Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th February 1873.

No. 549. Read the following letter from Mr. Croom:—
(Here enter No. ——, dated 8th December 1872.)

No. 550. ORDER THEREON, 24th February 1873, No. 600.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 50.

His Excellency the Governor in Council has considered with much attention the case of Mr. Croom, as set before him in the voluminous correspondence relating to his claims.

2. Mr. Croom, who from his position and previous occupations, was very ill-qualified for the performance of the contracts which he undertook, is himself to blame, if he has, as is probable, sustained considerable losses while engaged in the work. As regards the clearing of the three Voyaloor channels, he completely failed in producing evidence of the work actually performed by him, and His Excellency in Council is of opinion that the Executive Engineer took all the steps that were possible to ascertain the real circumstances of the case and to deal with Mr. Croom in a liberal spirit. The delay that took place in testing the work actually carried out, and the impossibility of completely ascertaining the real facts, are owing to Mr. Croom's own irregular manner of conducting business. His Lordship in Council is accordingly unable to admit the validity of Mr. Croom's claims as regards these works.

3. But in consideration of Mr. Croom's plea of poverty, and that his ignorance of work and measurements may have led him into attempting more than he could perform, and so caused him a loss which he could ill-afford, His Excellency the Governor in Council desires that the sum of Rupees 150, being the amount entered in the original estimates for contingencies, may be presented to Mr. Croom as a gratuity. If this fails to satisfy Mr. Croom he is at liberty to seek his remedy at law.

4. In disposing of the claims made by Mr. Croom in the petitions under consideration, relating to three of the Voyaloor salt channels, the attention of His Excellency the Governor in Council has been drawn to the manner in which the Revenue Board have disposed in their Proceedings, No. 2,307, of 27th March 1872, of a claim of Rupees 4,865 made by Mr. Croom, for clearing the Voyaloor main channel and two of the Kotur channels on estimates aggregating Rupees 5,130. As regards this claim the Board have endorsed the recommendations of the Dep[illegible] Collector and Collector, to the effect that an arbitrary settlement of the bills presented by Mr. Croom should be made by payment of the sum of Rupees 2,582. These bills, not having been examined into by the Public Works Officers in consequence of their non-presentation till January 1872, though the contract time expired in June, and the work was actually completed before September 1871, should, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, be paid in full, making a further sum of Rupees 2,283 to Mr. Croom's credit.

5. These Proceedings will be communicated in the Revenue Department to the Board of Revenue, with a view to effect being given to this decision of Government. And the Board of Revenue will also be requested to issue such instructions as may appear necessary to prevent contracts for works of petty construction and repairs being given to men who, like Mr. Croom, are *prima facie* incapable of

Inst[s] 138

fulfilling the ordinary conditions required of contractors, being deficient in the means, experience, and professional knowledge necessary to insure satisfactory execution of work. Care should also be taken to guard against the sub-letting of contracts except to persons approved by the officer who gives them out.

(True Extract.)

C. Walker Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
To Mr. J. Croom.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, District Engineer, Chingleput.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20d Chis

Revenue Dept
W. 572.

Govt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

P. W. D.

ENABO

To No. 1583
10

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated Februray 24th.

Recd. " 28th Encl.

G. O., 24th February 1873, No. 600.

1498/76: R5th. Dpt.

FEBRUARY.

Nos. 549-550

Mr. Croom.—Passing orders on memorial from Mr. Croom praying for a reconsideration of his case regarding the clearing of salt channels in the Chingleput District. W. 155.

Commd to the 18th Rev

28th Feby/73

Petition

No 754 of 1873 dd 17th March 1873
Rec'd 20th

From Mr J Croom, residing at Purswaukum, Madras.

Referring to the enclosed order of Govt on his appeal dated 18th December last relative to the Postponement of Rs 1690 in the bill submitted by him for work done to 3 Vayalloor Salt Channels; represents that he is not incompetent to take up Contracts of the above nature, as remarked in the said G.O., that the Sum of Rs 2283 referred to in it was already paid to him as due to him in Connection with another work and not for the Channels in question, and that he has been subjected to heavy loss by his having unwillingly executed the

754.

His Excellency the Governor in Council declines to reopen the Case of Mr Croom which was finally disposed of in G.O. No 600 of 24th February 1873.

Further appeals on this subject will remain unnoticed.

Genl

P.S.E

G.O. dd 24/2/73 No 600. P.W.D.
Volume of papers in the do

10. Encl. 0 Govt Order dated 4 Nov

the works, in excess to that for which provision was made in the estimate, relying on the integrity of Govt, at a time when the least delay in the execution of the work would have caused heavy loss to Government.

Giving a detailed explanation for the objections, in G. O., against petrs claim; begs to leave his case for the disposal of Govt according to their conviction and integrity

Fort St George
3d April 1873

P.W.D.
MADRAS
No

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 23rd February 1874.

Read the following :—

No. 456. From Mr. J. CROOM, dated 12th January 1874.
No. 457. From do. do. 21st do.

No. 458. ORDER THEREON, 23rd February 1874, No. 452.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 38.

ORDERED that the Memorial with its enclosures submitted with the foregoing letter be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, and that the Memorialist be advised of its despatch.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Mr. J. Croom.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

(2)

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. J. CROOM.

Dated February 23rd.

Encl. *Read.*

G. O., 23rd February 1874, No. 452.

FEBRUARY

Nos 456-458

(3+4)

Memorial.—Ordered that the Memorial from Mr. J. Croom, complaining of the manner in which his claims for work executed in connection with salt channel clearances were disposed of, be forwarded to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

Ord.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 10 of 1874.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA.

My Lord,—We have the honour to forward herewith a Memorial from Mr. J. Croom, complaining of the manner in which his claims for work executed in connection with salt channel clearances were disposed of.

Procs. No. 452, dated 23rd February 1874.

2. The correspondence herewith forwarded fully explains the grounds upon which our decision has been based, and appears to make further comment on the case superfluous.

We have the honour to be,
My Lord
Your Lordship's most obedient,
humble servants,

(Signed) HOBART.
(„) F. P. HAINES.
(„) J. D. SIM.
(„) W. ROBINSON.

Fort St. George,
26 *February* 1874.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

FORT ST. GEORGE.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Copy.

Letter to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India.

Dated 26th February
No. 10 of 1874.

FORWARDING Memorial from Mr. J. Croom complaining of the manner in which his claims for work executed in connection with salt channel clearances were disposed of.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 9th June 1874.

No. 153. Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India :—

Public Works.

No. 4.

INDIA OFFICE, LONDON, *23rd April* 1874.

MY LORD,—I have received your Excellency's letter, No. 10, of the 26th February last, forwarding a memorial from Mr. J. Croom, appealing against your decision with regard to his claim for remuneration on account of work done in connection with salt channel clearances.

2. In reply I desire that Mr. Croom may be informed that, after a careful consideration of his claims, I am unable to interfere with the decision arrived at by your Government.

3. Herewith are enclosed copies of three letters from Mr. Croom, which were forwarded by him direct to this Office.

I have, &c.,
SALISBURY.

His Excellency the Right Honourable
The Governor in Council, Fort St. George.

No. 154. ORDER THEREON, 9th June 1874, No. 1,516.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 10.

COMMUNICATED to Mr. Croom with reference to the Memorials accompanying his letters of the 12th and 21st January 1874.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To Mr. J. Croom.

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Govt. of {1874} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

Mr. J. CROOM.

Dated June 9th.

Recd. Encl.

G. O., 9th June 1874, No. 1,516.

JUNE

Nos. 153-154

Mr. J. Croom.—Despatch from the Secretary of State intimating that no reason can be seen for interfering with the decision of the Madras Government in the case of —, and transmitting copies of letters forwarded by that individual, communicated to Mr. Croom.

As no new facts or circumstances are brought to notice in Mr. Croom's letter of the 14th Instant addressed to the Secretary to Govt. in this Department relating to his claim for additional payment for clearing out Salt-Channels, Government decline to modify their decision in his case already recorded in Proceedings No. 154 of the 18th Instant.

(Sigd) Adc. C. S.

19-3-72.

To Mr. J. Croom.

P.W.D.
CHARGO
No. 1-83
8

No. 230

Memorandum.

With reference to the 4th Div. Superintending Engineer's letter of the 4th March 1872 No. 4840, the undersigned is directed to request that the recorded date on which the estimate for clearing out the salt channels was framed may be forwarded to this office with the detailed estimate itself, and that it may be stated whether a copy of the estimate or a section of the channels showing the amount of setting was placed in Int. Comms hands with any written instructions as to the manner in which the work was to be performed.

25th March/72. (Sd) Adc. C. S.

To. The Supt. Engineer
4th Division

P.W.D.
CHARGE
No. 1583
7

Petition

No. 1498 of 1876 Dd 28th June 1876
Recd 19th July —"—
From Mr J. Croom, (Senior)
residing at Purseawkam,
Madras -

Brings to notice that
Mr. Harrington, the late
Distt. Engineer of Chingleput
Distt, unjustly withheld the
payment of Rs. 1690 due to Petr.
for his having excavated the
salt Channels; that while his
appeal in the matter was pend-
ing before Government, he
learnt that in this sum was
included Rs. 500 & odd, deducted
on account of deficiency in
dimensions of the bunds of
Channel No. 4 for which no
provision was made and no
dimensions given in the estimate;

and

1498

Rejected under para
2 of the mixed Pl. rules
& ~~the~~ Pet.

Petr. says he has appealed to
the Collector & the Board
but does not submits copies of
the Petr. or order of the Collector,
& merely inserts a copy of his
Petr. order in the body of the
Petn -

Fort St. George
4th Septr. 1876 — Dept. 4/9/76

Encl. G. 3-4-73: 754
Mis Rec. Sec. G. 28-2-73: 165
P.W. Proc. 26-3-92: 230

and immediately informed the Govt. by his letter, dated 14th March 1872, that he did not include in his appeal pend-: ing before Govt. this item, which should be first submitted for the decision of the Collector and the Board of Revenue; that in spite of these facts the present Dy. Engineer, Col. Moberly per-: sists in saying that final orders have been passed on this claim also and refuses to give the information, as regards the exact amount deducted on account of the bunds, for which the Collector repeatedly called to render justice to the petitioner.

Prays, therefore, that on a reference to the records the Government may direct the just Settlement of petitioner's claim as the Board of Revenue on

on an appeal to them against the reply of the Dy. Engineer to petr., refused to reopen the question, under the erroneous impression that this item was included in his former appeal to Govt.

+ Vide Para 12 of Petition.

to his petition of 16th March 1872 or to the Post Script thereof, which must be in the Govt Office: that as a rough copy of it has just been found, the same is here with submitted.

Adds that if any difficulty exist in comprehending the case, he would await upon at the most convenient time to explain it verbally.

Vide No 1882

Rev DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 1905 of 1876.

From Mr J. Crown (Senior)

Occupation

Zamah Street

Village

Talook Pursawaukum

District Madras

Dated 22nd Sept 1876.

Received

Enclosures. One

ABSTRACT.

States that to show that he withdrew his claim regarding the

Rev 14-9-76

and orders.

Government of

Rev DEPARTMENT.

Petition No. 1882 of 1876.

From Mr J. Crown (Senior)

Occupation

Zamah Street

Village

Talook Pursawaukum

District Madras.

Dated 18th September 1876.

Received 19th

Enclosures. 8

ABSTRACT.

Submitting the papers connected with his claim praying for early decision

Govt
No 1882

The Government will not reopen the case

(signed) W. F. Col

21-10-76

14-9-76

19-9-76

(Section 1)

Disclosure

of

one of the primary causes of disaffection in India.

most respectfully submitted

To

His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke of Buckingham

Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it please Your Grace -

When the Madras Journals published the letter of the London correspondent of the Madras Athenaum, ere Your Grace had reached our shores, the feeling entertained by the people of this country toward Your Grace might well be imagined when it stated the following:- "Your new Governor the "Duke of Buckingham is a most conscientious "and hard-working nobleman, and will do Every "thing himself, leaving little or nothing for his "Secretaries or Colleagues to do."

With the confidence therefore which the above most welcome intelligence calculated to inspire, I most humbly beg to ap

Govt No 1882 of 1876. Rev 21-10-76 pra

Your Grace, in soliciting a careful and leisurely perusal of this Memorial, in which will be seen, that a most unjustifiable and cruel attempt is being made to ruin me; and ere I dwell upon this subject, I beg first to advert to, and Explain one of the primary causes of disaffection in India.

As a Eurasian or Son of a British Soldier, born and nurtured in this country, and in a position to mingle in unreserved intercourse with all classes of natives, I most respectfully beg to state, that while the primary causes of disaffection were always known among the middling and ordinary classes of the people, they are up to this day involved in mystery to the Aristocracy, the Press, and the Government.

When the mutiny broke out in the year 1857, the disaffection was attributed to many causes but the right ones. But as I must be as brief as possible, I beg to disclose the secret at once in stating, that apart from the matter of annexation, confined within small teritorial boundaries, it was the arbitrary, capricious, and cruel conduct of Govt Officials in their ill usage of the people; and although the Government on the other hand ever dealt uprightly and honestly in disposing of their complaints and redressing their grievances, yet by the misrepresentations, and garbled and Evasive reports submitted by such Officials to Government, as I will

show in the present instance, many an individual is brought to destitution and ruin, and the result of the decision upon their reports falls upon the head of the Govt, when it is then whispered abroad, that such is the injustice of the Government.

In Explaining particulars relative to this oppression, I humbly beg Your Grace will pardon any Expression that may appear too strong while unavoidably necessary to represent a matter in its true coloring, as I consider the gentlemen here in concerned to be my Superiors in Every Sense, save officially.

The cause of this oppression therefore in the present instance, I beg to state originated as follows

The system formerly adopted to heap up or store the Govt salt was a very Expensive one, in employing hundreds of laborers to carry it in baskets from the Canal to the distance of a hundred yards to the storing ground. The Govt therefore Evinced a great desire for a more Economical and Expeditious system

To achieve this End therefore, and having a contract also in the storing of the salt, I constructed a simple portable tramway at my own Expence, consisting of broad thick planks grooved on both sides, and these planks so linked together when required, as to form a strait line up to a hundred ya

and on this was placed trucks, each containing four
men's load of salt, and each truck run up to the
the Storing ground by one man, and thus 25 laborers
did the work of one hundred men.

When the Executive En-
gineer saw this, he evinced an ill-feeling and showed
much opposition in telling the Salt Deputy Collector,
that this Tramway was not mechanically correct,
because, though it extended a hundred yards, it did
not reach the water's edge - a distance of only 4 or 5 yards;
and in short he was persecuting me on this account.

I then wrote him in respect-
ful address, and informed him that the Tramway
was my own, the contract was my own, and the li-
abilities were my own, and that no Engineer was de-
puted to interfere in this matter; and that if the Tram-
way was mechanically incorrect because it did not
reach the water's edge, on that score the Railway
also was incorrect, because people had to go from
their houses to the Station, ere they could get into the
Railway carriage: and that this Tramway was of
so simple a construction that I could judge in the
matter as well as any Engineer.

The Engineer in question
I beg to state was Mr. Fraser (since deceased) - he was
a gentleman of a temperate disposition, and did

nothing but recorded my letter. His successor how-
ever, one Mr. Harington, now in the Malabar Distric
is a gentleman of a very sanguinary disposition, a
much so, that an Editor of a paper in that District,
prefixed his surprise at the many dismissals that
were frequently being made on his Dept.

This gentleman, when he s
ceeded Mr Fraser, happened to read my letter d
recorded. For to say that I understood a matter as
well as any Engineer was like trampling on mes toes; a
after reading the said letter, he got into a violent ra
and said it was impertinence, and though I never sa
him, he wrote a most abusive letter against me t
the Salt Dept., suggesting that I should get no mo
contracts; and so shamefully abusive was that lette
that the Salt Supt said he was ashamed to read it
me

But though he could not take away my
salt contract, yet withal he knew he had me in h
power to injure me in the matter of some channe
work that I Executed for Government.

When these channels were given m
for excavation, they were quite unnavigable, to the
the salt which was on the plains, and in danger of
being washed away by the rains, could not be brou
away in the boats to be stored at Madras. But
after I had excavated them, they were then nav
gable.

In No 1882 of 76. Rec'd 1883 ///

and the whole of the salt was at once dispatched to Madras to be stored without the slightest detriment to Government.

After this was done, Mr. Harrington measured my work, and to my surprise made a deduction of about half the amount of my bill which I submitted according to the Estimate; and the sum he so deducted was 1,690 Rs. In such matters (right or wrong) I beg to state, the Engineer's word is law. Even in such ordinary works, which it is within the capacity of any non-professional man to measure the dimensions of an Excavation.

The Collector (Mr. Barlow) however strongly protested against the stoppage, and said he could not conscientiously make the reduction, as it was proved by official authority, that the heavy rains had fallen in these channels and resulted them so considerably, that his measurements could not be correct. But to carry out his intention, he said he made liberal allowance, and would not withdraw a fraction; and it is left for Your Grace to say if liberal allowance was at all likely, the more so, while he knew nothing of the rains when he measured my work.

Such being the case I resolved to appeal to Govt; and to do so, I applied for a copy of Mr. Harrington's report, which I was entitled to according

to the rules of the Service to frame my defence: and the [By the Coll. the Salyells]
also was denied me on a frivolous pretext, so that it was not in my power to refute whatever he may have written of which I am in ignorance to the present day. In short I beg to add, that every effort I made to show up this injustice was thwarted; for he had powerful influence with the Secretaries and others, who had the disposal of the case while I had none. And with these disadvantages not only I, who had borrowed capital for the work, but hundreds of poor starving villagers, [who worked by Gram only] had to bear the loss.

The sequel of the above proceeding therefore I beg to state is, that these poor villagers complain, that they had toiled in the sun for weeks together, immersed in water from morning till Even-ing in clearing out these channels, and saved the Govt. salt from exposure to the rains; and though the Govt. sustained no loss whatever, but realized the full object of the work, they have withal withheld their money.

Thus Your Grace will perceive how the name and credit of the Govt. suffer through the caprice of a single individual in carrying out his private resentment; and this is not of uncommon occurrence in this presidency; and the only mitigation I derived in this loss after an appeal made to Govt. was a gratuity of 250 Rs., which from dire necessity I accepted under protest.

Lastly I beg to add, that though the correspondence relating to this stoppage is very voluminous

yet the Chingleput Collector's letter of remonstrance to
the Superintending Engineer contains the full sum-
mary of it. But as any appeal with the disadvantages
known above has even been disposed of by the Secre-
tary of State to my advantage, though I know not how
the matter was represented to His Grace, I think I can-
not trouble Your Grace for any further interference
in this matter, though it has thrown me into very
great difficulties.

To do Mr. Harrington justice I
beg to state that on the other hand, he is a gentleman
of very humane feelings, though at times overcome
by his sanguinary disposition.

Finally I beg to state, that
I have taken the liberty to submit the above to the no-
tice of Your Grace, particularly because it bears up-
on another similar act of oppression not yet sub-
mitted to Govt; but as it will be seen, that this
case also is likely to share the fate of the other, if al-
lowed to pass through the usual official routine, I
thought it safest, and presumed to take the liberty
to submit it in the following version for Your Grace's
special consideration.

Section No 2. The claim above adverted to
having already been settled by Government, I now
most humbly beg to solicit Your Grace's special at-
tention to another claim of 500 and odd Rupees omit-
ted by an oversight from my bill, but not yet submit-
ted to Government,

This page is a divergence from these origi-
nal papers and is introduced to explain matters
more explicitly. A continuation of the Petition
headed Section No 2 in the foregoing page
Commenced on the next page

* These were the very Papers last and but once
submitted to Govt. The foregoing of these headed "Section No 1"
is not a Petition, but simply a statement as to how the Petition
it refers to had been treated; and that Petition has reference to
the stoppage of 1690 Rupees for Excavation work, which I ad-
mit to have been settled by Govt.

This following portion of the Papers
however, headed "Section No 2" contains the present claim of
500 and odd Rupees, stopped by an oversight for Bunds; and
these 500 and odd Rupees were missed up or included with
the 1690 Rupees, and no information even on official
Enquiry from the Acting Collr Mr. Dalyel was given
me about the matter. Yet withal the discovery was
made, and the Govt informed of the same (as shown in
this Petition) before they decided on the 1st Petition relating
to the 1690 Rupees; and thus the claim of these 500 and odd
Rupees was withdrawn from that Petition which was since
decided by Government. The Petition relating to the 500 &
odd Rupees therefore was but once submitted to Govt during the
Hon'ble Mr. Ellis' incumbency, and was returned to me with this
unsatisfactory Endorsement that "the case cannot be reopened"
while it was never before laid before Government.

The following is a continuation of the Petition
headed "Section No 2" that contains the claim for the 500 & odd
Rupees.

t Grace.

The gentleman who is now op- pressing me in doing his utmost to evade this clai I beg to state is Colonel Moberly, of the same professio as Mr. Harrington and a close acquaintance of his. Al although I never as much even saw this gentleman yet, his determined opposition to my claim in the face of documentary evidence, induces me to believ that an attempt is made to make me the victim of a combined conspiration.

My object therefore in solicit the favor of Your Grace's special interference, is owi to Col. Moberly (the district Engineer) persistant evading this claim in defiance of all constituted au thority for a period of 18 months - for the Collecto (Mr. Barlow - Chinglaput District) being satisfied that this sum of 500 and odd Rupees was to stopp from my bill by an oversight (as will be now shown he wrote several times to Col. Moberly to know the Exact amount of money so stopped in order to restore it to me; but the District Engineer as often wrote to him several unsatisfactory replies without mentioning the sum so stopped; and these replies the Collector re fused to accept, and returned them to him as such and up to this day he tacitly refuses to state the sum o

The case I beg to state stands thus:-

Rec. 1882 of 76. Ans. No 1383 of 80.

Among the Channels already adverted
, as having been Excavated by me, there is one of them,
Nº 4 Channel, which was not only to be Excavated, but
Bunds also were to be made for it; but no payment was
to be given for the Bunds; as seen in the Estimate.

In Excavating Channels,
the mud is indiscriminately thrown away. But in
excavating this Nº 4 Channel, and no payment nor
dimensions being put in the Estimate for these Bunds,
the Excavated mud, instead of being thrown away,
was to be deposited in a line, and tamped down in the
form of Bunds such as the Excavated mud would al-
low

In the Estimate for the work of this Nº
Channel therefore, the rates were put down for Excavation
work only at 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard, the same as
was put down for Excavation work alone in all the other
Channels, but not a Pie nor dimensions were put down
for the Bunds - implying that the Excavated mud, such
as it was, was to be formed into bunds rather than be thrown
away. But when regular Bunds are to be paid for, the
rate is put down as well as the dimensions; but in this
instance there was nothing of the kind.

When therefore Mr Harrington Ex-
amines the work, and finding these Bunds were not of the
usual dimensions, he deducted from my bill according to the
usual rate thinking they were to be paid for.

When therefore he made the stoppages
for these works, he did not inform me what amount was

October 1874 - a period of 18 months. Since then I beg to
state, I had no time to recur to this business, having had
to attend to itenerating work in tuning and repairing
Musical Instruments in different Countries for my sub-
sistance; and up to this day I am in the same predicament.

The consequence of this delay there-
fore in the settlement of this case is, that borrowing
money in small sums as we of the poorer classes do,
the interest is generally (but in my case) at the rate
of one Anna per mensem on the Rupee; so that at
this rate the interest of this money for the said Eigh-
teen months has accumulated to about 550 Rupees; and
it is left for Your Grace to say, if I am to lose this mo-
ney, and pay this interest through the wilful oppres-
sion of another? And to this I humbly beg special consideration.

Finally I beg to take the li-
berty to observe, that hitherto I never entertained
the idea, that gentlemen of the English aristocracy,
whom I ever looked upon as the most refined com-
munity in the world, were capable of such acts of op-
pression. This is not the disposition of the English nation;
but in every community there are exceptions.

The conduct of these two gentle-
men towards me, I beg to add is inexplicable, the more
while I am a stranger to them, and entirely unconsci-
ous of having in any way offended them, unless it be in
having explained the treatment of the former towards me
by the Government. In short I beg to state, that syste-
matical oppression such as this, is never known even

relating to the sum stopped for the Bunds is still with-
held

"On referring to the Engineer's va-
luation of the work actually done by Petitioner, it
is found that raising Bunds on № 4 Channel was
included in the valuation, and final orders having
been passed, the case cannot be reopened."

In the above I beg to observe,
is said, that raising Bunds on the № 4 channel
as included in the valuation. This I beg to state
an acknowlegment of the Engineer's Error or
erdight; for how could he include them in
the valuation when there was no valuation for
them in the Estimate, nor any dimensions ei-
ther? Vide Para

The above acknowlegment
beg to add, confirms my assertion, that when
he Engineer examined my work, he was under
the impression that these Bunds were to be paid
or, hence he included them in the valuation
nd made the deduction for them.

Then again on the other
and, if I had made these Bunds according to
he usual dimensions, they would have cost me
bout 400 Rs. - and even in that case I could not
raction, while there was no charge nor
ions for them in the Estimate; and I think
race could now see how the matter stands.

With reference to Col. Moberly's

assertion that final orders have been past by Govt
in this matter, Your Grace will discover the drift
of his intention, when he ventures to say so in
the face of what he is aware of, in my withdraw
al of the matter of the Bonds from my Appeal to Governmen
as stated above, as well as in my letter to the
Collector. And this claim I withdrew from the Govt
as soon as I discerned it, because I was aware,
that it should be sent through the authorized me
dium, i.e. first to the Collector, then to the Board
and lastly to Govt. Accordingly I sent it to the
former Authorities; but finding the matter dea
with so evasively, I have presumed to submit it
Your Grace's special notice.

Lastly I beg to state, that
sides all this, Col. Moberly was given to understan
at an early stage of this proceeding, by my letter
the Collector, that by the procrastination in the
settlement of this case, interest on this money was ru
ning very high; and in the face of this, while he
have replied to the Enquiry of the Collector within 5 m
nutes by simply referring to the records, and stating
amount stopped for the Bunds, which up to this day
tacitly refuses to do, he sent each unsatisfactory re
ply after the lapse of several months, knowing that
thereby the interest would accumulate and oppress m
and thus he has prolonged the settlement of this c
for 18 months, commencing from 2nd May 1873, to

was stopped for each item of the work, but was only made
to understand that the total sum to deducted was 169
[illegible]

Being fully aware that there was no
charge for Bunds, I appealed to the Collector and to the
Board against this stoppage as being made for Escava-
tion work alone; and it was not till I submitted the
Appeal to Govt, that I understood that in the said sum
of 1690 Rs was included 500 and odd Rs for Bunds also.

I then at once informed the Govt
(long before they decided on my appeal) in my letter to them
dated 14th March 1872, that in the said sum of 169
a portion of that money was stopped for Bunds also, and
that I do not include that in my appeal to them, be-
cause I had first to bring the matter to the notice of the
Collector, then to that of the Board, and eventually to that
of Govt. Thus it will be seen that I virtually withdrew
this claim in reference to the Bunds from Govt; but Col.
Moberly in the face of this persists in saying, that fresh
orders have been passed on this claim, which was not at all
possible. The following para under circumstance is an oversight as explained in the paper appended.

When I appealed to the Collector against the
stoppage made for the work of the Bunds, I received Col.
Moberly's reply after a period of 11 months; and finding his
reply very unsatisfactory without the slightest information
as to the sum so stopped, I then appealed to the Board, re-
questing them simply to elicit information of the sum
stopped for the Bunds, and the following is the reply
from the Secretary of the Board in which the infor-
Collector, mation

&c.

Ans. 1082 of 76. L. Rs 1383 of 80

I.

His Grace the Right Honorable the Duke
of Buckingham - G.C.S.I. Governor of Madras
&c &c &c

May it please Your Grace -

The consolation of the peo-
ple, is Your Grace's fame abroad to redress their grie-
vances, and trample out oppression.

Being fully aware that Your
Grace is ever flooded with multifarious duties; and to
save unnecessary trouble in reading through a long
Petition, I most respectfully beg to state, that I have
taken precaution to submit this brief outline of it,
to enable Your Grace to see if the said Petition is
deserving of special attention

The said Petition herein
Enclosed, I beg to add, shows a claim of 500 and odd
Rupees due to me for work Executed for Government.

I further beg to add, that this
Petition has been strenuously opposed in a very subtle
manner (for reasons Explained in the Petition) by two
Government Officials, as clearly seen though their co

~~Ans. No 1383 of &c~~

-respondence; and aided by their unlimmitted influence with a very high Authority (now for ever out of Service) and by no means popular for his official integrity, they thus realized their object in defeating this claim; for the Petition has been returned to me by with a very unsatisfactory Endorsement by Government, as Your Grace will discover; and that Endorsement is that "this case cannot be reopened;" while in point of fact, this case was never before laid before Government. Consequently my Express intention in submitting this to Your Grace, is to Enable You to see if there is a shadow of truth in what such an Endorsement is intended to imply, viz, that this Petition had been previously decided by Government, while it was never before laid before them; so that I need hardly say that Your Grace will be fully satisfied if such a Petition could be produced should Your Grace be pleased to call for it.

Lastly I beg to state, that having at the onset anticipated some such result, from the evasive manner in which this case was treated by the said Officials, I consequently submitted it originally direct to Your Grace; but as this was about the time of the Delhi Commemoration when Your Grace was very much Engaged; I concluded that on that account it was sent through the usual medium to Government. But as I humbly trust that Your Grace now sees that this

Collector, [illegible] malcon

Rec'd 1882 [illegible] 1383/80

case calls for special attention, I would feel most thankful and grateful for Your Grace's interference in relieving me of this oppression; and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion, I beg to remain with the utmost deference

Your Graces most humble and obedient
Servant J Croom (Senior)

12th September 1878
Vepery High road
Madras - care of Mrs Kent

P.S. Should Your Grace be pleased to call for the correspondence between Mr Barlow the Collector of Chingleput, and the District Engineer Col Moberly relating to this Petition, as well as for the Endorsement of the Secretary to Govt of the P.W. Dept with which he submitted the Petition to Government, Your Grace will easily see through the whole matter - the more so if he could produce another Petition claiming the same or any amount for the stoppage of money made for Bunds.

P.W.D.
Amb 80
No 665

Excavement Breadth	Excavement Depth	Cubic Contents	Particulars of Work.	Rate	Rs	Amount. Rs	a	p
220	10	1/2	1100	Widening & Deepening 64th F.S.				
220	10	1/2	1100	Do. ... Do. 63d do.				
220	10	3/8	825	Do. ... Do. 62d do.				
220	9	1/6	330	Do. ... Do. 61st do.				
			5895.	C. Yards of Silt ...	3	4 Annas	1228	2	"
				Duping bank & Sundries ...		"	71	14	"
				Total for Vayalore Channel No 6.			1300	"	"
				Total for Vayalore Channels Rupees.			6260	"	"

(Sigd) W. S. Horrington.
Executive Engineer

No 5th Range Office
Cannore
2d December 1870.

(Sigd) V. Wilkie son. Colonel R.E.
Supt. Engineer
4th Division.
(True Copy)

(Sigd) W. J. Blair
Acting Collector.

Examined
(Sigd) Sashachellum
Clerk

Collector's
Cutcherry
Received 1882 of 1876. Lr No 1383 4/80

Lr No 21383 4/80

Measurement				Particulars of Work.	Rate			per	Amount		
Length	Breadth	Depth	Cubic Contents								
				No. 3 Channel, Commencing from Canal	R	A	P	.	R	A	P
220	9	1/4	495	Deepenning Channel to 1st Furlong							
220	1		1540								
220	9	1/3	660	Do Do to 3 do							
220	9	1/6	330	Do Do to 4 do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 5 do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 6 do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 7 do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 8 do							
220	10	1/2	1100	Do Do to 9 do							
220	9	1/3	660	Do Do to 10 do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 11 do							
220	9	1/6	330	Do Do No Stone							
220	9	1/6	330	Do Do to End							
			6380	C. Yards of Silt	"	3	4	C.Yds	1329	2	8
				Forming banks & Sundries					50	13	4
				Total for Channel No. 3 Rupees					1380	"	"
				Channel No. 10 Sufficiently deep.							
				Channel No. 1							
				Deepenning Channel to 8th F.S.							
150	9	1/3	450.	Do Do to 7th F.S.							
220	9	1/4	495.	Do Do to 6 F.S.							
220	9	1/4	495.	Do Do to 5th Do Do							
220	10	1/2	1100.	Widening & Deepenning to							

Measurement				Particulars of work.	Rate			per	Amount		
Length	Breadth	Depth	Cubic Contents								
				Main Channel	R	A	P	.	R	A	P
				Commencing 16th Furlong Stone.							
220	10	1/2	1100	Deepening Channel to 15th Do Do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 14th Do Do							
220	10	1/2	1100	Do Do to 13th Do Do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 12th Do Do							
220	9 1/2	1/2	696 2/3	Do Do to 11th Do Do							
220	10 1/2	2/3	1540	Do Do to 10th Do Do							
220	10 1/2	2/3	1540	Do Do to 9th Do Do							
220	9 1/2	1/3	696 2/3	Do Do to 8th Do Do							
220	9 1/2	1/3	696 2/3	Do Do to 7th Do Do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 6th Do Do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to 5 Do Do							
220	9	1/4	493	Do Do to 4th Do Do							
220	9 1/2	1/3	696 2/3	Do Do to 3 Do Do							
220	9 1/2	1/3	696 2/3	Do Do to 2 Do Do							
220	9	1/6	330	Clearing Channel to 1st Do Do							
220	9	1/4	495	Do Do to Mouth							
			12063	C. Yards of Silt	"	3	4	C.Yds	2513	2	"
				Forming banks and Sundries					196	14	"
				Total for Main Channel Rupees					2710	"	"

"Petty Constructions and Repairs"

3rd 5/73 Detailed Estimate No. 34 of 1871-72.

Sketch Division Chingleput No. 5 or E.C. Canal

Range 4th Sub. Clearing Salt Channels in the Vayalour Salt pans.

Measurements. Length	Measurements. Breadth	Measurements. Depth	Measurements. Cubic Contents	Particulars of Work. No. 4. Channel.	Rate R	A	P	Per	Amount of each R	a	p
				Channel No. 4 Commencing 216 Yards West of Channel No. 7.							
216	10	½	1080.	Deepening Channel & raising Bund.							
180	10	½	900	do. do. do.							
153	"	"	"	Good.							
66	10	½	330	Deepening Channel & raising bund							
84	11	½	402	Do. Do. Do.							
66	"	"	"	Good.							
186	10	½	930	Deepening Channel & raising Bund.							
90	8	½	360	Do to near Furlong Stone.							
			4062	C. Yards of Silt	"	3	4	C.Yd.	846	4	
				Sloping Bund on North Side, and tamping					23	12	
				Total for Channel No. 4.	Rupees				870	"	"

P.W.D. MADRAS No. 1583 21

In No. 1882 of 76.

In No. 1882 of 76. In No. 1383 4/80

To

D.V. Narasingarow Esqre

Deputy Collector of the Salt Department

Sir.

With reference to the Stoppages of 1690 Rupees made in my bill for the work of No. 1, 3, and 4 Vayalur Salt-Channels in the Year 1871, I beg to state, that there is a mistake caused by an oversight in the said Stoppages, which I here beg to explain.

In looking over the Estimate for the work of these 3 Channels, a charge of 3 Annas, 4 pies per Cubic Yard, is put down for every one of them for Excavation work alone.

Now if you would look at the said Estimate for the work of No. 4 Channel, you will find that while No. 1 and No. 3 Channels are to be merely excavated for 3 Annas 4 pies per Cubic Yard, the work in No. 4 Channel is both for excavation and raising Bunds at the same rate of 3 As. 4 pies per Cubic yard, and no charge nor dimensions are put down for making these Bunds, as the Sub Engineer Mr. Smithers who made the Estimate intended, that the excavated mud from the Channel, instead of being

In No. 1882 of 76. ~~In No. 1383 4/80~~

indiscriminately thrown away, should be deposited in a line and shaped into Bunds, which I accordingly did. But when Mr. Harrington examined my work, he was under the impression that a charge was put down for making these Bunds, which is usually done when they are intended to be made according to dimensions stated in the Estimate; but there are no stated dimensions whatever in the Estimate, because as I said, the Sub Engineer simply intended, that the Excavated mud, whatever it might be should be formed into Bunds, Mr. Harrington the Executive Engineer therefore being under the impression that the usual charge was put down for them, he deducted about 500 Rupees for them; and that this was his impression, is obvious from his report on the work of this Channel in his letter to Superintending Engineer, dated 1st July 1871, a copy of which must be in the Collector's Office, and in which he states that the work relating to this No. 4 Channel was more intended for Bunds; but this is an oversight of his, for according to the Estimate, it was for Excavation alone, as the amount of silt to be Excavated in this No. 4 Channel, exactly corresponds with the total charge laid down in the Estimate for Excavation alone, and no charge nor dimensions are put down for making these Bunds; and while there are no dimensions, how could there be any charge?

When I Excavated this No. 4 Channel

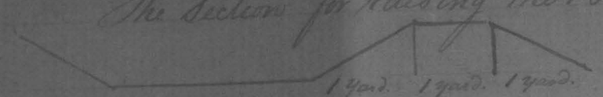
Therefore, I accordingly deposited all the Excavated mud in a strait line, and shaped it into Bunds; but this mud being of such a soft consistency and not at all solid like the Earth usually used for making them, it dwindled into one third or one fourth of its original bulk on drying. Yet withal this question of this bulk has nothing to do in the matter as there was no charge for these Bunds.

That Mr. Harrington was under the impression that these Bunds were charged for in my bill, is further clear from the fact, that when he complained of them being badly made, I was under the impression that he disapproved of their rough & irregular formation; and consequently I applied to go over the work again; and in doing so he wrote an indorsement on my application now in my possession, stating that he would order his Overseer to give me the necessary instruction, and the Overseer accordingly wrote to me the following letter and Estimate under the following circumstances. "To Mr. J. Crown"

"Sir. I herewith annex a Memorandum of work to be Executed in Channel No. 4 at Vayalur for raising bunds. Viz.

L. Yards.	B. Yards.	D. Yards.			
220	× 2	× 1	= 440	}	Raising Eastern & western Banks. From 7th to 6½ Furlong Stone
220	× 2	× 1	= 440		
220	× 2	× 1	= 440	}	Do Do from 6th to 5th Furlong Stone
220	× 2	× 1	= 440		
167	× 2	× 1	= 334	}	Raising East Bank from 4½ to 5 Furlong
220	× 2	× 1	= 440		Stone. Do west from do to do

The section for raising the Bund will be thus



The top breadth of the Bank will be One yard, and the bottom 3 yards with a side slope of 1 to 1. The perpendicular height will be 1 Yard, and this Sketch will show you in what manner the work is to be done. I have pointed out to your mau the locality where the Earth is to be taken.—

I am, Yours truly (Signed) H. Hapovopillay.

Pondicherry 25th August 1871.

With reference to the above letter, I wrote to him the following.—

My dear Hpovopillay

In sending me your letter about the Bunds in the No. 4 Vayalur Channel, you forgot to put down the rate. It is true you told me it is to be according to that in my Channel Estimate, which is at 3 Annas 4 pies per Cubic yard; but as without stating it in the letter, it makes it incomplete, You had better at once put a P. S. in the letter, and state "the rate for the above work is 3 Annas 4 pies per Cubic Yard," and return it per bearer.

18th October 1871. I am, Yours truly.

L. Crown.

To the above letter of mine, the Overseer replied in a footnote in my letter as follows.

"As the work is to be done out of the former (he means the Original) Estimate, You will be entitled to get the former rate, if you do your work as per the letter. There is no necessity in giving you the rate in the former letter."

(Initialed) H. A.

With the above, the correspondence ends, and finding how the matter stood I did not take up this work.

Now Sir, according to the Overseer's Estimate above inserted, the total amount of Cubic Yards is 2534, and the sum for raising the bunds at 3 Annas 4 pies per Cubic Yard is about 500 Rupees. Under the impression therefore that these bunds were charged for, Mr. Harrington deducted the said sum from my bill by this oversight, As I did not charge for them, as will be seen if my bill be compared with the Original Estimate; and that this was an oversight is clear from his having afterwards sent me the present Estimate through his Overseer. I therefore beg you will be so good as to despatch this letter to the Executive Engineer, and ascertain the amount thus stopped from my bill for these bunds, which can be done by reference to Mr. Harrington's letter on the subject to the Superintending Engineer, dated Shelvie July 1871, and also by a reference to his book of measurements.

I further beg to add, that though the stoppage made for the Bunds was included in the general stoppage of Rs 1690, against which I appealed to Government and which they refused to grant, yet

formed Government, that in the said sums of the 1690 Rupees, there was included a stoppage for these bunds, the exact amount which I could not as yet ascertain, and which formed the bank of my appeal to them, and that it was not as yet claimed for from the Board; and also that my appeal to them had reference only to that portion of the stoppages made for Excavation work alone - hence the decision of Government has no reference whatever to the stoppage made for the bunds.

Lastly, I beg to state, that shortly after these stoppages were made, I made 2 or 3 personal applications to your Predecessor Mr. Chentsalrow, to ascertain the exact amount thus stopped for these bunds, in order to apply for the recovery of the same to the Board; but he informed me, that he had not the Engineer's letter in the Office, and added that I might apply to the Board for the information. This also I did, and was informed that the papers were at the Government Secy. But when I enquired of you, You at once told me to send you a written application, which I have now accordingly done.

As this unavoidable delay does not however involve any intricacy, or prove of any advantage to me or disadvantage to Government, but leaves the claim the same as ever it was, I beg you will be so good as to ascertain in the manner above shown, the exact amount thus stopped for these bunds, to enable me to claim it by laying the matter before the Board, and I shall feel most thankful for the kindness

I beg to remain
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
J Croom

Madras.
Purusawalkam - Tamach Street.
2nd May 1873.

The Dr Col's delay to interpose in the matter induced me to write to the Board at once as follows in the next J.C.

P.W.D.
CHARGO
No. 1583
20

Letter to the Salt Deputy Collector

Ob. Irvine
5 JUN 73

P.W.D.
CHARGO
No. 1583
14

To

C. B. Irvine Esqre
Acting Collector of Chingleput &c &c &c

Sir

I respectfully beg to submit to your notice, that in the year 1871, the work of Excavation of Nos 1, 3 and 4 salt-channels was given to me at the Madras Salt Dept.

For the above 3 channels I beg to state, that a charge of 3 As 4 piers per cubic yd was put down for Excavation work alone, as you will find in the Enclosed Estimate

For the No 4 channel however, the work was both for Excavation and for raising bunds, but no charge for making these bunds was put down in the Estimate, as you will therein discover, as the Sub-Engr Mr Smithers who made the Estimate, intended that the Excavated mud, instead of being indiscriminately thrown away, should be formed into bunds of whatever dimensions they may be, as no dimensions

In No 1882 of 76. Sect No 1388 of 80

either are put down for them, and the cha
likewise in the Estimate Exactly correspon
with the amount of silt for Excavation alone

After I had completed the
work, I beg to add, that Mr Harrington the Executive
Engr measured it; and in doing so, he was under the
impression that a charge was made in my bill for
these bunds, and struck off a sum of about 5 or Rs
for them - they having been made so much below the
dimensions usually given for bunds, and such as the
excavated mud admitted, but I made no charge for
these bunds; and that Mr Harrington was under this
mistaken impression is clear from the Explanations
contained in my Explanatory letter to the Dy Colr,
which letter Explains all particulars, and which I sub-
mitted to you on the 2nd instant.

Lastly I beg to state, that having
up to this time been unable to learn through whom I
must ascertain the Exact amount thus withheld for these
bunds, and included in the general stoppages, in order
to submit my claim for this money, I beg to solicit the
favor in your being so good as to write to the Exe Engr Mr
Goodeve, to trace out the amount in Mr Harrington's letter on
the subject to the Supt Engr, dated (I think) June 1871, and also
in his book of measurements, and I would feel most thankful for
the information, and I beg to remain Sir Your most obedt Servt
J Crown

Endorsement on Miscellaneous Petitions Nos 235 of
1873 and 23 & 41 of 1874 presented by Mr Croom.

From enquiries made, it appears
that the earth, taken out of the channel
was to be put up into banks; and it was
so specified in the estimate; further that
the Petitioner was paid full value for all
he did. Moreover if the Petitioner was dissatis-
fied with the measurements of the D.P.W., he
should have included this item in his appeal
which he made to Board & Government* who
have passed final orders in his case (They have
- ed final orders on the Excavation work. But the petition about Bunds has been withdrawn
from that petition as shewn in the present petition J.C.) Under these circumstances the Collector
regrets that he cannot interfere further on
Petitioner's behalf & re-open the question.

* It could not have been included in the Petition to Bd and Govt because the discovery was made after the Petition relating to Excavation alone had passed the Bd and was in the hands of Govt as shown in my present to Govt J.C.

Sydapet
31st March 1874

W W Harrison
Collector.

1st According to the above - "Earth" (it was soft mud) "taken out of the channel" (to deepen it) "was to be put up into bunds."

This was accordingly done. Regular
bunds that are paid for, are one yard high: but
this excavated mud, being so extremely soft, could
not form a bund half the dimensions, if the Excava-
tion was even double the amount to that in the Estimate.
At the utmost they formed bunds of about only a

Inl No 1383 of 80

Dy Colr

No 1882 of 76.

Sent with
This Board's
No to Collector
Asst. Sec. re
Garden Divn
10-7-74

To

R. W. Barlow Esqre
Collector of Chingleput &c &c &c

Sir

With reference to your reply to several versions of my Appeal, soliciting to be informed of the amount of money stopped for the Bunds in the No 4 Coyalur Salt-channel, I respectfully beg to state with all deference to the Engineer, that his remarks embodied therein are quite unfounded and altogether irrelavant.

I beg to observe, that this matter has been treated all along just as I expected; for in soliciting information to which I have a claim, and which could be ascertained within a few minutes by reference to the records, a very ambiguous and unsatisfactory reply was sent to you after a period of several months; and when you, in the conscientious discharge of your duty, Expressed yourself dissatisfied with it and requested an Explicit one, another Equally ambiguous, and not at all to the point (as I will now show)

post and a half high; and when they dried the dwindled to about half that height. In such a case therefore, there was no guarrantee what ever for the measurement of such bunds, the more so when there were no dimensions nor payment in the Estimate for them.

P.W.D.
CHANGO
No 1583

2nd It is said that I was paid in full for all I did. How could I have been paid in full, when the Collector in a subsequent reply in his Endorsement dated 30th October 1874, admits that these Bunds were included in the valuation (of course when the stoppage was made) while there was no valuation for them in the Estimate herewith submitted; and this of course was the oversight. These bunds were almost nominal and supposed to be of a paltry description, to keep in a little surplus water; and the Engineer who made this deduction in my bill never even made the Estimate.

And lastly - how again could I have included this item in my former Petition to the Board and Govt, when it was detected only after it had gone through the Collr and the Board.

J Groom (Senior)

Ref 1983
of 80

for information and I beg to remain

has now been sent after a period of 8 months, in the face of my statement, that by this procrastination I was suffering heavy loss of interest on the money I mean to claim.

I beg to add, that up to this time, my creditors have been silent by the prospect of the recovery of this money; but their patience being now exhausted, they are becoming clamorous and pressing hard upon me, so that I know not at what moment I may be necessitated to put this matter into the hands of the Insolvent Court, where it could best be sifted in all its phases, and every particular in reference to this treatment could fairly be elicited.

