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B

Public works

Goro-276 dt 23-1-1888

276
1

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

Buildings and Roads.
Military Works.

READ—the following papers :—

From Colonel H. M. VIBART, R.E., Superintending Engineer, V Circle, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Chepâk, 11th January 1888, No. 4283.

With reference to G.O., No. 3500 W., dated 21st December 1887, I have the honor to request to be informed whether the annual report on the minor forts referred to should be made by an officer of the Royal Engineers.

No. 185 C.

Referred to the Quartermaster-General of the Army for favor of opinion.

(Signed) W. L. C. BADDELEY, Captain, R.E.,
Dy. Chief Engineer, P.W.D.

16th January 1888.

From Brigadier-General E. FAUNCE, Quartermaster-General, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Ootacamund, 20th January 1888, No. 233 B.

In returning your endorsement, No. 185 C., dated 16th instant, I have the honor, by order, to state that, as merely the condition of the fortifications and the works necessary for their maintenance in proper order, matters not demanding any military engineering knowledge, are required to be reported on, the Commander-in-Chief considers the reports may be made by any officer of the Public Works Department.

ORDER—dated 23rd January 1888, No. 276 W., Public Works.

Communicated to Superintending Engineers concerned with reference to G.O., No. 3500 W., dated 21st December 1887.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, III Circle.
" " IV "
" " V "
" Military Department.

Exd. J. Moses.
Spare Copies

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
MILITARY WORKS.

Govt. of {1888} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated January, 23rd.

Read. *Encl.*

G.O., 23rd Jan. 1888, No. 276 W.

JANUARY.

Forts

Communicating to Superintending Engineer's letter from the Quartermaster-General stating that annual inspection reports on minor — may be made by any officer of the Public Works Department as they do not require any military engineering knowledge.

276
2

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th December 1860.

No. 239. Read the following Endorsement of the Chief Engineer, dated Chepauk, 8th December 1860, No. 7,757 :—

Read the following letter from Captain G. W. WALKER, District Engineer, North Canara, to the Deputy Chief Engineer, Northern Circle, dated Sedashegur, 15th November 1860, No. 138.

SIR,

1. I have the honor herewith to forward an original letter from Mr. Overseer Laskey, reporting that Sub-Overseer Sheik Esoof had been robbed of Rupees 158-7-3 of public money.

2. In my late inspection of Supa Range in September and October last, I was utterly dissatisfied with every particular of Mr. Laskey's and his subordinate's work, as reported in my own Inspection Lists, in my notes on his Inspection Lists, in my List of Examination of cash chests for September, and in letter No. 122 of 20th October. Roused by my reproaches, Mr. Laskey seems to have thought of checking his subordinate's proceedings; and in two letters, dated 17th and 20th October, reported to me his having inspected his *Rosters* and pay lists, several of which he enclosed in proof of "disgraceful attempts to defraud the work-people." It would appear that to cover an omission of one man's name in the pay list, an enforced subscription of about an Anna per head had been made by the Sub-Overseer; that coolies were kept at his own quarters on pretence of there being tools to look after, but really for his own convenience and service; that young lads, were employed on the works to favor certain parties from whom he received some equivalent in kind; and that he falsely asserted his having been present on his works when he was not. Mr. Laskey winds up his second letter by stating "my confidence in "Sheik Esoof's honesty and diligence has been entirely shaken, and I find him to be a man filled "with an immeasurable degree of cunning."

3. I can quite understand Mr. Laskey's arriving at such a conclusion. Some time back, through the Magistrate, I put the new Police secretly on the traces of some of Sheik Esoof's malpractices in the Sircy Range, which came to my knowledge through a Canarese Petition from a brother rascal whom he had defrauded on removal to Supa. But though the Superintendent of Police informed me that I might proceed against him for conspiracy to defraud Government, he did not give me sufficient hopes of the case passing successfully through Court to induce me to persevere with it. Mr. Laskey, however, was made aware of the suspicions against the man by being suddenly called on to be present when his dwelling was searched.

4. In the former of his two letters above quoted, Mr. Laskey also reported that the Sub-Overseer on being distinctly ordered to fetch his cash and cash book for examination, brought the latter only, causing a delay in examining the former till the next morning when Rupees 90-7-5½ were found present instead of Rupees 55-7-6, the difference being made up of sums unpaid to 12 coolies. Mr. Laskey had been so lax about the Overseer's cash book that till September it consisted only of loose sheets of paper, and I intercepted a new *book* revised up to 31st August sent out in substitution thereof on 15th September, I confiscated the old book and ordered Mr. Laskey to send me the new one, which has only been done just now on my peremptory prohibition (dated 25th October) to entrust the Sub-Overseer with the payment of the smallest sum of money. A copy of that Memorandum is appended to

Paragraph 5.

show what warning Mr. Laskey's reports elicited; his Account-ant's proceedings, however, rendered unavailing the precautions he seems to have taken of his own accord, and he seems likely to become the victim of his own want of system and activity in the management of his charge. He has clearly taken the responsibility of the money payments on himself, his Accountant having wound up Sheik Esoof's cash book on 27th October by his orders, and transferred his cash balance to himself. The Sub-Overseer, however, managed to get all the money he had out of the Accountant under pretence of putting it in charge of the Kacheri guard at Supa, and next day it had vanished.

