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# TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P. W DEPARTMENT

|          |         |                |
|----------|---------|----------------|
| G.O. No. | 2478(W) | Press.         |
| B.P. No. |         | Mis.           |
| Dated    |         | 1-10-1879/197. |

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B. V. V. V.

2478  
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

1st October 1879, No. 2,478 W.

General.  
Establishment.

Read the following paper :—

- No. 1. From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Acting Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 24th September 1879, No. 5,580.

WITH reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 1,463 W, dated 28th May 1879, I have the honor to report that Mr. J. H. Stephens, Supervisor, first grade, was the officer in charge of the Kistnapatam Division at the time when the irregularities complained of took place.

2. Mr. Stephens explains that when he took charge of the division in May 1876, more than six months before the famine, there were three temporary men employed on the work on Rupees 70, 60 and 30, respectively, their pay being charged to the estimate under the item "Sundries and Superintendence," by the orders of the late District Engineer of Nellore, Mr. R. Smith. Rama Row was one of these men, the services of the other two being dispensed with for incompetency. Gurunadam Moodaly was, in July 1876, appointed by
- Malakazi Row.  
Venkataratnam.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy to fill up one of the vacancies, and his pay was charged to the estimate as per Mr. Smith's first order. Mr. French was appointed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy in February 1877.

3. It is observed that G.O., No. 991, of 20th March 1877, gave no sanction to the employment of the temporary men appointed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, and therefore no order to the effect that their salaries should be charged to Famine or any other head of establishment; nor were any funds allotted for temporary petty establishment as required by Public Works Code, Chapter I, Section iii, paragraph 2. Thus, as long as the salaries were to be charged to the work, for which Mr. Stephens does not appear to have been responsible, the Public Works Code, Chapter III, Section iii, paragraph 30 B (b), gives the Executive Officer powers both to appoint these men and regulate their employment to the best advantage.

4. It thus appears that the appointments were first made by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, District Engineer, Nellore, and that Mr. Stephens simply regulated their salaries according to their work, and did not act without authority, and I do not therefore consider that any blame can reasonably be attached to him.

5. Mr. Stephens adds, "after Mr. O'Shaughnessy ordered the salaries to be transferred to the Famine Establishment, I had no power to make any alterations, and did not pay them more or less than that first fixed by him. Though I asked both the Examiner and Mr. O'Shaughnessy to allow the salaries as regulated by me to stand good, as they were fixed after a trial of work, and the task system, or payment by work for all descriptions of superintendence and labour, Mr. O'Shaughnessy admitted to be the best system, and was the essential feature in all canal operations conducted by me."

6. Mr. Sub-Engineer Ottmann states that when he was in charge of the work in 1873-74, the charges for this establishment were made to "Sundries and Superintendence" under the orders of the late Mr. Smith.

No. 2. ORDER THEREON, 1st October 1879, No. 2,478 W.  
Recorded.

2. Mr. O'Shaughnessy who has since resigned the service appears primarily responsible for the irregularities noticed in G.O., No. 1,463 W, dated 28th May 1879.

(True Extract.)

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

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

Exd. S. T. Austin.  
Spare Copies

GENERAL  
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of [1879] Madras.  
PUBLIC WORKS

To  
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,  
THIRD CIRCLE,  
&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 1st.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 1st October 1879, No. 2,478 W.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 1-2.

Irregularities in the Buckingham Canal  
Division.—Report regarding certain —  
recorded with remark.

No. 5580.

3<sup>rd</sup> Circle Superintending Engineer's office  
Chennai 24<sup>th</sup> September 1879.

From

The Superintending Engineer  
3<sup>rd</sup> Circle.

To The Chief Engineer.

Public Works Department.

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of G. O. No. 1463 W.  
dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 1879, I have the honor to  
report that Mr. J. H. Stephens Supervisor  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade, was the officer in charge of the  
Kistnapatnam Division at the time when  
the irregularities complained of, took place.

