

Public Works (1898) Department.

G.O., No. 674 W

DATED 12 March 1898

[Despatch Abstract.]

Mr J. H. Stephens, Honorary Assistant Engineer,

Stating that Mr. E. the Governor in Council is not satisfied with Mr. Stephens' expression of regret for imputing unworthy motives to Mr. Ghose and that he must ^{unconditionally} withdraw his imputation against Mr. Ghose and apologise.

W 3-98

W/B

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

DEPARTMENT

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF PLANT INDUSTRY
WASHINGTON, D. C.
No. 674 Wap 12 March 1898.

Papers to be read in Proceedings:—

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated

189 , No.

Again G.O., dated _____, 189____, 189____.

Current No. 1664 of 1898, dated 22.2.98, from Mr J. H. Stephens, King
and

„ „ 1734 „ 1898, „ 23. 2. 58, „

„ 189 „

ORDER.

His Grace. The Governor
in Council is not satisfied
with Mr Stephens' expression
of regret, for it is made
conditionally - He was
wrong, & he must with-
draw his imputation
against Mr Gless un-
conditionally, and he must
apologize for having made
it.

11. 3. 96

John J. H. Stephens

Henry Cantor Beaver ✓

✓
dwp-12/3/88

C. No.s. 1664 & 1734.

- 1 HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR. ✓
 THE HON'BLE SIR HENRY BLISS, K.C.I.E.
 2 THE HON'BLE MR. GROSE, C.I.E. ✓

SUBJECT.

*Explanation of Mr.
 J. H. Stephens.*

FOR ORDERS.

In accordance with His Excellency's orders dated 15th January 1898 on my note of 13th January 1898 Mr. Stephens was called upon to explain his imputation of unworthy motives to Mr. Ghose. This explanation is herewith submitted.

2. It will be seen that Mr. Stephens asks permission to withdraw and express his regret for having used the words complained of & I trust that this may be granted and the matter allowed to drop.

3. I have said from the first that he deserved censure for imputing -- these motives, but I cannot see that he is otherwise to blame in the -- matter. The delay in taking over the works in question was undoubtedly due to misunderstanding, and for this I consider the Revenue Department was more to blame than the P.W.D. But there is no doubt that their intentions

I am not satisfied with Mr. Stephens' expression of regret, for it is made conditionally. He was wrong, and he was rude. He must withdraw his imputation unconditionally, and he must apologize for having made it.

A.H. 5.3.98

I quite agree.

*Jg
 9/3/98*

intention were to do their duty
to the best of their ability, and
Mr. Stephens' imputations were both
foolish and unwarrantable. He has
expressed his regret for making them,
and I trust that in view of the fact
that he ran his famine works better
than any man in Kurnool District,
this will be accepted. I may add
that Mr. Stephens has lately applied
for permission to retire from the
service.

W. H. H. 5.5.98
W.

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1664

From Mr. J. H. Stephens

Order

No.

Dated 22 February 1898.

Received

Registered

Enclosures

Spare copies

SUBJECT.

Withdrawing the allegation
made by him against certain
Revenue Subordinates in the
order of 13th July 1897 in
connection with the closure
of some famine works.

*Current 1664
1734*

*W. H. H. (on return)
24.2.98*

*W. H. H.
24.2.98*

906-1019

22nd February 1898.

To

To
The Secretary
to Government
P. W. D.

Sir,

With reference to your
No. 370C of 20th ultimo, may I be
allowed to affirm that Mr. Ghose's
statement about my telling him
I knew nothing of famine work is
not correct. I had told him in the
presence of Mr. Dheny, on the first
day we met, that I had been right
through the great famine of 1876-79.
I had also told the Collector and every
other officer I met, the same thing.
I had also been arranging gangs and
laying out tasks from almost the first
day of my arrival in the District, and
before meeting Mr. Ghose, as my diaries
will show, so that it was impossible I
could have told him I knew nothing of
famine work, or that I would send away
the Aukamulla people unless he started
the work. There was not only the new
overseer J. S. Inuthia there, who it is true
was inexperienced in famine work,
but also Overseer Narain Row from Ouk,
who had a long famine experience
and

