Archives I 10,006–16-8 77.

(1) Number of pages 38

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

83

TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

P.W.D. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No. 1289 W Press. / Mis.

Dated 23. 5. 1884 197 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

19

BSI

23rd May 1884, No. 1289 W., Public Works.

1289/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Establishment.

Read—the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel H. R. MEAD, R.E., Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Kodaikanal, 9th May 1884, No. 65 M.D. :—

In forwarding the accompanying correspondence for your perusal, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the orders of Government to charge off to the estimate for the Gúdalúr-Pirmed ghât, the value of the missing materials at the site of the work, amounting to Rs. 1,262-5-3.

1 Madura divisional officer's orginal letter, No. 2567, dated 4th December 1883.
1 Do. No. 3495, dated 25th February 1884.
(The two original letters to be obligingly returned.)

2. The circumstances of the case are as follows :—

In G.O., No. 153 W., of 18th January 1882, sanctioning the estimate of Rs. 72,148 for the road, the Government directed the execution of the work by the Local Fund Board, Dindigul Circle, and on receipt of this Government order, Colonel Beatty issued orders that the collection of materials, which was then in progress, by this department should be stopped without delay, and payments outstanding should be made at the earliest possible date.

On receipt of this memorandum, arrangements were made to measure up the materials supplied by the contractor and to pay him off. This was done in March 1882.

In June 1882 a statement of materials at site, with a copy of work-voucher for March 1882, was sent to Mr. Hardy by the Executive Engineer ; and Mr. Hardy, in his reply, stated that his overseer has taken over charge of all materials collected under petty contract from the overseer of Periyakulam, and that the materials collected by the contractor, Mr. Lee, were found to coincide with the measurements, but the materials collected by departmental agency are not all to be found, and no further steps were taken by Mr. Johnston to verify Mr. Hardy's statement ; but in one of his letters to the Vice-President, Local Fund Board, Mr. Johnston states "that Mr. Hardy may use all or none of the materials collected, and that he is responsible neither for the quality nor for any excess which may occur consequent on the utility or otherwise of the materials collected by this department," and states, at the same time, that "knowing as I do all the facts of the case," he does not consider the Periyakulam overseer to be "in the least degree responsible for any short materials."

In October 1883, the present Executive Engineer forwarded to the President, Local Fund Board, a statement of materials at site, and requested him to report whether any of the materials enumerated in that statement were used on the work, and, if so, to what sub-heads they were charged ; and the President, in reply to that letter, forwarded the Local Fund Engineer's letter, in which he states that none of the materials has been utilised, and when used he would note the sub-heads of the works to which they should be charged, and concludes by saying that he declines to accept the statement sent by Mr. Grimes except a few items, and that the materials collected departmentally are unfit for use, and some of the materials are not to be found.

On receipt of the Executive Engineer's first letter, No. 2567, of 4th December 1883, I called upon him to furnish further information on the subject, and his letter, No. 3495, of 25th February 1884, is the reply, from which you will see that the materials handed over to Mr. Hardy were those collected by the contractor, and that the materials collected departmentally were only pointed out by Mr. Johnston to Mr. Hardy and not finally handed over and a receipt taken as ought to have been done. Mr. Johnston could have easily done this and settled the matter finally when he was on the spot.

From the foregoing facts I believe you will agree with me in considering that serious irregularities and great carelessness have been displayed by all concerned in the execution of the work while in charge of this department. No care seems to have been taken to keep a proper account of materials supplied departmentally, and to distinguish those supplied by the contractor and the department. It is very probable that materials collected by the department and now missing are also included in the contractor's bills and paid for; but as this cannot be proved at this distant date, owing to the change of subordinates and absence of proper vouchers, I request that Government will be pleased to accord their sanction to charge the amount to the work.

In conclusion, I must say that it is very discreditable to Serjeant MacAlister, supervisor, Mr. J. M. Taylor, supervisor, Ramasawmy Pillay, the Periyakulam overseer, and Mr. Johnston, the then Executive Engineer in charge of the division, who were all concerned in the work.

Mr. Johnston evidently knew that materials were missing, and, as Executive Engineer in charge, he ought to have reported the matter as soon as he was aware of it; instead of doing this, he was content to leave the matter alone, and it was not until Mr. Grimes, the present Executive Engineer, had been in charge for some time that the matter came to his notice. Of course, it was then too late for there to be any hope of a satisfactory solution or of being able to fix any responsibility on anybody except Mr. Johnston, the Executive Engineer.

Enclosures.

From J. GRIMES, Esq., Executive Engineer, Madura Division, to the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, dated Madura, 4th December 1883, No. 2567.

I have the honor to lay before you the following circumstances in connection with the materials at site of the work "Completion of the road from Cumbum to the foot of the Gúdalúr ghât," which now amounts to Rs. 4,675, and to request the favor of your orders.