I now beg to solicit your attention to the reply in question of Col Moberly. With reference to this reply therefore I beg to observe, that while I have a claim to know, and simply requested to be informed, what amount of money was stopped for these Bunds and nothing more, no direct reply is given after a period of more than a year but am informed-

1st "That the Earth taken out of "this channel was to be formed into bunds, and that it was so specified in the Estimate."

To the above remark I beg to state

the information and I beg to remain &c
5th June 1873

H Broom

made those Bunds as therein specified, but no charge was put down for in the Estimate for making them; and as I have proved by the Engineers letters and proceedings that he stopped payment for them under the impression that they were to be paid for, I have a claim to know what amount was thus stopped.

2nd The next remark in the reply is, that I was paid in full for all I did.

In reference to this I beg to state, that admitting I was paid in full, whatever payment I received was for excavation work alone, and for that work and for nothing else, it will be seen that payments are put down in the Estimate, though I don't acknowledge that I was paid in full even for that. I am not claiming money from the P.W. Dept., but am soliciting information to which I have a claim, as shown in my Explanatory letter to the Deputy Colr herein enclosed, and that information is simply in reference to what was witheld for the Bunds and nothing else.

3rd I am next informed, that if I was dissatisfied with the measurements of the P.W. Dept, I should have included this in my Appeal to the Board and Govt.

I am here informed of measurements. I beg to state that I never spoke of measurements in this case

to them; I simply requested to know what was stopped for the Bunds and nothing else, and this information is all that I now beg to solicit.

As to including the said item in my Appeal to the Board, I beg to state that I myself was not aware of the oversight about the Bunds, till several months after I had sent my Appeal to the Board, and was all along under the impression that the whole of the stoppage was for Excavation work alone; and it was only when the Engineer ordered me to go over the work of the Band again, and sent me the dimensions of which they were to be made, that I detected this oversight. My original appeal was sent to the Board in January 1871, but the Engineers specification of this Bund work was sent in August the same year - about 8 months after; and to submit an Appeal relative to it, my duty was first to send it to the Deputy Collr, afterwards to yourself and subsequently to the higher Authorities, but owing to the delay in the P. W. Dept it is not yet decided by yourself, and how could I have sent it to the Board and Govt.

Lastly I am informed that the Board and Govt have passed final orders in my case. In these orders I beg to state you will clearly perceive that reference only to Excavation work for not a word of explanation was in that regarding the Bunds. It is to that Appeal the

full stoppage was 1690 Rupees, and when I detected the oversight about the Bunds, I clearly then only told the Govt that a portion of the above stoppage was for Bunds, which I did not as yet claim from them, as will be seen in the following Extract from one version of my Petition to them dated 14th March 1872 and which is as follows:-

"Out of 3550 Rs for the work of these "Channels, Mr Harrington deducted 1690 Rs. In this lat- "ter sum 500 and odd Rs are for Bunds which I do not "here claim". Now then I beg to know could it be said that final orders were passed by the Board and Govt, when the matter of these Bunds has not as yet been explained to or laid before them?

Having Sir thus explicitly explained the matter and shown that the remarks of the Engineer are altogether irrelavent and groundless, I humbly trust you will admit that I still have claim to solicit your interference, and therefore beg you will be so good as to elicit the information as to what amount of money was stopped for these Bunds and nothing more, and I would feel most thankfull for the kindness; and beg to remain

(The Endorsement to this is the other side)

Sir Your most obedt Servt J Croom Jr.

6th July 1874

Madras - Purusawaukum Taliuah Street.

No 1389 of 1874
No 1882 of 1876

P.W.D.
EMBARD
No 583
6

To C. A Galton Esqre
Acting Sub-Secretary to the Revenue Board &c &c &c

Sir-

I respectfully beg to inform you, that about 18 months ago, I submitted a letter to Mr. Barlow the Collector of Chingleput, showing that a sum of 500 and odd Rupees was struck off from my bill by the Executive Engineer (Mr Harrington) by an oversight, for work executed by me for Govt in the No 4 Coyalur salt-channel in the year 1871.

Mr Barlow being convinced of the oversight, and of my claim to recover that money, he wrote to the District Engineer to know the Exact amount thus withheld. The first reply of the District Engr sent after a period of 3 months being very vague, and not at all to the point, it was forthwith returned by Mr Barlow for a more satisfactory one

After long intervals of 8 and 10 months, other replies equally vague and unsatisfactory were sent and likewise returned; and the last reply I am sorry to observe is equally unsatisfactory, although the information solicited is simply to know what amt of money was stopped for those Bunds and nothing else, while moreover it could be ascertained within 5 minutes

On A/c 1882 of 76. In A/c 1883 of 80

Answering to the Executive Engineer's valuation of the work executed by me

Petitioner, it is found that money due on No 4 Channel was included, and finally orders having been passed to recover the same

Reports to be furnished as called for

Paid Rs 10-3-6 on 1/5/73

Rs 3/10

Mr Comm

H Rooms

The information and papers to remain
5th June 1873

Rs 3/10

3 letters to the Collr

I further beg to state,
and am sorry to observe, that this matter has all along been treated just as I expected. Mr. Harrington who struck off the amount is well acquainted with the District Engineer; and beg to be pardoned when I state what I am sorry to do, but which I find must be done to afford a clue to this mode of proceeding; and that is - I can prove in any Court of Justice, ~~that~~ by Mr. Harringtons letters and proceedings, that he has done his best to injure me for an unconscious and trivial or rather supposed offence duly apologized for.

In this last reply of the District Engineer, he now tells the Colr., that the Board and Govt have passed final orders in my case, and still refuses to give the required information. In reply to this I wrote to inform the Colr., that the Petition he refers to on which the final orders were passed, was quite another relating to Excavation work, and that is the only one Petition I ever sent to the Board or Govt; but that the matter relating to this Bund question has not yet been submitted to them, as will be clearly seen in the following Extract of the said Petition to Govt dated 14th March 1872, which runs thus:- "Out of 3,550 Rs for the work of 3 channels, Mr. Harrington deducted 1690 Rs. In this latter sum, 500 and odd Rupees are stopped for bunds, which I do not here claim". This I mentioned, because

I had to claim [illegible] from the Govt before Govt, as the detection of this oversight was made after the Collector had disposed of that former Petition, which was then in hands of the Govt* undecided.

The said Petition to Govt I beg to add, related to stoppages for Excavation work alone, as the above remark in my petition to Govt fully implies; and not a word relating to this oversight about the money stopped for the Bunds, has yet been brought to the notice of the Board or Govt.

It now being shown, that for a period of 18 month the District Engineer virtually refuses to comply with the request of the Collector, who seems to have dropped the matter in disgust and having a Just claim to know what amount was stopped for the Bunds in question in order that I may submit my claim for the recovery of the same to the Collector, provided he is satisfied with that claim. I respectfully beg to solicit the favor in your being so good as to submit this to the Board in order to elicit information as to what amount was stopped for the Bunds in the No 4 Boyelur Salt Channel, and I would feel most thankful for the kindness; and I beg to remain

Your most obedt Servt J Croom

Madras - Purswawkum
Tannah Street
28th October 1874

*"Board" was mistakenly put for Govt when sent to the Secretary of Govt F.C.

P.W.D.
ANNOO
1583
No 14

No. 2678 of 1874.

Petitioners' claims have been settled in full, and the Board decline to reopen the matter.

Please show proof of the a- Mr. Stokes simply
ceptance of Col Mobert's gar- endorses Col By Order,
bled report, and
could not have H. Elton
looked through
the matter. J. C

With all deference I beg to observe, that although Col. Mobrly does not attempt to disprove the claim, he in Every instance urges through the Col.s or the Secretary of the B. and that this matter has been decided by Govt.. But even if so, it is not likely that he will admit that it is honest or the principle of [illegible] ignore a claim when clearly shown

The fact also of this seperate petition for money to stopped for the bunds, and my not having complained the matter in my former petition, I beg to submit, is incontestable evidence that I was not aware of this claim

I room

Rec'd 1882 of 76

Petition of Broad - 5th June 1873

Rec'd 1882 of 76.

P.W.D.
AMBO
1563
No. 14

No. 2617 of 1874.

Petitioners' claims
have been settled in
full, and the Board
decline to reopen the
question.

Clerk shall keep
Engineer
Amboina
and
Secretary
Revenue Board Office
Madras
5th January 1875.

Approved
[illegible]
5/1/75

Recd 8/1/75

5th Jan 1875

Bund of the [illegible] Canal, I re-

spectfully beg to observe that in addition

to the delay of 8 months for the settlement

of this matter, there is a further delay,

more than an [illegible] in the Ex-

ecutive Engineers Office to search

for and [illegible] information

As it is not unlikely that

at this [illegible] nothing may be done

for you [illegible] to come, and about 3

Dept. 1383/80

Secy's 1882/76.

years having already Elapsed since his mo
was withheld, and being mourners a great
sufferers by the accumulation of interest
thereby, I beg to know if I may at once
appeal to the Board of Revenue; and
should you be so good as to favor me
with a reply it would feel most thankf
ful for the favor

I beg to remain Sir
your most obed Servt

Samuel Street

No 41 Misc

Groom

Mr J Groom

Dated 10th February 1874
Rd 11th
P.W.D. No
CHARGE
No

Praying for the re-
covery of this money
from with held

Ltr C

19th 1882

Encl-8

To Col. W. Farwell

Offg. Under Secretary to Govt in the

P. W. Dept. &c. &c. &c.

Sir

In submitting the enclosed correspondence relating to my petition (here also enclosed) in the matter of Bunds in the No 4 Royalur channel, I respectfully beg to state that the enclosed herein contained consits of

1st My petition to Government.

2nd My letter to the salt Deputy Collector. This letter contains an elaborate definition of the whole matter

3rd My three letters on the subject to the Collector of Chingleput. The first of these three solicits his attention to the explanation given in my letter to the Deputy Colr and contains a condensed summary of the whole matter requesting information. And the second of my letters to him is in reference to delays. And in the third letter is embodied his reply to my 1st letter, and also an Esplanation of the unfourn nature of the reply. And on this 3rd letter also is his final Endorsement on the matter.

The above 3 letters in being turned to me, I beg to observe, seem to have

Ans. No 3383 of 80

all submission, it is not [illegible]

dr. 1882

been numbed indifferently; but withal they are correct and original.

4th & 5th One letter to the Board with reply Enclosd.

5th & 6th The Estimate for the work

7th In the 11th page of my Petition, I detected a slight oversight, which I now explained in a paper appended thereto

Lastly I beg to observe, that in the said Petition, allusion or reference is made to my former Petition relating to Excavation work, to the withdrawal of any claim in that Petition on the matter of bunds. That Petition not having been returned to me by Govt and if reference to be made to it is necessary, it must be found in the office of the P. W. Dept.

In conclusion I beg to state, that this ~~first~~ Petition was dispatched to Govt about four months ago and was lost through the Post office, and that this the 2nd copy of it. So much time therefore having been lost, I respectfully beg to submit the same in being so good as to take it in hands at your earliest convenience, and for which act of kindness I would feel most thankful, and beg to remain Sir

Your most obdt Servt H Broom (Signed)

P.W.D.
ENAROO
No. 1683
13

15

not just mentioned [illegible] of my [illegible] 1105 Rs
as all I beg to claim for Excavation work if this
mind of Govt is satisfied about it; and must re
spectfully beg they write give the matter their
careful & best consideration and I will feel
much grateful for the kindness. Finally I
beg to submit the same in my being so good as to
submit this together with my other papers if not
other Govt and in case should notice the
misapprehension above explained I beg you will
submit this Govt's explanatory letter to satisfy
the mind of Govt and I will feel much the kind
favor

for the kindness

Dist. 1905 of 96.
Govt. 1383 of 80.

my son. But even if so, with all submission it is not [illegible] that it is honest, a

Mer has been dreaded by Govt. But even if do, with all submission, it is not likely that it is honest a

among the people of the country towards each other, for they very soon forgot and forgive the most inveterate offences as if they had never been committed, and rather take credit for conduct approaching to gentlemanly forbearance in matters that provoke the highest resentment, than soil the lustre of their national feeling, that knows not how to glory in acts of oppression, but could only appreciate those of pure and genuine humanity.

In conclusion I beg to state, that as Col. Moberly tacitly refuses in the face of all authority to give a direct reply as to the Exact amount of money stopped for the Bands, I most humbly beg the favor of Your Grace to insist on the said reply, and to dispose of this case through the Govt for which act of justice consideration in this case of the oppressed, I would ever feel most grateful and thankful; and craves the most respectful apologies for this intrusion.

I beg to remain with all deference
Your Grace's most humble & obedient Servant
J Croom (Senior)

Expery High road
care of Mrs Kent
Madras
28th June 1876

P.S. With all deference I beg to observe, that although Col Moberly does not attempt to disprove this claim, he in every instance urges through the Collector and Secretary of the Board, that this matter has been decided by Govt. But even if so, with all submission it is not likely that it is honest, as the

principle of Govt to ignore a claim when clearly shown

The fact also of this separate Appeal for money stopped for the Bunds, and my not having explained this matter in my former Appeal is I humbly beg to submit, in contestable Evidence, that I was not aware of this claim, when I sent in my former petition against 47 pages for Excavation work

P.S. If Your Grace would kindly condescend to call for the correspondence relating to the matter between the Collector and Col Moberly Your Grace would at see how it was treated by the latter.

I am

with

Affirm

P.W.D.
MADRAS
No. 1553
5

(A)

To

Capt P. J. Hankin – Private Secretary to His Grace the Right Honble the Governor, &c &c &c

Sir

In submitting the enclosed petition for the consideration of His Grace the Right Honorable the Governor, I respectfully beg to inform you, that the paper hereto appended is a "Brief" or Outline of the petition, to save His Grace the trouble of reading through it, unless clearly shown in the said "Brief", that it merits special attention

The other papers in the packet I beg to add are – 1st The petition itself; and 2nd the correspondence relating thereto. And I beg to take the liberty to suggest, that the correspondence being rather voluminous, and as they may embarrass His Grace, they might be withheld till called for, or the Petition is read – or as the Secretary of the P. W. Dept has waded through them, and submitted his Endorsement thereon to Govt, that Endorsement if called for would obviate the trouble of reading through them. But as you will know best, I beg to leave the matter to your discretion; and with respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedt Servt

J. Croom (Senior)

12th September 1878
Cepery high road Madras
Care of Messrs A Kent

Amt Rs 1303 ff 80

Government House
Octacamund
21st September 1878.

Mr Croom is informed with reference to his petition of the 12 instant that his claim was considered by Govt. and that they have declined to re-open his case. No further petition therefore from Mr Croom will be noticed

The Enclosures received with his petition are herewith returned

(By order)

Thos Le Hardy
Private Secretary

Ent. No 1383 of 80

Mr J. Croom (Senior)
Care of Mrs Kent
Vepery High Road
Madras

SUMMARY OR OUTLINES

OF THE

ENCLOSED APPEAL.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD CRANBROOK
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
&C., &C., &C.

May it Please Your Lordship.

In submitting the enclosed Appeal, I most respectfully beg to state, that the main object in doing so, is to show Your Lordship the most unsatisfactory manner in which it was treated, when submitted to the Madras Government, in being returned to me with the following Endorsement—"This case cannot be reopened;" while it cannot be shown that it was ever before submitted to them.

I beg to add, that I am fully convinced that His Grace the Governor derived such information from his Secretary, who it cannot be said would venture to mislead; but it seems to be owing to a slight complication unavoidably involved in the Appeal, and is consequently open to misrepresentation if not cautiously perused, as hereinafter explained.

Such being the case, and as the son of an Englishman naturally proud and jealous of the honor and integrity of the English Government, Your Lordship might well understand my feelings when I consider what effect such a decision, and the most unsatisfactory dealings throughout every feature of this case would have upon the heathens of this country, and upon the people of England, had it found its way through the Press.

The enclosed Appeal I further beg to add, is for a sum of about 500 and odd Rupees, due to me by the Madras Government in a matter relating to Bunds, and withheld from me through a mistake of their Executive Engineer as herein shown.

It is an Appeal of long standing for several years; and though this mistake was detected about ten months after its occurrence, it was forthwith submitted to the authorities, and first of course to the Collector, who on his discovery of the mistake and my claim to the money, at once wrote to the District Engineer (Colonel Moberly) to inform him of the amount so withheld in order to pay me; but notwithstanding the repeated requests of the Collector and of the Board of Revenue also, to be informed of the amount so stopped, the District Engineer tacitly refused to give them the information in defiance of all constituted authority, and has not done so up to *this day*, but answered their requests with unsatisfactory replies which the Collector returned to him as such. Eventually,

Ent. No 1383 of 80

however, the Collector and the Board sent to me his last unsatisfactory reply (shown in the appeal) with apparent disgust.

Further I beg to add, that the itinerant nature of my occupation in travelling from one country to another for my subsistence, and the long protracted intervals accruing in the course of correspondence in various Departments, and noticeably in that of the District Engineer contributed to this procrastination.

Had the Appeal, however, been fairly dealt with, in the District Engineer having done his duty in simply referring to his record for five minutes, and informing the Collector of the amount so withheld, the case would have been decided years ago during the ordinary period taken up for such decisions. But on the contrary, each evasive reply was sent after the lapse of several months; and the detention of the case became more so, after he had learnt from my letter to the Collector, that the procrastination was involving me in a growing embarrassment in the accumulation of interest on this money so withheld.

Hence, therefore, it will be seen, that this procrastination is barely owing to the neglect of duty on the part of the District Engineer in persistently refusing simply to mention the amount so withheld, and the cause of such a proceeding might well be conjectured in perusing further on. And on the honest understanding also, that if the money was mine then it is mine now, I have taken the liberty to submit this Appeal to your Lordship.

The above I beg to add, is not an uncommon mode of dealing among officials of this country, with perfect indifference to the growing distrust of the people towards the Government as the sure result. I now beg to advert to the treatment and general features of this case; and as some preliminary statements are necessary to be explicit, the following six paragraphs contain the preliminary statements that go to show the circumstances that created so much opposition against me, and cause for this Appeal.

1st. The Madras Government long evinced a desire for an economical and expeditious method of heaping and storing their salt. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Fraser, never designed any method to do so. I, however, took a contract to heap and store the salt: and, in doing so, I constructed a wooden portable Tramway with Trucks on them—each Truck to hold four men's load, and to be run to the storing ground by one man.

2nd. This was very expeditious and economical work. The Engineer, however, evinced no good-will in the matter, for he was prejudicing the mind of the Salt Superintendent against it by irrelevant comparisons, and causing annoyance, rather than encourage a thing for the advantage of Government by whom he was paid.

3rd. In coming to the knowledge of this, therefore, I wrote to him a respectful but plain speaking letter to say, that the Tramway was mine, the contract was mine, that he was not deputed to interfere, and being so simple in its construction that I could judge in the matter as well as any Engineer. This letter he put on record.

4th. Shortly after, however, he was removed elsewhere from Madras, and another gentleman of the name of Mr. Harrington succeeded him.

5th. This gentleman, Mr. Harrington, when he read the letter, became highly exasperated, called it impertinence, and wrote a very abusive letter against me to the Salt Department, the Superintendent of which told me he was ashamed to read it to me, and also suggested in that letter that I should get no more contracts, with which he had nothing to do.

6th. Dissatisfied with this, he evinced an insatiable desire to find fault with me, and wrote in an official way to send him all correspondence relating to my work, &c., which could be clearly enough traced to no other cause than to oppress me, though we were perfect strangers to each other in every respect; and just about this time I unfortunately had some channel work in the Salt Department which completely put me in his power.

Having thus disclosed the feeling of this gentleman, who is at the helm of this case, and in co-operation with others of his friendly colleagues in the same

Department, whose unsatisfactory proceedings also are herein shown, I now beg to solicit Your Lordship's patient attention to this evasive treatment of the Appeal.

This Appeal in the packet I beg to state, consists of two Sections—No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 which is an Appeal against money stopped for *excavation* work, has been decided by the Government and Your Lordship's predecessor.

Section 2 on the other hand is the present and undecided Appeal, erroneously said to have been decided by Government. It is the appeal against money withheld in the matter of *Bunds*; and it also shows how an official confederation have unanimously worked to oppress me.

In the present instance therefore this oppression is glaringly shown by the manner in which this Section 2 Appeal was evaded as follows:—

The late Honorable Mr. Ellis, the Member of Council who disposed of such Appeals of this Department, was known to be a close and intimate friend of my principal oppressor, Mr. Harrington—so much so that they are known to have lived together; and as I thought Mr. Ellis may not be able to resist the influence of his friend, the every first time therefore that I submitted this No. 2 Appeal, I sent it direct to the Governor.

About this time, however, His Grace was under preparation for a journey to Delhi, and he sent the Appeal to Government, for it was returned to me direct from Government with the said unsatisfactory endorsement, while it cannot be shown that this case, claiming money stopped for bunds was ever previously submitted by me; and if so, I beg it may be produced.

Sometime after the Governor's arrival, therefore, I sent back the same Appeal to His Grace, and showed up the evasive endorsement, and to my astonishment, I received the following reply:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OOTACAMUND,
21*st September* 1878.

"Mr. Croom is imformed with reference to his Petition of the 12th instant, that his claim was considered by Government and that they have declined to reopen his case. No further Petition, therefore, from Mr. Croom will be noticed."

By Order

(Signed) T. HANKIN,
Private Secretary.

Thus Your Lordship will perceive that I am shut out from fair explanation before I could show the Governor that the matter has been misrepresented to His Grace, and that the said Appeal, said to have been considered by Government cannot be produced.

I now beg to observe, that in dealing with petitions, His Grace as a rule, obtains first the Secretary's report thereon; and though it could hardly be said, that the latter would submit such a report to mislead, the only way to account for it, is the certainty that he must have made a mistake in glancing at the same original unsatisfactory endorsement, a copy of which he must have.

Then again—besides this I beg to add that this No. 2 Appeal relating to Bunds is unavoidably involved on a slight complication as I stated, and if not

perused with some attention leaves it open to misrepresentation, and could even be wantonly garbled; and this slight complication is explained as follows:—

1st. The Government gave me work to clear out the silt of four water channels, at the rate of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard.

2nd. The estimate for the said work was made by Mr. Smithers, the Sub-Engineer, and approved and sanctioned by the Executive Engineer, Mr. Harrington, at the aggregate cost of Rupees 3,550 for the clearing out of silt, to render them navigable to float out all the Government salt in boats to be conveyed to Madras 20 miles away; and the boats also were the same as are annually used for this purpose.

3rd. After I had completed this work, and rendered the channels navigable for the salt boats, the whole of the salt was accordingly despatched to Madras without the slightest loss or detriment to the Government.

4th. After so completing the work, therefore, Mr. Harrington measured it, and struck off about half the amount of my bill made according to his own estimate; and while he himself put down Rupees 3,550 as the valuation of this work before he took offence at me, Lord Hobart's Government and Your Lordship's Predecessor were willing to believe, that while the Engineer himself, when making the estimate calculated on Rupees 3,550 as the fair valuation to render the channels navigable for the salt laden boats, they were willing to believe that the work could have been executed for about half the sum, while the Engineer himself could not apparently discover, that according to his own estimate, he had at least unconsciously charged the Government about a hundred per cent. above that which could have realized the object of the Government in floating out all their salt, and this Your Lordship will discover is the clear inference of the proceeding; and thus I was made to bear a heavy loss with full confidence in the integrity of the British Government.

But I beg to add, that this was not all. The following circumstances go to show, that I excavated far above the estimate. For the estimate was made in January, and the work given me in March. During the interval of these 3 months, therefore, I and Mr. Harrington resided in Madras 20 miles away from the vicinity of the channels, when heavy unseasonable rains had fallen in the vicinity of these channels, and considerably resilted them (as will be shown) and which fairly proved that his measurements were completely lost. But knowing nothing of this I worked at any cost to obtain the required depths; and this resilting was discovered as follows:—

After I had cleared out three of the four channels, all the salt in their direction was floated out, and I worked these channels in good faith of the Engineer's measurements.

No. 4 channel was the next to be excavated. When the estimate was made for these channels, a portion only of this No. 4 channel was marked for excavation, and the other portion marked "good." After I had worked out the portion marked for excavation, therefore, I floated out the laden boats, and when they had arrived at the part marked "good" they stuck fast and could not proceed. The Deputy Collector, Mr. Plunket was on the spot, and there were about a hundred yards or more that had resilted about a foot in height, for which the Deputy Collector made a fresh estimate, and I cleared that out also. These channels being within the circle of about half a mile, therefore, it cannot be said that I did not unconsciously clear out far above the estimate, and that the

Engineer's measurements were decidedly lost. Yet in the face of this also, he struck off about half the payment due to me.

Such being the case, therefore, under such circumstances, without even the slightest detriment to Government, 99 votes out of a hundred—if not the whole hundred would go to show, that fair dealing on this matter, would have been to give me the full amount, or rather more than less.

After the Engineer had so reduced my bill, however, I appealed against it to the Collector. The Collector being satisfied upon enquiry of the officials in the vicinity of the channels, regarding the fall of heavy rains as well as the resilting of the channels clearly detected, he explained the matter to the Engineer and wrote to say that he could not conscientiously make the reduction. But the Engineer, Mr. Harrington insisted on it, alleging that he made liberal allowance; but how he could have done so when he knew nothing of the rains when he measured my work, and also of the resilting when he was not on the spot to form any possible data to go upon, a child could see that such an assertion is perfectly unsatisfactory.

With the above explanations, therefore, I now beg to state that I am now in a position to explain the slight complication adverted to above, which renders this No. 2 Appeal open to misrepresentation wantonly or otherwise, and it is explained as follows:—

It has been shown in the foregoing paras. that four channels were given me for clearing out or excavation at the rate of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard. At the No. 4 channel alone, however, Bunds were to be made according to the estimate, and it is on this question that my present claim is being made.

I now beg it to be borne in mind that in such works there are Bunds of two descriptions, the one for payment and the other for non-payment. Those for payment might be denominated *Regular* bunds; and for these the dimensions as well as the charges per cubic yard are clearly put down in the estimate. They are raised by special labour in excavating dry earth and depositing it at short or long distances, and the rates are put down accordingly at so much per cubic yard.

The non-payment bunds on the other hand are made without the least expense or trouble in the course of excavation work in water channels, in simply depositing the excavated mud in a line, instead of as usual throwing it away indiscriminately, and thus allow them to settle down into bunds of such dimensions as the excavated mud would admit.

The bunds, therefore, that were to be made in this No. 4 channel were of this latter non-payment description; and the Sub-Engineer who made the estimate informed me, that they were merely intended to keep in a little rippling water in a straight line in the channel; hence no dimensions and consequently no payments are put down for them in the estimate.

As a further proof that these Bunds were not to be paid for, it will be seen in the estimate, that this No. 4 channel for which bunds were to be made had precisely the same market rate for excavation alone, as the other channels for which no bunds were to be made, as will be seen as follows:—

Thus for instance, No. 1 channel has excavation work without bund-work at 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard. The number of cubic yards to be excavated

in this No. 1 channel was 5,895, and the payment of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard for the excavation of these 5,895 cubic yards, a corresponding total sum of 1,228 Rs. 2 Annas is put down for the excavation of this channel in the estimate.

In like manner also the other three channels including the one for which bunds were to be made, have the very same corresponding totals in rates for excavation work alone, and not a fraction is put down for bunds, save 23 Rs. 12 Annas for sloping and tamping this excavated mud in the form of bunds. But the Engineer being under the impression that these were to be *Regular* bunds, of the usual large dimensions and for which rates are put down, he made his deductions accordingly and struck off about 500 and odd Rupees while only Rs. 23 12 Annas are put in the estimate for sloping and tamping this excavated mud in the form of bunds.

Lastly, I beg to observe with reference to these bunds, that if I had raised them according to *Regular* bunds they would have cost me about Rupees 500; and if I had submitted a bill for them, I would have been asked in return to show the dimensions and charge in the estimate, which contained nothing of the kind.

From the above explanations, therefore, Your Lordship will clearly discover that the said 500 and odd Rupees have been withheld by a mistake; and the District Engineer fully aware of this, has refused up to *this day* to comply with the repeated requests of the authorities to inform them of the exact amount in order to pay me.

Finally, I beg to observe that another circumstance that admits of evasive dealing in this matter is as follows, and it is left for Your Lordship to say if it has been so treated or not.

Throughout the whole of this summary, Your Lordship will have discovered that the excavation and bund questions are in a manner blended together as follows:—

1st. There were two Appeals sent to Government. The first of them was No. 1 relating to excavation work alone, for there was not a word in that No. 1 Appeal claiming money stopped for bunds; and that Appeal alone was decided by Government.

2nd. The full amount due to me according to the estimate for the excavation of the four channels was 3,550 Rupees; (for there was no bund-work to be paid for) and the total amount of stoppage throughout the estimate was Rupees 1,690. It has also been shown that not a fraction is put in the estimate for raising bunds, save a small item of 23 Rupees 12 Annas for sloping and tamping them.

3rd. In the said stoppage of Rupees 1,690 the money stopped by a mistake of the Engineer for bunds was included in the said stoppage of Rupees 1,690; and in consequence of its having been so mixed up in that No. 1 Appeal through his mistake, and that Appeal having been decided by Government, while not a word of claim for money stopped for bunds is in this said No. 1 Appeal, it is left for Your Lordship to say if advantage is not taken of this circumstance to mystify the matter and to show, that simply because the money stopped by a mistake of the Engineer was so mixed up, without even a word of appeal relating to money stopped for bunds, an attempt is made to show that it was decided by Government.

4th. The Engineer's mistake, I beg to add I casually discovered from correspondence with his Overseer, for the authorities never divulged it to me, but simply

gave me to understand that Rupees 1,690 were stopped from my bill; and this I concluded was for excavation work, and present disclosures show that I was right in submitting the Appeal relating to excavation work alone, for there was no money put down in the estimate for bunds.

As a further proof that this claim for money stopped for bunds had not been considered by Government, I beg to add, that on the discovery that money so stopped was mixed up or included with that stopped for excavation work, the said No. 1 Appeal was then in the hands of the Secretary, and not yet decided by Government. I therefore wrote to him at once a P. S. dated 24th May informing him of the mistake of the Engineer, and in the same P. S. informed him also that I withdraw all claims, if any, in the matter of bunds, with the intention of submitting a fresh Appeal in reference to them through the authorized channel, *viz.* first to the Collector, then to the Board, and lastly to the Government, and this No. 2 Appeal is the fresh one now submitted, and returned with the unsatisfactory endorsement.

Finally, I beg to observe that notwithstanding Colonel Moberly's determined opposition in refusing up to this day in defiance of all constituted authority to mention the amount stopped for the bunds, his last reply is that "the bunds were included in the valuation;" and though he is simply requested repeatedly to state the amount, he refuses to do so, and hushes up the matter with equivocal replies such as the above.

The said reply, I beg to add, Your Lordship will find to be a mere random assertion, without any foundation to admit even of an understanding of what he means, and a mere trifling with official matters. If the bunds are included in the valuation, I beg to know where are the rates and dimensions in the estimate? For this No. 4 channel, the total amount of silt to be excavated only, is mentioned as amounting to 4,062 cubic yards, and the payment for the excavation or clearing of that amount of silt, is put down at Rupees 846 4 Annas and nothing else, and which sum exactly corresponds as payment for the said amount of silt at 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard as in the other channels.

Your Lordship will therefore discover that his statement is but a mere random assertion and will be able to say, if there is a shadow of truth in it when he is utterly unable, and does not attempt to prove, that the bunds were in the valuation, which is simply impossible, while there are no dimensions and consequently no payments for them in the estimate to say nothing else.

With the certainty, therefore, that Your Lordship will dispose of this case on Your honest conviction, and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion,

I beg to remain with the utmost deference,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient servant.

J. CROOM, Senior.

Care of Mrs. A. KENT,

Vepery High Road,

Madras.

5*th November*, 1879.

Government of Madras.

PETITION DEPARTMENT.

Endorsement on No. 1532 of 1876.
P.W.D.
CHARGE
No. 553

The Government will not re-open the case.

With all deference, please produce the petition containing this claim for 500 & odd Rs in Bunds - Impossible. What can means such an Endorsement?

(By Order.) Croom

S. D. Waterfield Col.

Offg. Under Secretary to Government.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
25th Oct. 1876.

In No. 1383 of 80

To Col. H. Sankey
Secretary to Govt in the Public Works Department
&c &c &c

Sir - As you will find from the perusal of the enclosed printed Summary of my Appeal to the Right Honble the Secretary of State for India, that the case therein explained has been most glaringly tampered with by the Officials concerned, I respectfully beg to submit the same, together with the original Appeal and correspondence &c relating thereto, for the consideration of the said Right Honble the Secretary of State for India, through the medium of the Madras Government; and with respectful apologies I beg to remain Sir

Your obedt Servt

J. Croom Senior
care of Mrs A Kent
Cepery High road - Madras

25th January 1880

Same answer - Inform for Secy to Govt P.W.D.

P.W.D.
CAIRO
No. 1583

Encls: 21

No. 516 W. 5th March/80

Letter from Mr. J. Crowne (Senior) dated 9th June 1880

FOR ORDERS.

Respecting the Letter from Chief Engr. Upper Nile for Channel No. 6. The work is described as "Deepening Channel by Mining-Knot" but for the Other Channels as "Deepening C" or "Widening & Deepening C". Both the Date & the Cause for Each Channel. Vide Ap. 3.4 Encl. 1 & 2. In the Letter of Measurement are the Cause for each C. Viz. I am "on this barbarian" Sums curious. If there

Mr Crowne's letter of 25th January 1880 was "lodged" with reference to previous orders, and to the Private Secretary's Memorandum of 21st September 1878, in which Mr Crowne was informed that "no further petition from him would be noticed".

Engr Col RE
for Lieut Col RE

FOR ORDERS.

P. W. D.

Note

With reference to the
Honorable Member's
remarks on Mr. Broom's
petition of 9th June 1880,
the undersigned has the
honour to state that
it is impossible
to speak with absolute
certainty as to an
estimate framed
nearly ten years ago,
especially as every officer
connected with the work
has died or left the
department; but he
is

to Ch. E. is also pointed that
his Estimate included the
kind of work in "bunds"

Mr. Ellis Executive Engr. did not
did not include in his bill -
(the only person through
his Estt. as Bunds work
is charged in it) and that
the Bunds work was not
executed by him - that kind
of work was strictly pointed
from the Estt. entered
then Sub. Engineer that
the first thing to be pointed
from the petitioner stating
that his claim now
advanced has been duly
considered must decline
to grant it the matter pointed.

I observe that Mr. S.D. is
Asst. to 22/7/80 Dy. Engr.
Cir. 5.7.80.
Orly 2.7.80) Executive
Cir. 5.7.80 Exec. 8.7.80.

(Put in Memorandum of the 6th inst.
subject of this further letter
of June 13. [illegible]
8/7/80
To Dy. Engr.
8/7/80
Im

Ty

Ty bell.
I am satisfied
I accept this opinion.
Answer Mr. Broom
as I propose.
[illegible]
25/7

is decidedly of opinion that the rate of Annas 3/4 per cubic yard was intended (and if so must have been known to Mr. Broom should have been intended) to include the formation of the spoil into a bund where required, as well as the actual excava- -tion from the bed of the channel.

2. As the spoil must be deposited somewhere, the additional cost of forming it into a regularly sectional

bund is trifling, and is frequently included in a single rate with the excavation, though it ought to be entered separately.

3. The fact of "and raising bund" having been specified for **channel** No. 4 and not for the others may be accounted for by the fact that this being the first channel entered in the estimate, the framer did not consider it necessary

to repeat the words for the other channels- or it may have been simply an oversight.

4. The undersigned has gone carefully through the papers and cannot find anything to call for the reopening of a question which has been already decided, especially as the materials for an independent decision do not now exist.

Major Genl.

for Secy. to Govt.
24th July 82
Ch. 24.7.82. Rec'd 26.7.82.
A.O. 2/8/82 sent with 2 Encls.

States that her in January last, submitted a Memorial to be despatched to the Secretary of State for India through the Madras Govt.; but that as yet he has not received the usual intimation of its despatch.

Prays, therefore, to be informed of what has been done with it.

Col. Sankey Secrs.
Public Works Dept.

Sir — I beg to inform you that in the month of January last, I submitted to you an Appeal to be despatched through the Madras Government to the Right Hon'ble the Secretary of State for India; and not having up to this time received the usual intimation of the said dispatch, I beg respectfully to solicit the favor of a line to Enable me to an-

P.W. 6

Petition Dept 6.

Letter from Mr. J. Croom (Senior) dt
9th June 1880.

Endorsement.

The Government, being satisfied from the fullest scrutiny that the claim now advanced by Mr. Croom has been duly considered, must decline to reopen the matter.

S
26.7

M.S.
26/7

To,
Mr. J. Croom (Senior)
Jannah Street
Purseval Kum
Madras.

Des 3/8

½ Rd.S.

P.W. 1048/81

9
3-8-80

Petition {P.W.} Department.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PETITION No. 1383 OF 1880.

From Mr. J. Croom (Senior)

Residing in

Occupation

Village Purseval Kum

Taluk

District Madras

Dated 9th June
Received 29th July } 1880

Enclosures.

SUBJECT.

Reminder

P.W.D.
1 JUL 80
No. 421

Endorsement
of 3 Aug 1880

SUMMARY OR OUTLINES

OF THE

ENCLOSED APPEAL.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE LORD CRANBROOK
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA,
&C., &C., &C.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP.

IN submitting the enclosed Appeal, I most respectfully beg to state, that the main object in doing so, is to show Your Lordship the most unsatisfactory manner in which it was treated, when submitted to the Madras Government, in being returned to me with the following Endorsement—"This case cannot be reopened;" while it cannot be shown that it was even before submitted to them.

I beg to add, that I am fully convinced that His Grace the Governor derived such information from his Secretary, who it cannot be said would venture to mislead; but it seems to be owing to a slight complication unavoidably involved in the Appeal, and is consequently open to misrepresentation if not cautiously perused, as hereinafter explained.

Such being the case, and as the son of an Englishman naturally proud and jealous of the honor and integrity of the English Government, Your Lordship might well understand my feelings when I consider what effect such a decision, and the most unsatisfactory dealings throughout every feature of this case would have upon the heathens of this country, and upon the people of England, had it found its way through the Press.

The enclosed Appeal I further beg to add, is for a sum of about 500 and odd Rupees, due to me by the Madras Government in a matter relating to Bunds, and withheld from me through a mistake of their Executive Engineer as herein shown.

It is an Appeal of long standing for several years; and though this mistake was detected about ten months after its occurrence, it was forthwith submitted to the authorities, and first of course to the Collector, who on his discovery of the mistake and my claim to the money, at once wrote to the District Engineer (Colonel Moberly) to inform him of the amount so withheld in order to pay me; but notwithstanding the repeated requests of the Collector and of the Board of Revenue also, to be informed of the amount so stopped, the District Engineer tacitly refused to give them the information in defiance of all constituted authority, and has not done so up to *this day*, but answered their requests with unsatisfactory replies which the Collector returned to him as such. Eventually,

In N° 1048/87.

however, the Collector and the Board sent to me his last unsatisfactory reply (shown in the appeal) with apparent disgust.

P Further I beg to add, that the itinerant nature of my occupation in travelling from one country to another for my subsistence, and the long protracted intervals accruing in the course of correspondence in various Departments, and noticeably in that of the District Engineer contributed to this procrastination.

Had the Appeal, however, been fairly dealt with, in the District Engineer having done his duty in simply referring to his record for five minutes, and informing the Collector of the amount so withheld, the case would have been decided years ago during the ordinary period taken up for such decisions. But on the contrary, each evasive reply was sent after the lapse of several months; and the detention of the case became more so, after he had learnt from my letter to the Collector, that the procrastination was involving me in a growing embarrassment in the accumulation of interest on this money so withheld.

Hence, therefore, it will be seen, that this procrastination is barely owing to the neglect of duty on the part of the District Engineer in persistently refusing simply to mention the amount so withheld, and the cause of such a proceeding might well be conjectured in perusing further on. And on the honest understanding also, that if the money was mine then it is mine now, I have taken the liberty to submit this Appeal to your Lordship.

X The above I beg to add, is not an uncommon mode of dealing among officials of this country, with perfect indifference to the growing distrust of the people towards the Government as the sure result. I now beg to advert to the treatment and general features of this case; and as some preliminary statements are necessary to be explicit, the following six paragraphs contain the preliminary statements that go to show the circumstances that created so much opposition against me, and cause for this Appeal.

1st. The Madras Government long evinced a desire for an economical and expeditious method of heaping and storing their salt. The Executive Engineer, Mr. Fraser, never designed any method to do so. I, however, took a contract to heap and store the salt: and in doing so, I constructed a wooden portable Tramway with Trucks on them—each Truck to hold four men's load, and to be run to the storing ground by one man.

2nd. This was very expeditious and economical work. The Engineer, however, evinced no good-will in the matter, for he was prejudicing the mind of the Salt Superintendent against it by irrelevant comparisons, and causing annoyance, rather than encourage a thing for the advantage of Government by whom he was paid.

3rd. In coming to the knowledge of this, therefore, I wrote to him a respectful but plain speaking letter to say, that the Tramway was mine, the contract was mine, that he was not deputed to interfere, and being so simple in its construction that I could judge in the matter as well as any Engineer. This letter he put on record.

4th. Shortly after, however, he was removed elsewhere from Madras, and another gentleman of the name of Mr. Harrington succeeded him.

5th. This gentleman, Mr. Harrington, when he read the letter, became highly exasperated, called it impertinence, and wrote a very abusive letter against me to the Salt Department, the Superintendent of which told me he was ashamed to read it to me, and also suggested in that letter that I should get no more contracts, with which he had nothing to do.

6th. Dissatisfied with this, he evinced an insatiable desire to find fault with me, and wrote in an official way to send him all correspondence relating to my work, &c., which could be clearly enough traced to no other cause than to oppress me, though we were perfect strangers to each other in every respect; and just about this time I unfortunately had some channel work in the Salt Department which completely put me in his power.

Having thus disclosed the feeling of this gentleman, who is at the helm of this case, and in co-operation with others of his friendly colleagues in the same

Department, whose unsatisfactory proceedings also are herein shown, I now beg to solicit Your Lordship's patient attention to this evasive treatment of the Appeal.

This Appeal in the packet I beg to state, consists of two Sections—No. 1 and No. 2. No. 1 which is an Appeal against money stopped for *excavation* work, has been decided by the Government and Your Lordship's predecessor.

Section 2 on the other hand is the present and undecided Appeal, erroneously said to have been decided by Government. It is the appeal against money withheld in the matter of *Bunds*; and it also shows how an official confederation have unanimously worked to oppress me.

In the present instance therefore this oppression is glaringly shown by the manner in which this Section 2 Appeal was evaded as follows:—

The late Honorable Mr. Ellis, the Member of Council who disposed of such Appeals of this Department, was known to be a close and intimate friend of my principal oppressor, Mr. Harrington—so much so that they are known to have lived together; and as I thought Mr. Ellis may not be able to resist the influence of his friend, the every first time therefore that I submitted this No. 2 Appeal, I sent it direct to the Governor.

About this time, however, His Grace was under preparation for a journey to Delhi, and he sent the Appeal to Government, for it was returned to me direct from Government with the said unsatisfactory endorsement, while it cannot be shown that this case, claiming money stopped for bunds was ever previously submitted by me; and if so, I beg it may be produced.

Sometime after the Governor's arrival, therefore, I sent back the same Appeal to His Grace, and showed up the evasive endorsement, and to my astonishment, I received the following reply:—

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OOTACAMUND,
21*st September* 1878.

"Mr. Croom is imformed with reference to his Petition of the 12th instant, that his claim was considered by Government and that they have declined to reopen his case. No further Petition, therefore, from Mr. Croom will be noticed."

By Order

(Signed) T. HANKIN,
Private Secretary.

Thus Your Lordship will perceive that I am shut out from fair explanation before I could show the Governor that the matter has been misrepresented to His Grace, and that the said Appeal, said to have been considered by Government cannot be produced.

I now beg to observe, that in dealing with petitions, His Grace as a rule, obtains first the Secretary's report thereon; and though it could hardly be said, that the latter would submit such a report to mislead, the only way to account for it, is the certainty that he must have made a mistake in glancing at the same original unsatisfactory endorsement, a copy of which he must have.

Then again—besides this I beg to add that this No. 2 Appeal relating to Bunds is unavoidably involved on a slight complication as I stated, and if not

perused with some attention leaves it open to misrepresentation, and could even be wantonly garbled; and this slight complication is explained as follows:—

1st. The Government gave me work to clear out the silt of four water channels, at the rate of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard.

2nd. The estimate for the said work was made by Mr. Smithers, the Sub-Engineer, and approved and sanctioned by the Executive Engineer, Mr. Harrington, at the aggregate cost of Rupees 3,550 for the clearing out of silt, to render them navigable to float out all the Government salt in boats to be conveyed to Madras 20 miles away; and the boats also were the same as are annually used for this purpose.

3rd. After I had completed this work, and rendered the channels navigable for the salt boats, the whole of the salt was accordingly despatched to Madras without the slightest loss or detriment to the Government.

4th. After so completing the work, therefore, Mr. Harrington measured it, and struck off about half the amount of my bill made according to his own estimate; and while he himself put down Rupees 3,550 as the valuation of this work before he took offence at me, Lord Hobart's Government and Your Lordship's Predecessor were willing to believe, that while the Engineer himself, when making the estimate calculated on Rupees 3,550 as the fair valuation to render the channels navigable for the salt laden boats, they were willing to believe that the work could have been executed for about half the sum, while the Engineer himself could not apparently discover, that according to his own estimate, he had at least unconsciously charged the Government about a hundred per cent. above that which could have realized the object of the Government in floating out all their salt, and this Your Lordship will discover is the clear inference of the proceeding; and thus I was made to bear a heavy loss with full confidence in the integrity of the British Government.

But I beg to add, that this was not all. The following circumstances go to show, that I excavated far above the estimate. For the estimate was made in January, and the work given me in March. During the interval of these 3 months, therefore, I and Mr. Harrington resided in Madras 20 miles away from the vicinity of the channels, when heavy unseasonable rains had fallen in the vicinity of these channels, and considerably resilted them (as will be shown) and which fairly proved that his measurements were completely lost. But knowing nothing of this I worked at any cost to obtain the required depths; and this resilting was discovered as follows:—

After I had cleared out three of the four channels, all the salt in their direction was floated out, and I worked these channels in good faith of the Engineer's measurements.

No. 4 channel was the next to be excavated. When the estimate was made for these channels, a portion only of this No. 4 channel was marked for excavation, and the other portion marked "good." After I had worked out the portion marked for excavation, therefore, I floated out the laden boats, and when they had arrived at the part marked "good" they stuck fast and could not proceed. The Deputy Collector, Mr. Plunket was on the spot, and there were about a hundred yards or more that had resilted about a foot in height, for which the Deputy Collector made a fresh estimate, and I cleared that out also. These channels being within the circle of about half a mile, therefore, it cannot be said that I did not unconsciously clear out far above the estimate, and that the

Engineer's measurements were decidedly lost. Yet in the face of this also, he struck off about half the payment due to me.

Such being the case, therefore, under such circumstances, without even the slightest detriment to Government, 99 votes out of a hundred—if not the whole hundred would go to show, that fair dealing on this matter, would have been to give me the full amount, or rather more than less.

After the Engineer had so reduced my bill, however, I appealed against it to the Collector. The Collector being satisfied upon enquiry of the officials in the vicinity of the channels, regarding the fall of heavy rains as well as the resilting of the channels clearly detected, he explained the matter to the Engineer and wrote to say that he could not conscientiously make the reduction. But the Engineer, Mr. Harrington insisted on it, alleging that he made liberal allowance; but how he could have done so when he knew nothing of the rains when he measured my work, and also of the resilting when he was not on the spot to form any possible data to go upon, a child could see that such an assertion is perfectly unsatisfactory.

