(1) பக்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கை 64
(2) புதுக்கித் திருப்பிய நாள் 7/88
(3) ஆதாரங்குறிப்பவர் சுருக்கொப்பம்

தமிழ்நாடு ஆவணக் காப்பகம்.

தமிழ்நாடு அரசு

P. W. துறை

அரசாணை எண்.
மு. கோப்புத் தாள் எண். 2182 W **அச்சகம்**
பலவகை

நாள் : 4. 9. 1884 ~~198~~.

மடிக்கவோ கண்டபடி கையாளவோ கூடாது

தனி.

ஆவண, கா-1—18,006—15-6-87.

4th September 1884, No. 2182 W., Public Works.

2182/1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

General.
Account.

Read—the following papers :—

From the Superintending Engineer, III Circle, dated 11th June 1884, No. 509.
„ „ „ IV „ „ 9th July „ „ 323 E.W.
„ „ „ VI „ „ 5th Aug. „ „ 230 M.D.

Order—dated 4th September 1884, No. 2182 W., Public Works.

The explanations called for in G.O., No. 1289 W., dated 23rd May 1884, as regards certain missing materials on the Gúdalúr-Pirmed ghât, have now been submitted with the papers above recorded.

2. On careful perusal of the correspondence, the Government consider that Mr. J. C. Johnston's explanation exculpates the subordinates concerned from blame in the matter ; but that Mr. Johnston is himself greatly to blame for remissness in not taking the necessary steps for the proper adjustment of the outlay incurred by him.

3. The value of the missing materials, Rs. 1,262-5-3, will, as recommended by the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle, be written off against the work.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, VI Circle.
„ „ „ III „
„ „ „ IV „
„ Examiner, Public Works Accounts, with copy of G.O., No. 1289 W.

Exd. E. Fernandez.
Spare Copies

GENERAL.
ACCOUNT.

Govt. of {1884} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated September, 4th.

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 4th Sept. 1884, No. 2182 W.

SEPTEMBER.

Materials

Orders on explanation submitted by the Executive Engineer as regards certain missing — on the Gúdalúr-Pirmed ghât.

No 445 - Cuddapah Ex. Engr's Office
d/ 7th June /84.

From
The Executive Engineer
Cuddapah Division

2182/2

To
The Superintending Engineer
III Circle
Bellary

Sir.

With reference to G. O. dated 23d May 1884, No 1289 W, Public works; I have the honor to give a short history of the materials collected for the Cumbum Gudalur Road.

2. When I took charge of the Madura Division in October 1881, I found that Mr Macalister, supervisor, had started work on the Cumbum-Gudalur road, in the collection of materials, departmentally and by contract. Those collected departmentally had, of course, been fully paid for by Mr Macalister, but not those being collected by the contractor Mr Lee; for I myself settled up with Mr Lee subsequently.

3. In para 3 of Mr Grimes' letter No 2567 dated 4th December 1883, it will be seen that I sent the list of materials received from the

Executive Engineer, Trichinapalli, to Sub-Divisional Officer Dindigal, to check. He reported certain materials missing. Mr Macalister was called upon for an explanation, and as he, in a certain measure, called in question Mr Taylor's check-measurements, I proceeded myself to the spot and made my own as carefully as I could. The results of my inspection, with Mr Macalister's explanations were duly submitted to the Superintending Engineer. As far as I can remember, the materials collected departmentally and found short were mostly firewood & bricks. Mr Grimes states Mr Hardy was not satisfied, when the materials collected departmentally were pointed out to him by me, and this is not at all unlikely. I remember I was not satisfied either, when I saw what remained of the firewood collected for burning bricks. Having been stacked for several months, it was quite dry and unfit for that purpose - a fact no doubt recognized by travellers who found

I underline these words for Col Mead evidently thinks I did nothing of the kind -

ready cut firewood very convenient. The money spent in collecting the firewood was thus simply thrown away, for the ~~work~~ wood had been decreased considerably in quantity, and was also too dry for the purpose for which it had been cut.

4. Mr Macalister explains that he was instructed to try to make good bricks. He did try and failed, for the earth was not suitable.

5. I remember Col Beatty went fully into the subject of these short materials, and apparently was satisfied with the explanations ~~presented~~ furnished by Mr Macalister, for I do not remember its cropping up again, till a reference was made by the President, vide para VII of Mr Grimes' letter No 2567. I consulted Col Beatty as to my reply, and the words noted by Mr Grimes in the last part of his para VII above mentioned, were as far as I recollect, the very words written down by Col Beatty himself for my guidance. The words ~~accounted~~ ammounted in meaning to

this:— that Mr Hardy ought to accept the materials as handed over by this Department with the explanations as to deficiency— seeing that such deficiency was, in a measure unavoidable; and as he (Mr Hardy) was not in the least responsible for the lost materials, he had simply to submit a supplemental estimate should he find the balance of money on the estimate insufficient to complete the work.

