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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

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

1397

Press
Mis.

Dated

16. 6. 1876

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st June 1876.*

Read the following papers :—

- No. 5. From Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Berhampore, 29th December 1875, No. 44.

WITH reference to G.O., No. 2,943, dated the 15th October 1875, I have the honor to report on the subject of the works referred to in paragraphs 4 and 7 of the Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 2,467, dated 2nd September 1875, communicated with the above, *viz.* :—

- I.—Construction of Teekally Ragoonathpore school building, executed by contract, but certified by the Range Officer to have been properly carried out.
- II.—Construction of store-shed at Calingapatam, the foundations having been forgotten by the Department of Public Works subordinate in charge.
- III.—Repairs to Principal Assistant Collector's office.
- IV.—Construction of the Police Station-house at Heeramandalam, completed in July 1874, and stated to require repair in March 1875, and
- V.—Want of attention to the Collector's representations in regard to the trunk road.

2. With regard to the first of these works I submit the Range Officer, Lieutenant Lever's, explanation. I do not think Lieutenant Lever ought to have been called upon for a certificate in this case, and if called upon, I think that he ought to have refused to have anything to do with the matter.

3. With regard to the store-shed at Calingapatam, all the Range Officer, Mr. Leggatt, wishes to add to my report, disposed of in G.O., No. 3,034, of 28th October 1875, is that "the Principal Assistant Collector is in error in stating that foundations had been omitted or forgotten by the Public Works Department subordinate in charge—no such thing."

4. With regard to the Principal Assistant Collector's Cutcherry, Mr. Leggatt remarks :—This is a very old building, constructed sixty years ago, it has lasted well. To prevent it from leaking the whole roof must be removed. Several of the walls and pillars have cracked. An estimate for emergent repairs has recently been sanctioned.

This was formerly the Provincial Court-house. It seems to have been repaired in 1872 by the Range Officer, Sub-Engineer A. Ramiah, and not since then. Why this is brought up in a review of the operations of the Public Works Department for 1874-75 I do not understand. I am not aware that the Principal Assistant Collector has brought the state of this building to the notice of this department since I have been in this district. Even had he done so, the annual assignment to this district for repairs of buildings is very limited, and it is impossible to attend to every requisition in full immediately, especially for such large buildings as this; but an estimate would have been made and carried out as funds were available.

5. With regard to Heeramandalam Police Station-house there has been a long correspondence, of which the following is a summary :—

Police Inspector Gunga Singh, in taking over the building, reported on the 10th June 1874, that it "agrees with the estimate and plan, the only fault to find is that some chunam from the verandah roof has already given way, there are also

three cracks in the roof of the verandah, and the arm rack is very slight." These defects were by my order at once made good by the Overseer at a cost of 4 Annas.

Next, the Assistant Superintendent of Police reported, on the 15th October 1874, that he "found the flooring of the guard-room and verandah had sunk, and the chunam all broken up."

Again the Superintendent of Police, on the 26th March 1875, informed me, as the result of his personal inspection, that "the verandah pillars have been cracked at the top; that about half the flooring of the verandah guard-room and lock-up has sunk some 2 or 3 inches, and is all broken up; that the wall between the windows of the guard-room is cracked across; that there are cracks at the top of the wall on either side of the entrance door of the guard-room; that the front wall of the lock-up is also cracked, and that the front ventilator has only a board at top between it and the roof."

Mr. Leggatt, the Range Officer, on a call from me forwarding the Assistant Superintendent's report quoted above, submitted an estimate for Rupees 7, with the remark that "the floor has sunk from 2 inches to 4 inches owing to the filling in of the basement having been evidently carelessly executed."

Lieutenant Lever, to whom this was communicated when on leave for any remarks he might wish to offer, said in reply, dated 5th December 1874:—"Overseer Rama Row is solely in fault for the bad workmanship of the flooring."

Overseer Rama Row, who was called on for explanation, said in reply, dated 4th May 1875, "the defects complained of are the cause of bad workmanship on the part of the maistry employed."

The building consists of a guard-room and a lock-up with verandah in front, and cost Rupees 800. It was completed by the 31st March 1874, and handed over in May 1874.

The completion certificate was given by Lieutenant Lever in August 1874, who asserts the building was then in good order, which is corroborated by Mr. Leggatt, who was with him at the time taking over charge of the range.

I saw the building in company with Lieutenant Lever on 27th February 1874, when the superstructure had nearly been run up. I considered the work was not very good and not very bad, but the maistry, evidently a bad one, was dismissed soon after.

I next saw the building in company with Mr. Leggatt on 21st August 1875; nothing had been done to repair it purposely till I had seen it. There is no doubt Mr. Leggatt's opinion as to the failure of the flooring quoted before is right. The cracks in the walls are, I think, unimportant.

The verandah roof leaks, and the tops of the pillars have been cracked. There must have been a slight settlement of the foundations of the retaining wall of the verandah and of portions of the main walls too.

I think this must be due to percolation of water through the soil under them, the defects not having been noticed before the rains, but after they had well set in.

Mr. Leggatt thinks there has been more said about this matter than was necessary, and so do I. Lieutenant Lever would have made all defects good had he thought they existed before handing over the building.