6. I must own that I share Mr. Laskey's opinion in paragraph 4, that the Sub-Overseer's procedure altogether "gives the matter a strange tinge." But I cannot agree with him in para-graph 5 that he could not have ridden over to Supa (21 miles only by my new trace viâ Oosoday, the general line of which he might at least have had the curiosity to inspect) and there made all square himself. He has been for months making abortive attempts at contracts for bricks and chunam, ingenuously enough detailed in his various Inspection Lists, and has done nothing but ride to Dhatwar and back on fool's errands (vide Inspection List for 23rd October). By erroneous traces as reported in my communications quoted in paragraph 2, he has thrown away Rupees 720 of Government money, to which this sum of Rupees 158 odd is now added, and, in fact, has shown his utter incompetence for charge of a North Canara Range.

7. As for Sheik Esoof, I have had from him an urzee complaining in general terms of Mr. Laskey in every way. I really cannot go into a cross-examination of him by letter, for I shall

simply elicit a series of flat denials and bare-faced lies. The Police have the robbery case in hand, and however I may doubt the Superintendent's hope that he will recover the money, I think it probable that he may ascertain Sheik Esoof's complicity in the loss or otherwise. The man is one whom in letter No. 114 of 11th October, paragraph 4, I have already reported as utterly unfit for his post, as illiterate and ignorant in the extreme. I recommended him myself in 1856 for employment in the new Department of Public Works, but only as a Sub-Foreman on Rupees 7, and was astonished in 1859 to find him in a situation worth Rupees 40, with travelling allowance. I have been checked so frequently by the Central Office in my control of lower subordinates that I do not act on my own conviction that he is a dangerous man for his post, and dismiss him accordingly. I have consoled myself with the prospect of his shortly having Mr. Fernandez for his immediate superior instead of Mr. Laskey, and of his inevitably hanging himself under such supervision if given a little more rope.

8. But it will be with the utmost satisfaction that I shall receive the Chief Engineer's orders for his immediate dismissal, if he should think fit to order the same on perusal of this report; I have in it given the whole history of his short-comings, and I consider his altogether a case in which, on behalf of Government, his services may be dispensed with without waiting till he further commits himself or subjects himself to legal penalties in addition.

From Mr. J. W. LASKEY, Overseer, Department Public Works, to Captain G. W. WALKER, District Engineer of North Canara, dated Camp Supa, 3rd November 1860, 123.

Sir,

1. I beg leave most respectfully to report that Sub-Overseer Sheik Esoof has been robbed of public money, to the extent of Rupees 158-7-3, which sum had fallen into his hands by Mungeshya's* gross carelessness, and utter inattention to my orders.

*Accountant and Writer in the Supa Range Office.

2. Mungeshya was dispatched to Supa with a draft for Rupees 200, and was distinctly instructed to make the payments himself, and to deposit the balance under the custody of the guard, but he unfortunately failed to execute my orders to the end he made payments at Supa on the 26th, and came up to Jugglepett on the 27th, to pay those that were there on leave, and after this much of the business was settled, he gave the balance to the Sub-Overseer, to deposit it under the custody of the guard at Supa, and returned to Hallial the same noon, while there was nothing, in my opinion, calling him so urgently in there; he should have gone down and seen it deposited himself, for the draft was made payable to the Accountant, and not to the Sub Overseer.

3. The Sub-Overseer comes down to Supa the next day, that is the 28th, and proceeds on to his "*Budar*" near Sumsoda, and keeps the money rolled in his bed, until the evening of the 29th, when a sudden alarm of its being lost was given to the Police.

Camp

4. The-Sub Overseer's excuse for not depositing the money under the custody of the guard, while on his way to his "*Budar*," is very inadmissible, he says, the guard refused to receive a sealed bag, this is a frivolous excuse; had the Sub-Overseer a wish to act in accordance with my instruction, given in a Memorandum No. 87, dated 27th August, anent the safe preservation of public money, a copy of which I herein enclose, from which you will see, that I have given numerous methods for substituting a cash chest, the practice of putting money in a small pot, or a bamboo cut for the purpose and tied up with cloth, and sealed, is a thing well known in Canara, and the Sub-Overseer not doing so when he was so distinctly ordered, gives the matter a strange tinge in my opinion.

Camp.

5. As my time at the close of the month was completely engaged in disposing contracts, and making arrangements for the supply of materials, for the construction of bridges, I was compelled on that account to entrust the Accountant of my office, with the discharge of the little task in which he has so utterly failed in performing it to my satisfaction.

Memorandum from Captain G. W. WALKER, District Engineer, to Mr. J. W. LASKEY, Overseer, Department Public Works, North Canara, dated Sirey, 25th October 1860, No. 297.

1. With reference to his letters No. 118 and 119, dated Dharwar 17th and Hallial 20th instant, both of which reached the District Engineer together this morning, Mr. Overseer Laskey is desired to report what precautions he took to guard against frauds in the payment of Sheik Esoof's coolies during the current month. If he has allowed the Sub-Overseer to make a single payment after he had made up his mind as to his character, Mr. Laskey has made himself clearly answerable for any money embezzled.

