

Confidential

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

Public Works Department,
Stonehouse, Ootacamund,

188 .

10 June

R. W. Norris Esq

27 Esplanade N. A.

Dear Sir

I am pleased to enclose
P.O. of 6 Feb. 1880 No 278 W
and to enquire if you wish
to ~~have~~ explanation on the
subject of paras 2, 3, & 4 of
Colonel Chrystie's letter printed
~~unrevised~~ ^{in condensed} as if ~~satisfactorily~~
the Government owing to

Representations which have
been made by Colonel Hasted
would not be indisposed to
Sanction your re-entertainment
in the Department, the Govt of
India having lately sanctioned
an increase of Establishment

It is not now considered
necessary to allude to or
explain the "many other" cases
mentioned in the order of Govt.

As the correspondence will
be treated as Confidential the
a decision has been arrived
at, in good enough to address
your reply personally to
me
yours faithfully

C. A. H. H. H.
Secy to Govt.

Mr. Norris

10/6/81

Mr 3746/81

Chittoor

H. Arcot

13th June 1881

Col. R. W. Sankar R.L.
Chief Engineer & Secy to
Govt P.W.D.

Dear Sir, I have to thank you
very much for your letter
of the 10th inst., which
reached me a few moments
ago. Having been addressed
to Vellore instead of to Chittoor
caused the delay. Before an-
swering the G.O. containing
Col. Chrystie's report against
me & my tenure of office
in the District, I must express
my gratitude at having been
now permitted an explanation.
Beginning then with para 2 I
beg to state as follows from
memory & would gladly quote
figures & enter into minutiae
were the records of the W. Delta

retained by the latter, & no copy of
it, nor any intimation of it was
sent to my (the Divisional) office.
Seeing that my sub. D. office,
was a man of over 20 years
service, & had been in sole charge
of different ranges, & further
had been put in divisional
charge before then, I saw no
reason to question his integrity
in the matter of shortness of
materials & sent up my divisional
returns in accordance
with his, as is usual with in such
cases. Regarding the sub. overseer's
report, I beg to state that I was
informed in Janr 1900 the other
day that his own office copy
was shown to Col. Christie, &
the copy sent to the sub. D. office
was not forthcoming.

Para 4 - Regarding the settling
up of materials accounts
7 years ago, I beg to say that
the road was not even sub-
posed to have been completed

2) in 1897, and as far as I am
aware is not completed ac-
cording to estimate now. There
were certain bridges abandoned
by the L. F. Board, and other
alterations proposed, for
which funds were never
allotted, and thus the estimate
was carried on from year
to year, being a local fund
work & not an Imperial
one. That I used my best
endeavours to get the account
settled may be seen by the
numerous orders to my sub.
div. office, & now I confess
my great fault was in allow-
ing myself to be ^{put off} with promises
& instead of reporting the delay
to Govt. There is one subject
which you do not ask me to
explain, namely my leaving
the Khista before I was re-
lieved. That I am exceedingly

1. I H. Patten & no col. and
sorry I did so, I cannot but 70 miles from medical aid
Confess, but externally circum. ^{unwilling} to sustain further answe-
stances will I trust be admitted handed over to the sub. D.
when I say that for nearly offices, thinking I was justified
two years previous I had asked ^{in so doing} under clause
for furlough, On private family ^{no} 137. Chap. I W.D. Code.
affairs, I was refused on the In Conclusion I beg to say
ground of "famine". That lat. That I will be very glad
tell, when the new Birkenhead to give the fullest answers
tidal lock, which I designed in detail, to each & every
Solicited & sent in plans for question mooted in any of
was sanctioned. I postponed the 10th orders issued since
applying for leave till I had my taking furlough to England, if
after 4 months exposure with I am permitted to have re-
my family in tent, complete course to the records of
the foundations. When at length the W. Delta Krishna, I told,
my leave was gazetted, & The very large charges I did
the relieving officer ordered the amount of work I did
to join Expeditional I did myself unaided by over.
not arrive, I waited 3 weeks, seems or sub. D. officers
my son all this time being during the famine & at other time
dangerously ill, & he over consideration in dealing with

my case. Again thanking you
for your kindness in permitting
me an explanation, which
involved my honour be
fore all things. P. W. C. No 3746

I am
dear Sir

Yrs faithfully

John P. W. C.