6. The work voucher was sent to Mr Hardy in June 1882, and it was on the 10th June I wrote that letter quoted Mr Grimes.

7. It will be seen there that Mr Hardy refused to give me a receipt for the materials, and wished to be recouped the amount lost in materials and superintendence; But this latter Col Beatty apparently refused to accede to.

As I had written the last letter, I naturally expected a further communication from the President if Mr Hardy still had the same objections; but the matter was not

2182

not referred to again and it gradually slipped out of my memory as my other works and responsibilities increased.

8. In conclusion and in justice to myself, I beg to invite your attention to a few remarks on my conduct made by Col Mead. In para 2 he says I took no further steps to verify Mr Hardy's statements as regards short materials. Having already made a careful examination and measurement of all materials, and reported the deficiency to the Superintending Engineer, I knew Mr Hardy's statements to be correct, so no further steps to verify them were necessary. Again, it is said I could easily have given over charge of all the materials to Mr Hardy and taken a receipt on the spot. Most of the materials collected by the Contractor were at a spot 3 miles off, close to the hills. Mr Hardy and I saw and visited those close to the

road, and which I pointed out to him. Both of us recognised the deficiency of firewood, and the bad quality of the bricks. Mr Hardy did not check-measure himself, but said he would send his overseer to do so. Under these Circumstances I could claim no receipt on the spot.

Why not?

Why not all the Circ & times?

9. Col Mead had not the slightest grounds in his third last para for supposing that the materials collected departmentally were probably included in the contractors' Bills and paid for. I myself measured and paid up Mr Lee the Contractor and I was accompanied, if I remember right, by Mr Supervisor Macalister, who pointed out to me what had been collected departmentally, and what by Mr Lee, and I accept Mr Macalister's testimony as unimpeachable.

10. I knew that materials were missing and I reported this fact to the Superintending Engineer Col Beatty.

2182

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
John C. Johnston
Executive Engineer.

No 509

Forwarded to the Chief Engineer P. W. Deptt. for favourable consideration.-

Lt Col R.E.
11th June 1884 Supg Engineer III C.

5

G. O. No 2828 W 7-12-80
" " 153 W 18-1-82
" " 795 I. 1-10-83
" " 1289 W 23-5-84

Ref No 85 C
1884-6

From (10)

The Executive Engineer
Cuddapah Division

To

The Superintendg Engr
III Circle
Bellary.

No 2182 W of 4-9-84

Dated 7th } June /84
Recd 9th } do

No 446 –

Subject —

Cumbum Gudalur Road – submitting explanation for the missing materials at site of the —

To the Chief Engineer
P.W.D.
With an Endorsement

Resubmitted W.P. 22-8-84
3-14-8-84

No 264

South Canara Sub Divisional Office
Mangalore 22d June 1884.

From

Sergeant R. W. Macalister
Supervisor D.P.W.

~~2182~~ 2182
6

To

The Executive Engineer
Coimbatore Division

Enclo: II

Sir

With reference to your Endorsement No $\frac{1409}{13.6.84}$ on G.O. dated 23rd May 1884, No 1289 W, I beg to state that I was Sub-Divisional Officer Madura from July 1880 to November 1882.

In November 1881 my Sub-Division was reformed into the present Madura Division, and divided into two Sub Divisions, Madura & Dindigul. I was then relieved by Mr J. M. Taylor Supervisor of the Charge of the works in the latter Sub-Division, which included the Cumbum-Gudalur Road and the Gudalur Ghat; I am therefore only responsible for the expenditure incurred on those works to the 31st October 1881, and my responsibility for the safety of the materials collected ceased, after I had handed over charge of them to the Sub-Divisional Officer Dindigul.

6

During the time I had Charge of the work, the Cumbum-Gudalur Road and the Gudalur Ghat were, under orders received from the Superintending Engineer treated as two separate works, and their limits were clearly defined by the Superintending Engineer as follows. By the former term was meant, the piece of road about 11 miles in length from the village of Cumbum to the foot of the Ghat (wooden Bridge), and the Continuation of this road to the Mysore frontier near Coombly, was called the Gudalur Ghat; the reason for this was, that when the roads were transferred to the Local Fund Board, the former portion was not completed, whereas, the Ghat was handed over in good order; this department therefore only considered it fair to be called upon to complete the road, and unfair to be held responsible for the bad state into which the Ghat had fallen after its transfer to another department; but as the Local Fund Board disputed the point, the matter was referred to Government for their decision.