I.—In October 1883, I addressed a letter* to the President, Local Fund Board, pointing out the small outlay that was incurred on the work against the grant of Rs. 20,000 assigned for the current official year, and asking whether he would be able to utilise the full allotment or not; and, at the same time, I forwarded a statement of materials at site and requested him to report whether any of the materials in that statement were used on the work, and, if so, to note the sub-head of the estimate to which charged. In reply the President, Local Fund Board, informed† me that "arrangements have been made to fully utilise the current year's allotment" by the close of the year; and in paragraph 2 of the same letter he stated that the Local Fund Engineer, after personal inspection, will give the required information regarding the materials at site. Subsequently, I received another letter‡ from the President giving cover to a letter§ from the Local Fund Engineer to his address in which that officer states that "none of the materials enumerated in the list has been used on works up to date, or, if used, they have not been brought into the accounts;" but as a few masonry works are in progress on which these materials will be used, an account of them will be rendered in the bills that will be submitted, noting the sub-heads to which they have been charged. Then he goes on to say that "when the materials at site were originally handed over to Mr. Hardy by the Public Works Department, certain deficiencies were found which were then brought to notice by Mr. Hardy." Here he quotes certain correspondence between

* A: No. 2012, dated 27th October 1883.

† B: Letter, No. 758, dated 16th November 1883.

‡ C. No. 777 dated 24th November 1883.

§ No. 53, dated 17th November 1883, with copy of letter, No. 582, dated 10th June 1882, from the Executive Engineer, Madura, to the Vice-President, Local Fund Board, Dindigul, and one statement of materials at site.

1289/2

Mr. Hardy, the Vice-President, and Mr. Johnston, late Executive Engineer of this division, regarding these deficiencies, which will appear further on in this letter, and further says: "I confess that I cannot understand it, and I must decline to accept the statement sent by Mr. Grimes to you on the 25th ultimo except for the items marked with a star. The materials may have been at site when that statement was prepared, but from what data was it compiled, and when was it made out?" In conclusion, he remarks, with reference to the materials collected departmentally, that the bricks are unfit for use and some of the materials are not to be found.

2. In order that you may understand the reason for the Local Fund Engineer declining to accept the statement of materials at site sent, I must solicit your kind attention to the following points bearing on the case:—

II.—During the time that this division formed a sub-division of the Trichinopoly division, the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, issued a memorandum * to Mr. MacAlister, the then sub-divisional officer, warning him of the fact that no work was to be done by this department on the Gúdalúr ghât, and calling upon him to furnish a detailed report of the progress made in collection of materials, to which Mr. MacAlister replied † that he received a report from Mr. Taylor, overseer, stating that considerable damage was done to the Gúdalúr ghât by the recent heavy rain, and that certain repairs were commenced in anticipation of sanction; he then gives a detail account of what these damages consisted. He further submits a statement showing the progress made in the collection of materials, which amounted to Rs. 783-15-4, and explains the cause of slow progress to be due to the opposition offered by the two head-men of the village, who tried to get the whole work into their hands, and to other difficulties.

* D: No.——, dated 27th May 1881.

† D: No. 201, dated 31st May 1881, with statement of materials.

III.—After this it would appear that the collection of materials was carried on, as at the end of October 1881 the value increased to Rs. 2,216-7-5 according to the list sent by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly. In November 1881 this division was re-formed. The list received from the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly, was sent by the late Executive Engineer of this division with a memorandum ‡ to the sub-divisional officer, Dindigul, to check and measure the materials to be paid for, and to report the result at an early date. The sub-divisional officer, Dindigul, in his reply § reports that of the 40,000 burnt bricks shown only 25,000 could be counted, which includes good and bad bricks, the good being about 15,000 and the remainder being vitrified and broken bricks which may answer for brick jelly and surki; he further states that Mr. MacAlister thinks the missing bricks will be found in the brushwood which has overgrown the place. Again, he says, of the 16,437 unburnt bricks, there are now about 10,500 burnt. In conclusion he reports that the remainder of the materials appears to be correct. On this report, Mr. MacAlister was called ‖ upon for some explanation, who, in reply,¶ says that the 40,000 bricks referred to by Mr. Taylor are those that were made in March 1880, as an experiment, and shows how the experiment was made and with what results. In respect to the number being deficient Mr. MacAlister states "that Mr. Taylor did not count them, neither did he measure the heaps of broken but well burnt pieces; he simply took very rough (but short) measurements of the bricks that were stacked and not even such portions of the stacks that were not raised to the full height, stating that if his measurements should show them near the amount he would consider them as correct, &c.," and that some bricks will no doubt be found covered by the brushwood. He also explains the cause of deficiency in the number of raw bricks.

