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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	977W	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	31.3.1879	197.

s/e.

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GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

31st March 1879, No. 977 W.

General.
Account

Read the following papers :—

No. 357. From Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, B.E., Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 17th January 1879, No. 1,304.

With reference to paragraph 2 of G.O., No. 1,006 I., dated 9th ultimo, I have the honor to forward copy of letter No. 1,267, dated 30th idem, from Mr. Lyon who was formerly in the Nellore District, and copy of memorandum from the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department. No. 1,427, dated 21st March 1878.

2. Mr. O'Shaughnessy refers to petitions and complaints regarding excess expenditure on the Penner right flood bank in his letter written in November 1878. But Mr. Lyon gave over the works on the 1st October 1877, and some months after this Colonel Foord, in his memorandum of March 1878, exonerated Mr. Lyon from charges of over-payment and incorrect measurements. Mr. Lyon has had nothing to do with the work since then, and the matter thus appears to have been settled already by the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department.

From H. LYON, Esq., Executive Engineer, Cuddapah Division, to the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, dated Cuddapah, 30th December 1878, No. 1,267.

In reply to your endorsement No. 1,053 of 25th instant on G.O., No. 1,006, of 9th idem, I have the honor to submit the following few remarks :—

2. Paragraphs 2 and 3.—The charge of the Nellore Southern Range was taken out of my hands on the 1st October 1877. The District Engineer, Nellore, received monthly a schedule of expenditure in which the work he refers to was entered, and he could have seen whether the expenditure was in excess of allotments long before the 16th November 1878, the date of his letter to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation. The allotments for a work begin *de novo* at the commencement of each official year, so that if at the end of March 1878, six months after I left the range, the expenditure had exceeded the appropriation, then would have been the time to rectify the objection. It is not until April 1878 that Contractors report the fact of bills being due on the work, although my successor had been in charge more than six months. To the best of my belief not 600 rupees was due for work (that had been satisfactorily done or could be measured up) when I left the range, and I think Mr. O'Shaughnessy is slightly mistaken in the amount he gives.

3. Paragraph 5.—With reference to the remark here made by Mr. O'Shaughnessy, I have only to call the attention of Government to the Chief Engineer's memorandum No. 1,427 of 21st March 1878, a copy of which could hardly have reached the late District Engineer of Nellore, or he would not again have brought forward the several (anonymous) "petitions and complaints" to which he refers.

No. 1,427.

MEMORANDUM.

With the above letter the District Engineer forwards a report on the work done to the Penner south flood bank, on which over-payments were reported to have been made by Mr. Lyon, when in charge of the Southern Division of the district. The report now sent was prepared by Lieutenant Henderson, R.E., who measured the work, and he states that he found an excess of 7,237 cubic yards and a consequent over-payment of Rupees 640-12-5.

2. The District Engineer first brought to notice the over-payment on this work in his letter No. 2,304 of the 30th September 1877, and four months have been allowed to pass before a report of the remeasurement of the work is forwarded.

3. The Chief Engineer, in his memorandum written on the 3rd of November, pointed out that if the District Engineer was of opinion that an over-payment had been made, he should have taken an early opportunity to visit and examine the work himself, and if he had taken with him either Mr. Lyon or a subordinate who had been employed on the work, the matter might have been settled at once. The Chief Engineer is still of the same opinion. He does not doubt that the measurements now forwarded were very carefully taken by Lieutenant Henderson, but as he had no one with him who had been employed on the work, and might therefore have overlooked some of the pits, and as moreover the heavy monsoon rains came between the dates of Mr. Lyon's and Lieutenant Henderson's measurements, the Chief Engineer is of opinion that there is no proof that Mr. Lyon's measurements were incorrect or that any over-payment was made by him.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
21st March 1878.

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

No. 257-A. Endorsement of the Acting Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, dated Chepak, 5th March 1879, No. 1,107.

From J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., Executive Engineer, Buckingham Canal Division, to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, dated Adyar, 5th March 1879, No. 522.

In reply to your No. 818 of the 15th ultimo, I am unable to say it was by inadvertence that I omitted in the letter quoted to refer to the Chief Engineer's decision in Mr. Lyon's case, but it is due to myself to state that I did not seek to re-open that particular case though I did refer to it (I fear imprudently) in connection with other cases upon which no decision had been passed and in which inquiry appeared desirable.

SUBMITTED to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, with reference to his memorandum, No. 659, dated 14th February.

(Signed) H. W. WOOD, Major, R.E.,
Ag. Supg. Engr., Third Circle.

No. 358. ORDER THEREON, 31st March 1879, No. 977 W.

MR. O'SHAUGHNESSY's omission in his letter of 16th November 1878, No. 2,013, to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, to state the fact that the anonymous charges of over-payment against Mr. Lyon had been disposed of by the late Chief Engineer, Colonel Foord, and rejected as unproved, was calculated to mislead, and should not have occurred.

2. Mr. Lyon will be informed that the new reference to the matter was caused by an omission to bring to notice in the Irrigation Branch of the Department the result of the investigation previously made by the Chief Engineer.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle.

" Chief Engineer for Irrigation. Second Circle, in extract (2nd paragraph).

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

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GENERAL
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of 1879 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

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

Dated March 31st.

Issued

Recd.

Recd.

G. O., 31st March 1879, No. 977 W.

MARCH

Nos. 357-358.

*Excess Payments on Penner Right Flood
Fund.*—Mr. Lyon informed that the new
reference to the matter of — was caused
by an omission on the part of Mr.
O'Shaughnessy to state the fact that such
anonymous charges were rejected as
unapproved by the late Chief Engineer,
Public Works Department.