2. Until further orders, Sheik Esoof's cash book will be taken from him (sent to the District Engineer as formerly ordered) and he will not be entrusted with the outlay of a single Rupee, Mr. Laskey visiting his parties and paying them himself every month.

(True Copies.)

(Signed) H. W. RAWLINS, Captain,
Asst. to the Chief Engineer.

Submitted to Government for information; a full report on the subject of the fraud noticed by Captain Walker will be forwarded immediately on the receipt of information of the result of the inquiry instituted regarding the robbery referred to in paragraph 7 of the above letter. The District Engineer has been instructed to suspend the Sub-Overseer pending the result of the investigation by the Police.

(Signed) W. H. HORSLEY, Lieut.-Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 240. ORDER THEREON, 18th December 1860, No. 2,597.

1. The Chief Engineer submits for the information of Government a letter from the District Engineer of North Canara with its enclosures, reporting a robbery of public money to the amount of Rupees 158-7-3.

2. It appears that Mr. Laskey, Overseer of the Supa Range, sent his Accountant with a cheque for 200 Rupees, with instructions to make certain payments in that Range and deposit the balance under charge of the guard at Supa. The Accountant paid about 42 Rupees and handed the balance to Sheik Esoof, Sub-Overseer of the Range, who reports that he was robbed of it, but is suspected of complicity at least.

3. The Accountant is answerable, if as is stated, he made over the money to the Sub-Overseer in violation of his instructions.

4. The District Engineer further considers the Overseer Mr. Laskey responsible, as he might and ought to have made the payments himself.

5. The Chief Engineer has ordered Sheik Esoof to be suspended, pending inquiry into the alleged robbery by the Police, and promises a full report hereafter. No further orders seem therefore necessary at present on this part of the subject.

6. But the District Engineer's letter contains three other points, not noticed by the Chief Engineer, viz :—

(1.) The promotion of such a man as Sheik Esoof, "illiterate and ignorant in the extreme," recommended by Captain Walker in 1856 as a Sub-Foreman on 7 Rupees, but holding in 1859 the office of Sub-Overseer with an income of Rupees 40. The Government request full information as to the circumstances under which this individual was appointed to the last mentioned post.

(2.) Captain Walker's complaint that he has been frequently checked by the Central Office in his control of his lower subordinates. On this point too, an explanation is requested.

(3.) Mr. Laskey's own unfitness for the office of Overseer, it seems from Captain Walker's letter, that Mr. Fernandez will shortly have the range, but nothing is said of Mr. Laskey's future destination. It is desirable that the Department should now be systematically cleared of all the inefficient agents, whose employment at the outset was almost a necessity. The Chief Engineer should give his attention to this matter.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th December 1860.

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4. The District Engineer further considers the Overseer Mr. Laskey responsible, as he might and ought to have made the payments himself.

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6. But the District Engineer's letter contains three other points, not noticed by the Chief Engineer, viz :—

(1.) The promotion of such a man as Sheik Esoof, "illiterate and ignorant in the extreme," recommended by Captain Walker in 1856 as a Sub-Foreman on 7 Rupees, but holding in 1859 the office of Sub-Overseer with an income of Rupees 40. The Government request full information as to the circumstances under which this individual was appointed to the last mentioned post.

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(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Acting Secretary to Government.

Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
2nd February 1861.

No. 19. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 21st January 1861, No. 9,067:—

SIR,

1. With reference to my endorsement of the 8th December 1860, No. 7,757, and the Proceedings of Government thereon, under date 18th idem, No. 2,597, I have the honor to submit the accompanying letters* from the District Engineer North Canara, forwarded in continuation of his report of the 15th November 1860, No. 133, regarding the robbery of public money from Sub-Overseer Shaik Yussuf.

* 1. Original letter, dated 7th December 1860, No. 152, with 2 enclosures.
1 Do. dated 21st December 1860, No. 161,

2. The case as reported by Mr. Laskey is as follows:—At the latter end of October last he, Mr. Laskey, sent his Accountant, Mungeshya, to Súpa with a cheque for 200 Rupees to make certain payments in the Range and to deposit the balance under charge of the guard at Súpa. The Accountant, after paying away Rupees 41-8-9 to different parties at Súpa and Jugglepett, gave the balance on the 27th October 1860, to Sub-Overseer Shaik Yussuf to deliver over to the guard at Súpa, instead of taking it to them himself.

In letter dated 3rd November 1860, No. 128.

3. The next day the Sub-Overseer passed through Súpa on his way to his camp at Sumsoda, omitted to leave the money with the guard at the former place, on the plea that they had declined to receive it because it was in a sealed bag, and on the evening of the following day he reported to the Police that the amount had been stolen from him.

Rupees 158-7-3.

4. The party accused of the robbery was discharged for want of evidence, and the Sub Magistrate, before whom the case was tried, expresses the opinion that it was doubtful whether Sub-Overseer, Shaik Yussuf, had kept the money in his bed on the day in the evening of which it is said to have been stolen. The Sub Magistrate further observes that no sufficient reason was given for the money being placed in the bed, instead of being allowed to remain in the box where it was kept the night previous, and the whole tenor of his judgement in the case, together with that of the Head Assistant Magistrate's report which accompanies it, leads me to suspect that no robbery was committed, but that the Sub-Overseer had made away with it himself.