and myself, to help the new man. But up to about 11 A.M. the Head Assistant Collector refused to give up the tools which were in charge of the revenue Department, though he saw hundreds of people lying about doing nothing for want of these tools. He said he wanted to take the tools 12 miles further on to start work at Itakala, though he now states he had enough to start both works. I promised to send tools to Itakala from the Oak store. To be responsible that they arrived in time. To put this down in writing, which I did, forming my first letter. The Head Assistant then wanted to start the work himself, as the new overseer was inexperienced. This also I readily assented to, and gave it him in writing as my 2^d letter, though the aid of the Head Assistant was not necessary, as Overseer Narain Row and myself had come there for the express purpose of helping the new Overseer. However I was willing to put myself on one side, so long as the tools were brought out, and the waiting work people started on the work.

2 I would like to know if in the reports Mr. Ghose says he wrote against me at that time, he then stated that I had said I knew nothing of famine work and would send away the Aukamulla work people if he did not start the work. I thought then, that it was pretty well understood, that the starting of the work was a concession made to him, because the tools in his charge were to be issued to the coolies with which to start work.

3 I returned to Aukamulla on the next morning the 9th, and found that the Head Assistant Collector was still there, and that the people were being tasked by the gang, and not by the family, as I had instructed all overseers to do, as will be seen by my diaries of that time. I asked the overseer to explain this. He said the Head Assistant was tasking the people by the gang. I then told the overseer to let the Head Assistant quietly see that he was able to manage his own work without Mr. Ghose's aid. So that he may leave and the family system of

of tasking introduced. Under such circumstances, it is not likely I would have used any strong expressions to induce Mr. Ghose to remain on that work. This finishes the Ankamulla incident.

4 The next works referred to by Mr. Ghose are Kalavattalla and Itakala. I met Supervisor Runga Row Haidoo for the first time on the 7th April at Ramapuram, and learned from him that his only work at Balim was only 3 miles from Itakala, and Kalavattalla only 3 miles from Itakala, or the whole 3 works within six miles of each other. A supervisor of the P. W. D. is accustomed to take charge of important works in one or more taluqs, so that these 3 works were well within a Supervisor's charge, and I asked Supervisor Runga Row Haidoo to take immediate charge of them. Kalavattalla was already started by the Revenue Department, but the Revenue subordinate in charge refused to hand it over to the Supervisor. Itakala could not be started till the Revenue Department had completed the

the kitchen arrangements. But as admitted by the Head Assistant, the Supervisor had gone over the ground, ready to start work. Yet when the kitchen arrangements were complete, the Head Assistant goes there on the 12th April, diverts 4 gangs of the Supervisor's head coolies, and the Supervisor's clerk, as he admits in his report, and starts the work himself. There was no necessity for this, as the Supervisor was ready to start his own people, and it led to a great deal of confusion, as the 4 gangs were taken by the Head Assistant without handing over their tools &c. The reason why the Head Assistant quite unnecessarily took the Supervisor's place in starting the Itakala work, appeared to me to be that he wanted the "reputation of having started all these work". If I am wrong in this conclusion, I am very sorry, and will gladly withdraw it, but this is the only way in which I can explain Mr. Ghose's unnecessary action in this matter.

5 As soon as I learned this on the 12th April, I wrote to the Head Assistant to hand over these 2 works to the Supervisor. The Supervisor also wrote

wrote to him. Mr. Ghose written reply
"regretting that he could not give over
charge of the works to the Supervisor or any
one else without the orders of the Collector"
convinced me that it was best to leave him alone.
The Collector came to Itakala on the 12th May and
ordered the work to be immediately handed over.

6 I did not mention any-
thing of all this at the time, because I did
not go to the famine to irritate and to set
departments against each other. There was no
time for it. It was as much as I was able
to do to look after 40 to 50 thousand suffering
people, and I was willing for their sakes
to efface myself, as I did do at the start-
ing of work at Aukamulla.

In conclusion I must
state that the proceedings now sent me,
are the first intimation I have had
that the Head Assistant Collector had
sent Derris official or any other forms of
report against me. Mr. Elwin the Collector
came out on my works in April, soon after
these reports must have gone to him. He
did not tell me a word about them
privately or officially, but after a very
careful examination of all that I was
doing, went away fully satisfied,

so

so that he must have seen that there was
no occasion for those reports. Mr. Elwin
came out again on my works in May,
and again left pleased and satisfied.
At the end of September and beginning
of October, before ordering the final closing
up of the works, Mr. Elwin went very
carefully over every one of my works,
and was profuse in his praise of the
results of my work. Mr. D. Chazel the
Executive Engineer in charge of the
Kurnool Division Office, also told me
that the Collector praised my works more
than any other works in the District.