Memorandum

I do not know what the
'other case' mentioned in G.O.
No 278 W. was, but I believe
the deficiency in the Volcan
& big eruption road could
be accounted for. So far as
my recollection goes a quantity
of material collected for the
Road was used for other works,
and as Supt. Engineer I
called for the adjustment of
the accounts which was pro-
vided by Mr. Supt. Engineer
Carter but it had not been
made when I left the District.
Mr. Carter was Sub. Dist.
officer in charge of the work
and I am confident could
have accounted for it.

I have no doubt whatever
of Mr. Harris' integrity -
he was no doubt to blame
in not getting this pecu-
liar account settled,
and very foolish in

leaving the District without
explaining the circumstances
as I quite believe he could
have done, but Mr. Carter
was in the first instance
to blame for not having
settled the accounts. I do
not know if he was in the
Division when Mr. Morris^{left}
if he was he ought to have
come forward to clear up
the matter.

As regards Mr. Morris' leaving
the District without being
relieved, he was exceedingly
foolish but he acted in good
faith. He told me in England
what he had done and was
surprised to find I thought
it a serious matter.

I would not expect that
the matter should be reopened.
Mr. Morris did wrong and
was severely punished for
it, but, as I feel convinced
of the honesty of his intentions
and know that he is

a competent officer with
considerable experience in
Trifolium work. I recommend
that he should be re-instated
when the Department is
increased.

4/6/82.

Asst. Secy. to the
Acting Secy. to the

10-5-80 to 1115 A W
 13-5-70. 2149 W
 22-5-80. 24 Desp
 21-1-81. 169 W
 6-2-80. 278 W
 9-2-80. 8 Desp
 17-3-80. 17—

To the Honorable the Governor
 of the State of New York
For orders

At Colonel Wasted's request I called on the papers connected with Mr. Morris's reduction and herewith submit the Officer's remarks.

Colonel Wasted having been Mr. Morris's Superior speaks with an authority which I confess goes very far to alter my opinion on two of the most material points connected with this case viz. (1) Mr. M's integrity (2) his professional qualifications.

As regards the first Col Wasted says he has "no doubt" and feels "convinced" as to the honesty of his intentions. — As regards the second Col Wasted

says that he knows
him to be a "competent
"Officer with considerable
"experience in Migration
"Works"

Mr. Morris when not
long since in London
(he is now Local Fund
Engineer North Arctic)
asked for an interview
which I acceded to on
the previous morning but
it would be out of my
power to say anything
on the causes which had
led to his reduction, or
to reopen the question.

He accepted the condition
and I must say not
only abstained entirely
from any remarks on
the forbidden subject,
but in other respects
acted in a straightforward
manner & impressed
me favourably both

as regards his general
intelligence & attitude

So far therefore as I
am personally concerned
I should not now desire
to press the charges against
Mr. Morris, or to make
further explanation on
his part a condition of
his return to the Department
if the Government sees fit
to restore him.

Now that the S. of I have
sanctioned an increase to
the Department the value
of competent Migration
Officers is very much en-
hanced: we want all we
can get.

Mr. Morris has admittedly
been guilty of not only an
unpardonable laxity in the
management of his Division
but left his post in a
manner which admits
of no excuse; but on the
other hand it may be
said that he has paid
as dearly in both

Officers, and it remains
to decide whether in
case the Government admit
him back into the Dept.
he should resume with
his previous footing in the
Gradation List

His previous position was
immediately above Captain
R. F. Morris, and just
prior to his services having
been dispensed with he
had been promoted (1st
April 1879) to temporary
3rd Grade Mentone Engineer

Considering the severity
of the punishment he has
undergone, and further
that there are now good
grounds for considering his
integrity unimpaired
I should be disposed to
accede him his previous
position in the Dept. — but
if the Government are undivided
of conceding so much he
might be placed immediately
above or below Mr. Peters, which would be equivalent
to degrading him 4 or 5 places in the list