Vide Extract of Judgement forwarded with District Engineer's letter, dated 7th December 1860, No. 152.

5. Besides the Government money, the Sub-Overseer appears, from the Magistrate's decision, to have represented that other sums were stolen from him at the same time, but no reference is made thereto in the letters from the District Engineer or Mr. Laskey. Neither is it said whether the Sub-Overseer's statement, that the guard at Súpa had declined to receive the money, was correct or no; but be this as it may, the character given of him by Captain Walker, sufficiently proves that he is altogether unfitted for further employment in the Department and that no confidence can be placed in him. Under these circumstances, I have directed that he should be considered as dismissed from his appointment of Sub-Overseer in North Canara from the 1st November 1860, agreeably with Captain Walker's recommendation. I have also suggested to the District Engineer of North Canara whether it would not be advisable to punish the Accountant, Mungeshya, for his disobedience of orders, by degrading him to the rank of Gumastah on a salary of 20 Rupees per mensem for 6 months, as his conduct in giving the money to Shaik Yussuf was quite inexcusable.

In Paragraphs 2, 3 and 7 of letter, dated 15th November 1860. No. 138.

In letter, dated 21st December 1860, No. 161, paragraph one.

Present salary Rupees 35.

6. With respect to the loss sustained by the reputed robbery, I am of opinion that Overseer Laskey should be held responsible for the amount; it was clearly his duty to have made the payments to the workpeople himself and not to have entrusted it to his Accountant. The District Engineer's Memorandum of the 25th October 1860, may not have been received by Mr. Laskey when he sent the Accountant to Súpa; but his experience in the Department and knowledge of its rules should have prevented his entrusting public money to his office subordinate for the payment of contractors or workpeople, and I therefore recommend that his salary be subjected to a monthly deduction of 10 Rupees until the sum lost Rupees 158-7-3 shall have been made good.

7. With regard to the last paragraph of Captain Walker's letter of the 21st December 1860, No. 161, I have the honor to explain, that it was at first ordered that Mr. Laskey should be transferred to Vizagapatam for employment at the Waltair Barracks, but that subsequently he was transferred to Cuddaph, where his services are more urgently required, as reported in my letter of the 16th January 1861, No. 8,897.

8. I have now requested the District Engineer of North Canara to relieve Mr. Laskey as early as possible of the charge of the Súpa Range, and acquainted him of the course which I have now recommended to Government should be followed to make good the money lost.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1861, No. 225.

1. The Government approve and sanction the course proposed by the Chief Engineer in paragraph 6 of this letter for recovering from Assistant Overseer Laskey the Government money lost through his neglect of duty.

2. They agree with the Chief Engineer that the Accountant Mungeshya also is deserving of punishment for his negligence in the matter.

3. They approve also the dismissal of Shaik Yussuf.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

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No. 87. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 16th January 1861, No. 8,897:—

1 Letter from District Engineer North Canara, dated 22nd June 1859, No. 409, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. do. dated 18th April 1860, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. do. dated 18th July 1860, No. 61.
1 Do. to do. dated 18th August 1860, No. 3,893, with 1 enclosure.

1 Do. from do. dated 25th August 1860, No. 90.
1 Do. to do. dated 8th October 1860, No. 5,672.
1 Do. from do. dated 12th September 1860, No. 96, with 4 enclosures.

1 Do. to do. dated 29th October 1860, No. 6,381.
1 Do. from do. dated 10th July 1860, No. 55.
1 Do. to do. dated 20th July 1860, No. 3,195.
1 Do. from do. dated 14th August 1860, No. 81.
1 Do. to do. dated 26th September 1860, No. 5,215.

* In Circular No. 130, dated 24th September 1860.

1 Do. from do. dated 20th October 1860, No. 120.
1 Do. to do. dated 7th November 1860, No. 6,757.
1 Do. from do. dated 10th October 1857, No. 290, with 1 enclosure.

Vide letter, dated 10th October 1857, No. 290.

Sir,

1. Agreeably with the Orders of Government contained in their Proceedings of the 18th December 1860, No. 2,597, I have the honor to submit the following information in connection with the points therein noticed.

2. The circumstances under which Sheik Yusuf was appointed to the situation he has recently held in the Department are as follows:—

3. In September 1857, District Engineers were called* upon by this Office to forward lists of the men whom they considered should be entertained as 2nd Class Sub-Overseers in accordance with the views of Government, as communicated in their Orders of the 17th September 1857, and in reply thereto Captain Goddard, then District Engineer of Canara, submitted the accompanying list in which was included the name of Sheik Yusuf. The names thus given were embodied in one general Return subsequently forwarded to Government by Colonel Faber on the 6th December 1857, and in the Gazette of the 5th February 1858, Sheik Yusuf was appointed to the post of Sub-Overseer 2nd Class 3rd Grade, there being nothing at that time on the records of this Office, so far as can now be traced, to show that the man was not fitted for the post. As, however, it is desirable that Government should be fully informed of the grounds on which he was recommended for promotion, I have called upon Captain Goddard for a report of the same which shall be forwarded to you immediately after receipt in the Central Office.

Vide Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 5th February 1858, No. 206.

