

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Police DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	964	Press Mis.
Dated	12-9-	1945.

P-20 NO-98-100

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Department,
15th September 1865.*

Read the following papers :—

No. 98. From Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, Fort Saint George; dated Coonoor, 26th August 1865, No. 106.

In connection with the subject of G. O., No. 1290, of 12th May, I have the honor to forward the accompanying correspondence, viz :—

1. Original letter from Assistant Executive Engineer, Cannanore, with my endorsement to Telegraph Department.
2. Copy of my reply to the above.
3. Copy of my letter, No. 74, of 30th July, to Telegraph Department.
4. Original reply to do. and enclosures.

2. Major Norton in the first instance appearing to me to have been too hasty in handing up the conduct of a subordinate of another Department, I referred him for satisfaction to the man's superior officer. My letter No. 2, above noted, will show with what severity I commented on the mistake he made in addressing that Subordinate himself; and how careful I was to put down any approach to obstructiveness on the part of Public Works Officers under my orders. In fact, after my own unsuccessful appeal to the superior officers of the Telegraph Department, I feel that I owe Major Norton an apology for rather hasty treatment of him.

3. After Overseer Breniffe's confession in paragraph 1 of his letter, No. 25, of 11th August, that he declined to receive at the hands of an Overseer of the Public Works Department a letter to his address from Major Norton, I cannot but think it preposterous that Messrs. St. Albin and Blisset should think it "very reasonable" that another opportunity should be afforded him of putting a slight on this Department. If Mr. Breniffe is the same man who served under me in the 3rd Division from 1854 to 1856, I willingly testify that he was then a respectable well conducted man; but he would not be above the common failing of Europeans of his station to treat with disdain Natives of their own or even higher standing in the Government Service.

4. With these remarks, I leave the question of re-payment of the expenses incurred by this Department in removing the debris caused by the operations of the Telegraph Department along Trunk Road No. 4 to be settled by Government, only adding that the maintenance allowance is already barely sufficient to keep down ordinary damages in such a climate and so expensive a District. Moreover, by some mistake, the unexpended balance of Rupees 5416 of the sum of Rupees 8690 sanctioned in G. O., No. 276, of 31st January 1865, for completing the metalling of the Trunk Road, was omitted to be entered in the list of unfinished works of 1864-65; and consequently the maintenance allowance is doubly pressed to make up the deficiency as far as possible.

From Captain E. N. NORTON, Assistant Engineer, Cannanore, to Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, Department Public Works; dated Cannanore, 2nd May 1865, No. 8.

In accordance to your endorsement, dated 10th ultimo, on my letter, No. 960, of 3rd idem, I forwarded a letter to Mr. Breniffe, the Overseer in charge of the Telegraph Department, now erecting posts along Trunk Road No. 4, by the hand of Overseer Iyanacooty Pillay. The Overseer, Mr. Breniffe, declined to receive my letter, or to comply with the request therein, that he should

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desist from erecting posts in the side drains, and also abstaining from throwing trees, brushwood, &c., on the road.

2. I inspected the road last week as far as the Coorg frontier, and saw myself very many large trees fallen right across the road, which have either had to be cut in two or burnt, to prevent the traffic being entirely impeded. The side drains for many hundred yards are choked by brushwood, and the gravel dug out of the holes into which the posts are placed. A sum of 300 Rupees will be necessary to clear the road of all these obstructions.

3. Mr. Breniffe told Overseer Iyanarcooty Pillay that he could only attend to instructions from the Chief of his Department.

Copy forwarded to the Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, with a request that he will be so good as to instruct subordinates entrusted with the executive work of the Department to remove such obstructions to traffic and to the drainage of roads as may be caused in putting up Telegraph posts; also to attend to the remonstrances of Executive Officers in charge of Roads against the erection of posts in side drains.

17th May 1865.

(Signed) G. W. WALKER.

From Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to Captain E. N. NORTON, Assistant Executive Engineer, Cannanore; dated Coonoor, 6th May 1865, No. 1.

I am not surprised to learn from your letter, No. 8, of 2nd May, that your interference was treated with contempt by the Telegraph Overseer. My instructions to you were not to communicate with any such subordinate, but with the Inspecting Officer in charge of the Western Range of that Department. I am not prepared to bring the matter before Government till you have done what you could to settle it on the spot.

In dealing further with the matter, you will please to remember that the work of putting up Telegraph posts is done on behalf of Government, and that it is the duty of officers and subordinates of the Public Works Department to facilitate the operations in any way they can, and not to obstruct them on frivolous grounds. At the same time, I do not recognize any right on the part of Telegraph Subordinates to plant their posts in the catch or side drains of roads, or to obstruct the traffic thereon by felling trees across them, and not removing them as speedily as possible. I approve of your taking in hand such removal if neglected by them, and request you will be so good as to send me in a bill of such extra expenditure as may be incurred in consequence.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Lieut. Col., R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

From Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division; dated Coimbatore, 31st July 1865, No. 74.

