

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

11th January 1879, No. 151 W.

General.
Establishment.

Read the following paper:—

No. 139. From Lieutenant-Colonel H. L. PRENDERGAST, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Second Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 9th December 1878, No. 718.

With reference to your endorsement, No. 5,392, dated 4th instant, I have the honor to forward copy of memorandum, No. 1,373, dated 4th September, written by the District Engineer of Cuddapah, which explains the circumstances of Mr. LeFebour's suspension and subsequent reinstatement.

Memorandum, No. 1,373, dated 4th September 1878.

In a case recently tried before the Assistant Magistrate of Cuddapah Mr. Hordern, late a Famine Relief Officer employed under the Collector of Cuddapah, was accused of cheating by preparing false bills giving one rate of payment in the heading and another one much higher in the body of the bills, by which Government seems to have been defrauded to the extent of 13,000 Rupees.

2. In the course of the preliminary inquiry it transpired that the bills were made out in the handwriting of Mr. LeFebour, a Sub-Overseer in the Public Works Department, then on leave at Badvel, and that Mr. Hordern's office establishment was not employed in writing out these bills at all.

3. This gave rise to the suspicion that Mr. LeFebour might be an accomplice in the fraud perpetrated by Mr. Hordern, and that the office establishment were designedly kept in ignorance of the transaction. There seemed ground enough, therefore, to warrant Mr. LeFebour's suspension, and he was accordingly suspended by the late Acting District Engineer pending the result of the inquiry.

4. On the criminal charge of complicity Mr. LeFebour was acquitted by the Magistrate, and pleads that he was a mere copyist, writing from Mr. Hordern's dictation, but in no way concerned with the calculations, rates, or payments.

5. On reading over the papers concerning the case the District Engineer conceives that this may be the case, and accordingly directs Mr. LeFebour's release from suspension and return to his duty.

This is the second time that a case of fraud has been preferred against Mr. LeFebour; both cases have been eventually dismissed for want of evidence showing Mr. LeFebour's complicity; but it is to be hoped that this is the last time that the Sub-Overseer's name will be mixed up with suspicious circumstances, and that he will not in future allow himself to be made the tool of any designing person on the look out for such an instrument.

(Signed) J. N. HUNTER, Lt.-Col., R.E.,
District Engineer, Cuddapah.

No. 5,531.

FORWARDED to the Additional Secretary with reference to his Memorandum of the 30th November, No. 830.

12th December 1878.

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

6061. of 1878
REVENUE.

THE COLLECTOR OF CUDDAPAH.

No. 80.

Date November 27th.

Printed December 14th.

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 27th November 1878, F.R. No. 2,128.

NOVEMBER.
Nos. 395—397.

Print compiled by Mr. Hordern with a
famine duty in the Cuddapah District.—Instructing
the Collector, with reference to the correspond-
ence on the subject of the —, to institute legal
proceedings if he considers the evidence obtain-
able sufficient to establish the liability of the
Contractor and of Mr. Hordern, and desiring
him to report the action he takes in the matter.

Mis: No 4719 Wd/10 Dec/78

Recorded.

(Sig) W. F.

S.E. Second Circle.

F No. 10,387.

RETRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department with a note by His Grace the Governor.

FORT ST. GEORGE,
4th January 1879.

(Signed) G. STOKES,
Addl. Under Secy. to Govt., R.D.

No. 140. ORDER THEREON, 11th January 1879, No. 151 W.

THE Superintending Engineer will suspend the Sub-Overseer until the legal proceedings instituted by the Acting Collector of Cuddapah under G.O., No. 2,428, F.R., dated 27th November 1878, have been completed and orders passed on his case.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) E. A. FOORD, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Govt., P.W.D.

To the Superintending Engineer, Second Circle.
,, Examiner of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. C. Howarth.
Spare Copies

GENERAL
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of (1879) Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

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

Dated January 11th.

Issued

Recd.

Encl.

G.O., 11th January 1879, No. 151 W.

JANUARY.

Nos. 139-140.

Mr. Sub-Overseer LeFebour, Cuddapah
District.—The Superintending Engineer
to suspend — until further orders.

Madras 11th April 1881.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable W. P. Adam
Governor of Madras.

The humble Memorial of
Thos. LeFebour late Sub-
Overseer in the Public Works
Department, Madras.

