face with lunka grass revetment where not already well protected by lunka grass above a stone toe.

3. The estimate forwarded with my No. 445, of 9th instant, and returned by you with your No. 2,845, provides for this work. The working season is short, and I trust I may receive orders to push on with this work, or instructions what to do in its place, at an early date. I would mention that in order to hasten the matter I forward the plans unchecked as to plotting.

SUBMITTED to Government in accordance with the request of the District Engineer, Godavery.

2. Colonel Fischer's supposition that any orders were given directly to his subordinates is without foundation. He was present with me when I examined into the circumstances of this set, and decided that it was necessary to remove all obstruction to the direction of the current at the place where the river bank had been swept away nearly up to the embankment; and as has been already stated in the memorandum No. 13 of the 7th ultimo, paragraph 1, the District Engineer was not only present but dissented. The further remark that Colonel Fischer's opinions had been set aside without any consideration requires no notice from me, it being clearly contrary to fact.

3. The District Engineer's postponement of work which was emergently required is, it appears to me, very improper. He had ample funds at his disposal, at any rate up to the end of December, and probably for sometime afterwards, and the whole of the Budget grant for Agricultural Repairs has been placed at his disposal. A memorandum of this date, No. 181, has been sent to him asking for explanation on this point.

4. The District Engineer's proceedings in connection with river defensive works have for the last three years been very far from satisfactory. He has persistently acted in opposition to the orders he has received, and has omitted to provide the means of enabling the subject, which is confessedly a very difficult one, to be properly dealt with, while of the results of the work which he has thought proper to carry out on local sanction contrary to orders, there is no record. My inspection report, which is nearly ready for submission to Government, contains remarks on the works of this kind.

G. O. Nos. 377, dated 7th Feb. 1871.
,, ,, 1,786, ,, 26th July 1872.
,, ,, 2,411, ,, 14th Oct. ,,
,, ,, 1,862, ,, 22nd July 1873.
,, ,, 2,502, ,, 13th Oct. ,,

CAMP AT KALLACOORCHI, (Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
25th February 1874. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

No. 247. ORDER THEREON, 11th May 1874, No. 1,262.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 13.

His Excellency the Governor in Council having had under consideration the correspondence submitted by the Board of Revenue, and the numerous instances in which Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer has manifested a disregard, not only of the instructions of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but also of the orders of Government, considers it necessary to direct the removal of this officer from the charge of the Godavery District, and His Excellency trusts that this measure will suffice to convince Colonel Fischer that

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11*th May* 1874.

the Government are resolved to require from him that willing and ready attention to orders, and that courtesy in his intercourse with the officers of other departments without which it is impracticable to carry on the work of the department satisfactorily. In order that Colonel Fischer may be allowed a further opportunity of correcting the objectionable conduct, which has at length necessitated this marked disapproval, his transfer to the Madura District has been ordered, and His Excellency has refrained in the present instance from directing the withdrawal of the special and personal allowance which this officer now enjoys. Should however the leniency now shown not have its desired effect, and should Colonel Fischer's behaviour in his new district be such as to call for further unfavourable notice, the Government will feel it to be their duty to restrict his salary to that of his departmental rank of Executive Engineer, 1st grade.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
,, District Engineer, Godavery.
,, Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER for IRRIGATION

&c., &c., &c.

Dated May 11th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 11th May 1874, No. 1,253.

MAY.

No. 243-247

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer.—Passing orders on the subject of Colonel Fischer's proceedings in the Godavery District and directing his removal therefrom to the Madura District.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd June 1874.

Read the following letters:—

No. 484. From T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 20th May 1874, No. 1,547.

WITH reference to the order in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 19th instant, appointing Major J. O. Hasted, R.E., Executive Engineer of the 1st grade, to officiate as Superintending Engineer of the 3rd grade, vice Colonel J. Bean, R.E., proceeded on furlough to Europe, I have the honour to invite the consideration of Government to the fact that Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Fischer, R.E., although an Executive Engineer of the 1st grade, is drawing allowances superior to those of a Superintending Engineer of the 3rd grade, and equal to those of a Superintending Engineer, 2nd grade.

2. I am not concerned with the fact that Colonel Fischer is senior to Major Hasted, or with the fact that there is no difference in the duties required of those officers, both being District Engineers, but as the appointment of Major Hasted to officiate as Superintending Engineer causes extra expense to the State, which would have been avoided had Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer been advanced to the Superintending Engineer class, I think it my duty to bring the matter to the notice of Government, the more so as Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, in addition to the allowances of a Superintending Engineer, actually draws the travelling allowance of that class.—*Vide* G. O., No. 522, of the 17th February 1873.

3. I take the opportunity to mention that, in filling up the vacancy in the Superintending Engineer class, the excess in the Executive Engineer class noticed in my letter No. 1,077 of the 6th instant, no longer exists.

No. 485. From the same Officer, dated Madras, 22nd May 1874, No. 1,617.

