

(1) Number of Pages.....10

(2) Date of repair.....21.6.68

(3) Initials of the Referencer.....*[Signature]*

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
~~B.P. No.~~

1127

~~Press~~
Mis.

Dated

26.5.1875 196.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

28

Read the following papers :—

No. 199. Endorsement of the Acting Under Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated 24th February 1875, No. 424.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 15th February 1875, No. 358.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting President of the Local Fund Boards, Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Russelkondah, 5th January 1875, No. 53 :—

As requested by the Local Fund Board, Chicacole Circle, I have the honor to submit copy of their resolution, dated the 9th ultimo, with reference to my letter to you, dated 2nd October 1874, No. 1,998, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 3rd November 1874, No. 3,160.

2. In the face of such an expression of opinion as that given by the Chicacole Board, and with the acquaintance which the Chetterpore Circle Board have of the unsatisfactory nature of Mr. Lever's work in this Circle, I trust the Board will agree with me in thinking it undesirable that Mr. Lever should return as Range Officer to either Circle at the expiration of his leave.

3. The Board will learn from the enclosed copy of the resolution of the Chetterpore Circle Board, dated 2nd instant, the estimation which they have formed of Mr. Lever's work.

4. I do not remember ever to have witnessed a more humiliating spectacle of Department Public Works incapacity than that presented by the *débris* of the bridge in question.

5. It requires no professional eye or skill to discern that the work has been most disgracefully executed both in the matter of foundation and superstructure.

6. As was apprehended, the interests of the Chetterpore Circle have suffered to a very serious extent in consequence of its having been deprived of its Range Officer. Experience has demonstrated the fact, that the District Engineer is wholly unequal to discharge the self-imposed double duty of District Engineer and Range Officer.

7. Immediately before leaving this range, Mr. Leggatt had occasion to bring prominently to the notice of the District Engineer "the most deplorable state" of the trunk road and the "very bad" state of others; no improvement has since taken place; it appears from the Chicacole Local Fund Board's Proceedings enclosed, that the roads in that Circle have "now been put in order," and, as it is the practical and constant supervision of a Range Officer that the Chetterpore Circle specially requires in order to get its communications restored to proper condition, I would beg leave to suggest, in the absence of other arrangements, that Mr. Leggatt be re-transferred to his own appointment of Range Officer in the Chetterpore Circle, and that the District Engineer be instructed to visit the sub-division, until a Range Officer has been supplied to the Chicacole Circle.

8. If this suggestion be adopted, I venture to hope that the requirements of both Circles may be met, until such time as the Chicacole Circle may obtain the services of a Range Officer.

9. Copies of the enclosed resolutions have been forwarded to the District Engineer for such notice as may be necessary.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board of the Chicacole Circle at a Meeting held at
Chicacole on the 9th December 1874.*

PRESENT:

1. W. F. GRAHAME, Esq., Acting Vice-President.
2. G. R. LEGGATT, Esq., Executive Engineer (for part of the time.)
3. C. W. VOSS, Esq.
4. HONORARY SURGEON D. GILLESPIE, Civil Surgeon, Chicacole.
5. T. VENKATAROW PANTULU GAROO.
6. E. SUNGIVAROW PANTULU GAROO.
7. RAVI RAMIAH PANTULU GAROO.
8. T. VENKATA JAGGAROW GAROO.
9. RAMACHENDRAPORICHA GAROO.
10. MADUGULA KAMALANABHIAH GAROO.