In February or March 1881, I was ordered to commence the Collection of material on the Cumbum-Gudalur Road and Mr E. Taylor

14-8-89

(formerly employed on the Potingey Ghat) was appointed temporary Overseer and placed in Special Charge of the work, under my orders. I was afterwards, owing to the number of Complaints received from the Planters, called upon by the Superintending Engineer to prepare an Estimate for the repair of the Ghat, but I was at the same time warned not to execute any repairs to the Ghat until the orders of Government were received, and in May 1882 the Superintending Engineer considered it necessary to renew the warning; just about this time the Overseer had reported that owing to heavy rain a number of Slips had occurred on the Ghat, and that he had Commenced the work of re-opening the Ghat to traffic in anticipation of Sanction, and stated that he had done so because he felt it his duty to do so, he being the only subordinate within miles of the place; immediately on receipt of this report I wrote to the Overseer to stop the work, and I proceeded to the spot myself to see the work stopped, and soon afterwards submitted the report referred to by Mr Grimes. I do not now recollect the exact expenditure incurred in clearing the Ghat of obstructions &c but I believe it was a little over Seventy Rupees; there was no other work done on the Ghat by this Department, and the expenditure incurred in re-opening it to traffic should not be charged against the estimate for completing the Cumbum-Gudalur Road.

With regard to the collection of material on the Cumbum-Gudalur Road I beg to state that after a trial of six or seven months, Mr Taylor the temporary Overseer having proved a failure his services were dispensed with and the collection of material departmentally stopped; this was about September 1882 but there was little or no material collected during the last two months, and a very small portion of what was collected had been carted to site of works. It is now over 2½ years since I had charge of the work and 1½ years since I left the Madura District. I cannot recollect the exact quantity of material collected or expenditure incurred, but I have a very clear recollection of what was done - the material stored at the following places was collected departmentally while I was in charge.

Supplied by Kuniah Naidu, the Kurnam of the Village of Gudalur.

1st The whole of the rough stone collected at the 1st stream (Kakanodai)

Collected by coolies employed by the Overseer

2 A large quantity of lime stone and fuel for burning the same was collected about midway between Kakanodai and Surilliar.

3 The whole of the rough stone and bricks (with the exception of one lot of rough stone) collected at the Kurruvanuttu Stream, and a large quantity of material was collected at various points on the Gudalur Ghat to await carriage to the site of Bridge over Kurruvanuttu; this last lot of material consisted of stones quarried by burning and blasting, and a large quantity of rough stone much of which required very little dressing to fit them for use in building the Bridges.

and the remainder for flooring and dry stone pitching - besides the above material, there was some road-metal collected between the Kurruvanuttu Stream and the foot of the Ghat as also at the two quarries on the Ghat (in the 1st and 2nd miles).

Six Carts and six pairs of bullocks were also purchased for the work at a cost of Rupees Six hundred, and the temporary Overseer's salary at Rs100 per mensem, and the cost of erecting a shed for the Overseer and Cooly Lines were also charged to the work. It is not clear from the letters printed with the G.O. above quoted whether the sum of Rupees 2216-7-5 mentioned in part III of para 2 of Mr Grimes' letter, is the total outlay on the work, or simply the amount paid for the materials themselves exclusive of the cost of sheds Superintendence &c.

In September or October 1882, that is, immediately the collection of material departmentally was stopped, Mr T. Lee undertook to complete the work on Contract,

14-8-84

agreeing at the same time to take over the materials already collected, together with the Overseer's Shed (which he occupied himself) the cooly Lines, and the carts and bullocks. It took Mr Lee some little time to make arrangements for commencing work, and before he had fairly started work I was relieved of the charge of the work as already stated, on the reformation of the Madura Division.

218/9

When I handed over charge of the works in the Dindigul Sub-Division to Mr J. M. Taylor, Supervisor, I furnished him, in special reference to this work, with a complete set of Vouchers for the expenditure incurred of which he was also furnished a copy. a list of materials collected, and a list of rates at which the Contractor Mr Lee had undertaken to execute different descriptions of work. Mr Taylor Supervisor checked the list of materials Collected, and reported that he was satisfied with its correctneſs, with the exception of 15000 bricks. I was shortly after this deputed to visit this work again in order to aſsist

Did he accept this as correct?

84

Mr Taylor who had some difficulty in preparing the 1st bill for materials collected by Mr Lee, and I took that opportunity of going over the list of materials collected departmentally with Mr Taylor; I then ascertained that Mr Taylor had not counted the bricks, neither had he taken complete measurements of the stacks of bricks which were visible, and a remeasurement showed only six or eight thousand bricks deficient, but the whole place was so completely over grown with low jungle, weeds, and creepers &c, that it was difficult to say whether these bricks were covered over, or stolen which there was nothing to prevent.