With the above explanations, therefore, I now beg to state that I am now in a position to explain the slight complication adverted to above, which renders this No. 2 Appeal open to misrepresentation wantonly or otherwise, and it is explained as follows:—

It has been shown in the foregoing paras. that four channels were given me for clearing out or excavation at the rate of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard. At the No. 4 channel alone, however, Bunds were to be made according to the estimate, and it is on this question that my present claim is being made.

I now beg it to be borne in mind that in such works there are Bunds of two descriptions, the one for payment and the other for non-payment. Those for payment might be denominated *Regular* bunds; and for these the dimensions as well as the charges per cubic yard are clearly put down in the estimate. They are raised by special labour in excavating dry earth and depositing it at short or long distances, and the rates are put down accordingly at so much per cubic yard.

The non-payment bunds on the other hand are made without the least expense or trouble in the course of excavation work in water channels, in simply depositing the excavated mud in a line, instead of as usual throwing it away indiscriminately, and thus allow them to settle down into bunds of such dimensions as the excavated mud would admit.

The bunds, therefore, that were to be made in this No. 4 channel were of this latter non-payment description; and the Sub-Engineer who made the estimate informed me, that they were merely intended to keep in a little rippling water in a straight line in the channel; hence no dimensions and consequently no payments are put down for them in the estimate.

As a further proof that these Bunds were not to be paid for, it will be seen in the estimate, that this No. 4 channel for which bunds were to be made had precisely the same market rate for excavation alone, as the other channels for which no bunds were to be made, as will be seen as follows:—

Thus for instance, No. 1 channel has excavation work without bund-work at 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard. The number of cubic yards to be excavated

in this No. 1 channel was 5,895, and the payment of 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard for the excavation of these 5,895 cubic yards, a corresponding total sum of 1,228 Rs. 2 Annas is put down for the excavation of this channel in the estimate.

In like manner also the other three channels including the one for which bunds were to be made, have the very same corresponding totals in rates for excavation work alone, and not a fraction is put down for bunds, save 23 Rs. 12 Annas for sloping and tamping this excavated mud in the form of bunds. But the Engineer being under the impression that these were to be *Regular* bunds, of the usual large dimensions and for which rates are put down, he made his deductions accordingly and struck off about 500 and odd Rupees while only Rs. 23 12 Annas are put in the estimate for sloping and tamping this excavated mud in the form of bunds.

Lastly, I beg to observe with reference to these bunds, that if I had raised them according to *Regular* bunds they would have cost me about Rupees 500; and if I had submitted a bill for them, I would have been asked in return to show the dimensions and charge in the estimate, which contained nothing of the kind.

From the above explanations, therefore, Your Lordship will clearly discover that the said 500 and odd Rupees have been withheld by a mistake; and the District Engineer fully aware of this, has refused up to *this day* to comply with the repeated requests of the authorities to inform them of the exact amount in order to pay me.

Finally, I beg to observe that another circumstance that admits of evasive dealing in this matter is as follows, and it is left for Your Lordship to say if it has been so treated or not.

Throughout the whole of this summary, Your Lordship will have discovered that the excavation and bund questions are in a manner blended together as follows:—

1st. There were two Appeals sent to Government. The first of them was No. 1 relating to excavation work alone, for there was not a word in that No. 1 Appeal claiming money stopped for bunds; and that Appeal alone was decided by Government.

2nd. The full amount due to me according to the estimate for the excavation of the four channels was 3,550 Rupees; (for there was no bund-work to be paid for) and the total amount of stoppage throughout the estimate was Rupees 1,690. It has also been shown that not a fraction is put in the estimate for raising bunds, save a small item of 23 Rupees 12 Annas for sloping and tamping them.

3rd. In the said stoppage of Rupees 1,690 the money stopped by a mistake of the Engineer for bunds was included in the said stoppage of Rupees 1,690; and in consequence of its having been so mixed up in that No. 1 Appeal through his mistake, and that Appeal having been decided by Government, while not a word of claim for money stopped for bunds is in this said No. 1 Appeal, it is left for Your Lordship to say if advantage is not taken of this circumstance to mystify the matter and to show, that simply because the money stopped by a mistake of the Engineer was so mixed up, without even a word of appeal relating to money stopped for bunds, an attempt is made to show that it was decided by Government.

4th. The Engineer's mistake, I beg to add I casually discovered from correspondence with his Overseer, for the authorities never divulged it to me, but simply

gave me to understand that Rupees 1,690 were stopped from my bill; and this I concluded was for excavation work, and present disclosures show that I was right in submitting the Appeal relating to excavation work alone, for there was no money put down in the estimate for bunds.

As a further proof that this claim for money stopped for bunds had not been considered by Government, I beg to add, that on the discovery that money so stopped was mixed up or included with that stopped for excavation work, the said No. 1 Appeal was then in the hands of the Secretary, and not yet decided by Government. I therefore wrote to him at once a P. S. dated 24th May informing him of the mistake of the Engineer, and in the same P. S. informed him also that I withdraw all claims, if any, in the matter of bunds, with the intention of submitting a fresh Appeal in reference to them through the authorized channel, *viz.* first to the Collector, then to the Board, and lastly to the Government, and this No. 2 Appeal is the fresh one now submitted, and returned with the unsatisfactory endorsement.

Finally, I beg to observe that notwithstanding Colonel Moberly's determined opposition in refusing up to this day in defiance of all constituted authority to mention the amount stopped for the bunds, his last reply is that "the bunds were included in the valuation;" and though he is simply requested repeatedly to state the amount, he refuses to do so, and hushes up the matter with equivocal replies such as the above.

The said reply, I beg to add, Your Lordship will find to be a mere random assertion, without any foundation to admit even of an understanding of what he means, and a mere trifling with official matters. If the bunds are included in the valuation, I beg to know where are the rates and dimensions in the estimate? For this No. 4 channel, the total amount of silt to be excavated only, is mentioned as amounting to 4,062 cubic yards, and the payment for the excavation or clearing of that amount of silt, is put down at Rupees 846 4 Annas and nothing else, and which sum exactly corresponds as payment for the said amount of silt at 3 Annas 4 Pies per cubic yard as in the other channels.

Your Lordship will therefore discover that his statement is but a mere random assertion and will be able to say, if there is a shadow of truth in it when he is utterly unable, and does not attempt to prove, that the bunds were in the valuation, which is simply impossible, while there are no dimensions and consequently no payments for them in the estimate to say nothing else.

With the certainty, therefore, that Your Lordship will dispose of this case on Your honest conviction, and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion,

I beg to remain with the utmost deference,

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient servant.

J. CROOM, Senior.
Care of Mrs. A. KENT,
Vepery High Road,
Madras.

5*th November*, 1879.

P.W. 3408/87
3

CURRENT No. 1048

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
W. P. Adam — Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

I most respectfully beg to state, that I regret to find that it has been my lot to address Your Excellency these two or three times, since Your recent arrival to this country; but Your Excellency being the last local Authority, to whom the matter herein contained should be submitted, I have taken the liberty to do so with much diffidence, knowing as I do, the multifarious duties with which Your Excellency must be surrounded; and as this is a case of oppression of a poor man, which more than any thing else loudly calls for redress, I humbly beg Your Excellency's careful and patient perusal of this case.

The enclosed I beg to add, is a printed Memorial to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, which contains a claim for a sum of about 500 Rupees, wrongfully withheld from me by the Madras Government, through misrepresentations and garbled statements of Government Officials, as herein very lucidly explained. It is precisely the same claim as shown in this Petition.

This claim could have been settled years ago within the ordinary period taken up for such purposes; but owing to subtle opposition and wilful procrastination (as herein shown also) of an official confederation, which plainly appears to have been set up by an Executive Engineer (Mr. Harrington) to oppress me, the settlement of this case has been prolonged for several years. Shown in Printed Petition - Page 2 Para 3rd marked P

The said Engineer Mr. Harrington I further beg to add, had extended his influence to such high quarters, that even a Member of Council, the late Honorable Mr. Ellis, who was a close friend of his, (both having lived together) attempted to nullify this claim by an evasive Endorsement, when first submitted to Government, in stating, that "this claim cannot be re-opened", while it never previously had been laid before Government. Cause of ill-will shown in Printed petn. - page 2, marked X

In short I beg to state, that this procrastination and oppression have so culminated my affairs, as to place me on the verge of the Insolvent Court. No further references in Printed Petetion.

I now beg to explain the different features of this case, to show how it stands. Some years ago, I executed some contract works for Government, and I had two seperate claims on them. The first was for money withheld from me for Excavation work; and the second for money withheld for Bund work.

The first claim relating to Excavating work therefore, I submitted in a Petition through the authorized medium - first to the Collector, secondly to the Board, thirdly to the Government, and lastly to the Secretary of State. This claim therefore was perfectly settled, so that I had nothing more to do with it.

After the above claim relating to excavation was so settled, I then submitted the second claim for money stopped for Bunds; and the very first time it was so submitted, I received to my surprise the following Endorsement; but on a little musing over the matter, I ceased to wonder at it - The Endorsement was "This case cannot be re-opened."

I then submitted a Petition to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, showing how the matter was treated, and to my surprise again I received the following letter:

"Govt. House, Ootacamund 21st Sept. 1878

"Mr. Croom is informed with reference to his Petition, of the 12th instant, that his claim "was considered by Government, and that they have declined to re-open his case. No further Petition therefore "from Mr. Croom will be noticed"

"By order (Signed) T. Jenkin

"Private Secretary"

On receipt of this letter, I now discovered that His Grace must have referred the matter to the Secretary of the P. W. Department, and was misinformed

and as I cannot say he gave such information to mislead, the certainty is, that he looked at the very Petition which had the evasive Endorsement, for that was the last of my petitions before I complained to the Govt. But if he would prove that the said Endorsement is not an Evasive or mistaken one, he should produce the previous petition claiming money Exclusively stopped for Bunds, (if any) which caused such an Endorsement, together with the Petition bearing the Endorsement to silence me. This of course would be a sure test. But this cannot and has not been done.

Then again I beg to add, that the way in which the matter stands, there exists a slight unavoidable complication, which renders the matter open to misrepresentation, as the following will show:

The full amount of my bill was 3,526 Rs 4 As for Excavation work alone, and 23 Rs 12 As for simply tamping the Bunds, making a full total of 3,550 Rs. There are no dimensions and consequently no charges put in the Estimate for the Bunds, for they were simply to be made of the Excavated silt (such as it was) to be deposited in a strait line, instead of as usual being indiscriminately thrown away, to keep within bounds a little rippling water at the Edge of the channel; and this instruction I received from the Sub-Engineer, Mr. Smithers who made the Estimate, and the only charge in the estimate with reference to these bunds was 23 Rs 12 As for tamping Rain into form.

When the Engineer Mr Harrington therefore went to measure my work, he had only to measure that of Excavation; because for that work alone and for the tamping, the charge of 3,550 was put in the Estimate, but not a single pie was put for the Bunds (vide Estimate). But seeing Bunds in the Estimate, he failed to look if there were any charges put for them, and thinking no doubt they had the usual charges, he calculated at the same rate of 3 Rs 4 pice the cubic yard, and deducted accordingly to the amount of about 500 Rs; and adding this amount to that stopped for Excavation in one total, he struck 1,690 Rs

When the report therefore came to the Deputy Collector's Office, this latter Official merely informed me that 1690 Rs were struck off my bill, but having had a claim for only Excavation work and tamping, but not for Bund work, which was not to be paid for, I knew nothing of his mistake in deducting for the Bunds also.

My first appeal to Govt therefore was against the stoppage of 1690 Rs from Excavation work, but not from Bund work, which I was not to be paid for; but when this very first Petition was with Col. Carpendale, the (then) Secretary to the P.W. Dept, and ere it was decided by Govt, I came to the knowledge of his mistake, and at once wrote and informed the Secretary of the same, and requested him, that in the Petition

now before Govt. I made no reference whatever to money stopped for Bunds, and that I could appeal against that after the decision of the present Appeal relating to Excavation work.

All this therefore goes to show that my first Appeal referred to money stopped for Excavation work alone, and in deciding on that Excavation Appeal, the Govt. allowed me 150 Rupees out of this stoppage for Excavation, and not for that of Bunds, for there was not a word of appeal a- bunds in that Petition - hence when Mr Barlow the (then) Collecto of Chinglaput first saw my Petition claiming money to stopped for Bunds, he clearly saw through the whole matter and forthwith was prepard to refund the money to me; and to do so, he wrote to the District Engineer Col Moberly to inform him of the Exact amount to stopped for them; but Col. Moberly, a friendly Colleague of Mr Harrington's my stern oppressor, wrote Evasive replies to Mr Barlow, which Mr Barlow from time to time returned to him as such; and in this manner evaded the request for years, and up to this day he has not mentioned the amount! The cause therefore of this treatment is very apparent, while in all my lifetime, I never saw Col Moberly, nor Ever wrote nor spoke to him.

Further I beg to state, that finding it impossible to prove that the Petition relating to Bunds was decided by Govt; it seems to me, that because the Excavation and Bund stoppages were so mixed up through the mistake of the Engrs, and the Excavation Petition having been decided while so mixed up, an attempt is made to show that on that score, the Bund Petition had been decided also. But this can never be; and

if so, it would be most unjust, and such a decision would be founded on a most subtle prevarication.

On finding myself so shut out from further appeal by the Duke of Buckinghams letter - though it is not so in a strict sense according to the Petition Rules which admit of a second Appeal on fresh grounds, or a clearer representation of a matter as is the case in this Appeal - On finding myself so shut out, I then wrote the Enclosed printed Appeal to the Secretary of State, and sent it to Col Sankey, late Secretary to Govt in the P. W. Dept, to be dispatched through Govt to that Authority; but not having for 8 months received the usual notice of the dispatch, while such notice is generally issued after 2 months, I wrote to him twice to know about it, but received no reply; and it is now about 18 months since I sent it to him

During the interval of these eighteen months, another gentleman Major Penny cuick succeeded to his post; and the said printed Petition to the Secretary of State is a copy of the one herein enclosed; and with this said printed Petition, I enclosed other papers of mine bearing upon the matter, together with the Estimate, and they all seem to be lost; for in writing to Col Sankey twice over about the dispatch of the Petition to the Secretary of State, his successor must have been searching for it; and having found my last Petition with the Evasive Endorsement upon it, he applied to my letter from that same Endorsement as follows:

"the claim advanced has been duly considered by Govt, and they decline to reopen the case."

This I beg to observe was no proper reply for in my two last letters to him I wrote to know if my Petition to Secretary of State was dispatched and he sends me a reply to my former Petition to Govt bearing the Enquire Endorsement. since it Evident those papers are lost, the more so, as I received no reply about them (after two application) up to this for 15 months. But as the whole sum and substance of these lost papers are embodied in this present Petition, save and Except the Estimate, which could be procured from the office of the Chingleput Collectr, or that of the P.W. Deptt, they are of no consequence to me.

Finding therefore that matters stood so, I was bound to write and submit the following letter to His Grace the Duke of Buckingham, but as the end of His Grace's departure was approaching, I reserved it for his successor. This is the letter:-

May it please Your Grace

Sometime ago, a Petition claiming money of about 500 Rs was submitted to Your Grace. The Petition was dated 12th September 1878, when the matter was misrepresented to Your Grace inadvertantly, perhaps by the official concerned, who informed Your Grace that the said claim had been laid before Govt and was decided by them, but which could by no means be proved; and this elicited from Your Grace a reply stating that as such was the case no further notice would be taken of it.

Being thus shut out from a fair explanation therefore, I drew up the Enclosed printed Petition to the Secretary of State, and sent it for

dispatch through Govt to Col. Sankey, Secretary in the P.W. Deptt, and more than a year has now elapsed since I did so, and the usual Notice of its dispatch either, has not been sent to me, though this is usually done during an interval of 2 or 3 months.

Such being the case therefore, and having no other medium or alternative to submit these proceedings to the Secretary of State than through the English Press in an Appeal to the people of England, I thought it best to apprize Your Grace of my intention, ere I should do so, as I would prefer having the case settled here at once without further Expence and trouble; and with the most respectful apologies I beg to remain

Your Grace's most humble and obdt Servt

18th Novr 1880 J Croom (Senior)

In conclusion I now beg to observe that I stated above, that the whole sum and substance of this matter relating to money stopped for Bunds, are contained in this and the Enclosed printed Petition. The whole matter is suspended on but two points. The first is, that this case claiming money stopped for Bunds was, or was not considered by, or passed through Govt.

If the Endorsement therefore that this case has passed through Govt is a correct one, or in other words - that the Petition claiming money Exclusively stopped for Bunds was so considered and passed through Govt, then the Petition previous to it, that caused such an Endorsement, as well as the Petition ~~A B C~~ that bears the Endorsement should be produced,

if not, it is an Evasive or mistaken one. and such a test would be a sure one to silence me.

The second point on which this case hinges, is the opposing statement given by Col Moberly (the District Engineer) and Mr Harringtons friendly colleague.

At the very onset, when this claim was first submitted to Mr Barlow, the (then) Collector of Chingleput, he clearly saw through my claim, and at once wrote to Col Moberly to inform him of the Exact amount so stopped for the Bunds in order to refund the money to me; Col Moberly in return wrote after long intervals some Evasive replies which Mr Barlow could not conscientiously accept and returned them to him as such.

Mr Barlow is on the hills, and could testify to the whole proceeding. After many months or several years however, Col Moberly devised another ambiguous reply, which was— "The Bunds were included in the valuation".—

Had Mr Barlow not known, that he would have fallen into protracted and useless contest, if he requested Col Moberly to give him a clearer definition of this ambiguous reply, he might have done so; but it seems clear that he dropped the matter in disgust, and sent it to me.

Lastly I beg to observe, that in stating "the Bunds were in the valuation", he could never show nor prove this, and never attempted to do so; and he cannot explain how or where they are so included. If so included, they ought to be shown or certified somway or other in the Estimate. In short there is not the slightest immaginable clue to show this.

What accounts for this treatment is,

that he was a friendly colleague of Mr Harringtons my stern opposer. The estimation in which he Col. M. is held by Govt for what he has more than once been brought to their notice, is well known abroad; and when the Estimate for this work was made, he was not in this Dept. and up to this day, he has not mentioned the amount so stopped for the Bunds, &c &c.

When an Estimate is made for Govt work, without Exception they are always very Explicit, so much so, that Even an Annas worth of nails or Even bricks is marked in the Estimate; and who could believe that in a work of hundreds of Rupees, not an item of its valuation would be recorded in the Estimate?

In short I beg to observe finally, that if I had raised the Bunds at the rate of 3 Ans 4 per cubic yard, and submitted a bill for them, I would have been asked in return to show the dimensions and charge in the Estimate which contains not a word of the kind

Having now clearly Explained the whole matter, I leave it to the decision of Government and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient servant J Groom (Senior)

23rd April 1881

Pursewaukum — Tannah Street Madras

P.S. The amount stopped for the Bunds could be ascertained from the District Engineer, Chingleput District

Petition from Mr
Croom. 23d April 1881.

—

Transferred to the
Chief Secretary to
Government.

(By order)

Wm C. Wallace
Private Secretary

Govt House
Ootacamund
17th June 1881

P.W. 3408/81
2

P. & Jn. (1881) Department

From
The Private Secretary to the
Right Hon. the Governor

To
The Chief Secretary to Govt.

R. D.
18 MAY 81
Pr. 3408/87

Dated 17th
Recd 28th } May 1881.

Enclosures 3.

CURRENT No. 1048
Subject

Transfers a petition
from Mr Croom requesting
that a certain sum due
to him may be refunded.

States that by an official
- official conspiration got
up by Mr. Harrington, the
Engineer, who was at enmity
with petitioner, he has been
granted in reply to his
former petitions to Govt.,
an evasive reply to the
effect that his case
would not be reopened, which
it was never before Govt.;
that Rs 500 due to him
for work done on contract
has been unjustly withheld
by the authorities.

Prays that his
claim for the said Rs 500
may be duly considered
by and admitted by
the honest Government.

Encl 3—8—80 N 1383

Str. N. 3408

Petition (1881) Department.

W

From Mr. J. Croom
(Senior)
Purseywakkam
Madras

No.

C.E. No. 1455 d/18th June/81

Dated 29th April

Recd. 2nd May 1881.

Rev. 8 June

No. Enclos: 4

CURRENT No. 1048

Subject.

Refund of certain
Amounts

O.g.b.81. R. 11/6/81.

P. W. D.

No 1455 of 18th June 1881

Endorsement

An petition from Mr J. Croom d/ 23 April last 1881.

Petitioner is referred to endorsement dated 3d August 1880, on his letter of the 9th June 1880, which must be considered final.

CC?

CL

4/6/81

To Petitioner — Dear 18/6/81

S.to W.

What is all this about — Have we any Records of the Case? [illegible]

24.8.82

[illegible]

Mr Croom's case has been before Govt several times, since the endorsement of 3 August 1880, he was told that the Govt. being satisfied from the fullest scrutiny that his claim "has been fully considered, must decline to re-open the matter".

Again in endorsement No 1455 of 18.6.81 he was told that the above decision must be considered final.

He appears to have a right to submit a memorial with the

C.E. No 1455 d/ 18th June/81

(10)

Civil/60 2/82.

Rs. 9.6.82 Rs. 16/6/82

To

Lieut Col Ross Shortt R.E. Under Secretary to Govt in the P.W. Dept &c &c &c.

Sir

In presuming to take the liberty to address you, I respectfully beg to state that I felt encouraged to do so, to relieve myself of a long standing grievance, when I heard of your magnanimity and exemplary disposition spoken of in the strongest terms while in conversation on the matter of this grievance.

Being driven to the necessity of submitting my case to Govt, I beg to state, that I have herewith Enclosed the same, to which I beg to solicit your carefull attention; and in order to Explain any point or matter that may in any way seem obscure, I beg to state further, that I mean avail myself of your kindness in waiting upon you at the Office a day or two hence, to submit any Explanation that the case may require

I also beg to state, that having sustained immense loss through the long and wilful procrastination of this case as herein shown in the Petition, I humbly hope that the loss thereby entailed may prompt you if possible to accelerate the settlement of this case for which I must feel most thankful. And as it is necessary in venturing upon the notice of a gentleman, to submit any testimonial of character, I have appended the following:

The following was given before the late Archdeacon's departure to England.

DEAR MR. CROOM,—It is now many years since I have known you. All that I have seen and heard of you, entitles you to my very sincere regard. I should be very happy to hear that you have succeeded in the appointment for which you tell me you are a candidate. You may make what use of this letter you please.

Believe me, yours faithfully,
(Signed) THOMAS DEALTRY.

MADRAS, 25th *February*.

[illegible], with the following [illegible] of the Petition Rules of Govt, and a former very relevant Endorsement on my Petition, as will be seen further on.

I Groom Esq for many years, and always heard him spoken of"

(Signed) S. Percival – Chaplain

Nagapattam 29th June 1878

With the above I now beg to include with respectful apologies for this intrusion and to remain Sir

Your most obedient Servant

J Groom (Senr)

Purswawkum
Ysakenpet's Street
Madras
24th April 1882

Rec'd 24 April 82

G.O. 600 - 24-2-73.
" 452 - 23-2-74
Despatches 10 - 26-2-74
G.O. 1516 - 9-6-74
" 5167 - 5-3-80
Ltr. 1455 - 18-6-81

B

No 1191 Dated 10th May

Petition returned under rule 5 of the revised petition rules and with reference to endorsement No 1455 dated 18th June 1881.

C. W. Ottley
3/5/82
for Chief Secy

To The Petitioner, with petition returned & copy of Rule

Despd 11/5.
Entd. in Receipt & Disp. Regr.

Do 3/5

Rec'd 8/5

unfounded reports, I find withal that we should have concern
the opinions of superiors.

COPY

To the Right Honorable Montstewart Elphinstone Grant Duff – Governor of Madras

&c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

I most respectfully beg to state, that knowing as I do, the manifold and multifarious duties that demand Your Excellency's attention, it is somewhat painful for me to be put to the necessity of adding to this burden, in submitting this Petition for Your Excellency's perusal. But as the full force of the claim on Govt herein shown, could be very clearly seen only in this following Summary of the same, and being on the other hand thrown into very straitened circumstances by the long procrastination of this claim, I humbly beg Your Excellency's forbearance, in the leisurely perusal of this case.

The enclosed I beg to add, is a Petition claiming 4 or 500 Rs wrongly withheld from me in the matter of some Bundy through an overtight of an Engineer. It was sent to the Secretary of the P.W. Dept for submission to Govt, and if Col. Sankey the Secretary who is reputed for his zeal in the Dept, had the slightest grounds to disprove this claim, he would certainly have stated them in returning the Petition to me. But having no such grounds, he has taken the only available alternative in doing so, with the following Rule 5 of the Petition Rules of Govt, and a former very irrelevant Endorsement on my Petition, as will be seen further on.

This Rule 5 I beg to state runs thus:
"The Govt having passed one order on any Appeal made to it, it will not notice a second Petition on the same subject unless it contains some new and important matter."

Now I beg to observe, that the Govt must have framed this Rule for some reasonable intentions, to save their Officials unnecessary labor in wading through a Petition over and over, and particularly petitions involved in obscurity or uncertainty; and though this rule could be utilized to cut both ways as in the present instance against obscure claims, as well as the most vivid and indisputable, which of course brings the Govt into disrepute, it could not have been intended by an honest Govt, that when the Secretary discovers a claim to be valid and indisputable or evasively treated as very much so in this instance, that he should withhold the facts of the case from Govt, and make no Exception whatever in treating it according to the said Rule. And I beg to state, that I need hardly say, that such a proceeding implies, that any poor man's money is admitted to be knowingly withheld and put into the hands of the Govt. It cannot however be assumed, that the proceeding in this case is intentional in such a direction on the part of the Secretary, but such uncompromising adherance to this Rule, I beg to observe, leads to such a result.

Again I beg to add, that this Rule claims "new and important matter". With reference to this, it is left for your Excellency to say, if it does not amount to the same thing ("new and important matter") when necessary information is withheld by the Secretary to a request which forms the very basis on which this Petition is founded; and which information he knows would strengthen my claim, although the request has been repeatedly sub-

mitted to him; and a honest Govt would by no means recognize such a proceeding, as explained as follows:

When this Petition was submitted the very first time to Govt, it was returned to me with the following irrelavent endorsement, viz, "this case cannot be reopened"; while it was never previously submitted to them, and the cause of this subtle mode of opposition is clearly explained in the Petition

Such being the case therefore, I wrote a letter to Col. Sankey the Secretary, informing him of this irrelavent Endorsement, and added, that there was no previous Petition sent to Govt claiming money Exclusively stopped for Bonds that could have elicited such an Endorsement; and that if there was, such a Petition should be produced to evidence me; but no such Petition has been nor can be produced. And I beg Your Excellency to notice another irrelavent reply to this request in the following Endorsement:-

"August 3rd 1880, on Pr 1388 of 1880."

"The Govt being satisfied from the fullest scrutany, that the claim now advanced by Mr Croom has been duly considered, must decline to open his case."

Dissatisfied with this Endorsement also, which had no reference whatever to my request to produce the Petition that elicited the first irrelavent Endorsement, I wrote another letter to Col Sankey reiterating the same request, and the result was a third irrelavent Endorsement as follows

"18th June 1881. Endorsement on Petition from Mr J Croom dated 23rd May 1881"

Petitioner is ~~informed~~ referred to Endorsement dated 8th August" (the one just quoted) "on his letter of 9th June 1880, which must be considered final"

It is therefore left for Your Excellency to say, how people are to recover their money wrongfully withheld by officials by this manner of dealing.

Owing to this manner of treating this case, I beg to state, that I very much regret to find myself, as one in such an insignificant position as I am to Col Sankey, to be put to the necessity to ask Your Excellency if the manner in which this case has been treated as shown above is fair, in Col Sankey concealing from me and the Govt, the fact that no such Petition was previously sent to Govt, that could have elicited the first evasive Endorsement viz, "This case cannot be reopened", in a claim submitted to Govt for money stopped exclusively for Bands, and Mr Harrington must have misrepresented me most grievously to his friends to cause them to act as they have done

In short I beg to add with all deference, that previous to witnessing the treatment of this case, I could never have believed that proceedings of this character were possibly admissible on the part of Officials in the proceedings of Govt - the people of the country at all Events are not yet aware of such a possibility as far as my knowledge Extends

In short I beg to state that I can trace this treatment to nothing else, but an official conspiration, set up to injure me by an Executive Engineer Mr Harrington, who made the stoppage of this money from my bill, and who betrayed an inveterate feeling against me, in a very abusive letter to the Salt Dept, the Superintendant of which informed me, that he was ashamed to read it to me; and this feeling was Engendered as follows:

The Govt long Evinced a desire for an Economical method of heaping up and storing their salt, and I had a contract in this work. So to Economize my work, I went to great Expence in constructing a portable wooden Tramway with trucks, so that instead of Each man carrying a basket of salt, one man could run up a mans load a hundred yards to the storing ground.

5

When Mr Harrington's predecessor (Mr Fraser) saw this, and though it was a very simple yet useful invention - the mere result of a thought, Mr Fraser betrayed an ill feeling in Endeavouring to prejudice the Deputy Colr against it, and said it was mechanically incorrect, because the tramway was not brought up to the boat of salt at the waters edge; but as this slope, of the bank was an omission of only 8 yards out of of a hundred, the objection was very plausibly and I replied that the Railway was likewise so, as people had to travel to the Station Era they sat in the Carriage

At this time, I was new in the Dept, and from Mr Frasers swarthy complexion and his rambling in the sun, I took him for an Engineer of the ordinary class. Finding myself grieved therefore in his attempt to injure my work, I wrote to him about it, though not disrespectfully - addressing as W Fraser Esqre; but it was a plain speaking letter, and the most that I might have said was, that the Contract and Tramway were mine, and he was not deputed to interfere

When Mr Harrington succeeded him, it would appear that some of the bribe-taking clerks, who wished me out of the Dept showed him this letter, and though I never saw him, nor he me, he became highly Exasperated, and threatened to injure me

Mr Harrington was a gentleman of a very stormy and violent disposition; for when in a fit of anger, his voice would reverberate through his office with oaths and curses, and throw his clerks into such a panic as to remind one of frightened horses standing mute and pricking up their Ears.

Lastly I beg to add, that as stated above, I

I could only trace the abortive proceedings to an official confederation to injure me. Mr Harrington and the Hon Mr Ellis were very close friends, for they both lived together. Mr Ellis again was a Member of Govt, who decided these cases for Govt. Being aware of this, that Mr Ellis may not be able to resist the influence of his friend, I took an abnormal course, in dispatching the Petition direct to the Duke of Buckingham, assigning my reason for doing so

At this time His Grace was under preparation to proceed to Delhi, and the Petition was sent to Govt. When I found it had gone through Govt and was returned to me I felt sure of a "dodging reply ere I opened it, and on opening it sure enough it was so — "This case cannot be reopened". And now the Secretary of the P.W. Dept, instead of informing me at my humble request submitted to him more once, if there existed a previous Petition that elicited such an Evasive Endorsement, he persists to be silent in the matter, and sends me modified replies on the Evasive Endorsement; and I therefore beg to ask Your Excellency if this is a right and just proceeding.

Mr Ellis on the other hand I beg to observe was capable of having deliberately put this Evasive Endorsement, for to say nothing else, he was known to have used his influence with an Official to reinstate a native Official to his post, after he had been summarily dismissed the Service for Embezzlement in a Dept which was very open to it, instead of having as a well paid protector of the State, brought the culprit before a public tribunal. This is well known abroad and I am prepared to prove it

Besides Mr Ellis, Col Mobaly a close colleague of Mr Harringtons also in the same Dept, very defiantly opposed the Collector with repeated Evasive replies

when the latter had seen through my claim and required to know the exact amount to stopped in order to pay me. Mr Barlow now Commissioner of Coimbatore and then the Collector, who in every instance would not accept from me replies; and if Your Excellency would kindly hand over these papers to that gentleman to revise his memory, he could enlighten Your Excellency in the matter, and show the obstacles I have sustain, and the stern opposition I had met with. And with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion and the humble hope that Your Excellency will look into this matter I beg to remain with all deference

Your Excellency's most humble and
obedient Servant J Croom (Senior)

Purswawkum Tscherpeh's Street
Madras

15th day 1852

To

His Excellency the Right Honorable Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff,

Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it Please Your Excellency—

In submitting this petition, I most respectfully beg to state, that since the year 1871, there is a claim due to me by Govt. to the amount of (4 or 500) four or five hundred Rupees, withheld from me by an oversight of an Engineer in the matter of some lands; and from that time to this, no definite result has been realized, and the replies to my petition savor only of misunderstandings and opposition from the three official sources of appeal, viz, the Collector, the Board, and the Govt. But it will be seen, that Col. Moberly R.E. is the sole cause, not only of the withholding of this money, but also of the long procrastination of this case, as will be seen, was through no fault of mine; and in speaking of Col Moberly, I beg to state, that I do so with all deference to his rank.

On the honest understanding therefore, that if the money was mine then, it is mine now, and as it will be seen, that Col Moberly was the sole cause of the misunderstandings and intentional oppositions, as well as to wilful procrastination of this case — and as it will be further

In No 12 of 1882

sam, that this case has been said to have been settled, while in not a single instance it has been shown, that such was the case, nor Even that the claim has been disproved; but that in Every instance from first to last, the replies so sent to me, were in Effect simply that — "This case cannot be reopened", while it cannot Even be shown that I submitted a previous petition claiming money stopped for bunds, and which previous petition alone could have elicited such an Endorsement; for the very first Petition I submitted for this claim was returned with the above Endorsement, viz, "This case cannot be reopened"; and this appears to me to have been the work of an official confederation which might be traced further on.

I now beg to state that when I first put forth this claim, I submitted it to Mr Barlow, the Collector of the Chinglaput District. In doing so therefore, he saw so clearly through the claim, that he at once wrote to Col Moberly the District Engineer to inform him of the exact amount to withheld by an oversight for the Bunds in order to pay me; but Col Moberly would not do so,* but repeatedly sent the Collector unsatisfactory replies, as Mr Barlow himself told me he could not accept them; and the Evasive nature of these replies could be seen by a reference to the correspondence thereon in the District Engineer's office, through which correspondence itself, the claim could be traced; and this correspondence was kept up I believe between the years 187[illegible] and 76.

Besides the above remarks relative to irregular Endorsements, I beg to observe further, that the Govt

* The cause of this oppression is shown further on.

and the mistaken inference that this case had been considered by Govt, I beg to observe, that the Govt in their integrity kept with Rule, given full latitude to Petitioners in their "Rules of the Service" in admitting the reconsideration of a case when so treated as above (from the text of the rule at all Events) as well as in the Event of a Petitioner submitting more tangible and Explicit proof of his claim, to that of a previous Petition that may have been more or less obscure; and as this present Petition is now so framed as to see though it without a shadow of doubt, I therefore beg to solicit a careful consideration of the same.

I showed above, Col Moberly's determined opposition to the Collector in refusing to inform him of the amount to withheld from my money, without being able to assign cause why he was doing so; and this circumstance itself shows that he was obviously certain that the money was mine, and was doing his best to thwart my claim, and that if he had the slightest grounds to dispute this claim, he would rather have Explained the grounds, than (with due deference I tell it) send him Evasive replies. Such replies too I beg to add, were sent after long intervals of months; and after I had written to the Collector to say, that the interest of this money was accumulating by the long protraction of this case, Col Moberly's subsequent replies were delayed longer again.

While therefore the amount to be communicated to the Collector could have been ascertained within five minutes by reference to his Ledger, and if Col Moberly had only done his duty, rather than trouble himself in the oppression of a poor man so much beneath his notice, and who in his lifetime had never been written to him nor seen him, this case would have been there

and then settled, so that the protraction of this case is solely due to Col Moberly and no fault of mine, to say nothing of my frequent absence periodically from Madras in search and execution of work in the Mofussil as a Musical instrument repairer to obtain my subsistance.

After so protracting the settlement of this case therefore, he at last thought of a very plausible reply, which required a little depth of thought to solve; and believing these Authorities, the Sec and the Bd were wearied with the contest, I then resorted to Govt, and the very first Petition I submitted to Govt on this matter, it was returned to me with the following endorsement — This case cannot be reopened when it was never previously submitted Govt, and the subsequent appeals in reference to it were to the same effect. and having reason to believe that some untoward influence would be exercised in this direction also, I resorted to abnormal course in so submitting it to Govt as will shown further on.

I now beg to show how this ill-will was engendered. I was a Contractor in the Salt Dept in Madras; and it was a practice with some of the Subordinates of the Executive Engineer's (Mr Harrington's) office to Exact presents (or rather bribes) from the native Contractors. They soon asked me for the same. But as this is a practice I could not stoop to, and is very rarely known among Europeans or Eurasians, and as I as one of the latter, having always given a deaf ear to their hints in this matter, I came to understand that they put me out of the good graces of Mr Harrington; a gentleman who previously dealt kindly with me.

Since the disappointment of these subordinates therefore, he evinced a contrary feeling towards me; for natives who so require bribes must naturally have an aversion to those who do not recognize such practices, and who may some day inform the Official; and on the other hand, as the substitution of a bribe-taking class would not only not Endanger them but add to their gains, they have an Easy way of accomplishing their ends by the invention of malicious stories of their own concocting, and the more stinging offence such stories could give, the surer their success; and such practices through anonymous letters must invariably prove successful; and this practice of achieving their Ends through anonymous letters is generally in Depts where the native element predominates. and if it was not to conceal this practice, I was made to understand, that a letter of mine to Mr Fraser — Mr Harrington's predecessor, was the cause of this feeling, but this was too mild a matter to induce me to believe it.

The said letter to Mr originated thus: I had a contract to keep the Govt salt, and I made a very simple wooden tramway, that would Enable one man to run up a truck with 4 mds load about a hundred yards to the storing ground. This cost me about 3 or 4 rupees, and was done very Economical work.

Mr Fraser was then Executive Engr, and being new in the Dept I did not understand his position; but from his swarthy complexion, and his rambling in the sun, I had him in my mind as a middling class gentleman, and that was as much as I knew of him; and when I came to understand that he was prejudicing the mind of the Sd Collector against the Tramway, wherever there

was no reason to do so, I then wrote as respectful a letter as I would to any of the class I thought him to be of the subordinate order, addressing it to W. Fraser Esqre, and informing him of what I heard, and added, that the contract and tramway were mine, and that he was not deputed to interfere; and up to this day I do not think that was saying too much to a subordinate Engineer as I took him to be; but when I afterwards understood his true rank and position, I then apologized to him, and he afterwards spoke well to me. But it looks as if it would require offence of far greater magnitude to cause this extent of the oppression by Mr Harrington and his colleague Col Moberly in their reckless opposition to insure me.

But apart from all this, in loosing the good graces of Mr. Harrington, but looking into the merits of the case itself, I beg to state, that during the time that this ill-feeling existed, I was executing some Govt work to the amount of 3,550 Rs, in excavating silt from some salt channels (wet) and Mr. Harrington was to measure this work.

In doing so therefore, he deducted 1690 Rs from my bill; and this deduction was very questionable, because the object of the Govt was realized in all the salt boats usually used to bring away the salt, being floated out without the slightest inconvenience or detriment to Govt; and though it was shown moreover, that heavy rains had fallen in the District, and considerably resulted these excavations, as proved by the Dy Collr and other officials who resided there, the Collector also remarked, he made no allowance, and I had to suffer this heavy loss.

I now beg to show, that the items of charges in the Estimate out of the full amount of 3,550 Rs which were as follows,

	Rs	a	p
For the excavation of silt alone	3,526	4	0
For tamping Bunds (not making Bunds) and sundries	23	12	0
Total	3,550	0	0

Thus therefore it is seen, that nothing remains for any thing else, but Mr Harrington must have merely glanced over the Estimate when he saw Bunds thereon mentioned, and failing to see that little bunds were to be made of the excavated mud, such as it might be, to keep in a little rippling water, and that consequently no charges nor dimensions were put for them in the Estimate, which it will be seen further on he failed to notice, and thinking they were to be the usual large bunds 8 yards wide and one yard high that seperate large sheets of water, he deducted 4 or 500 Rs from my bill accordingly, and this is the money I am now claiming for.

I had loss enough I beg to observe, in about half the money of excavation work while Govt realized fully the object of that work, and now 4 or 500 Rs out of the same money for bunds that were not intended to be paid for, I beg to state deserves liberal and liberal consideration.

I further beg to add, that a few months after Mr. Harrington had made the deduction of the 1,690 Rs from my bill, I happened to discover, that by an oversight he had included in the said stoppage made for excavation work, this sum of 4 or 500 Rs which he stopped for bunds also, which were not to be paid for in the Estimate, and these 4 or 500 Rs made up the full stoppage of the 1690 Rs; and how this oversight was detected I now beg to show.

In the said Estimate of this work of Excavation, a few insignificant bunds also were to be made of some of the Excavated mud, to keep within bounds a little rippling water that used to go a little out of the line of the channel, causing thereby a swamp about the place, but no dimensions, and consequently no charges were put for them in the Estimate; and the Sub-Engineer Mr Smithers who made the Estimate gave me to understand, that bunds of a span high would answer that purpose; and that the Excavated silt, such as it might be, instead of being indiscriminately thrown away, could be deposited in a line on the side of the channel; and consequently he put no dimensions nor charges for them in the Estimate, save the 23 Rs, 12 Annas for tamping them and for sundries; and only one channel of the 3 was to have them, and I made them accordingly. His having omitted to put the dimensions and charges for them in the Estimate therefore, is, I beg to submit, an indication clear enough of the truth of this statement

The bunds so produced therefore were about a foot and a quarter high and broad, and dried must have dwindled to 2 thirds of the original, and seemed to answer their purpose. But although there will be seen further on incontestable evidence of all this, but to make doubly sure, and as it is likely Mr Smithers may have some Memo or recollection of this matter, in the Estimates he made for Mr Harrington in December 1870, in which this No 4 Vellore salt-channel is included, a copy of this Petition, and the Estimate dispatched to him for report, to some part of the Presidency wherever he may be, may settle this matter at once

The discovery of this mistake in money to stopped for the bunds therefore I beg to state I made

a few months had submitted my petition to the Authorities against the stoppage of the 1690 Rupees not at stopped for Bund money, for I then knew nothing of stopped for Bunds; but the petition I had sent to Govt, was against stoppage for Excavation work, for there were no bunds to be paid for in the Estimate; and my discovery of the Engineers mistake will be traced in the following paras.

When the Engineers letter or report of his measurements came to the Deputy Collectors office, the Dy Collector (a Brahmin) sent for me, and read some portions only of that letter to me, and in asking him for a perusal of it, he said he may not be justified in complying to the request, for he understood Mr Harrington's feeling towards me, as he had on a former occasion written such an adverse letter against me, that the Govt had censured him for it; The Deputy Collector however told me distinctly, that the stoppage from my bill was 1690 Rupees, and never spoke of Excavation nor bunds; and knowing there was no payment for bunds, as the latter, I petitioned against the stoppage for Excavation work without a word about bunds.

While this petition against the stoppage of the 1690 Rs therefore was with Govt, and I received a reply, I then only discovered that 4 or 500 Rs were stopped by a mistake for bunds also, and was mixed up with the stoppage for Excavation; and in order to recover this Bund money in a seperate petition, I at once wrote a P.S. to the Secy to Govt dated 24th March 1872, informing him of the mistake, and consequently withdrawing any claim in that petition relating to Bunds, in order to petition seperately against that stoppage, first to the Collr, then to the Board and last to Govt.

having to withdraw any claim for money for bunds from that petition therefore, the said petition was decided and settled by Govt granting an allowance of 150 Rs in consideration of my fourth as they said. After this settlement therefore it was, that I stated this petition claiming money stopped for Bunds; and the very first time I submitted it, I received the following Endorsement as shown above "This case cannot be reopened" while up to this day it cannot be shown that a previous petition claiming money stopped for Bunds had been submitted so as to elicit such an Endorsement.

On the 3rd last para above, I proceeded to show how I discovered this mistaken "stoppage for bunds. Some months after the Dy Colr LD read the Engineers report of my work done, it occurred to my recollection that I had some criticisms in that report about the Bunds, and rather than lose my reputation as a Contractor, and thinking in my own mind that the Bunds may not have been neatly done, I wrote to Mr Harrington to know what was yet to be done to them. He then endorsed my letter to say that he had given his Overseer instructions to inform me about them; and it was now that I fairly discovered Mr Harrington's oversight, when his Overseer (who is still in Madras at Poodoopet) wrote and sent me the following Estimate and letter, which Estimate was not at all in my Estimate of the 3,550 Rs, out of which 350 Rs he made the stoppage of the 4 or 500 Rs for these Bunds and included them in the Estimate and Excavation work

The following therefore is the letter and estimate sent to me by his Overseer

"To Mr Coom

Estimate — Statement and Memorandum of work to be executed in Channel N 4 at Vellore

for raising bunds"

" L — B — D raising eastern and western banks
" Yds — Yds — Yds
" 220 × 2 × 1 = 440 } From 7th to 6th furlong stone
" 220 × 2 × 1 = 440 }
" 226 × 2 × 1 = 440 } From 6th to 5th do do
" 220 × 2 × 1 = 440 }
" 167 × 2 × 1 } raising east bank from 4th to 5th do
" 220 × 2 × 1 } raising west from do to do

"Total amount of cubic yards 2,534"

"The section for raising the bund will be thus — The top breadth of the bund will be one yard, and the bottom 3 yards with a side slope from one to one. The perpendicular height will be one yard, and I think this will show you in what manner the work is to done. I have pointed out to your mean the locality where the earth is to be taken from

I am Yours truly
25th August 1871 } (signd) A. Kappoopillay
Poodoopet }

I now beg to state, that having discovered Mr Harrington's mistake, I then wrote again, the following letter, to ascertain this mistake more Explicitly, and sent it to him.

"My dear Kpoo pillay

In sending your letter about the bunds in N° 4 Vellore Channel, you forgot to put down the rate. It is true you told me it is to be according to the channel Estimate which is 3 & 4 pies per cubic yard, but as without mentioning it in the letter it makes it

"incomplete. You had better therefore put a P.S to the
"letter and state - "the rate for the above work is 3 Rs 4 pies
"per cubic yard" and return it per bearer".

"I am Yours truly

"18th Dec 1881" "Hroom

To this letter of mine the Overseer replied in a foot-note as follows;

"As the work is to be done out of the former Estimate * you will be entitled to get the former rates if you do your work as per letter. There is no necessity in giving you the former rates in your former letter"

(Initialed H. H.)

By the above therefore I beg to state, that it is incontestably shown that Mr Harrington by his own Estimate above proves that he made the stoppage for the bunds through an oversight, and that the money so stopped for the bunds is mine; and if it cannot be shown that it is not to be withheld through his mistake, I need hardly ask the Govt in their integrity to restore it; and in their doing so after a careful scrutiny into the matter it would relieve me of the pecuniary difficulties the withholding of it helped to throw me into, and I would feel most thankful for the same.

In Mr Harrington sending me that Estimate however, I had no desire to accept the work, and withdrew from the contract.

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* He meant the same Estimate of 355 Rs for Excavation work, for I had no other, and the rate was 3 Rs 4 pies per cubic yard.

With regard to Col. Moberly's plausible reply to the Colr and the Board, I beg to state, that the following observations will both refute that reply, and further corroborate Mr Harrington's mistake.