13. Read Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 3,160, dated 3rd November 1874, submitting, for the favorable consideration of Government, a letter from the President of Local Fund Boards, Ganjam District, pointing out the difficulties felt owing to the want of a Range Officer for the Chetterpore Circle, and requesting that Government may be asked to direct the restoration to it of Mr. Leggatt, the former Range Officer, who has been removed from the Circle. This Board begs to protest against the measure recommended. The interests of the Chicacole Circle would suffer more seriously than those of Chetterpore Circle by the absence of a Range Officer. The District Engineer is located in the Chetterpore Circle, and, if any thing be going wrong there, he can remedy it at once. If Mr. Leggatt be at once sent back to Chetterpore as the Chetterpore Local Fund Board wishes the Chicacole Circle will be without any Department Public Works Officer for some months, and, if the late Range Officer be sent back, the Circle will be without a Department Public Works Officer in whom the Board can place any confidence, and practically there will be absolutely no check on what may be going here, no matter how wrong it may be. This Circle has been for a long time at the mercy of Department Public Works Officers of the lower grades, and it is now high time for it to have over it an experienced officer of some standing and engineering training instead of men who have risen from being maistries without any previous training and very unfit to have charge of a large range. Since the Local Fund Board has taken up all the important roads in the Parla Kinedy Estate, and since the Parla Kinedy range has become a sub-division of the Chicacole range, the latter has become an important range, and unquestionably requires the services of an officer of higher standing than its late Range Officer. This Board can place no confidence whatever in Mr. Lever, when it remembers that, although he did not originate the proposals to remake the Palakouda and Jagannadapore roads, Mr. Lever accepted the proposals and estimates, and carried on the work which has been proved to be utterly unnecessary, and the proposal for which, therefore, involved a profligate waste of money when the Board knows that Mr. Lever entertained *sub-rosa* an establishment of unauthorized lascars who received Rupees 72 a month from the allotments for the maintenance of roads that he has given two inconsistent accounts of the source from which was met the expense of building the rest bungalow at Gara, having told the Vice-President that he built it from road maintenance, and having told the District Engineer at a meeting of this Board that it had been built from the savings from estimates for agricultural irrigation works, an explanation which will not meet the case of the rest bungalow at Kota Bommali and that at Tembur, of which the former has been built and the latter has been considerably altered since Mr. Lever took charge of the range. Further, the Board sees that the District Engineer took no notice of these things, and the Board has no hopes that he would overexert himself to remedy what was not crying aloud for remedy; several of the roads in this Circle were allowed by Mr. Lever to get into a disgraceful state. Had the District Engineer ridden or driven over them, he must have seen it, and yet he countersigned Mr. Lever's completion certificates to the effect that the roads were kept in repair and the work satisfactorily done. The roads have now been put in order. No thanks to the District Engineer or Mr. Lever.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

Considering these things, this Board would protest strongly against Mr. Lever being sent back to this range to have practically uncontrollable authority in it, and also against Mr. Leggatt being removed.

This Board would wish the President to reconsider the question in all its respects as President of both Local Fund Boards, and submit the views of this Board also to Government.

(Signed) W. F. GRAHAME,
Acting Vice-President.

(True Extract.) (Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting President.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Chetterpore Circle, dated Russelkondah, the
2nd January 1875.*

PRESENT:

- R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting President.
SRI RAJAMANI RAJA DEO, Zemindar of Mandasa.
F. J. V. MINCHIN, Esq.

3. Read letter from the District Engineer, dated 10th December 1874, No. 367, forwarding an estimate, amounting to Rupees 271, for constructing a by-road in 24th mile of Ballipodra road at the demolished bridge.

The Acting President and Mr. Minchin, a member of this Board, made a careful personal inspection of the *débris* of this bridge. They and the Board are of opinion that it is necessary that temporary provision should be made for the traffic.

At the same time it appears to them that the District Engineer's estimate for the temporary by-road is high. They desire that special care may be taken to reduce the actual cost by at least Rupees 171-14-0, which sum, they observe, has been provided for metalling and gravelling alone, and which for so small a temporary crossway appears to them to be unnecessary. Application will be made to the Board of Revenue to place the remaining sum of Rupees 99-2-0 at the disposal of the Department Public Works out of the Road Fund Reserve. The Board regret to learn from the representation made by the Acting President and Mr. Minchin that the accident to the bridge appears to be due to the extremely faulty nature of the masonry works and to the want of proper foundations. The Board are given to understand that the bridge was constructed by the Department Public Works three or four years ago; that in 1872 the bridge is believed to have been saved in consequence of a breach in the approach having relieved the water pressure. This has since been substantially repaired. In 1873 the rainfall was short. In 1874 the water was confined to its natural channel, and the structure of the bridge was, for the first time, tested with such disastrous results.

