M.R.O. 14—13,000—27-9-24.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Revenue DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 337 Press ~~Mis.~~

282-283

Dated 14-2-1863

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department, 14th February 1863.

No. 232. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 23rd January 1863:—

Read the following letter from J. I. MINCHIN, Esq., Collector of Kurnool, to W. HUDLESTON, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Kurnool, 8th January 1863, No. 6.

SIR,

1. I have been furnished by a friend with the Report of the Directors of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, dated 27th November last, and my attention has been called to the following paragraphs:—

"From the 43rd to the 72nd mile, the excavation of the chief Canal has also been commenced, "and the strength of the working parties by the latest accounts was being expeditiously aug- "mented, it is, however, but fair to the Chief Engineer and to his staff, to state that the work on "this section has been seriously retarded by the acts of the Collector of the District, who, though "having an Order of the Government, authorizing the transfer of the required land, withheld "such transfer. In April last the Government sanctioned the estimates, and this Officer was "directed to give over land to the Company. In May, however, he called upon the Government "to reconsider their decision, which, on the 25th June, they refused to do; but it was not, until "the beginning of August that the Order of April was really put into operation. It is believed "that this conduct was highly disapproved of by the Madras Government, and that a recurrence "of such unnecessary obstruction will not again be permitted, whilst every effort is being "made to repair the loss of time thus created," pages 5 and 6. Again that upon the "succeeding "portion, from the 43rd to the 91st mile construction has commenced after a long and unnecessary "delay created by the acts of the Collector of the District," page 8.

2. I have thus been charged with seriously retarding the works of the Company by refusing to make over land, though authorized to do so; and it is hinted that my conduct was highly disapproved of by the Government, and that I had been warned against the recurrence of such unnecessary obstruction.

3. The belief of the Directors of the Company as to my having incurred Government censure, when the fact of such censure having been past is unknown to myself, does not seriously affect my peace of mind, but as the statement thus widely published is I believe not supported by fact, I regret that the Directors should have hazarded the assertion upon mere conjecture.

4. The charge that the works of the Company have been seriously retarded by my acts, is so serious, that I cannot pass it over without reply. A simple reference to dates will show that it is absolutely without foundation.

5. The duty of purchasing and making over to the Company lands required for the Canal, is carried out by the Deputy Collector, Ragoonatha Row, employed on this special business. Under the rules laid down by Government, he is only authorized to make over lands, as specified in ground plans, drawn up by the Officers of the Company and sanctioned by the Consulting Engineer. Whatever therefore be the date of Government sanction to works, land can only be made over to the Company on the receipt of the sanctioned land plans by the Revenue Officers in the District.

6. From the 43rd to the 72nd mile, the Canal, if so it may be called, consists of a single bank, creating a series of large tanks, and submerging about 12 square miles of valuable land.

7. On representations previously made by myself the Government on the 19th May 1862, No. — past an Order that as the Company's Engineer had selected this mode of construction solely for economy, they were only prepared to make over as much land as would have been required if the Canal had been constructed with a double bank, while the submerged land must be paid for by the Company, and the Board of Revenue was directed to settle the payments due for land by the Government and the Company.

8. The Board decided finally in their Order of the 8th July, that the ground plans to be furnished by the Company's Engineers, and sanctioned by the Consulting Engineer, should distinguish clearly what lands would be requisite for the construction of the Canal with double banks, and what would be submerged by the mode of construction really adopted.

9. The ground plans of the Canal from the 43rd to the 72nd mile were received from the Consulting Engineer by banghy in the month of June last, but in none of them was the required

information afforded distinguishing what land was to be paid for by Government and what by the Company.

10. I should have acted in strict accordance with my duty had I simply returned the plans for correction, and given over no land until the required information had been supplied. I knew however that such a course would have been vexatious, and therefore applied direct to the Company's Chief Engineer for un-official plans showing what land was absolutely required for the construction of the Canal.

11. These un-official plans were received only in August, and upon them all necessary land was immediately made over to the Company.

12. On this as on many other occasions, I have exceeded the strict bounds of authority vested in me by Government Regulations, in order to expedite the works of the Company, and owing to the zealous performance of his difficult task by Deputy Collector Ragoonatha Row, land has always been made over to its Officers with unexpected promptitude.

13. The statement of the Directors that their works have been seriously retarded by my acts, is absolutely without foundation.

14. The Directors are of course aware that I have always remonstrated strongly against the mode of construction adopted for the Canal by which so much valuable land is destroyed solely on account of a fancied economy.

15. The representations on the subject which it was my duty to make, procured the Order of Government that submerged land should be paid for by the Company. My proceedings on this account were probably considered obnoxious by the Directors. The action taken by me on the subject was however not productive of one day's delay to their works, and I regret that any hostile feeling that may have been thus engendered should have led them to indulge in public charges of such absolute falsity.

16. The Board are cognizant of all my proceedings in connection with the Company, and I look confidently to their support under these unjust accusations.