‡ E: No. 139, dated 3rd December 1881.

§ F: No. 31, dated 4th Jan. 1882, with list of materials.

‖ F: No. 353, dated 6th January 1882.

¶ G: No. 613, dated 14th January 1882.

IV.—There appears to be no further correspondence about the missing bricks. In G.O. No. 153 W.** the work was ordered to be carried out by the Local Fund Department, this department supplying only the funds. This G.O. was communicated †† to the sub-divisional officer, Dindigul, who was ordered to stop the collection of materials and to settle all claims. Steps were then taken to have the materials counted and Mr. Lee, the contractor, paid up. In March 1882 Mr. Lee's accounts ‡‡ were closed and final payments made to him. By this final payment to Mr. Lee the value of materials amounted to

** H.

†† H: No. 681, dated 4th February 1882.

‡‡ I: Contract certificate for Rs. 1,437-13-1.

Rs. 4,087-14-9, adding to this the value, Rs. 592-1-6, of materials collected by the Local Fund Department, and deducting Rs. 5-9-3, adjusted by this office, brings the value to Rs. 4,675 as stated above.

V.—In February 1882 the President addressed * the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, to the effect that orders should be issued to the Executive Engineer, Madura, to close accounts as soon as possible as Mr. Hardy, who was deputed to take charge of the work, could not do so till the accounts were closed, at the same time enclosing a letter from Mr. Hardy to the same effect. On this the Superintending Engineer instructed † the Executive Engineer to do what was necessary.

* J : Letter No. 82, dated 27th February 1882, with letter from Mr. Hardy.

† J : No. 284 M.D., dated 2nd March 1882.

VI.—In June 1882 ‡ a statement of materials at site with a copy of work-voucher for March 1882 were sent to Mr. Hardy.

‡ K.

VII.—Mr. Hardy in his letter § to the Vice-President, Local Fund Board, states that his "overseer has taken over charge of all materials collected under petty contract from the taluk overseer, Periyakulam, whom the Public Works Department deputed to deliver charge." He then goes on to say that the materials collected by the contractor, Mr. Lee, were found to coincide with the measurements "but the materials collected under departmental agency are not all to be found, and that which remains is unfit for use," and suggests that the amount thus spent on materials and superintendence be recouped to him. This letter is endorsed || by the Vice-President to the Executive Engineer, Madura, with the remark that he thinks the Periyakulam overseer is responsible. To this Mr. Johnston replies ¶ that Mr. Hardy may use all or none of the materials collected, and that "he is reponsible neither for the quality nor for any excess which may occur consequent on the utility or otherwise of the materials collected by this department," and concludes by saying that "knowing as I do all the facts of the case," he does not consider the Periyakulam overseer to be "in the least degree responsible for any short materials."

§ L : No. 35, dated 5th June 1882.

|| L : No. 168 dated 7th June 1882.

¶ M : No. 582, dated 10th June 1882.

3. Under the circumstances above recorded, it appears to me unaccountable why no further steps were taken on Mr. Hardy's last letter reporting the deficiency of certain materials. As Mr Harrington, the present Local Fund Engineer, now declines to accept the materials not marked with a star in the list, and which amounts to Rs. 1,616-7-5, it is necessary that something should be done to remove this value from the books of the office; either the amount must be nominally charged off to some of the sub-heads of the estimate, with the Local Fund Engineer's consent, or the value must be written off to "profit and loss," with the sanction of Government, as it is now too far back to bring home the responsibility to any officer or subordinate of this division.

From the same officer, dated 25th February 1884, No. 3495.

With reference to your memorandum, No. 461 M.D., dated 18th December 1883, I have the honor to state as follows :—

I.—Of the items noted in paragraph 2, the following were not charged to materials at site, but to "contingencies;" hence they were omitted in the statement :—

	RS.	A.	P.
Trimming branches of avenue trees	37	3	0
Work-people's shed	5	0	0
Stacking materials	5	0	0
Total ...	47	3	0

II.—In compliance with paragraph 10, I called ** upon Overseer Ramasawmy Pillay for some explanation in respect to the missing materials, and, in reply, †† the overseer states that the materials were handed over to Mr. Hardy's overseer, Rungabashiam Naidu (now dead), on the 30th and 31st May 1882, and that he recollects a receipt having been signed by him and that overseer, which receipt was submitted to the Dindigul sub-divisional officer.

** 1-A : Letter, dated 21st December 1883, No 2308, with one enclosure.

†† 2-A : Letter, dated 8th January 1884, No. 286.