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting President.

(True Extract.) (Signed) T. SIVARAMIAH,
Deputy Collector,
for Acting President.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to Proceedings, dated 3rd November 1874, No. 3,160.

2. In G. O., dated 17th December 1874, No. 3,548, Government, in the Public Works Department, approved the arrangement made, but the Board feel bound to submit the matter again for consideration. The language now used by the President and by both Local Fund Boards as to Mr. Lever's incapacity and the unsatisfactory nature of his work is very strong, and the irregularities charged against him in the resolution of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

the Chicacole Board seem to demand a definite and full explanation. The Revenue Board, however, abstain from expressing opinion further, not having before them the remarks of the District Engineer, which will doubtless be submitted to Government direct.

3. The Board fully concur with the Local Boards in their opinion that it is impossible for the District Engineer to discharge satisfactorily the duties of Executive Officer in either range, together with those of Supervising Officer throughout the district. The latter duties are fully sufficient to occupy his time.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department for disposal.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. STURROCK,
Acting Under Secretary.

No. 200. From Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Degupudy, 13th March 1875, No. 85.

WITH reference to Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Chicacole Circle, dated

the 9th December 1874, I have the honor to forward Lieutenant Lever's explanation of his conduct and character whilst in charge of the Chicacole Range as requested

in your Memorandum, No. 235, of 26th February 1875. It will be observed that Lieutenant Lever did not wait for a call from me to send in an explanation of his conduct, but immediately on seeing the *District Gazette* in which these Proceedings were embodied wrote off to me demanding an investigation of his case. I have waited to send this on whilst searching my records. It will be noticed the date of the Proceedings of the Board is ten months after the date to which the completion certificates of the roads refer.

2. I beg to submit the following remarks on Lieutenant Lever's explanation.

3. With regard to Lieutenant Lever not having stopped "a profligate waste of money" on the reforming the Palakonda and Jagannadapore road on estimate made by his predecessor, Sub-Engineer Ramiah, from personal inspection in August 1873 and February 1874, I am decidedly of opinion that the work then in progress was absolutely necessary, and that money could not have been spent better than on this work.

4. As to Lieutenant Lever's entertaining an establishment of lascars on Rs. 72 per mensem from road maintenance grants "*sub-rosa*," it will be seen he denies all knowledge of such action, and wishes the charge to be proved.

5. As to certain sheds I consider Lieutenant Lever has satisfactorily explained that the one at Gara was repaired out of savings in contingencies of irrigation works, that the one at Kota Bommali was simply for storing tools and erected before the Trunk Road was made over to the Local Fund Board, and that he had nothing to do with the one at Tembur.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

6. As to several roads being allowed by him to fall into a disgraceful state, I am of opinion, from personal inspection in August 1873 and February 1874, that Lieutenant Lever certainly improved the state of the roads whilst he was in charge, and I consider I was quite justified in countersigning his completion certificates of the expenditure of the maintenance grants in 1873-74.