To prevent misapprehension, I have the honour to state that the remark in the 2nd paragraph of my letter, No. 1,547 of the 20th instant, viz., that extra expense would have been avoided had Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer been advanced to the Superintending Engineer class, should be held to refer to temporary advancement during the time there may be a vacancy in that class by the absence on leave of permanent incumbents.

No. 486. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1874, No. 1,683.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 33.

IN this letter the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts invites the consideration of Government to the fact that Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer draws certain allowances, which fact the Controller appears to think should have led to his advancement to the rank of Superintending Engineer.

2. That rank is one to which officers are advanced by selection, and the selection of Government has been deliberately made in this instance and cannot be recalled. The Controller has apparently omitted to take into his consideration the fact that Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's special allowance was granted him by

the Government of India, without reference to the scale of Establishments of this Presidency. It would not, therefore, be consistent on their part to support his objection to the extra charge.

3. With reference to the fact brought forward by the Controller, that Lieut.-Colonel Fischer draws the travelling allowance of a Superintending Engineer, his having been passed over when his turn for promotion came, will carry with it the deprivation of that privilege. He will accordingly draw the travelling allowance of an Executive Engineer only, after joining the Madura District.

4. But for the Controller's omission to take note of the vacancy in the Superintending Engineer class now under discussion, the objection referred to in paragraph 3 of this letter need never have been raised.

(True Extract.)

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

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, District Engineer, Madura.

Erd. S. T. Austin.

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Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE OFFG. CONTROLLER OF PUBLIC WORKS ACCOUNTS.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated June 23rd.

Encl.

Read.

G. O., 23rd June 1874, No. 1,683.

JUNE.

Nos. 484-486

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer and Major Hasted, R.E.—Passing orders on the reference of the Controller of Public Works Accounts relative to the extra charge incurred by the promotion of Major Hasted to the rank of Superintending Engineer, and directing that the travelling allowance of an Executive Engineer be passed to Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer after joining the Madura District.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 10th August 1874.

No. 194. Read the following endorsement of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Ootacamund, 20th July 1874:—

From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Lieutenant-Colonel J. MULLINS, R.E., Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Madura, 13th July 1874, No. 1,548.

With reference to Mr. Foster's letter, printed in G. O. of the 11th May 1874, No. 1,262, in which he alleges I had used threats towards the Revenue Authorities, I have the honor to observe that as Mr. Snaith was perfectly new to the district, and I was well aware of the extensive injury done to the Government property, I simply wished to let him know how important this matter was, and that it would be required to be very fully explained to the Government in the event of their coming to be aware of the circumstances. Why Mr. Foster should assume I had resorted to insults or threats towards an officer I had never seen or spoken to he does not explain, and since the receipt of this Government Order he has written to me expressing his regret for the part he had had in the matter of my removal from the district, and hoping I would always treat it as strictly official.

P.S.—I beg you will be good enough to add this explanation to my letter of the 30th June last, and submit the same for the information of the Government.

Submitted for the consideration of Government, in continuation of Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letter, No. 1,316, of the 30th ultimo, now before Government.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Joint-Secretary to Government.

No. 195. Order thereon, 10th August 1874, No. 2,199.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 18.

Recorded, with reference to the orders passed on Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's letter of the 30th June 1874, No. 1,316.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
„ Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. Fischer, R.E.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Govt. of 1874 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE CHIEF ENGINEER FOR IRRIGATION,

&c., &c.,

Dated August 1874.

Read. Encl.

G. O., 10th August 1874, No. 2,189.

AUGUST

Nos. 194-195

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer.—Endorsement by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on letter from Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer submitting further explanations with reference to G. O., No. 1,262, dated 11th May 1874, recorded.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 20
25th May 1875.

Read the following papers :—

No. 444. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 17th April 1875, No. 218.

ADVERTING to G. O., of the 13th November 1874, No. 3,910, I have the honor, with much regret, to report that up to this date I have been unable to obtain the detailed information regarding the tanks of this district which are situated above the line of the railway passing through it, owing to the paucity of officers and subordinates attached to the district, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation having declined to allow me to employ any temporary establishment for the purpose, I am constrained to apply to the Government for the necessary assistance.

2. The information we are expected to supply is contained in the return of the memorandum of the 14th December 1874, No. 1,040, from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, but not received here *till the 2nd March* 1874, and comprizes the following heads :—

1. Points at which drainage surplus crosses the line of Railway.
2. Area of catchment basins, very often not to be found in any Atlas sheets.
3. Estimated maximum flood discharge.
4. Intended maximum depth or surplus weir.
5. Length of surplus weir required.
6. Lengths of existing weirs or calingulahs.
7. Additional length required.
8. Height of banks and dam stones.*
9. Areas of all tanks.
10. Capacity when full.

* Levels required.

