

(1) Number of pages 22
(2) Date of repair 28-11-86
(3) Initials of the Referencer lgua

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	307 W.	Press.
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	10-2-1880	197.

S.G.M

Not to be folded or roughly handled

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

10th February 1880, No. 307 W.

Buildings and Roads.
Military Works.

Read the following papers :—

No. 18. From Major-General R. CADELL, R.A., C.B., Inspector-General of Ordnance and Magazines, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 6th January 1880, No. G 383.

WITH reference to my letter No. G 323, dated 19th November 1879, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that on the 23rd ultimo the Superintendent, Gun Powder Factory, reported as follows with regard to the press-room of the Factory under his charge :—

“Adverting to my letter No. 732, dated 17th November 1879, reporting that the repairs to the press-house at the Gun Powder Factory would be completed by the 1st January 1880, I have now the honor to inform you that the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, states that brass screws not being procurable at Madras the repairs must necessarily be delayed, and that the press-house cannot be handed over to me on 1st January 1880, as promised, and also that for the same reason the repairs of the barrelling-room were not completed on 20th December 1879 and that building also cannot be handed over at present.

“I have addressed the Executive Engineer, asking why these buildings were taken in hand at a time when the materials necessary for their repair were not available, and will report further on receipt of his reply.”

No. 18-A. Endorsement of the Secretary to Government in the Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 27th January 1880, No. 592.

From Major-General R. CADELL, R.A., C.B., Inspector-General of Ordnance, to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, dated Fort St. George, 26th January 1880, No. G 424.

WITH reference to my letter No. G 383, dated 6th instant, I have the honor to state, for the information of His Grace the Governor in Council, that on the 22nd instant I received the following report from the Superintendent, Gun Powder Factory, in connection with the repairs to be executed to the press-room of the Gun Powder Factory :—

“The Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, states that the reason why he took over the press-house and the barrelling-room of the Gun Powder Factory at a time when the materials necessary for the execution of the repairs sanctioned to those buildings were not available and could not be purchased in the local market was, because, had he waited and not commenced the work until materials were procured, such an arrangement would have retarded the progress of the work, and would have prevented him from completing it before the close of the official year.

“2. I am unable, I confess, to understand what the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, would imply by the above explanation. He admits that had the materials been available the work would have been finished by 31st December 1879, and that the delay caused by waiting for the materials will postpone such date of completion until 31st January 1880. It seems to me therefore that had the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, put off the date of commencing the work for one month, and devoted that time to collecting materials, the buildings would still have been finished by 31st January 1880, well within the official year, while the work of this Factory would not have been stopped for one whole month more than appears to

have been absolutely necessary for the actual execution of the repairs, a month which it seems to me has been lost solely in consequence of the press-house having been taken in hand by the Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, at a time when he was not in a position to finish off the work promptly, as he was particularly begged by me to do.

"3. The Executive Engineer, Presidency Division, now informs me that the two buildings under repair will be completed by the 31st January 1880."

TRANSFERRED, with the previous letter, to the Public Works Department.

(By Order.)

(Signed) J. MICHAEL, Colonel,
Secretary to Government.

C.E. No. 346.

FORWARDED to the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, for remarks.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Major, R.E.,
Ag. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

30th January 1880.

No. 18-B. From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Acting Superintending Engineer, Third Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepauk, 5th February 1880, No. 623.

In returning the enclosures which accompanied your memorandum No. 346, dated 30th January 1880, I have the honor to inform you that the delay complained of by the Ordnance authorities in the progress of the repairs to the press-house at the Gun Powder Factory is due to difficulties which presented themselves after the work was commenced. On dismantling the building, the roof timber was found to be in a much more decayed state than expected when the original estimate was prepared. This necessitated the preparation of a revised estimate, which caused some delay. Again, the timber contractor completely failed to supply good materials; that supplied by him was rejected more than once, and the timber was ultimately procured from the local markets. Brass screws required for the roof and floor work (130 gross) were also not procurable in Madras, nor a single cask of Portland cement. The brass screws had to be telegraphed for from Bombay. The delay in the completion of the work it will be seen was unavoidable, and the date of completion fixed by the Executive Engineer was merely stated as a probable date.

2. In conclusion I wish to point out that it does not seem at all desirable that the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Factory or any other similar official should call upon an Executive Engineer for explanations with regard to the non-progress of a work, and I do not think he ought to be allowed to set himself up as a censor when writing about such matters. If the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Factory thinks he has any reason to be dissatisfied with the progress of the work, he can address his superior officer, the Inspector General of Ordnance, who would either request the Superintending Engineer to give the matter his attention, or forward the matter for the consideration of Government, taking whichever course he might deem most fit; but I cannot think it proper that an officer of one department should be constantly calling upon an officer of another department for explanation which really do no good, but rather the reverse, as friction between departments is thereby induced which it would be better to avoid.