1289/3

III.—On receipt of this letter I addressed * Mr. Taylor, who was the sub-divisional officer at that time, on the subject, and from his reply † it will be seen that the materials handed over to Mr. Hardy's overseer were those collected by Mr. Lee, and not those collected departmentally. Those collected departmentally were pointed out to Mr. Hardy by Mr. Johnston himself, Mr. Taylor being present, and it would appear that Mr. Hardy was not satisfied at the time. Mr. Taylor further states that he does not remember whether Overseer Ramasawmy Pillay forwarded a receipt from Rungabashiam Naidu.

* 3-A : Letter, dated 16th January 1884, No. 3009.

† 4-A : Letter, dated 22nd January 1884, No. 248.

IV.—I then called ‡ upon the sub-divisional officer, Dindigul, to submit whatever records were to be found in his office in connection with the materials at site of the Gúdalúr ghât road. The sub-divisional officer in reply § forwards a statement showing the records that were handed over to Mr. Hardy by Mr. Taylor, and a measurement sheet of materials supplied by Contractor Mr. Lee.

‡ 5-A : Letter, dated 27th January 1884, No. 3150.

§ 6-A : Letter, dated 3rd February 1884, No. 1387, with three enclosures.

2. From the above it will be seen that no information whatever can be obtained regarding the materials collected departmentally.

3. In compliance with paragraph 11, I forwarded || a correct statement to the Local Fund Engineer, through the President, Local Fund Board, asking him what materials he accepted and what he did not accept. In reply ¶ the Local Fund Engineer forwards a statement showing what materials he accepts, amounting to Rs. 3,412-10-9, including 133 cubic yards of roughstone.

|| 7-A : Letter, dated 16th January 1884, No. 3006, with one enclosure.

¶ 8-A : Letter, dated 7th February 1884, No. 127, with one enclosure.

4. As the Local Fund Engineer has now accepted materials to the value of Rs. 3,412-10-9 against the value of Rs. 4,675, as borne on the books of this office, the amount that will have to be written off is Rs. 1,262-5-3.

5. There is nothing on record in this office to show how the materials supplied departmentally were lost, nor can anything be obtained from the subordinates of the division regarding the missing materials; and, under the circumstances, I have the honor to request you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to write off the amount, Rs. 1,262-5-3, to "profit and loss."

6. Enclosures A to M and 1-A to 8-A are herewith forwarded, to be kindly returned when no longer required.

ORDER—dated 23rd May 1884, No. 1289 W., Public Works.

Before according sanction to the proposal of the Superintending Engineer to charge off the value, Rs. 1,263-5-3, of the missing materials, the Government desire to be furnished with such explanations as the Executive Engineer and the subordinates concerned may have to offer.

2. Mr. J. C. Johnston, now in the III Circle, was the Executive Engineer in charge; and the following subordinates are mentioned as having been connected with the work :—

Serjeant MacAlister, Supervisor, IV Circle.
Mr. J. M. Taylor, Supervisor, VI Circle.
N. Ramasawmy Pillay, Overseer, VI Circle.

3. Mr. Johnston will especially explain why he did not effect a satisfactory transfer of the work and adjustment of the outlay incurred under his orders.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" " " IV "
" " " VI "

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Gobt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated May, 23rd.

Recd. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd May 1884, No. 1289 W.

MAY.

Cumbum-Gudalur Road

Calling for explanations from the Executive Engineer and the subordinates concerned as regards missing materials at site of the —.

[illegible] the following papers — p1

No. 65 M.D. Supg. Engrs. Office 6. C.
Kodaikanal 9th May 1884.

1289/4

From.
The Supg. Engineer
6th Circle.

To,
The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

Encl: 2.
1 Madura Dt. Offrs original letter No. 2567 of 4th Decr/83.
1 do-do orgl letter No. 3495 of 25/4/84.
(The 2 orgl letters to be [illegible])

Sir,

In forwarding the accompanying correspondence for your perusal, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the orders of Government to charge off to the estimate for the Gudalur Perined Ghaut, the value of the missing materials at the site of the work amounting to Rs. 1,262-5-3.

2. The circumstances of the case are as follows:—

In G.O. No. 153 W of 18th January 1882 sanctioning the estimate of Rs. 72,148 for the Road, the Government directed the execution of

the

GENERAL.
ESTABLISHMENT.

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

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1289/4

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The Supg. Engineer
6th Circle.

To,
The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

Encl: 2.
1 Madura Dt. office original letter No. 2567 of 4th Decr/83.
1 do-do orig. letter No. 3495 of 25/4/84.
(The 2 orig. letters to be obligingly retd.)

Sir,

In forwarding the accompanying correspondence for your perusal, I have the honor to request that you will be good enough to obtain the orders of Government to charge off to the estimate for the Gudalur Pirmed Ghaut, the value of the missing materials at the site of the work amounting to Rs 1,262-5-3.

