Archives I -10,006—16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 30

(2) Date of repair 20. 1. 87.

(3) Initials of the Referencer

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 671 W ~~Press.~~

B.P. No. ~~Mis.~~

Dated 5. 3. 1879 ~~197~~.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

B. S. lg

671/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

5th March 1879, No. 671 W.

General.

Establishment

Read the following paper:—

No. 91. From J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., Acting Superintending Engineer, Fifth Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Pattukotai, 29th January 1879, No. 1,432.

I HAVE the honor, with reference to Major Vibart's letter, No. 715, of the 4th November 1878, reporting the second time on Mr. Hunter's irregularities, to forward herewith a statement prepared by Major Vibart showing the works on which advances were made by Mr. Hunter, the sums paid, and the value of the work now ascertained to have been done by the contractors concerned. This value has been arrived at by measurements made by Mr. Norfor, Assistant Engineer.

2. The result is that the payments exceed the value of the work done by Rupees 18,451-6-1.

3. Major Vibart has added a column showing what he calls "the legal value" of the work done. Mr. Hunter in his estimates appears to have allowed excessively high rates. Major Vibart shows the value of work done at the ordinary rates of the district in column 5 of the statement now submitted, but in column 6 shows the sums which the contractors might legally claim, because they were those of the estimates.

4. The statement is accompanied by a series of reports on each work by Mr. Norfor, Assistant Engineer, and these have been annotated by Major Vibart. Mr. Norfor seems to have gone into each work thoroughly and carefully.

5. As regards Mr. Hunter himself, it seems unnecessary for me to add anything to Major Vibart's exhaustive reply to his explanation. I observe that in the *Fort St. George Gazette* of the 17th December Mr. Hunter's services were dispensed with; but as Mr. Hunter was assisted in his irregularities by certain subordinates who prepared false bills and measurements, and who must have known them to be false, it is necessary for me now to draw attention to the results of Mr. Norfor's examination of the works and measurements and obtain orders regarding these men.

6. It appears clearly that both Ramanjulu Iyah, Sub-Overseer, and Kristnasamy Pillai, Overseer, prepared fraudulent measurements.

7. As regards the former man, his measurements were clearly fraudulent on Road No. 15* from Venganur to Woodoombayam, and also on the Vengalam tank† supply channel.

* No. 6.
† No. 22.

8. Kristnasamy Pillai's measurements were evidently fraudulent for the work done on the road‡ from Siplaputhur to Kattuputhur.

‡ No. 2.

9. On the receipt of Mr. Norfor's reports now forwarded for the information of Government, I directed Major Vibart to suspend Kristnasamy Pillai and Ramanjulu Iyah. In my opinion both these men should be dismissed and disqualified for further employment in the public service in any capacity. I think it probable that, if prose-

671/2

cuted, they might be convicted of fraud. I request to be favored with the orders of Government regarding these two men.

10. With regard to the chance of recovering any portion of the sums overpaid to the various contractors, it cannot of course be recovered without suits being brought against them, and, though doubtless we should get decrees in our favor, it is doubtful whether the men concerned have any property on which recovery could be made. Major Vibart thinks it would be useless suing these men as they would realise and make away with any property which would be attached, and I agree with him in this opinion.

11. I request also the orders of Government as to how the sums now shown to be overpaid are to be adjusted in our accounts. Out of the total sum deficient Rupees 12,420-5-7 appertain to Local Funds.

12. As regards the irrigation estimates on which there have been overpayments and bad work, I have instructed the Executive Engineer to prepare bills for such work as is admitted and, taking the works as they stand, to make out estimates for completing them in a thorough and substantial way.

No. 92.

ORDER THEREON, 5th March 1879, No. 671 W.

THE Government are of opinion that it will not be to their interests to prosecute any of the parties concerned in the frauds.

2. The Superintending Engineer will direct Kristnasamy Pillai and Ramanjulu Iyah to be dismissed, with effect from the date on which these orders are received by the Executive Officer. The future employment of these individuals in the public service, in any capacity whatsoever, is prohibited by Government.