On this occasion while checking the materials with Mr Taylor, I claimed the whole of the rough stone collected at the Kurruvanthu stream as materials collected departmentally, and Mr Taylor informed me that the contractor claimed one lot as material collected by him, and that he (Mr Taylor) was satisfied that even excluding this one lot, the material at site and on the Ghat was a little in excess of the quantity shown on the books. I therefore respectfully beg to submit that if I am to be held responsible for anything it can only be for six thousand Bricks or Rupees thirty only; but I beg to point out that these bricks were stacked at a distance of 95 miles from my Head-quarters, and were directly under the charge of the temporary Overseer who had them made, and afterwards of the Contractor, and that it was quite impoſsible to prevent their being stolen; I am however more inclined to believe that they will be found if the place was cleared of jungle.

Shortly after the Madura Division was reformed, the Estimate for completing the Cumbum-Gudalur Road was sanctioned for execution by the Local Fund Board, and Mr Hardy, the Engineer in charge of Gundamanaikanur Estate Works, was deputed to carry out the same, and as that Officer wished to make his own arrangements, the Contract with Mr Lee was cancelled, and I again visited deputed to the charge of the work, he commenced the repairs to the Ghat and he afterwards revised the Estimate for the same making the amount considerably more than I did, which was accounted for by the number of slips and other damage which had occurred after my estimate was submitted. I beg however to point out that the repairs of the Ghat required a large quantity of stone for revetments many of which would be of considerable height, and the stone collected by this Department for the Bridge over Kurruvanuttu stream, and which was then lying on the Ghat awaiting cartage, would just answer that purpose, and I believe that if the place was now revisited by some one who had done so before, and proper enquiries made of the villagers* it will be found that the rough stone collected by this department, if missing, has been used in repairing the Ghat which included the construction of Revetments, tunnels, and drains of rough stone. I say this because Mr Hardy would have found it impossible to have procured the stone he wanted without blasting as all the available rough stone and boulders had already been collected by this department, for the Bridges &c on the Cumbum-Gudalur Road; and Mr Hardy could have done no blasting without procuring labor from a great distance.

In conclusion I beg to state that I do not know who completed the handing over of the materials collected to Mr Hardy; I always thought that it was Mr Taylor, Supervisor, and that the transfer had been satisfactorily completed; but from the G.O. under reference it appears that N. Ramasawmy Pillai, Overseer, did so; and unless Mr Taylor had previously pointed out the material to the Overseer, the latter would have great difficulty in finding them. there could have been no mistake if Mr Taylor had done so himself.

After I had handed over charge of this work, one pair of bullocks was reported as stolen, and the Contractor on becoming aware that he would not be allowed to go on with the work neglected the remaining

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* Of Gudalur an
Kamanagounde
-putty

2182/12

3.14.8.81

five pairs so much that the Sub Devisional Officer Dindigul reported that he was not able to get a bid for them; they were then sent to me to be sold in auction at Madura; when the cattle arrived, they were in very poor condition from starvation & over-work. One pair died on the day they arrived; and the others with the carts were sold for something over Two hundred Rupees. I do not know whether this sum was credited to the work.

I beg to remain
Sir
Your most Obedt. Servant
Robt. MacAlister
Supervisor D.P.W.

No. 1072

Forwarded to the Supg. Engineer 4th Circle -

R Davidson
Executive Engr.
28.6.84

2182/13

12

569 C.J.

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER'S OFFICE
No. 1072
27 JUN 1884
P.W.D.
COIMBATORE

From.

The Executive Engineer
Coimbatore Division

Dated 28th June } 1884
Recd }

No. 1072

Enclo: ..

Cumbum - Gudalur Road.
Sergt. Mac Alister's letter regarding missing materials at site of the -
Forwarded with endorsement -

No. 323
E.W.

Supg. Engineer's Office IV Circle
Camp Barur 9th July 1884

8182/14

From

The Superintending Engineer
IV Circle

To

The Chief Engineer
Public Works Department

Sir,

Enclosure 1
Explanation of Sergt. Mc. alister No. 264 of 22/6/84 bearing Ex. Engineer's Endorsement No. 1072 of 28th June/84.

As directed in G.O. No. 1289 W of 23rd May 1884 I have the honor to forward herewith Serjeant Mac alister's explanations regarding certain missing materials of the Cumbum Gudalur Road -

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

J. Beatty Col: R.E.
Superintending Engineer
IV Circle

13

323

From

The Supg. Engineer,
Fourth Circle.

(10)

Dated 9th } July 1884.
Despd. 14th }

No. 323
4th

Enc: 1

Cumbum - Gudalur Roa

Forwarding Sergian
Macalister's explanation
regarding certain missing
materials of the ——.