8 If however in the face of
all this, it is considered that I was wrong
in stating in my letter of the 13th July 1897,
that "The Revenue subordinates evidently
wanted the petty reputation of having
started the works, and it was through the
ill feeling thus caused, that they after-
wards refused to hand over the works"
then I beg permission to be allowed to
withdraw the above statement, and to ex-
press regret for having made it.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant.
J. A. Stephens

Public Works (1898) Department.

CURRENT No. 1734

From Mr J. H. Stephens
By Asst Engr

Order

No. —

Dated 23 July 98

Received M. —

Registered —

Enclosures —

Spare copies —

SUBJECT.

Submitting further
remarks regarding
the difference
between Mr. Shere
himself.

BACK PAPERS.

No.	Date.
370C	20-1-98 + file.

FURTHER PAPERS.

No.	Date.

Madras
23rd February 1898.

To

The Secretary
to Government
P.W.D.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter dated yesterday, may I be allowed to ask how Mr. Ghose will explain away overseer Narain Row of Ouk. As stated in para I of my letter he came with me to Ankarnulla on the morning of the 8th to help the new overseer. He was with me all the time I was trying to get Mr. Ghose to make over the tools. Informed me in Mr. Ghose's presence of the tools he had available in the Ouk store which could be sent to Itakala and which is recorded in my first letter published by Mr. Ghose. Narain Row left with me when the Head Assistant

Assistant asked to start the work him-
-self. He had been on famine duty

for several months before that date—

Was he also incapable of starting
the Ankamulla work so that Mr.

Ghose was obliged to do it. This over-
-saw sent the tools required for "Itakala"
to the Supervisor. But Mr. Ghose
would not have the Supervisor or
his tools in starting the "Itakala"
work.

I have the honor to be

Sir

Your most obedient servant

J. A. Stephens

Major: Asst: Eng:

P. W. D.

Copy of Mr. Stephen's memorandum dated
13th July 1897.

Mr. Solwin, the Collector probably remembers that his department, with no reason whatever, refused to make over the Itikala section to Supervisor Runga Row haidu, who was sent more than once to take charge of it. It was only after the Collector came himself to the place on the 12th May and ordered the immediate handing over the work, that it was made over. The excuse then made to him was, that his subordinates had received orders to hand over to Overseer Gibson, and not to Supervisor Runga Row haidu.

I may further add that there was no necessity whatever for the Revenue Department to have even started this work. I met Supervisor Runga Row haidu at Ramapuram on the 7th April and on ascertaining that he was working at Balim, only 3 miles from the Itikala section, and that many of his gangs come from, and beyond Itikala, I asked him to start the Itikala work with these gangs, and to supervise it together with his work at Balim. On the next day, I met the Head Assistant Collector at Aukumalla and told

td him what I had done. He said that I cannot start the Stikala work without the orders of the Collector, and immediately after sent the Deputy Tahsildar of Qwk to do so. This man took Supervisor Runga Row haidi's clerk, and made him Sub overseer and officer in charge of the Stikala work. Went on the Tadpatri road and 'scibly turned 4 gangs together with their head Coolies, who were going to the Supervisor's work, to the Stikala road, and so started it. He also 'ok away the Supervisor's head Maistry and two sub. Maistries. There was no necessity for all this, on the contrary it did a lot of harm. The Supervisor was ready to start the work with the same staff and coolies, and could have done so much better than the Deputy Tahsildar. The Revenue Subordinates evidently wanted the petty reputation of having started the work, and it was through the ill feeling thus caused, that they afterwards refused to hand over work to the same Supervisor till the Collector came to the spot and ordered it. The ~~st.~~ collector knew nothing whatever about the action of his Subordinates, and for the famine coolies sake, I did not want to increase the friction between the departments by making reports, and even
now

now I should not have said anything at all about this, but that the Government has called for a report.

(Spec Cops)

Ris. Lons.

Head Clerk

L. H. H.

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