

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

11th April 1881, No. 1998.

Cantonments—Water Supply.

Read the following papers :—

No. 47. *From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintendent of Works, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauk, 26th January 1881, No. 3886.*

I have the honor to forward the accompanying correspondence, &c., relating to work recently executed in renewing the filtering material of the Ulsoor Water Works, Bangalore, on an estimate of Rs. 1,780.

2. The papers refer to an objection taken by the Military authorities to the sand used for the filter, upon the plea of its containing organic matter. This objection originated upon a representation made by Mr. Smith, the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Water Works, to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, Mysore, but after thorough examination of the sand subsequently by the Deputy Surgeon-General, the objection has been withdrawn.

3. The sand used for the filter is the best procurable within a reasonable distance, though a better quality of sand might have been obtained from the most distant site at very great cost. It was not however taken, as is abundantly proved by the evidence collected by Lieutenant Romilly, R.E., from the locality named by Mr. Smith—viz., Binnamungalum—which, from the circumstance of its having formed the site of an extensive relief camp in the late famine, is of course strongly to be objected to.

4. The matter caused a great deal of trouble, owing to the objection having arisen when the work had been almost completed. This was due entirely to Mr. Smith not having communicated, immediately he conceived that the sand being used was not of good quality, his opinion to the Assistant Engineer; for, had he done so, much trouble might have been avoided by stopping further work till the matter of the sand had been satisfactorily settled.

5. The filling in of the sand commenced on the 5th November, and though Mr. Smith was frequently met by the Assistant Engineer at or near the filter while the work was in progress, he never said a word to the Assistant Engineer on the subject, but on the 10th November reported his opinion regarding the sand to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, after having wasted the two previous days in endeavoring to ascertain, first through his peon and then in person, the site whence the sand was obtained. Mr. Smith was no doubt right in reporting to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, but if he was actuated by motives for the good of the service, he ought to have lost no time in at once communicating with the Assistant Engineer, the moment he thought the sand bad. His failure in this respect, taken with the course he adopted in endeavoring to trace in a clandestine manner the site from whence the sand was obtained, and this in connection with a work under execution by an officer superior to him, is, to say the least of it, highly improper, and such as, I consider, should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. I request, therefore, that Mr. Smith be called upon to submit full explanation of the reasons for the very inconsistent and objectionable course of conduct he pursued in the matter.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

11th April 1881, No. 1998.

Cantonments—Water Supply.

Read the following papers :—

No. 47. *From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintendent of Works, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauk, 26th January 1881, No. 3886.*

I have the honor to forward the accompanying correspondence, &c., relating to work recently executed in renewing the filtering material of the Ulsoor Water Works, Bangalore, on an estimate of Rs. 1,780.

2. The papers refer to an objection taken by the Military authorities to the sand used for the filter, upon the plea of its containing organic matter. This objection originated upon a representation made by Mr. Smith, the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Water Works, to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, Mysore, but after thorough examination of the sand subsequently by the Deputy Surgeon-General, the objection has been withdrawn.

3. The sand used for the filter is the best procurable within a reasonable distance, though a better quality of sand might have been obtained from the most distant site at very great cost. It was not however taken, as is abundantly proved by the evidence collected by Lieutenant Romilly, R.E., from the locality named by Mr. Smith—viz., Binnamungalum—which, from the circumstance of its having formed the site of an extensive relief camp in the late famine, is of course strongly to be objected to.

4. The matter caused a great deal of trouble, owing to the objection having arisen when the work had been almost completed. This was due entirely to Mr. Smith not having communicated, immediately he conceived that the sand being used was not of good quality, his opinion to the Assistant Engineer; for, had he done so, much trouble might have been avoided by stopping further work till the matter of the sand had been satisfactorily settled.

5. The filling in of the sand commenced on the 5th November, and though Mr. Smith was frequently met by the Assistant Engineer at or near the filter while the work was in progress, he never said a word to the Assistant Engineer on the subject, but on the 10th November reported his opinion regarding the sand to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, after having wasted the two previous days in endeavoring to ascertain, first through his peon and then in person, the site whence the sand was obtained. Mr. Smith was no doubt right in reporting to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, but if he was actuated by motives for the good of the service, he ought to have lost no time in at once communicating with the Assistant Engineer, the moment he thought the sand bad. His failure in this respect, taken with the course he adopted in endeavoring to trace in a clandestine manner the site from whence the sand was obtained, and this in connection with a work under execution by an officer superior to him, is, to say the least of it, highly improper, and such as, I consider, should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. I request, therefore, that Mr. Smith be called upon to submit full explanation of the reasons for the very inconsistent and objectionable course of conduct he pursued in the matter.

No. 277.

Transferred, with original notes by Members of Government, to the Military Department, for the issue of the necessary orders.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Major, R.E.,
Under Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 48. *Memorandum from Major J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Chepauck, 24th February 1881, No. 464.*

Forwarded to the Military Department, with reference to memorandum from that Department, No. 955, dated 15th February 1881.