PWS 84/18.
Reminded to 22-8-84
6-11-8-84

Copies of Letters.

2182/15

Camp Gudalur 1st June 1882.

No. 27.

To
The Officer in charge of Dindigul Sub Division
Dindigul

Sir,

Enclosure 1.
Letter No 130/24/4/82

In obedience to your endorsement No 38 of the 27th April 1882 on the Madura Division Officer's letter No. 130/24/4/82 (here in enclosed) I beg to inform you that I have delivered over the charge of the materials collected on the Cumbum Gudalur Ghaut Road by the Contractor Mr. Lee as per measurement list forwarded with your memo No 53 of the 1st Ulto to Runghabashiam Naidoo Overseer in charge of Gundamanaickanur Estate under the orders of Mr. Hardy on the 30th & 31st Ulto completely.

I beg to remain &c
(Signed) N. Ramasawmy Pillai
Overseer Periacolum Taluq

Camp Uthamapollium 8th June 1882.

No. 34.

To
The Taluq Overseer in Temporary Charge of Dindigul Sub Dn.
Dindigul

Sir,

1 Enclosure
measurement list

With reference to your No 137 of the 5th Instant I have the honor to return the measurement list forwarded with Memo No 53 of the 1st May 1882.

I have &c
(Signed) N. Ramasawmy Pillai
Overseer Periacolum Taluq.

(True Copies of Letters)

N. Ramasawmy Pillai
Overseer Periacolum Taluq.
4th July 1884

14

the 4th January 1882

No.

To The Executive Engineer Madura Dn

Madura

2/182 [illegible]/16

Sir,

In accordance to your circular No 73 8/3/84 I beg to enclose Copies of my Letters & measurement Sheet shewing the Quantity of work which I have found actually performed on the sides of the Cumbum & Gudalur Ghaut Road in the latter part of May 1882: And only these were handed over by me to Mr Hardy's Overseer "late Ranga[illegible] Naidu" as I have once explained to you ~~in~~ in my letter dated 8th January 1884. Consequently I beg to submit this as my final & satisfactory explanation on the subject above alluded to.

I beg to remain
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
M Ramasawmy Pillai
Overseer [illegible] Taluq

2 Enclosures
1. Copies of Letters copied in the Overseer's Letter Book
1 Office Copy of measurement Sheet. found in the hands of Overseer [illegible].

+ Sent forward with this.

6.7.84

15

MADURA DIVISION

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER 7 JUL 84 6th CIRCLE

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER 7 JUL 84 6th CIRCLE

~~2788~~

2182/17

3	2	12		
		5ʒ 1 3/16		
		5ʒ 3/16		
		532	2 Rough stone pue dressed × 100 12 4 0	65 2 7
			Training branches of Avenue trees	37 3 0
			Work peoples' Shed	15 0 0
			Stacking materials collected departmentally —	5 0 0
			Total Value of Work done —	2523 10 1
			Deduct previous payment	1085 13 0
			Net Value of Work done —	1437 13

1/6

the 4th January 1882

		2	139½	✓
		2	91	
		2	149	
		2	704	✓
½	12	2½	375	✓
½	10	2	570	✓
9	5	2	90	✓
8	9	2	324	✓
3	12	2	696	✓
½	12	2	444	✓
1	10½	2	462	✓
2	8	2	128	✓
½	9½	2	275½	✓
	9½	2	266	✓
	4½	2	72	✓
	3¾	2	93¾	✓
		2	24	✓

8818

2182
18

10	2½	225	✓	
9½	1½	114	✓	
10	1½	135		
		1292¾	at 15 bricks a Cubic foot	
		4380	Soorkhi bricks –	100 2 as 38
		9000		
		5000		
		14000	Dre burnt bricks in Shed	100 0 12 . 10 0
7	3	252	Fine wood	
2 4	3½	182	✓	
12 2½	3½	105	✓	
11 3	3	99	✓	
10½ 2½	2½	65 5/8	✓	
14 6	3	252		
14 3½	3½	171½	✓	
14 3	3	126	✓	
30 3	3	270		
		1523	Cft of fine wood 30 Ditto a cft.	
		45690		

17

Each 1 as 25 8 0

easurement of Work done by Contractor Mr Lee on the Cua
dulee Road

ement							
L	B	Ht	Contents	Particulars	Per	Rate	Amt
1½	9	3	850½				
12	6	2	144				
36	12	1½	648				
20	8	2	320				
			1962½				
			176½	Deduct 10 per cent			
			1786	Cft of Rough stone undressed at site	Cft 100	13	232 2
2	3	3	108				
6	3	2	36				
18	3	3	162				
7	3	2	42				
12	3	2½	90				
9	3	1¾	47¼				
16	6	3	[illegible]				
16	6	[illegible]	288				

4957

2182/19

To D.W.