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the work by the Local Fund Board Dindigul Circle and on receipt of this G.O. Col. Beatty issued orders that the collection of materials which was then in progress by this Department should be stopped without delay and payments outstanding should be made at the earliest possible date.

On receipt of this Memo. arrangements were made to measure up the materials supplied by the Contractor and to pay him off. This was done in March 1882.

In June 1882. a Statement of materials at site with a copy of work voucher for March 1882 was sent to Mr Hardy by the Executive Engineer and Mr Hardy in his reply stated that his Overseer has taken over charge of

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all materials collected under petty contract from the Overseer of Periakulam and that the materials collected by the contractor Mr Lee were found to coincide with the measurements but the materials collected by departmental agency are not all to be found. and no further steps were taken by Mr Johnston to verify Mr Hardy's Statement, but in one of his letters to the Vice President L. F. Board. Mr Johnston states "that Mr Hardy may use all or none of the materials collected, and that he is responsible neither for the quality nor for any excess which may occur consequent on the utility or otherwise of the materials collected by this Department" and states at the same time that "knowing

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as I do all the facts of the case", he does not consider the Periakulam Overseer to be "in the least degree responsible for any short materials."

In October 1883. the present Executive Engineer forwarded to the President Local Fund Boards, a statement of materials at site and requested him to report whether any of the materials enumerated in that statement were used on the work, and if so to what sub-heads they were charged, and the President in reply to that letter forwarded the Local Fund Engineer's letter, in which he states that none of the materials has been utilised, and when used he would note the sub-heads of the works to which they should be charged and

concludes

concludes by saying that he declines to accept the statement sent by Mr Grimes except a few items and that the materials collected departmentally are unfit for use and some of the materials are not to be found.

On receipt of the Executive Engineer's first letter No 2567 of 14: December 1883. I called upon him to furnish further information on the subject and his letter No 3495 of 25: February 1884 is the reply, from which you will see that the materials handed over to Mr Hardy were those collected by the contractor and that the materials collected departmentally were only pointed out by Mr Johnston to Mr Hardy and not finally handed over and a receipt taken as ought to have been done. Mr Johnston could have easily done

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this and settled the matter finally when he was on the spot.

From the foregoing facts I believe you will agree with me in considering that serious irregularities and great carelessness have been displayed by all concerned in the execution of the work while in charge of this Department. No care seems to have been taken to keep a proper account of materials supplied departmentally and to distinguish those supplied by the contractor and the Department. It is very probable that materials collected by the Department and now missing are also included in the contractors Bills and paid for, but as this cannot be proved at

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this distant date owing to the change of Subordinates and absence of proper vouchers, I request that Government will be pleased to accord their sanction to charge the amount to the work.

In conclusion I must say that it is very discreditable to Sergeant Mac alister. Supervisor. Mr I. M. Taylor Supervisor. Ramasamy Pillai. the Periakulam Overseer and Mr Johnston the then Executive Engineer in charge of the Division who were all concerned in the work.

Mr Johnston evidently knew that materials were missing and as Executive Engineer in charge. he ought to have reported the matter as soon as he was aware of it; instead of doing

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this, he was content to leave the matter alone and it was not until Mr Grimes the present Executive Engineer had been in charge for some time that the matter came to his notice: of course it was then too late for there to be any hope of a satisfactory solution or of being able to fix any responsibility on any body except Mr Johnston the Executive Engineer.

G.C.C.9795 g
1-10-83

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obdt. servt.

Lieut. Col. R.E.
Superintending Engineer

1259/8

5

G. O. 1375 W. of 14 June 1880 Rev.
" 2878 W " 7 Decr. 1880
" 153 W. " 18 Jany 1882
" 795 I " 1st Octr. 1883

P.W. 4177

From

(6) The Supt. Engineer
6 circle

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

No. 65 M.D.
Dated 9 } May /84
Recd. 14 }

No. 1289 W. of 28 May /84

Gudalur Peermed Ghaut:

Requests to obtain the order of Govt. to charge the value of the missing materials to the [illegible] for the —

O.L.S. 52/5
d 17-5-84

No. 2567 Executive Engineer's office
Madura 4th December 1883.

1289/9 Despd 5/12/83

From,

The Executive Engineer
Madura division

To

The Superintending Engineer
6th Circle, Trichinopoly

Sir,

I have the honor to lay before you the following circumstances in connection with the Materials at site of the work "Completion of the Road from Cumbum to the foot of the Gudalur Ghat," which now amounts to Rs. 4,675. and to request the favour of your orders.

Enclos: 13 to be kindly returned when done with.