With reference to my endorsement on copy of Major Norton's letter, No. 8, of 2nd May 1865, I have the honor to forward a Bill of the actual expenditure incurred by this Department, in removing trees and other obstructions from Trunk Road, No. 4, between Coorg and Cannanore, thrown there by subordinates of the Telegraph Department engaged in putting up the new line of wires. I shall feel obliged by your remittance of the sum in question, viz., Rupees 65-12-0 to Major E. N. Norton, Assistant Executive Engineer, Department Public Works at Cannanore, and by advice of such payment being made.

2. I would also point out the propriety, on the part of your subordinates entrusted with such work, of giving intimation to this Department that its assistance will be required in such cases, if they are unable themselves to remove the obstructions to traffic and to drainage which they cause.

(A true Copy).

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Lieut. Col., R. E.,
Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

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From J. T. BLISSETT, Esq., Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, to Lieutenant Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, Coimbatore; dated Madras, 21st August 1865, No. 1040.

In continuation of this office No. 981, dated 15th instant, I have the honor to forward herewith a letter, in original, from the Superintendent, Madras Circle, together with a copy of Mr. Overseer Breniffe's No. 25, for your information, and communication to Major Norton, with a view to Mr. St. Albin's suggestion contained in the concluding paragraph of his letter above alluded to being carried into effect.

From W. H. St. ALBIN, Esq., Superintendent, Government Telegraphs, Madras, to J. T. BLISSETT, Esq., Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, Madras; dated Madras, 18th August 1865, No. 1275.

In reply to your Nos. 198 and 984, dated 23rd May and 15th instant, respectively, I have the honor to enclose copy of Mr. Breniffe's reply, which was only received on Tuesday.

2. Mr. Breniffe, I am aware, was very short of coolies, and I am sure from what I know of this officer, he would do all that lay in his power to prevent complaints of this description. During the latter* part of May sickness unfortunately overtook his camp; his coolies deserted him, and he himself was obliged to go into Hospital at Cannanore.

3. I consider Mr. Breniffe's request very reasonable to personally inspect the work that has been done by the Department Public Works, and should suggest Captain Norton be requested to appoint some Overseer for that purpose.

From Mr. E. BRENIFFE, 2nd Overseer in charge 4th Division, to W. H. St. ALBIN, Esq., Superintendent of Telegraphs, Madras Circle; dated Cannanore, 11th August 1865, No. 25.

With reference to Captain Norton's letter, No. 8, dated the 2nd of May last, to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, D. P. W., with your endorsement thereon, I have the honor to state with reference to the 1st paragraph:—

1st.—That I declined to receive an open letter from the Native Overseer, who told me it was from Captain Norton, his Engineer:—I told him that if Captain Norton wished to communicate with me, his communication must come to me in a proper manner, and through the proper channel, and that I would immediately answer him, if possible in a satisfactory manner.

2nd.—About erecting posts in the side channels:—I must beg your forbearance with me until you came to inspect this Division; you will then see how many posts I have erected so. Now the posts on the new line from angle to angle are as straight as I possibly could make them; and to save as many angles as possible, I was obliged to put occasionally a post in the side drains, but without any injury to it or the road, which you may eventually see.

3rd.—With regard to throwing the trees and brushwood on the road:—This I could not help. The trees which unavoidably fell on the road were rolled on one side of it. I could do no more for want of sufficient assistance. The brushwood I did not remove, but told Captain Norton, personally, that after a month or so, when sufficiently dry, I would have the whole of it burnt; that by doing so, it would save me an immense deal of time and labor. Captain Norton could not understand my system of working, and demanded that it should be removed at once. I told I could not do so then, but had it subsequently burned; and would wish Captain Norton to inform the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, D. P. W., if there was any brushwood on the road on the 15th May last. The trees I could not remove entirely off the road, as my assistance was not sufficient to do so.

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4th.—I beg to remark here, that I do not think Captain Norton acted altogether honorable with me in this matter. He knew well that I was very short of hands. He also knew that Elephants were available (which I did not) for daily pay, and which were subsequently employed by him to remove the trees from the road. Had he told me, I would have been only too glad to have applied to my Superintendent for permission to employ the Elephants for removal of posts.

2nd Paragraph.—Captain Norton inspected the road to the Coorg frontier, and saw himself very many large trees laying across the road. He does not say that those trees were cut by me; but as I take his letter as a general report on my conduct, I presume he accuses me of cutting them. I am surprised that a gentleman of Captain Norton's position should make such a statement. There was one very large tree fell right across the road, which came down from the effects of fire and not cut by me; I, therefore, did not think it my duty to remove it. There was not another single tree on the road.

As for the sum of Rupees 300 being required to clear obstructions from the road occasioned by me, I would suggest that the case be referred to me before payment, as I would wish to see personally what was done for it.

