

(1) Number of Pages: 4(2) Date of repair 19-4-68(3) Initials of the Referencer 2/11/68

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.

21

Press

B.P. No.

Mis.

Dated

5-1-1875 196 .

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
22nd December 1874.*

No. 464. Read the following endorsement of the Acting Secretary to Government, Revenue Department, dated Fort St. George, 2nd December 1874 :—

Read the following Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated 24th November 1874, No. 3,374.

Read the following letter from R. DAVIDSON, Esq., Acting Collector of Ganjam, to J. GROSE, Esq., Secretary to the Court of Wards, dated Chatterpore, 26th September 1874, No. 1,984.

In paragraph 4 of the foot-note which accompanied Major Smalley's letter, dated the 13th December 1873, No. 208, and which is embodied in the Proceedings of the Court of Wards, dated the 2nd February 1874, No. 191, the late Collector remarked that Overseer Veeramallesalingam should be called upon for an explanation on the points alluded to in the District Engineer's letter referred to.

2. On receipt of the Court's Proceedings, No. 191, the Acting Principal Assistant Collector was requested to obtain the requisite explanation and to forward it together with the District Engineer's remarks and an expression of his own opinion regarding the subject-matter in three parallel columns.

3. This he has done, and I have the honor to submit it for the information of the Court, accompanied with my own remarks on each head.

4. Mr. Grahame has afforded a very complete and, as I think, satisfactory explanation in regard to the transaction connected with each of the works animadverted on by the District Engineer, and the result tends, in my opinion, to exonerate Overseer Veeramallesalingam from the severe censure which the District Engineer attached to him, and regarding which Mr. Grahame has recorded the following opinion as the result of his inquiry and experience.

5. He remarks, among other things, as follows : " I regret to have to observe that the District Engineer's remarks are, for the most part, one-sided and apparently written without full knowledge of the facts connected with each work."

6. As directed by the Court of Wards the pay of Veeramallesalingam was reduced from Rupees 100 to Rupees 60 per mensem, and it appears he has since been dismissed at the instance of the District Engineer for reasons unknown.

7. In regard to his dismissal Mr. Grahame has made the following remarks :—

" In conclusion, I beg to reiterate my opinion that nothing specially wrong and deserving dismissal has been proved against Veeramallesalingam; that the District Engineer was biased against him, before he saw his work, by Ensign Lever's reports, and that, had he known all that I have stated in this report, he would hardly have recommended the dismissal of the man after such long service; that Ensign Lever has been prejudiced against Veeramallesalingam I know not why; and that several of his statements have been needlessly incorrect. I say needlessly, for a little inquiry would have taught him the facts of each case and prevented his making incorrect reports."

8. Judging by the light thrown on the subject by Mr. Grahame's remarks, and by the explanations which Veeramallesalingam has given, there are not wanting grounds for supposing that, had this information been before the Court at the time when they dealt with the District Engineer's denunciation of Veeramallesalingam's shortcomings, his conduct in the matter might have been susceptible of being viewed in a far more favorable aspect than it was.

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9. The extreme measure applied by the District Engineer of dismissing him from the service on grounds which, in the Acting Principal Assistant Collector's opinion, are wholly inadequate, will completely ruin him.

10. Mr. Grahame has explained the cause of delay in submitting this report.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—Explanation of Overseer with District Engineer's remarks.

VEERAMALLESALINGAM was Overseer in charge of the Purla Kimedy Public Works before they were handed over to the Department of Public Works; he had been in the estate under the late Supervisor T. Ramayya Naidu, who was removed for bad work and a variety of other causes. In reviewing the state of the works Major Smalley, District Engineer, commented very unfavorably on Overseer Veeramallesalingam's work, and has, it is stated, since dismissed him.

2. The works in connection with which he was censured were all constructed when the department was under the Principal Assistant Collector, who now writes at length to show that the Overseer has been unjustly blamed and unfairly treated, and that T. Ramayya was, in the majority of the instances, really responsible for the faulty work. The Collector concurs in Mr. Grahame's remarks. Overseer Veeramallesalingam is no longer under the Court of Wards; but, as he was censured for acts done whilst he was in the service of the Court, and has been probably dismissed in consequence of those acts, the Court resolve to submit the Collector's letter, with the explanation in original, for the consideration and orders of Government.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

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

TRANSFERRED to the Public Works Department with reference to the Proceedings in that Department, dated 18th April 1874, No. 1,009.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Acting Secretary to Government, R.D.