There are several other items of information called for in columns 13 and 14 in a general sort of way, but which all require to be collected, and with such an establishment as is allowed for this district I beg very respectfully to submit that it is impossible to do the work properly in the short time allowed us. I have only one young officer with me and two upper subordinates, and one of these is employed entirely in a zemindary sub-division through which the railway does not pass. For an area of nearly 9,000 square miles of country I have only six Overseers allowed me. The circumstances connected with Soobroya Iyer, the seventh man, have been specially reported to Government in letter of the 20th March 1875, No. 5,229, and no additional man can be entertained as per G. O., of the 24th February 1875, No. 529. In other districts containing not more than 7,000 square miles of country ten or twelve Overseers are allowed as well as an extra hand for emergencies ; in order to avoid appearing before the Government as failing in attending to their instructions from negligence, I am compelled to represent the circumstances in which I am placed, and to solicit further assistance as I find I cannot spare the time in so large an area to do the work myself.

The Paumben Overseer is on special duties and cannot be otherwise employed.

3. And here I would beg to remark that if District Engineers, who are supposed to be the local heads of the department and to possess some knowledge, experience, and

judgment in directing its operations in a district, are to employ themselves in attending to work which can be easily managed by any qualified Maistry or Surveyor, the cost to the State for the work thus obtained will be out of all proportion to its value. Nearly 20 years ago, in Bellary, with the aid of the Sub-Overseers we then had I managed to put the tanks of that large district into such repair in three years that the irrigated area under them was more than doubled in about five years, and now I am quite ready to do the same if I have the proper means afforded me, even though it is implied I am not sufficiently acquainted with these duties. I do not complain however of this, but I would crave very respectfully to submit, for the consideration of the Government, that considering the high standard of the education given at Woolwich to the officers of the Royal Engineer Corps, it can be a matter of no surprise if the young officers prefer remaining at the head-quarter of the Sappers in India when they find there is nothing provided for them to do but the common work of Surveyors, road and tank maistries, and that therefore it can be a matter of no surprise that the cost of establishments so far exceeds the nature of work turned out, as these, instead of being directed to carry out works of real utility and improvement, are employed on the most ordinary work no matter how highly paid.

4. As the tanks of this district are in the most wretched order no such thing as an efficient waste weir is to be seen, and the bunds are worn down so as to make one wonder in what manner the so-called repair allotments have been expended in former years. I am the more anxious to have the work attended to soon for though no accidents to roads or railway have yet occurred, yet considering their miserable state it cannot be long before some of them are damaged; and I trust then the Government will be pleased to allow me some increase of establishments, particularly as in other districts through which a railway passes, Special Assistant Engineers have been allowed, and if I had 300 a month sanctioned for two or three months I could get all this work easily done.

5. In conclusion, I would respectfully deprecate its being considered I am acting in any spirit of insubordination in applying to the Government for assistance. I have only done so from sheer necessity, and from the importance attached by themselves to the duty, and from a desire to avoid its being again represented to them that I act in opposition to their orders and instructions when from the circumstances of this district, and the late period at which orders were sent to us, it is quite out of my power to give the information called for with such minute detail, and as to getting it from Atlas sheets it would indeed be doing the work twice over, as a Surveyor properly instructed could when once in the field prepare estimates and obtain all the necessary information on the spot.

No. 486.

No. 445. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer, in the first paragraph of the foregoing letter, states that the Chief Engineer for Irrigation having declined to allow him to employ any temporary establishment for ascertaining the requirements of tanks affecting the railway, he is constrained to apply to the Government for the necessary assistance. This statement is certainly incorrect. The terms or conditions on which temporary survey

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.

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establishments for such work will be sanctioned are clearly laid down in Circular No. 62, dated 18th May 1874, and had these instructions been conformed to Colonel Fischer would have had his wants supplied at once.

2. On the 20th March last, the District Engineer applied for the sanction of a survey party for three months to enable him to furnish the requisite information in connection with the tanks affecting the line of railway in the Madura taluq, and he was thereupon informed* that much of the information necessary would be obtainable on inspection of the tanks, and that in those cases in which the services of a Surveyor might be needed the requisite sanction would be given on the names of the tanks, and the particulars in each case requiring to be ascertained, being reported.

No. 5,234.

*No. 335, 29th March.

3. In paragraph 2 of his letter Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer states that this office printed memorandum of the 14th December, No. 1,040, was received by him on the 2nd March 1875, but in his letter, No. 5,234, of the 20th March, it is said to have been received on the 27th February. On what date the memorandum was despatched is not known here, but from its docket it would seem to have been received from the Press in January. Inquiry will be made.

4. On the 2nd ultimo the District Engineer reported that, so far as he had been able to observe, the railway under construction through the Madura District for the last three or four years had never suffered any inconvenience or damage from the surplus of tank or other drainage. This information being indefinite, and definite information being required, he was referred to the memorandum, No. 1,040, which, when complied with, would give all the particulars needed.

No. 2.

No. 350-A, 7th April.

5. Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer in reply to this office memorandum No. 335, reported that with his present staff he was unable to obtain the required information, and he asked that an Executive or Assistant Engineer might be sent to his assistance. He was informed that no doubt the incomplete state of the executive establishment of the district would be taken into account by Government should any shortcomings in the preparation of the half yearly statement of railway tanks be found, but that the District Engineer would be expected himself to devote a good deal of attention to the subject. Inquiry was made as to what could be done to help him, and what Colonel Walker said resulted in the memorandum to Colonel Fischer containing the following paragraph:—"It is understood that an officer* is about to join the district and that another† will ere long be posted thereto.