3. Separate orders will be issued with reference to the point raised in the eleventh paragraph of Mr. Rundall's letter.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW-STEWART, Colonel, R.E.,
Ag. Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Fifth Circle.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts.
" Examiner of Railway Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
To all Departments of Government.
" other Superintending Engineers.
To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
" Consulting Architect.
" Superintendent, Madras Harbour Works.

Exd. G. Freeman.

Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of {1879} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
FIFTH CIRCLE,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 5th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 5th March 1879, No. 671 W.

MARCH.

Nos. 91-92.

Kristnasamy Pillai, Overseer, and Ramanujulu Iyah, Sub-Overseer, of the Trichinopoly District, to be dismissed, and their future employment in the public service prohibited.

No. 1432 - Supt. Engr's Office 5th Circle
Madura District.
Puducottah 29th January/79
Despd - 3rd Feby/79

From,
J. W. Rundall Esquire
Actg Supt. Engineer 5th Circle

To,
Colonel E. A Foord R.E
Chief Engineer P. W. D.

General

Enclo - 23 -

Sir,

I have the honor with reference to Major Vibart's letter No. 715 of the 4th November/78 reporting the 2nd time on Mr Hunter's irregularities, to forward herewith a Statement prepared by Major Vibart shewing the works on which advances were made by Mr Hunter, the sums paid, and the value of the work now ascertained to have been done by the Contractors concerned. This value has been arrived at by measurements made by Mr Horsfor Assistant Engineer -

2. The result is that the payments exceed the value of the work done by Rs 18,451 - 6 - 1.

3. Major Vibart has added a column shewing what he calls "the legal

value" of the work done. Mr. Hunter in his Estimates appears to have allowed excessively high rates. Major Vibart shews the value of work done at the ordinary rates of the District in column 5 of the Statement now submitted, but in column 6 shews the sums which the Contractors might legally claim, because they were those of the Estimates.

4 The Statement is accompanied by a series of reports on each work by Mr. Norfor, Assistant Engineer, and these have been annotated by Major Vibart. Mr. Norfor seems to have gone into each work thoroughly and carefully.

5. As regards Mr. Hunter himself it seems unnecessary for me to add any thing to Major Vibart's exhaustive reply to his explanation. I observe, that, in the Fort Saint George Gazette of the 17th December, Mr. Hunter's Services were dispensed with, but as Mr. Hunter was assisted in his irregularities by certain Subordinates who prepared false bills and measurements, and who must have known them to be false, it is necessary for me now to draw attention to the results of Mr. Norfor's examination of the works & measurements and obtain orders regarding these men.

6. It appears clearly that both Rámánujulu Iyah Sub Overseer and Kistnasámy Pillay, Overseer prepared fraudulent measurements.

7. As regards the former man, his measurements were clearly fraudulent on Road No. 15 from Vengamür to Woodoombyam, and also on the Vengalam Tank Supply Channel.

No. 6.

No. 22

8 Kistnasámy Pillay's measurements were evidently fraudulent for the work done on the Road from Sippaputhur to Kattuputhur.

No. 2

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reports now forwarded for the information of Government, I directed Major Vibart to suspend Kristnasamy Pillay and Rámánujulu Iyah. In my opinion both these men should be dismissed and disqualified for further employment in the public service in any capacity. I think it probable that if prosecuted they might be convicted of fraud. I request to be favored with the orders of Govt. regarding these two men.

10. With regard to the chance of recovering any portion of the sums overpaid to the various contractors, it cannot of course be recovered without suits being brought against them, and though doubtless we should get decrees in our favor, it is doubtful whether the men concerned have any property on which recovery could be made. Major Vibart thinks it would be useless suing these men, as they would realise

and

and make away with any property which could be attached and I agree with him in this opinion.

11. I request also the orders of Govt. as to how the sums now shewn to be overpaid are to be adjusted in our accounts. Out of the total sum deficient Rs 12,420.5.7 appertain to Local Funds.