7. Proceedings of the Local Fund Board, Chatterpore Circle, dated 2nd January 1875, with regard to the fall of the bridge on the Ballipodra road, I regret I have not had an opportunity of personally inspecting the work as yet since its destruction, but from all I can learn and from what I have seen of it previous to its destruction, I cannot endorse the opinion of the President of the Board and the other member who visited it that the nature of the work was extremely faulty, or that there was a want of proper foundations. The bridge is a timber platform of 3 spans of 15 feet each on rubble stone piers. It was built in 1864 or 1865 (not three or four years ago) under Lieutenant Lever's superintendence. It was designed by the late Captain Phillips, and cost Rupees 715. Lieutenant Lever personally saw the foundations put in and the platform fixed. The whole platform was bodily lifted off and floated away in large blocks carrying away masses of masonry with it. The water rose at least 3 feet above the roadway of the bridge, and the road itself was under water for about three-fourths of a mile. The water of the stream over which the bridge was built is augmented in extraordinary floods by the water of a much larger stream near it (the Mahanuddy) overtopping its banks. The bridge was built according to plan and estimate with the exception that the waterway was increased by 1 foot perpendicular height and the foundations by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, and revetments also were added out of the original estimate. The estimate for the whole road, $26\frac{1}{2}$ miles, was only Rupees 44,640, including metalling 4 yards in width and all masonry works with the exception of two large streams left unbridged. The only flooring allowed in the estimate was 1 foot 6 inches rubble in chunam without aprons front or rear.

8. No Service Register for Lieutenant Lever is kept in this office, but his services, as far as can be ascertained at present, are attached.

9. Lieutenant Lever informs me on my reference to him that he has not kept the testimonials he has from time to time received from various officers, "never imagining they would be required." I forward the only ones he has kept. I enclose an extract of a letter written by the Rev. W. Hill and published in the *Madras Mail* of the 20th February 1874.

10. Lieutenant Lever informs that he received the thanks of Government for the following works, viz.:—

Northern Trunk Road in 1853		{ Under Captain (now Major-General) Johnston and Lieutenant (now Lieutenant-Colonel) Marshall.
Western do. do. in 1854		{ Under Captain (now Major-General) Johnston and Lieutenant Chumney.
Telegraph flying line in 1854		{ Under Lieutenant Palmer.
Chicacole bridge in this district in 1855		{ Major Harington.
Aska do. do. in 1856		{ do. do.
Russelkondah do. do. in 1859		{ do. do.

as well as for his services with the Police in the Khond Rebellion in 1866 under Mr. Robinson, C.S.I.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

11. Nothing whatever is on record against Lieutenant Lever, and he has always been highly spoken of by the Collector of this district, from Mr. Knox to the present time. Lieutenant Lever appeals to Messrs. Robinson, Thornhill, Carmichael, and Master, of the Civil Service, for their testimony to his character and conduct. It will be remembered Lieutenant Lever's retention in Gumsur in the early part of 1873—vide my No. 192, of 25th January 1873, forwarding copy of Collector's No. 126, of 17th January 1873.

12. Lieutenant Lever is also well known to Generals Johnson, Birdwood, and Major Beckley of the Engineers, to Colonels Farewell and Marshall of the Staff Corps.

From Lieutenant J. LEVER, Assistant Engineer, to Colonel H. SMALLEY, R.E., District Engineer, Ganjam, dated Russelkondah, 19th February 1875.

I HAVE the honor to forward the accompanying explanation for your kind consideration which I am forced to submit on perusing the Local Fund Board's Proceedings at Chicacole, dated the 6th instant. The statements made therein are highly defamatory not only to my character, but to my departmental position, and I feel bound to defend myself from aspersions cast upon me, and would, therefore, request that this my explanation may be submitted not only to the Local Fund Board, but to Government, for final adjudication as to whether the President of the Chicacole Local Fund Board was justified, or at liberty, to use such sweeping and uncourteous opinions as have been expressed by their Board in their Proceedings now under explanation.

Being an old servant of Government, I seek that protection that my present position too necessarily calls for.

No. 201. Endorsement of the Chief Secretary to Government, Financial Department, dated 7th April 1875.

Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 3rd April 1875, Miscellaneous No. 2,666.

From R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting President, Local Fund Boards, Ganjam, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Camp at Injilly, 10th March 1875, No. 495.

REFERRING to my letter of the 6th January 1875, No. 53, recorded in Board's Proceedings, dated 15th February 1875, No. 358, I have the honor to forward a subsequent extract from the Proceedings of the Chicacole Local Fund Board, dated 22nd February 1875, regarding the unauthorized expenditure incurred by Mr. Lever, Range Officer of Chicacole, in employing lascars without sanction.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Local Fund Board of Chicacole Circle at a Special Meeting held at Chicacole on 22nd February 1875.