No. 41, 5th April.

No. 384, 14th April.

* Major Law.
† Mr. Paynter.

6. In a letter, as per margin, the District Engineer, still ignoring the requirements of Circular No. 62, recommended that a survey establishment asked for by Lieutenant Boddy should be sanctioned. From the papers it appeared that neither Lieute-

No. 206, 16th April.
Two Surveyors, &c., for about three months.

nant Boddy nor Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer understood very clearly what had to be done, and an endeavour was made by subsidiary instructions* to make this more clear, if possible.

* No. 415, 26th April.

7. Another letter received is dated 30th ultimo, No. 371, and mentions that, as no special establishment had been sanctioned, it is impossible to complete the return of tanks in the time mentioned (that is, by the 30th June), and he had specially addressed Government on the subject. He adds that were a survey establishment sanctioned he would have the whole of the estimates ready for these works (tanks) in three or four months "as the matter is one of the simplest possible to be dealt with." This remark appears to show that the District Engineer does not even know how to set about the work to be done. He, it would seem, proposes to entertain a few Surveyors, turn them loose over the country without any detailed instructions, to do certainly a great deal of unnecessary work, and probably to leave undone a great deal that would be essential to the proper and economical treatment of the tanks. Paragraph 3 of his letter to Government confirms the impression that Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer does not comprehend what part of the work properly appertains to him and to his Range Officers, and what should be required of the Surveyors. How, for instance, in the case of any particular tank, are the latter to tell what the circumstances require them to do. They have no idea what a tank should be; they are no judges of any of the details which have to be determined, whether the bund should be high with a short weir and a considerable depth passing over it, or low with a long weir and a small depth of water. They cannot settle whether a survey or contours or any other particulars are necessary, and, in short, as has been pointed out in the Circular No. 62, paragraph 7, all the work they are to do should be completely arranged for them before they are sent to do it.

8. Again, Colonel Fischer says, *vide* last paragraph, that it is impossible to complete the return in the time named. Had he read his instructions with ordinary care he would have seen (paragraph 6) that nothing impossible was required of him, and that what he had to do was to take up these tanks in the order and in the manner pointed out, and to do as much as he could.

No. 1,040.

9. The District Engineer has, as has unfortunately been too often the case, left instructions unattended to, though, by complying with these, all reasonable requirements would have been provided, and he has wasted his time and that of others in stating what he could not do under conditions which it was entirely within his own power to obviate.

10. One sanction for a survey establishment has recently been given* to prevent the interests of Government suffering by the District Engineer's continued inattention to orders, but it was necessary at the same time to inform him that no expenditure under that sanction would be passed until the rules had been complied with.

* No. 455, dated 3rd May 1875.

OOTACAMUND,
8th May 1875.

(Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th May 1875.

No. 446. ORDER THEREON, 25th May 1875, No. 1,435.

IRRIGATION, No. 54.

IT is clear to the Government from the correspondence which has passed between the District Engineer, Madura, and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, that Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer has from inattention to the rules contained in the Irrigation Circular No. 62, and to the instructions of the Memorandum No. 1,040, of the 14th December, by his own neglect prevented himself from obtaining that assistance in the way of temporary establishment which he would otherwise have readily had granted to him. He will now conform strictly to those nstructions, and he will transmit the return of railway tanks, which will be due immediately after the 30th June, with as much of the information, about as many of the tanks of that class, as he may have then obtained.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. O. HASTED, Major, R.E.,
Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Govt. of [1875] Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,

MADURA.

&c., &c.,

Dated May 25th.

Issued

Read. Encl.

G. O., 25th May 1875, No. 1435.

MAY.

Nos. 444-446

Tanks affecting Railways.—Passing orders on Note of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on letter of the District Engineer, Madura, reporting that from want of proper survey establishment he has as yet been unable to obtain the required information regarding —.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 11*th October* 1876. *No.* 2,725.

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Read the following papers :—

No. 153. From Lieutenant-Colonel J. F. FISCHER, R.E., District Engineer, Madura, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Sholavandan, 25th August 1876, No. 1,938.

In reference to the concluding sentence of the Chief Engineer's for Irrigation note in G.O., of the 20th July 1876, No. 1,826, I have the honor to observe that I purposely abstained from sending up any explanations in the returns of this district, as I had already in my letter of the 7th July 1876, No. 1,352, fully explained the uselessness of funds being laid out in the manner hitherto prevailing on the tanks of this district; since October last up to the very end of July great drought has prevailed here, so that irrigation or other works could not make much progress, and, as it would be necessary for me to enter into details for a full report which I would rather have avoided, but as the Chief Engineer for Irrigation is not satisfied, I beg you will be so good as to submit this letter for the consideration and orders of the Government.