Col Moberly's plausible reply to the Colr and the Board whom I believed to be weary of further contention with him, and which induced me to resort to the Govt - that reply after several unsatisfactory ones was - "The bunds were included in the valuation". If so, honest dealing would have suggested, that it should have been to mentioned in the Estimate; and if it had been even verbally communicated to the Contractor, there would have been some approach towards fair dealing; but when even verbal communications are not admissible, but fairly legible and written ones in every Govt transaction, it is left for any body to say why the interests of others should be so endangered. And with all deference - and I beg to be excused when I state, that Col Moberly himself would by no means admit of such a vague and subtle mode of dealing in matters in which his own interests may be concerned. Besides, if they were to included, he would have discussed this at the onset, and proved it too if he could.

On the other hand again, Mr Harrington, who sanctioned the Estimate, and ought to know better, it is to be seen, does not at all show that he was of that opinion, when he ordered as shown above, a fresh estimate for the bunds, and as nothing could be clearer, this at once, I beg to state settles the matter. And again, if I made these bunds without dimensions and charges in the Estimate, I would be asked to show

of the amount to stopped for the bunds, and not Evaded the request as now shown for 3 or 4 years to oppress a poor man

After ceasing to petition the Colr and the Board, in believing they were wearied with the contest, I then proceeded to petition the Govt. But not until now was I able to see through this case as I have defined it above. Nevertheless I prepared one for Govt; but having experienced so much opposition, and so long as Mr Harrington and Col. Meberly had a hand in the matter, knowing they were close Colleagues, and on the other hand, that the Hon. Mr Ellis who decided these cases for Govt, was an intimate friend of Mr Harrington's - the both having lived together - wherefore I first submitted this Bund case to Govt, I took an abnormal course in sending it direct to the Duke of Buckingham, assigning my reasons for doing so. This was about the latter end of the year 1877.

At this time His Grace was under preparation for a start to Delhi, and he sent it to Govt. The next year when it returned to me from Govt, I was scarcely surprised in reading the Endorsement which was something of what I expected of opposition, and it was this: "This claim cannot be reopened", though it cannot be shown that this Petition claiming money stopped exclusively for bunds was ever before submitted to Govt by me; and I beg to observe that Mr Ellis was capable of putting such an Endorsement to evade this claim to gratify his friends, and can assign good reason for saying so, which reason I omit here to be valid; and if I am to assign that reason, to say nothing else, I have no hesitation in saying, that an unjustifiable act of his is well known abroad in having aided a Native official, who was summarily dismissed the service for something like Embezzlement, in using his influence with the Head Official in reinstating him to his post, without placing him before a public tribunal; and the only matter of regret is, that the Head Official being a perfect gentleman and as such beloved and respected wherever he is known, should have yielded to his influence;

them in the Estimate ere I could expect to be paid for them.

I further beg to add, that I very much regret, that of my insignificance I should, to protect my own interest, be compelled to contend with one of Col. Meberly's rank in such kind of dealing - the more to in consideration of the deference to deservedly due to the majority of his Community.

Although incontestably proved above, the following will likewise shew that bunds were never included in the valuation.

1st By Mr Harrington's fresh Estimate, which was not in my Estimate.

2nd By the rate in the Estimate Exactly corresponding with the amount of silt to be Excavated in the channels, and nothing remaining.

3rd By looking at the amt to stopped for the bunds, which could be ascertained in the Ledger of the District Engineers office, and comparing it with Mr Harrington's Estimate above shown, making it may be any allowance for the span bunds made of the Excavated silt

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I now beg to conclude in explaining matters in reference to the treatment of this case.

Though this claim for this bund money was started sometime between the years 1873 and 74, it would have been settled the self same period had Col Meberly but done his duty in informing the Colr

nor would I even have mentioned this (which am prepared to prove) were I not not necessitated to support my claim.

During the whole of my life I beg to observe, that holding as I ever did in my estimation the English aristocracy as the most refined community in the world, I never thought them capable of such treatment so much so, that after perusing that Endorsement, I began to suspect some oversight of my own — but nothing of the kind; and I was obliged to arrive at the conclusion, that Mr. Ellis was unable to resist the influence of his friends

On receiving this Endorsement therefore, I wrote to the Duke of Buckingham informing him of this, and the matter must have been referred to the Secretary P.W.D., for I received a reply from the Private Secy. stating that the claim was considered by Govt. But knowing full well how the matter stood, and that the Secy of the P.W.D. could not so inform the Governor to mislead, he must without suspicion have looked in good faith at the very Petition that contained the evasive Endorsement, without looking to see if there was a previous Petition, ~~that Endorsement~~ claiming money stopped exclusively for bunds, and which Elicited such an Endorsement; it may be Petition could be produced, the Secretary's report & and if such a not have been an oversight. But up to this day His Grace could produced.
it has not been

Besides the probability in the Secy informing the Governor, that the claim was considered by Govt in favor having so informed, trying to bear out the evasive Endorsement without finding "the one ~~the~~ probability exists which is as follows:-

On two different occasions, I petitioned Govt. on two different claims, though the both were more or less blended into one. The one therefore was for Excavation claim, and after that was entirely settled, I submitted the present one for money stopped for bunds. In the first claim therefore for 1690 Rs stopped for Excavation work, there was mixed up through the mistake of the Engr. the 4 or 500 Rs I am now claiming for bunds; and it may be this slight complication may have thrown the Secy out, in having found that the first Petition in which the bund money was also mixed had been finally settled.

I now beg to show, that this claim for Bund money was never as yet considered by Govt., nor have I as yet had a single reply to disprove it, or to show that it was in any way invalid. The replies were from first to last, what merely implied "this case cannot be reopened". Then another - "It has been considered with the greatest scrutiny, and must be considered, finally" but, whilst not one to disprove the claim accompanies those replies, it is left to Govt with all deference to say, if this is fair dealing, though I do not believe it is their principle thus to shut out a fair claim; and as I have no reason to suspect the Secretaries of any complicity with Mr. Ellis, their implicit reliance on his Endorsement must have led to this mode of decision. But whether it was so considered by Govt or not, I beg to submit, that in this present Petition at all events, there is sufficient to show without a shadow of doubt for more incontestably than the former Petition that the money stopped for the Bunds is mine; and if it was mine then, it is mine now; for the Govt in their integrity as I stated above, has given full latitude to petitioners,

in their "Rules of the Service" in admitting the reconsideration of a claim when to treated as above, as well as in the event of a petitioner submitting a more Explicit proof of his claim to that in a previous Petition that may have been more or lefs obscure.

Lastly I beg to state, that while not a single reply from Govt had shown that my claim could be or was disproved, and being perfectly dissatisfied with the proceedings of this case, I at once drew up a Petition to the Secretary of State; and after printing it dated November 1879, I dispatched it with Enclosures and Estimate dated Jany 1880 to the Secretary P.W.D. for dispatch through Govt to His Lordship to England; and as a Notice of the dispatch of such petitions to the Secretary of State, is usually sent within 2 or 3 months to the Petitioner, and it being the opinion abroad that the officials who decide on these Petitions for His Lordship do so indifferently, I was awaiting the arrival of this Notice in ode to dispatch with the same Mail a private letter to His Lordship soliciting a personal perusal of the petition, and shewing the cause of such a necessity.

The absence of this Notice for 6 months therefore, induced me to believe that the packet so submitted to the Secretary P.W.D. at his office, containing my printed petition, Estimate and Enclosures to the Secretary of State must be lost, or purloined by some designing person in the office, as facilities for so doing seem to Exist from the absence of any acknowlegement of the receipt of a petition from the said office, which in Every instance I experienced; and there seems to be the likelihood of some advantage in so doing - for in another instance in going personally to the Post Office to ensure the delivery of a letter, for dispatch to the Hills to the

Governor, the Native postmaster asked me what the petition was for, and I told him it was a claim for money from Govt. But on returning home, I regretted having done so, in surmising that he may pervert it to suit what he could possibly turn it to his advantage; and sure enough, it never reached its destination.

I now beg to revert to my letter to the Secretary of State, six months having elapsed without a receipt of a Notice of its dispatch to the Secretary of State, I submitted a letter dated 9 June 1880 to the Secretary P.W.D. informing him of the same, & the latter I received an Endorsement of which I could make nothing; for there was not a word bearing on the subject of the letter; and that Endorsement was as follows:

"3d August 1880. Endorsement on No 1333 of 1880. The Govt being satisfied from the fullest scrutiny that the claim now advanced by Mr Crown has been duly considered must decline to reopen his case"

By ordr (Signature not very legible - I think Actg for Secretary) A.E.

Subsequently I beg to add, I submitted another to the same purpose about the non receipt of the Notice dated 23d May 1881 with the same result. The two letters had reference to a matter to the to the Secretary of State and not to Govt and the replies are in another direction; for the Endorsement I received to the also was quite irrelevant, and it was as follows:

"18th June 1881 Endorsement on petition from Mr J. Crown dated 23d May 1881. Petitioner is referred to Endorsement dated 3d August 1880 on his letter of June 9th 1880, which must be considered final"

Thus I beg to leave it to you, how

Thus I beg to observe it will be seen how evasive these Endorsements are to the above two letters explained above; and I regret to say they are not merely irrelevant while this occurs in no less than three instances, and these two last have emanated from Mr Ellis' first evasive Endorsement; and if these latter are from the pen of the Secretary they must be the result of the confidence he is in a manner bound to place in a Member of Govt; for from reports abroad of the high integrity of the Secretaries of this period, it cannot for a moment be supposed that they stain their reputation in so Endeavouring to deprive a poor man of his money, so much so, as to have brought him to the very verge of insolvency.

I beg to repeat, that during the whole course of my life, ~~I beg to state, I beg to observe~~ in holding as I ever did the English aristocracy in my humble estimation as the most refined community in the world, I never thought them capable of such kind of dealing, so much so, that after perusing the first Evasive Endorsement, I partly suspected some oversight of my own - but nothing of the kind; and then I was obliged to arrive at the conclusion that Mr. Ellis could not resist the influence of his friends.

Finally I beg to observe, that this claim being now herein clearly Established, and if Govt with the above Explanations could so see through it without a shadow of doubt, as well as through the loss of interest I long sustained through no fault of mine, and trusting to their honor and integrity, I beg to submit this case to their generous decision, and to their humane

consideration for any small allowance (such as it may be) they may be pleased to add for losses sustained for which act of benevolence I would ever feel most thankful and grateful, and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient Servant J Broom (Senior)

Ysherpet's Street
Purseywaukum Madras
24th April 1852

Ph 42577/82
13

Mo 82
3496/82

3

Copy of Rule 5 of the "Revised Rules respecting Petitions.

5. The Government having passed one order on any appeal made to it, will not notice a second petition on the same subject, unless it contains some new and important matter.

—

B Dy Ws.
9.5.82

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

~~UNDER~~ date the

Read the following :—

Petition from J. Croom (Senior) dated 24th April 1882.

Order No 1191 Wdy 10th May 82

Petition returned under rule 5 of the revised petition rules and with reference to endorsement No 1455 dated 18th June 1881.

/True Extract/

W. Thompson

Lt Col R.E

Ag Under Secy to Govt

P. W. D.

To The Petitioner, with petition returned & Copy of rule 5.

Dr No 1512 of 1882

Petition from Mr. J. Broome

Dated 15th May 1882

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to ~~Department~~.
Government,

(By Order.)

A. Awdry, Captain, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Wellington
23rd May 1882.

Petition

(1882) DEPARTMENT

From

THE Private SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

The Pol. Secretary TO GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT.

Dated 23rd
Recd. 24 } May 1882

ENCLOSURE.

No. _____

Subject.

Transfers a petition from Mr. J Croom praying that his claim may be early settled—

Qu

ABSTRACT.

Being dissatisfied by the contradictory Endorsements of the Govt on his former petitions states that he sustained loss owing to the non payment of the money amounting to Rs 4 or 500 Rs. Prays that under the circumstances herein set forth justice may be rendered to him by the early settlement of his claim.

PETITION DEPARTMENT.

(BRANCH).

P. Cons 3496. P.W

From J. Craone,

Occupation

Village Parsewakum

Taluq

District Madras

Dated 15th
Received 29th } May 1882

Enclosures 4

Rec'd 31/5

1512

(12)

SUBJECT.

Settlement of his claim

B No. 1368 W dd 2nd June/82.
Lodged with
reference to endorsement
No 1191 W dd 10. Mar 1882.

Dr

Ch

Pr

Lr 6/6 O.L. 22/6
O 8/6. Rs 20/6

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
stewart Grant Duff — Governor of Madras

May it please Your Excellency.

As a last resource, and
last time, I most respectfully and Earnestly
solicit Your Excellency's special consideration
attention to the following.

Being aware of the ta
ness of perusing a petition with full details, I
state, with reference to my petition dated 15th M
in the matter of money stopped for Bunds, that
tedious Embarrassment, I have herein selected but
points to show that my case has been so misre
throughout, as to lead me to despair of justice,
Excellency would kindly condescend to call for, and
bare Summary of it, as it Embodies the whole sum
stance of the matter, and also shows the unfair de
throughout, without a word from Col. Sankey to re
statements with reference to this manner of dealing
Your Excellency will see if this case is fairly dealt

I beg to add, that I stated
led to despair of justice, by no means through
on the part of Your Excellency, but by the official
which induces Your Excellency to accept Col. Sankey
with implicit reliance, and which if fairly tested w
to be merely random statements — a proceeding

I further beg to stat that though the
fair treatment of this case, as clearly shown in the
Summary has not been refuted, but Col. Sankey is si-
lent upon it, he now winds and "lodges" the case, which
seems, he shelved it, or laid the petition aside to dis out, with
compounded statement to Your Excellency, that I have been
waiting the arrival of every new Governor to submit this
case as if to wink them which does not however disprove the claim.

This I beg to state, is another ran-
statement. It has only been submitted to the Duke of Buck-
ham on 12th Sept. 1878, and to no other; and at that period this Grace
retained about 2 years in Madras; and even in that in-
ce the same Evasive Endorsement "this case cannot
opened" was made use of as it now is, and this Grace
made to believe it coming as it did from the Secretary, while
this day he is fully aware, that there never was a
us petition claiming money stopped exclusively for
to elicit such an Endorsement, and which cannot, and has
produced; and if it could be produced I am satisfied,
Your Excellency would kindly test this matter, the pro-
of the previous petition that elicited such an Endorse-
ill do so at once; and satisfactorily settle this matter,
ther hand again, not a word to disprove this claim has as yet
anced, and what more can I say to Your Excellency?

There was however another pe-
ious to this which claimed money for Excavation
t not for Bunds. But as that case was involved in
owing to the fluctuating nature of the depths of the chan-
no direct data to go upon. But with reference to
question, it was submitted only once to the Dukes

Mr Cross has evidently
claimed information from
some Office

I now lastly beg to solicit Your Excellency's
generous attention to the results of this opposition in thus with-
holding my money from me. Being of a very sensitive na-
ture, and thrown as I am on the very verge of insolvency, and
surrounded moreover and annoyed incessantly with creditors c
ated on the certainty that an English Govt is incapable of
treating a case as this has been treated, my health is now
ing affected; and if it were not for these results it would
matter of indifference to me to abandon the claim at o
and would feel most grateful if Your Excellency, who has
tered immaculate upon the present administration, would
this matter in hand in simply perusing the Summary now
Col Sankeys hands, and eliciting a clear proof to show
that this money is not mine, and particularly to produ
petition that could have elicited the Evasive Endorsemen
"This case cannot be reopened", on which alone the whole
hangs suspended. and with the most respectful apolog
this further intrusion I beg to remain with all defere

Your Excellency's most humble and obt Se

21st June 1882

Purswan Kum Tscherpels street
Madras

Groom Esq

Petition from J Broome & Co

Dated 21st June 1882

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary's Department,

Government,

(By Order.)

A. Alwdm. Le
Private Secretary

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Botacamund
27th June 1882.

15808- 22-6-82-

P.P. (1882) DEPARTMENT.

No 1756 W. 11th July 1882

Lodged in intimation of S.O. 1580 W 8/22 June 82.

4.7.82

From

THE Private SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

The Chief SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT.

Dated 27th June 1882

Recd. 29

Recd 30th June 1882

B 1756 W- 11th July/82

ENCLOSURE.

No. _____

Subject.

(114)

Transfers a petition from J. Croom Esq^r representing the chief points of his case & gives the various details given in his former petitions

4/7/82

Cho 7049.

Can.

As requested, I return Mr Croom's petition with the complete file.

He complains that a memorial to the Secy of State of about 25 months ago was never sent forward. This must be the paper disposed of by S.O. No 516 W of 5th March 1880 -

Mr Croom's case was first fully gone into & disposed of by S.O. No 600 of 24th Febry 1873 - He then appealed to the Secy of State, who rejected his claim. vide S.O.

in which he was distinctly told that he was at liberty to seek his remedy at law.

No 1576 of 9th June 1874.
His second memorial to
the same authority was
of course not forwarded
but "Lodged" under
Ltr. No 576W above quoted.

This "matter of
bounds" which he speaks
about in his present
petition, was fully in-
quired into by the Hon.
W. Hudleston in August
1880, & it was decided
to be part & parcel
of the other claim on
account of channel
excavations - vide
Endt No — of 3d Augt 80,
& the notes attached
thereto.

Mr Croom has been
told more than once
that no further petitions

from him would be
noticed - In Endt
No 1455 of 18th June 1881
he was told that the
Endt of the 3d Augt 80
must be considered
final - A further
petition of the 24th April
1882 was returned
to him under Endt
No 1191 W of 10th May 1882.
Since then, four
petitions from him
have been "Lodged"
in continuation of
one another - He is
determined not to
tire out however,
& instead instead of
"Lodging" the present
petition, it would
be better perhaps
to return it under

This is the only course I can suggest. I have carefully gone through the mass of papers.

AWL

AWL

Rule 5 of the Petn Rules,
the same being done also
with any future petition
he may submit?

CL
17/10/82

To Hon. H. E. Sullivan.

To Ag: W.

Submitted for orders.
The Petitioner will not
take an answer.
He must Know perfectly
well that if the Govt.
are wrongfully withholding
money due to him, he
has his remedy in the
Civil Court. But he
evidently does not choose
to avail himself of
such protection, and
prefers to assume the
rôle of a poor oppressed
subject.

RS
20/10.

24-10-82.

Cir: 24/10 R 23/10

with order

To His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Lord Kimberley
Secretary of State for India &c &c &c

May it please Your Lordship

This Petition most respectfully
showeth, that with reference to a petition dated 16th May
1883 submitted to Your Lordship through my own medium,
going to matter therein shown, and being informed by Your
Lordship through the Madras Government, that Petitions to
be submitted should be despatched through the local Govern-
ment, I have here taken the liberty to submit this Petition
to Your Lordship through the said medium.

This petition therefore humbly
showeth, that some Government channels being found to be
absolutely requisite for taking back through them the
[illegible] to the respective Treasuries [illegible]
[illegible] to pass [illegible]
[illegible] Petitioner [illegible]
[illegible] Petitioner [illegible]
[illegible] Petitioner [illegible]
alone, and for nothing else [illegible]
[illegible] work [illegible]
[illegible] was accordingly executed, and all the salient points
[illegible] in the books, and this was the sum and substance of the
work. But in the face of this, a sum of [illegible] and odd Rupees
was stopped from my bill for Bonds; while it cannot be shown

* The sum of Rupees [illegible] was roughly estimated
and having no access to the records; but the Petitioner will be
able to state the Exact amount [illegible]

that a single item of payment is put down for trench in the Estimate.

The overweight involved in the stoppage of the money thereby is as follows. In executing this work, the excavated silt, which as a rule is indiscriminately thrown away, was on this instance ~~be~~ deposited in a line to settle down as Bunds to any dimensions that the excavated silt may admit to keep within bounds a little rippling water from rippling out of the line of the channel; and this was accordingly done from verbal instructions given by the Engineer who made the Estimate

In short, that this was merely nominal work, is clear from the fact that no dimensions, and consequently no charges were put for them in the Estimate; and it was this overweight that caused the stoppage of the money. The overweight was caused by

The Engineer who Examined the work was not the Engineer who made the Estimate. Bunds therefore are charged for in the channels at the Excavation rates; but failing to see if dimensions or charges are put for them in the Estimate, and finding them so diminutive to what regular bunds are that are paid for, he accordingly struck off the money that was put down for Excavation work and the whole of the money in the Estimate was for excavation work alone and not a single pie for Bunds.

Lastly I beg to state, that the most ~~subtle~~ opposition has been set against me to deprive me a very poor man of this money. Mr Harrington was the Engineer who made the stoppage. He had an ill will against me through a misunderstanding and because I merely said I understood a mechanical problemm as well as any Engineer, it being a very simple one, he seemed to have put the whole Profession against me, and his feelings towards me will be best understood, when I state that he wrote a most abusive letter against me

[illegible]ington and Col Sankey the Secretary of Hon'ble Commissioner are friendly colleagues and Col Sankey holding as he does a most responsible post thought nothing of starting his opposition with a concocted Endorsement the very first time that I claimed this money; for in finding he could not disprove it, he Endorsed the Petition with - "This case cannot be reopened"! And when unable to produce a previous Petition that could have elicited that Endorsement, he shelved it to die out, and finding was not only doing so without check or hindrance, and that he had back a Petition which I submitted through him complaining of his proceedings to Your Lordships predecessor and having had no other alternative I took upon myself to petition Your Lordship through my own medium; and with the most respectful apologies for the intrusion, I beg to remain

Your Lordship's most humble and obedient Servant

J Croom Snr

2nd August 1883

Purseewankum - Tscherpeli street

Madras

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Mountstuart Grant Duff — Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

With reference to my two Petitions dated respectively 15th May 1882 and 30th September of the same year, claiming a sum of 300 and odd Rupees * stopped from my bill by an oversight for Bunds in the matter of some Government work, I most respectfully beg to state with all deference, that being dissatisfied with the decision founded on Executive Engineer's observations to the contrary, which decision might only be accounted for by the flood of duties in which Your Excellency is daily involved, and having moreover previously submitted a petition relating to the said claim to a predecessor of the present Right Hon. Secretary of State, and which had not been dispatched when so submitted through the Public works Department, and finding also that in having no other alternative in that direction, I dispatched one through any own medium, which elicited from His Lordship the request that such a petition should be submitted through the local Govt. though the course I had to take was but a private medium compared to other constitutional measures which are within reach of the people to obtain a hearing from the highest Authorities.

Such being the case therefore, I beg to add, that I have written the enclosed petition for dispatch thro' Your Excellency to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State; and I humbly beg Your Excellency will pardon me when I say, that it is quite out of the question for the Secretary Col. Sankey, to attempt to thwart this claim with his original erasive endorsement,

* It is rather much more, having regard to the

with which he started his opposition, and which states - "His case cannot be responded"; while up to this day he is unable to produce a previous petition that could have elicited that Endorsement; and which virtually and practically leaves the Petition undecided, while the claim stands as it did; and it is too much for me to say with Your Excellency's superior understanding, that if, without intending the slightest insinuation, the question were posted before the public without mentioning parties, the country & an individual would Endorse this opinion.

As Your Excellency may now therefore be able to look through the claim divested and as now it is with complicated details - which details if needed can be seen in the petitions above alluded to; and in the event of such being the case, Your Excellency will find there will be no necessity for the dispatch of the petition to His Lordship and I would feel most thankful for such amicable decision of the matter. But if unable to see things such, I beg that it may be dispatched. and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain with all deference

Your Excellency's most humble and obdt servt

2d August 1883 J Broom Jnr

2 Pursuwaukum - Jockerpets street - Madras

Cha 7049

No 944 Cal 20th October 82

30/9

Petition from J. Croom Senior thro the Secy to the Governor praying that his Petition of 15th May last may be perused and that Colonel Lankey may be asked to dispense his claim-

No 944 E – 26.10.82

Returned to the Petitioner under Rule 5 of the Petition Rules, the Government having already passed orders in the Case.

cdf Shaw Stewart Colly

Agency to Govt Punjab

(16)

J. Croom (Senior)
Annapha Wood & Co.
Purserwalan

0. Misc 2
6753/13

To the Chief Secretary to Government

Sir – With reference to my two petitions dated 2nd Inst. the one to His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor, and the other to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, submitted to you for dispatch, I beg to request of you to append this following P.S. to the petition to the latter and beg to remain Sir

Your most obdt servt J Croom Snr

P.S. to my petition dated 2nd August 1883 to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India.

In the Estimate for the Excavation work referred to in the above petition, the sum total in that Estimate is distributed for three items as follows

1st The greatest bulk of that sum is for the Excavation.

2nd A very small fraction of it is for tamping those what may be called nominal Bunds made of the Excavated silt

3rd The balance sundries leaving not a pie remaining for payment of the said nominal Bunds for which several Hundreds of Rupees have been withheld.

Purserwalkam Zoological Station Madras
3rd August 1883

CHIEF SECRETARY SYDNEY
6 AUG 83
GOVERNMENT OF NSW

To the Chief Secretary of Govt

Sir

Having received a Communication from you transmitting the Inspection of the Town of Parkes-worth-cum-Newtown, I have taken the liberty to submit the enclosed for dispatch through you to His Excellency the Right Hon.ble the Governor and beg to remain Sir

Your obt Servt

H Moore Sr

2nd Augt 83

Parkesworthcum

Petersfield Street

Newtown

4/5313

Plan

of the Town of the municipality of Parkesworthcum Newtown, carefully corrected

Misc. 1968 dt 28.4.78
" 537 dt 20.2.79
944 E 26.10.82

B. 2287 dt 6.9.82
" 1756 dt 11.7.82
" 1580 dt 22.6.82
" 1368 dt 6.6.82
" 1191 dt 10.5.82
Cr. 1455 dt 8.6.81
B. 516 dt 5.3.80
Estt 1882 21.10.76
" 1498 14.9.76
Fo. 516 9.6.74
Despatch No 10 9.1874
16.2.74
Fo 452 23.2.74
Estt 754 3.4.73
Fo. 600 24.2.73

CHIEF SECRETARY
6 AUG 83
GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

S.A.W.

Mr. Crowe's letter
of 2.8.83.

Has the case
already been before
the S. of S.? If so
the present Memo.
need not be
forwarded.

K.S.
7.8.

P.W.

Please put up a
complete file

Ch
9/8

Put up.
D.S.
9/8/83

+ Yes - vide Sp. Dy
1516 of 9.6.~~83~~ 74.

Ch
13/8

To the Chief Secretary of Government

&c &c &c

Sir

The following being a Summary of a Petition dated 2nd Instant to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for India, submitted to you on the said Instant to His Excellency the Right Hon. the Governor for dispatch to His Lordship, I respectfully beg you will be so good as to dispatch this also to His Excellency the Governor for the said purpose, for a more concise and definite Explanation of the claim therein made and I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedt. servt. J Croom Sr.
14th August 1883 - Purseywaukum - Madras

Summary of the Petition
&c alluded to

1st The said petition claims a few hundred Rupees stopped from my bill on Govt. through an oversight for Bunds in the No. 4 boiler Estate Channel (Chingleput District)

2nd It is shown in the said petition that no Bunds that were to be paid for were put in the Estimate for the work of this channel (vide Estimate) Not a pie nor dimensions of any kind whatever are put for them in the Estimate; and yet withal some hundreds of Rupees are stopped for them from my bill - the exact amount so stopped being known to the Secretary of the Public Works Dept.; and this stoppage was made through an oversight of an Engineer as shown in the petition. From the following para therefore this oversight will be clearly detected.

3rd The whole of the money put in the Estimate for the work of this channel, exactly corresp

ith every item for which they are put. These ite... No. Ch. 726
follows, viz, for Excavation, for tamping, and for D... are as
For these two latter items (tamping and Sundries) a nominal
sum of 24 Rs 4 Anl. is put down and none for Bunds; and the
remaining money in the Estimate, exactly corresponds to the
pie with the amount put down for Excavation at 3 Ans 4 pies
per cubic yard, and this makes up the sum total in the Es-
timate leaving not a pie for Bunds! This incontestable proof
of the oversight therefore is very easily traced in the Estimate

14th August 1883. Pursuant Kam Madras Hroom Lt.

Rd 23/8/83

Rd 16 Aug/83

No 2385 W dy 24-8-83

To be read with
the endorsement
about to issue.

17.8.83

Rd 28-8-

B/

No 2385 W PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 24 August 83

READ the following

Letter from Mr. J. Croom Lt
forwarding for transmission
a memorial addressed
to the Right Honorable the
Secretary of state for India

Do — from Lt Croom Lt — H. E. No. — of 2d August 1883.
Do — from Mr Croom — " " dy 14th — "

The transmission
of the memorial will be
withheld under Rule XII.
Clause 3 of the Rules
published with G. O.
Public No. 628 dated
8th April 1878 extract
from which will be
furnished to Mr. Croom.

Cs
1418

16.8.83

To
The Petitioner
Secy
29/8

The Hon. H. Sutherland

Confid.

No 2385 Way 24-8-8

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Mr. Monstuart Grant-Duff — Governor of Madras &c. &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency

Being driven under intolerable pressure to resort to a constitutional measure in drafting the Enclosed Letter for dispatch, and publication in the London Journals to draw the attention of Members of Parliament to the treatment of my case herein referred to below, but finding on mature consideration while under the impression that Your Excellency is a high-born gentleman of the aristocratic order, it is most difficult to believe that Your Excellency would for a moment even countenance the proceedings of a case as herein shown

and most respectfully

On the contrary however, I most respectfully beg to assure Your Excellency, that it seems to me that Col. Sankey (with all deference to his rank) who is said to represent the Govt in this Department, has of his own option & disreputably disposed of my two petitions (dated respectively 15th May 1862 and 31st Septr of the same year) on false and concocted Endorsements, as to be unable to say definitely, that through the maze of Letters Your Excellency is aware of it; and lest I should by the publication of the said proceedings, [illegible] unwittingly bring on Your Excellency's administration into universal contempt through the fault of another, who simply to gratify the malicious intention of a friendly, is perfectly indifferent to Your Excellency's reputation, I thought it best to pause, and to submit this case prominently for Your Excellency's special perusal

Apart from the two versions of the petition above alluded to, Your

17, 18 & 19

Etc

Cir 1845 R 1845

Entd in Recpt. Registers

Your Excellency may be aware, that owing to a former Petition of mine to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State having been backed by Col Sankey, and finding therefore that his medium was untrustworthy, I submitted and dispatched one through my own medium; but as it was impossible for His Lordship to make a one-sided investigation of the matter, the petition was ordered by His Lordship to be dispatched through the Government; and in doing so, Col Sankey evades this undertaking, in sending me the following misapplied Petition Rule

" G.O. Public Dept. N°628-8th April 1878

Rule 12. Govt and administrations in India are vested with discretionary power to withhold the transmission of Memorials to Her Majesty or the Secretary of State in the following cases:"

" Clause 3 When a second Memorial is presented after a decision has already been given by the Authority to whom it has been addressed, and where no new facts or circumstances are adduced which afford grounds for a reconsideration of the case. A memorial addressed to Her Majesty by a person whose Appeal to the Secretary of State has been rejected shall be held to be a second Memorial to the same Authority, and shall not be transmitted."

I now beg to state with all deference, that a child could see through this evasion. It is said in the above, "A memorial addressed to Her Majesty by a person whose Appeal to the Secretary of State has been rejected, shall be held to be a second memorial and to the same Authority and shall not be transmitted".

Col Sankey knows full well that my Appeal to the Secretary of State was never rejected, but on the contrary was recommended to be dispatched through Govt; and it is left for Your Excellency to say, the public are to do when in the face of such a clear order or recommendation from the Secretary of State, matters should be so misrepresented and perverted?

At the outset, when this petition was so sent for dispatch through the Govt to the Secretary of State the first time, Col Sankey withheld it, as it complained of his evasive shown in my petition of 15th May 1882 to Your Excell

Finding his medium untrustworthy therefore, I dispatched one through my own; and his Lordship by no means rejected it as Col Sankey knows, but on the contrary recommended that it should be sent through the Govt. This also being done, Col Sankey sends me the above evasive Rule; and as one born in India, I beg to state I never as yet heard of such a proceeding in a Govt transaction in all my life, nor of any thing even approaching to it; but I submit the matter to Your Excellency's decision.

Such being the case therefore, I humbly beg Your Excellency will not think me resentful in resorting to the measure I have in view, as I find no other alternative.

Lastly I now beg to submit a very clear and brief Summary of my claim. The said claim became due as follows: A Govt Channel being found to be unnavigable, the work of Excavation to render it navigable was given to me.

No question about Excavation work however is included in this claim; but the money (3 or and odd lacs or more known to the Secretary) was stopped for Bunds which were not to be paid for in the Estimate, by an Engineer who evinced an inveterate feeling towards me, having previously written a very abusive letter against me for an immaginary offence, on having cut a few Excavation understood a mechanical affair of my own (in which [illegible] to interfere to my detriment) as well as any Engineer.

When therefore the channel was for bare Excavation work, the question arose, how came money to be stopped for Bunds? It was as follows

In Excavating the channel, the Excavated mud, which as a rule is generally thin, immediately Stream away; was in first instance to be deposited on each side to settle down as Bunds, of such dimensions as the Engineer

[illegible] alluded to in the heading of this letter. In India as Elsewhere, Govt Engineers are scattered in different districts of the country;

Nov 9th
Cause the petition recorded in G.O. 1576 dated 9th June 1874

mud would admit, merely to keep within bounds a little rip-
ling water from rippling out of the line of the channel, and there
being nothing that could be called work in so depositing the mud
in a line on the border of the channel while following up the
excavation, no dimensions and consequently no payments
were put for them in the Estimate (Vide Estimate No 4, Poi-
lur channel Chingleput District)

The Engineer who made the Estimate is
one, and he who measured the work is another. The latter there-
fore in seeing Bands in the Estimate ~~would like to~~
and failing to see if there were dimensions and payments for them,
he thought they were the ordinary bunds usually paid for, and cal-
culating accordingly he struck off the money

The clearest proof that this was an over-
sight I now beg to show as follows: A few hundred Rupees
were allotted in the Estimate for the work of this channel; and
there were only 2 items of work in it to be paid for, viz, Tamping
(not making) Bunds and Sandries, and the other was for Hard Ex-
cavation. For the first item therefore for tamping bunds and
Sandries, a sum of 23 Rs 12 Annas are put down, and all the
rest of the money corresponds to the Rs with the amount of
Excavation laid down in the Estimate at 3 Annas a Rs per
cubic yard, and with the exact and clear proof of the same, I
beg to leave the matter to Your Excellency's generous conside-
ration and decision and with the most respectful apologies I
beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble and obdt Servant

J Broome &c

6th September 1883 - Pursewan Chingleput
Chief Madras

P.S. If I may be allowed to ask the favor
of a limit of a fortnight for a reply to the memorial, I would
feel very thankful for the kindness.

P.G. 3/52/13

5370 to 2.79

1374

Oppression in India

× × ×

To the Editor × × ×

Sir - As I have no doubt, that with the characteristic feeling of the English nation, you are sternly opposed to oppression, I have taken the liberty to solicit your kindness in the insertion of this letter in your widely circulated Journal.

That I proceed however, and on the understanding this will meet the eye of some Members of Parliament, I beg to observe, that from the feeling known abroad in India, all creeds and classes, including Europeans and Eurasians, would heartily endorse the following Editorial which a few days ago appeared in the Madras Athenaeum and which is as follows:-

"The steadily increasing tendency that exists towards all measures of ~~Indian~~ British Indian policy, proceeding directly from, and being controlled immediately by that body of Statesmen and Senators who constitute our Imperial English Parliament, and who have long been justly regarded as the pride of the British nation, and the bulwark of its rights, is a wholesome and significant circumstance."

"Such being the case therefore, we are of opinion, that a certain amount of wholesome restraint ought to be placed on the local ruling power; and no better means of imposing that restraint could be found, than in the influence and observation of Parliament as is happily now and again the case now a days".

I now beg to direct to the oppression alluded to in the heading of this letter. In India as elsewhere Govt Engineers are scattered in different districts of the country;

and out of that body, a senior member pro selected as Secretary of the Public works Dept.

Such being the case therefore, a vein of sympathy runs through the whole faction, and what is more probable, or (rather) certain is, they are the friendly colleagues of the said Secretary

When therefore an unfortunate subordinate, through some uncontrolable or untoward event awakens the caprice of the official, or excites his displeasure in any trivial mishap at such a moment (though there are honorable exceptions) the following proceeding is an instance of the routine of oppression practised upon him, while the Secretary Col Sankey, a highly paid servant of the State, shuts up the portals of Justice, with deliberate inventions of false endorsements, misrepresentations, and misapplied Rules of the Service, to oppress the unfortunate victim to gratify the malicious intentions of a friendly Colleague as herein after shown, and which I am fully prepared to prove; and my name on the registered letters receipt will authenticate one as the author of this letter

This mode of oppression therefore he practises without the slightest check or hindrance, with perfect indifference to the ties of confidence he thereby entails on the people in the integrity of the British Rule, the lustre of which rule is now known far and wide to be tarnished than ever diminished, to what it was in the good old days of the Hon Court of Directors of the last India Company, and it will be seen herein to be so, that the high handed indifference with which it is carried out in the face of His Excellency the Governor, that this oppression is not the exception but the rule not tolerated even by a Mahomedan Govt.

You must therefore immagine Mr Editor to what extent this mode of oppression is practised when in the face of the following grave charge against Col Sankey Mr Grant-Duff does not in the least interfere, nor give the Petitioner a word of regard; and the following are the charges:

1st For dismissing my petition with a false Endorsement (when presented at the meeting which "states" "this case cannot be reopened" and when asked to produce a previous petition that could have elicited such an Endorsement, he was unable to do so, and sent me a copies replies which had no reference to the request whatever.

2nd For shelving a subsequent petition (that complained of his routine dealing) to die out.

3rd For burking or withholding a petition that I submitted through Henry, complaining of his proceedings to the H. the Secretary of State

4th For dismissing my petition to the Secretary of State with a misapplied petition Rule, when recommended by the said Secretary of State to despatch it through the Govt to His Lordship

Now Sir, if in the face of all this, Mr Grant Duffs railway trips in traversing through the presidency bespeak no lack of zeal for the Service, it should be remembered, that his perfect indifferance to uphold the integrity of the British rule in this Country, as shown above, and countenance discreditable proceedings, only go to show, that such trips with every conceivable amount of luxury and comfort at the expence of the State, are simply delightful, and the envy of many who would gladly travel if they could afford it or to luxury of many diversified countries. Then again, what would you say of such a Ruler who in the face of all this, promotes the very individual (Col Sankey) to the sting discredit on the British Govt to a seat in the Legislative Council in preference to others who are known to be the flowers of the Service and questioned in the public Journals. The above remarks I submit in vindication; but no loyal address would explain the real nature of a circumstance that may militate against his cause, the same is purely my object

Lastly: The following is a clear and brief Summary of my claim. The said claim became due as follows: A Govt Channel being unnavigable, the work of excavation to render it navigable was given to me

No question about excavation work however

is interested in this claim; but the money (30£ and odd Rupees a more trivial to the Secretary) was stopped for Bunds (which were not to be paid for in the Estimate) by an Engineer, who previously owned an inveterate feeling against me in having written a very abusive letter against me, for having told him that I understood a very simple mechanical affair belonging to me (and in no interfered to my detriment) as well as any Engineer. This was like trampling on his toes.

Now therefore the channel was for boat ~~Excavation~~ work, the question arises, ~~[redacted]~~ money to be stopped for Bunds? It was as follows:

In Excavating this channel, the Excavated mud, which is always thrown away indiscriminately, was in this instance to be deposited in a line to settle down as Bunds of such dimensions as the Excavated mud would permit, merely to keep within bounds a little rippling water from rippling out of the line of the channel, and there being nothing that could be called work in depositing the mud in a line on the Under of the channel, no dimensions and consequently no charges were put for them in the Estimate &c &c &c &c

Now please notice Mr Editor, the manner in which official matters and claims of the people of this country are trifled with, and it will remind you of American bondage. For after treating the Petition with contempt and false Endorsements, misrepresentations, obtaining it & dirt out and burking a Petition in which I reported such proceedings to the Secretary of State. In the sending the official medium untrustworthy therefore, I dispatched one through my own medium.

His Lordship therefore finding it impossible to decide on a one sided view of the case, requested it to be sent through the local Govt. Accordingly I was asked to sign a paper in recognition of that request, and in acting accordingly, Col. Sankey withholds the Petition and sends me a misapplied petition Rule, which states that any Petition rejected by the Secretary of State, cannot be transmitted again !!! But how it was rejected, when it was not as yet recognized, but requested to be submitted through the Local Govt is left for Col Sankey yet to explain

A Sufferer

Rec'd. 19th Nov 83. 4:78
Dy. No. 5370 dt. 2.79

PETITION from Mr. Hogan
&c

Dated 6th Sept. 1883.

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

Allardy, Captain, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund,
10th Septr 1883.

Rec. 2619 Way 17 4th Sept 83

Rev Ch. 795

(1883) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT.

Rec. 2619 Way 17-9-83

Dated 8th September 1883.

Reed.

ENCLOSURE.

No. _____

Subject.

Transfers a petition from Mr Broom praying for compensation for some excavation work done by him

Recorded with reference to G.O. Rec 2385 Way 24th August 1883

Ch. 14/9.

Written order Entd in Receipt Register

To Col Shaw, Stewart = Secretary to Govt in the Public Works Department = &c &c &c

To Col Shaw Stewart - Secretary to Govt in the Public Works Department - &c &c &c

Sir

I respectfully beg your forbearance in drawing your attention to the following explanations:

Some difficulty being involved in the way of explaining the overnight, by which a sum of money was stopped for Bunds referred to in my petition of September last, and submitted to you through the medium of His Excellency the Right Honble the Governor; and this difficulty arising from the circumstance of the work of 3 channels being put in one Estimate, and the money for the work of the 3 channels and the stoppages of the same being to mised up in one total sum while the claim rests upon only one of these channels only, and the long absence of a reply to my petition having led me to reconsider the matter, I beg to state, that I now find that my explanations in the said petition are as unsatisfactory to myself as I believe they must be to you

Such being the case therefore, and having naturally considered over the matter, I now beg to submit a very clear and explicit explanation of the case, as to enable you to see through the claim at once, and beg you will pardon my Error. The said explanation therefore is as follows:

The Estimate that was given me, contained work for 3 channels - viz, No 1, No 3, and No 4 channels. From the work of No 3 channel however no money was stopped, so that this No 3 channel is quite out of the question, and only No 1, and No 4 channels come under consideration.

With reference to these 2 channels
№1, and №4 therefore, stoppages are made for №1 channel
for Excavation work alone; and for №4 channel, they are
made for both Excavation and Bunds; but these diminutive bunds
made in simply depositing the Excavation mud in a line, as ver-
bally directed by Mr. Smither the Sub-Engineer who made the
Estimate, no dimensions and consequently no charges were
put for them in the Estimate

In my said petition of
September last, I beg to add, that my claim therein is for
money stopped for these bunds by Harrington through an over-
sight, and for nothing else; and for a clear discovery of this
oversight; the money so stopped, will be found to correspond
to with a pie with the deficiency of the money that Mr. Har-
rington admitted to be payable for the Excavation work of
these 2 channels after he had made the deductions for this Excа-
vation work; for it was from this money that he inadvertantly
stopped for bunds which were not to be paid for; and the money
for the whole work of these channels being one total sum in my
bill, he failed to discover that the money he stopped for bunds was
got out of the money which he admitted as payable for the Ex-
cavation work after he had made stoppages for the said Excа-
vation work

The amount stopped for bunds, so
corresponding with the deficiency of the money which he admitted as
payable for Excavation work, at once proves this oversight.
In so tracing the oversight as above shown, the probability of his
having made any allowance for the diminutive bunds that I
made ought to be kept in view; and if so made, should be taken
into account

Lastly I beg to state, that there is another
condition by which this oversight could surely be detected, and it is this:
Every pie in the Estimate is for Excavation work alone, save
2 3/4 Rs for tamping (not making) bunds. Setting this
small sum aside therefore, the whole of the money allotted for
these 2 channels will be found to correspond to a pie with
the amount of silt to be Excavated from them at 3 Rs 4 pies
per cubic yard. From these Explanations therefore I humbly
submit that you will find that Mr Harrington's oversight is be-
yond all question

Finally I beg to state, that as I believe that
this corrected and modified version of the petition for a clear un-
derstanding of the claim is admissible, I have taken the liberty
to submit the same for your generous consideration; and with
respectful apologies for this further intrusion I beg to remain
Sir
Your most obedient Servant Hroom Sir

8th November 1883

Purswawkum Tscherpels Street
Madras

No 3251 W.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the November 15th 1883

READ the following

From Mr. J. Broom — H E No. — dd 24th Octr/83
8th Novr —

" " Do Do — — —

Mr. Broom has already been informed on several occasions that his claims having received the fullest scrutiny, the Government must decline to re open them — Notwithstanding this decision, as well as the rejection of his appeal by the Secretary of State for India, Mr. Broom has since persisted in submitting numerous petitions, some of

which act of kindness, I must feel most thankful and grateful; and beg to remain Sir
Your most obedt servant
J Broom Esq
24th Octr
1883

Chief Secy to Govt Madras

which have been re-
plied to.
It has been already pointed out to Mr Broom that he
is at liberty to seek his remedy
Mr Broom is in a Court of Law; and he is
now informed that no
further notice can will be
taken of any communica
tions on the subject
of his alleged claims.

No 3251 W&J Nov 15th 1883.

A No 600 – 24.2.73
No 754 – 3.4.73
Recpt 10 – 26.2.74
No 1516 – 9.6.74
Audt 1498 – 14.9.76
" 1882 – 21.10.76
" dy 3.8.80
R. No 1455 – 18.6.81
No 1191. H 10.5 R
" 1368. H 2.6. R
" 1580. H 22.6. R
" 1756. H 11.7. R
" 2287 H 6.9. R
" 537 H 20.2.79
" 1968 H 26.4.79
No 2764. E 26.10. R

No 2383. H 24.8.83
" 2619. H 17.9. R
" 2038. H 9.10. R

To Mr Broom Sir

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Monstuart Grant Duff
Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency.

I most respectfully beg to inform Your Excellency, that on several occasions I submitted a petition regarding a claim which seemed to be involved in some intricacy, and Your Excellency most kindly and with characteristic paternal condescendence in every instance to elicit official testimony to corroborate the same; but no attempt whatever has been made to disprove it.

The apparent difficulty to understand the claim is involved in intricacy therefore, indeed the Officials of the P.W.D. to return the petition with evasive and unsatisfactory replies as shown in my petition of 15th May 1883, to say nothing of other causes, but has never yet been attempted to be disproved; and if any such attempt has been made it is easily ascertained.

On discovery now however, that the explanation of this claim lies in a nutshell, and so clear as to be readily understood by the weakest capacity; and constituting as it does new grounds by this clear explanation and disproof of the claim as being inadmissible by the Rules of the Service for further consideration; and believing moreover that it is not the principle of the British Govt to withhold (especially) a poor man's money when it is known to be his, I have taken the liberty to submit the last sessions of the petition for Your Excellency's gracious consideration.

This Petition claims money for work executed for Govt and withheld through an oversight in the matter of Bands by a Govt Engineer, and most respectfully showeth

That it is therefore humbly prayed that Govt work for excavating 3 wet channels to render them navigable was given to me

2nd

made stoppages for that Excavation work, and it was found that any money remaining in the bill as payable to me for Excavation work that he unconditionally withheld.