Respectfully Sheweth,

1. That your Memorialist
was employed in the P. W. Department as a
Local Fund Overseer and was directed to do
duty under the orders of the Range officer
in charge of Mudwail sub-division. Your
Memorialist was so employed for 6 years.

2. During the prevalence of
the late Famine in May 1877 a Mr. Norden
was appointed by Government as a Sub-
Engineer and Special Relief Officer in charge
of the Relief works in the Mudwail Taluk.
His duties were quite distinct from that
of your Memorialist as your Memorialist
was under the immediate orders of Mr. Schomberg
the Range officer.

3. In the month of November or
December of the same year Mr. Norden, the
Special Relief Officer asked your Memorialist
to make two bills for about Rs. 26,000 as he
stated that his office Clerk was sick. Your
Memorialist complied with his request
and simply wrote down what was dictated
by him.

2. In November 1879 Mr.
LeFebour

Some time after the bills were transferred to the Public Works Department, when it was discovered that the bills were incorrectly drawn up, whereby Government was defrauded to the extent of Rs. 13,000.

5. The District Engineer Mr. Munro reported the circumstances to the Collector Mr. Horeley, whereupon that gentleman issued an order to the Head Assistant Collector to look into the matter. Your Memorialist was criminally charged on suspicion of being concerned in certain fraud with the Budwai Lamine Accounts.

6. The District Engineer suspended your Memorialist, and was criminally tried before the Asst. Magistrate Mr. O'Farrell and was acquitted. Your Memorialist was then reinstated by the Dist. Engineer and posted to the same Taluk, and your Memorialist drew all his arrears of pay during suspension. No. He was

7. An intimacy existed between your Memorialist and Mr. Norden to warrant a strong moral suspicion on the part of your Memorialist as an accomplice to the fraud. Mr. Norden being a paid officer and your Memorialist being a lower subordinate and being of a distinct department; your Memorialist simply to oblige him wrote down what he stated, as he was the responsible party. No. He was

8. Mr. Norden and the Contractor were tried, and they were also acquitted. No. Only The Government then placed the whole of

of the proceedings in the hands of the Government Solicitor, requesting his opinion on the proceedings of the case, and to the advisability of recovering the amount overpaid to the Contractor by filing a civil suit against your Memorialist, Mr. Norden & the Contractor.

9. The Government Solicitor in his reply states "That no suit could be brought against Mr. Le Sebour as he was no way concerned, for it does not appear that as a matter of duty he had anything to do with these bills or their correctness." On the face of this your Memorialist was again ordered to be suspended under G. O. No. 2428 F. R. dated 27. Nov. 1/18 until legal proceedings were instituted by the Acting Collector of Buddapah against the Contractor & Mr. Norden have been completed and orders passed in the case.

10. The trial was unavoidably put off for nearly a year as Mr. Norden was not forthcoming; but the Contractor was tried and the case against him was dismissed - but after a period of 11 months, after the date of the G. O., your Memorialist was ordered to resume duty by an order from Government No. 3146 W. d. 9. Dec. 1/19. "On condition that his continuance in supply must be subject to such orders as hereafter he passed, the sub. officer's pay during the period of suspension is restricted to the subsistence allowance permissible under Para 539 III(1) of the P. W. Code."

The Superintending Engineer 2^d circle
in the 4th para of his letter No. 128 dt. addressed
to the Manager of S. M. Accounts states "The
case is certainly complicated in the Sub. Officer,
being suspended a second time - If the case
had come to an end, there would I think
be no doubt that full salary should be
paid for the whole period since last May
and the second suspension can hardly
invalidate a claim that was previously
admissible. As the Contractor has been
dead a year ago, and since dead, as
orders have been passed as yet, your
Honourable therefore prays that the
amount of pay due for a period of 11 months
be disbursed to him.

Jos. Le Sebour
C/o Mr E. Le Sebour
Natal Emigration
Office
Machas.

1881 M

No 2463

his 44798-10th Dec/78
L.C. 1518-11th Jan/79
L.C. 5265-22nd Jan/79
" 5392-4th Dec/78
L.C. 14668-28th Jan/79
his 31468-7th Dec/78

Recd 21st April/81.

Transferred to the
Secretary to Govern-
ment, Public
Works Departt.
for disposal.

(By order)
M. L. R. M.
Captain
Military Secretary

Oct 22/81
P. 6-5281
C. 26/4
Oct 20.