2. Since December last, repeated orders and instructions have been sent to me to send Lieutenant Boddy and Mr. Davidson, as often as possible, to Kodicanel to Lieutenant-Colonel Law to work under him, and as these two officers have charge of four out of the six Government taluqs of the district in which alone irrigation works have to be repaired, and they were well aware what arrangements had been made for their own convenience, it is not surprising that they should not take much interest in works in a hot climate at the worst season of the year, and which entail a great deal of labor and exposure. The Government are aware by G.O., of the 14th March 1876, No. 659, that I have not much assistance from the officer in charge of the other two taluqs, in fact hardly a paper or estimate can be got from his office without half a dozen or more reminders; and as it is admitted the subordinate establishment, both imperial and local, is utterly inadequate for the size of the district, I trust it will be allowed I have enough to do almost single-handed, and as no opportunity is lost in reflecting on me to the Government the position is not one which is enviable; as these facts are well known to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, I am quite at a loss to understand why he should now call for further explanations.

3. As it has been repeatedly brought to notice that the tanks of this district as existing are quite useless in general, that they do not hold enough water for the lands under them for one crop unless filled two or three times in the season, that the cultivation under them must under such circumstances be in the most precarious condition being dependant entirely on the ever varying character of the seasons, that the population of the district is one of the largest in India and rapidly increasing, so that any failure of the crops must entail very great distress, if not famine, on them in a very short time; this will be quite apparent if we compare this district with the Godavery on these points, in Madura we have 40 per cent. larger population and the price of rice 200 per cent. higher nearly than it is in the Godavery, and as the prices of labor here are no higher than up there if so high, and there is no such regular employment here as the works and cultivation up there afford, it is quite evident we are running the greatest possible risks in not securing the irrigation works at least in the most scientific and economical manner.

4. All local knowledge, judgment and experience are agreed in considering that the tanks of the district as existing are hardly worth keeping up, and the sooner they are abandoned in favor of works for storing the abundant available rainfall in large reservoirs the better, and nothing whatever has been advanced to invalidate these conclusions, but an arbitrary standard of average monthly outlay is put up based on the proceedings of former years, which all agree in thinking have been fruitless, and if the outlay does not come up to this, it is reported to the Government as a dereliction of duty on the part of the District Officers, whilst no attempt whatever is made to explain how better results could be obtained except a bold allegation that if the irrigation works of such and such a district were properly looked into probably something might be done for them; at the same time that we are forbidden to make any alterations or improvements without the previous sanction of higher authority and to furnish the most elaborate plans and surveys, estimates and reports with insufficient establishment as if some great project were really in hand, when all that is required is to afford a little more water to some petty village or another.

5. I trust the Government will be pleased to allow me to show that all this is great waste of time and money, and that the officers of the department can be far more usefully employed here at least; nearly twenty years ago when I took charge of the Bellary District, the first I ever had, I found the outlay on irrigation repairs averaged about Rupees 75,000 a-year, and this outlay had been going on, for a certainty, over a quarter of a century if not more, the works were in the most wretched condition, but it was very easy to see they could be vastly improved, and as the mutiny had put a stop almost entirely to all new works, arrangements were made to push on with these irrigation repairs *and improvements* as fast as possible; in the first year the outlay was only Rupees 80,000, in the second season Rupees 1,80,000, and in the third season Rupees 100,000, including in these Rupees 15,000 for the cost of maintenance of the Toongabudra river channels; but I was then able to reduce the Repair Grants to Rupees 35,000 a-year, of which some Rupees 20,000 only were required for the tanks to patch up for annual wear and tear; the works were brought to such order that breaches in them, formerly of annual occurrence, were quite unknown for many years, and the cultivation which in 1856-57 was only 80,000 acres was increased in 1862-63 to 166,000 acres; why this has now fallen to 125,000 acres or the repairs required each year amount to over Rupees 60,000 I do not know; but I trust I have shown that it is quite possible to lay out these Repair Grants so as to make the works not only far more efficient but to save at least half the annual Budget Repair Grant and greatly improve the condition of the cultivating classes and their means of paying rent.

6. Nothing whatever has been brought forward to show that similar results can be obtained from the tanks of this district, yet we are constantly urged to continue the expenditure at the same if not a higher figure, when both revenue and professional officers are agreed it is next to useless, and both are in favor of a radical change in this matter. Many sites have been pointed out where most valuable works can be constructed to utilize the rainfall of the district in the most economical manner, but to no purpose, and the time and means which if properly employed would confer lasting benefits on the country and teach young officers their profession are being thrown away, I must crave to say, in the most wasteful manner in endeavours to keep up to an average standard of outlay, arbitrarily fixed without

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11*th October* 1876. *No.* 2,725.

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one thought about its utility or necessity, and in direct opposition to the knowledge, judgment and experience of all the local officers if it could be shown we were wrong and not studying the interests of the Government by applying right principles to these works and did not then change, we should indeed be guilty then of most culpable neglect and dereliction of duty, but I would most respectfully submit such charges should not be preferred to the Government against us where absolutely nothing whatever is done to show how or wherein we are wrong, and all our proposals for greatly improving the irrigation of the district are simply ignored on the assumption that existing works require this outlay which everything tends clearly to prove is not the case.