From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintendent of Works, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauck, 22nd February 1881, No. 4271.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 421, of 19th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith the completion certificate for the work of renewing the filtering material of the Ulsoor Water Works.

No. 49. *Memorandum from Major J. EWING, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 12th March 1881, No. 1884.*

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, for information, with reference to his Nos. 954, dated 15th February, and 1275, dated 3rd March, 1881.

From Major-General W. PAYN, C.B., Commanding Mysore Division, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Bangalore, 9th March 1881, No. 112.

Referring to your memorandum, No. 1727, dated 7th instant, calling for the information required in memorandum, No. 954, dated 15th February 1881, from the Military Secretary to Government, I have the honor to report that, though the sand supplied by the Public Works Department and placed in the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Rock appeared to be unobjectionable, the Deputy Surgeon-General required that water should be passed through it not less than twelve times, and then a sample of the filtered water analysed, before the sand could be accepted as of sufficiently good quality for use in filtering water for the troops.

Arrangements were made accordingly, but unfortunately the officer (Surgeon Fawcett) charged with carrying out the final analysis of the water has been prevented by severe illness and domestic affliction from furnishing the results of his analysis up to this time.

The Deputy Surgeon-General has accordingly directed another medical officer to take up the work; his report may be expected at once, and the result shall be communicated without delay.

No. 50. *Memorandum from Major J. EWING, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 18th March 1881, No. 2083.*

Forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of this Office No. 1884, dated 12th March 1881.

From Major-General W. PAYN, C.B., Commanding Mysore Division, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Bangalore, 15th March 1881, No. 131.

Referring to my letter, No. 112, of 9th instant, I have the honor to state that the Deputy Surgeon-General now reports the water passed through the filtering materials recently placed in the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Rock to have been proved by analysis to be "fairly good and fit for drinking purposes."

I have accordingly directed the Assistant Quartermaster-General to take over the filter from the Assistant Engineer, who has been informed accordingly.

No. 51.

ORDER THEREON, 11th April 1881, No. 1998.

The Government disapprove the course adopted by Mr. Smith, the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Ulsoor Water Works, for ascertaining that the sand required for the filter-bed was procured from an unobjectionable source. Had that officer, instead of spending his time in hunting for evidence to establish facts condemnatory of the Public Works Department, at once communicated his suspicions to Lieutenant Romilly, valuable time would have been saved, and much subsequent friction avoided. Had the Military authorities been less reserved in their communication with the Public Works Department, the matter might have been settled long ago without any necessity for a reference to higher authority.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. L. HANKIN, Colonel,
Ag. Secretary to Government.

To the Quartermaster-General.

„ Public Works Department, with 11 enclosures
and completion certificate.

Exd. A. Raitt.

Govt. of (1881) Madras.

MILITARY.

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

N^o 1007 Wd of 26th April/81.

Communicated to
the Superintendent of
works Presidency.

Sd/ C.C.R.

Dated April, 11th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 11th April 1881, No. 1998.

APRIL.
Nos. 47-51.

Disapproving the course adopted by Mr. Smith, Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Ulsoor Water Works, for ascertaining the quality of the sand used for the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Tank, Bangalore.

L
The Supt of works. Presy
with 12 enclos.

With order

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

11th April 1881, No. 1998.

Cantonments—Water Supply.

Read the following papers :—

No. 47. *From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintendent of Works, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauk, 26th January 1881, No. 3886.*

I have the honor to forward the accompanying correspondence, &c., relating to work recently executed in renewing the filtering material of the Ulsoor Water Works, Bangalore, on an estimate of Rs. 1,780.

2. The papers refer to an objection taken by the Military authorities to the sand used for the filter, upon the plea of its containing organic matter. This objection originated upon a representation made by Mr. Smith, the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Water Works, to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, Mysore, but after thorough examination of the sand subsequently by the Deputy Surgeon-General, the objection has been withdrawn.

3. The sand used for the filter is the best procurable within a reasonable distance, though a better quality of sand might have been obtained from the most distant site at very great cost. It was not however taken, as is abundantly proved by the evidence collected by Lieutenant Romilly, R.E., from the locality named by Mr. Smith—viz., Binnamungalum—which, from the circumstance of its having formed the site of an extensive relief camp in the late famine, is of course strongly to be objected to.

4. The matter caused a great deal of trouble, owing to the objection having arisen when the work had been almost completed. This was due entirely to Mr. Smith not having communicated, immediately he conceived that the sand being used was not of good quality, his opinion to the Assistant Engineer; for, had he done so, much trouble might have been avoided by stopping further work till the matter of the sand had been satisfactorily settled.