12. As regards the Irrigation estimates on which there have been overpayments and bad work, I have instructed the Executive Engineer to prepare bills for such work as is admitted and taking the works as they stand to make out estimates for completing them in a thorough and substantial way.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. Servt.

F. W. Rundall
Ag. Supdt. Engineer

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67/4

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obdt. Servt.

J. W. Rundall
Actg. Supdt. Engineer

General

From
The Supy Engineer
5th Circle

To
The Chief Engineer
D. P. W.
Madras

Pro: 95-3-79 No 671 W

No 1432
Dated 29th January /79
Despd - 3rd Feb /79 -

Enclosures - 23 -

Orig: enclos: retd: to S.E. vide Memo 1433 d/ 17-4-79

Mr Hunter's Case

Submitting Vouchers regarding overpayment made by Mr Hunter to the works performed by certain Contractors -

Cir 13/2 R 27.2

52/6 P.W.D.

Note by the Chief Engineer

With reference to the Hon: Mr Huddleston's remarks regarding the delinquencies treated of in the accompanying file not having been detected at an earlier stage, the Acting Chief Engineer directs attention to Major Vibart's Report disposed of in G.O. 4593. W. d/ 4th December 1878, from which it would appear that most of the transactions under notice took place while Mr Hunter was

I accept the view of the case taken in this note.

himself in temporary charge of the District, or subsequently when he resumed charge of his Range —

Major Vibart notes that the system of "making advances" had apparently commenced in September 1877; but the amount reported as outstanding in April 1878 in Major Vibart's letter does not appear excessive. — It was subsequent to this date the advances were allowed to accumulate monthly, and no —

measurements of work done made to admit of their adjustment.

Captain Morris R.E. took temporary charge of the District in August 1877, on the death of Colo: Vertue R.E.; and he remained in charge until compelled to leave on Medical Certificate on the 22d May 1878, when he handed over the District to Mr Hunter, who remained in charge until relieved by Major Vibart R.E. on the 6th July 1878.

The first matter brought to notice was that of

Mr. Hunter, when in temporary charge, having sanctioned enhanced rates to a contractor, which rates had already been disallowed by his predecessor, Capt. Morris. The matter was carefully inquired into by the Chief Engineer, and disposed of in his Memo: 4201 d/ 15th September 1878; and apparently it was the matter treated of in the correspondence connected with this case that led Major Vibart to

67/C

make the searching inquiries terminating in the papers now being dealt with.

The amount lost certainly appears large; but, as Colonel Foord remarked, each was really an estimated loss, the measurements not having been made in many cases until long after the supposed completion of the works. Added to this, the estimated loss in question was prepared by a young Assistant Engineer, of whom Col. Foord, it is understood, did not hold a very high opinion. The gentleman referred to, Mr C. H. T. Norfor, though now much improved in his general conduct and character, is exactly the sort of person, who through excess of zeal in the unpleasant work he had to do, would be most likely to fall, imperceptibly to himself, into his prevailing fault viz, exaggeration.

The Acting Chief Engineer, under all the

circumstances of the case, can only agree with Col. Toord that no useful end will be attained in prosecuting any of the parties concerned.

Mr Hunter has lost his appointment and his character, and from first to last it is not thought that he has personally derived any pecuniary benefit from the peculations that have taken place, which appear to be more properly due to gross carelessness neglect of duty, and consequent recklessness and untruthfulness, than to direct dishonesty.

Orders will be issued as soon as possible after the return of this note for the dismissal of the Overseer and Sub Overseer. WL 25.2

Original 4.12.78. 2/4593W.
CC. 8.10.78. " 4550W
" 18.9.78 " 4201.
GO 12.8.78 " 3206W
Memo 27.6.78 – 2672
Mo 21.6.78 – 2583 W
" 8.6.78 .. 2427W
" 11.2.78 .. 715W

Note by the Chief Engr. P. W. D.