Lastly I beg to add, that with this claim shown almost as clearly as in this instance in a petition to Your Excellency of September last, it was returned me by Major * after a period of ten weeks with the Endorsement stating that the claim was considered long ago by Govt, but not a vestige of disproof of a claim followed, the absence of check in the matter is but an evasive reply; and it is as evasive as the Endorsement which Col Lambe returned my petition when first clearly obvious to state "The case cannot be "reopened" while he could not produce a previous petition which Endorsement, and this mode of dealing with the claims of the people on the understanding that Your Excellency as a rule of Govt advises implicit reliance on them is consecutively followed up when it is found they could do without check or hindrance.

Added to this, in the preceding line of this letter, he threatens to debar me from appealing to H.M. the Secretary of State Evidently by misapplying the Rule 5 in the case; and I express myself with all respect and deference to Your Excellency when I state, for the information of the gentleman, that a private letter to His Lordship to know what course should be taken under such obstacles, as well as other constitutional means are within my reach to obtain redress.

Such therefore I beg to state is the treatment I am receiving from a Confederation Evidently set up by Mr. Harrington to injure me, through a paltry misunderstanding, which induced him to write a very abusive letter against me; and his colleagues of the confederation are thus Endeavouring to injure me regardless of whatever disrepute may thereby Entail on Your Excellency's administration to gratify feelings unworthy of high-born gentleman. The man therefore that comes forward to defend his rights with manly candour is put down as impertinent. This however I beg to state is not my nature; but I have a remedy to disperse and festering debts to clear; and with respectful apologies and all deference I beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble and obedt Servant

24th November 1883

(Aroom (Lascar)

Parsewaukum Pedestals street Madras.

PETITION from Mr. Aroom

Dated 20th Nov 1883.

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

A. Awdry, Captain, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund,
23d Nov 1883.

No. 3471 W d/ Decr 4th 1883.

(1883) DEPARTMENT.

Lodged, with the reference to G. O. of 3251 W d/ 15 November 1883.

30.11.83

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

DEPARTMENT.

Dated 23 November 1883.
Recd.

No. 3471 W d/ Decr 4th 1883.

ENCLOSURE.

No. _____

Subject.

Transfers a petition from Mr Brown praying that the claims against Govt may be settled

Col. Stewart Chief Engr &c &c &c Madras

PURSEWAUKUM DEC 13

For the order

Enclosure Petn Retd

* Names quite illegible

+ Which received with final reply No. 3251 W d/ 15th Novr. 83.

Thus the rate of 3 Rs 4 /

the number of cubic yards put down for Excavation in the Es-
timate

No 2

It is true that in this instance [illegible] for which
money was stopped, the Engineer-in-charge, in measuring the work, saw
and in the Estimate; and failing to see if dimensions or pay-
ments were put down for them, he calculated on the ordinary bounds
usually made, that separate large bodies of water were
made of the Excavation must be kept within bounds, & [illegible]
re for - even if the dimensions and payments for them, were put
32 in the Estimate for the bunds that separate large bodies of water
The full amount of the money in the
188 Estimate being calculated to the pie for the 2 items of work as shown
therefore, the question clearly arises - Was the reason
to be stopped from large bills for Bunds which had no dimensions
and consequently no payments for them in the Estimate being
That there was
that the Engineer made deductions from my bills
for Excavation work, which included the bunds, the money
for bunds being kept through the
money that remained in the bill as pay-
able to me for Excavation work after the said made stoppages for
Estimate

[illegible] that the Engineer-in-charge, in measuring the work, saw
and in the Estimate; and failing to see if dimensions or pay-
ments were put down for them, he calculated on the ordinary bounds
usually made, that separate large bodies of water were
made of the Excavation must be kept within bounds, & [illegible]
re for - even if the dimensions and payments for them, were put
32 in the Estimate for the bunds that separate large bodies of water
The full amount of the money in the
188 Estimate being calculated to the pie for the 2 items of work as shown
therefore, the question clearly arises - Was the reason
to be stopped from large bills for Bunds which had no dimensions
and consequently no payments for them in the Estimate being
That there was
that the Engineer made deductions from my bills
for Excavation work, which included the bunds, the money
for bunds being kept through the
money that remained in the bill as pay-
able to me for Excavation work after the said made stoppages for
Estimate

were included in the valuation of the work - if so, it ought to
would have been mentioned in the Estimate. But that they were
All so included will now be shown as herein shown be-

Now to say nothing of no dimensions
and no payments for bunds in the Estimate, Mr. Harrington
dorsed the Estimate made by his Sub-Engr Mr. Sonetthers;
that Mr. Harrington was fully aware that there was but one
of 3 Rs 4 pies per cubic yard throughout the Estimate, and
the said rate was for Excavation alone, could at once be
in his letter on the reductions to the Superintending Engr, wherein
the reductions he therein made for the Excavation work alone are
found to be at the rate of 3 Rs 4 pies per cubic yard for this
work; and yet at this rate, according to Mr. Harrington and
tions for Excavation work, the rate is 3 Rs 4 pies per
cubic yard, and this rate corresponds to the pie with the amount
for Excavation in the Estimate, the question I beg to submit Estima-
rides when is a pie left for Bunds? He having made the
reductions at 3 Rs 4 pies for Excavation throughout implied his ac-
knowlegment that the money 3526 Rs 4 Rs was for Excavation a-
lone, and the remaining 23 Rs 12 Rs for tamping bunds and bunds

Can the other again, the question is, wh
Contractor would undertake to make bunds without dimensions and
ments distinctly put down for them in the Estimate, whereas there
nothing even approaching to that; and even if he had made them and
submitted his bills for the work, he would never be paid, for he would
be asked to show the dimensions and payments for them in the Estimate

Lastly I beg to state with reference to the pe
tition now under consideration, that being put to much expense in the
payment of interest on the money though the very long pregnant
of the estimate
Rs 12. As I assume the favor to request
and prompt consideration of the
in
be request, and
beg to remain Sir
Estimate, it
been stopped
I shall feel most grateful for
me for the Excava-
Sir
Your most obedt Servant,
Yearly shown

12th December 1853 - Purneah Kum, Jail

[illegible] will be found

Stamp

Bombay Civil Service

W. Meadows

* Name and Office

No 1165

Lodged in continuation

Weekes

* Name illegible

4.

To Col Shaw Stewart

Secretary to Govt in the P. W. Dept

Sir - As I believe you will pardon a partiality overlight, owing to my not being in a position to understand the routine of official correspondence, I have taken the liberty to explain the same

I beg to say, that in my letter of Saturday last 15th Inst. I explained Mr Hemingway overright in the stoppage of money for Bands from my bill

In that explanation, I stated, that his overright could be detected by a reference to the letter on the stoppages & the Pay Lists, in which will be seen that he made stoppages from my native unit only at 3 Rs & 4 Rs per year, thereby that

No 11299

299

To Lt. Shaw Stewart – Secretary to Govt. R. E. & M. Dept. Q. & G.

Sir – My anxiety to explain very definitely every point relating to my claim, I regret fully beg to state is such that I cannot sufficiently apologize for the further and last intrusion.

My bill on Govt. was for Rs 5 Lakhs. Out of this sum only 2 3/4 Lakhs were for actual tramping hard made of the road and rest for [illegible]

Every bit of the remaining Rs 2 lacs for the work of the 3 channels [illegible] made as per [illegible]

It will be seen by my bill compared with the Estimate, that money was charged for the bare excavation only of the said 3 channels; and that there was no money in the Estimate for bunds will be seen by the rates put down in the Estimate, that those rates corresponds to a pie with the whole amount of Excavation of the 3 channels at 3 Annas 4 pies per cubic yard, with not a pie remaining for bunds or any thing else; and nothing I beg to submit could be clearer to show the Engineers oversight in stopping money for bunds which were not to be paid for; and money also taken out of the money to be payable to me after he had items for my Excavation work no other money in the Estimate he could have taken it.

Then lastly I beg to add, that my bill which was made as per Estimate, and did not include money for bunds as shown above for Mr Pennington to make stoppages for them is another instance that proves his oversight

As the above therefore shows up the claim in bold relief, I humbly beg you will give the case your best and generous consideration and I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedient Humble Servt

15 November 1893

Purdewaukum Zachariahs Street
Madras

Lodged with reference to G.C. 3251 of 15th November 1883.

No. 5336 Way Nov 22/83

To

The Secretary to Govt in the

Public Works Department.

Sir,

I have the honor respectfully to state that as it might be agreeable to you as it is to me, I shall very briefly, & for the last time, submit the following as it dispels every shadow of doubt

Contented an final Summary of my claim of Rs 4883 for Bands as shown in petition

The Summary is as follows:-

Rs. As. P.

The said - Yearly Estimate for the full amount of money in the Estimate for the work of the 3 channels therein mentioned, is 3,550 Rs.

For the said 3,550 Rs, there only 2 items of work, charged as follows as shown in the Estimate viz,

	Rs	As
For Excavation	3,526	4
For tamping Bands & Sundries	23	12
Total of full amount in the Est.	3,550	..

That the said 3,526 Rs 4 As are exclusively and solely for Excavation work, having not a Pie for Bands for which 505 Rs more or less has been stopped,

P.S. The Exact amount as stopped for bands is Rs 505 - 12 - 0

A very clear Summary of my Petition which claims
500 Rs more or less stopped by an Engineer Mr. Harrington
an oversight for Bunds, which had no dimensions, and
by no payments for them in the Estimate.

These Bunds were to be made, by
simply depositing the Excavated mud of the Excavation in a line
a little rippling water within the line of the channel; and only
12 Rs were put for merely tamping (not making) them, and
sundries. (Vide Estimate)

The work in the Estimate was for 3 wet channels, and the full amount of payment for the whole 3 channels was - - - - Rs - Ans
3,550 - " -

The said 3,550 Rs were put in the Estimate for the following purposes, viz, For

Excavation at 3 Rs 4 Pis per cubic yard - - -	3,526 - 4 - "
For tamping (not making) Bunds and Sundries - - -	23 - 12 - "
Thus making the full total of the amt in the Estimate -	3550 - " - "

For further proof that the 3,526 Rs, 4 Rs were put in the Estimate for Excavation alone, compare this said sum with the number of cubic yards for Excavation in the Estimate at 3 Rs 4 Pis per cubic yard, and it will be found to correspond to the Pis with the number of cubic yards for Excavation in the Estimate; and when the 23 Rs, 12 Rs for tamping and Sundries added to this sum make up Exactly the full total of 3,550 Rs in the Estimate, it must be shown how the 500 Rs more or less could have been stopped from my money which Mr Harrington admitted payable to me for my Excavation work, after he had made deductions for the Excavation work done, as per bill. Thus therefore his oversight is clearly shown

P.S. The Exact amount to be stopped for bunds will be found on the Dis & C, Nos [illegible]

C.A.W

Please advise as to what I can say in reply to Mr. Croom. to stop his constant letters.

W.

7-2-64

I a W

Mr. Croom has received almost every species of reply that it has been possible to conceive, and has been told on more than one occasion That no further reply can be given to him. But this has not the slightest effect. He Reads very well that he has no valid claim. If he had any such claim he would have taken it to the Civil Court long ago. When he came here the other day, I asked him why he never took steps to recover the debt through the Small Cause Court. He evaded the question. He seems to be under the impression that he can weary the Govt. out by his constant P[illegible]

299.

To H. Shaw Stewart
Secretary to Govt in the
Public work Dept. &c &c &c

Sir - I respectfully beg to inform you, that in waiting upon you in the beginning of February last, you most kindly desired me through Mr. Parsons to write to inform you of what I had to say in reference to my Petition

Having accordingly done so in a letter dated 7th Feby last, and being led to infer from you[illegible]

To His Excellency the Right Honorable
Grant Duff Governor of Madras

May it please Your Excellency

As the following information, any, that the present course I am unwillingly necessitated to pursue, is the publication of the proceedings of this case in pamphlets, I humbly beg Your Excellency's not infer, that the information is in the slightest degree intended as a menace.

On the contrary however, the disclosure to Your Excellency of the intended publication of the proceedings, is more intended with the pure motive to obviate such a course, as in my conviction and that of others (to say the least of it) is, that it is most unjust and unsatisfactory through the false and misleading understands of the officers concerned, in that in such a case, the reading of the pamphlets would be such as I would have to insist against my will

The drawback however on the other hand in submitting this information to, of Judicially considered, it would suggest prompt and special investigation of the matter, which in the ordinary routine of multifarious duties, Your Excellency may not have had the opportunity to accomplish, and by such interference, the matter could at once be brought to an amicable termination.

In short I beg to add, that in every instance, when this petition was transferred to the P.W.D. for report or decision, it was merely trifled with at the caprice of the official, as shown in former petitions, and in detaining it for a period of 15 or 20 months it was in every instance returned to me with an evasive reply, and only in one instance was Exam-

ft made to disprove the claim, which alone your
y must admit could be accepted as a reply
The following comparison also I
D will show with what unfairness the investigation of the
should be carried out, as for instance, in the
clear and indisputable claims; and no shuffling or prevarication
allowed to disturb the equi[table] of a just and honest decision.
In the event of the publication of such a proceed-
ing as the present, your Excellency, the pamphlet containing
the proceedings would be sent to the following
[illegible] confidential and secret
proceedings of the petition of Grant & Co to be considered by His Excel-
lency the Right Honorable Mr Grant Duff."

But on the other hand, when the
claim is equally just and clear, and the proceedings thereon are
most disgraceful, prevaricating and cruel, it is almost impossible
to conceive a startling heading in this latter case must appear
to regard against such publication therefore, I have taken the pre-
caution to inform Your Excellency regarding the publication of
the proceedings should it be forced on me by the necessity to vindicate my
claim to do so further on

Apart from the above, I beg to state that
Your Excellency has from time to time very kindly accepted my pe-
tition for transfer to the P.W.Dept, and the highly paid officials in
every instance to interfered with it to gratify the animosity of a
friendly colleague; and this they have done over and over with per-
fect impunity and indifference to Your Excellencys adjudication, and
the integrity of the British rule in this country

This therefore being my last
and final appeal to Your Excellency for protection against the cruel
mode of oppression to deprive a poor man of his money, I will here-
after have no other alternative than the publication of these proceed-
ings in pamphlets for distribution to the presses of India and England,
the public at large and Members of Parliament together with copious
extracts from the Indian Acts to support my statements relating
to this proceeding as being unprecedented in the annals of this country,
so as to elicit publicity, sympathy to relieve the distress lately fore-
told through the oppression of highly paid officials, who while they
ought to sustain the integrity of the State, do not not hesitate to bring
such into contempt & compromising that integrity to gratify private
animosities, as I have repeatedly shown to no purpose, as no restraint
in check or hinderance has been put on any instance upon the oc-
casions present

I am with the above, and the case of Mr Grant,
the very unfortunate Mr Sankey, who started this proceeding with a
false Endorsement, ran and ran shelved his petition to die out, until
my petition to the Secretary of State, and also to [illegible]
misapplying Rules of the Service to thwart this claim & injure me. All
this I beg to add, was shown in my petition dated 15th May 1882; and in the
face of these very grave charges, highly detrimental to the integrity
and honor of British match and their Govt, I regret to be constrain-
ed to say, that on his departure from these shores he obtained from
Your Excellency, a very flattering testimonial more or less of
his services to the State.

Having above explained the pro-
ceedings of my former petitions with reference to this claim, I

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

full amount of the bill as per Estimate was — Rs 3550-6-4

and this amount was apportioned for only

two items of work viz, for excavation — Rs 3526-4- "

& for stamping (not making) Bunds and sundries — 23-12-

Thus making to full total of the — — — Rs 3550-6-4

But Col Cox and Mr Ste(vinson, or Gif)ven stopped from the above sum

for Bunds & to the question arises where was money for Bunds in the

Estimate to be stopped from? Tell the above Explanation, this

is a most simple question for Major Boom to answer. But he thinks

fought to be asked, when he informs me that "the Govt has considered

my claim" though he does not say how but if with all deference they have

not considered it as I can show clear, they must have been mis-

led by the highly paid official who informed them in the case. Therefore

I a most simple question which I & end Boom will Estimate in hand un-

aided by any body else

But it is necessary to inform you how this

mistake occurred. According to the Estimate, bunds were to be made of the

Excavated mud, but no dimensions and consequently no charges were put

for them in the Estimate. Capt Smithers, then Sub Engr. it was who made

the Estimate, and it was he who verbally informed me, that he put no di-

mensions and consequently no charge for these bunds, because, he said, the

mud was not to be brought from any distance, but that while excavating

the channel the same Excavated mud such as it was, instead of being thrown

away was to be simply deposited in a line to keep a little water from

trickling out of the sides of the channel; for which purpose Bunds of a span high

of the Excavated mud would suffice; hence the 23 Rs 12 Anns only to be put for

merely stamping them down and for sundries as shown above. Capt Smit-

thers is now in Madras, and could testify to this; and the result would be most

satisfactory if Sir would condescend to transfer this case to mine.

On the other hand again the oversight

of the Engr who measured the work was as follows: In doing so, he saw

Bunds in the Estimate, but found no dimensions and charges

for them, whilst there were none; and thinking they were to be of the dimensions

usually made for such channels, he calculated accordingly and struck off the

money; and that this was the mistake and imposition, is clear from his

own letter to me (which his own Overseer wrote) inserted in my petition

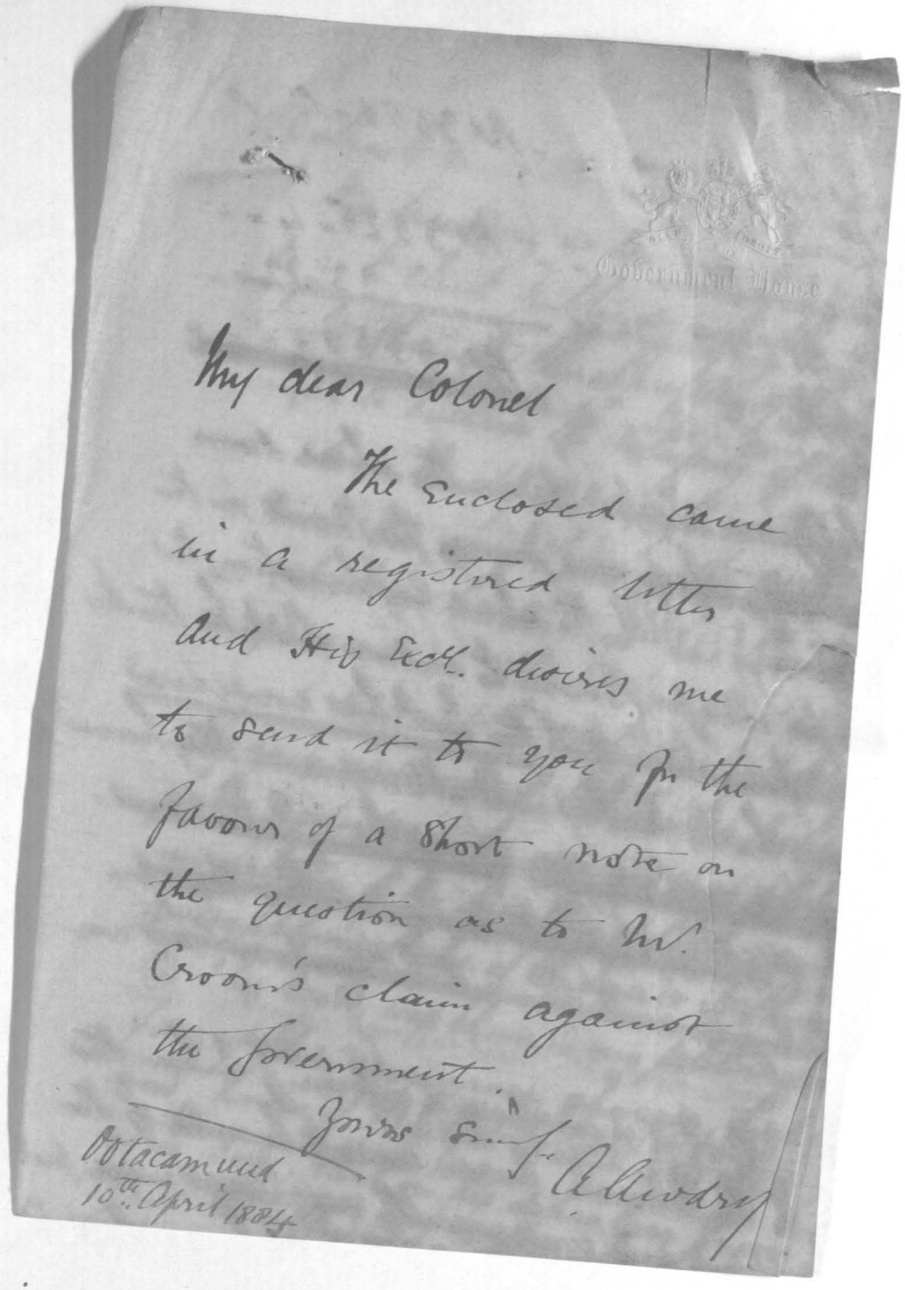
of Petty 1882 & Nº. In the striking off he calculated on the bunds as 3 ft wide and 1 ft high

Further proof that such a pit is in the Estimate

for bunds, could be traced from the fact, that the 3,526 Rs 12 Anns as shown

Index to Mr Croom's Petitions

Date of Petition	Disposal
1. 8th December 1872	G.O. 600 of 24th February 73
2. 17th March 1873	" 754 of 3rd April 73
3. 12th January 1874	G.O. 452 of 23rd February 74
4. 21st January 1874	Despatch to Secy. of State Nº. 10 of 26th Feby 74
	Reply from Secy. of State G.O. 576 of 9th June 74
	Endt. Nº. 1498 of 14th Septr 76
5. 28th June 1876	
6. 18th September 1876	Endt. Nº. 1882 of 21st October 1876
7. 22nd September 1876	
8. 25th January 1880	B Nº. 516. W of 5th March 80
9. 9th June 80	Endt. of 3rd August 80
10. 23rd April 81	C.E. Nº. 1455 of 18th June 81
11. 24th April 82	B Nº. 1191. W of 10th May 82
12. 15th May 82	B Nº. 1368. W of 2nd June 82
13. 3rd June 82	B Nº. 1580 W of 22nd June 82
14. 21st June 82	B Nº. 1756. W of 11th July 82
15. 19th August 82	B Nº. 2287 W of 6th September 82
16. 30th September 82	944 E of 26th October 82
17. 2nd August 83	
18. 9th August 83	B Nº. 2385 W of 24th August 83
19. 14th August 83	
20. 6th September 83	B Nº. 2619 W of 17th September 83
21. 22nd September 83	
22. 27th September 83	B Nº. 2838 W of 9th October 83
23. 24th October 83	
24. 8th November 83	B Nº. 3251 W of 15th November 83
25. 15th November 83	B Nº. 3336. W of 22nd November 83
26. 20th November 83	B Nº. 3471. W of 4th December 83
27. 12th December 83	B Nº. 3630 W of 19th December 83
28. 15th December 83	
29. 17th December 83	B Nº. 3631. W of 19th December 83
30. 7th February 84	B Nº. 407 W of 14th February 84
31. 17th March 84	B Nº. 786. W of 24th March 84
32. 8th April 84	



Government House

My dear Colonel

The enclosed came in a registered letter and His Excy. desires me to send it to you for the favour of a short note on the question as to Mr. Croom's claim against the Government.

Yours Sincy. A Clerke

Otacamund
10th. April 1884

C. A. W.

Please make rough copy of such Note as W.E. asks for.

11-4-84.

Wrote for papers. 11-4-84.

For W

Note prepared accordingly.

19.4.84

To the Honorable Col Sankey – Secretary to
Govt in the Public Works Dept. &c &c &c

Sir

I respectfully beg to inform you that I submitted through the Chief Secretary of Govt two petitions – the one to His Excellency the Right Hon. the Governor, and the other other to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, both dated 2nd August 1883.

The following day however I wrote and dispatched a P.S. in reference to the latter petition, and directed it to the said Chief Secretary; and this P.S. I wrote to give a more definite Explanation of the matter therein referred to.

But in now glancing over the rough copy of the hastily written P.S. I find I therein made reference to my Petition to His Lordship dated 2nd June, while I meant 2nd instant (2nd August 83)

If therefore this oversight has occurred in the said P.S. as dispatched, I beg you will be so good as to alter it accordingly when the petitions and P.S. come to hand in due course; and I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedt Servt J Groom Snr

Purasawalkum Tyckerpets street Madras

9th August 1883

C.A.V.

Please make entry &
file. note &c.

W

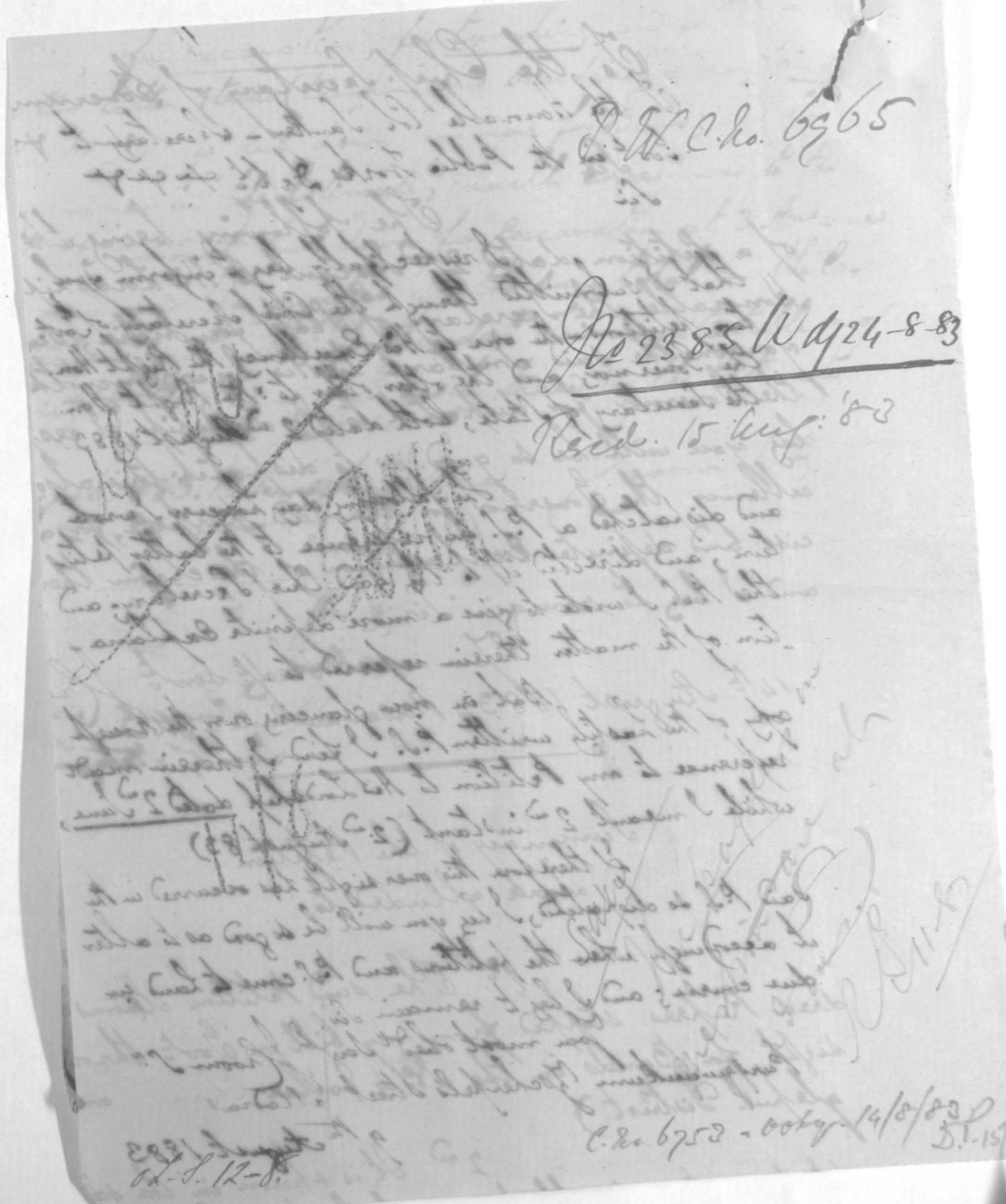
11-4-84.

Has been done 11-4-84.

Seen

Has planted
accordingly.

19.4.84.



To the Hon^ble C. Chaster Esq^re

Chief Secretary to Govt.
&c &c &c

Sir

I respectfully beg to take the liberty to submit for your information, that about 4 months ago (15th May 82) I submitted a claim for 4 or 5 00 Rs through H.E. the R.H the Governor to Govt – the Exact amount of the Sum being in the records of the P.W. Dep^t.

In doing so I beg to add, the Private Secretary sent me a notice that the Petition was transferred to you; in the routine of course it went to Col Sankey but finding that Col Sankey had written a random report to H.E. and

Petition to die out, I was obliged again to submit the Petition, informing H.E. of the manner in which Col. Sankey had treated it; and H.E. again accepted it, and a notice of its transfer to you was again sent to me. This last petition was dated 21st June 1882. Besides this I showed H.E. how the late Hon. Mr Ellis also had treated it, in disposing of it with an evasive Endorsement which stated - "This case cannot be reopened"; and added that if a previous Petition that Elicited such an Endorsement could be produced, and the claim disproved I am satisfied.

Being thrown thereby into very great difficulties and troubles, through the non-settlement of this claim, and not knowing moreover if Col. Sankey has kept it as before in lodging it to die out, I beg to take the liberty to solicit the favor of a line to know if the Petition is now in circulation, which would greatly relieve many

for Easeily I am labouring under and ever feel most grateful and thankful for the kindness; and with respectful apologies for this intrusion and the hasty scrawl of this letter to be in time for the post, I beg to remain Sir

Your most obedt Servt

J Croom Snr

Aug 1882

Registrar Kenn

Gisborne Street

Melbourne

B. Inc. 1756 dt. 1-7-82.

5748

P.W.C.

Read 25th Inst.

№ 2287 W 86 Sept.

B. Lodged in Com. Tunstall's letter 1756 dated 11 July 1882.

21.8.82

Dft/9

021.50.8
maj 28/8

Entd. in Receipt Regr.

Index to Mr. Croom's Petitions

	Date of Petition	Disposal
1.	8th December 1872	G.O. 600 of 24th February 73
2.	17th March 1873	" 754 of 3rd April 73
3.	12th January 1874	G.O. 452 of 23rd February 74
4.	21st January 1874	Despatch to Secy. of State № 10 of 26th Feby 74 Reply from Secy. of State G.O. 1516 of 9th June 74
5.	28th June 1876	Endt. № 498 of 14th Sept. 76
6.	18th September 1876	Endt. № 1882 of 21st October 1876
7.	22nd September 1876	
8.	25th January 1880	B № 516. W of 5th March 80
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31.	17th March 84	B № 786. W of 24th March 84
32.	8th April 84	

irrelavent Endorsement which states "this case cannot be responsd". And the second, the most important of the two is. Was not this money stopped by a mistake from my Estimate for Excavation work, while there was no payment in the said Estimate for the Bunds as clearly proved in my last petition to H.E the Governor; and the amount of money so stopped for the Bunds as recorded in the Ledger of the District Engineers Office is money due to me for my Excavation work, albeit a seperate item was stopped for this Excavation work also, which has been decided and settled by Govt.

With reference to the first question thereof, I beg to guide your memory in stating, that the very first Petition which was returned to me with the said irrelavent Endorsement, was addressed direct to the Duke of Buckingham about the latter part of the year 1877, when H.E. was under preparation for a Journey to Delhi. And with reference to the 2nd question I beg to state, that I need hardly point out to you, that the full amount of the Estimate (3550 Rs) Exactly corresponds with the 3 items of work put down for payment with nothing remaining for Bund as follows:

	Rs	a	p
For Excavation	3526	4	0
For tamping bunds and Sundries	23	12	0
Total	3550	0	0

and with the above Explanation
I beg to remain Sir
Yr Obt 3883
Your most obedt Servt

Kroom Sr.
Purswawkum
Tschepel's Street
Madras
3d June 1882

(13)

Read 7/6

Cor 13834-2.682
1914 W. 10.8.82
8764 W. 5. 3. 80
15-1840 - 9. 6. 74
Res: 710/10-8-74
452 - 23. 6. 74
800 - 24. 2. 73
Cor 701455 - 16. 6. 82

Above memorial
matter enclosed into

Ack. 22/6 Jo 28/6

To Lodged in Cor 13834/82 - 6.82
Ft endt No 1365 W/82 - 6.82
13/ 15 Jun 80 W d/22d June/82
Cy B/W

To Col Sankey - Secretary to
Govt in the P.W.D. &c &c &c

Sir - With reference to my
last petition to H.E. the Governor
in which I am claiming money
stopped for Bunds, I respectfully
beg to inform you, that there are
two very important questions
to be considered on which the
claim rests

The first I beg to
add is. It should be known in
what year the first Petition was
sent to Govt claiming money
exclusively for Bunds, and what
was returned to me with the

P. W. Department

Note for H.E. the Governor on Mr. Croom's claims against the Government

During the year 1871, Mr. J. Croom undertook, on contract, the clearance of some salt channels in the Public Lane should not I think be further wasted on Mr. Croom He shd be referred to previous applications & any further applications might be lodged by the Exec. Concerned

MSd
20th Apr/74

Chingleput District.-

Being dissatisfied with the settlement of his accounts made by the Executive Engineer, he appealed to Govt. in Decr. '72 for a further payment of Rs 500 for work which he alleges he had done, but the evidence of which he was unable to produce.-

he

In G.O. 600 of 24 July '73,

it is stated that H.E. the Governor
in Council had considered with
much attention the case of
Mr Croom, as set forth in
the voluminous correspondence
relating to his claims. - It
was added that Mr Croom,
who, from his position and
previous occupations (being
a retired musician) was ~~very~~
ill qualified for the performance
of the Contracts which he
undertook, is himself to blame,
if he has [illegible] probable, sustained
[illegible] while engaged
in

in the work. -

As regards the clearing of
the three Vogalaar Salt Channels
referred to in his Petition, Mr Croom
completely failed in producing
evidence of the work actually
performed by him, and H.E.
the Gov. in Council was of
opinion that the Ex. Engr. took
all the steps that were possible
to ascertain the real circumstances
of the case and to deal with
Mr Croom in a liberal spirit. -

The delay complained of
in testing the pay[illegible] actually
carried out 2283 in e[illegible] is to
the

ascertaining the real facts were, H.E. in Council considered, owing to Mr. Croom's own irregular manner of conducting business - H.E. in Council was accordingly unable to admit the validity of Mr. Croom's claims as regards these works. -

But, in consideration of Mr Croom's plea of poverty, and that his ignorance of work and measurements may have led him into attempting more than he could perform, and so caused his loss which he [illegible] H.E. the Governor in Council directed a sum of Rs 150/, being the amount entered in the original Estimates for contingencies, to be presented to Mr Croom as a gratuity. - If this failed to satisfy Mr. Croom, he was told that he might seek his remedy at law. -

In the Proceedings of Govt. from which the above is extracted, H.E. the Governor in Council noticed the disposal by the Bd. of Revenue of other claims advanced by Mr Croom, and ordered the payment to him, of Rs 2283 in lieu of the

the amount passed by the Board who considered that a claim of Rs 4865 should be met by a payment of Rs 2582 only. Mr. Croom was thus allowed a large sum for work the existence of which could not be proved at the time.-

Mr. Croom was dissatisfied with this settlement of his claims as ordered by Govt.; and appealed × to the Secy. of State who was furnished with all the correspondence on the subject.- ⁂

The Secy. of State in reply that Mr Croom should be

× G.O. 452 d/ 23d Feby/74

⁂ Despatch No 10 d/ 26 Feby '74

* G.O. 1516 d/ 9 June '74

be informed that, after a careful consideration of his claims, he was unable to interfere with the decision arrived at by the Madras Govt.-

Neither has this decision been accepted by Mr Croom who has continued to petition ever since, as will be seen on reference to the accompanying Index to his Petitions which has now been drawn up for H.E's information.-

Mr Croom has been told on several occasions that his claim cannot be [illegible] the

but this has no effect in

stopping his appeals. —

21-4-84

The Ct. from the Sessions

Mr. Croom.

28 APL 84

SECRETARIAT GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS PUBLIC DEPARTMENT

No. 56 Ed/ April 29. 1884

No. 56 E of April 29 1884.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the

READ the following

Petition from Mr. J. Croom Sr. N.E. No. —— of 8 April 1884.

Mr. Croom is referred to the undermentioned replies to his petitions: —

G.O. 600 of 24 February 1873
" 754 of 3 April 1873
" 452 of 23 February 1874
" 1516 of 9 June 1874
Endt. 1498 of 14 September 1876
" 1882 of 21 October 1876
" —— of 3 August 1880
" 1455 of 18 June 1881
" 1191 W of 10 May 1882
" 944 E of 26 October 1882
G.O. 2385 W of 24 August 1883
" 3251 W of 15 November 1883

His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot allow public time to be

that it must be

further taken up with this
matter, - and will therefore
fore acknowledge no
more communications
on this subject
from Mr Croom:-

and any further Communications
relating thereto, which may be
received from W. Croom in future,
must remain unacknowledged.

W.
28.4.84

To
Mr J. Croom.
29/4/84

M.S. 38/4

To His Excellency the Right Hon. Monstuart Frank Duff
Governor of Madras -

May it please Your Excellency

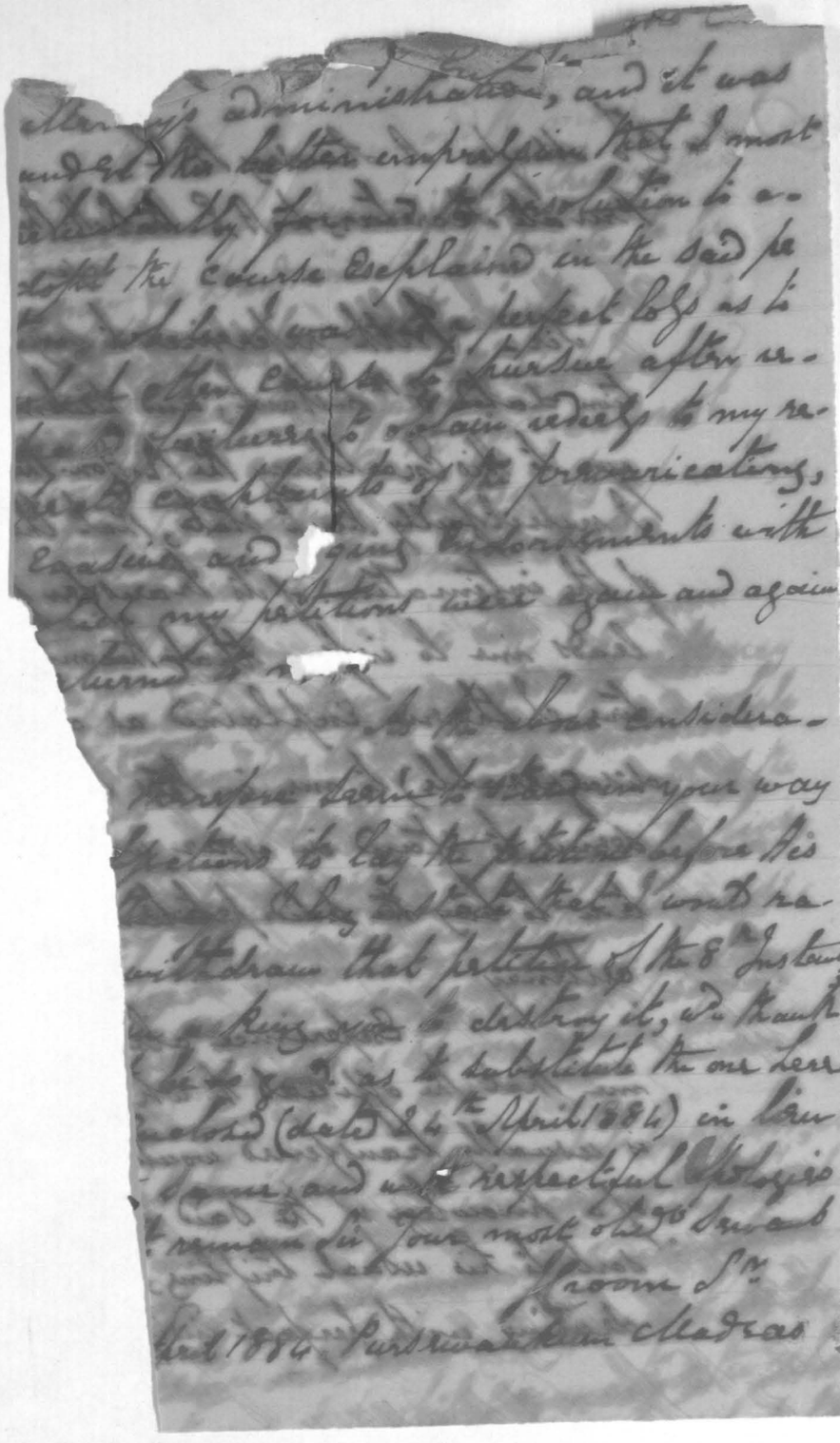
The appellate concerned on the treatment of this A[illegible], finding no check or hindrance put to [illegible] through [illegible] owing perhaps to hasty disposals of petitions through [illegible] of duties, they have now again for the fourth time filed my petition of 2nd Nov. last before you in their inability to disprove the claim; and it being about 20 weeks since Your Excellency transferred my said petition to the Public Works Dept. I most respectfully beg Your Excellency's special interference in this matter.

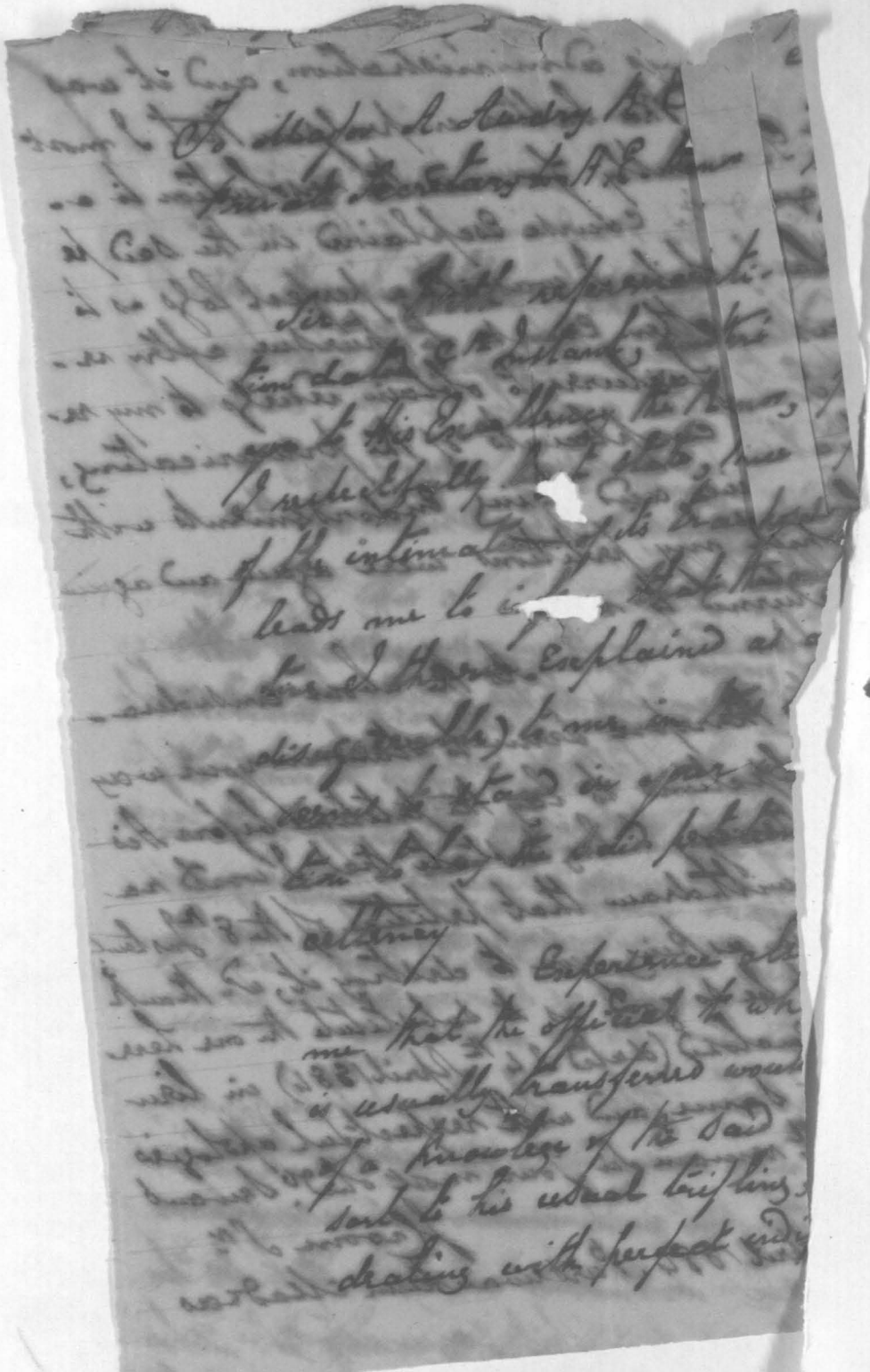
The very long procrastination in the consideration of this case also being the result of such proceedings and the Case being so utterly devoid of intricacy, I have taken the liberty to entreat on Your Excellency's kindness in solicitating the favor of prompt decision of this case. I have suffered extremely in the loss of interest on the money herein claimed; and Your Excellency's suggestion for this prompt action would be most thankfully felt and appreciated.

I now beg to show that this petition claims a sum of 5,551 and odd Rupees (more or less) stopped for Bunds from my bill for Earth work through the overSight of an Engineer, and the proof of this overSight I beg very clearly shows it to exist in the following figures:-

The full amount of the bill as per Estimate is 3,551 Rupees; and this amount was effected for only 2 items of work, and for nothing else viz for excavation Rs. 3,526 - As 4
For Earthen (not making) Bunds - Rs 23 - As 12
Thus making the full total of the bill - As 3,551 -

as my health is suffering through his subtle mu[illegible] I was





But in the face of the clear Estimate, 5 Rs and odd Rs more or less were stopped out of the above sum for Bunds; and the question therefore arises, where was money for Bunds in the Estimate to be stopped from? Now if I am [illegible] and; and with all deference to your [illegible] I say that no paid Official who is entrusted with this case by the Govt, cannot answer this question and bar his decision according upon it, he is tampering with the integrity of the [illegible]

But it is necessary to explain how the money for the Bunds were stopped. Though in the Estimate and Bills the Excavated mud was to be thrown on the banks of the Canal, instead of [illegible] criminately throwing it away, hence no deductions and consequently no payments were made for them in the Estimate; save the 2 3/4 Rs 12 Rs as shown above for tamping them

Capt Smithers the then Sub Engineer, at whose side the made the Estimate - he is now in Madras, and if he be verbally informed me, that he put no dimensions and consequently no charges for them, because (he said) the mud was not to be brought from Elsewhere or any distance, but while Excavating the Channel, the Excavated mud such as it was, was merely to be deposited in a line to keep a little stopping water from dripping out of the line of the channel, for which purpose, Bunds of a span high would suffice

The Engineer also who fell into this oversight in stopping the money for Bunds, inadvertantly acknowledged his mistake in a letter he wrote to me through his Overseer in which he stated (as he thought in his mistake) that the Bunds were to be of ordinary dimentions usually made for those channels, viz 3 yards wide and one yard high and that the payment for them was to be the 5 Rs and odd Rupees to be stopped for them from any bill. This said letter is shown in my petition dated 15th

[illegible] by the then Engineer after the weight of [illegible] this mistake in the dimentions of the Bunds occurred [illegible] while measuring my work, he saw Bunds in the Estimate; but failed to see if there were dimensions and charges for them, which there were none; and thinking they were to be of the dimentions usually made for such channels to seperate large sheets of water, he calculated accordingly and struck off the money from my bill.