2 Mr. Stephens explains that when he  
took charge of the Division in May 1876, more  
than 6 months before the famine, there were  
3 temporary men employed on the work  
on Rs 70, 60 and 30 respectively, their pay  
being charged to the estimate under the  
item "Sundries and Superintendence" by the  
orders of the late District Engineer of  
Kellore, Mr. R. Smith. Rama Row was  
one of these men, the services of the  
other two being dispensed with for  
malakazi Row, meampahney. Guruma,  
Kankarabalam — } — Sam Madaly was,  
in July 1876, appointed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy  
to fill up one of the vacancies, and his

pay was charged to the estimate as per Mr. Smith's first order. Mr. French was appointed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy in February 1877.

3. It is observed that G.O. No. 991 of 20<sup>th</sup> March 1877 gave no sanction to the employment of the temporary men appointed by Mr. O'Shaughnessy and therefore, no order to the effect that their salaries should be charged to Famine or any other head of establishment; nor were any funds allotted for Temporary Petty Establishment as required by P.M. Code Chapter I. Section III para 2. Thus as long as the salaries were to be charged to the work, for which Mr. Stephens does not appear to have been responsible, the P.M. Code Chapter III Section III para 30 B (b) gives the Executive officer powers both to appoint these men and regulate their employment to the best advantage.

4. It thus appears that the appointments were first made by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, District Engineer Kallase, and that Mr. Stephens simply regulated their salaries according to their work, and did not act without authority, and I do not therefore consider that any blame can reasonably be attached to him.

5. Mr. Stephens adds "after Mr. O'Shaughnessy ordered the salaries to be transferred to the Famine Establishment,

I had no power to make any alterations, and did not pay them more or less than their first fixed by him. Though I asked both the Engineer and Mr. O'Shaughnessy to allow the salaries as regulated by me, to stand good, as they were fixed after a trial of work, and the task system, or payment by work, for all descriptions of Superintendence and Labour, Mr. O'Shaughnessy admitted to be the best system and was the essential feature in all canal operations conducted by me".

6. Mr. Sub Engineer Ottum states that when he was in charge of the work in 1873-74, the charges for this Establishment were made to "Sundries and Superintendence" under the orders of the late Mr. Smith.

I have the honor to be  
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Arthur Robert Major A.E.

Ag. Sup. Engineer 3<sup>d</sup> Circle.

40.2 991-20-3-77  
+ 14634-28-5-79-

P.W.D.  
25 SEP 79

1879. N.2

From  
The Sup<sup>r</sup> Engr & Co.

G.O. 1-10-79 at 2478 for

N. 5580.

Dated 24<sup>th</sup>  
Recd } Sept 27/79

Irregularities in the  
Buckingham Canal Drain  
Reports regarding the  
investigation of — in respect  
to the payment of special  
allowances & increase rates of  
pay to certain Overseers —

29.9.79. Rtd 29.9.79

Sub  
P. W. Department.

N. 2478 W

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 1<sup>st</sup> Oct. 1879.

Read the following

From the Sup<sup>r</sup> Engr. Third Circle G.O. N. 5580 d/24 Sept 79

Recorded.

Mr. O'Shaughnessy  
who has since resigned  
the service appears  
primarily responsible  
for the irregularities  
noticed in G.O. N. 14634.  
dated 28<sup>th</sup> May 1879.

- Superintending Engineer - Third Circle ✓
- Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
- Consulting Engineer for Railways.
- Examiner, Public Works Accounts ✓ 7
- „ Railway Accounts.
- Consulting Architect.
- Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.
- General Superintendent, P. W. Stores and Workshops.
- Do. do. P. W. Stores Department.
- Chief Engineer and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company.
- Examiner Irrigation and Canal Company's Accounts.

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29.9.79 29.9.79

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Govt. of (1879) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Date

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 1 Oct 1879, No. 21784

No. 1-2

Irregularities in the  
Buckingham Canal  
Division Report regard-  
ing certain —, recorded  
with remarks