M.R.O. 1—20,002—12-8-65.

(1) Number of Pages 4.

(2) Date of repair 12-6-68.

(3) Initials of the Referencer 25.1.69

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue. DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	972	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	13-5-1875	196 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following papers :—

No. 734. From Major J. N. HUNTER, R.E., District Engineer of Salem, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Yercaud, 2nd April 1875, No. 1.

1 Copy of letter (with enclosure) from the Collector, No. 208, dated 13th November 1874.
1 Do. of letter from Collector of Salem, No. 219, dated 2nd December 1874.
1 Do. of Memorandum, No. 830, dated 16th December 1874, from this office to Conductor West.
1 Do. of letter, No. 205, dated 27th January 1875, from the District Engineer to the Collector.
1 Do. of Collector's reply, No. 24, dated 12th February 1875.
1 Do. of Sub-Collector's letter, No. 64, dated 10th February 1875, with an endorsement from the Collector.
1 Do. of District Engineer's letter, to the Collector, dated 2nd March 1875, No. 227.
1 Do. of letter from the Oossoor Range Officer, No. 1,196, dated 18th March 1875.

At the request of Supervisor and Conductor West, I beg to forward the accompanying papers regarding the Annasagaram tank for the decision of Government, as the Conductor feels himself aggrieved at the expressions that Mr. Wilkinson uses in his letter, No. 64, dated 10th February 1875.

2. The history of the case is this :— In September 1874 Government sanctioned an estimate of Rupees 3,640 for repairing the Annasagaram tank and extending its waste weir, and Conductor West, as Range Officer, gave the work on task to one Manikum Pillay who had done work before both for this Department and the Revenue, and done it well.

3. In November 1874 Mr. Wilkinson, the Sub-Collector, wrote* to the Collector regarding the work. He implies in his letter that Conductor West gave the job to Manikum Pillay from interested motives, and ventilates the opinions of himself and some Wudders regarding the rates given and taken by the job-worker where they discover that he is making too good a thing of the contract, pocketting 9 Annas out of every rupee for collection of stone, and 4 Annas out of 6 for building. This is all nonsense ; and in my letter to the Collector, No. 227, dated 2nd March 1875, I pointed out the fallacies in Mr. Wilkinson's arithmetic.

* Letter No. 742, dated 10th November 1874.

But Mr. Wilkinson also made what appeared a very good suggestion, *viz.*, that the contract should be given to respectable landholders under the tank itself, and he named certain men who were willing to take it. As this was supported by petitions from the landholders and other ryots, I directed† Conductor West to give the contract for the work to the landholders named by Mr. Wilkinson ; and it was accordingly given to Hariya Gounden, Vertappa Naik, and Ramasawmy Naik. These men very soon got dissatisfied with their bargain, and, after doing some earth-work in a very inferior way, wrote to the Range Officer requesting to be relieved of the contract.

† In Memorandum, No. 830, dated 26th December 1874.

4. I visited the tank on the 26th January [illegible] the contractors who asked to be allowed to withdraw from the earth-work contract, and positively refused to take up the stone-work. The villagers who signed the petitions also came forward and said they had been induced to do so by certain people who gave them a petition to sign, and they signed it, that they were not personally interested, being weavers for the most part and not agriculturists.

See letter from District Engineer to Collector, No. 205, dated 27th January 1875, para. 4.

5. As the tank work was suffering from all this, and as the contractors named by the Sub-Collector would not go on with it, I naturally turned to the original task-worker, and sanctioned the re-employment of Manikum Pillay, and wrote to this effect to the Collector—see my letter, No. 2 dated 27th January, and this has drawn Mr. Wilkinson's letter, No. 64, dated th February 1875, which Conductor West desires to submit to the notice of Government.

6. In paragraph 2 Mr. Wilkinson says that Conductor West has done nothing, but write "whining" letters against the Tahsildar and the ryots. If Conductor West was of opinion that the contractor's work was not good and wrote to say so, I submit that he only did his duty, and that the expression used by Mr. Wilkinson is uncalled for and offensive.

7. Paragraph 3 of Mr. Wilkinson's letter dwells on the rates, and on this point I request a reference to my letter as per margin, which will supply the answer to this as well as the first part of the 4th paragraph; but at the end of this paragraph, Mr. Wilkinson charges Conductor West with having collected small stones and removed them before my inspection.

District Engineer to Collector, No. 227, dated 2nd March 1875.

This Conductor West denies and brings it as a proof that no new stone-work had been done on the revetment; the work done is repacking the old stone. As this charge and that implied in paragraph 5 of Mr. Wilkinson's letter are of a nature to affect Conductor West's character, he has requested me to submit the matter to Government that Mr. Wilkinson may be required to substantiate his charges, or publicly withdraw them.

No. 735. From the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated 10th April 1875, No. 265.

No. 736. ORDER THEREON, 30th April 1875, No. 1,210.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 60.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor in Council is of opinion that the correspondence submitted fails to indicate that Mr. Wilkinson, the Sub-Collector of Salem, had any sufficient evidence before him when his letter, No. 64, of the 10th February 1875, was written to warrant his remarks on Conductor West, the Supervisor in charge of the range.

2. His Excellency the Governor in Council also considers the tone of Mr. Wilkinson's communication to the Collector in which he describes Conductor West as making *whining* complaints against the Tahsildar and ryots very unbecoming.

3. His Excellency in Council is of opinion that Conductor West has answered very completely the charges made against him, and that no further inquiry is required.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department.
" District Engineer, Salem.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.
Exd. A. Grubert.
Spare Copies

Rev. 1875. Sept.
No. 1731.
No 71

Govt. of {1875} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE REVENUE DEPARTMENT,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 30th.

Issued

Read. May 12th. Encl.

G. O., 30th April 1875, No. 1,210.

Govt Misc

APRIL.

Nos. 734-736

No 972

Communicated to the Board of Revenue for communication to the Collector of Salem.

13 May 1875

14 Encl to G.O. dated 30th April 1875

Mr. Wilkinson, Sub-Collector of Salem.—Passing orders on the letter from the District Engineer requesting that — be required to substantiate certain charges against Mr. West, or publicly withdraw them.