Lastly I beg to state, that in having over and over submitted this claim with no other result than being left to die out, simply because it cannot be disproved, and which preceding I will admit to be very unfair; and it being to be left to die out for indefinite periods by the official concerned, I beg Y.E. will not be displeased when I state, that the usual transfer of this Petition to the P.W. Dept in the absence of [illegible] your Excellency's special interference cannot be satisfy my humble Expectation, and in the Petition having remained to be left to die out for long, and periods Your Excellency I humbly trust will not consider this an unreasonable statement; and under the same consideration I humbly beg Y.E. will condescend to allow the period of a fortnight or so as the limit of such interference; and with the most respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble and obdt Servt

24th April 1884 J. Brown Snr

Madras - Purswawkum West of Pannah Street

PETITION from James Croom Senr

Dated 24th April 1884

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to Government ~~for disposal.~~ in continuation of his former petition for disposal.

(By Order.)

A. Audry Captain, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Cataconnud
1st May 1884.

No 56 Ed/29-4-84

(188/) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT.

Dated 12th May 1884.
Recd. 2

ENCLOSURE.

No.

Subject.

Transfers a petition from

Lodged in reference to Endorsement dated 29 April

3-5-84

LETTER

FROM A LOYAL BRITISH SUBJECT OF THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

Most humbly and respectfully submitted

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE

ASHMEAD BARTLETT, ESQ.,

M. P. &c., &c., &c.

as my health is suffering

LETTER

FROM A LOYAL BRITISH SUBJECT OF THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

Most humbly and respectfully submitted

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE

ASHMEAD BARTLETT, ESQ.,

M. P., &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

In perusing from time to time the proceedings of Parliament in matters relating to India, it was always gratifying to notice the humane tendency of the Honorable Members of that body, to protect their helpless subjects in this country against acts of injustice and oppression; and having noticed your Excellency's name among the said Members, I have taken the liberty to submit this letter most respectfully soliciting Your Excellency's pardon for the intrusion.

I beg to add, that it is a matter of great thankfulness also, that our destiny is placed in the hands of such a Parliament far-famed for their magnanimity and humane administration in this country.

With these convictions on my mind therefore, and while it is announced in one of the leading journals of this presidency, and also rumoured abroad, that out of a hundred petitions submitted through the Government to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, ninety-nine out of the hundred are returned to the petitioners with the endorsement that "The Secretary of state declines to interfere."

But it is difficult to believe that such a proceeding is the result of indifference, but rather that of His Lordship's natural reliance on gentlemen officials, whose high social training gives them unquestionable credit for veracity, and integrity in His Lordship's estimation, as to repose implicit confidence in them. Yet withal, the disreputable proceedings of the Governor of Madras and of His Excellency's officials lead me to infer, that the medium for evasion of petitions lies on the familiarity that exists between officials of this country and those of the Indian Office in London.

In any case therefore, allowing the report to be as it may—and this case having been so surreptitiously treated as herein shown, as to conceal the obnoxious proceeding from His Lordship's notice, and any access to His Lordship also through the Government having been barred unlawfully against me as also herein shown, I have under this circumstance, ventured in relying on Your Excellency's favor, to adopt a surer course of access to His Lordship, in soliciting Your Excellency's kindness as the medium to lay this case for His Lordship's special and private consideration, if it is not an unconstitutional proceeding to do so (rather than bring the proceeding to public exposure) or to treat it as Your Excellency may please.

Another impediment in the matter of redress I beg to add, could be seen in the disinclination of H. E. the Viceroy to interfere with Mr. Grant Duff's Government, when requested to extend an act of mercy in commuting the sentence of transportation on a number of unfortunate and highly respectable Hindoos, who have been so transported under very doubtful convictions in connection with the Salem riots, although the interference was solicited by a whole community : and it was through the indiscretion of the authorities themselves in permitting the erection of a Mahomedan Mosque in

the heart of a Hindoo town to stand as a perpetual eyesore to the Hindoos that this riot originated.

Ere I proceed further I beg to state, that I have never as yet seen Mr. Grant Duff to bear personal animosity against His Excellency ; but as a legal professor uses every available material against friend or foe to expain his case, I feel driven to the painful necessity to do so.

In short I beg to state, that while the lustre of British integrity shone forth in by-gone days of former Rulers, so far as this presidency is concerned, it is now (only after Mr. Grant Duff's arrival) quite diminished—so much so, that the proceedings of the Government, so far as Mr. Grant Duff is personally concerned in acts of injustice and oppression are as deliberately tolerated as they would be under a Mahomedan Government as in one instance herein shown, to say nothing of other instances in the journals of the 3 presidencies, so that loud, united, and frequent appeals are reiterated to the people through the Press, to memorialize Parliament for the recall of His Excellency who (according to the public journals) reversed the decision of the High Court to his will, and transported a large number of highly respectable Hindoos under doubtful conviction. It is also stated in one of the said journals that he broke the law at his option (what could be worse ?) and a very startling accusation against His Excellency is inserted in the Heading of the leading Editorial of the *Madras Athenæum* in an issue of April 1884 of too grave a character to mention. All these and other causes seem to be the result of the clamour for the recall of Mr. Grant Duff.

Instances of the said clamour could be seen in the *Madras Athenæum* of the 12th, 15th, 16th, and 17th April 1884 as also in other journals. A journal of another presidency says, " we have only to hope that Mr. Grant

Duff will not add to his growing unpopularity by other acts of rashness and high-handedness, and thus make himself the object of public curses."

When was it ever known, since India was brought under the rule of Great Britain, save at the present time, that the Madras Government was tried, convicted and fined by the High Court for (what the *Hindoo Patriot* and other journals denominate,) "scandalous conduct and arrant despotism." The said journal adds that, "Mr. Grant Duff has good friends in Parliament; but will they lend themselves to the support of a despot?"

While thus practically shut out from appeal to the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, as shown further on, as well as from other sources therefore, and knowing of no other medium of redress save the Honorable Members of Parliament, in whom the people of this country repose implicit reliance—but as it savors of presumption in me in my insignificance to presume to address Your Excellency, my conviction nevertheless, that there does not exist a more honorable, humane and conscientious representative body under the sun, divests me of that diffidence which stands in the way of access, in most humbly submitting this appeal for your Excellency's gracious interposition herein solicited on behalf of the injured and oppressed; and all that I could tender as a return for this benevolence, is the sincere and heart-felt gratitude of

A poor and injured man.

J. CROOM, *Sr.*

PURSEWAUKUM,
MADRAS, 4*th June* 1884.

Testimonial from the REVD. MR. T. DEALTRY *(late Archdeacon of Madras) on his return to England.*

DEAR MR. CROOM,—It is now many years since I have known you. All that I have seen and heard of you entitles you to my sincere regard and respect. I should be very glad to hear that you succeeded in the appointment for which you tell me you are a candidate. You can make what use of this letter you please.

Believe me your's faithfully,

(Signed) THOMAS DEALTRY.

MADRAS, 15*th March.*

FROM THE REVD. MR. S. PERCIVAL.

This is to certify that I have known Mr. J. Croom, Senior, for many years, and have always heard him well spoken of.

(Signed) S. PERCIVAL,
Chaplain.

NEGAPATAM, 19*th July* 1878.

My disinclination to give publicity to the following disgraceful proceedings (notwithstanding this protracted oppression for a number of years) is clear from the fact, that nothing of this csse has as yet appeared in the public journals.

Particulars relating to unfair dealing and oppression tolerated by His Excellency Mr. GRANT DUFF, *Governor of Madras.*

Save up to the present administration, it was hardly ever known, that in undertaking work from the Madras Government, the individual so engaged was made to suffer ruinous loss through proceedings as herein shown

in false endorsements, and subtle connivances, while the Government sustains not the loss of a fraction, but gains to the full extent of a poor man's work.

In being thwarted in the early stage of my career to earn a livelihood with a very small capital now completely exhausted by the subtle mode of oppression tolerated by His Excellency Mr. Grant Duff as herein shown, I most humbly and earnestly beg Your Excellency's patient perusal of this case.

This case I beg to state is but an isolated one of others now known abroad, caused through some caprice or inadvertant, or unavoidable clashing with Government officials.

In this instance of my case therefore, the Madras Government required the economical and expeditious execution of some work, which was previously tardily executed.

To accomplish this requirement, the *Government Engineer never ventured ;* but when he found I had invented an apparatus, took the contract, and executed the work expeditiously, he interfered with some flimsy and plausible objections ; and when I informed him that the invention and contract were mine, and that I was responsible to Government for the work which I understood as well as any Engineer, and required no such interference, he betrayed deep animosity, and created an ill-will among the officials of the Public Works Department against me, as I subsequently discovered.

His conduct towards me in endeavouring to prejudice the mind of the Deputy Collector (under whom I was working) against this apparatus was the cause of my retaliation. As the Public Works Department had no control in this work however, it was completed in due course, and here the matter dropped. But the said Engineer must have greatly exaggerated on my retaliation to have set

his colleagues so maliciously against me, as shown further on.

Never for a moment therefore suspecting that gentlemen of their position would stoop to unfair dealing, I now accepted some work from Government to excavate some wet channels, to render them navigable to float out their cargo-laden boats, and of which work the Public Works Department had the supervision.

The work of excavation in this latter instance being now completed, and all the laden boats having been floated out without the slightest detriment to Government, and the order of Government with reference to work executed *under* water being such, that the Inspecting Engineer should not be too particular in his measurements, or rather that the work would suffice if the object of the Government is realized.

On the Inspecting Engineer inspecting my work of excavation therefore, I was not called to attend ; and I now discovered that I was completely in his hands, and at his disposal, for in so measuring, and in the face of the above order, to say nothing of the object of the work being realized, he struck off about one half the amount of my bill, viz, 1,690 Rupees ; and this amount I considered as stopped for excavation work alone, for there was no other work in the estimate from which such an amount could be stopped.

The full amout of my bill according to the contract and estimate was 3,550 Rupees ; and having so struck off the 1,690 Rupees in the face of every possible advantage to Government I appealed to Government against it, backed by the opinion of the Collector ; but the Engineering officials strenuously opposed, and quashed the appeal, while the Government allowed me only 150 Rupees which they admittted as due to my poverty. But this being

a sort of blind work with no clue or data to go upon, I submitted to the decision. under protest.

Ere they had so quashed the appeal however, I discovered that the whole 1,690 Rupees were not stopped for excavation alone as I believed them to be, but that the Inspecting Engineer through an oversight had stopped 500 and odd Rupees more or less for bunds also which were not to be paid for in the estimate, and these two stoppages he put together, and made up the 1,690 Rupees ; and ere the appeal was decided or quashed, I informed the Government of this, adding that I intended to appeal afresh against this stoppage for bunds, which I am now doing.

The full explanation regarding this stoppage for bunds I beg to add, I inserted in my petition (dated 15th May 1882) to Mr. Grant Duff, the Governor, but His Excellency never instituted an enquiry into the matter ; and in every instance of six different petitions consecutively submitted, no enquiry nor any motion whatever was made in the matter ; but in every instance the case was treated as if it had never been previously submitted to His Excellency.

The officials of the Public Works Department on the other hand, repeatedly returned the petition to me with evasive replies, when so transferred to them by His Excellency, and no attempt whatever was made in any single instance to *disprove* the claim ; but while no report was called for from the officials in the way of explanation, nor even a check or reprimand given for such evasive proceedings, in every instance a mere acknowledgment of the receipt of the petition, with the statement of its transfer to the Public Work Department, was posted to me by His Excellency. *The claim could not be disproved, and this was the routine resorted to.*

Colonel Sankey, the Secretary of the Public Works Department, was the leading and chief opposer of this

petition, and he and Mr. Grant Duff are known to be on very intimate terms, a proof of which is, that His Excellency promoted him to a seat in the Legislature, in the face of very grave charges which had been previously brought against him as shown further on.

It was Colonel Sankey who first started his opposition with a lying endorsement, as will be presently shown, and the said intimacy seems to account for His Excellency's reticence in the matter of the grave charges brought against him from time to time in tampering with this case ; for in this age, there are unfortunately men of high positions, who, when two are of the same stamp, easily arrive at a mutual understanding to injure a subordinate in conniving talk, if the one says, " he is an impertinent fellow" (because I could not help complaining against him) and when the other says, " Well, we could bring him to his bearings."

In defending a claim therefore, the more so one which has so culminated as to throw the claimant into such pecuniary difficulties as to tell upon his health, such an individual I beg to observe is in the condition of a drowning man who would catch a straw.

Such being the case therefore, I humbly beg Your Excellency will not think me presumptuous when I speak openly in stating, that when I, in my humble position in life, would disdain to associate with an individual, who, like Colonel Sankey, could stoop to the mean practice of lying and shuffling to injure a poor man (who never as yet saw him) to gratify the animosity of a friendly colleague and what a reflection it is on the British Government, who could have sent out such a Governor (over this mighty presidency) who could so compromise the dignity of his position in the close intimacy that existed between them and connive at such practices, if silence and non-

interference in matters of oppression over and over submitted to the notice of a Governor, could be recognized as connivance ?

I now beg to revert to matters relating to the claim. This sum of 500 and odd Rupees so withheld for bunds through this oversight I beg to add, I am claiming for about ten years ; and one cause of this long procrastination of this case was, that prior to Mr. Grant Duff's arrival as Governor; this claim was in every instance submitted to Government through Colonel Sankey (the Secretary of the Pubilc Works Department) who being a friendly colleague of the Engineer who fell into the oversight and the said Engineer himself having written a very abusive letter against me to another Department, the Superintendent of which said he was ashamed to read it to me, the said Colonel Sankey opposed this claim by every subtle contrivance imaginable with false endorsements, evasive replies, burked my petitions from time to time, and delayed and shelved them for indefinite periods to die out.

In being eventually given to understand however, that he was authorized by Government to dispose of petitions for Government in their name, Mr. Grant Duff at this time had just arrived as Governor, and from thenceforward I in every instance submitted my petitions direct to His Excellency through the Private Secretary.

When therefore I first submitted this claim to Government through Colonel Sankey prior to Mr. Grant Duff's arrival, he started the opposition with a *false* endorsement, which stated—" This case cannot be reopened ;" and in requesting him to produce a previous petition that could have elicited that endorsement, he was unable to do so ; but in every instance he and the officials from time to time, and after very long periods of many months used to send me evasive replies, such as. " The Government has

considered this case." " Your claim cannot be reconsidered." The claim has been considered with the greatest scrutiny." " This is the 6th petition and no further notice will be taken of your petition."—But never in one instance has it been shown *how* the petitions were " considered," nor has a single attempt been made to disprove the claim, which here stands out in bold relief in figures as shown in the following petition to His Excellency the Governor to which I now beg to solicit Your Excellency's attention :—

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Mounstuart Grant Duff, Governor of Madras, &c., &c., &c

May it please Your Excellency—

* * *

" Apart from the above I beg to state, that Your " Excellency has from time to time very kindly accepted " my petitions for transfer to the Public Works Depart- " ment, and the highly-paid officials in every instance " so tampered with them to gratify the animosity of a " friendly colleague ; and this they have done over and over " without the slightest check or hindrance, and with " perfect indifference to Your Excellency's reputation, and " also to the integrity of the British rule in this country."

* * *

" In addition to all this, the very individual Colonel " Sankey, the Secretary, who started this proceeding with " *lying endorsement,* when unable to disprove the claim, " —over and over *shelved my petitions to die out—burked* " *another petition* which I submitted through him to the " Secretary of State, in which I complained against his " treatment of this case *sent me evasive replies in every* " *instance, and misapplied the Rules of the Service* in a

" letter to me, in which he implied that he would not
" forward another petition to His Lordship, albeit he had
" withheld a former one so submitted."

" *In the face* of such disgraceful proceedings over and
" over represented to Y. E. therefore, I regret to be under the
" necessity to observe, that an official of such an untrust-
" worthy character, Your Excellency promoted to a seat
" in the Legislative Council, and he obtained from Your
" Excellency a very flattering testimonial of his services
" to the State, while on the contrary he was bringing the
" British rule into disgrace and contempt in this country."

" I now beg to show, that this petition claims a sum
" of about 500 and odd Rupees stopped for bunds from my
" bill for Government work, through the oversight of an
" Engineer ; and the proof of this oversight is here very
" clearly shown in the following few figures as follows."

" The full amount of the bill according to the estimate
" was 3,550 Rupees. This amount therefore was appor-
" tioned for only two items of work and for nothing else, viz :

" For bare excavation ...	Rupees	3,526	4	0
" For tamping (not making) bunds and Sundries	Rupees	23	12	0
" Thus making the full total of...	Rupees	3,550	0	0

" But while in measuring the work, and while the Engi-
" neer stopped a certain amount for excavation work, he also
" through a mistake stopped the said 500 and odd Rupees
" for bunds also which had no payments for them in the
" estimate, and included this latter stoppage with the
" stoppage made for excavation work, which added together
" amounts to the 1,690 Rupees."

" When therefore not a fraction is put in the estimate
" for bunds, the question arises—how came about 500 and
" odd Rupees to be stopped for them ? This therefore is a
" most simple question which Your Excellency with the

" estimate in hand could solve unassisted by any body
" else."

" But it is necessary to inform Your Excellency how
" this mishap occurred. The gentleman who made the
" estimates is Captain Smithers. He was then the Sub-
" Engineer ; and it was he who verbally informed me
" why he put no dimensions and consequently no charges
" for the bunds in the estimate."

" The reason therefore he alleged was because (said he)
" the mud was not to be brought from elsewhere nor to be
" dug up for this purpose ; but that while excavating
" the channel, the excavated mud (such as it was) instead
" of being as usual thrown away indiscriminately, should
" merely be deposited in a line, to keep a little rippling water
" from rippling out of the line of the channel, for which
" purpose bunds of a span high would suffice ; and he put
" only the 23 Rupees 12 ans. for merely tamping them."

" On the other hand again, the oversight of the other
" Engineer who measured the work occurred as follows :
" While so measuring the depths of the excavation, he
" saw bunds in the estimate ; and failing to see if they had
" dimensions and charges for them in the estimate, of which
" there were [redacted], and believing they were to be of the
" dimensions usually made for these channels, viz., 3 yards
" wide and one yard high to separate large sheets of water,
" he calculated accordingly and made that stoppage of the
" 500 and odd Rupees."

" That such was the mistake and impression of the
" Inspecting Engineer, therefore, is clear also from his own
" letter inadvertently written to me through his Overseer
" *after* he had made the stoppages, in which he states, 'the
" bunds should be 3 yards wide and one yard high, and the
" payment for them is 3 annas 4 pies per cubic yard ;' which
" amounts to the sum stopped for them. But in the face

" of this not a pie nor measurement is put for them in the " estimate. The said letter therefore is extracted and " inserted in my petition to Your Excellency dated 15th " May 1882."

"And another and most incontrovertible proof that " the money in the estimate was so apportioned for the " said two items of work as above shown is, that the whole " amount of the 3,526 Rupees 4 ans. put in the estimate for " excavation, corresponds to the pie with the number of " cubic yards to be excavated at 3 ans. 4 pies per cubic " yard."

"Lastly I beg to state that Captain Smithers who " made the estimate is now in Madras city, residing in " Vepery, and as Your Excellency must admit that no body " could report upon this case better than he, it would be " most satisfactory, and I would feel most thankful if this " case be transferred to him for report, as the unjust and " stern opposition herein shown fully justifies such a " transfer as both imperative and reasonable ; and with " respecful apologies for this further intrusion.

" I beg to remain
" Your Excellency's most humble and
" obedient servant"
J. CROOM, (*Senior.*)

" 15*th May* 1884.
" PURSEWAUKUM,—*East of Tannah Street, Madras.*"

☞ This last and most important request for the transfer of the case to Captain Smithers, who made the estimate, and who could best report upon it in preference to any other official, His Excellency Mr. Grant Duff has not heeded. And although this is my sixth and last petition to His Excellency, Mr. Grant Duff has in every instance and in the face of the grave charges brought against the officials done nothing more than post to me an acknowledgment

of the receipt of each petition, with the statement of the transfer of the same to Public Works Department ; and the officials on the other hand deal with them as they please, in every instance sending me evasive replies, with never an attempt to disprove the claim ; nor have I had a single reply direct from His Excellency, hence the officials treated the petitions as they pleased.

Having above explained the unrighteous proceeding of the case, I now humbly beg Your Excellency will not be displeased at this further intrusion in showing that even the recovery of this money would prove but a very small matter, if the interest is not recovered on what I borrowed for subsistence during the very long procrastination and tampering of this case for a period of about ten years through no fault of mine ; and if Mr Grant Duff, the Governor, had a as mere matter of duty only called upon the officials to disprove this claim, the matter would have been seen through at once without further shuffling ; but there was one continued transfer of the petition from time to time without any request of the kind to the officials.

Calculating therefore on the lowest possible rate of interest on borrowed money among the middle or poorer classes, the usual rate as could be traced in our Small Cause Courts is one anna on the Rupee per mensem, and though I off and on paid double this amount in emergencies, I would be satisfied if the one anna on the Rupee per mensem would be granted me for the losses I have sustained in interest on this money borrowed from time to time for subsistence, to say nothing of the indignities I endured from a score of creditors owing to my inability to liquidate their just demands.

If, however, a concession such as this be thought a bad precedent, Your Excellency will admit it to be a very fair

and honest concession; and as it is also the stern principle of the British nation to meet the ends of justice at any cost, more so in the case of the poor, I beg to state with all deference, that it would prove a most salutary check on official oppression so prevalent in this country, if the losses so sustained be made good (as a warning to others) even out of the salaries of such oppressors, who so deliberately trifle with the integrity of the British rule to gratify private animosity, and who was it but they who created this ill-feeling that caused the mutiny of 1857 ?

To obviate overwhelming pressure in claims for interest on His Lordship by those who hitherto failed to show the just propriety of such claims, the recognition of this case in the matter of interest might be made an exception.

With all humility therefore, I beg to observe, that the above disclosures of the possibility of such disgraceful proceedings may induce H. L. the Right Hon. the Secretary of State to devise measures in future, that would obviate this unavoidable necessity to seek redress through the present abnormal course as herein pursued, in the absence of which as an alternative, the poor have no other course to pursue.

Finally, I beg to state, that had I the means to do so I might have taken this case to be adjudicated in a Court of law, and spared His Lordship this inconvenience ; but my impecuniosity never permitted me to do so ; and if on the other hand I had sent this to the Public Journals it would have been seized and published ; and with that the confidence of the country would be lost on the Government.

I have ventured the appeal to Your Excellency, on the faith of the integrity of the British nation, which ever shone with a brighter lustre than that of any other

nation under the sun, ever since it came under the influence of civilization.

If, therefore, the appeal should meet with the favorable consideration of Your Excellency and His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, His Lordship's request to the Madras Government, that this case be transferred for report or decision to Captain Smithers who made the estimate is all that I can desire ; and if His Lordship would also graciously condescend to request the Government to intimate His Lordship's pleasure to me in reference to the disposal of this case, I would ever feel most grateful and thankful for this great condescension and kindness ; and with most respectful apologies for this intrusion,

I beg to remain with the utmost deference,
Your Excellency's most humble
and obedient servant,

J. CROOM, (*Senior.*)

16*th June* 1884.
PURSEWAUKUM, *Madras, East of Tannah Street.*

P. S.—This claim was due about the middle of the year 1871; and the last reply to my last petition, dated 15th November 1883 was a mere acknowledgment of 12 replies to my 12 petitions said to have been submitted from the year 1873 to 1883. But in not one of the said replies has any attempt been made to disprove the claim ; and I am informed that the *Governor in Council* will take no further notice of my claim in this matter. Though I do not know if it is still the pratice—but up to a few years ago, the Secretary of the P. W. Department was endowed with the prerogative to dispose of petitions relating to sums of money within a certain limit as if disposed by *the Governor in Council.*

Petition from Mrs J Croom

Dated _____ 188 .

—

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

J B Close

~~Captain~~, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

Government House,
20th July 1884.

No 96 Ed/7.84

(1884) DEPARTMENT.

P.W.C. No 6220

No 389 Ed/ July 25, 1884

Lodged in continuation of No 96 Ed/7th May 1884

24.7.84

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT.

Dated 20th July 1884.
Recd. 24

No 389 Ed/ July 25th 1884

ENCLOSURE. /

No. _____

Subject.

Transfers a petition from Mr Croom forwarding his appeal to members of Parliament

With disposal

/

To J. Peers Esqre. - Officiating Private Secretary
to His Excellency the Right Hon. the Governor
&c &c &c

Sir With reference to your postal acknowledgment (dated 20th June 1884) of the receipt of my petition and pamphlet submitted through you during the present month to His Excellency the Right Hon. the Governor, I respectfully beg to inform you, that after having submitted 8 or 10 petitions from time to time during a period of about 2 years to H.E. complaining and showing therein in every instance the tampering of the officials of the Public works Dept. of this case, in sending me evasive and irrelevant replies in their inability to disprove the claim - or in other words, their inability to show cause why several hundreds of Rupees were stopped from my bill for Bunds which were not to be paid for, there being no dimensions and consequently no payments for them in the Estimate; and finding moreover, that not the slightest notice of the complaints therein so frequently made, has been taken in the way of Enquiry from, or check upon the officials; and above all the disproof of the claim in not a single instance being insisted upon, while on this alone, and on nothing else the case could be honestly disposed of.

Such being the case therefore, and while no other object could be traced in the useless and interminable routine of the mere transfer of this case from one Dept. to another without any understanding or practical result whatever, it is now discovered that the above subtle mode of pro-

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is intended as a sham proceeding to hood-wink petitioners in the matter of their claims; and such a proceeding amounts to a piece of trickery worthy only of a man, who holds the post of Officials, while such posts are designed for none but real gentlemen of high moral and social training.

The said proceedings having now therefore been shown (and cannot be disproved to be but mere sham proceedings) to be within the reach of the meanest capacity to comprehend, I humbly trust that this will induce H. E. to give the case a special consideration; and with respectfull apologies I beg to remain Sir

Your most obed[t] Servant J Groom Sr.

26th July 1884

Purswaukam East of Jannah Street Madras

PETITION from J. Groom Sr.

Dated 26th July 1884

TRANSFERRED to the Chief Secretary to Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

J. Rees
~~Captain, R.E.,~~
Private Secretary.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
Ootacamund
28th July 1884.

(188 4) DEPARTMENT.

No 410 E of 31st July/84

P & E Nos 6442/84
317

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

Lodged, in continuation of No 389 E dated 25th July/84.

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT.

30-7-84

Dated 28th July
Recd. 29

1884.

ENCLOSURE.

No 410 E of 31st July/84

No. _____

Subject.

Transfers a petition from Broomfield praying for a reconsideration of his case.

No 389 E of 25-7-84
" 56 E of 29-4-84
" 96 E of 7-5-84
" 786 W of 24-3-84
" 407 W of 14-2-84
" 3631 W of 19-12-83

With disposal

Service

To Col Shaw Stewart Secretary to the Govt the Public works Department &c &c &c

Sir – As it is difficult to believe that you would directly or indirectly connive in a matter of cheating and as this dispensation has been carried on in your Department it is with your wish to know if the matter has been withheld from you through the misleading of others, ere proceedings are instituted – not quite in the matter of claim reserved for another source if need be – but in the mildest term; for unfair dealing in the matter of my claim for money due to me from your Department.

In dwelling on the treatment of this claim I beg to add, that I have no desire to animadvert on Mr Grant Duffs administration; but as through such treatment of this claim I am thrown into grievous difficulties, I am painfully driven to utilize all the materials available in defence of this claim though I bear no animosity whatever against his Excellency; and in so dwelling on this subject I beg to state, that I will be "above board" in explaining thoroughly in all its phases the disagreeable course I am bound to pursue; and the following therefore is the method to be adopted to draw the Eyes of all England to the perusal of my pamphlet, with this letter printed and attached to it as an Appendix, and the method is as follows:-

With the assistance of a humane gentleman of the mercantile community, an adequate sum is to be remitted to his Agent in England for the republication of 300 copies of my pamphlet with this letter attached as an Appendix, and with instructions to make them over to the offices of the London Times and the Pall Mall Gazette, and for the publication of the following advertisement also, with the Heading of the same in type uncommonly large to give it prominence.

Advertisement

ENGLISH RULE
DISGRACED IN INDIA
a sad reflection on the English nation.

Copies of pamphlets treating thereon to be had at the offices of the Times and Pall Mall Gazette at 2 pence per copy.

The following

is

the testimony and Appeal of a loyal Eurasia subject of the Madras presidency Laboring under oppression under Mr. Grant Duffs Govt. to say nothing of the voice of the whole Press and of tens of thousands of the people raised against his administration

Noblemen, Gentlemen and Working classes of England, Hearken!

Hitherto as a nation, you have won Laurels for deeds of Love, Justice, Chivalrie and Humanity, unsurpassed by any nation under the Sun. Your Humane administration gives Englishmen in India was dignified with upright dealing, humanity, stern Justice and honorableness; but we have never been ruled by such men of a race, who would accept and hold a position to acquire wealth at any cost that would even involve shame, dishonor and contempt. and as shown in the pamphlet would even sustain and countenance injustice and oppression, and that too for a most objectionable cause to gratify the animosity of a friendly official, who was in vain reported for dishonest proceedings and official trickery to injure a poor man, as well as for the disgrace and contempt he was thereby incurring with perfect indifference on the British rule in the country.

Your kind perusal of the said pamphlet therefore, to relieve the oppressed by your influence with the Home Authorities (who seem to wink at such proceedings) and to sustain the honor of the nation is respectfully solicited.

I need hardly say, that the novelty of the above advertisement, will cause its Extraction throughout the whole of England if not of Europe, and you will be able to form some idea of the weight of the oppression which could have suggested the Extreme course I am now most reluctantly driven to pursue, and which ordinary discretion and simple justice would have obviated.

But to proceed. I now beg to add, that to set you in a proper position, it is my duty to inform you, ere I proceed in the matter, (with all deference and much regret) that your reply dated 5th April 1881 to my petition or letter referring to it is an Evasive reply, intentional or not I am unable to say; but I beg to remind you withal, that nothing short of a disproof of the claim, which you must be aware cannot be shown, could honestly entitle you to dismiss it as you have done, to say nothing of your being very highly paid to uphold the integrity of the Govt

According to your reply I beg to observe, that you dismissed my claim without showing any legitimate cause, because of course there was none to show, as I am reluctantly driven however to the course I am pursuing, from reluctantly to maintain however to the course I am pursuing, from reluctantly to maintain however my reputation which militate against the supposition that you are aware of the shameful proceedings of this case, I have to the receipt of your Letter dtd 5th April 81 been induced to infer, that you have been misled, or have not personally looked into it, relying perhaps on Subs and Deputies

Such being the case therefore, I thought it best to defer action in the matter for a few weeks, and first to post this letter to you, as Explanatory of the course I am bound to pursue; as in so doing, silence on the one hand will admit of your cognizance of the proceedings, or an Explanation on the other hand will show the cause whatever it may be.

These pernicious proceedings having up to this time been withheld from the public and the Press, it is intended as above stated to send this pamphlet with this letter printed and attached as an Appendix to the said London Papers as well as to other Journals of the 3 presidencies of India (should such a necessity occur) a few weeks after awaiting to hear how the case really stands; and the two Following letters also the one to the Local press, and the other a (2nd) letter to Mr Ashmead Bart. will be Embodied herein to make up the Appendix

Letter No 1. To the Editor

Sir – If it is cheating to deprive a man of his money by misrepresentations, false Endorsements, and Evasive replies, knowing them to be such; and if on the other hand, frequent representations of the same have been made to the Ruling Authority, whose non-interference (to say the least of it) amounts to connivance, may not if the maintenance of justice and the upholding of the integrity of the British rule are instrumental in the terms on which he was sworn in the Council chamber to rule the country, I believe

Continuation of the Preliminary Statement.

you will admit that the parties to implicated are in a position to be tried by a judicial proceeding

In the case therefore as shown in the pamphlet herewith sent it is highly promising to be self remunerating, and also the perusal of the same, any legal person will find a charming speculation therein involved which would pay him handsomely from the pockets of those implicated of them there are several with titles names stated. I should feel very thankful, if, in the event of any such person applying for the pamphlet, you would kindly hand it over to him with my name and address. I am Sir Yours &c

P.S. Should the parties concerned attempt to exculpate themselves on the plea that they formed their opinions on the first Endorsement of the (then) Secretary Col Sankey, such a plea cannot stand, as that Endorsement was only and even proved to be a false one. The replies Elicited on oath by your will Elucidate the matter, and then it will be known that their pernicious proceedings are the result of a malicious confederacy got up by one of their colleagues known for his vindictive disposition to injure a poor man for a paltry reason as shown in the pamphlet

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Besides the above, there are other alternatives to put this case in motion - the one is, that as tens of thousands of the native community are savagely averse to Mr Grant Duffs rule, which could have been averted had he been a wise Ruler, the publication of my pamphlet with this Appendix in the native Journals both English and vernacular would surely enlist the sympathies of that community; who for a certainty would respond to an Appeal for small subscriptions of from one to not exceeding five Rupees through an accredited agent; and the said community is proverbial for deeds of humanity

Then another alternative is, that in the event of any insurmountable difficulty, the pamphlet & could be personally presented to their Lordships the Judges of the High Court, attesting the facts thereon contained on my Affidavit, so as to elicit answers from their Lordships after answering questions put by them. In that in this instance, an Advocate is not needed when the pamphlet contains all I have to say, and the accused have only to disprove them; I any case

however, if my money is withheld without disproof of the claim, my appeal to the people of England through the press may be first widely.

Letter N° 2

To His Excellency the Right Hon Stafford Baring Esq^re M.P. &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

× × × × × × × × ×

× × × × × × ×

Having so submitted the said pamphlet I could not but [illegible] that from instincts of humanity Y.E. had graciously condescended to interpose with H.E. the Rt Hon. the Secretary of State, and in this instance I have taken the liberty to address Y.E from conviction that if not on the alert, any favorable proceeding of H.E in this case may be withheld from me, or allowed to be shelved to die out, which is a very common practice in this Dept known for its dilatory, because such dispatches they are aware are easily conveyed at, and accounted for, as being the result of an oversight.

Hence the great likelihood therefore to keep me in ignorance of H.E's instructions is very apparent as shown in my pamphlet also, how Mr Grant Duff connivingly tolerated a sham proceeding of this case under official colouring, when unable to disprove the claim for years, so artfully contrived as to circulate it in every instance through an official routine, without any practical result, and sent to me with a fresh evasive reply without check on, or remonstrance with the officials for so tampering with official matters, and claims of the people.

Such therefore was the subtlety of the proceedings, that I was unable to detect it in believing as I did till now, that as English gentlemen of high social and moral training (as I thought) they were quite incapable of such low designing trickery, and unjustifiably encouraged by the non-interference of Mr Grant Duff; and when it has been published abroad also, that H.E had broken the law at his option; it is not difficult to immagine what he is capable of doing in this matter also.

Such being the case therefore, I beg to add, that I felt irresistably constrained to presume even more on H.E.'s kindness, in begging the favor of only two lines that could explain the result of H.E.'s interposition with H.M., as to keep me on the alert against this subtle opposition; and in so soliciting this great condescension, I cannot in my insignificance sufficiently apologize for this further intrusion, and in so doing I beg to remain Your Excellencys most humble and obedt Servant, I Arbuthnot

(The above letter is for [redacted] dispatch, Mr Bartlett was in France, where he seemed to be spending a season of retirement when my pamphlet reached him)

In continuation of my defence, and as stated above, that though I bear no animosity towards Mr Grant Duff it is my duty (however I may feel reluctant) to support my case in bringing to notice the disqualifications of a Governor under whom I am suffering oppression

The people of Madras, and members of the Press seemed to be startled by the announcement of the Madras correspondent of the Pioneer (a Bengal paper) that since the time of Sir Thomas Munro, Madras had never a more conscientious Governor than Mr Grant Duff. This however has been contradicted, and proved to be a monstrous fabrication! What then does his treatment of this claim bespeak?

Another writer says, that Mr Gladstones administration is full of blots, and his appointment of Mr Grant Duff as Governor of Madras, is a very big blot indeed! A wise Ruler would never raise a clamour among tens of thousands of the people for his recall. Is this not the result of imbecility and indiscretion?

Finally I beg to state, that to me the contents of this letter are both painful and disagreeable, and I have no other alternative; but if it could be averted by a careful and personal reconsideration of my claim, I could be happy to withdraw the same, and would consider it a favor of great condescension, and would feel most thankful for the favour, and beg to remain Sir Your most obdt Servt

30 September 1884 J Arbuthnot

Purseiwaukum - Moongapem Mead St Street Madras

LETTER

FROM A LOYAL BRITISH SUBJECT OF THE

MADRAS PRESIDENCY.

Most humbly and respectfully submitted

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HONORABLE

ASHMEAD BARTLETT, ESQ.,

M. P., &c., &c., &c.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

In perusing from time to time the proceedings of Parliament in matters relating to India, it was always gratifying to notice the humane tendency of the Honorable Members of that body, to protect their helpless subjects in this country against acts of injustice and oppression; and having noticed your Excellency's name among the said Members, I have taken the liberty to submit this letter most respectfully soliciting Your Excellency's pardon for the intrusion.

I beg to add, that it is a matter of great thankfulness also, that our destiny is placed in the hands of such a Parliament far-famed for their magnanimity and humane administration in this country.

With these convictions on my mind therefore, and while it is announced in one of the leading journals of this presidency, and also rumoured abroad, that out of a hundred petitions submitted through the Government to His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, ninety-nine out of the hundred are returned to the petitioners with the endorsement that "The Secretary of state declines to interfere."

But it is difficult to believe that such a proceeding is the result of indifference, but rather that of His Lordship's natural reliance on gentlemen officials, whose high social training gives them unquestionable credit for veracity, and integrity in His Lordship's estimation, as to repose implicit confidence in them. Yet withal, the disreputable proceedings of the Governor of Madras and of His Excellency's officials lead me to infer, that the medium for evasion of petitions lies on the familiarity that exists between officials of this country and those of the Indian Office in London.

In any case therefore, allowing the report to be as it may—and this case having been so surreptitiously treated as herein shown, as to conceal the obnoxious proceeding from His Lordship's notice, and any access to His Lordship also through the Government having been barred unlawfully against me as also herein shown, I have under this circumstance, ventured in relying on Your Excellency's favor, to adopt a surer course of access to His Lordship, in soliciting Your Excellency's kindness as the medium to lay this case for His Lordship's special and private consideration, if it is not an unconstitutional proceeding to do so (rather than bring the proceeding to public exposure) or to treat it as Your Excellency may please.

Another impediment in the matter of redress I beg to add, could be seen in the disinclination of H. E. the Viceroy to interfere with Mr. Grant Duff's Government, when requested to extend an act of mercy in commuting the sentence of transportation on a number of unfortunate and highly respectable Hindoos, who have been so transported under very doubtful convictions in connection with the Salem riots, although the interference was solicited by a whole community : and it was through the indiscretion of the authorities themselves in permitting the erection of a Mahomedan Mosque in

the heart of a Hindoo town to stand as a perpetual eyesore to the Hindoos that this riot originated.

Ere I proceed further I beg to state, that I have never as yet seen Mr. Grant Duff to bear personal animosity against His Excellency ; but as a legal professor uses every available material against friend or foe to expain his case, I feel driven to the painful necessity to do so.

In short I beg to state, that while the lustre of British integrity shone forth in by-gone days of former Rulers, so far as this presidency is concerned, it is now (only after Mr. Grant Duff's arrival) quite diminished—so much so, that the proceedings of the Government, so far as Mr. Grant Duff is personally concerned in acts of injustice and oppression are as deliberately tolerated as they would be under a Mahomedan Government as in one instance herein shown, to say nothing of other instances in the journals of the 3 presidencies, so that loud, united, and frequent appeals are reiterated to the people through the Press, to memorialize Parliament for the recall of His Excellency who (according to the public journals) reversed the decision of the High Court to his will, and transported a large number of highly respectable Hindoos under doubtful conviction. It is also stated in one of the said journals that he broke the law at his option (what could be worse ?) and a very startling accusation against His Excellency is inserted in the Heading of the leading Editorial of the *Madras Athenæum* in an issue of April 1884 of too grave a character to mention. All these and other causes seem to be the result of the clamour for the recall of Mr. Grant Duff.

Instances of the said clamour could be seen in the *Madras Athenæum* of the 12th, 15th, 16th, and 17th April 1884 as also in other journals. A journal of another presidency says, " we have only to hope that Mr. Grant

in false endorsements, and subtle connivances, while the Government sustains not the loss of a fraction, but gains to the full extent of a poor man's work.

In being thwarted in the early stage of my career to earn a livelihood with a very small capital now completely exhausted by the subtle mode of oppression tolerated by His Excellency Mr. Grant Duff as herein shown, I most humbly and earnestly beg Your Excellency's patient perusal of this case.

The cause of Harassment

This case I beg to state is but an isolated one of others now known abroad, caused through some caprice or inadvertant, or unavoidable clashing with Government officials.

In this instance of my case therefore, the Madras Government required the economical and expeditious execution of some work, which was previously tardily executed.

To accomplish this requirement, the *Government Engineer never ventured;* but when he found I had invented an apparatus, took the contract, and executed the work expeditiously, he interfered with some flimsy and plausible objections; and when I informed him that the invention and contract were mine, and that I was responsible to Government for the work which I understood as well as any Engineer, and required no such interference, he betrayed deep animosity, and created an ill-will among the officials of the Public Works Department against me, as I subsequently discovered.

His conduct towards me in endeavouring to prejudice the mind of the Deputy Collector (under whom I was working) against this apparatus was the cause of my retaliation. As the Public Works Department had no control in this work however, it was completed in due course, and here the matter dropped. But the said Engineer must have greatly exaggerated on my retaliation to have set

his colleagues so maliciously against me, as shown further on.

Never for a moment therefore suspecting that gentlemen of their position would stoop to unfair dealing, I now accepted some work from Government to excavate some wet channels, to render them navigable to float out their cargo-laden boats, and of which work the Public Works Department had the supervision.

The work of excavation in this latter instance being now completed, and all the laden boats having been floated out without the slightest detriment to Government, and the order of Government with reference to work executed *under* water being such, that the Inspecting Engineer should not be too particular in his measurements, or rather that the work would suffice if the object of the Government is realized.

On the Inspecting Engineer inspecting my work of excavation therefore, I was not called to attend; and I now discovered that I was completely in his hands, and at his disposal, for in so measuring, and in the face of the above order, to say nothing of the object of the work being realized, he struck off about one half the amount of my bill, viz, 1,690 Rupees; and this amount I considered as stopped for excavation work alone, for there was no other work in the estimate from which such an amount could be stopped.

The full amout of my bill according to the contract and estimate was 3,550 Rupees; and having so struck off the 1,690 Rupees in the face of every possible advantage to Government I appealed to Government against it, backed by the opinion of the Collector; but the Engineering officials strenuously opposed, and quashed the appeal, while the Government allowed me only 150 Rupees which they admittted as due to my poverty. But this being

a sort of blind work with no clue or data to go upon, I submitted to the decision.

Ere they had so quashed the appeal however, I discovered that the whole 1,690 Rupees were not stopped for excavation alone as I believed them to be, but that the Inspecting Engineer through an oversight had stopped 500 and odd Rupees more or less for bunds also which were not to be paid for in the estimate, and these two stoppages he put together, and made up the 1,690 Rupees ; and ere the appeal was decided or quashed, I informed the Government of this, adding that I intended to appeal afresh against this stoppage for bunds, which I am now doing.

The full explanation regarding this stoppage for bunds I beg to add, I inserted in my petition (dated 15th May 1882) to Mr. Grant Duff, the Governor, but His Excellency never instituted an enquiry into the matter ; and in every instance of six different petitions consecutively submitted, no enquiry nor any motion whatever was made in the matter ; but in every instance the case was treated as if it had never been previously submitted to His Excellency.

The officials of the Public Works Department on the other hand, repeatedly returned the petition to me with evasive replies, when so transferred to them by His Excellency, and no attempt whatever was made in any single instance to *disprove* the claim ; but while no report was called for from the officials in the way of explanation, nor even a check or reprimand given for such evasive proceedings, in every instance a mere acknowledgment of the receipt of the petition, with the statement of its transfer to the Public Work Department, was posted to me by His Excellency. *The claim could not be disproved, and this was the routine resorted to.*

Colonel Sankey, the Secretary of the Public Works Department, was the leading and chief opposer of this

petition, and he and Mr. Grant Duff are known to be on very intimate terms, a proof of which is, that His Excellency promoted him to a seat in the Legislature, in the face of very grave charges which had been previously brought against him as shown further on.

It was Colonel Sankey who first started his opposition with a lying endorsement, as will be presently shown, and the said intimacy seems to account for His Excellency's reticence in the matter of the grave charges brought against him from time to time in tampering with this case ; for in this age, there are unfortunately men of high positions, who, when two are of the same stamp, easily arrive at a mutual understanding to injure a subordinate in conniving talk, if the one says, " he is an impertinent fellow" (because I could not help complaining against him) and when the other says, " Well, we could bring him to his bearings."

In defending a claim therefore, the more so one which has so culminated as to throw the claimant into such pecuniary difficulties as to tell upon his health, such an individual I beg to observe is in the condition of a drowning man who would catch a straw.

Such being the case therefore, I humbly beg Your Excellency will not think me presumptuous when I speak openly in stating, that when I, in my humble position in life, would disdain to associate with an individual, who, like Colonel Sankey, could stoop to the mean practice of lying and shuffling to injure a poor man (who never as yet saw him) to gratify the animosity of a friendly colleague and what a reflection it is on the British Government, who could have sent out such a Governor (over this mighty presidency) who could so compromise the dignity of his position in the close intimacy that existed between them and connive at such practices, if silence and non-

" letter to me, in which he implied that he would not
" forward another petition to His Lordship, albeit he had
" withheld a former one so submitted."

" *In the face* of such disgraceful proceedings over and
" over represented to Y. E. therefore, I regret to be under the
" necessity to observe, that an official of such an untrust-
" worthy character, Your Excellency promoted to a seat
" in the Legislative Council, and he obtained from Your
" Excellency a very flattering testimonial of his services
" to the State, while on the contrary he was bringing the
" British rule into disgrace and contempt in this country."

" I now beg to show, that this petition claims a sum
" of about 500 and odd Rupees stopped for bunds from my
" bill for Government work, through the oversight of an
" Engineer ; and the proof of this oversight is here very
" clearly shown in the following few figures as follows."

" The full amount of the bill according to the estimate
" was 3,550 Rupees. This amount therefore was appor-
" tioned for only two items of work and for nothing else, viz :

" For bare excavation ...	Rupees	3,526	4 0
" For tamping (not making) bunds " and Sundries	Rupees	23	12 0
" Thus making the full total of...	Rupees	3,550	0 0

" But while in measuring the work, and while the Engi-
" neer stopped a certain amount for excavation work, he also
" through a mistake stopped the said 500 and odd Rupees
" for bunds also which had no payments for them in the
" estimate, and included this latter stoppage with the
" stoppage made for excavation work, which added together
" amounts to the 1,630 Rupees."

" When therefore not a fraction is put in the estimate
" for bunds, the question arises—how came about 500 and
" odd Rupees to be stopped for them ? This therefore is a
" most simple question which Your Excellency with the

" estimate in hand could solve unassisted by any body
" else."