I. In October 1883, I addressed a letter* to the President Local Fund Board, pointing out the small outlay that was incurred on the work against the grant of Rs 20,000 assigned for the current official year and asking whether he would be able to utilise

*No. 2012 A
27-10-83

the full allotment or not, and at the same time I forwarded a statement of Materials at the site and requested him to report whether any of the materials in that statement were used on the work and, if so, to note the sub head of the Estimate to which charged, in reply, the President Local Fund Board informed[+] me that "arrangements have been made to fully utilise the current year's allotment" by the close of the year, and in para 2 of the same letter he stated that the Local Fund Engineer after personal inspection will give the required information regarding the materials at site. Subsequently, I received another letter from the President giving cover to a letter[⊗] from the Local Fund Engineer to his address in which that officer states that "none of the materials

+ B.
Letter No. 758/16-11-83

× C.
No. 777/24-11-83

⊗ No. 53/17-11-83 with copy of Letter No. 582/10-6-82 from the E. E. Madras to the V. P. L. F. Bd. Dindigul & one Statement of Materials at site

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1289/10

"enumerated in the list has been "used on works up to date, or if used "they have not been brought into the "accounts", but as a few masonry works are in progress on which these materials will be used, an account of them will be rendered in the Bills that will be submitted, noting the sub heads to which they have been charged. Then he goes on to say that "when the materials at site "were originally handed over to "Mr Hardy by the P. W. D, certain "deficiencies were found which were "then brought to notice by Mr Hardy", here he quotes certain correspondence between Mr Hardy, the Vice President and Mr Johnston, late Executive Engineer of this Division, regarding these deficiencies, which will appear further on in this letter, and further says, "I confess that I cannot "understand it and I must "decline to accept the statement

"sent by Mr Grimes to you on the 25th
"ultimo except for the items marked
"with a star. The materials may
"have been at site when that
"statement was prepared, but
"from what data was it compiled
"& when was it made out!" In
Conclusion he remarks with reference to the Materials Collected Departmentally that the Bricks are unfit for use and some of the materials are not to be found.

2 - In order that you may understand the reason for the Local Fund Engineer declining to accept the statement of materials at site sent, I must solicit your kind attention to the following points bearing on the Case;-

II During the time that this Division formed a sub Dn. of the Trichinopoly Division, the Superintending Engineer 3rd circle issued a memo* to Mr. MacAlister, the

* D
No. — dated
27-5-81

318

1289
11

the then sub divl. officer, warning him of the fact that no work was to be done by this Department on the Gudalur Ghat & Calling upon him to furnish a detailed report of the progress made in collection of materials, to which, Mr. MacAlister replied*, that he received a report from Mr. Sayer, overseer, stating that considerable damage was done to the Gudalur Ghaut by the recent heavy rain & that certain repairs were commenced in anticipation of Sanction; he then gives a detail account of what these damages Consisted. He further submits a statement shewing the progress made in the Collection of materials, which amounted to Rs 783-15-4, & explains the cause of slow progress to be due to the opposition offered by the two head men of the Village who tried to get the whole work into their hands & to other difficulties.

* D
No. 201 wk
31-5-81
statement of
materials

III After this it would

appear that the collection of materials was
carried on, as at the end of October 1881, the
value increased to Rs 2,216-7-5 according
to the list sent by the Executive Engineer
Trichinopoly. In November 1881, this
Division was reformed. The list received
from the Executive Engineer Trichinopoly
was sent by the late Executive Engineer
of this Division with a memo+ to the
Sub Divisional officer Dindigul to
check & measure the materials
to be paid for & to report the result
at an early date. The Sub Divl. officer
Dindigul in his reply+ reports that of
the 40,000 burnt bricks shewn, only
25,000 could be counted, which
includes good & bad bricks, the good
being about 15,000 & the remainder
being vitrified & broken bricks
which may answer for brick
Jelly & Surki, he further states
that Mr Mac Alister thinks the
missing bricks will be found in
the brushwood which has overgrown

+ E
No. 189
3-12-81

+ F
No. 31
4-1-82 with L
of Materials

+ F
No. 353
6-1-82

+ G
No. 613
14-1-82

1289/12

the place. Again he says, of the 16,437 unburnt
bricks, there are now about 10,500 burnt. In
conclusion he reports that the remainder
of the materials appears to be correct. On this
report Mr MacAlister was called× upon
for some explanation, who in reply× says
that the 40,000 bricks referred to by Mr Taylor
are those that were made in March 1880,
as an experiment, and shows how the
experiment was made & with what results.
In respect to the number being deficient
Mr MacAllister states, "that Mr Taylor
"did not count them, neither did he
"measure the heaps of broken but
"well burnt pieces, he simply took
"very rough (but short) measurements
"of the bricks that were stacked and
"not even such portions of the stacks
"that were not raised to the full height,
"stating that if his measurements
"should show them near the amount
"he would consider them as correct &ca"
"and that some bricks will no doubt
be found covered by the brushwood.