PRESENT:

1. W. F. GRAHAME, Esq., Acting Vice-President.
2. G. R. LEGGATT, Esq., Executive Engineer of Chicacole.
3. E. SANJWAROW PUNTALU GAROO.

3. Mr. Leggatt calls the attention of the Local Fund Board to a clerical error in the Local Board's Proceedings of 9th December last, paragraph 13, in which Mr. Lever, the late Range Officer, is represented as having entertained an unauthorized establishment of lascars, amounting to Rs. 72 a month, whereas it was Rupees 72 a year; Mr. Lever having without sanction entertained one lascar on 6 Rupees a month, or 72 Rupees a year. The Board regrets that this mistake should have been made, and that Mr. Lever should have been charged with having made so much greater an unauthorized expenditure than he really did make. The principle, however, is the same, and

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
8th May 1875.*

this Board must reiterate its disapproval of the unauthorized expenditure of money, and the more because it was quite by accident that the Board came to know that the expenditure in question had been made.

(Signed) W. F. GRAHAME,
Acting Vice-President.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. DAVIDSON,
Acting President.

SUBMITTED to Government in continuation of Board's Proceedings, 15th February 1875, No. 358.

(True Copies and Extract.)

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

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department in continuation of former Proceedings, dated 24th February 1874, No. 424.

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Chief Secretary.

No. 202.

ORDER THEREON, 8th May 1875, No. 1,319.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 20.

MR. G. R. LEGGATT, Executive Engineer, 4th grade, was transferred from Madura to Ganjam by order of Government,

No. 607, of 7th March 1874. He reached the district and took charge of the Berhampore Range, head-quarters, Berhampore, on the 2nd May 1874. That range has the Gumsur Sub-division, head-quarters, Russelkondah, attached to it, in charge of which is Supervisor Veeraragava Iyer. The head-quarters of the District Engineer are in this range at Chetterpore.

2. Lieutenant Lever, Assistant Engineer, 2nd grade, was in charge of the Chicacole Range from the 1st May 1873, head-quarters, Chicacole. He obtained six months' leave of absence from 1st September 1874 to 1st March 1875; gazetted under date the 14th July 1874. The Kimedy Sub-division Supervisor, Venkata Rao, is attached to this range.

3. In June 1874 the District Engineer reported his intention of availing himself of Lieutenant Lever's absence to move the Senior Departmental Officer, Mr Leggatt, to the range* most distant from his own head-quarters, as requiring to be worked

* Chicacole.

by the officer who should be from his standing in the Department most capable of independent action. He represented at the same time that Lieutenant Lever's knowledge of Oorya and former experience of Gumsur peculiarly fitted him for the charge of Berhampore Range.

4. The Government being unable to supply Lieutenant Lever's place during his absence, this arrangement was the only one practicable, as enabling the District Engineer, whose head-quarters were in the Berhampore Range, to take charge of it in addition to his own duties. As such it was affirmed by G. O., No. 3,548, of 17th December, passed on the Revenue Board's Proceedings, Nos. 3,160, of 3rd November, and 2,902, of 6th October. The Revenue Board will now clearly see from the above detailed statement

of the case that the matter is one which could not well be reconsidered. With Mr. Leggatt and a Sub-divisional Officer in one range, the District Engineer and a Sub-divisional Officer in another, the best arrangement was made of the available agency. The Board will observe the inconvenience of reiterated appeals of this nature, and may rely on the Government to make the best arrangement in each case that circumstance permit.

