

Tanjore
13th January 1881

From Cap^t R. R. E. Brockman
Royal Engineer
Tanjore

To Lt-Col. J. B. Batty.
Royal Engineer
Superintending Engineer
3rd Circle.

Sir, In acknowledging the receipt of
G. O. N. 36 W. dated 10th instant relating
to the sum of Rupees 64.6. claimed by
certain coolies for work done on the Negapatam
Said Spit in the months of August to October
1879, I have the honor to afford the
following explanation.

The work for which the above amount
is claimed was carried out when Mr.
Executive Engineer J. Harman was in charge
of the Negapatam Division.

In taking over charge from Mr.
Harman on the 2nd December 1879 I re-
member his alluding to the subject
under reference, and informing me that
Mr. Martin B. B. Overseer in direct charge
of the work had unauthorisely incurred
expenditure over and above the annual
allotment of Rupees 540 on the repairs to
the Said Spit, and that he should be made
to pay for the work so done.

I heard

I heard nothing more of the matter until March 1880 when, as Mr. Grimes states, I ordered an enquiry to be made by the Sub-Division Officer Mr. Supervisor Matthews into the case. This report is on record in the Negapatam Division.

It was my intention to have paid the Coolies out of the coming year's allotment, but none such was made.

I handed over charge of the Negapatam Division to Mr. Grimes on the 6th May 1880, before the receipt of Chief Engineer's Circular N. 1273 of 4th May 1880. Prior to that the Orders of Government & the Examiners against incurring expenditure without a previous appropriation of funds were sufficiently deterrent to my taking the responsibility of paying the Coolies the amount claimed.

Under the above circumstances I respectfully submit that I should not be held accountable for the debt, inasmuch as

1st It was incurred from 4 to 2 months before Mr. Hannan was relieved by me;

2nd That I took for granted that Mr. Hannan's statement to the effect

that Mr. Martin incurred the expenditure was authorized & should therefore be made to meet it; and

3rd That I was not in receipt of the Chief Engineer's Circular N. 1273 which would have enabled me to dispose of the matter, before I handed over charge of the Negapatam Division to Mr. Grimes.

If blame attaches to anybody, I submit that it does so primarily to Mr. Martin, secondarily to Mr. Hannan, and not to me.

I believe there is still some money due to Mr. Martin for work done in the P. G. Department in surveying certain Local French Roads in the Combaconam Taluk, against which if the Government see fit the sum of Rupees 64. 6. 00 might be debited.

I have the honor to be

Yours most obed^t. serv^t.

Frederick Hannan

1
N. 405/87

General

Enclos

No. 49827

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE, 3rd CIRCLE.
Camp Purur 18/1/1881.
Del 20

From

Lieut Col J. Beatty R.R.

Superintending Engineer, 3rd Circle,

To

Col R. H. Sankey B.B.R.R.
Chief Engineer P.W.D.

Sir,

With reference to G.O. No. 36 W of 10th Instant regarding the long delay that occurred in settling with some coolies who did work on the Sand spit at Negapatam, I have the honor to forward the explanation required from Captain Brockman.

I have the honor to be
Sir

your most obedt servt

J. Beatty Lieut Col R.R.

Sup^y Engineer 3rd C.

- C. 26.1.29/1.

Hannan

But it is equally clear
that the responsibility for
the long delay in their
payment rested with Capt.
Brockman who, once
satisfied that the money
was due, should have
seen that it was paid,
allotment or no allotment.

The fact that he had
not at the time received
in number 1273 of
10 July 1881 is not
relevant - That number
did show no new sub, but
was misread by officers of
Dept. ought to have
been perfectly well known
then before -

25/1/81

13

N. 4028.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 14th Feb/81.
Read the following:-

From the Supty Engr 3rd Circle H.S. No 2098 of 18th June 1881.

It appears clear that
the responsibility for the
employment of the coolies
in question rested originally
with Mr Martin, who is
not now in the P.W. Dept.,
& subsequently with Mr
Hannan. But it is
equally clear that the
responsibility for the
long delay in their
payment rests with
Capt. Brockman, who,
once satisfied that
the money was due,
should have seen that
it

4. ans. 11/10 - 18/8

it was paid, whether
the funds were available
for the purpose or not.

No 2. The coolies earned
the pay in August, Sept.
& October 1879, & Capt.

Brockman was informed
of it in December, but
he did nothing to see
that what was due was
paid. He quotes an
order against incurring
expenditure without pro-
vision of funds as his
excuse, which is clearly
inadmissible. The fact
that he had not received
Chief Supt's Circular No
1273 of 24th May 1880 is also
irrelevant. That Circular
laid down no new rule
but merely reminded
officers of what ought
to

to have been perfectly well
known to them before.

3. The credit of Fort.
is involved in prompt
payment of coolies' hire
& it is painful in the
extreme to hear of such
cases as the present. The
Govt. will not hold Capt.
Brockman personally liable
for the amount of the
claim, but they must
record their strong dis-
approval of the neglect
of duty displayed by
that officer, who moreover
does not seem to at all
appreciate his fault.

4. The Govt. Engrs. Regulation
has already been directed
by telegram of 8th Decr 1880
to pay the coolies, & orders
will now be issued in the
Marine Dept. to pass the

Charge

Charge Rs to from
Port Funds.

W. L. 2/2

To The Supt. Genl. 3rd Amd. ✓
Marine Dept ✓
Genl. P. W. Amd. ✓

Desd

14-2-87

Bk 202 1/2 14 July 1871

W. 360. 10-1-87

C. 1273. 4-5-80

209 + 210

W.