For orders.

Explanation has yet to be received from Sergt. MacAlister, & Mr. J. M. Taylor, Supervisor, & N. Ramaswamy Pillay overseer.

C.E.
13/6/94

I think we had better await receipt of these & deal with all the explanations at one & same time.

With C.E. No. 5836 C.E. 14.6

17A

Await receipt of other reports
C.E. 16/6/94

(21)

No. 116

Pusalapuram
26th June 1884.

From
The Extra Officer
Tirumangalam

2182/V

Encl. 1 G.O.

To
The Division Officer
Madura

Sir

With reference to G.O. No. 1289 W / 23-5-84 calling for explanation regarding the missing materials of the Cumbum Gudalur Road, I beg to bring to notice the following circumstances shewing my connection with them, from which, I think, it will be seen that I am in no way to blame for their loss.

2. A distinction must be made between Mr. E. J. Taylor Special Overseer (by whom the materials were collected) and myself, so that it may be known that I had no connection with the materials, before I took charge of them from Supervisor Mr. Macalister, when I was appointed to the charge of the Dindigul Sub Division. When I took charge of them from him, in December 1881 I found them deficient to a certain extent, and reported the circumstance to the Division Officer in my Letter No. 31 of the 4th January 1882

3.74 6.11.8.84

The Division Officer inspected the materials himself soon after, in (January following) and at the same time handed them over to Mr. Hardy – the Engineer appointed by the L.F. Board to take charge of the work from the P.W. Department. I do not know, what the Division Officer's opinion was regarding the correctness or otherwise of the materials. But, I think, it will be admitted that my responsibility in connection with them ceased from the time he handed them over to Mr. Hardy. An acknowledgment of the receipt of the materials should have been taken from Mr. Hardy; but it was not my duty to do this.

3. As Taluq Overseer Ramasawmy Pillay acted under my orders in connection with this work, I ought to state that he was never in charge of the work or the materials. He came to the Periyakulam Taluq just about the time that the work was to be handed over to the L.F. Board. And all he had to do was to point out to Mr. Hardy as his Overseer, the materials collected by Contractor Mr. Lee. He appears to have done this satisfactorily, as no complaint has been made regarding these materials.

4. The final measurements of work done by the Contractor were taken by the Division Officer.

2/182/21

I beg to remain
Sir
Your Most Obed! Servant
M. Taylor
Supervisor

6/305 MD/84

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
4 JUL 84
6th CIRCLE

3/82

Dw 1/5627/82

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Regd. No. 168
28 JUN 84
P.W.D.
MADURA DIVISION.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
6TH CIRCLE.

Palamcottah 5/8/1884.

No. 230 M.D.

H82/22

From

The Superintending Engineer,
6th Circle.

To

The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

Sir,

ENCLOSURE. 1

With reference to G.O. No 1289 W of 23rd May 1884. I have the honor to forward the explanations of Mr Taylor Supervisor and overseer Ramasamy Pillai, from which it is clear that the materials handed over to Mr Hardy's overseer were those supplied by contractor Mr Lee and not those collected departmentally.

In the correspondence there is no explanation whatever regarding the large quantity of rough

It is stated that it may have been used in repairing the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] CE

PP

stone that is missing.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obd.t serv.t

Lieut. Col. R.E.

Supd.g Engineer 6th Circle

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P. W. D. 6TH CIRCLE.

From
The Superintending Engineer,
6th Circle.

(10)

To
The Chief Engineer
P. W. D.

No. 230 W.D.

Dated 5 } August 1884.
Received

No. 2182 W dated 4 9 84

Enclosure.

With Cho. 5887 &c

-Cumbum - Gudalur Road: —

Forwards explanations from the subordinates regarding the missing materials at site of the —

84/8

Resubmitted W.C. 22.8.84
C. 14.8.84

2182/24

Prepared by
M. Kuppuswami Chetty, B.A.

Summary of the explanations submitted relative to the materials missing at site of the Cumbum - Gudalur road:-

(1) Mr. J. C Johnston states that he took charge of the Madura Division in Octr/81; ~~and~~ that the collection of materials for the Cumbum - Gudalur road had commenced before he assumed charge of the Division; what had been collected departmentally having been fully paid for by Sergt. MacAlister, he having settled up only with Mr. Lee, the Contractor, subsequently; And that when a list of the materials collected was received from the Exec: Engr, Trichinopoly, (of which Division the present Madura Division

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previously formed only a sub-division), it was sent to Mr Taylor, the Sub-Divisional Officer to check, by whom, certain materials were reported as miſsing for the first time. On explanation being called for, Mr Taylor's check measurements having been to a certain extent called in question by Mr Mac Alister, personal inspection was made, the results of which with Mr Mac Alister's explanations were duly submitted to the Supg Engineer.