" But it is necessary to inform Your Excellency how
" this mishap occurred. The gentleman who made the
" estimates is Captain Smithers. He was then the Sub-
" Engineer ; and it was he who verbally informed me
" why he put no dimensions and consequently no charges
" for the bunds in the estimate."

" The reason therefore he alleged was because (said he)
" the mud was not to be brought from elsewhere nor to be
" dug up for this purpose ; but that while excavating
" the channel, the excavated mud (such as it was) instead
" of being as usual thrown away indiscriminately, should
" merely be deposited in a line, to keep a little rippling water
" from rippling out of the line of the channel, for which
" purpose bunds of a span high would suffice ; and he put
" only the 23 Rupees 12 ans. for merely tamping them."

" On the other hand again, the oversight of the other
" Engineer who measured the work occurred as follows :
" While so measuring the depths of the excavation, he
" saw bunds in the estimate ; and failing to see if they had
" dimensions and charges for them in the estimate, of which
" there were none, and believing they were to be of the
" dimensions usually made for these channels, viz., 3 yards
" wide and one yard high to separate large sheets of water,
" he calculated accordingly and made that stoppage of the
" 500 and odd Rupees."

" That such was the mistake and impression of the
" Inspecting Engineer, therefore, is clear also from his own
" letter inadvertently written to me through his Overseer
" *after* he had made the stoppages, in which he states, 'the
" bunds should be 3 yards wide and one yard high, and the
" payment for them is 3 annas 4 pies per cubic yard ;' which
" amounts to the sum stopped for them. But in the face

" of this not a pie nor measurement is put for them in the " estimate. The said letter therefore is extracted and " inserted in my petition to Your Excellency dated 15th " May 1882."

" And another and most incontrovertible proof that " the money in the estimate was so apportioned for the " said two items of work as above shown is, that the whole " amount of the 3,526 Rupees 4 ans. put in the estimate for " excavation, corresponds to the pie with the number of " cubic yards to be excavated at 3 ans. 4 pies per cubic " yard."

" Lastly I beg to state that Captain Smithers who " made the estimate is now in Madras city, residing in " Vepery, and as Your Excellency must admit that no body " could report upon this case better than he, it would be " most satisfactory, and I would feel most thankful if this " case be transferred to him for report, as the unjust and " stern opposition herein shown fully justifies such a " transfer as both imperative and reasonable ; and with " respecful apologies for this further intrusion.

" I beg to remain

" Your Excellency's most humble and

" obedient servant"

J. CROOM, (*Senior.*)

" 15*th May* 1884.

" PURSEWAUKUM,—*East of Tannah Street, Madras.*"

☞ This last and most important request for the transfer of the case to Captain Smithers, who made the estimate, and who could best report upon it in preference to any other official, His Excellency Mr. Grant Duff has not heeded. And although this is my sixth and last petition to His Excellency, Mr. Grant Duff has in every instance and in the face of the grave charges brought against the officials done nothing more than post to me an acknowledgment

of the receipt of each petition, with the statement of the transfer of the same to Public Works Department ; and the officials on the other hand deal with them as they please, in every instance sending me evasive replies, with never an attempt to disprove the claim ; nor have I had a single reply direct from His Excellency, hence the officials treated the petitions as they pleased.

Having above explained the unrighteous proceeding of the case, I now humbly beg Your Excellency will not be displeased at this further intrusion in showing that even the recovery of this money would prove but a very small matter, if the interest is not recovered on what I borrowed for subsistence during the very long procrastination and tampering of this case for a period of about ten years through no fault of mine ; and if Mr Grant Duff, the Governor, had a as mere matter of duty only called upon the officials to disprove this claim, the matter would have been seen through at once without further shuffling ; but there was one continued transfer of the petition from time to time without any request of the kind to the officials.

Calculating therefore on the lowest possible rate of interest on borrowed money among the middle or poorer classes, the usual rate as could be traced in our Small Cause Courts is one anna on the Rupee per mensem, and though I off and on paid double this amount in emergencies, I would be satisfied if the one anna on the Rupee per mensem would be granted me for the losses I have sustained in interest on this money borrowed from time to time for subsistence, to say nothing of the indignities I endured from a score of creditors owing to my inability to liquidate their just demands.

If, however, a concession such as this be thought a bad precedent, Your Excellency will admit it to be a very fair

and honest concession, and as it is also the stern principle of the British nation to meet the ends of justice at any cost, more so in the case of the poor, I beg to state with all deference, that it would prove a most salutary check on official oppression so prevalent in this country, if the losses so sustained be made good (as a warning to others) even out of the salaries of such oppressors, who so deliberately trifle with the integrity of the British rule to gratify private animosity, and who was it but they who created this ill-feeling that caused the mutiny of 1857 ?

To obviate overwhelming pressure in claims for interest on His Lordship by those who hitherto failed to show the just propriety of such claims, the recognition of this case in the matter of interest might be made an exception.

With all humility therefore, I beg to observe, that the above disclosures of the possibility of such disgraceful proceedings may induce H. L. the Right Hon. the Secretary of State to devise measures in future, that would obviate this unavoidable necessity to seek redress through the present abnormal course as herein pursued, in the absence of which as an alternative, the poor have no other course to pursue.

Finally, I beg to state, that had I the means to do so I might have taken this case to be adjudicated in a Court of law, and spared His Lordship this inconvenience ; but my impecuniosity never permitted me to do so ; and if on the other hand I had sent this to the Public Journals it would have been seized and published ; and with that the confidence of the country would be lost on the Government.

I have ventured the appeal to Your Excellency, on the faith of the integrity of the British nation, which ever shone with a brighter lustre than that of any other

nation under the sun, ever since it came under the influence of civilization.

If, therefore, the appeal should meet with the favorable consideration of Your Excellency and His Lordship the Right Honorable the Secretary of State, His Lordship's request to the Madras Government, that this case be transferred for report or decision to Captain Smithers who made the estimate is all that I can desire ; and if His Lordship would also graciously condescend to request the Government to intimate His Lordship's pleasure to me in reference to the disposal of this case, I would ever feel most grateful and thankful for this great condescension and kindness ; and with most respectful apologies for this intrusion,

I beg to remain with the utmost deference,
Your Excellency's most humble
and obedient servant,

J. CROOM, (*Senior.*) Eurasian

16*th June* 1884. An Eurasian

PURSEWAUKUM, *Madras, East of Tannah Street.*

P. S.—This claim was due about the middle of the year 1871 ; and the last reply to my last petition, dated 15th November 1883 was a mere acknowledgment of 12 replies to my 12 petitions said to have been submitted from the year 1873 to 1883. But in not one of the said replies has any attempt been made to disprove the claim ; and I am informed that the *Governor in Council* will take no further notice of my claim in this matter. Though I do not know if it is still the pratice—but up to a few years ago, the Secretary of the P. W. Department was endowed with the prerogative to dispose of petitions relating to sums of money within a certain limit as if disposed by *the Governor in Council.*

Clerk's Copy

To His Excellency the Right Hon^ble Monstuart Grant Duff
Governor of Madras &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

The fact that it is qu
disagreable, and afford me no gratification whatever to
put to the painful necessity to submit the Enclosed proce
ings of my claim to His Lordship the Right Hon^ble the Viceroy o
India, will be here seen from the circumstance that I ha
for to obviate such a necesity, by soliciting the special cons
deration of the same at Your Excellency's earliest convenienc
within a fortnight if possible, should it please Your Excell
as this letter is to head the said ~~proceed~~ proceedings for dispat
~~to his Lordship should be put to~~ that necesity.

I beg to add, that as a man of
dour, and naturally disposed to be above board in any matt
I am withal of a peaceful disposition, as may be seen by the
timonials in the Enclosed pamphlet (in page 5) given to me
gentlemen of aristocratic birth, who had personal knowledge of
for many years as therein shown

But the long and wilful
crastination of this case by the officials to distress me, having incr
the difficulties so entailed in augmenting the amount of my
so incurred, by the interest accumulated thereon for about ten ye
through their subtle opposition to this claim, during which perio
I was unable to detect the sham proceedings of his case, now Expo
ed to His Lordship in the Enclosed Appeal; I am thereby to distres
to be thrown into the predicament of a drowning man.

If therefore Your Excellency could immagine
enter into) the feelings of such a man who would catch at any
to save himself, Your Excellency will have some idea of my
dicament which would mitigate Your Excellency's displeas
the Exstremities I am most reluctantly driven to resort in
of this claim, ~~in may copy of which is herein Enclosed to His Excy~~

Lastly I beg to add, that when just a-
out to dispatch this Appeal to His Lordship, the thought struck
me, that as it is Extremly difficult to believe that H. E. could have
recognized the treatment of this case (save in absolute reliance on the
Secretary concerned) and bearing also that it is hardly possible to wade
through it while Encumbered amidst a maze of multifarious duties,
I beg to solicit for the last time, Your Excellencys special considera-
tion of this claim, and H. E's great condescension in acquiescence
thereto, will be felt with feelings of the deepest gratitude; but in the
event of the usual acknowledgment of its transfer to the Chief Secretary
to, it will be accepted as H. E's non compliance to the solicitation sub
mitted in this my last humble appeal to H. E; and with most respect-
ful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain with all deference

Your Excellencys most humble and obedient servant

J. Croom Sr. 18th February 1885

Purserwaukum. Moorgapan Street Madras

Appeal against oppression

To His Excellency the Right honorable Lord Dufferin K.P.G.C.B
G.C.M.G. Governor Governor General and viceroy of India

&c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency

Having Explained in the Introduction the preliminary outlines of this case, I now most respectfully beg to solicit Your Excellency's attention to the following:

This Appeal is Explanatory of the evasive treatment of a claim of 500 and odd Rupees (more or less) that I have upon the Madras Govt; and ere I proceed further, I beg to Explain in a few words, a slight complication that occurred in the official procedure of this claim, through the intrigues of the Secretary of the Public works Dept and officials, for a reason assigned in the Enclosed pamphlet, penciled off in page 6, already adverted to in the Introduction

Besides this I beg to add, that by documentary Evidence therein also shown in page 11, a close intimacy Existed between the said Secretary and the Governor Mr Grant Duff, which accounts for all the connivances in the proceedings of this case by His Excellency.

The slight complication therefore I beg to add is as follows. The Secretary having burked a petition which I submitted complaining of his intrigues through him to the right hon. the Secretary of State, and as I could not of course Entrust him with the dispatch of another to His Lordship, I dispatched one through my own mediam, as I had no other alternative.

His Lordship however returned the petition to His Excellency Mr Grant Duff, requesting it to be sent through the Govt. But the Mr Grant Duff could have Endorsed it with his remarks and returned it to his Lordship, which amounts to the same thing, he found this could not be done knowing there was no disproof to be shown against the charges and as he also knew if he did so, it would have seriously implicated his friend, and also placed himself in a position to answer for the defalcations he so tolerated, His Excellency therefore withheld the petition, and sent

to the Commissioner of police as if to intimidate me, and requested that functionary to send for me and inform me, that the Secretary of State receives no petitions but through the Govt.: This course also savors of Evasion

Such being the case therefore, the Secretary also (P. N. Jr.) endeavoured to dodge me, in writing to me, and making it appear as if the said request of His Lordship to petition through the Govt. implied, that His Lordship had decided on my petition, and that no other petition of mine would be sent to His Lordship; but he was unable to show a written authority for this.

Finding myself so hemmed in therefore, I resolved upon another outlet in my intention to dispatch the following advertisement to the London Times, and the Pall Mall Gazette, and with the dispatch of 300 copies of the Enclosed pamphlet to the said presses, through the assistance of a humane gentleman of the mercantile community; and the following is the said advertisement:

English rule disgraced in India
under Mr Grant Duffs government.
a sad reflection on the English nation!!!

Yollmen, gentlemen, and working classes of England - hearken!

Hitherto as a nation you have won laurels for deeds of honor, Justice, liberality, and humanity, unsurpassed by any nation under the sun. Your administration through Englishmen in India was dignified with stern Justice, upright dealing, and benevolence; but we have never been ruled by men of a race, who would sell any position to acquire wealth at any cost that would even involve shame disgrace and contempt, and that too, for a most objectionable object to gratify the animosity of a friendly official, known and officially reported as dishonest and untrustworthy. Your kind perusal of the pamphlets (treating therein and herein sold at 2 pence each) to relieve the oppressed, through your influence with the home authorities, and to sustain the honor of the English nation is respectfully solicited.

Under such evasive dealings therefore, while under preparation to dispatch the above advertisement

I hastened to see Your Excellency's appointment &c, and then it was that I understood the Extent of Your Excellency's authority in the Proclaimation as I now do.

from appeal In being therefore unjustly and unlawfully debarred, through clandestine proceedings as shown above, and as his Excellency the Governor also is aiding and abetting the oppression by his reticence in the matter of so many petitions, and while in the entire absence of disproof of the claims, this case is dragged on and procrastinated for years through a sham procarding, I therefore ask Your Excellency what I am to do, if I do not appeal direct to Your Excellency as I now do, when such subtle oppositions and connivances as stand in way of the official mediums.

Should Your Excellency therefore be so kind as the cause of humanity to interpose in the matter of oppression, under which my health also is suffering for a very long period from the difficulties Entailed, and the accumulation of interest on this money for more than ten years that I have been contending for it without any fault of mine, and such is the [illegible] or severity of the oppression as to place me in the predicament of a drowning man who would catch at a straw to save himself. I would be ever grateful for the kindness, and in the event of your Excellency is loyal and this petition of [illegible] remain Your Excellency's most humble and obedient Servant

J. Croom (Senior)

February 18th, 1885 - Purswaukum Moor, John Street - Madras

P.S. Lastly I beg to add, that the cause of this protracted course of appeal, was the entire absence of the slightest suspicion that the officials concerned were capable of carrying on a [illegible] as detected a few months ago as shown in the [illegible] understand the appellants [illegible]

Finally I beg to state, that to avoid further correspondence and further perusal of voluminous appeals, I beg to suggest one straightforward course, that would leave the matter open to [illegible]

Further disquisitions [illegible] The said course I would humbly suggest therein is that if despite of the clearest proof to the contrary, the [illegible] refused to act on it with ordinary interest as shown many [illegible] ons in

the Enclosed pamphlet in page 15, as the withholding of the interest would be a minor loss notwithstanding the payment of claim. But if disproof can be shown, the same should be submitted to Your Excellency, and a copy sent to me, as this Dept is noted for its daring in burking and shelving petitions to die out, so much so, that complaints are now rife abroad, and they can then attribute the defalcation to an oversight.

Your Excellency's great condescension therefore in the favor of a line to me relating to Your Excellency's order thereon to the Madras Govt, will keep me on the alert against the mal practices of this Dept; and it will be a piece of kindness which I shall never be able rightly to appreciate to the end of my Exsistance

18th February 1885
Pasumankum East of Tennah Strut Leader

J.C. Senior.

His Excellency the Rt Hon Mr Grant Duff's minute

For the reason above shown, that a plaintiff may utilize any circumstance that bears upon his case, I further beg to take the liberty most respectfully to insert here below a letter to an Editor relating to a minute published by Mr Grant Duff, of HE's railway trip of 5000 miles (periodically of course) as it is said that the object of the publication is to show the amount of labor HE endured as a proof of zeal of his services to the State, so as to compensate for the grave defalcations which called for those long continued and severe animadversions of the press which ever and anon [illegible] through the presidency. But Your Lordship will nevertheless, by the perusal of the following letter, be able to discern the real amount of labor therein involved.

To the Editor of _____

Sir - A few months ago, the people of Madras and members of the press were struck dismayed and astonished by the announcement of [illegible] that Madras never had a more conscientious governor than Mr Grant Duff since the days of Sir Thomas Munro.

Now Sir, when the whole press of India, have severely animadverted on HE's administration, and when letters upon letters loudly clamoured for his recall, so much so as to suggest the holding of a public meeting for that purpose, to say nothing of the [illegible] which proceeded and followed [illegible] (according to [illegible]) fabrication

on the other hand again in support of his opinion, he alludes to Mr. Grant Duff's periodical trips by railway through the presidency, which he attributes to his zeal for the good of the people; while it is the contrary, it is said, that the result terminated into long speeches and broken promises. But when again, the whole press of India severely animadverted on HE's administration, to say nothing of [illegible] instance of any administrative necessity that could be traced out, every thoughtful minute which filled a large columns of the [illegible] papers, does the said correspondent imagine that his [illegible] version of the object of those trips would in the face of that obtain, be readily accepted by the public. On the contrary how unfortunate, it is a scandal and a slur on such honorable gentlemen as the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Napier and others whose [illegible] name and untarnished career defied the slightest cause for [illegible] nonadvertions. In short, the whole preamble of the correspondent was looked upon as purely ironical.

But the real object of the trips, under the above considerations relating to the treatment of the [illegible] will best understood when explained as follows, to say nothing more,

1st The trips themselves, as well as every convenience and available comfort are at HE's command and at the expense of the State

2nd His carriage compartments, and [illegible] at the Collectors and elsewhere in the plains could be rendered as cool and as comfortable as any at Ootacamund

3rd The delightful and varied scenerie through the transit

Lastly and above all, the fact that the said Lady and children accompany him, and also that the said [illegible] have the sure tendency to establish the reputation of a conscientious [illegible]

Grave disclosures
under
Official oppression

Introduction to the Enclosed Appeal

To His Excellency the Right Honorable Lord Dufferin K.P. G.C.B. G.C.M.G. Governor General and Viceroy of India &c &c &c

May it please Your Excellency—

If Your Excellency would be graciously pleased to read through this petition, the official chicanery which necessitated this abnormal course of appeal will at once be seen.

As I believe Your Excellency will admit, that the British Govt are aware, that they are unjustly and unlawfully withholding a poor man's money, they will certainly restore it at any cost, with the concomitant losses thereby sustained.

Such therefore was the established fact, & general belief, and unbounded trust of the people towards the Govt centuries past throughout the Empire, but that such is not the case now-a-days since the last 2 or 3 years will now be seen, and this is an instance of the most notorious trickery of the British Govt often to the disadvantage of the present Ruler In defending a case in a Court of law, it is the recognized prerogative of plaintiffs and defendants to relate every circumstance that may bear upon their cases to their advantage; and being therefore put to this painful necessity, I humbly beg Your Excellency will not think me to be presumptuous or appearing, in so defending this case while the oppression herein complained of is of such long standing as to have told upon my health; and this necessity I deprecate the more, as I have to contend against the procrastination of one in high authority as a Ruler.

The Enclosed humble Appeal therefore most respectfully showeth, that after the Endurance of the oppression for years, and a long course of appeal to the said Rulers it was only about the time of Your Excellency's appointment as Viceroy of India, that I detected the proceedings of this case to be a sham proceeding, to deceive petitioners, who may inadvertantly happen

clash with the Secretary (P. W. Dept) or his colleagues, and this sham proceeding is resorted to, when unable to disprove a claim, a device which I have never known or heard of up to this past the 56th year of my Existance, save only during the present administration of the present Ruler. Your Lordship will also perceive great indiscretion in H.E's reference even after a copy of this Appeal to Y.L had been shown with a respectful letter (here appended) to H.E. There are other instances also of his rule of imbecility and indiscretion, in conniving with a wicked, friendly, and unprincipled Secretary, who had free access to his Ear and Social Entertainments, as shown in page 11 of the Enclosed pamphlet (penciled off) in a letter to the said under quotation to the said Ruler; and the cause of this oppression also, is so pencilled off in page 6 of the said pamphlet. Before perusing further there-on, a glance into those small portions would prove a key to the whole proceeding.

So great therefore is the notoriety of the said Ruler, as to be publicly accused of scoundrelism as seen in the heading of a leading Editorial of a public Journal designated "The Madras Athenaeum and Daily News" dated 14th April 1884.* I need to say nothing of severe and united animadversions and reiterated clamours for his recall through the press, and his having been never known through the whole period of my life tried and fined by the High Court for an act of indiscretion, the perusal of the above observations (to put it in the mildest form) will show the idea that the people must Entertain as to who was to rule and govern them. In short I beg to add, that a glance at the Madras Journals of last years issue will divulge strange disclosures, that he broke the law also; and what could be worse? A great commotion also was stirred up about 3 months ago in Madras, through what is said to be an unconstitutional measure, in obtaining the sanction of Your Excellency's predecessor to levy a tax on beef and mutton, without previous intimation to the people, and thousands of the people were deprived for some time of these necessaries of life; and public meetings also were held to show that such a measure would result in the spread of epidemics and vast multitudes having to resort to unaccustomed food.

I further beg to state, that it never occurred to me to submit the proceedings of this case to Your Excellency's predecessor, as it was only on the Eve of His Excellency's departure, that I detected this sham proceeding; and it was then only too, that I understood

* The act seems clearly proved in the said Editorial.

that it was the high prerogative of the Viceroy of India to protect the honor and dignity of the British rule throughout the Empire.

I also beg to add, that with the publication of Your Excellency's appointment, it was very cheering to see a whole column of the news papers dazzling with an array of extracts from the press of England, testifying to Your Excellency's pre-eminent honesty, high integrity and good government, as to create wide spread satisfaction abroad; hence I preferred to defer this appeal until Your Excellency shall have arrived and settled down for a short time in official duties.

As I therefore now understand Your Excellency in position as Supreme Ruler of the whole Empire, Empowered to protect the dignity of the British rule in this country against such pernicious proceedings not even tolerated by a Mahomedan government (and as I more than once intimated to the present Ruler to no purpose) and calculated to undermine the confidence of the people, I have therefore taken the liberty to submit this humble appeal for Your Excellency's kind and generous disposal.

The two small portions alluded to in the pamphlet having been read, the grave charges against the Secretary and the connivances of the Ruler will be known; but finding it impossible to exonerate the friendly Secretary, the Ruler cunningly follows up the sham proceedings the process is as follows:

The Ruler in every instance acknowledges and acknowleges the receipts of every petition, intimating their reference to the Secretary of the Public works Dept, The Secretary and nothing more is done by the Ruler in the way of interference, and in response demanding a disproof of the claim. The Secretary in his turn, gives one evasive replies to every petition. Every evasive reply is again reported to the Ruler, and the interminable transfer of nothing else is the result.

The petitions therefore to treated a hundred times over and over without any result, and never for a moment suspecting the English good capable of such trickery in a dozen petitions, and considering over the matter, I discovered, that they as well as

ust eventually find that it is utterly useless to proceed further.
d the evasive replies are such as these: "Your petition has been
isposed of". but does not say how or why - "Your Petition has
een considered with the greatest scrutany" - Mr. Croom is re-
ferred to the reply dated (referring to one of the former replies)
but not in one instance out of a dozen is any attempt made
to disprove the claim, which they certainly would do if they could.

Having explained the above preliminaries
therefore, I think Your Excellency has now discovered how the Sec
retary and officials also, trifle in such matters perfectly indif-
ferent to the risk they entail in bringing the British Govt into dis-
grace and contempt, while they will be, as they well know
left intact from the consequences, while the petitioner alone
has to suffer to any extent for a just and paltry retaliation as
(on in the pamphlet in page 6.

Lastly I beg to observe, that
think Your Excellency will admit, that if these proceedings were put
the confidance of the country would fall flat to the ground, and could
the ages to restore it. But being the descendant of an Englishman,
a Eurasian by birth, and as such being in a position to mingle
arly with high and low, with all clasges of natives with unreserved in-
ecourse among them, I ever prided myself (as such) of the integrity
the English rule, hence I had no desire to cast any reflection in this
irection. In now soliciting Your Excellency's perusal of the Enclos
Appeal, I beg to remain with most respectful apologies for
y intrusion

Your Excellency's most humble and obedient
servant
J Croom (Senior)

Parawakum - East of Tannah street
~~January 1885~~ Madras } 18th February 1885 }

P. S. The perusal of the Enclosed Appeal will show
asive dealing in the non-admission of this Appeal through
official medium. The pamphlet in question tracked the Rt hon.
to & from it is addressed while spending a season of retirement in France.

Petition from J. Croom Sr

Dated 18th Feby 1886.

Transferred to the Chief Secretary to Government for disposal.

(By Order.)

A. Audry, Major, R.E.,
Private Secretary.

Government House,
Ootacamund
27th Feby 1886.

5.00C of 11th March 1885

(1885) DEPARTMENT.

Lodged, in Continuation
No 1672 dated
11th October 1884.

CS.
4.3.85

Ul.
6.3.85

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
DEPARTMENT.

Dated 27th February 1885.
Reed.

ENCLOSURE No. 3.

No. ———

Subject.

Transfers a petition from W.J. Groom
& Prays that this
claim against the
Govt. may for the last
time be considered.

No. 500C of 11th March 1885

Madras, 25th March 1886.

To

The Honorable Lt. Col. D. A. M. Shaw Stewart,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.,
Madras

Sir,

I am instructed by Mr. J. Groom to apply to you for payment of the sum of Rupees 1540, being balance due by the Government of Madras on account of earth-work (excavation and raising of bunds) executed by my client for the Government of Madras. My client states that in his correspondence he has given you all particulars of his claim. I will be obliged by your sending me a cheque in payment of this claim within a week from this date and in default I am instructed to give notice (which I hereby do) that my client will institute legal proceedings for the recovery of the said sum of Rupees 1540, with interest thereon at 12 per cent per annum from the date that the said sum became payable to my client together with Rupees 5/6 the costs of this application but I trust there will be no need for any such unpleasant measures.

I am,
Your obedient Servant
W. Wilson Drummond.
Solicitor

of the said work I beg to add, was given to me through A. Salt Esqr.; and the full amount for both was 3,550 Rupees

Rec'd 1914

500 C of 11th March 1885

(188) DEPARTMENT

Petn 2274

No 79 Wdf Mar: 24. 86

Lodged.

24/3/86

Ld 23/3/86.

2 D1

1546

24.3.86

No 1154 C. 22.3.86.

No 793 Wdf March 24. 1886.

With despatch

23 MAR

DEPARTMENT

This humble petition contains charg
against the persons herein named, for conniving ad
ing and abetting an act of cheating, knowing it to be suc
under false pretences and misrepresentations so glaringly
criminal, with the malicious intention to oppress the p
titioner for reasons herein shown to gratify the animosity o
friendly colleagues in heedlessly and recklessly, and as if in
defiance of the law frustrating his claim with lying and eva
sive Endorsements in the matter of some work Executed by
me for the Madras Govt; and Mr. Grant Duff also (the Govern
of Madras is herein criminated for so conniving ly aiding an
abetting the said act of cheating through a sham proceeding
knowing it to be such.

The said claims relate to m
neg maliciously withheld for two items of work Executed by me fo
the Madras Govt, viz, for the Excavation of some wet channels, a
the tamping (not making) of Bunds; and the money so withheld
was 1,690 Rupees

The said work I beg to add, was given to
me by the Madras Govt through A. Salt Dept; and the full a
mount agreed upon for both [illegible] was 3,550 Rupe
and the said works were Estim[illegible]

For Excavating the channels	3,526	4	"
For Earthing (not making) Bunds	23	12	"
Thus making the full total of the	3550	"	"

I stated above, that the stoppage to made for the said two items of work, amounted to 1,698 Rupees, and the manner in which they were to made is explained in the following 2 Chapters herein following

Chapter 1

This chapter treats on money with-held for Excavation work alone: and Chapter 2 following will treat on the manner in which money was withheld for Bunds, which has no connection and [illegible] as a separate item in the Estimate

I come by to dwell first on the stoppage made for Excavation work alone. This Excavation work being 20 miles away to the eastward of where I was to reside, and measured my work, and in the drawings deducted off a-bout 1,200 lbs from my bill of the 3,550 lbs for Excavation work done

When there could be shown, why the stoppage of one hundredth part of the work was fully realized was made, while the obtaining without the slightest obstacle to them, the only cause could not even inconvenience Engineer, who previously be traced to the ill-will of the against me to the Collector who informed me that he was by the Superintending Engineer

of this ill-will and [illegible] Hampshire by the said Engineer [illegible] about therefore, I left the

Prior to this work being given to me the Executive Engineer [illegible] for the Excavation and Earth Work [illegible] and stated, that I would be employed [illegible] Engineer employed but when the work [illegible] that I had conducted and was conducting with [illegible] that I could not only readily and efficiently interpret [illegible] against me with Flimsy and plausible arguments in the face of the practical proofs of the contrary to say nothing of the great [illegible]

[illegible] Collector

[illegible] Engineer

[illegible] Engineer

[illegible] Engineer

[illegible] the question [illegible] claims connected with [illegible] instances are [illegible] while it stands [illegible] when mentioned [illegible] ing it from York is obvious and clear, for if it had been sent to [illegible] Grant Duff [illegible] had a right to [illegible] claim, and though he did not charge [illegible] mitted an error, the Grant Duffs were [illegible] ought to have done, [illegible] [illegible] and communicated with Mr Stanley, & [illegible] to the letter of Mr Grant Duff the Governor [illegible] pamphlet [illegible] [illegible] which reached [illegible] and a copy [illegible] accompanying letter to H.E. intimating that Lord Ripon had an acknowledgment of the receipt of both was sent me in a post card by H.E.

In the said letter also I give H.E. [illegible]

Sir Dilton & all this, the very individual, Col. Stanley, who stirred this case with a strong feeling [illegible] the [illegible] and was [illegible] Petition which I submitted through him to the Rt Hon the Secretary of State, in which case I came [illegible] to the [illegible] of the Petition.

"In the face of such disgraceful conduct therefore was and am represented I regret to be under the necessity to state, that an appeal of such unfortunate character, if it proved to be at all successful in the Legislative Council, and be obtained from it a very flattering testimonial of its services to the State while he was fully aware that he was bringing the British rule into disgrace and contempt."

As it is the intention of my claimant to lay bare [illegible] which he [illegible] I will not be thought assuming presumptuous in adverting to such circumstances which [illegible] the attitude I am [illegible] and [illegible] to [illegible] the more [illegible] the proceedings [illegible] are truly [illegible]

Apart from the [illegible] of Mr Grant Duff [illegible] and when the people

and the press [illegible] denounced [illegible] and was denounced by the Editor as the worst of the [illegible] and [illegible] was publicly accused of [illegible] a public Journal, and the accusation [illegible] Wherein [illegible]

Then again appeared "The Indian Vigilance League" invited the public of Madras by [illegible] Master play cards stuck on walls of the streets to attend "The Master Mass Meeting" that was to be held on the Esplanade on the 18th October 1885, which Meeting was to be addressed by speakers on 20 platforms in English, Tamil, Telugu and Hindustani. and that charges contained in the League's manifesto would lie on a hundred tables for signatures, praying to petitions to Her Majesty the Queen Empress, to the Secretary of State and to Parliament for the dismissal and impeachment of Mr Grant Duff on the charges contained in the said manifesto"

In addition to the above, the said play-card contain the following :- "Five Thousand of the poor will "be fed at 1 P.M. before the Meeting, and again after its "close. The proceedings will terminate with a grand display of fireworks, and a Great torch light procession "through the principal streets. Processions headed by Members of the League, will march with Banners from all quarters of Madras, and will join the [illegible] "ters of the League, and will join the [illegible] "meeting. The Entertainment concludes with the following

[illegible]

[illegible] on the [illegible] the following quotation appeared [illegible] a city of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] on the night of [illegible] by a Native [illegible] the [illegible] of millions by an immediate Sovereign [illegible] for the benefit of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Lastly I beg to state, that when
the stoppages were made for [illegible] Barlow
the Collector of the District strongly protested against them. Be-
sides this, the Stoppage for the Bunds was not originally in-
tended to have been further, but it was the result of an oversight,
which he (the Engineer) refused to acknowledge afterwards as
such, and it happened as follows

The Engineer who made
the Estimate was another (a Subordinate) Mr Carr-
ie [illegible] the Executive Engr was at the works when Mr Smi-
thers received the Estimate, but he only sanctioned it
when I was
payments for them in the Estimate, and as the channel
Excavating was to have them, he [illegible]
during the excavation
expected to be in the bottom of the Channel when it
was, and to Camp the mud such as it was into bunds, for
Camping alone, he had put 23 Rs/2 Anas in the Estimate

Mr Smithers further ex-
Bunds [illegible] mud [illegible]
[illegible] with the following

Then again I beg to say, that another incontro-
vertible proof that no dimensions and consequently no charges
were put in the Estimate or included in it for the bunds is,
that the whole of the money in the Estimate of the channel
for which the Bunds were to remain, corresponds to the pie with
the number of cubic yards of excavation above at 3 Anas a pie
per cubic yard, not a pie remaining for Bunds, save the 23 Rs
12 As put respectively for the Camping of them

In this point will now be seen the oversight
of the Engineer. When he went to examine my work, he saw
Bunds in the Estimate, and failing to see any dimensions and
charges were put for them therein (as I have before mentioned)
and believing they were meant to be large bunds actually made
in the [illegible] to separate large sheets of water, [illegible]
bunds are made 3 yards wide and 3 feet high

Upon the supposition therefore to calculated according
ly and struck off the 500 Rs (more or less) through this oversight,
for it was not that they were merely intended to keep within
a [illegible] inch sporting water, and these 500 Rs struck off,
[illegible] to me [illegible] for excavation
[illegible] to the 18 or 20 Lacs [illegible] claiming

In the face of such clear explanations therefore
with my Estimate in hand and so perpetually [illegible] the claims
[illegible] water, now submitted without [illegible]
[illegible] times [illegible] anything [illegible]
[illegible] to compel [illegible]
[illegible] 23 Rs
[illegible] Even now the [illegible]

the Charges, we add of starting and very clearly he can neither Remember who or what

the Charges against the Claimant Boyce; from which he is to defend his claim; Every petition and complaint submitted to the Board Duff the Secretary was duly sentenced by Act to the Secretary from whence after it returned to which we have no replies

[illegible] We think it right that there is not a and to the point we to object that attended to and to bring it to him, my Lord a copy of each minute taken of the Meeting by the Officials from Hindustan who employed with the Board to understand and interpret the routine in the management of Charges [illegible]

[illegible]

Besides the above I beg to note the Memorandum of the Lords the Court to the Act Part 2nd of the Session of March [illegible]

[illegible] providing [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

precisely as the Lords of a manor who for a period of
12 years had given grants for stone [illegible] act of
obstruction and under the supposition we were legally entitled
till a clear conviction & contrary sum of the act.

[illegible]
for the committee humbly submit, be debarred by any
lack of limitation, as such a [illegible] as a defence for encroachment
vantage and protect the [illegible] clearing, which [illegible]
interests of [illegible] and which [illegible]
would be a standing disgrace to any [illegible]
(in any humble opinion) England in particular would mean
[illegible]

The said [illegible] in the middle of the year 1871 & They were executed, completed,
the bills were presented and the stoppages under made at
the same year, and Appeal against the stoppage for the
Excavation work alone was submitted the same year; and
on the 20th October 1873 I submitted my Appeal against
the stoppage for Bonds

[illegible] it is known abroad, and
[illegible]
that an attempt [illegible] while [illegible] this Country [illegible] the
[illegible] Office [illegible] Caveat of all [illegible]
Creditors

interests and purposes a decidedly final reply and such a reply
was sent and dated 29th April 1884. And on receipt of
this, I despatched further Appeals, went about for legal advice, and
after long and protracted disputes obtained a little money &
started the case through a Solicitor as I now do

J. Crowe &c

Penzance Nov 16th March 1886

[illegible]
the
the
[illegible]
[illegible]
any such violation
caution I beg to observe as follows

17

17 MAR
DEPART

Extract from Captain Stanton's letter

Sir Charles Stanton, commanding H.M. Ship
Dido, to the Court of Directors of the East India Company,
dated Dido, off Point de Galle, Island of Ceylon,
December 31st, 1804.

"Having received information, that a native of this island, named Pilimatalawwe, had been guilty of the most flagrant acts of treason, and that he was then in the interior of the country, I dispatched a party of marines, under the command of Lieutenant Hall, to bring him to the ship. On their arrival at Pilimatalawwe's house, they found that he had fled to the woods, but that his wife and family were still there. Lieutenant Hall, therefore, thought it proper to secure the latter, as hostages for the delivery of the former. Pilimatalawwe, finding that his family were in the hands of the English, came to the officer, and delivered himself up, on condition that his wife and children should be released. This request was complied with, and the whole party arrived safely on board the Dido."

Dido, 2nd Jan. 1805.

[illegible] the Prudence to desist from me any thing of the sort,
and born of threatening stones at me.

Finding him therefore
persistant in his freaks of annoyance, it was beyond
the power of Endurance. I one day sprang up, shook my
fist at him, and demanded him to fight it out. He
disdained me, but I warmly insisted. To explain the
matter it must be, that I am the son of an English-
man (Sergeant of the 1st Madras Fusiliers) and of an Eu-
ropean mother.

In so insisting on this contest
therefore, a crowd of boys assembled, & battle for half an
hour during which I saw Swellings and Bloodshed his
face in my state of complete exhaustion, I understood not
what he was to give up. That was entirely out of the question

At last he failed, and left me
to [illegible] that day & he never did, nor ever again en-
tered with me; and in talking at subsequent evenings,
it was difficult to raise any remark to break my brief.
With such a disposition by nature therefore, it is difficult
to [illegible] for the ill-treatment which he [illegible] with
misplaced [illegible]

P.S. It is [illegible] to state, that in sub-
mitting the [illegible] to the Judicial Tribunals,

[illegible] to obtain access
to that Court, thereby avoiding the charge of [illegible]
[illegible] as I was told when in the Collector's presence
[illegible], I beg to say, I considered, that the Collector,
[illegible], might not be disposed to entertain favourably
the defence of [illegible] Code
[illegible] and Petty Thefts, than
cast such a damning reflection of falsehood and [illegible]
on persons of such high standing, which it could be seen with
the eye that [illegible] the immediate victim; when the 5
[illegible] stopped & simply compared with the 23 [illegible]
the Bonds in the Estimate, it will be seen, that
[illegible] on Education and Municipal settlement
case will prove satisfactory to all concerned
[illegible]

[illegible] by [illegible] that you represent that
last year was to believe that you are advised with
[illegible] had [illegible] instructions
disposed in favour of an opinion, may often look upon the
surface of a matter as I will now show.

Assuming therefore, that you
do admit that this claim is due me, and that the term of the
Statute of Limitation has passed over it, [illegible]
me [illegible] and here, which seems most likely
ing of your high integrity. But on the other hand
ing (as shown in the Enclosed) has been shown
altogether alters the question for in that
case I must touch the [illegible] criminal
think of action in this matter emanated from the said [illegible]
lating to the Statute.

Lastly I beg to state, that with the view to avoid the proceedings of [illegible] I printed only the opening pages of this Book, one of which I sent to the Lord Mayor, & should it reached while passing a few days of retirement in France or Switzerland I sent to the Grand Duke, one to a friend or two, and the remaining half dozen I kept by me [illegible]

[illegible] to be done, and to explain the Court I mean [illegible] the least intention to put a candle in their guard for self defence, should this case to be brought to an amicable settlement, I beg to therefore state that I am now fully prepared to claim this money [illegible] due through a criminal prosecution, and the Enclosed petition [illegible] to show of the slightest impediment stands [illegible] of my claims and if not the immediate payment of [illegible]

[illegible] leave t[illegible]
ibly pre[illegible]
arn pe[illegible]
fficial scandals [illegible]
others cut out fr[illegible]
September of the sa[illegible]

ile critic of the Government
Robert Bourke as Governor
th official experience, and the
he late Lord Mayo, Mr. Bourke will be
y which he is to govern. A greater

To His Excellency

The Right Honorable Robert Bourke,

Governor of Madras.

&c., &c., &c.

May it please Your Excellency,

After many years of subtle oppression, and when Your Excellency's appointment as Governor of Madras was announced, a bright spark of hope dawned upon my mind, from the likelihood that Your Excellency might chance to be a descendant of that illustrious nobleman of the above name, whose fame for advocacy in matters of humanity was a prominent feature in his parliamentary career, which many years ago I read of; and that as such, your Excellency will be imbued with the same humane feelings inherited from that nobleman, of whom it is now known Your Excellency is his descendant.

As the proceedings of Your Excellency's predecessor in matters involved in this petition are truly incredible, and unprecedented in the annals of British administration in this country, never hitherto known nor heard of, I have here taken the liberty to disabuse the minds of Your Excellency and the Govt., by the following extracts from the Press, to show that the proceedings herein explained, are not fabricated exaggerations of my own invention; the following therefore is from the *Madras Times*: dated 24th August 1886.

"The following Extract is from *the Scotchman* dated 27th Ultimo, which embodies the opinion of Sir Grant. Duff's political friends regarding his Indian career." The said Journal says:—"The knighthood just conferred on the retiring "Governor of Madras, may be regarded as a small reward for the expatriation "endured by him for 5 years, and a very small solatium in the midst of the *Extra-*"*ordinary unpopularity* which he managed to incur in India. He will not leave the "country a day too soon. The fact that he is about to retire, will probably prevent "the Indian new Secretary from trying to make capital at home, and earn personal "popularity in India, by instituting a formal enquiry into the official scandals that "he leaves behind him in Madras." The following again are others cut out from the said Madras Times, dated 23rd August 1886 and 11th September of the same year:—

No. 1.

"Atlas" writes in the *World*:—"The most hostile critic of the Government can find nothing to say against the appointment of Mr. Robert Bourke as Governor of Madras. Intellectually keen and socially popular, with official experience, and the best of recommendations as the brother of the late Lord Mayo, Mr. Bourke will be received with open arms by the Presidency which he is to govern. A greater

contrast between the pedantic narrow-minded Scotchman who is coming home and the genial generous Irishman who is going out cannot be well imagined."

No. 2.

Our New Governor.—The Hon'ble Robert Bourke will have every reason to be satisfied with the way in which his appointment has been generally received in India, whilst Madras may be congratulated on possessing in her new Governor, a man in almost every respect a contrast to Sir Grant Duff. Mr. Bourke makes no pretence to be a scholar, is neither pedagogue nor dreamer. But he is eminently well versed in public affairs, is an admirable man of business, practical, sensible, open and honest. Moreover, he has a good presence, a genial, kindly manner, and a warm heart. Whether he will prove himself equal to grappling with the multitudinous difficulties bequeathed to him by his predecessor remains to be seen.—*Pioneer.*

No. 3.

With reference to our coming Governor, *Allen's Indian Mail* says :—"Mr. Bourke has had the courage to accept a task from which the boldest of politicians might shrink if even a moiety of the reports be true concerning the confusion and corruption which it is said now reign at Madras. By the very mail to hand a writer, reviewing what are now known as the Madras scandals, says of the late *regime* under Mr. Grant Duff—'For close on five years maladministration has been the order of the day. Not mere error of judgment deflecting men from the path of wisdom, not mere ignorance pleading forgiveness for a pardonable aberration, but a resolute closing of the eyes to justice.' There may be much personal bitterness in this, but the writer is not alone in making statements which if only partly true, show that the new Governor of Madras has an Augean stable to cleanse rather than a bed of Oriental roses to lie upon."

No. 4.

19th November, 1886.

THE TRUE SOLUTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MADRAS TIMES."

Sir,—In your issue of to day "One who wants to know" asks you which is the correct of the two interpretations that are given for the G. C. S. I. which our "Every-inch a Governor" has acquired. It seems to me that both the European and Native interpretations are inaccurate. A correspondent of the *Hindu* sometime ago suggested the following, viz, "Grand Creator of the Scandals of India". This seems to me to be the only correct solution, when we remember the Salem and Chingleput, Tanjore and Madura Scandals.

Truth.

No. 5.

Sir M. E. Grant Duff.—The *Pioneer's* London correspondent writes :—"According to the gossip of political clubs here, it is expected that Sir M. E. Grant Duff will endeavour as soon as he arrives in England to get into Parliament as a Liberal Unionist. I have not heard many regrets expressed upon this gentleman's

departure from India. On the contrary, most people are rather glad that Madras is to be relieved of his presence, for it is thought that the administration of that Presidency will work much more smoothly under Mr. Bourke than under so pragmatical a gentleman as the retiring Governor."

No. 6.

November 1886.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "MADRAS TIMES."

Sir,—His Excellency Sir Mountstuart Elphinstone Grant Duff is now a G. C. S. I. What does this stand for ? It has been explained to me in two ways—first by a European, who says the letters mean "Great Curse of Southern India" ; second by a Native, who, not agreeing with the above, declares the meaning to be, "Garrulity Cynicism, Sententiousness Incarnate." Can you say, Mr. Editor, if either of these is correct ? And if so, which ?

One who wants to know.

[Why attempt to decide ? Questions like these are apt to make folk feel like a donkey between two bundles of hay. We leave the matter to those with nicer discernment than ourselves.—Ed. M. T.]

The above however are but very insignificant versions of the animadversions lavished on Your Excellency's predecessor during the period of his administration in this country ; and I now beg to proceed with the following petition.

This humble petition relates to claims of money due to me, for work executed by me for the Madras Government—the said money being wrongfully and maliciously withheld from me, through false representations, evasive replies, and lying Endorsements of the Executive Engineer, and the Secretary of the Public Works Department, so glaringly criminal as to amount to nothing short of a deliberate act of cheating to oppress and injure me for the reasons herein shown ; and Mr. (now Sir) Grant Duff also the retired Governor of the Madras (a close companion of the said Secretary) is herein also criminated for connivingly aiding and abetting the said act of cheating through a sham proceeding, knowing it te be such as shown further on.

The said works I beg to add were given to me by the Madras Government through the salt Department. They consisted in the Excavation of 3 wet channels, to render them navigable to float out the Government salt in boats from the salt-pans, to its destination 20 miles away to Madras to be stored ; and the efficiency of the work was to be supervised (as a rule) by the Public Works Department ; and the full amount of payment agreed upon for the work by the Government was, as shown in the Estimate as follows :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
For Excavation alone.	3,526	4	0
For tamping (not making) Bunds	23	12	0
Full total...	3,550	0	0

Accordingly therefore these works were executed in due time at the salt-pans, and after the completion of the same, *all the boats usually used for this purpose* were laden with their usual quota of salt, under the eye of the official supervision of the Salt Superintendent, and floated out in the channels to their destination, through (of course) the very depths put in the Estimate by the Executive Engineer as necessary for their navigation, without the slightest loss or detriment nor even inconvenience to the Government. This being done, I then returned to Madras, and submitted my bill for the 3,550 Rs. to the Executive Engineer, whose duty it now was to go over to the works to measure the depths, and sanction my bill for payment.

After having so submitted my bill therefore, the said Engineer, *unawares to me*, went over to the works alone from Madras to measure my work; and in professing to have done so, he struck off about half the amount of my bill for the Excavation work alone, and also 500 Rs. (more or less) for the Bunds, which had no dimensions, and *consequently* no charges for them in the Estimate, save an average sum of only 23 Rs. 12 Ans. for merely tamping the Excavated mud (such as is got out from the Excavation) into Bunds; but this stoppage for Bunds he made through an oversight as shown further on.

When therefore no cause could be shown, why these stoppages should be made, while the object of the work was fully realized by the Government to all intents and purposes, without the slightest loss or detriment to them, the only cause could be traced to the ill-will of the Executive Engineer, who had previously written a very abusive letter against me to the Salt Department, the Superintendent of which informed me, that he was ashamed to read it to me.

As a preliminary Explanation of the cause of this ill-will and oppression therefore I beg to state, that in happening to clash inadvertantly with the Executive Engineer as explained in the following para, a feeling of resentment was disseminated among the officials and Secretary of the Dept., very evidently through an exaggerated version of the said clashing which happened as follows:

Prior to this work being given me, the Government required an invention for the expeditious and economical method of heaping and storing their salt. It may be the Government Engineers were not aware of this Exigency of the Government; but when the Executive Engineer saw that I had constructed one, and was executing the work expeditiously and economically, he not only rashly and officiously interfered, but was endeavouring to prejudice the mind of the Salt Collector with flimsy and plausible arguments against the apparatus, in the face of the efficient and economical working of the same, to say nothing of the great expenditure I had lavished to construct it also.