5. It now remains to consider the general and specific charges brought against Lieutenant Lever by the Chicacole and Chatterpore Local Fund Circles. The language used by the former Board is such as the Government feel sure they must have regretted as soon as they became aware by receipt of G. O., No. 3,548, of 17th December, that the arrangement to which they objected would not be carried out. The expressions, that their "Circle has been a long time at the mercy of Department Public Works Officers of the lower grades" and of "men who have risen from being maistries without any previous training," are inexcusable as applied to the class to which Lieutenant Lever belongs, which numbers in its ranks some very efficient Executive Officers of the Department. And the Honorable the Governor in Council must record his opinion that Messrs. Davidson and Grahame should have endeavoured to prevent the record of any such indiscriminate censures in the resolutions of the Boards over which they preside, and in any case that they should themselves have protested against such language.

6. The specific charges against Lieutenant Lever relate to the—

1. Palakonda and Jagannadapore road.
2. The entertainment of unauthorized lascars, costing Rupees 72 a month, from Road Maintenance Allowances.
3. Inconsistent statements as to the building of the Gara bungalow.
4. The building of the Kota Bommalli bungalow.
5. The alteration of the Pembur bungalow.
6. The state into which the roads of the Circle were allowed by Lieutenant Lever to get, in which he was countenanced by the District Engineer's acceptance without remark of the former's completion certificates.

7. All the information received on the first charge is that the estimate objected to by the Local Fund Board was prepared by Sub-Engineer Ramiah. Nothing is known of the amount stated to have been profligately wasted by Lieutenant Lever's acceptance of that estimate which presumed he was bound to carry out if sanctioned by proper authority, the District Engineer concurring with him as to the propriety of the work. It is absolutely necessary, if the Government are to decide as to this and the four following charges, that the President of the Local Fund Board shall present them in full detail, and that the District Engineer's reply to them be equally in detail. At present there are no facts brought forward from which an opinion may be formed.

8. As to neglect of roads generally, it is remarked that Lieutenant Lever was in charge of the Chicacole Range only from the 1st May 1873 to the 31st August 1874, i.e., through two monsoons and one fair season. He appears to have worked for many years in Gumsur and other parts of the district, and to have given the utmost satisfaction, as evidenced by the protest of the Collector of Ganjam in letter, No. 126, of 17th January 1873, against his removal to Nellore, which was referred to the Court of Wards, and resulted in their Proceedings of 4th March, recorded with Revenue

Department Order, No. 280, of 10th March, and in Public Works Order, No. 203, of 30th April, retaining his services in Ganjam. Without fuller detailed information before him, supported as Lieutenant Lever is by the opinion of the District Engineer, His Excellency the Governor in Council cannot but conclude that other causes besides remissness or incapacity on the part of Lieutenant Lever have led to the bad state of the Chicacole Circle roads. He must add that a much more detailed report on the subject might have been expected from the District Engineer than that contained in paragraph 6 of his letter. If Major Smalley is desirous of sustaining his own reputation and that of his Executive Officers in the district of which he has the Public Works charge, he should be prepared to take very much more trouble in supplying detailed information than he seems disposed to do, except in the instance of the Ballipodra bridge.

9. His report concerning that work will be communicated to the Revenue Board and Acting President of the Chatterpore Local Fund Board with the decided expression of the opinion of the Honorable the Governor in Council that the representation made by the latter officer regarding that work does not appear to have been justified by the actual circumstances under which the bridge was either constructed or destroyed.

(True Extract.)

John Astle

Major, R.E.,

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

To the Financial Department.

" District Engineer, Ganjam.

" Revenue Department.

" Revenue Board.

" President, Chatterpore Local Fund. *Circle*

Exd. A. Grubert.

Spare Copies

*Rev. 1875. Sigs
N. 1887*

Govt. of (1875) Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.

&c. &c. &c.

Dated May 8th.

Issued

Recd. v 24th

Enc.

O. O., 8th May 1875, No. 1319.

W. M. M.

MAY.

Nos. 199-202

Lieutenant Lever, Assistant Engineer, 2nd
grade.—Passing orders on the charges
brought against — by the Local Fund
Boards of Chatterpore and Chicacole.

N. 1127

Lodged

26 May 75