4. Sheik Yusuf's salary was 25 Rupees with 15 Rupees Horse allowance.

5. Captain Walker's complaint of having been checked by this Office in his control of his lower Subordinates has arisen, I presume, from the circumstance of my having found it requisite on two recent occasions to call upon him to submit, in accordance with the Orders of Government dated 5th May 1854, page 100 of the Departmental Circular Order Book, the written defence or explanation of the parties against whom he had preferred certain charges.

Vide paragraph 7, of letter dated 15th Dec. 1860, No. 128.

6. The cases I refer to, relate, one to the dismissal of a Sub-Overseer, and the other to the degradation of an Assistant Overseer, and from a perusal of the papers connected therewith, which I enclose, it will be observed that the course followed by this Office was regular and called for.

7. The Sub-Overseer Mr. Rodriguez, was charged with having, under the plea of ill-health and which the Civil Surgeon declined to certify to, absented himself from duty, or, as Lieutenant Law concluded, with having malingered with a view to remain for some time at Honore, privilege leave having been previously refused to him; and as the manner in which he had conducted his duties for some time was most unsatisfactory, and implicit confidence could not be placed in him in the payment of money, he was dismissed by the District Engineer.

Vide District Engineer's letter, dated 16th July 1860, No. 55.

8. The rules, however, relating to the dismissal of public servants had not been duly conformed to, and I therefore considered it my duty not to confirm the man's removal from the Department until I was placed in possession of further information on the subject.

9. Captain Walker admitted that, according to my view of the case, he "had not duly conformed to the rules," and also expressed himself satisfied that in all matters regarding the promotion or dismissal of subordinates he was duly supported by me. His remark therefore was in my opinion uncalled for and improper.

Paragraphs 2 to 3 of District Engineer's letter, dated 20th October 1860, No. 120.

10. The Assistant Overseer Mr. Machado was charged with neglect of duty and with having certain discrepancies in his accounts, and recommended to be degraded to the rank of Sub-

District Engineer's letter, dated 18th July 1860, No. 16.

7. With regard to the last paragraph of Captain Walker's letter of the 21st December 1860, No. 161, I have the honor to explain, that it was at first ordered that Mr. Laskey should be transferred to Vizagapatam for employment at the Waltair Barracks, but that subsequently he was transferred to Cuddaph, where his services are more urgently required, as reported in my letter of the 16th January 1861, No. 8,897.

8. I have now requested the District Engineer of North Canara to relieve Mr. Laskey as early as possible of the charge of the Súpa Range, and acquainted him of the course which I have now recommended to Government should be followed to make good the money lost.

No. 20. ORDER THEREON, 2nd February 1861, No. 225.

1. The Government approve and sanction the course proposed by the Chief Engineer in paragraph 6 of this letter for recovering from Assistant Overseer Laskey the Government money lost through his neglect of duty.

2. They agree with the Chief Engineer that the Accountant Mungeshya also is deserving of punishment for his negligence in the matter.

3. They approve also the dismissal of Shaik Yussuf.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

No. 87. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 16th January 1861, No. 8,897:—

1 Letter from District Engineer North Canara, dated 22nd June 1859, No. 402, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. do. dated 18th April 1860, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. do. dated 18th July 1860, No. 61.
1 Do. to do. dated 18th August 1860, No. 3,893, with 1 enclosure.
1 Do. from do. dated 25th August 1860, No. 90.
1 Do. to do. dated 8th October 1860, No. 5,672.
1 Do. from do. dated 12th September 1860, No. 96, with 4 enclosures.
1 Do. to do. dated 29th October 1860, No. 6,381.
1 Do. from do. dated 10th July 1860, No. 55.
1 Do. to do. dated 30th July 1860, No. 3,195.
1 Do. from do. dated 14th August 1860, No. 81.
1 Do. to do. dated 26th September 1860, No. 5,215.

* In Circular No. 120, dated 24th September 1860.

1 Do. from do. dated 20th October 1860, No. 120.
1 Do. to do. dated 7th November 1860, No. 6,759.
1 Do. from do. dated 10th October 1857, No. 290, with 1 enclosure.

Vide letter, dated 10th October 1857, No. 290.

SIR,

1. Agreeably with the Orders of Government contained in their Proceedings of the 18th December 1860, No. 2,597, I have the honor to submit the following information in connection with the points therein noticed.

2. The circumstances under which Sheik Yusuf was appointed to the situation he has recently held in the Department are as follows:—

3. In September 1857, District Engineers were called* upon by this Office to forward lists of the men whom they considered should be entertained as 2nd Class Sub-Overseers in accordance with the views of Government, as communicated in their Orders of the 17th September 1857, and in reply thereto Captain Goddard, then District Engineer of Canara, submitted the accompanying list in which was included the name of Sheik Yusuf. The names thus given were embodied in one general Return subsequently forwarded to Government by Colonel Faber on the 6th December 1857, and in the Gazette of the 5th February 1858, Sheik Yusuf was appointed to the post of Sub-Overseer 2nd Class 3rd Grade, there being nothing at that time on the records of this Office, so far as can now be traced, to show that the man was not fitted for the post. As, however, it is desirable that Government should be fully informed of the grounds on which he was recommended for promotion, I have called upon Captain Goddard for a report of the same which shall be forwarded to you immediately after receipt in the Central Office.