When therefore I understood this feeling of opposition, I felt deeply grieved; and to obviate further interference, to prejudice the said Collector, who though of no mechanical mind, saw the great advantage withal, in one man running with four men's load of salt a hundred yards in a truck on a tramway, while by the former system each man walked with his own load all that distance, I could not therefore resist resenting this feeling of opposition, in an official opposing what he knew to be an advantage to the Government that so liberally paid him; the more so

as I had expended on it all the money I had so to Establish a footing for my future subsistance in life.

In this grievons state of mind therefore, I wrote to him accordingly, though in respectful address and remonstrance, reminding him that the contract and apparatus were mine, and that I, and not he, was responsible to the Government for the work; (and even then, from his complexion and strolling daily in the burning sun, I looked upon him as a subordinate Engineer withal) *and that I understood the work as well as any Engineer; and this was the sore point.*

But this plain-speaking letter he looked upon as impertinance, for he seemed to think I was his subordinate, while this was my private property and contract with the collector; and though I believed that this letter which I had written to protect my own interests, would be more or less disagreeable to him, it was a matter of regret to me to be under the necessity to do so.

Having explained above the cause of this oppression therefore, and the two claims herein submitted being for money withheld for excavation work and also for Bunds, I beg to explain *first* the treatment of the claim *for excavation work*, and afterwards the treatment of the claim *for Bunds*, to both of which I most respectfully beg your excellency's careful attention.

EXCAVATION CLAIM.

In a foregoing page of this humble petition will be seen, the amount in the Estimate sanctioned for this excavation work, which is 3,526 Rs. 4 Annas. The highly satisfactory result of this excavation work also, is very clearly shown, in the heavily-laden boats (*laden under official supervision*) having floated out through the depths which the Engineer himself sanctioned as sufficient for their navigation, without the slightest loss, impediment, nor even inconvenience to the Government; and the fact that he went over to the works (20 miles from Madras) without informing me, and professed to have measured my work is also stated.

It is also shown, that in the face of all this, he made a random stoppage of about half the amount of my bill, and that stoppage for Excavation alone was 1,200 Rs. more or less; and for Bunds which had only 23 Rs. 12 Ans. for them in the Estimate, he struck off 500 Rs. more or less for them also, making a total stoppage of 1,690 Rs.; but this latter stoppage for Bunds he made through an oversight explained further on.

I now beg to explain under what circumstances he made the said stoppage for the *Excavation* work. He made it in the face of the self-demonstrated certainty of the *thorough efficiency of the work*, in the heavily-laden boats (fairly laden under the eye of the salt superintendent) having floated out through the very depths which he himself sanctioned as sufficient for their navigation, and which depths he would not have sanctioned above the mark, to put Government to unnecessary expense, with no prospect of any benefit to himself also—hence it is self-evident that they could not have floated out, but through his own measurements; *and these laden boats were those usually used for this purpose.*

mentioned, the one is as just explained above, which incurs no expenditure, save a trifle for tamping excavated mud, when deposited in a line. Those again of the other description usually made in the district, are better known as *Regulation Bunds* and are intended to separate large sheets of water. To raise such Bunds therefore, the earth or mud has to be brought from certain distances, and the rates for them vary according to distance, and their usual dimensions are 3 yards wide and one yard high distinctly marked in the Estimate with corresponding rates ; and if the Bunds I had to make were to be of this description, the dimensions and rates per cubic yard would be in the Estimate, and the charge for the whole length of such bunds would have been about 500 Rs. but there are only 23 Rs. 12 ans. for them in the Estimate for mere " *tamping*".

The above therefore explains the oversight of the Executive Engineer ; for when he measured my work : he saw Bunds in the Estimate ; and failing to see if there were dimensions and rates put for them therein, he calculated on the *Regulation Bunds*, and struck off the 500 Rs. (more or less) from my bill, failing to see that only 23 Rs. 12 ans. were put for them, as could be seen to this day in the Estimate ; and the surest proof that he was under this wrong impression regarding their dimensions and rates could even now be traced in his letter on my work to the Superintending Engineer ; and where existed the necessity also for such huge bunds, the said Engineer himself is unable to explain.

And lastly, another incontestable proof that no dimensions nor charges (save 23 Rs. 12 Ans.) were put for the Bunds is, that the whole of the money put for this channel for which the Bunds were to be made, agrees to the pie for the Excavation work alone of this channel (No. 4) not a pie remaining for the Bunds in the Estimate, save the 23 Rs. 12 ans. put in it separately for tamping them.

Having therefore explained above, how this oversight relating to the stoppage of money for Bunds occurred, I now beg to explain the treatment of this Bund-money claim

At this stage of the proceedings, when I now first started this Bund claim, and allowed the excavation claim to stand over for the time being, for the purpose of fairly detecting the cheating as above mentioned,another Secretary (Colonel Sankey) was appointed to the Department. This Secretary also imbibed the same feeling, and assumed the same attitude of opposition against me as did his predecessor ; and this seemed a natural result, while the Executive Engineer who started the opposition was still in the Department as the proceedings will show ; and it was a matter of no concern to them to entail disgrace on the Government if they could but please their colleagues in an unrighteous cause.

It so happened, that just after the new Secretary Col. Sankey took up his post in the Department. I now for the very first time started this Bund claim as above explained ; and the very first reply he sent after a very long period, was the following irrelavent one viz. " *This case cannot be reopened*", and when requested to produce a previous petition which could have elicited such an endorsement, he was unable to do so, and the following was sent. " *Your petition has been considered* ;" but does not explain how or when ; and to every subsequent petition, the following and others of its sort, *without a word to the point* were sent. "*Your petition has*

been considered with the greatest scrutany." " *You are referred to endorsement*" (*dated so and so*) referring to one of the above endorsements, *without a word to the point in any one of them* ; and all this shuffling was going on for months and years, while the claim could be so clearly seen through by a school boy at his alphabet, by simply confronting the 500 Rs. withheld for the Bunds with the 23 Rs. 12 ans. put for them in the Estimate.

In noticing the treatment of this Bund claim therefore, every shadow of doubt now vanished as to the certainty and their capability of deliberate cheating in both these claims. In representing all this therefore as a deliberate act of cheating to Sir Grant Duff the retired Governor, and complaining of the said Col. Sankey having also burked a petition which I submitted through him for despatch to the Right Hon. the Secretary of State, and he Col. Sankey being as is well-known a close companion to Sir Grant Duff, H. E. connivingly aided and abetted these disgraceful acts, by putting all my complaints through a *sham proceeding* as shown further on.

In the face of all this moreover, he appointed the said Col. Sankey to a seat in the Legislative Council, and on his departure to Ireland for another post, he gave him a very flattering public testimony of his services to the State, while both were bringing disgrace and contempt most deliberately in Her Majesty's rule in this country.

With the above statements therefore relating to Sir Grant Duff's treatment of this case, and his connivances and Sham proceedings, I also confronted the said Governor in a printed Pamphlet which I dispatched to him (through Mr. Rees his Private Secretary) for perusal of his own objectionable acts.

The said pamphlet I printed for despatch to an Hon. Member of Parliament; but it reached that nobleman while passing a season of retirement in France, perhaps seriously indisposed ; and as a couple of extra copies were available at the same cost from the press, I obtained these also ; and it was one of these I despatched to the said Governor, and the copy I reserved happens to be mislaid ; but the one through the Private Secretary may now be among the archives of his office.

I now beg to explain the process of the Sham—proceeding got up by the late Governor to evade the Bund claim, and it was as follows : To every complaint so submitted to the said Governor, an acknowledgment of their receipts, and transfer to the Chief Secretary were sent to me ; and from the Chief Secretary the said complaints were sent *direct* to the Secretary of the Public Works Department without a word of enquiry, check, or remonstrance to every petition submitted half a dozen times over. Such therefore was the interminable routine of the proceedings which he knew would render further appeals to be unavailing. But never in one instance have they been sent to Government, for the very obvious reason that they would not connive at such practices.

In conclusion I beg to observe, that I think Your Excellency will have very clearly traced a malicious intention throughout the whole proceedings, in so

Ans.—Yes, so much so, as to have written a very abusive letter against me to the Salt Department, the Superintendent of which informed me that he was ashamed to read it to me ; and the cause of this grudge is explained in a former page of this petition.

Ques.—Was this Excavation work practically efficient, and did the Government realize the object of the work to the fullest extent, without the slightest detriment or even inconvenience to them ?

Ans.—Yes. And the strongest proof that the excavations were made according to the depth given by the Engineer is, that the laden boats, *usually used for this purpose* and laden under official supervision, could not have floated out, but through the measurements put for that purpose by the Engineer ; and for him to have made a random stoppage of about half the money in the face of this, too clearly proves his ill-will to injure me, while a *common sense* verdict suggests that not a pie should be stopped.

Ques.—Is there a Government order to support this verdict ?

Ans.—Yes. There is a Government order which implies, that works under water should not be too critically scrutanized, but he considered satisfactory if the object of the work is attained.

The other work relating to these claims, is for simple Bunds, made up of the Excavated mud deposited in a line, and tamped into Bunds.

Ques.—Could it therefore be seen through by a school-boy at his alphabet, that it is deliberate cheating to withhold 500 Rs. (more or less) for a work that has only 23 Rs. 12 ans. for it in the Estimate, the more so, which has been persistantly pointed out to the Secretary and to Sir Grant Duff the retired Governor of Madras ?

Ans.—Decidedly it is ; and though the stoppage was made through an oversight of the Engineer as shown above, and pointed out to the Secretary more than half a dozen times over, his replies were sometimes *Silence*, and on persistance of appeals, every reply was without a word to the point.

Ques.—Would therefore the people of India trust the Government if this be known abroad ?

Ans.—No—not for ages to come. And to decorate a Governor known to have been aiding and abetting such proceedings, virtually renders that decoration a by-word and a sham even to deserving men.

J. C. Sn.

TESTIMONIALS OF CHARACTER.

Dear Mr. Croom.—It is now may years that I have known you. All that I have seen and heard of you, entitles you to my sincere regard and respect. I should be very glad to hear that you have succeeded in the appointment for which you tell me you are a candidate ; and you may make what use of this letter you please.

Believe me yours faithfully
(Signed.) THOS. DEALTRY,
Archdeacon of Madras.
Adyar 15th Feb.

To Mr. J. CROOM (Senior.)

This is to certify that I have known Mr. J. Croom (Senior) for many years, and always heard him well spoken of.

(Signed.) S. PERCIVAL,
Chaplain of Negapettam.

29th June 1878.

Petition from J. Croom Esqr.

Dated 10th February 1887.

Transferred to the ~~Chief~~ Secretary to Government for disposal. Public Works Department with a request that the Petitioner may be informed that H. E. cannot receive a petition couched in terms in which this is.

(By Order.)

J. O. Reed.

Private Secretary.

Government House,
18th February 1887.

P.W.C. № 1360

(188) DEPARTMENT.

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE ~~CHIEF~~ SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,
Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Dated 18th February 1887.
Recd. 19

ENCLOSURE. /

Subject.

Transfers a petition from *J. Croom* Esqre praying that his claims in connection with the excavation of channels & tamping of Bunds may be recognised, and that the money withheld in connection therewith may be ordered to be paid to him.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

W-549. W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 24 Feby 1887

READ the following

Petition from Mr. J. Croom Senior } H.E. No — dy 10 Feby 1887

The Petitioner is informed that H.E. the Governor cannot receive a petition couched in the terms of this appeal

WCS
21.2.87

JM
22/2/87.

To.

Mr. J. Croom Senior √

Dest 24.2.87.

1574 C 22.3.86
793 " 24.3.86.
500 C 11.3.85
767 E. 14.10.84
1160 E. 31.7.84 &c

B. No 549. Wdy 24-2-87

To His Excellency
The Right Honorable Robert Bourke
Governor of Madras
&c. &c. &c.

May it please Your Excellency

Not being in a position to understand the mind and rules of the Govt in the matter of drawing up petitions, I submitted a former version of this petition dated 10th February 1887, which was returned to me from Your Excellency by the Secretary with the following Endorsement, dated 24th February 1887 and the said Endorsement was- "The Govt cannot receive petitions couched in the terms of this appeal."

My ignorance of this rule therefore, having led me to believe, that matters ought to be explained in their full force and true colouring, I humbly beg pardon and forbearance for the same, and also for this further intrusion in submitting this modified version of the said petition to Your Excellency.

In submitting this version of it therefore I beg to state, that this petition explains, that a Govt work of 3,550 Rs was given to me by the Madras Govt to excavate 3 watchannels, and for the tamping of Bunds. The said excavation was to render these channels navigable, to float out all the salt from the pans, in boats usually used for this purpose

conveyed to, and stored up at Madras, 20 miles away from the pans; and the Estimate for this Excavation and Bunds is as follows:

	Rs	Ans	Pies
For Excavation of the 3 channels	3526	4	0
For tamping (not making) Bunds	23	12	0
Total	3550	0	0

The Excavation work having been completed therefore, all the boats were fairly loaded with their usual quota of salt, under the official supervision of the Salt Superintendent, and all the salt was thus floated out to its destination and safely stored in Madras, without the slightest loss or detriment, nor even inconvenience to Govt, through the very depths which the Engineer himself puts in the Estimate as necessary for their navigation.

This being done therefore, I then submitted my bill for the 3550 Rs for the work of Excavation and tamping of Bunds to the Executive Engineer, whose duty it now was to measure the work and sanction the bill for payment. After having submitted my bill therefore, he went unawares to me to the pans, and in professing to have measured my work, he struck off about half the amount of my bill for Excavation alone, and also 500 Rs (more or less) for the Bunds which had only 23 Rs 12 Ans put for them in the Estimate. But this stoppage for the Bunds he made through an oversight as shown further on; and in over and pointing out to him this oversight, he was silent about the matter to this day.

When therefore no cause could be shown why these stoppages were made, while the object of the work was realized to the fullest extent to all intents and purposes, without the slightest loss or detriment to Govt

the only cause could be traced to the ill-will of the Executive Engineer, who had previously written a very abusive letter against me to the Salt Dept, the Superintendent of which informed me that he was ashamed to read it to me.

I now beg to explain the cause of this ill-will & oppression. In happening to clash inadvertantly with his predecessor as explained in the following para, a feeling of resentment was disseminated among some of the officials and the Secretary of the Dept, evidently through an Exaggerated version of the said clashing which happened as follows:

Prior to this work being given me therefore, the Govt required an invention for the expeditious and Economical method of heaping and storing their salt; and when his predecessor saw that I had constructed an Apparatus, and was executing the work expeditiously and economically, he not only officiously interfered, but was endeavouring to prejudice the mind of the Salt Collector against it, with flimsy and plausible arguments in the face of the expeditious and Economical working of the same.

When therefore I understood this feeling of opposition after I had lavished much money on this Apparatus, I felt deeply grieved at such misrepresentations, and wrote to him in respectful address, informing him, that I, and not he was responsible to Govt for the work, and needed not any interference or something to that effect.

Having explained above the cause of this oppression therefore, and the 2 claims herein submitted being for money due for Excavation and

Bunds, I beg to explain first, the treatment of the claim for Excavation work, and afterwards the treatment of the claim for Bunds, to both of which I most respectfully solicit Your Excellency's careful attention.

Excavation claim.

In a foregoing page of this humble petition will be seen the amount in the sanctioned Estimate for this excavation work, which is 3,526 Rs 4 Ans. The highly satisfactory result of this work is also very clearly shown, in the heavily laden boats, laden under official superintendence, having floated out through the very depths which the Engineer himself sanctioned as necessary for their navigation, and the fact also that he went over to the pans without me, and professed to have measured my work.

I now beg to explain under what circumstances he made the stoppage for this Excavation work. He made it in the face of the self-demonstrated certainty of the thorough efficiency of the work, in the heavily laden boats having floated out through the very depths which he himself sanctioned as necessary for their navigation, and which depths he would not have sanctioned above the mark to put Govt to needless expence, without the prospect of any benefit to himself also - hence it is clearly evident, that they could not have floated out but through his own measurements.

After these laden boats had so floated out therefore, all the salt was conveyed to Madras and safely stored without a particle of loss or detriment to Govt, and in the face of this, about half the money agreed upon for this work is withheld; and if money could so be withheld at the caprice of the Engineer, no man is safe in undertaking wet-channel work from Govt.

Besides this, an order of Govt implies, that works such as these under water, should not be too critically scrutanized, but be considered satisfactory if the object of the work is attained. This therefore shuts out every objection, and is both humane and becoming of an enlightened Govt.

Then again I beg to observe that the stoppage of about half of this Excavation money is of itself a palpable contradiction of the correctness of the Engineers own measurements of my work; for the true logical inference, as a child could see through is, that the laden boats floated out through half the depth which he himself sanctioned for their navigation; and these explanations prove most incontestably the random statements of the Engineer; while on the contrary, the practical results of the work go to show, that a common-sense decision is far more reliable, than the report of a highly prejudiced Engineer.

Yet in the face of all this, the Govt after frequent appeals, granted me a remission of only 150 Rs, which they stated they granted in consideration of my poverty, while it was clearly shown that the money was maliciously withheld. In short, the Secretary of the P. W. Dept at this time personally

the Govt in the decision of these cases. He decided as he plased to gratify colleagues, while the high fame of the Govt has suffered; but the present Secretary is far-famed for his integrity.

The 150 Rs so granted as just mentioned, I beg to state, I passively received, owing to pressing wants and debts, which had sprung up after I had expended all my money upon these works; but I did not accept these 150 Rs in satisfaction of further claims, for there are still 1,540 Rs due to me from the full stoppage as shown here below:

	Rs	As	Ps
Amount withheld for both works	1690	"	"
Amount remitted on appeal	150	"	"
Amount still withheld	1,540	"	"

Lastly I beg to state with reference to these Excavation works, that in so appealing against the stoppage made for them, I did not then appeal against the stoppage made for the Bund work; and this course I took in appealing seperately for each of the 2 stoppages, was to avoid complication.

Besides this, I. E. will admit, that the random stoppage of about half the money (to say nothing of a single Rupee) for the Excavation work, with the object of the work fully realized, was unjust to the last degree; and from what has been explained above, was manifestly the result of a malicious intention to oppress me, the more so when taken into consideration with the abusive letter, as well as the order of Govt with reference to works under water.

Course taken to detect vague dealing in both these claims

In so appealing against the Excavation stoppage, I did not then appeal against the stoppage made for Bunds; and thought I saw through this vague dealing in this Excavation claim, I could not then believe that Govt officials holding the rank of gentlemen were capable of such doings, but rather believed that their vague replies were the results of indifference to look carefully into the case.

With such doubts upon my mind therefore, and the conviction that no limit could stand in the way of such dealing to recover this Excavation money, should I elicit clear evidence to show that they are capable of such dealing in the Bund claim also, and as any attempt to quash this Bund claim which stands out prominently in facts and figures is utterly impossible; and as the bare attempt to do so would fairly prove the certainty and capability of having done so in this Excavation claim also, I took the risk in allowing this Excavation claim to stand over for the time being, and I then proceeded with the Bund claim, the proceedings of which are as follows:

Bund claim

In the Estimate above shown it is seen, that Rs are only 23 Rs 12 Ans put for these Bunds; in the Estimate

but the Executive Engineer withheld 500 Rs more or less from my bill for them. In this instance however, he made this stoppage through an oversight as Explained further on, but not so in the stoppage he made for Excavation; and this stoppage for the Bunds happened as follows:

The Engineer who made this Estimate was the Sub Engineer, and not the Executive Engr who made the stoppages; and when the Sub made the Estimate, he took it down to Madras and obtained the sanction of the Executive Engineer, who forgot all about it when he made the stoppage.

Ere I proceeded with the work of the Bunds therefore, I asked the Sub, why he had not put dimensions and rates per cubic yard for the Bunds in the Estimate; and he told me, that as these Bunds were merely intended to keep a little rippling water from rippling out of the line of the channel and causing a swamp, they were to be made of the Excavated mud, such as may happen to come from the Excavation; and this mud he added, should not be thrown away indiscriminately as is usual, but be deposited in a line on the bank of the channel, (which he marked out) and be merely tamped down into Bunds; for which tamping alone he had put the 23 Rs 12 Anas in the Estimate as therein seen.

Accordingly therefore I did so; and when they had dried, they settled down to about a foot high, and answered the desired end. The fact therefore, that no dimensions and consequently no charges per cubic yard are put for them sufficiently explains this statement.

For a clearer Explanation of this matter, now beg to Explain further, that there are two sorts of Bunds involved in this question, and it was this that caused the oversight of the Executive Engineer when he measured my work in my absence. Of the 2 sorts of Bunds just mentioned therefore, the one is as just Explained above, which incurs little or no Expenditure. Those again of the other description usually made in the District, are better known as Regulation Bunds, and are intended to seperate large sheets of water.

To raise such Bunds as these latter therefore, the Earth or mud is brought from an understood distance, and the rates for them vary according to distance, and their dimensions are 3 yards wide, and one yard high, distinctly marked in the Estimate with corresponding rates, without which no man would accept the work; and if the Bunds I had to make were to be of this description, they would have cost about 500 Rs; but there are only 23 Rs 12 Anas put for them in the Estimate.

The above therefore explains the oversight of the Executive Engineer; for when he measured my work in my absence, he saw Bunds in the Estimate, and failing to see if dimensions and rates were put for them, he calculated on the Regulation Bunds, and accordingly struck off the 500 Rs more or less, failing to see that only 23 Rs 12 Anas were put for them in the Estimate; and the surest proof that this was his impression, could even now be [illegible]

day in his letter (now in the office) to the Superintending Engineer; and where Escisted the necessity for such huge bunds, the Engineer himself cannot Explain. And another incontestable proof that no dimensions nor charges (save the 23 Rs 12 Ans) were put for the Bunds is, that the whole of the money put for this (No 4) channel, for which these Bunds were to be made, comes to the pier for the Excavation work alone of this channel, not a pie remaining for the Bunds, save the 23 Rs 12 Ans "for tamping".

Having therefore Explained above how the oversight relating to the Bunds occurred, I now beg to Explain how this Bund claim was treated.

After I had allowed the proceedings of the Excavation claim to stand over for the time being, to enable me to test the integrity of those proceedings by their treatment of the Bund claim, which stands out so prominently in facts and figures impossible to evade undetected, I now for the very first time started this Bund claim; and at this juncture another Secretary (Col. Sankey) was appointed to the Dept.

This Secretary also imbibed the same feeling of opposition as did his predecessor; and this seemed a natural result, while the Executive Engineer who started the opposition was still in the Dept. It so happened however, that just after the new Secretary took up his post, that I started (as I said) this Bund claim for the very first time; and the very first reply he sent after a very long period was a very vague one, viz - "This case cannot be responded"; and

when requested to produce a previous petition which could have elicited such an Endorsement, he was unable to do so, and the following was sent - "Your petition has been entitled", but does not say how or when. The next was - "Your petition has been considered with the greatest scrutany", and to every subsequent petition, the following and others of its kind were sent - "You are referred to Endorsement dated (so and so)" referring to former Endorsements, and so on without a word to the point to every petition.

All this sort of dealing I beg to add, was so carried on for months and years, while the claim could be seen thro' by a boy at his alphabet, by simply confronting the 500 Rs so withheld with the 23 Rs 12 Ans put in the Estimate for these Bunds.

In so noticing the treatment of this Bund claim therefore, which stands out so clear without a shadow of intricacy, every particle of doubt now vanished from my mind as to the certainty and capability of their having so treated the Excavation claim also; and in representing all this to Sir Grant Duff the retired Governor, and complaining also of Col Sankey having also burked a petition which I submitted through him to the Rt Hon the Secretary of State, and Col Sankey being (as is well known) a close companion to the said Governor, H.E. put all my complaints through a sham proceeding.

In the face of all this moreover, he appointed Col Sankey to a seat in the Legislature council, and on his departure to fill another post in Ireland, he gave him a very flattering public testimonial of his services to the State

&

17/6

In conclusion I beg to observe, that I think Y.E. will have very clearly traced a malicious intention throughout the whole proceedings in withholding a ruinous sum from a very poor man, even just entering upon a business with the little money he had for his future subsistance in life; Your Excellency's careful and generous consideration therefore in reference to these claims is most respectfully solicited, and this act of kindness and simple justice towards one so recklessly oppressed and thrown into debt as to tell upon his health, will ever be cherished with feelings of great thankfulness and the deepest gratitude towards Y.E. and the Govt.; and with the the most respectful apologies for this intrusion I beg to remain

Your Excellency's most humble
Purswaukum Madras } and obedient servant
7th March 1887 } J. Crown (Senr.)
Purswaukum - East of Jannah Street - Madras.

P.S. These vague dealings on the part of the Secretary being fairly established by his final reply to the Bund claim (dated 31st April 1884) this said dealing in this said claim proves the same dealing in the Excavation claim also, as practical results in the thorough efficiency of this work go to show as well as ill will do.

If therefore a claimant proved unsuccessful through unfair dealing, his claim is then fairly admissible, when as in this case, it is now doubly supported by the subsequent confirmed discovery of such dealing, which alters the whole case and renders such decision null and void

Finally I beg to state, that in starting these claims at the onset, I first started as I said, the

Excavation claim; and according to the official routine, it was first submitted to the Hon R.W. Barlow Esq the Collector, who strongly protested against the stoppage; but he was opposed by these officials of the P.W. Dept for the reasons assigned, and I and the Collector failed to show (as now discovered) that it required but a common-sense decision from practical results as shown above, as they could no more look through the water than any body else could.

The next medium of appeal was the Board of Revenue who also finding the Secretary of the P.W. Dept opposed to it, declined to interfere; and such was the procrastination caused by the stern opposition of the Secretary to assert his authority to oppress me, that months and years had elapsed ere I could appeal to Govt.; and in so appealing to Govt., and it was the prerogative of the Secretary to personate the Govt., he as a matter of course quashed the claim at once with his usual vague remarks

While this Excavation claim was still through its course of appeal however, I also started the Bund claim about a year after through the same official medium, first the Collector to Govt., and this claim also shared the same fate as the other as already shown.

The 2 claims herein submitted were started consecutively the first and second year that they were due, and thus both these were so blended together and dragged along for months and years till I received the final reply, by which alone (if adverse) I could then substantiate their real intentions; and the

final reply was eventually sent, which stated - "No further notice will be taken of your claim", dated 31st April 1884. From all that has been shown therefor, I beg to state, that I have no desire whatever to implicate those concerned in this opposition; yet withal I humbly submit, that according to my humble views, no impediment imaginable could with even a shadow of honesty stand in the way of these claims, which I believe the Govt will not withhold if they are satisfied with the facts herein shown, and the more so, when they have profitted to the fullest extent by the sacrifice of a poor mans money and labor.

Summary of both these claims

Ques. - Had the Executive Engineer who measured my work a grudge upon me?

Ans - Yes, so much so, as to have written a very abusive letter against me.

Ques - Was the Excavation work practically efficient, and did the Govt realize the object of these works to the fullest extent without the slightest detriment to them?

Ans - Yes - and the strongest practical proof that the Excavations were made according to the depth given by the Executive Engr (Mr Harrington) is, that the laden boats, usually used for this purpose, and laden under official supervision, must have so floated out, but through the measurement sheet for that any purpose by the said Engineer, and for him to have made a random stoppage of about half the money in the face of this, too clearly proves his ill-will to oppress me. While a common sense idea suggests that not a pie should be withheld as for the Bund clause, further comment is needless

J. C. Sr.

Jo W / 1959

The note drawn up for H.E. Sir W. D. from Duff, attached to No 56 E of 29.4.86, gives the facts of Mr Croom's case — From the date of that endorsement, Mr Croom's appeals have remained unanswered, until endorsement No 529 W of 24.2.87 was sent to him.

His claims have been carefully considered & rejected by the Govt of India & the Secy of State, & the question is whether any action

Sec I
P.W. 1959/87

H.E.

Circ 1959 has been returned by the Private Secy — The present disposal can therefore be noted against it. Cc
15.3.87

Petition from J. Croom Esq (Senior)

Dated 7th March 1887.

P.W.

Transferred to the ~~Chief~~ Secretary to Government ~~for disposal~~ with an intimation that a letter has been despatched to Mr Croom & H.E. wishes to add that Mr. has personally gone (By Order.) into the merits of this claim, & can see no reason for supposing that the decision arrived at by Government & by the Secretary of State did not do full justice in the matter.

J. Reed
Private Secretary.

Government House,
9th March 1887.

549 W 24-2-87.
1154 C 22-3-86 & ca

P.W.C № 1913

(188) DEPARTMENT.

P.W. № 813. W 15 March 87

From

THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR,

To

THE ~~CHIEF~~ SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT,

P. W. DEPARTMENT.

Recorded in
Continuation of No
1152 C of 22.3.86, &
No 549 W of 24-2-87,
and with reference to the Private
Secy's indorsement within -

Jobs
15/3/87

Dated 9th } March 1887.
Recd. 10 }

P.W. № 813. W dy 15-3-87.

ENCLOSURE. /

Subject.

Transfers a petition from J. Croom Esq.
in Continuation of his former
petitions.

Chf Sec 16/3 Sec of St 17/3

To The Hon. Col J. B. Hasted R.E. Secretary to Govt
in the Public Works Dept

&c. &c. &c.

Honored Sir - In soliciting your forbearance, I re
spectfully beg to state, that as I now discern a pre
tice, by which petitions to the Rt Hon the Secretary of
State are open to tampering, and under the impressio
that I have very clearly established my claims in
my petitions dated respectively 7th March and 5th April,
felt very sorry and disappointed by your reticence in the mat
ter; but mature consideration led me to infer, that H. E
the Rt Hon the Governor's objection must first be sho
to be untenable, ere H.E. could reconsider the claims.

The said objection I beg to add, is that H.E. sees no reason
to believe, that the Secretary of State did not do full Jus
tice to the claims; and though by his Endorsement
is seen that H.E. was on the right official track, yet u
to this time, I was unable to show the said objection to
untenable, in having mislaid the printed copy of the
~~for~~ of the Endorsement of the Secretary of state relati
to my claims, yet I thought I might as well put H.
on the alert for the time being, by proving this practice o
tampering with the claims of the people.

As an order of Govt therefore admits the re
sideration of claims, when new facts are set forth to
tain them, I beg therefore to submit the following:

17/3

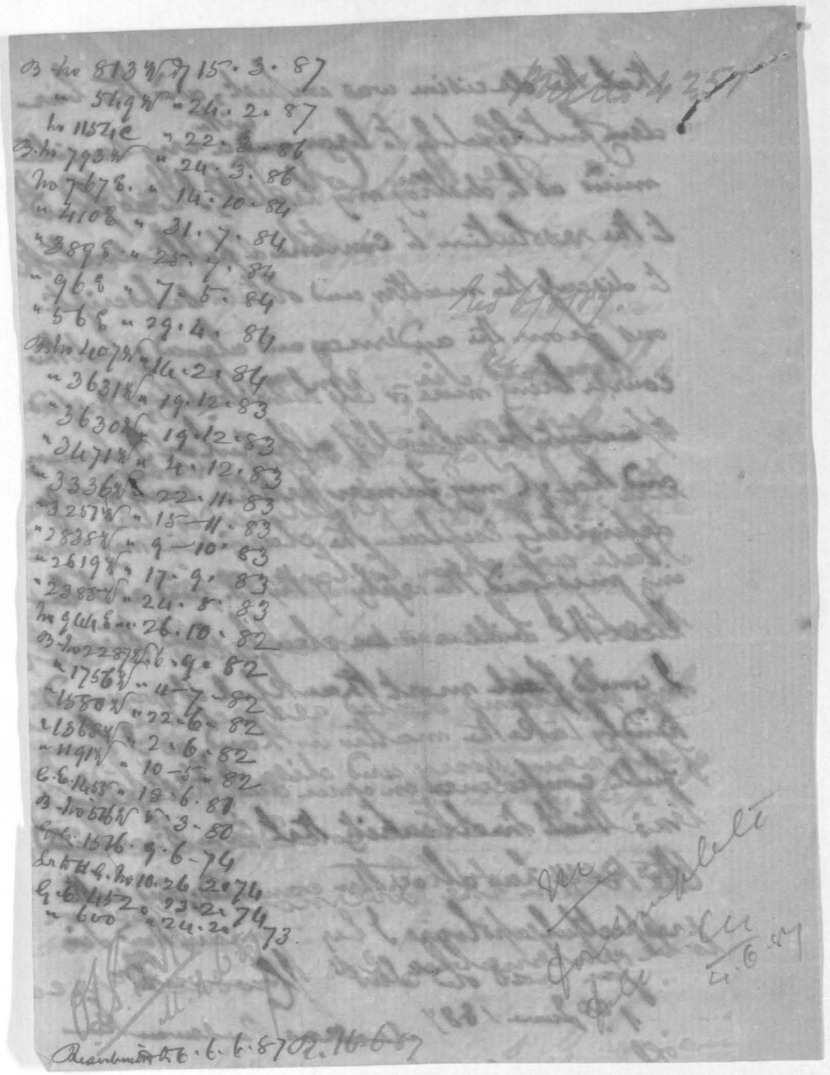
SECRETARY OF STATE
DEPARTMENT MASS.

To the Hon. Col J. C. Haskell K. C. V. V.

Honored Sir - I respectfully beg to inform you, that my failure to explain my claims more definitely in my petition of 7th March last, was owing to my having mislaid the printed copy of the Rt Hon the Secretary of State reply to my petition relating to them, and having recovered the said printed reply while writing the Enclosed petition, I find that his Endorsement or reply of the Secretary of State has through an oversight been misinterpreted from first to last, and does by no means grasp the claims at all, as you yourself will see in the Explanation herein give

in the Appendix of the Enclosed petition
to H.E. the Governor ob-
jection therefore lies on that very Endorse-
ment of the S.S.; and as I could not pre-
vail to the discovery of the misinterpre-
tation of the Sec.ry of State's reply, expect
H.E. the Governor to reconsider the claims,
till I can show the Governor's objection to
be untenable, I beg you will be so good
as to show the same in the Appendix of
my enclosed petition to H.E.

I beg to add, that at
the very onset, when I saw ~~I saw~~ the En-
dorsement of the S.S. I saw nothing defi-
nite about it to quash the claims; but from
reports abroad that such appeals are vain-
less, I failed to look a little deeper into it,
but knowing under that wrong impression without,
that the decision was unjust, and the bur-
den intolerable to bear, and with a very sensitive
mind as to destroy my health, I was forced
to the resolution to convene a public meeting
to discuss the matter, and obtain subscrip-
tions from the audience and abroad; but this
course being more or less humiliating, I preferred
to await the arrival of a popular Governor,
and then if my former petition, dated 7th March 87
could not be
definitely Explain the claims in my hav-
ing misread the reply of the S.S., and as I be-
lieve H.E. will now see clearly into them,
I should feel most thankful if you would
kindly take the matter in hand, as I have
full confidence in your and H.E.'s integrity
now that the obscurity that then surrounded
this case has altogether vanished, and with
respectful apologies I beg to remain Honble Sir
Your most Obt Servt Moorooosa
1st June 1887 Madras Pursewanken



To The Hon. Col J. C. Hasted A.E. Secretary to Govt
in the Public works Dept

Sir

Honored Sir - In soliciting your forbearance, I respectfully beg to state, that as I now discern a practice, by which petitions to the Rt Hon the Secretary of State are open to tampering, and under the impression that I have very clearly established my claims in my petitions dated respectively 7th March and 6th April, I felt very sorry and disappointed by your reticence in the matter; but mature consideration led me to infer, that H.E. the Rt Hon the Governor's objection must first be shown to be untenable, ere H.E. could reconsider the claims.

The said objection I beg to add, is that H.E. sees no reason to believe, that the Secretary of State did not do full justice to the claims; and though by this Endorsement it is seen that H.E. was on the right official track, yet up to this time, I was unable to show the said objection to be untenable, in having mislaid the printed copy of the ~~pa~~ of the Endorsement of the Secretary of state relating to my claims, yet I thought I might as well put H.E. on the alert for the time being, by proving this practice of tampering with the claims of the people.

As an ordn of Govt therefore admits the reconsideration of claims, when new facts are set forth to warrant them, I beg therefore to submit the following:

Having now discovered on reliable information, proved by practical results, that petitions to the Secretary State are freely open to tampering as herein proved; and that it is an open practice for a Secretary to write a private letter of his own, the contents of which are unknown to the petitioner, and that the said letter is enclosed in his petition and sent to the Governor (I speak of former Governors) for dispatch to the Secretary of State, the results of the said practice are herein shown.

A clear proof of this therefore according to what transpired is as follows: A former Secretary of the P.W.D. dept obtained the sanction of the Secretary of State according to the misrepresentations he enclosed in his private letter under cover of appeal, while practical results afterwards showed the petitioner was the innocent sufferer; and it is no matter of wonder, when this system of so dispatching petitions is tolerated; and this accounts for the reproachful remark of the Madras Mail, which announces the fact that of a hundred petitions submitted to the Secretary of State, 99 are returned with the endorsement that the Secretary of State declines to interfere.

I take the liberty therefore to state, that I speak in the interests of the people when I state with all humility, that if H.E. the Governor would establish a rule that the reports of Officials submitted to the Secretary of State should bear the signature of the petitioner, which would enable H.E. to know that the said petitioner had

read it, a long-standing scandal would be removed, the people would be more contented, and fresh lustre would be added to the fame and administration of His Excellency the Governor.

Appendix

I now beg to state, that while the above petition was under preparation, the said printed copy of the reply of the Secretary of State which was long mislaid came to hand; and it is this reply which has reference to my claims under notice. In considering over it in all its phases therefore, I beg to state, that in very attentively doing so, I have come to discover, that the Endorsement of the Secretary of State is not at all what it is represented to be, but has gone through a misinterpretation from first to last, and does not in any way sanction the stoppage of these claims.

At first sight of this Endorsement of the Secretary of State on these claims, the view taken of it by yourself and His Excellency the Governor is very like for I also took the same view of it when first I saw it, the more so, from reports abroad, that appeals to the Secretary of State are useless, and with that impression on my mind ever since laid it aside; and I now beg to explain my humble view of the Endorsement, which in so musing over it, I was led into a train of thoughts as follows:

This is a petition claiming stoppages of money made

Excavation and Bund works for the Madras Govt. In submitting my petition relating to these works to H.L. the Rt Hon the Secretary of State through the Madras Govt., the object of this Govt was to obtain the sanction of the Secretary of State to the said stoppages made in my bill by the local Secretary (P.W. Depd), against whose Defalcations so much has been shown to Govt and on whom with that they seemed to rely; and the said stoppage was 1540 Rs; and the reply of the Secretary of State was - "I am unable to interfere with the decision of your Govt" one way or the other, is here implied, for if could be interfered with one way or the other, it would have been done.

Accordingly therefore it implies non-interference; and non interference with all deference is not sanction; and if H.L intended sanction, it would have been "I concur with the decision of your Govt," or "I endorse the decision of your Govt;" hence this is absolute non interference, and the cause is herein shown as follows:

For In reading through my petition, H.L the Sec. of State saw, that the Govt realized the benefit of my Excavation work to the fullest Extent, in all the Cadm boats Cadm employ official supervision having floated out with their salt, which they could not have done but though the measurements given by the Engineer. H.L also knew that the Engr. bore ill-will a very abusive letter he had against me, and also saw the Govt order which implies, that works under water should be considered satisfactory if the object of the work is attained.

Then again with regard to the

money withheld for Bunds, H.L. the Secretary of St saw, that while there were only 3 Rs 12 Ans for the in the Estimate, about 500 Rupees were withheld for them. And with reference to the latter stoppage, wh the Broad startling question asks H.L, which Secretary of State in his senses could sanction such a stoppage, of 500 Rs with 23 Rs 12 Ans in the Estimate, the whole tran action must have been confirmed on His Lordships mi as a piece of oppression.

With reference to the above therefore I beg to observe, that no Governor would venture to submit such a case to the the Secretary of State, but it is the result of implicit reliance of a Govr on a reckless Secretary. To frame a reply therefore in such a case must have be difficult for H.L. while there is among Gentlemen, the obse vance of Official Etiquette, as not to clash with the feelings and Judgment of their colleagues, but to frame a reply with the greatest caution, hence H.L could not say in plain wo the case demanded viz, I object to sanction the stop pages.

The conscientious noble Lord therefore on the un derstanding that the Governor could see through the claims as well as himself, though it is very evident the Latter kne nothing, save what the Secretary represented to him, hen H.L withheld interference; for it would have been a bre of Etiquette and a reflection on the Judgment and good se of the Governor, had he said "I decline to sanction the stop pages". But to say "I decline to interfere could be said with better grace than to say, "I cannot concur with y decision" while on the contrary, nothing could stand in the

if His Lordship had occasion to say - I concur in the decision of your Govt. And with this my humble view of the matter, I leave you Hon Sir, to submit this as a clearer version of my preceding petition which I could not so lucidly explain while the Endorsement of H.E. the Secy of State was mislaid; and with the humble trust, that H.E. will give this a generous consideration, and with respectful apologies I beg to remain Hon.e Sir

Your most obedient Servt. J Croom (Snr)

30th May 1887 - Purswaukum - East of Tannah Street

Madras

Pro Secl 4257/1

Cus 4257-1.

To W

The decision of the Secy of State to which Mr Croom refers will be found in G.O. No 15-16 & 9.6.74 -

The Volumious file will show that no description of reply will cause Mr Croom to cease petitioning -

Please see notes attached to No 944 & 26.10.82 - also the subsequent orders, No 325-1 W & 15.11.83, & 56-S & 29.4.84, & Sir W. S. Grant Duff's note on the Precis attached to the last quoted paper.

The present petition is written in the tone of one not in his proper senses, & it is submitted that it would be

useless to reply to it.

For orders whether the petition may be lodged ~~with reference to~~ ~~the Contractor~~ ~~of~~ his 813 W of 15-3-87.

C

8/6/87

Petitioner addresses a new Govt & it may be useless to give an endorsement.

Order.

The Rt Hon the Govr in Council is of opinion that nothing has been addced by the Petitioner which calls for a reconsideration of the orders already passed on his case.

Further communications from the Petitioner will not be attended to.

Sdl
9/6/87.

16.6.87

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No 1633 d

Recd

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 17th June 1887.

READ the following

Petition from Mr J. Croom, dt 1st June 1887.

(Mr L. seems to have gone into the matter fully before — see Govt Revs endorsement of 9 March 87. The present petn rests on one argt alone, viz. that when Ld Salisbury said in 1874 that he was unable to interfere he clearly meant it to be understood that he did not agree but did not like to express dissent.)

MM
10 June

The Right Hon'ble the Governor in Council is of opinion that nothing has been adduced by the Petitioner which calls for a reconsideration of the orders already passed on his case.

Further communications from the petitioner will not be attended to.

Sdl
10/6/87

16.6.87

To Mr J. Croom

17/6

Circ 4209

S.A.W.

Please write pencil query above your draft, & have recent O.S. Statements from I Circle looked up to verify the items included in the S.E.'s list are brought forward therein. I think there was a long list of English stores in the last O.S. statement which came to Dy C.

It seems pretty clear that the S.E. is seeking sanction to port purchases. vide heading of statement.

Cr
9/6/87

Pl. retained here for the present the bulky file containing Dy C's Store lists - Cr

No. 523 G. D.

FROM

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER

FIRST CIRCLE.

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER

P.W.D. Deptt.

~~FOR IRRIGATION.~~

Enclosure one.

DOWLAISHWERAM, 22nd May 1887.

Deptd. 28th May 1887

SIR,

I have the honor to submit herewith a statement in the prescribed form for the local purchase of certain articles of European manufacture for use in the Government Workshops Dowlaisheraram during the year 1886-87 and to request that you will be good enough to obtain the sanction of Government to the articles being purchased locally.

Stores must have been shewn brought forward

Items containing in the tail within above —

2. The necessity for local purchase of these articles is explained in the above statement.

3. The information with regard to the English prices of the articles marked thus ⊗ in the statement are not

not to be found in the rake lists
received from the Director General
of Railways and therefore cannot
be entered in the Columns provided
for the purpose in the statement

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient Servant

C. Herald

Superintending Engineer

per Herald

TK

Bottle stoppers etc. Copper & Hospital articles Indents

B

Jour 24/167

It is not clear from the D.S's letter whether the Stores have been purchased already. If so, there is no course open to the Govt but to sanction the purchases and again direct the S.E's attention to the necessity for obtaining the previous sanction of the Govt to all such purchases.

2. If the articles have not yet been bought, the S.E. will explain more fully the necessity for their local purchase at prices very much in excess of what they would cost if obtained from England.

6.6.87

Returned 11-6-87 S.E.I. C. 6-6-87. R. 11.6.87

G.O. 1679 W dy 2nd July 1886
" 2024 W " 25 Jany 86
B.Dr 2461 W " 23rd Septr 86
B.Dr 1533 W " 8.6.87
" 1296 W " 12.5.87
" 727 W " 9.3.87
" 1116 W " 15.1.87

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

HE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 17th June 1887.

READ the following

H.S. No 523 D. dy 22.5.87.

The local purchase of the articles enumerated in the statement submitted by the S.E.I Circle is sanctioned under Special case No 2.

2. The attention of the Supply Dept is drawn to the loss to Govt which has resulted from the supply of the Stores otherwise than through the India Office, and also

Rd. 11-6-87. R. 16-6-87

(3)

Doth articles appear in Hyderabad item lists?

B

Jy 24/87

It is not clear from the S.E's letter whether the stores have been purchased already. If so, there is no course open to the Govt but to sanction the purchases and again direct the S.E's attention to the necessity for obtaining the previous sanction of the Govt to all such purchases.

2. If the articles have not yet been bought, the S.E. will be asked more fully the necessity for their local purchase at prices very much in excess of what they would cost if obtained from England.

Amendment 11-6-87 S.M.
S.E.I 8-6-87
C. 6-6-87. R. 11-6-87

6.6.87

PWC No 4209

FROM G. T. Walch Esquire
~~THE~~ SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER
FIRST CIRCLE.

TO

THE CHIEF ENGINEER
~~FOR IRRIGATION.~~
P. W. Department

DATED 24
DESPATCHED 28
RECEIVED 31 May 1887

No. 523 G. D.

ENCLOSURES. One

Articles of European Manufacture for use in the Government Work-Shops Dowlaishwaram during the year 1886-87.

Requests Sanction for purchasing the ——— &c.

For orders. The total value of stores to be purchased locally amounts to Rs. 3950. and the loss involved will be considerable, as in all cases the cost if obtained from England would be considerably less.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

No. 1634 W

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

UNDER date the 17th June 1887.

READ the following

From the S.E. I Circle No. 523 G.D. dated 22.5.87.

The local purchase of the articles enumerated in the statement submitted by the S.E. I circle is sanctioned under Special case No. 2.

2. The attention of the Supply Dept is drawn to the loss to Govt which has resulted from the supply of the stores therein than through the India Office, and also

also to the necessity
for obtaining the prior
execution of Govt to
such purchases.

Folio
14/6/87

Mem
16.6.87

1533 ✍ 8.6.87
1294 ✍ 12.5.87
727 ✍ 9.3.87
490 ✍ 18.2.87
146 ✍ 18.1.87
2461 ✍ 23.9.86

No 1654 W. d/17th June 1887

D
17/6/87

S.S.I circle ✓
Encl Note ✓ with
Statement.

M. 14.6.87

S.E.I.C. ✓
C. 6-6-87. R. 11.6.87

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less. 20