5. The filling in of the sand commenced on the 5th November, and though Mr. Smith was frequently met by the Assistant Engineer at or near the filter while the work was in progress, he never said a word to the Assistant Engineer on the subject, but on the 10th November reported his opinion regarding the sand to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, after having wasted the two previous days in endeavoring to ascertain, first through his peon and then in person, the site whence the sand was obtained. Mr. Smith was no doubt right in reporting to the Assistant Quartermaster-General, but if he was actuated by motives for the good of the service, he ought to have lost no time in at once communicating with the Assistant Engineer, the moment he thought the sand bad. His failure in this respect, taken with the course he adopted in endeavoring to trace in a clandestine manner the site from whence the sand was obtained, and this in connection with a work under execution by an officer superior to him, is, to say the least of it, highly improper, and such as, I consider, should not be allowed to pass unnoticed. I request, therefore, that Mr. Smith be called upon to submit full explanation of the reasons for the very inconsistent and objectionable course of conduct he pursued in the matter.

No. 277.

Transferred, with original notes by Members of Government, to the Military Department, for the issue of the necessary orders.

(Signed) J. PENNYCUICK, Major, R.E.,
Under Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

No. 48. *Memorandum from Major J. PENNYCUICK, R.E., Under Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Chepauck, 24th February 1881, No. 464.*

Forwarded to the Military Department, with reference to memorandum from that Department, No. 955, dated 15th February 1881.

From Major H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintendent of Works, Presidency, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department; dated Chepauck, 22nd February 1881, No. 4271.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 421, of 19th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith the completion certificate for the work of renewing the filtering material of the Ulsoor Water Works.

No. 49. *Memorandum from Major J. EWING, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 12th March 1881, No. 1884.*

Forwarded to the Secretary to Government, Military Department, for information, with reference to his Nos. 954, dated 15th February, and 1275, dated 3rd March, 1881.

From Major-General W. PAYN, C.B., Commanding Mysore Division, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Bangalore, 9th March 1881, No. 112.

Referring to your memorandum, No. 1727, dated 7th instant, calling for the information required in memorandum, No. 954, dated 15th February 1881, from the Military Secretary to Government, I have the honor to report that, though the sand supplied by the Public Works Department and placed in the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Rock appeared to be unobjectionable, the Deputy Surgeon-General required that water should be passed through it not less than twelve times, and then a sample of the filtered water analysed, before the sand could be accepted as of sufficiently good quality for use in filtering water for the troops.

Arrangements were made accordingly, but unfortunately the officer (Surgeon Fawcett) charged with carrying out the final analysis of the water has been prevented by severe illness and domestic affliction from furnishing the results of his analysis up to this time.

The Deputy Surgeon-General has accordingly directed another medical officer to take up the work; his report may be expected at once, and the result shall be communicated without delay.

No. 50. *Memorandum from Major J. EWING, Deputy Quartermaster-General, to Colonel E. L. HANKIN, Acting Secretary to Government, Military Department; dated Fort St. George, 18th March 1881, No. 2083.*

Forwarded for the information of Government, in continuation of this Office No. 1884, dated 12th March 1881.

From Major-General W. PAYN, C.B., Commanding Mysore Division, to the Quartermaster-General, Fort St. George; dated Bangalore, 15th March 1881, No. 131.

Referring to my letter, No. 112, of 9th instant, I have the honor to state that the Deputy Surgeon-General now reports the water passed through the filtering materials recently placed in the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Rock to have been proved by analysis to be "fairly good and fit for drinking purposes."

I have accordingly directed the Assistant Quartermaster-General to take over the filter from the Assistant Engineer, who has been informed accordingly.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, 11th April 1881, No. 1998.

The Government disapprove the course adopted by Mr. Smith, the Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Ulsoor Water Works, for ascertaining that the sand required for the filter-bed was procured from an unobjectionable source. Had that officer, instead of spending his time in hunting for evidence to establish facts condemnatory of the Public Works Department, at once communicated his suspicions to Lieutenant Romilly, valuable time would have been saved, and much subsequent friction avoided. Had the Military authorities been less reserved in their communication with the Public Works Department, the matter might have been settled long ago without any necessity for a reference to higher authority.

(True Extract.)

C. E. Lawton Captain, R.E.,
For Ag. Secretary to Government,
Mily. Dept.

To the Quartermaster-General.
„ Public Works Department, with 11 enclosures
and completion certificate. *Sand to specim*

7-2-81 h 277 C
17-2-81 421
24-2-81 464

Q. W 1881 Sept
No 2474

Gobt. of (1881) Madras.

MILITARY,

Prop April

To
THE QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL,
&c., &c., &c.

Dated April, 11th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl. 12

G.O., 11th April 1881, No. 1998.

APRIL.
Nos. 47-51.

Disapproving the course adopted by Mr. Smith, Mechanical Engineer in charge of the Ulsoor Water Works, for ascertaining the quality of the sand used for the filter-bed at the Ulsoor Tank, Bangalore.

1- copy to Ctg. 39-4-8
with order

B. No 1087 W & 26 April 81

Communicated to
The Supt. of Works
Presidency.

C. 12
84 W

To
The Supt of Works Pres
with 12 enclos.

Des 100
26-4-81.