He also explains the cause of deficiency in the number of raw bricks.

IV. There appears to be no further correspondence about the missing bricks. In G. O. No. 153 W. the work was ordered to be carried out by the Local Fund Department, this Department supplying only the funds. This G. O. was communicated to the Sub divisional officer Dindigul who was ordered to stop the collection of materials and to settle all claims. Steps were then taken to have the materials counted and Mr Lee the Contractor paid up. In March 1882, Mr Lee's accounts were closed and final payments made to him. By this final payment to Mr Lee the value of material amounted to Rs. 4087-14-9, adding to this the value, Rs 592.1.6, of materials collected by the L. F. Dept, and deducting Rs 5-9-3 appropriated by this office brings the value to Rs 4675 as stated above.

+H

H
+ No. 681
4.2.82

+ I
Contract Certificate for Rs 437-13-1

V. In February 1882, the President addressed the Superintending Engineer 6th circle to the effect that orders should be issued to the Executive Engineer Madura to close accounts as soon as possible as Mr Hardy, who was deputed to take charge of the work could not do so till the accounts were closed, at the same time enclosing a letter from Mr Hardy to the same effect. On this the Superintending Engineer instructed the Executive Engineer to do what was necessary.

+ I.
Letter No. 82
27-2-82
with Letter from Mr Hardy

1289/13

I.
+ No. 264 M. D.
2.3.82

+K

VI. In June 1882 a statement of materials at site with a copy of work voucher for March 1882 were sent to Mr Hardy.

VII. Mr Hardy in his letter to the Vice President Local Fund Board states that his "overseer has taken over charge "of all materials collected under "Petty Contract from the Taluq overseer "Periakolam whom the D. P. W. deputed "to deliver charge". He then goes on to say that the materials collected by the Contractor, Mr Lee, were found to coincide with the measurements, "but "the materials collected under "Departmental Agency are not all to be

+ No. L
35
5-6-82

"found and that which remains is unfit for use", and suggests that the amount thus spent on materials and superintendance be recouped to him. This letter is endorsed by the Vice President to the Executive Engineer Madura with the remark that he thinks the Periakolam overseer is responsible. To this Mr Johnston replies that Mr Hardy may use all or none of the materials collected, and that "he is responsible "neither for the quality nor for any excess "which may occur consequent on the "utility or otherwise of the materials "collected by this Department" and concludes by saying that "knowing "as I do all the facts of the case," he does not consider the Periakolam overseer to be "in the least degree "responsible for any short materials."

L
+ No. 168 L
7-6-82

M
+ No. 582
10-6-82

3. Under the circumstances above recorded, it appears to me unaccountable why no further steps were taken on Mr Hardy's

8/p 11

1289
14

last letter reporting the deficiency of certain materials. As Mr Harrington, the present Local Fund Engineer now declines to accept the materials, not marked with a star, in the list, and which amounts to Rs 1,616-7-5, it is necessary that something should be done to remove this value from the books of the office. Either the amount must be nominally charged off to some of the sub heads of the estimate, with the Local Fund Engineer's consent, or, the value must be written off to "Profit & Loss" with the sanction of Government, as it is now too far back to bring home the responsibility to any officer or subordinate of this division.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt. servant
J Ennis.
Executive Engineer

DmH
6/12
83

From [illegible]/521/[illegible]
6/11/8[illegible]

The Exec Engineer
Madura Division

To

The Supdg Engineer
Sixth Circle
Trichinopoly

No. 2567

Dated 4th }
Desp 5th } November/8[illegible]
Recd ___ }

Encls [illegible]
materials at site in con=nection with the completion of the Road from Cumbum to the foot of the Gudalore Ghaut works — Forwards certain correspondence regarding the — & requests instructions as to how to adjust —

No. 3495 Executive Engineer's Office
Madura 25th Madura. 9

8/p 12

From,

The Executive Engineer
Madura Dn.

1289/15

To.

The Superintending Engineer
6th Circle

Sir,

With reference to your memo No. 461 M.D. dated 18th December 1883, I have the honor to state as follows;-

Enclosures 21.

I. Of the items noted in para 2 the following were not charged to "Materials at site", but to "Contingencies", hence they were omitted in the Statement:

Trimming branches of avenue trees	Rs 37-3-"
Work peoples' shed	Rs 5. " "
Stacking materials	Rs 5. " "
	Rs 47. 3. "

II. In compliance with para 10 I called^x upon Overseer Ramasamy Pillai for some explanation in respect to the missing materials, and in reply^x the Overseer states that the materials were handed over to Mr. Hardy's Overseer Rungabashiam Naidu (now dead) on

4
^x Letter No. 2808/21.12.83 with 1 Enclosure.