He further states that as far as he remembers, the materials miſsing were mostly firewood & bricks, the former of which may have decreased considerably in quantity & value, by over-drying, having been stacked for several months; And that the bad Quality of the latter was attributed by

by Sergt Mac Alister to the unsuitability of the earth of the place for ~~that purpose~~ brick making.

A receipt for the materials was not taken from Mr Hardy, because it was refused, unleſs the amount of the materials miſsing & the outlay on superintendence &c was recouped — a course which Col: Beatty, the Supg Engr would not accede to.

Expecting naturally a reply from the Presdt of the L. F. Board ~~on the subject~~ to his last letter on the subject, nothing further was done, the ~~subject~~ matter having gradually slipped out of his memory after the lapse of some time, there having been no further reference.

As Mr Hardy's statements were correct & the deficiency real, a careful examination & measurement of materials having already been made, no further steps to verify them were thought necessary.

He states also that none of the materials collected departmentally were included in the Contractor's bills & paid for, as he paid up Mr Lee himself after personal inspection & measurement of all the materials, in doing which he was accompanied by Sergt MacAlister.

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(2) Sergt MacAlister states that he was the Madura Sub-Divisional Officer from July 1880 to November 1882, but that his responsibility for the materials in question ceased with 31st October/81, as he then handed over charge of them to the Sub-Divisional Officer, Dindigul, the Madura Sub-division having been then formed into a separate Division, with the two sub-divisions of Madura

& Dindigul.

It was in February or March 1881, he was ordered to commence the collection of materials for the Cumbum-Gudalur road, and Mr E. Taylor, temporary Overseer was placed in special charge of the work under his orders. The temporary Overseer's services were dispensed with after a trial of six or seven months, & the collection of materials departmentally stopped (about September 1882)

Sergt MacAlister also states that there was considerable outlay on sheds, on bullocks, and labor, besides the superintendence charges, which include the salary of the Overseer temporarily employed; and probably, he thinks this is included in the value given as that for the stores collected.

When the charge of the works in the Dindigul Sub-division was handed over to Mr Supervisor J.M. Taylor, he was furnished, in special reference to this work with a complete set of vouchers for the expenditure incurred, a list of materials collected &c; and on checking the list of materials collected, furnished to him, he reported that he was satisfied with the correctness of it, with the exception of 15,000 bricks, but a re-measurement ~~in his presence~~ afterwards, by both of them, he asserts, showed only six or eight thousand bricks deficient.

As the place was completely overgrown with low jungle weeds it is difficult to say, he ~~asserts~~ submits, whether these bricks were covered over or stolen, the former of which alternatives he is more inclined to believe, but even the latter is not at all improbable as there was nothing to prevent it. His head-quarters were 95 miles away

And they were directly only under the charge of the temporary Overseer, who had them made, and afterwards of the Contractor.

He points out also that some of the rough stone collected by this Department, if missing, may have been used partly in repairing the Ghat itself, which included the construction of revetments, tunnels, drains of rough-stone &c, having been left uncared for so long as they had been.

The sale of the Carts & cattle bought for the purpose of carting the materials and other work, realized something over two hundred rupees and he is doubtful whether this was credited, and they would have realized more, were they not much neglected by the Contractor.

Mr J. M. Taylor, Supervisor states that it was Mr E. J. Taylor, Special Overseer, by whom the materials were collected and that he had no connection with the matter before he assumed charge of the Sub-division from Sergt MacAlister, which was in December 1881. The materials in question were then found deficient to a certain extent & the circumstance was reported to the Divisional Officer (in his letter No. 31 of 4-1-82), who inspected the materials soon after, in company with Mr Hardy, to whom they were to be handed over. He states that his responsibility ceased from this time; ~~and if~~ that an acknowledgment of the receipt of these

2/182/23

materials Should have been ~~was not~~ taken from Mr Hardy he submits, it was not his business to do this. There was no further reference to him on the matter.

N. Ramasawmy Pillay the Overseer-in-charge of the Periyakulam Taluq forwards copies of his letter and of the measurements taken of the materials made over, about June /82. The materials collected by the contractor Mr Lee, were alone handed over by him to the L. F. Overseer, under the orders of the Sub-divisional Officer and he is not aware of anything more.

JH

(10)

A.G. 84/8
D. 22.8.84
D. 14.8.84 R. 21.8.84

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10 Dec.

2182/29

In his letter printed with Pro. No 1289 W of 23.5.84, the S.E. VII circle requested authority to charge off to the estimate for the Gudalur-Pirmed Ghat, the value of certain missing materials amounting to Rs 126~~3~~2-5-3.

