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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	38	~~Press~~
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	8. 3. 1873	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th March 1873.*

No. 68. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 22nd January 1873, Miscellaneous No. 415 :—

Read letter from the Acting Collector of Sea Customs, Madras, dated 20th December 1872, No. 1,087, forwarding further report regarding the gun-powder which was damaged while at the godowns of Clive's Battery, and requesting sanction for the disbursement of Rupees 1,575-7-4 as compensation to the owners of the damaged goods.

SUBMITTED to Government with a request that the payment of the value of the damaged goods, Rupees 1,575-7-4, may be sanctioned. The goods have been sold for Rupees 403-10-10.

2. It appears to the Board that the responsibility for the neglect which led to the damage rests with the Department of Public Works, by whom the responsibility of looking after the drain was accepted, and on two occasions discharged, though seemingly in a superficial manner. Had the inspection been made by the Department of Public Works at regular intervals as it should have been, the mischief would not have occurred. At the same time the Board are of opinion that if the obstacle was obvious and within reach, the Department of Public Works Officer had a right to expect assistance from the Officer of the Custom House in charge of the goods. The Collector will report who was immediately in charge, and at what intervals the casemates are ordinarily visited by him.

3. With proper attention to, and definite responsibility for, the clearance of the drains, the casemates seem quite fit for the storage of powder and other combustibles.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Acting Sub-Secretary.

No. 68A. Read also Proceedings of the Board of Revenue dated 19th February 1873, Miscellaneous No. 1031.

No. 69. ORDER THEREON 4th March 1873, No. 688.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 11.

His Excellency the Governor in Council having carefully considered these papers, is of opinion that the responsibility of looking after the drain was, under the circumstances which have transpired, divided between the Public Works and the Sea Customs Departments. G. O., 10th December 1870, No. 1,994, Revenue Department, should have been communicated to the Public Works Department; but as a copy of that order appears to have been furnished to the Executive Engineer by the Collector of Sea Customs on the 17th December 1870, and his attention was again requested to it in October 1871, it is clear that the Public Works Officer virtually accepted the responsibility.

2. The case is not, in the opinion of Government, one in which pecuniary responsibility can be enforced, and the payment of the value of the damaged goods is therefore sanctioned.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
4th March 1873.*

3. In future it will be the duty of the District Engineer to put and keep the drain in thorough repair and to arrange for its being periodically examined, and it will be the duty of the Collector's Office in charge to promptly report all danger of choking from accumulation of sand or silt or any other defect requiring remedy.

(True Extract.)

Thurston Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Presidency.
,, Revenue Department.
,, Board of Revenue.

Revenue *Over*
655

Gobt. of {1873} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, PRESIDENCY

&c., &c., &c.

Dated March 4th.

Encl

Recd. *a* *ye*

G. O., 4th March 1873, No. 688.

MARCH

Nos. 68-69

Compensation.—Passing orders on Proceedings of the Board of Revenue requesting sanction to the payment of Rupees 1,575-7-4 as compensation to owners of a quantity of gun-powder damaged while at godowns of Clive's Battery.

H. 38.

Lodged

18 March/73