No. 465.

ORDER THEREON, 22nd December 1874, No. 3,607.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 38.

It appears to His Excellency the Governor in Council that the explanation submitted by the Acting Principal Assistant Collector has reference to other points than those in which Overseer Veeramallesalingam's conduct was animadverted on by the District Engineer, and on which alone explanation was required. His name was connected by Major Smalley with only three of the twelve instances of mismanagement recorded, viz. :—

- (1.) Weir on Corama Gedda.
- (2.) A culvert on the road from Kimedy to Oopalada.
- (3.) Two aqueducts on the Butteescerpooram main channel.

It is pointed out by Mr. Grahame that Major Smalley was mistaken in supposing the Overseer to have intended to restore work No. 1 after its destruction. He appears to have realized the badness of its situation, design, and construction, and

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to have predicted its ruin, in October 1872, when he proposed to lengthen the body walls, and apparently to strengthen it by repairs. Whether the works he proposed would have been effectual may be matter of doubt; but the Overseer is cleared of the imputation on him made by the District Engineer.

2. It is admitted that the work No. 2 was so badly built as to require reconstruction, which was all that Major Smalley alleged, and the course adopted by him to get the work done is not approved by Mr. Grahame. Ensign Lever's proposal, that he should be made to pay for the work, does not appear to have been, and should not be, acted upon.

3. Of the works numbered (3), the first appears admittedly to have been a failure, the second to be still incomplete. The Overseer does not appear to have been specially to blame for either; at all events his shortcomings are covered by the neglect or inability of his superior to check or correct them. Into the general question of the entire project it would be loss of time now to go.

Besides these charges as to works badly constructed by the Overseer, he is stated to have advanced, in the month of July 1873 alone, Rupees 1,821-4-0, without written agreements in most cases; in all without contract bond or security of any kind. In so doing it is evident that the Overseer simply followed up an existing system which he was powerless to stop of a sudden. He is therefore absolved from blame in the matter. But the fact of such advances remaining, the District Engineer will report specially as to the extent to which they were cleared off on the 31st March 1874, and as to the success met with in introducing a better system. Advances are probably necessary for the execution of work in a country where all skilled-labor has to be imported; it is only necessary that they shall be properly regulated.

4. In the matter of drawing cheques Major Smalley appears hardly to have apprehended the Overseer's position at the time when he was Officiating Range Officer; in which capacity the amount of cheques drawn by him monthly cannot be considered very large, especially as much work was done in the months immediately before the monsoon, and had to be paid for. It would have been more to the point had the District Engineer reported unnecessarily large cash balances in the Overseer's hands at the end of each month.

5. The conclusion arrived at by His Excellency the Governor in Council is that nothing has been brought forward, still less proved, against Overseer Veeramallesalingam to warrant his dismissal from the post of Overseer on Rupees 60, to which he was properly relegated when relieved from the sub-divisional charge; and should such action have been taken, he directs that it shall be commuted into suspension, pending orders on a full and speedy report of all the circumstances under which it was taken.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineer, Ganjam.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
" Revenue Department.
Ed. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies

Rev. 1874 Sept

Gobt. of 1874 Madras

PUBLIC WORKS.

N. 4567

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER, GANJAM.

cc., cc., cc.

Dated December 22nd.

Recd. 24 - - -

Encl.

G. O., 22nd December 1874, No. 3,607.

DECEMBER.

Nov. 464-465

Dec 5/75

N. 21
Communicated to
the Court of Wards.

5 Jan 75

YUW

Veeramallesalingam, Overseer in charge
of Public Works of Purla Kimsdy Estate,
Ganjam District.—Observing that certain
charges brought against the Overseer have
not been proved to warrant his dismissal,
and directing that should such action have
been taken it shall be commuted into sus-
pension, pending orders on a full report of
all the circumstances under which it was
taken.

With M. S. +

14 copies to the Court of Wards, Despt 7 Jan 75