Vide Extract Minutes Consultation, dated 5th February 1858, No. 206.

4. Sheik Yusuf's salary was 25 Rupees with 15 Rupees Horse allowance.

5. Captain Walker's complaint of having been checked by this Office in his control of his lower Subordinates has arisen, I presume, from the circumstance of my having found it requisite on two recent occasions to call upon him to submit, in accordance with the Orders of Government dated 5th May 1854, page 100 of the Departmental Circular Order Book, the written defence or explanation of the parties against whom he had preferred certain charges.

Vide paragraph 7, of letter dated 15th Dec. 1860, No. 138.

6. The cases I refer to, relate, one to the dismissal of a Sub-Overseer, and the other to the degradation of an Assistant Overseer, and from a perusal of the papers connected therewith, which I enclose, it will be observed that the course followed by this Office was regular and called for.

7. The Sub-Overseer Mr. Rodrigues, was charged with having, under the plea of ill-health and which the Civil Surgeon declined to certify to, absented himself from duty, or, as Lieutenant Law concluded, with having malingered with a view to remain for some time at Honore, privilege leave having been previously refused to him; and as the manner in which he had conducted his duties for some time was most unsatisfactory, and implicit confidence could not be placed in him in the payment of money, he was dismissed by the District Engineer.

Vide District Engineer's letter, dated 10th July 1860, No. 55.

8. The rules, however, relating to the dismissal of public servants had not been duly conformed to, and I therefore considered it my duty not to confirm the man's removal from the Department until I was placed in possession of further information on the subject.

9. Captain Walker admitted that, according to my view of the case, he "had not duly conformed to the rules," and also expressed himself satisfied that in all matters regarding the promotion or dismissal of subordinates he was duly supported by me. His remark therefore was in my opinion uncalled for and improper.

Paragraphs 2 to 3 of District Engineer's letter, dated 20th October 1860, No. 120.

10. The Assistant Overseer Mr. Machado was charged with neglect of duty and with having certain discrepancies in his accounts, and recommended to be degraded to the rank of Sub-

District Engineer's letter, dated 16th July 1860, No. 16.

Overseer; but no explanation from him was submitted until called for. It would extend this letter to a considerable length to give herein even an abstract of the correspondence which took place on this subject, neither does it appear to be necessary that such should be done, as the matter will be found fully reviewed in my Proceedings of the 8th and 29th October 1860, Nos. 5,672 and 6,381 herewith forwarded; I will therefore only observe that, for the reasons therein assigned, I did not consider it desirable to accede to Captain Walker's request that the Assistant Overseer should be degraded.

Vide Proceedings of Chief Engineer, dated 18th August 1860, No. 3,893.

Vide Proceedings of Chief Engineer, dated 29th October 1860, No. 6,381.

11. With regard to the third point noticed by Government in their Proceedings under reply, viz., the unfitness of Mr. Laskey for the post of Overseer in the Department, I have the honor to enclose the accompanying letter which Lieutenant Hunter addressed to this Office in 1859, when in charge of the Canara District, on the subject of Mr. Laskey's promotion.

Vide District Engineer's letter, dated 22nd June 1859, No. 409.

12. Mr. Laskey is there stated to be a good Surveyor and well deserving of advancement, and I have reason to believe that it was in consequence of that report, and of the very favorable manner in which his qualifications were noticed by Captain Goddard in a Memorandum which accompanied it, that Colonel Bell advanced Mr. Laskey to the rank of Overseer in the Department.

Dated 12th May 1858. See pencil remark by Colonel Bell in margin of Captain Walker's letter, dated 18th April 1860.
In Proceedings, dated 25th November 1859, No. 7,645.

Enclosure in Captain Walker's letter, dated 18th April 1860.

	Maximum. 125 Scientific attainments	150 General diligence and zeal	160 Professional qualification.
Mr. Machado	25	150	60
,, Laskey	100	150	120
,, Fernandez	100	150	150

13. Moreover, in the yearly confidential Report the numbers assigned to Mr. Laskey show that he was not then far behind Mr. Fernandez, of whom Captain Walker speaks in such high terms in respect to general efficiency.

14. I have now transferred* Mr. Laskey to the Cuddapah District where there is a great demand for assistance, and where he may be usefully employed in superintending some large and important works; but should he be there also found deficient in his duties, I shall, on being informed of the same, be prepared to authorize his degradation, or removal from the Department.

* In Proceedings dated 10th January 1861, No. 8,726.

15. Further papers relating to the robbery of public money from Sub-Overseer Sheik Yusuf with the Sub-Magistrate's decision thereon have been received in the Central Office and will form the subject of a separate report to Government.

No. 88. ORDER THEREON, 7th February 1861, No. 257.

1. In this letter the Chief Engineer reports on the three points noticed in the 6th paragraph of the Order of December 18th, 1860, No. 2,597.

2. The first point is the promotion to the rank of Sub-Overseer of so incompetent a man as Sheik Yusuf is now declared to be. It appears that this man was appointed by the Chief Engineer in 1857, in common with some others, on the recommendation of the District Engineer, Captain Goddard. This latter Officer has properly been called on therefore to report the grounds of his recommendation in Sheik Yusuf's favor; and his explanation should be laid before Government. In a subsequent letter* the Chief Engineer informs Government that he has authorized Sheik Yusuf's dismissal.

