

(1) Number of Pages 4
(2) Date of repair 17-2-1966
(3) Initials of the Referencer 11/2

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Rev. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	11	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	2 July	1873 196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No 94C. Read the following letter from Major J. N. HUNTER, R.E., District Engineer, Salem, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Salem, 22nd May 1873, No. 32 :—

I HAVE the honour to bring the following case forward for the consideration of Government, and such notice as they may consider that the conduct of Overseer Arnachellum Moodelly deserves.

2. On the 25th February, Mr. Paynter, the Executive Engineer, Oosoor Range, reported that he had inspected the work in progress on the new calingulah of the

Enclosure A. Sumpagoo tank; on the 21st February, that the masonry appeared good, but that on removing some of the stones the interior was seen to be nothing but dry rubble, chunam had been used only for the exterior courses. The foundation as far as it could be seen was composed of round boulders, and not flat stones as required by the specification.

3. The Sungaypillay tank calingulah was inspected on the following day, the masonry was found to be bad, but not so bad as the first; the interior was composed of rubble, but it was laid in chunam; the foundation was round boulders, and the Overseer's measurements were incorrect and in favour of the contractor.

4. In a further report, dated 15th March 1873, Mr. Paynter reports that the work on the two calingulahs was worse than he had previously believed, and the whole has to be pulled down and rebuilt; that in consequence of this his incorrect measurements, and his having allowed the Irrigation Maistry to employ his brother as contractor, he had suspended Arnachellum, and laid charges before the Magistrate against the contractors for cheating.

Enclosure B. 5. In his letter No. 218, dated the 19th March, Major Vertue approved of the suspension of Arnachellum, and directed the Executive Engineer to call upon him to explain—

1st.—The bad work.

2ndly.—His entering into a contract.

3rdly.—His employing a Contractor so nearly related to one of his subordinates.

Enclosure D. 6. With his letter No. 943 of the

20th March, Mr. Paynter forwards Arnachellum's reply.

7. He states that he knew nothing of the bad quality of the work; that the Maistry assured him that it was done according to the estimate and specification; that he had no reason for suspecting it to be a fraud, and did not open it but merely measured it up and returned to Oosoor to make a bill. On the second and third points he states that Ibrahim Sahib was Contractor before he was Maistry, and on becoming Maistry he begged the Overseer to allow his brother to have the contract in order that he might work out advances already made to work-people, and thus

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
6th June 1873.*

push on the work to completion within the official year, and with this view and no other he allowed this contract to go on as an exceptional case. All this, however, seems to have been denied by Ibrahim Sahib before the Magistrate.

8. He finally admits that he has been guilty of carelessness in measuring up the work and submitting the bill without thoroughly examining it, and begs that this may be looked over in consideration of his twelve years' previous good service.

9. On the 26th April, with his letter No. 71, Mr. Paynter forwarded the

Enclosure E.
(Twenty-six Enclosures.)

Magistrate's decision with all the depositions; the case against the Contractor failed owing to the conflicting evidence, the Magistrate expressing his opinion that he was only a tool in the hands of the Overseer and Maistry.

10. On receipt of a report, No. 17, dated 6th April 1873, that the charge

Enclosure F.

Enclosure G.

had been dismissed, Major Vertue in his memorandum, No. 29 of the 10th April, directed that Arnachellum should be released from suspension, stating his

intention to submit the whole case for the consideration of Government as soon as copies of the depositions, etc., should be received.

11. As these have now come and the whole case against Arnachellum is complete, I now beg to submit it for such notice as Government may think proper to take.

12. The following enclosures are sent:—

7 copies of letters marked A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.
1 letter of explanation from Arnachellum Moodelly.

Calender No. 3.

1 Complainant's deposition.
11 Depositions from Witnesses.
1 Prisoner's statement.
1 Summary of Evidence and Finding.

Calender No. 4.

1 Complainant's deposition.
4 Depositions from Witnesses.
1 Defendant's statement.
1 Decision.

2 Measurement bills from Taluq Overseer.
2 Measurement bills prepared by Range Officer.
1 Inspection Report of Taluq Overseer.

No. 94D.

ORDER THEREON, 6th June 1873, No. 1,508B.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 13.

From the papers submitted with this letter it appears that the work of two tank calingulahs in the Oosoor Taluq of Salem District was found to be so bad as to require being pulled down and done over again, the materials and workmanship not being such as were provided for in

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
6th June 1873.*

the estimates, although the bills submitted by the Overseer for payment allowed the estimate rates. The works were carried out by petty Contractors under a Maistry who was brother to one of them, and appointed to that situation on the Taluq Overseer's written recommendation.

2. The cases having been judicially investigated by the Magistrate, he has recorded in the one case his opinion that the Contractor was a tool (whether innocent or not he could not determine) in the hands of the Overseer and Maistry (his brother), who by their own admissions showed themselves to be utterly unworthy of trust; and that the bad work performed by him was done with their connivance and probably under their instructions. In the second case he holds it clearly proved that bad work, not according to estimate, was paid for as good; and considers it highly probable that the Contractor was misdirected either by the Overseer or Maistry (who accuse each other), or blundered in carrying out their instructions, but also possible that he may have acted fraudulently with or without their knowledge.

3. The Irrigation Maistry's constant inspections of the work leave no doubt of his complicity in the frauds from beginning to end; and the District Engineer will take measures for ensuring that neither he, Ibrahim Sahib, nor either of the Contractors, Abdul Kader and Ramasawmy Iyer, are ever re-employed in the Salem District.

4. The Overseer Arnachellum Moodelly reported of the Sumpagoo tank calingulah, under date the 14th January, that the works were going on satisfactorily; and that he inspected Sungaypilly tank works, both morning and evening of the 15th, and gave instructions to the Contractor. And on the 28th idem, having inspected both tanks and measured up the work done, he proceeded to Oosoor, where he made up the bills complained of the next day, which were duly paid by the Range Officer on the 31st. On the 21st February the Range Officer made the first inspection which led to the discovery of the bad work. In the face of such facts, His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but conclude that the retention of the Overseer in the public service is out of the question; and his dismissal is accordingly ordered.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Salem, with twenty-eight Enclosures.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Principal of the Civil Engineering College, through the Director of Public Instruction.

(True Extract)

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

Communicated to the Secy of Revenue

2 July 1873

J. H. Smith
Actg. Under-Secretary
for Secy. of Pub. Works.

Recd 1873 Seph
No 1907

Gobt. of 118731 Madras
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, SALEM.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated June 6th.

Recd. June 30th

1873

Enc.

G. O. 6th June 1873, No. 1,508B.

JUNE

Nos. 94C-94D

Overacer Arnachellum Moodelly.—Passing
orders on letter from the District Engineer,
Salem, preferring certain charges against
Arnachellum Moodelly in connection with
the construction of tank calingulaha in the
Oosoor Taluq.

With Order

No. 11 - 2 July 1873

1/2 Recd of Rev Dec 11 July 1873