Govt. in their order above quoted, considered that, before according sanction to the request, explanation should be obtained from the Ex. Engr. & subordinates connected with the work, viz:

from
Mr J.C. Johnston Ex. Engr.
Sergt. MacAlister Supervisor
Mr J. M. Taylor Cor. Supervisor
N. Ramasawmy Pillay overseer

the

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A.G.P. 84/8
B.22.8.84
B.14.8.84. R.21.8.84

The explanations have now all come in, & are submitted for orders with a summary, which I have had prepared in the Office.

C

13.8.84

Resubmitted W.6.22.8.84
B.14.8.84. R.21.8.84

2182/30

To W.

Missing materials on Cumbum-Gudalur road.

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

The explanations called for from Mr. J.C. Johnston, Ex: Engr; Supt. Mac Alister, Supervisor; Mr. J. M. Taylor, Supervisor; N. Ramasawmy Pillay, overseer, have been submitted.

It would appear clear that a certain amount of money had been spent on materials collected departmentally for the work – but that after lapse of time materials to the full value could not be found.

The deficiency may have been due, as reported by Mr. Johnston, to the firewood having deteriorated or been partly stolen, to bricks having been overgrown by the jungle, &c. I can trace no unfair dealings in connection therewith, but not unlikely the overseer took credit for outturn in excess of actuals, as they often do, to make the rates look fair.

All the parties concerned appear to have recognized that there was a deficiency. That being so the deficiency should have been adjusted, and here it is that, in my opinion, Mr. Johnston was to blame, and in this point alone.

The work having been handed over to the Local Fund Engineer, & that officer refusing to acknowledge the receipt of the materials found short, to give the P.W.D. credit for the outlay in full, it was Mr. Johnston's duty to have settled the matter one way or the other – to have had the transfer

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accounts put on a satisfactory footing.

The long & the short of it is that things were allowed to slide, no particular action was taken by either party, & so the affair dropped out of Mr. Johnston's memory.

Mr. Johnston's letter & the correspondence seem to me to exculpate the subordinate from blame in the matter. No doubt the whole onus now rests on him.

He protests against the severe criticism on his conduct passed by Col. Mead. I certainly think that the S.E. III is right when he attributes "great carelessness" to all concerned in the work, but that the affair is "very discreditable" to them is hardly justified by the record.

I venture to recommend that an order be passed to write off the missing materials (Rs. 1262-5-3) to the work with the remark that Mr. Johnston, the E.E. in charge when the road was transferred to the Local Fund Board, should have taken early & effectual steps to have the accounts of the outlay incurred by him ~~placed on~~ properly adjusted & that he was to blame for not having done so.

Cl.

14-8-84

The onus undoubtedly rests with Mr. Johnston, and it seems to me that he is greatly to blame for remissness in not taking the necessary steps for the proper adjustment of the outlay incurred by him. With an expression of opinion to that effect, I think the S.E.'s recommendation, to write off against the work the value of the missing materials, may be accepted.

19-8-84

C. 14-8-84 R. 21-8-84

C. 22.8.84

C. 14.8.84 R. 21-8-84

No. 2182 W

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

2182/31

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 4th September

READ the following

From the Supg. Engr. III Circle H.E. No. 509 dated 11th June 1884.
From the Supg. Engr. IV Circle " No. 323 Ew d/ 9th July 1884.
From the Supg. Engr. VI Circle " No. 230 M.D. d/ 5th August/84.

The explanations called for in G.O. No. 1289 dated 23rd May 1884, as regards certain missing materials on the Gudalur-Pirmed Ghat, have now been submitted with the papers above recorded.

2. On a careful perusal of the correspondence, the Government consider that Mr. J. C. Johnston's explanation exculpates the

2182

the subordinates concerned from blame in the matter; but that Mr. Johnston is himself greatly to blame for remissness in not taking the necessary steps for the proper adjustment of the outlay incurred by him.

3. The value of the missing materials, Rs 1262. 5. 3, will, as recommended by the Superintending Engineer VI Circle, be written off against the work.

21-8-84

25.8.84

P.W. DEPARTMENT MADRAS
2 SEP 84

11/9/84

To

The Supg. Engr. VI Circle 5
" " " III Circle 3
" " " IV Circle 9
Examr. P.W. Accts with 11
Copy of G.O. 12.9.84

Cir
84/8. Cir 25/8.
22.8.84

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12-11-09

6627

Govt. of (1884) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

(38)

Dated

Recd. Encl.

G.O., 4 Sep 1884, No. 2824

Materials.

Orders on explanation submitted by the Ex. Engr. as [illegible] certain missing on the [illegible] Permanent Plant.