Paragraphs 2 to 4.

* 21st January 1861, No. 9,067.

3. The second point is the remark of the District Engineer that he has been frequently "checked by the Central Office in his control of Lower Subordinates." Colonel Horsley gives the particulars of two cases in which he has recently had occasion, as he says, to interfere with the proceedings of Captain Walker in the case of Subordinates, and which he supposes that Officer to refer to in the remark above quoted, and encloses the correspondence which passed. The following are the particulars of these two cases:—

Paras. 5 to 10.

4. They were those of Sub-Overseer Paul Rodriguez and Assistant Overseer Machado. The former individual, proved guilty by the testimony of the Zillah Surgeon of Honore, and by that of the Dresser, of persistent malingering, was dismissed by the District Engineer; who in reporting this proceeding, stated also, in addition to the immediate cause of dismissal, that

the conduct of the Sub-Overseer had been such that he had lost all confidence in him. The dismissal was in strict accordance with the Order of March 15 (paragraph 9), and it was not necessary that it should have been reported to the Chief Engineer, except in the Quarterly Statement. It was however reported by letter, and the Chief Engineer then censured the District Engineer for not having exhibited formal charges against the Sub-Overseer and taken a formal defence from him,† according to a Government Order of 1854; he also cancelled the man's dismissal, but ordered his suspension pending his own final orders on the case. Ultimately, after some further correspondence, the Chief Engineer confirmed the dismissal.

† May 5th, para. 9, page 109 of the C. O. Book.

5. The application to such a case of the Order above referred to respecting formal charge and defence was obviously improper. It was so by the very terms of the Order itself; and the case clearly came within the exception stated at its close. It is undoubtedly competent to the Chief Engineer to object to dismissals and punishments reported by District Engineers for sufficient cause; but no such cause existed in this case. Ultimately the District Engineer's order was confirmed, after much waste of valuable time in correspondence.

6. In the second case, the District Engineer reported Assistant Overseer Machado to be utterly incompetent to the charge of the Range in his charge, from inability to manage his accounts, constant mismanagement of particular works, and neglect; he recommended his degradation to the rank of Sub-Overseer, and suspended him pending a reply. In suspending the Assistant Overseer the District Engineer exceeded his power; and this was pointed out to him by the Chief Engineer. On a further report the Chief Engineer reviewed the case, convicted Machado of very serious irregularities, prohibited his being put in charge of a Range, but refused to allow of his reduction to the rank of Sub-Overseer, as he had only recently been reduced to that of Assistant Overseer. Thus this man was kept in his position in the Department, contrary to the strong recommendation of his local superior, while yet declared unfit to perform its proper duties.

7. The Governor in Council must remark that the proceedings of the Chief Engineer in these two cases were by no means in accordance with the spirit and intention of the Order of March 15th 1859, No. 596, which was passed to regulate promotions and punishments in the Subordinate Department. The object of that Order, as expressed in paragraph 5, was to give the District Engineers full control over their subordinates; from experience of the evils of the opposite course, and from the conviction that such local power was essential to full efficiency in the Districts.

8. The interference of the Chief Engineer was to be confined to the maintenance of discipline on the one hand, and on the other to the redress of unfairness or abuse on the part of the District Engineers; evils which it was of course necessary to provide against, though they are not at all to be commonly expected. The Government are of opinion that in cases within the competency of the District Engineer, the interference of the Chief Engineer in behalf of the individual punished should as a general rule take place only on appeal from him. This will not prevent the Chief Engineer from examining and commenting on the Quarterly Returns as he does at present, or from then noticing cases in which the local Officer may seem to have exceeded his authority or to have been unduly lenient.

9. The Government desire that this expression of their views may for the future govern the proceedings of the Chief Engineer in dealing with such cases. They are satisfied that he will himself see the necessity of thus placing confidence in the local Officers, and supporting their authority. Colonel Horsley will communicate a copy of this Order for the information of Colonel Boileau, late Acting Deputy Chief Engineer in charge of the Northern Circle.

10. There is one particular in Assistant Overseer Machado's conduct, on which the Government desire further explanation. It appears from paragraph 11 of the Chief Engineer's Proceedings of the 8th October 1860, No. 5,672, that this man gave "large sums" of public money to "Darogahs," and the Chief Engineer professes himself ignorant what class of servants is here intended. The Governor in Council desires that explanation may be furnished on this point, and also as to the object of the advances, and whether they were legitimate and proper.

It is also stated that advances were made to "Revenue servants," though it is added, the object of these advances is not apparent. The same explanation should be furnished as to these advances also; viz., to whom made, for what purpose, and whether proper and in accordance with the rules.