No. 19. ORDER THEREON, 10th February 1880, No. 307 W.

The explanation given in paragraph 1 of the Superintending Engineer's letter is accepted, though it may be observed that the impossibility of obtaining the brass

screws and Portland cement might and should have been ascertained before the building was taken over.

2. The principal causes of the delay appear to have been the additional work found necessary when the building was dismantled and the failure of the timber contractor to supply material, and these could not have been foreseen when the work was first put in hand.

3. Much trouble and correspondence would have been saved had the Executive Engineer mentioned these facts when first addressed by the Superintendent instead of confining himself to the very meagre and somewhat unintelligible explanation actually given.

4. His Grace the Governor in Council is unable to concur in the opinions expressed in paragraph 2 of the Superintending Engineer's letter. The Superintendent was perfectly justified in asking for explanation of the reasons for delay in the completion of repairs to a building of great importance to his work, and it was only when he failed to obtain an intelligible explanation from the officer directly concerned that he reported the matter to Government.

5. If the explanation now submitted had been given in the first instance by the Executive Engineer, no necessity would have arisen for a reference to Government and there would have been no friction or misunderstanding.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Third Circle.
" Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

Govt. of (1880) Madras.
PUBLIC WORKS.

To
THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
THIRD CIRCLE.

cc. cc. cc.

Dated February 10th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 10th February 1880, No. 307 W.

FEBRUARY.
Nos. 18-19.

Press-house at the Gun Powder Factory,
Madras.—Orders on explanation regarding
delay in repairing the —

Ordnance Department

No. 383

Ordnance Office
Int. Saint George
6 January 1880.

From Major General R. Cadell C.B.
Inspector General of Ordnance & Works
To The Secretary to Government
Military Department
Int. Saint George—

Sir, With reference to my letter No. 323
dated 19th November 1879, I have the honor
to state for the information of His Grace the
Governor in Council that on the 23rd ultimo
the Superintendent Gun Powder Factory reported
as follows with regard to the Press room of
the Factory under his charge.—

"Adverting to my letter No. 732 dated 17th
November 1879 reporting that the repairs to the
Press House at the Gun Powder Factory would
be completed by the 1st January 1880, I have now
the honor to inform you that the Executive
Engineer Presidency Division states that
Brass Screws not being procurable at Madras
the repairs must necessarily be delayed, and
that the Press House cannot be handed over
to me on 1st January 1880 as promised, and
also that for the same reason the repairs of the
barrelling room were not completed on 20th
December 1879 and that building also
cannot be handed over at present.—

I have addressed the Executive

Engineer

"Engineer asking why these buildings were
"taken in hand at a time when the
"materials necessary for their repair were
"not available and will report further
"on receipt of his reply."

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

~~W. M. D.~~ Major General R. H.
Inspector General of Ordnance
W. M. D.

307
4

16092/20. W.D.

29 JAN 80

N.C.

Office
27 Jan 79 & 457-452

Building 1883-1884.

No.

Reporting on the
Press room of the Gun
Powder Factory

Pat. 6th Jan 1883

Nov. 8

Acting

Mr. J. D. Cunningham
Mr. J. D. Cunningham
Mr. J. D. Cunningham

Pres. Govt. of 10th Feb. 1883 No 307

Present

Ordnance Department.

ORDNANCE OFFICE:

Fort Saint George,

26 January 1890.

No. G

424

30th 1/2

From

Major General R. CADELL, C. B.,

Inspector General of Ordnance and Magazines.

To

The Secretary to Government,

Military Department,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No G 383 dated 6th Instant,
I have the honor to state for the information of His Grace the Governor in
Council that on the 22nd Instant, I received the following report
from the Superintendent Gun Powder Factory in connection with the
repairs to be executed to the Press room of the Gun Powder Factory.

"The Executive Engineer Presidency Division states that the reason
why he took over the Press House and the Barrelling Room of the
Gun Powder Factory at a time when the materials necessary for
the execution of the repairs sanctioned to those buildings were not
available and could not be purchased in the local market was
because, had he waited and not commenced the work until ma-
terials were procured, such an arrangement would have re-
tarded the progress of the work, and would have prevented
him

"him from completing it before the close of the Official year".

"2.- "I am unable, I confess, to understand what the Executive Engineer Presidency Division would imply by the above explanation. He admits that had the materials been available, the work would have been finished by 31st December 1879, and that the delay caused by waiting for the materials will postpone such date of completion until 31st January 1880. It seems to me therefore that, had the Executive Engineer Presidency Division put off the date of commencing the work for one month, and devoted that time to collecting materials, the buildings would still have been finished by 31st January 1880, well within the Official year, while the work of this Factory would not have been stopped for one whole month more than appears to have been absolutely necessary for the actual execution of the repairs, - a month which it seems to me has been lost solely in consequence of the Press house having been taken in hand by the Executive Engineer Presidency Division at a time when he was not in a position to finish off the work promptly, as he was particularly begged by me to do."