7/6/81

Att

For order

Mr. Morris was referred
by Mr. Morris to my
also note of the 10th
inst. Committee

I have asked about
the extent of the
extraordinary floods
attributed to and the
amount of work under-
taken in consequence
the roads having all
suffered most severely

It is evident that
nothing in this amount
had to be undertaken
and was charged against
the existing estimate

These of course should
have been revised & sent
to provide for the emergency
work, but apparently
this was not done, and
the excess with is
thus accounted for —
Colonel Clayton

leads to the same
conclusion, and it
seems to me that the
only point calling for remark
is the outstanding advance
of Rs 50 - In this I think
there can be no question
that the Subdivision Officer
is answerable through
of course Mr. Norris should
have brought to notice
the fact of its being outstanding
and required explanation
on which to ground a
final disposal

As stated by Mr.
Norris the serious charge
against him is contained
in para 3 of Major Chetty's
letter - This he meets
at once by stating that
he has lately in the first
time seen the report of
the Sub-division in which
it was based

Colonel Chetty says
that "no action appears
to have been taken" on
the Sub-division's report
dated 22nd December 1873

to which Mr. Norris
rejoins (1) that he was
in England just at the
time, and (2) that he
never saw the report which
in some reason best known
to himself the then Sub-
division Officer never sent
to the Division Office
He was thus wholly ignorant
of the existence of the
report

I find on reference to
the Office that Mr. Norris
had privilege leave of 3
months in October 1873
but the precise date on
which he availed himself
of it I do not yet know
and Colonel Husted tells
me he remembers finding
him to be warned about
this time

There is thus no reason
to doubt the accuracy
of Mr. Norris's account
about the report in
question

And judging from the
way in which Colonel C

reports in the facts it
is clear that he was in
ignorance of Mr. Morris's
absence at the time

There is also strong reason
to presume that Mr. Corbin
did as a fact conceal from
Col C that he had never
sent the report on to Mr.
Morris

In fact there are strong
grounds for presumption that
in some manner best known
to himself he misrepres-
ented the circumstances

It is of course clear that
Mr. Morris should in all
the years he was in charge
of the Division have satisfied
himself regarding the statements
of materials at site, and
have cleared up all doubtful
points before leaving the Division
but it seems to me the question
of his integrity having been
recognized the Government
might condone his laxity
just as it was in consideration
of the very severe punishment
he has undergone, and in
consideration of the good character
which he bears as a professional
engineer as vouched for by both
Col. Sullivan & Col. Hackett.

16.6.87

I concur.

OK-

16/6/87

No 1586 W. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 24th June 87
Read the following:—

Letter from Mr. D. R. Morris, dated Chittoor
13th June 1881 to the address of the Chief
Engineer.

The Government are
now satisfied that the
excess expenditure of
Rs 2009 brought to
notice in G. O. 6th Feby. 1880, No. 278 H, was due
to the effects of extra-
ordinary floods in
1874 and 1875, and that
however serious, Mr.
Morris shewed himself
in explaining the
causes and in submitting
the requisite supplemental

1. When estimates in view to
proper appropriation
being made, he was as
to now appears in no way
disresponsible for the
statement that the excess
would be adjuated by
the sale of materials
at site - which materials
as stated in the order
had been officially
reported as now-existent.

2. It is clear from the
correspondence that
Mr. Norris never saw
or had submitted to
his office the report
in question and the
Government are satisfied
that there was no

4.
moral dereliction on
his part in connection
with the matter.

3. On a full con-
sideration of the
case, and as the
Government of India
have sanctioned an
increase to the
Departmental scale, ^{for}
the Honorable the
Governor ^{in Council} will not
object to include ⁱⁿ
Mr. Norris' name
in the Gratification
List of the Establish-
ment now being
submitted for the
approval of Govt.

The Iron the Iron

of India in the same
relative position in
he held at the date
of the late reduction.

[Signature]

13.6.87

B. N. 15-88 W 924 June 1887

[Signature]

R. J. Harris
22 Aug
27-6-87

Cir 20/60. 23
W. H. E.