7. I have endeavoured much against my own inclinations and entirely against my own convictions and professional opinion to maintain the outlay as near as possible up to the assumed average; I know no good whatever hardly has been done with it, and I believe very little can be got by expending money in such engineering in the dark for which there is also no necessity; we have acquired sufficient knowledge, experience, and skill in engineering at home in hydraulic works that there is really no occasion for us any longer to follow maramat maistries in their principles however good and useful some of their practices were, and by adopting these and projecting works on the scale that our enlarged experience at home enables us to do we can very easily bring the features of the Presidency up to a much higher standard in irrigation matters, that is if proper and full attention is paid to the consideration of the fundamental principles required to be applied in each case, and not by assuming that a large outlay of money in an average amount in each district will do all that is required; it is impossible to [illegible] but it is so utterly hopeless as good [illegible]

8. In conclusion, I would beg to add I am endeavouring to save as much as I possibly can in these Repair Grants in the hope the Government will be pleased to let us expend this money in metalling the roads of this district, as this will benefit the cultivation far more than keeping up the standard of outlay to what it is imagined to be necessary. At present the roads here are more gravel paths; in fact, there is not a yard of really well-made road in the whole district, and none whatever leading to the coast; the Government have taken from us some Rupees 50,000 in the Provincial Grant, so that our means are greatly crippled, but to show how well these irrigation Repair Grants could be utilized to benefit the cultivation by constructing good roads, it is only necessary to say that three bandies are required to move a ton here, and the cost of transport is 4½ Annas a ton a mile; in other parts of South India two bandies will take a ton or more, and the cost of transport on good metal roads is seldom more than 2 Annas, and at the most 3 Annas, a ton a mile; by macadamizing our roads then at least one-third of the cost of transport could be saved; it would be necessary to keep only two-thirds of the number of cattle for draught purposes, and as these could be better fed and cared for, the saving will probably be much greater in a district like Madura where fodder is so scarce; as such roads would be passable throughout the year, a ryot will be able to take his produce to market at all times and when prices are best, of which he now has little or no knowledge; the traction in lbs. per ton on a level piece of good gravel road is 150 lbs., on a good macadamized one it is but 50 lbs., but on the former it is immediately increased to 250 or 300 lbs. per ton as soon

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two years at the Madura causeway show that there is water enough even in ordinary years, if properly distributed for over 200,000 acres of lands, or 150 acres to the square mile, whilst it is actually less than 55 acres to the square mile of an available drainage area of some 2,000 square miles, the loss being thus upwards of 70 per cent. showing clearly how inefficiently our means are being utilized.

12. Also 30 acres of land require only about 200,000 cubic yards of water for irrigation purposes and two and a half inches of rainfall run off a square mile of drainage area would afford this quantity. The rainfall in the worst seasons is seldom under 18 inches in any district, and in many it is upwards of 36 inches in ordinary years and frequently more, so that in general we are not using one-twelfth of our available means for irrigation purposes with all the outlay which has been made on the existing works of the country, and as we know from the records of the Nagpore and Vehar water-works that upwards of seven-twelfths and nine-twelfths of the average rainfall may be relied upon as available for storage, it is quite evident that instead of providing gigantic escapes to works which are of little or no use, it is far more worth our while to project new works on entirely different principles so as to irrigate at least ten times as much land as is now supplied with water by the old works of the country; the very formulæ laid down for our guidance in constructing these escapes showing that the practice of the English Engineers to secure all available drainage water in large reservoirs is the correct one on all economical grounds; when a district then like Madura is only supplied with shallow tanks which do not hold water enough for one crop, I think I have shown that its existing works are hardly worth keeping up, and that it is wasting our time and means to maintain any longer the standard of outlay which it has been assumed, without any grounds being shown, is necessary, and that these funds if laid out on any of the new works which have projected for the district would certainly yield far more satisfactory results in every respect. So that to direct the attention of all officers to mere surplusing purposes instead of to providing better means of using all the available rainfall of the country, is a grand mistake and calculated to inflict lasting injury on the interests both of the State and the cultivating classes.

No. 208-W.

No. 153-A. *Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer's assumption that it is desired that money should be spent unprofitably on the repair or improvement of tanks which are virtually useless has no foundation. He has to ascertain in each group or other convenient limited tract of country what tanks are still worth maintaining, and to what extent they can be made to supersede other tanks which were either never worth constructing or which have deteriorated so far as not any longer to be worth keeping up. The undersigned entertains no doubt but that the moderate amount of money allotted to the Madura District for Repairs and Minor New Works can be most profitably spent if the District Engineer will take the trouble to examine into the circumstances of the existing irrigation works, and ascertain which should, and which should not, be kept up.

2. Though Lieutenant-Colonel Fischer has written so much on the subject of the inefficiency of existing tanks and on the uselessness of spending money on them he has

not, so far as the undersigned is aware, made any detailed investigation, and at any rate he has not made any proposals whatever, based on such an investigation for altering the arrangements for the water-supply of the lands under any group of tanks or in any limited area of country. Again, though so much of the water of the Vigay is stated to be unutilized he has not apparently turned his attention to the improvement, enlargement, or extension of existing channels therefrom, or to the construction of additional channels. This officer has recently recommended the construction of two reservoirs within the basin of the Vigay or its affluents, but he has not afforded even such information regarding their suitability as could have been obtained from a cursory examination, much less has he indicated in what particular localities he would propose to utilize the water which he would store.