"3.- The Executive Engineer Presidency Division now informs me that the two buildings

ended

under repair will be completed by the 31st January 1880. -

307
56

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Yours most obedient servant

James
for Inspector Genl of Mines
Colonel R. B.

No. 623

3^d Circle Sup^r Engr's office.
Chepauk 5th February 1880.

From

The Superintending Engineer
3^d Circle.

To

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department.

Sir,

In returning the enclosures which accompanied your Memorandum No. 346 dated 30th January 1880, I have the honor to inform you that the delay complained of, by the Ordnance Authorities in the progress of the repairs to the Press house at the Gun Powder Factory is due to difficulties which presented themselves after the work was commenced. On dismantling the Building, the roof timber was found to be in a much more decayed state than expected when the original estimate was prepared. This necessitated the preparation of a revised estimate which caused some delay. Again the timber Contractor completely failed to supply good materials; that supplied by him was rejected more than once and the

Enclosures 2.

Military 1880 Department.

No.

From

The Inspector General of Ordnance

To

The Secretary to Government,

Military Dept.

Fort Saint George.

Dated

26th

Received

29th

January 1880.

No. 6

424

Forwarded report

from the Superintendent

Gun Powder Factory in course

-tion with the repairs to be

executed to the Press House

of the Factory.

C-2 No. 346 - 30 Jan^y 1880.

Forwarded to the Sup^r Engineer III Circle for remarks.

By J-P.

Proc. of Govt of 10th Feb/80 No 307 W

Done

Back No 18. A

timber was ultimately procured from the local markets. Brass screws required for the roof and floor work (130 gross) were also not procurable in Madras nor a single cask of Portland Cement. The brass screws had to be telegraphed for from Bombay. The delay in the completion of the work it will be seen was unavoidable and the date of completion fixed by the Executive Engineer was merely stated as a probable date.

2. In conclusion I wish to point out that it does not seem at all desirable that the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Factory or any other similar official should call upon an Executive Engineer for explanations with regard to the non-progress of a work and I do not think he ought to be allowed to set himself up as a censor when writing about such matters. If the Superintendent of the Gun Powder Factory thinks he has any reason to be dissatisfied with the progress of the work he can address his superior officer the Inspector General of Ordnance who would either request the Superintending Engineer to give the matter his attention or forward the matter for the consideration of Government. Taking whichever course he might deem most

fit. but I cannot think it proper that an officer of one Department should be constantly calling upon an officer of another Department for explanation which really do no good but rather the reverse as friction between Departments is thereby induced which it would be better to avoid.

30/6

I have the honor to be
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Wm. F. M. Major R.E.

Asst. Sup. Engineer 3rd Circle.

1880 W.D.
6 FEB 80
From
The Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle

No 623

Proc. of Govt of 10th Feb/80
No 307 W.

Dated 5th February 1880
Received

Enclosure 2

Press House at the Gun
Powder Factory
Forwarding explanation
regarding the delay in
repairing the complaint
by the Ordnance authorities

Back No 18-B

Civ. 7-2-80

87

B + R
Mily
Draft J. G. No 307 W at
10 Feb 1880

307/6

The caption is given
in para 1 of the
Superintending Engineer's
letter is accepted, though
it may be shown that
the impossibility of obtaining
the brass news and
Portland cement ^{might} should
have been ascertained before
the building was taken
over -

JB

2. The principal cause of
the delay appears to have
been the addition of work
found necessary when the
building was dismantled
and the failure of the
contractor to supply
material, and there could
not have been foreseen
when before when the work

Civ. 7-2-80

was just put in hand
3. Much trouble and
correspondence would
have been saved had
the Executive Engineer
mentioned these facts when
first addressed by the
Superintendent instead of
confusing himself with the
very necessary and some-
times unintelligible expla-
nation actually given.
4. If the S. in C. is
unable to concure in the
views expressed in para
2 of the Superintendent's
Engineer's letter. The
Superintendent was perfectly
justified in asking for ex-
planation of the reasons
for delay in the completion of
repairs to a building of

307/10

great importance to his
work, and it was
only when he failed to
obtain an intelligible
explanation from the
officer directly concerned
that he reported the
matter to present.

If the explanation
now submitted had been
given in the first instance
by the Executive Engineer, no
doubt would have arisen
for reference to present
and there would have
been no fiction or mis-
understanding.

D.

Att

S. E. 3rd Cir. C. V.
Chily. Sept. 1. 1880
Sept 21-2-80

307
11

No 877

Govt. of (1880) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Dated

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G. O., 10 Feb 1880, No. 3074

Nos. 18-19

Press House at the
Cotton Factory, Madras

Orders in explanation re-
garding delay in repair-
ing the —

WV/3