11. The last of these points on which explanation was called for, is Mr. Overseer Laskey's alleged unfitness for the post of Overseer. The Chief Engineer advances nothing to meet Captain Walker's allegation of the man's unfitness; he merely states the grounds on which he was made an Overseer. It appears that he was promoted to this rank from that of Assistant Overseer in consequence of a letter from Lieutenant Hunter,‡ then Acting District Engineer, reporting on a petition from him, and a memorandum from Captain Goddard which accompanied

‡ June 22nd, 1859.

it. He was a Revenue Surveyor in the old Public Works Department; and Lieutenant Hunter describes him as highly qualified as a Surveyor and Draftsman. But he says nothing as to his qualifications for the duties of an Overseer, that is as a Superintendent of work, in which capacity Captain Walker has now found him wanting; nor could an opinion so expressed before hand, however favorable, be properly opposed under any circumstances, to the deliberate statement by an Officer of what he has actually found on trial. The Governor in Council desires that Mr. Laskey may be distinctly warned through the District Engineer of his new District (Cuddapah) that unless he gives satisfaction to Captain Hemery he will be degraded or dismissed.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

276
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Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th August 1863.

No. 516. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel E. HEMERY, R. E., Superintending Engineer 3rd Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddapah, 17th August 1863, No. 125:—

SIR,

1. With reference to Order of Government No. 2,283, of the 13th instant, I have the honor to submit the following remarks on the promotion of Mr. S. Howell, Táluq Overseer, Cuddapah, to act as Supervisor, 2nd Class.

2. In my distribution statement of Officers and Subordinates for the quarter ending 31st July 1863, Mr. Howell's name stands fifth in the order of merit in the grade of Táluq Overseer.

3. This document was most carefully prepared, as I was under the impression that it was required by Government as a guide in making promotions to the Upper Subordinate grades, and accordingly the names were arranged more with regard to good conduct and efficiency than to length of service alone.

4. Mr. Howell's conduct was on two occasions unfavorably brought to the notice of the late Chief Engineer, once in connection with the new School House at Cuddapah and again with reference to the Anantarazpett tank, and although he has lately conducted his duties in a satisfactory manner, I do not consider him so deserving of promotion as the four men who stand before him in my statement on the 31st ultimo, and I would respectfully beg to recommend for promotion Mr. J. W. Laskey, who, whilst in charge of the Royachoti Range, from January to April 1863, during Mr. George's absence on leave performed his duties much to my satisfaction.

No. 517. ORDER THEREON, 25th August 1863, No. 2,418.

Under the circumstances stated in this letter, Mr. Howell's promotion sanctioned in G. O. No. 2,233, dated 13th August 1863, will be considered cancelled, and Mr. Overseer Laskey will act as Supervisor 2nd Class vice Campbell, and be posted to the Tanjore* District.

* See G. O. No. 2,349, dated 18th August 1863.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers 3rd and 6th Divisions.
To the Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER'S OFFICE,

V CIRCLE, MADRAS,

Chepâk, 11 January 1888.

No. 4283.

276/8

From Colonel A. M. Vibart. R.E

SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,

V CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer

P. W. Department

SIR,

Enclosures

With reference to G.O No 3500 W dated 21st December 1887, I have the honor to request to be informed whether the annual report on the Buxar forts referred to, should be made by an officer of the Royal Engineers.

I have the honor to be,

Sir.

Your Most Obedient Servant

A. M. Vibart Col. R.E

Supty: Engineer V circle

P. W. Dept.
To be returned with reply.

No. 185 C dated 16th Jany 1888

Referred to the Quarter Master General of the Army for favour of opinion

W. C. Baddeley Capt R.E.
Dy. Chief Engineer P.W.D.

To.
The Quarter Master General of the Army.

Q.M.G. GENERAL'S OFFICE
RECEIVED
18 JAN 88
No. 176

E1
PWC No 232
236/88

From

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
V CIRCLE,

To

THE Chief Engineer
P. W. Department.

Dated 11th January 1888.
Recd. 12

ENCLOSURES.

No. 4283.

Mewar Forts.

Requests to be informed whether the annual report on the —— should be made by an Officer of the Royal Engineers.

Referred

Form No. 23 A. / 10 B.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Ootacamund,
20th January 1888.

No. 233 B

276/9

From

BRIGADIER-GENERAL E. FAUNCE,
QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,

To

THE Chief Engineer
Public Works Department

SIR,

In returning your Endorsement No. 185 C dated 16th Instant, I have the honor, by order, to state that, as merely the condition of the fortifications, and the works necessary for their maintenance in proper order, in matters not demanding any Military Engineering knowledge are required to be reported on, the Commander-in-Chief considers the report may be made by any officer of the Public Works Department.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your Obedient Servant
E. Faunce
Brigadier General
Quarter Master General

276
10

3500 W 21/12/87 & Brkworks.

No 276 W dated 23. January /88

A/1

Communicated to
Superintending Engineers
Superintending Engineers
Concerned with reference
to G.O 3500 W dated 21st December
to GO 3500 W d/21 Decem.
ber 1887.
1887.

Chiefs
23.1.88

21/1/88

188

P.W.C No. 636

From

THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL,

To

THE _____

_____

No.

Dated
Received 23.1.88 } 188

ENCLOSURES.

Supdg Engr III Circle
" IV Circle
Supdg Engr III Circle
Military Department 21/1
Mily Depts

Lr th order

276/11

C No 636

Govt. of [1887] Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated 24/1/88

Read 1-45 pm

Rect. Encl.

G.O. Jan 23 1888. No. 376W

75

Forts

Calling for letter from the Surg. stating that medical inspection reports on minor [illegible] may be made by any officer of the P.W.D. for the Military do not require any [illegible] engineering knowledge.

15/1

24/1