4/2
^x Letter No. 286/8.1.84

Sergeant

on the 30th & 31st May 1882 and that he recollects a receipt having been signed by him and that Overseer which receipt was submitted to the Dindigul Sub Divisional Officer.

III. On receipt of this letter I addressed Mr Taylor, who was the Sub Dn Officer at that time, on the subject, and from his reply it will be seen that the materials handed over to Mr Hardy's Overseer, were those collected by Mr Lee, and not those collected Departmentally. Those collected Departmentally were pointed out to Mr Hardy by Mr Johnstone himself, Mr Taylor being present, and it would appear that Mr Hardy was not satisfied at the time – Mr Taylor further states that he does not remember whether Overseer Ramasamy Pillai forwarded a receipt from Rungabashiam Naidu –

× Letter No $\frac{3009}{16.1.84}$ $\frac{A}{3}$

× Letter No $\frac{248}{22.1.84}$ $\frac{A}{4}$

IV. I then called upon the Sub Dn Officer Dindigul to submit whatever records were to be found in his Office in connection with the materials at site of the Gudalur Ghat Road, the Sub Dn Officer in reply forwards a statement shewing the records that were handed over to Mr Hardy by Mr Taylor, and a measurement

× Letter No $\frac{3150}{27.1.84}$ $\frac{A}{5}$

× Letter No $\frac{138}{3.2.}$ $\frac{A}{6}$ with 3 Enclos

1289/16

measurement sheet of materials supplied by contractor Mr Lee.

2. From the above it will be seen that no information whatever can be obtained regarding the materials collected Departmentally.

3. In compliance with para 11, I forwarded a correct statement to the Local Fund Engineer, thro' the President Local Fund Board, asking him what materials he accepted and what he did not accept – In reply the Local Fund Engineer forwards a statement shewing what materials he accepts, amounting to Rs 3412.10.9. including 133 cyds of rough stone.

× Letter No $\frac{3006}{16.1.84}$ $\frac{A}{7}$ with 1 Enclosure.

× Letter No $\frac{127}{7.2.84}$ $\frac{A}{8}$ with 1 Enclo:

4. As the Local Fund Engineer has now accepted materials to the value of Rs 3412.10.9 against the value of Rs 4675, as borne on the books of this office, the amount that will have to be written off is Rs 1262.5.3.

5. There is nothing on record in this office to show how the materials supplied Departmentally were lost, nor can any thing be obtained from the subordinates of the Division regarding the missing materials, and under the circumstances I have the honor to request you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to write off

Sergeant

write off the amount, Rs 1262·6·3. to "Profit & Loss".

6. Enclosures A to M. and $\frac{A}{1}$ to $\frac{A}{8}$ are herewith forwarded, to be kindly returned when no longer required.

I have the honor to be,
Sir
Your most obedient Servt.

J. Ginnis,
Executive Engineer.

1289/17

Sergeant

G. O. No 1127 W. 8
11. 6. 84

From,

The Executive Engineer
Madura Division

To

The Superintending Engineer
6th circle – Trichinopoly

Dated 25th }
Despd 25th } February 1884.
Recd }

Enc: 21

No 3495.

Materials at site of the Cumbum Gudalur Road – Affords certain information regarding. —

Genl Estabt
P. W. Dept

1289
18

No 1289 W

Proceedings of the Madras Government,

Under date the 23d May 1884

Read the following

Letter from the S. E. VI Circle No 65 M.D d/9th May /84.

Before according sanction to the proposal of the Superintending Engineer to charge off the value, Rs 1263-5-3, of the missing materials, the Government desire to be furnished with such explanations as the Executive Engineer, and the subordinates concerned, may have to offer.

Mr J.C. Johnston, now in the III Circle, was the Executive Engineer in charge, and the following subordinates are mentioned as having been connected with the work: —

Sergeant

Sergt. MacAlister - Supervisor.
IV Circle.

Mr. J. M. Taylor - Supervisor.
VI Circle.

N. Ramasawmy Pillay - Overseer.
VI Circle.

Mr. Johnston will ~~more~~ especially explain why he did not effect a satisfactory transfer of the work and adjustment of the outlay incurred under his orders.

W.
20-5-84

7 C
A. 4182 2-9-14.

W

W.
23/5

D
2/6/84

S. E. III Circle ✓ 3
" IV Circle ✓ 9
" VI Circle ✓ 5
21

15
1289
~~[illegible]~~
19

40778

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

(193)

Dated 27-4-84

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 23rd May 1884, No. 1289 W.

Cumbum - Gudalur road

Calling for Explanations from the Ex: Engr & the subordinates concerned, as regards missing materials at site of the ——

38/4

Sub Div Recpt Regr