17. As the Directors of the Company have made their charges against me as public as possible, I trust that the Government will allow my explanation also to be published, to remove the false impressions which the statements of the Directors, if uncontradicted, would create.

18. It is to be regretted that several of the assertions in the Report concerning the progress of the works, are as incorrect as the charge levelled against myself, the falseness of which it has been necessary for me to expose.

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1. Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government with the Board's recommendation that as the report of the Directors of the Irrigation Company has been published in the papers, Mr. Minchin's letter may in fairness to him and to the shareholders be communicated to the Press.

2. The Board do not believe that the legitimate operations of the Company have been in any way whatever obstructed by Mr. Minchin.

3. They are confident that he has afforded them all reasonable assistance, and that he has only done his duty in defending the rights of the State and of individuals in the District under his charge, when circumstances necessitated caution in meeting the requisitions of the Company's Officers.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed.) W. HUDLESTON, *Secretary.*

No. 233. ORDER THEREON, 14th February 1863, No. 337.

1. The Government concur in the Board's remarks in paragraphs 2 and 3 of their Proceedings. Mr. Minchin's letter will be placed on the records of Government, and the Board will inform him that the Government are satisfied with his zeal and efficiency.

2. The Government deem it inexpedient to place these papers on the Editors' table or to notice in any way the mis-representations of which Mr. Minchin complains. His continuance in office practically refutes the assertions to which he refers and proves that he retains the confidence of his Government.

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

Ordered that the above letter be submitted to Government with the Board's recommendation that as the report of the Directors of the Irrigation Company has been published in the papers - Mr. Minchin's letter may in fairness to him and to the Shareholders be communicated to the Press -

2. The Board do not believe that the legitimate operations of the Company have been in any way whatever obstructed by Mr. Minchin -

3. They are confident that he has afforded them all reasonable assistance, and that he has only done his duty in defending the rights of the State and of individuals in the District under his charge, when circumstances necessitated caution in meeting the requisitions of the Company's Officers -

(A true Copy & Extract.)

Secretary.

To,

J. D. Sim Esqre
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Department -

Revenue Department

No. 337

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 14th February 1863

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue.

Submitting a letter from the Collector of Kurnool explaining certain charges levelled against him in the Report of the Directors of the Madras Irrigation Company with the Board's recommendation that the Collector's letter be communicated to the Press

(Here enter 23d Jan. 1863 No. 22)

The Government concur in the Board's remarks in paras 2 and 3 of their Proceedings. Let Mr. Minchin's explanation will be placed on the file and the Board will inform him that the Government are satisfied with his zeal and efficiency. ~~In the Public Service and that they do not take~~ notice

I have observed no attack on Mr Minchin in the Local Papers & would not lay the matter on the Table at least at present. no

If Mr Minchin wrote that The Government would pay the Expenses of his Defence against the charges brought against him by public Report in the Madras Papers, he would be acting quite unofficially & improperly. He should send his Letter to his Head of Department for disposal. The entire Irrigation Scheme was undertaken against the Public Interest & Opinion of the Engineers & Officers employed upon it. Mr Minchin was warned by Mr Bourdillon that the Scheme would be a failure & he has now to abide the consequences of his own rashness & folly. He has no claim to Public Support or Countenance in this matter. Let him resign his appointment & then he will be free to act as he pleases. Let the Letter be published in the Madras papers. [illegible]

I would do this &c

† Yes - the Govt can express concurrence in the Board's remarks - About 2 years ago the Company's Agent addressed the Govt soliciting aid & the prompt & effectual aid given to the Company by the Local Officers, & especially Mr Bourdillon & Mr Blackett, is matter of notoriety. I cannot find that Mr Minchin has ever publicly charged Mr Bourdillon with any thing in the way of a Conspiracy against him. Mr Minchin has been called upon to explain his Letter to the Kurnool Collector & has done so. Mr Minchin's explanation is not satisfactory. He admits that he has no proof of the charges he has made against Mr Bourdillon, but he says that he has heard them from many persons. He should name those persons & show when & where he heard them. This is his last explanation.

Let Mr Minchin be informed that the Government are satisfied with his zeal & efficiency & that they do not take notice of the charges he has made against Mr Bourdillon.

T. Pycroft
Asst Sec. to Govt
14 Feb 1863

Read
Ordered
Pycroft
Asst Sec. to Govt
14 Feb 1863

Copy to Board of Revenue
Collector of Kurnool
Mr Minchin
Mr Bourdillon

notice of attacks made upon their Servants by the Public Press.

2 The Government deem it inexpedient to place these papers on the Editors' table or to notice in any way the misrepresentations of which Mr. Meechin complains - his continuance in office practically refutes that ~~charges~~ assertions to which he refers & proves that he retains the confidence of his Sovereign

J.D.S

Copies Letter B of Rec'd Aug 26

Revenue 1863. Dec^r 11th
Pro: of Govt for Fees
No 337.

Pro: of the Madras Govt
Dated 9th February 1863

Mr Minchin's letter complaining that certain charges levelled against him in the Report of the Directors of the Madras R. & C. Company, with orders thereon.

No 232 & 233.