3. To deal with the whole Madura District, and to turn to account the whole water-supply, would take a long time, and would need a considerable special establishment; but to divide the country into convenient geographical or hydrographical sections, and to deal with one or more of these at a time, appears to be a perfectly feasible method of treatment.

4. No beneficial action could be taken until the District Engineer turns his attention from general assertions to the investigation of the requirements of particular portions of the district in detail. If there is water to spare in the Vigay, it would seem that attention might with advantage be given to the improvement of existing irrigation, and its extension under the upper of the two anicuts on that river, including the selection and improvement of such tanks therefrom supplied as would suffice to store sufficient water for the efficient irrigation of the tract of country which can conveniently be irrigated from that anicut. Here there is a definite field for investigation, and, moreover, in connection with the Periyaur Project, a survey was made and levels taken which would afford a great deal of the preliminary information required. The atlas sheet, moreover, indicates that between the anicut and the eastern of two large tanks lying a little to the north of Sholavandan a large amount of drainage is received by the tanks and channels, and it is more than probable that a sum equal to the whole Repair and Minor New Works Grants of the district could be profitably spent on this one section of the Vigay irrigation, were its circumstances and requirements carefully ascertained. It will not be difficult to show what the wants of this section are or to demonstrate what can be done by improving the river supply, concentrating the storage, fixing the best level for the water in each tank to be retained, providing for the safe discharge of surplus after the tanks have filled, determining where this surplus is to go and what is to be done with it. Undoubtedly a certain area in this section can be effectively irrigated by means of a supply channel, local drainage, and a greater or less number of existing tanks more or less improved as may be found necessary. This area will also bear a certain proportion to the whole area of the section, and a deduction will then be possible as to whether it will be desirable or advisable to provide for a further supply of water to this section by the construction of additional reservoirs within or without the section.

5. It would be easy to indicate other tracts of country which need to be similarly dealt with. The water-supply of the Madura District is to be found, first in the Vigay basin which is made up of numerous smaller basins, each one of which no doubt

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possesses some capabilities; one of the affluents is the Soorooligaur, which has already been turned to good account for irrigation; the Vigay proper has its head among similar hills just to the eastward. Secondly, in many other basins draining areas of greater or less extent, each of which is probably capable of irrigating effectually more land than is now watered.

6. Colonel Fischer may be perfectly right in his opinion of the uselessness of maintaining many of the old tanks. There may be hundreds which ought to be abandoned, but there are on the other hand at least scores which ought to be kept up, and it is part of his duty to see what and where these useful tanks are, and to place them in proper order out of the funds provided for the purpose.

7. Colonel Fischer must be perfectly well aware that (paragraph 8) money saved from Irrigation Repair Grants cannot be spent in metalling roads. If he cannot spend these grants usefully on irrigation works, the money will have to be transferred to other districts where it can be profitably made use of. The fault will lie not in the absence of useful work to be done, but with the present District Engineer who is, in the opinion of the undersigned, entirely unfit for the administration of any district in which there is irrigation work to be done requiring careful investigation and consideration.

OOTACAMUND, (Signed) JOHN MULLINS, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
2nd September 1876. *Chief Engineer for Irrigation.*

To the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department.

No. 154. ORDER thereon, 11th October 1876, No. 2,725.

IRRIGATION, Nos. 20 & 21.

THE District Engineer, Madura, will be informed that his continued inattention to the instructions which have been given to him, regarding the way in which the existing irrigation works of the district should be dealt with, is viewed by the Government with grave dissatisfaction. Colonel Fischer will without further comment proceed to carry out those instructions, taking up the irrigation works in groups or sections, and reporting with regard to each what tanks can be usefully retained and what should be abandoned or superseded, supporting also his opinions by complete information regarding water-supply, area of cultivation and revenue, cost of up-keep in the past, &c. A quarterly report of the progress made with these investigations will be submitted by Colonel Fischer to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, and the first report should show the works the circumstances of which have been examined into up to the 31st December next.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Major-General, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Madura.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

Gobt. of [1876] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MADURA,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 11th.

Issued

Recd. *Encl.*

G. O., 11th October 1876, No. 2,725.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 153-154.

Irrigation Works, Madura District.—Noticing with dissatisfaction the inattention of the District Engineer to instructions regarding the — and issuing certain instructions for giving effect to the orders already passed on the subject.

2184/27

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

21st August 1879, No. 2,184 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

No. 108. From the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, dated 8th August 1879, No. 1,962.

ABSTRACT.—Submitting a letter from Colonel Fischer, R.E., on the subject of allowances claimed by that officer.

No. 109. ORDER THEREON, 21st August 1879, No. 2,184 W.

THE Government see no reason to depart from their previous decision.

2. Colonel Fischer will consider this order final.

(True Extract.)

Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of [1879] Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
SECOND CIRCLE

&c, &c,

Dated August 21st

Dated

Read

Read

G. O., 31st August 1879, No. 2,134 W.

AUGUST.
Nos. 108-109.

Colonel Fischer, R.E., informed Government see no reason to depart their previous decision as to the am already passed by the Examiner to —

No 718. Bellary 4th August 1879.

2184/28

From

Col. F. Fischer R.E.
Executive Engineer
Bellary Div.

To

Lt Col H.K. Pennycuick R.E.
Superintg Engineer 2nd Circle.
Bellary.

Sir,

With reference to G.O. of the 31st July 1879 No 1811 W received on the 23rd Inst I have the honor to request you will be good enough to forward the letter to the Chief Engineer for submission to the Government for their consideration

2 In the Pay Bill for March 1877 in which I first claimed the allowances due to my rank on promotion, the

Examiner remarked in passing only Rs 1,878-6- "Disallowed as the staff Pay of Colonel Fisher being only Rs 600+150 =750 while in the staff salary of a Lt Engineer 2nd Grade (now same the Maximum pay thereof being only Rs 1675+304-6- the Pay proper of a Colonel" P.S. Nothing in addition can be passed by these Officers as they requested that Officers to be good enough to inform me the authority on which the disallowance was made; to their application he gave me no reply but sent me a copy of his letter to the Government printed in the G.O. above quoted viz vide this in para 2 the Examiner states I am not entitled to the allowances I claimed (1st) according to existing rules and (2nd) under the peculiar circumstances of my case: with reference to these objections I beg respectfully to submit the Examiner has failed to show any Existing rules by which I am not entitled to the allowances as sanctioned in Public Works Code for Officers under the old scale, and in asking for this information I believe I did no more than what the Government have sanctioned as a privilege to all their Officers: in regard to the 2nd point I beg to observe that

2184/29

as the Government had been
pleased to cancel all their
orders against me on the Judgment
and Opinion of His Excellency
the Commander-in-Chief
and to restore to me in full
the pay on the old scale and
Regimental Allowances, pro-
-vided by sanctioned by them to
me, with the full concurrence
of the Examiner, that Appeal
cannot in any way constitute an objection to
my having the Allowances of
my Regimental promotion,
and I claimed nothing else.

IV. I regret to say the Examiner
has not sent me a copy of
his Appeal note 7/26th June 1879
he says printed in the G.O.

under reply and I am
precluded thereby in replying
to any objections raised in it.

V I trust the Government will
now be pleased to consider
these explanations favorably
as I claimed nothing but
what the existing rules
entitled me to do, on the old
scale, and in doing so, I was
not aware that any objection
of a retrospective character
could be charged against
me, on orders which had been
cancelled. In conclusion
I beg to apologise to the
Government for troubling them
again in this matter, but
had the Examiner given me

the information I simply acted him for in a proper manner that might not have been necessary at all.

I have the honour

(Signed) J. T. Fisher Col R.E.

Executive Engineer

True Copy

for Agent

Submitted to the Chief Engineer

D. P. Works.

Assistant to Lieut Col R.E.

Railway } Superintending Engineer

8th August 1877 } Ord Circle

No. N. 1488 21-8-79
" 2620 16-10-79
" 2215 16-10-79
" 2188 18-12-79
" 1811 H 10-7-79 Original

From
The Supt Engineer
Circle
No. 2100 dated 21-8-79
To. The Chief Engineer
P.W. Department
Madras

29/8th
Rec'd 3 August 1879.

No. 1962.

Colonel J. F. Fiselier R.E.
Executive Engineer
Bellary Division

Submitting the appeal Petition of ——— in connection with the last Proceedings

108

Rec'd 14-8-79. Rel 19-9-79.
Petn 12-8 [illegible]

P. W. Department
2184
32

Read the following:—

Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer Second Circle No. 1962 dated 8th August 1879 on letter from Colonel J. F. Fiselier R.E. Executive Engr Bellary Division No. 718 dated 4th August 1879.

FOR ORDERS.

The amount to be passed to Colonel Fiselier has already been decided in Proceedings No. 1811 H, dt/10th July 1879.

The Examr to whom sums for sanctions in the Estimates are submitted. Draft submitted with Forms (Col. F. Claims hurts

LK

H. McLaurey Coll Revs
Secy to Govt. P.W.D

14th Aug 1879.

D

Ltr
R. S

From The Supg Engineer
Fiery Circle dated 8th August 1879 No 1962

5824 – 1879

2184/33

No 2184 W.S./21st Augt/79

Submitting a letter from Colonel Fischer R.E. on the subject of allowances claimed by that Officer.

Order thereon: —

The Govt. see no reason to depart from their previous decision

Lt. Col. Fischer will consider this order final.

A.P.
18/8

24/3

L. 22 Sicks
E.S.W.C.S.

Dispd
27-8-79

18.8.79

Cir 5824

Govt. of [1879] Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

G.O. 21 Augt 1879 No. 2184

Nos. 101-109

Col Fischer RE