3rd Paragraph.—This statement is totally false. I know it is my duty to listen to any suggestions from officers of other Department; I know too, that it is my duty not to act on any suggestion without previous sanction from my Superintendent. I also know that it is my duty to be punctual in complying with communications from officers of other Departments, especially those of the D. P. W.

(True Copy).

(Signed) W. H. ST. ALBIN.

Supt. of Govt. Telegraphs, M. C.

Referred to the Public Department, for consideration.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
29th August 1865.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel R. E.,

Secretary to Government, D. P. W.

Referred to the Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, for any remarks that he may wish to offer.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
2nd September 1865.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,

Chief Secretary.

No. 99. From J. T. BLISSETT, Esq., Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated Madras, 9th September 1865, No. 1287.

In returning Lieutenant Colonel G. W. Walker's No. 106, of the 26th ultimo, to the address of the Secretary to Government in the Department Public Works, and correspondence that accompanied same, which was forwarded to me with your endorsement of the 2nd instant, I have the honor to remark as follows:—

2. The action first taken by Colonel Walker in the matter under reference shows that he viewed Major Norton's conduct as hasty, in having reported the conduct of a Subordinate of a Department other than that to which he belonged, and evinces by his letter, No. 1, dated 6th May, to that Officer's address, his displeasure thereat; and subsequently states that after his own unsuccessful appeal to the superior officers of the Telegraph Department, he feels that an apology is due to Major Norton for rather hasty treatment. In reference to this, I beg to state that I consider Mr. Breniffe's conduct as most unwarrantable, in having refused to receive a communi-

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cation from an Executive Officer of the Department Public Works, which should naturally have been presumed to bear reference either to his own work, or that of the Officer by whom the letter in question was despatched.

3. Mr. Breniffe has been directed through his Superintendent to carry out, on all future occasions, the wishes conveyed in Colonel Walker's Endorsement, dated 17th May, on Major Norton's No. 8, of the 2nd May 1865. Mr. Breniffe is the greater to blame in the above matter, as shewn in the last paragraph of his No. 25 of the 11th August, to the address of the Superintendent, Madras Circle, where he states that he knew what his duty should have demanded of him; and this duty he has wilfully neglected, in having treated Major Norton's letter to his address with contempt. It is of course presumed that had the same been received by Mr. Breniffe, a copy thereof would have been forwarded by Major Norton to the Superintendent, Madras Circle, for information, the matter being urgent and requiring immediate attention: there could not, therefore, be any grounds for objection in the despatch of the letter in question.

4. With reference to Colonel Walker's remarks in paragraph 3 of his No. 106, I beg to urge that he may be informed there was not the remotest intention, either on the part of Mr. St. Albin or myself, of affording Mr. Breniffe another opportunity of putting a slight on his Department; that one has already been perpetrated is above admitted, and I exceedingly regret to have such strong grounds for the admission. The only object in view, in our recent action, was to ascertain in detail the amount of work performed, in order that the same should be included in the returns of Mr. Breniffe's Division. A copy of the Bill forwarded by Colonel Walker is appended, in which it will be seen that no details of work performed has been entered, and as the responsibility of payment of the amount thereof would rest with the Madras Superintendent and myself, I submit, in the face of the statements made by Mr. Breniffe in his No. 25, relative to brushwood and trees, that the Bill in question should be submitted to check, in comparison with the amount of work performed.

No. 100. ORDER THEREON, 15th September 1865, No. 964.

Resolved that the letter above recorded from the Director of Telegraphs, Southern Division, be communicated to the Department Public Works.

(True Extract).

Chief Secretary.

To the Department Public Works.

Bill of the expenditure incurred for removing trees & jungle
filled and thrown on Trunk Road No. 4 by the Telegraph Dept. to

Particulars of work	Rate	Amount	Total
5 Elephants to remove large trees from the Road _____	8 .. Each	40 ..	
10 Axemen _____	" 8 ..	5 ..	
6 Maistries _____	" 54 ..	2 ..	47 ..
75 Men Coolies _____	" 4 ..	18 12 ..	18 12 ..

Total Rupees _____ 65 12 ..

Bannarore }
28th July 1865. 3/ } Inspected by
 Director of R.R. & S.R. }
 " C. Norton Major
 " Lt. Col. Engineer
 " G. Walter Duffall
 Sup. Eng.

97/10

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read over for the first time
(To be read for the first time)
" Director of Telegraphs Southern
Division 3 (" of 18th September 185. 1287

Order thrown 15 September 185. 1296

Resolved that the
letter above signed from the
Director of Telegraphs, Southern
Division, be communicated
to the Department Public Works

by R

To the Secy. P. W. D. - 12th Sept 185.

Wm. 1865 Department.

No. *464*.

PROCEEDINGS of GOVERNMENT.

77th 1351-

Dated *15th September 1865*