The Chief Engineer notes that the excess of payments over work done is Rs 18451 as per measurements lately taken – these may be accurate and are accepted as such by the Superintending Engineer and Divisional Officer. The time however that has elapsed between the supposed completion of the works and the date of measurement must not be lost sight of – Mr. Hunter has already been dismissed and the services of the other persons - viz:

Kistnasawmy Pillay - Overseer
and
Ramanjulu - Sub Overseer

and all the others concerned should at once be dispensed with and the men themselves declared ineligible for further Govt. employ.

The Chief Engineer believes that no useful end will be attained by prosecuting any of the persons in question.

In regard to the accounts the money having already been debited to the works noted the charges had better remain as they are and the Examiner be directed to accept them otherwise interminable questions will arise as to how the excess is to be met.

671/P1

The Chief Engineer considers that much credit is due to Major Vibart R.E. the late District Engineer and present Divisional Officer for his exhaustive report and his careful disposal of the whole case.

EAT 13/2

13th Feby. 1879

871/12

Letter from the Supg. Engineer Fifth Circle No. 1432 d/ 29th January 1879.
Note by the Chief Engr. P. W. D. d/ Feby 79.

FOR ORDERS.

E A Bird Col. R.E.
Secy. to Govt. P. W. D.

13 Feby 1879.

I accept the Ch: Engr's conclusion observing however that it is most unsatisfactory to my mind that 2/6ths of the loss, or some R. 12,000. out of R. [illegible] fall on [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to employ & pay the Govt. officer [illegible] [illegible] in this fashion —

I think however it is deserving of consideration

Unless Mr. Hunter shd. be
criminally prosecuted.

So far as I make out
from this Statement he
paid or charged

To Contractor [illegible]

Rs. 25,933 - for work worth
Rs. 12,054 - & for Rs. actually due
Rs. 12,536.

To Contractor Mahomed Sheriff

Rs. 7824 - do. do
Rs. 2784 - do do
Rs. 3058 -

To Contractor Chidumbaram Pilly

Rs. 350 - do do
Rs. 60 - do do
Rs. 60 -

If these facts can be
established - there seems
to me the strongest
reason to suspect complicity
in fraud - such as 3

shd. not pass unpunished
criminally - as well
as by dismissal

It is ~~not~~ scarcely to be believed
that Mr. Hunter did not
share in this plunder
if it occurred

I shd. like the Ch:
Engr's opinion whether
this delinquency
should properly have
been detected before
Major Vibart took
up the matter.

FOR ORDERS.

On 13/2 Rd. 17/2 Rl 27.2

Genl
Estabt

No. 671 W Public Works Department.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 5th March /79

Read the following :—

671/14

From
The Supg. Engr. Fifth Circle } H.C. No. 1432 d/29th Jany 1879)

The Government are of opinion that it will not be to their interests to prosecute any of the parties concerned in the frauds

2. The Supg. Engineer will direct Kristnasawmy Pillay and Ramanjulu Iyah to be dismissed, with effect from the date on which these orders are received by the Executive Officers - The future

A.S.V. 5/3

621/15

employment of these individuals in the public service, in any capacity whatsoever, is prohibited by Govt.

3. Separate orders will be issued with reference to the point raised in the eleventh paragraph of Mr. Rundall's letter.

Despd. 27-3-79

Supg. Engr. Fifth Circle
Exr. P. W. Accts.
Exr. Ry. Accts.
Ch. Engr. for Irrign.
Supt. [illegible]
Depts. of Govt.
All other Supt. Engrs.
Comr. [illegible]
Comr. [illegible]

Co 1159 / 671 W.

Govt. of 1879 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd. Encl.

G. O. 5 Mar 1879, No. 671 W

Nos. ~~89-90~~ 90-91

Kristnasawmy Pillay, Overseer and Ramanjulu Naick, Sub Overseer, of the Trichinopoly Dt., ~~do~~ to be dismissed, and their future employment in the public service prohibited

16/3

6