He had many more important works to carry on at the same time, and he says it is impossible for a Range Officer to see every part of a building actually laid himself. This of course is true, but I have informed him I cannot allow him to throw all his

responsibility on the Overseer as he has done. As to the Overseer, I should not have hesitated to make him pay for all repairs found necessary, but that he also had many other more important works to look after at the same time; that he is not of long experience, and that he has worked uniformly well.

I have informed him he cannot shirk his responsibility in the way he has done. The maistry I have ordered not to be employed on the Public Works.

6. As regards the trunk road, the part between Ganjam and Rumba is that the condition of which the Collector reports in his 40th paragraph he has repeatedly brought to my notice. I am perfectly aware of the bad condition of the trunk road generally and of this part particularly without the Collector's reports, and I am perfectly aware of what is needed for it. If this road could be brought into perfect order from the maintenance allowance, as he seems to think it ought to be, an estimate for forming it of Rupees 1,500 a-mile would not have been sent in six years ago by the Executive Engineer Mr. Harris. Six-sevenths of that estimate are for earthwork, metalling, &c., and one-seventh for culverts. It was sanctioned in November 1874, but up to this time not one pie has been allotted on it. At last, on the 29th October 1875, the Local Fund Board have passed an allotment of Rupees 2,000 on the above estimate for the remainder of this year, and have provided Rupees 10,000 for next year. I propose to spend half these amounts on the portion between Rumba and Ganjam. I do not think that after the heavy rains there have been every year that I have been in the district, in October 1873, in October 1874, and now in September and October 1875, and considering the heavy traffic, that Mr. Harris' estimate for forming the trunk road will be found sufficient. I believe not less than Rupees 2,000 a-mile will suffice to bring it into first-rate order. I have constantly advocated the claims of the trunk road to be first completed in preference to others, but have been invariably overruled. I have also annually endeavoured to have the maintenance allowance raised in order to effect minor improvements. I was successful in getting the grant raised from Rupees 125 to Rupees 150 in 1874, but have not been successful in getting it raised to Rupees 200 a-mile, as advocated by the Executive Engineers Messrs. Harris, Leggatt, and the Assistant Engineer Lieutenant Lever.

From Lieutenant J. LEVER, Assistant Engineer in charge of No. 1, Berhampore Range, to the District Engineer, Ganjam, dated Berhampore, 26th November 1875, No. 308.

With reference to your foot-note, No. 213, dated 20th instant, of G.O., No. 2,943, of 15th October 1875, I have the honor to inform you with reference to paragraph 4 of Revenue Board's Proceedings therein referred to, while I was in camp at Teekali Ragunathpore I was asked to inspect the school then newly completed there. I examined the school with reference to the estimate and found that the building was in accordance with the estimate produced to me, and therefore granted a certificate. I did not see the work during progress, and I am not answerable for the workmanship of the building. I did not know what was the foundation, or whether the superstructure was well done. It seemed on outer appearance to be all right.

No. 5-A. From the Director of Public Instruction, dated 27th March 1876, No. 791.

No. 5-B. From the District Engineer, Ganjam, dated 8th April 1876, No. 6.
ABSTRACT.—Reporting on Range Officers of the District.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
1st June 1876.*

No. 6.

ORDER THEREON, 1st June 1876, No. 1,359.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 2.

It appears that the plan and estimate for a school-house at Teekali Raganath-pore were signed respectively by Mr. Harris, Executive Engineer, and Sub-Engineer Ramiah; and provided for construction of an inexpensive building, of cutcha materials, such as Public Works Officers are not permitted to construct themselves. These papers, moreover, did not pass through the District Engineer's Office; and the Educational Order, No. 236, of 26th July 1873, shows that the construction of the building and its supervision were to be managed by other than Public Works agency. Under these circumstances a Public Works Officer's certificate should not have been called for, and the department cannot be held answerable for the inferior work.

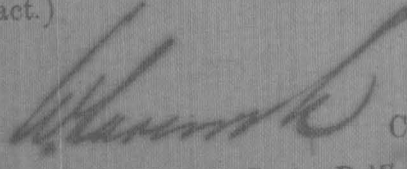
2. The case of the store-shed at Calingapatam has already been disposed of in G.O., No. 3,034, of 28th October 1875.

3. The case of the Principal Assistant Collector's Cutcherry is one of insufficient repair, possibly owing to insufficient funds, to a rambling old building which would appear to require reconstruction.

4. The Heeramundalum Police Station work appears to have been carelessly finished. But immediate notice of all complaints has been taken, and the defects made good as far as possible. The general impression, however, borne upon the Government by the tenor of the correspondence throughout is that Lieutenant Lever's supervision is slack, which is corroborated by the correspondence recorded in G.O., No. 900 of 5th April. Major Smalley having further made a special report that Lieutenant Lever is in his 57th year, and should be called on to retire, His Grace the Governor in Council resolves that he shall be transferred at once to the Jeypore Ghaut Range, the nature and amount of work in which are more suitable to his present powers.

5. The District Engineer's explanation regarding the state of the trunk road tend to show that the Local Fund Board have not attended sufficiently to the up-keep of this main line. Their attention, and that of Local Fund Boards generally, should be called in the Financial Department to paragraph 13 of the Resolution of the Government of India, communicated with G.O., No. 4 of 6th January 1871, which specially enjoins that these communications shall have a prior claim on their attention.

(True Extract.)


Colonel,
Offg. Under Secy. to Govt., P.W.D.

To the District Engineer, Ganjam.
" Financial Department.
" Revenue "

Exd. S. T. Austin.

20 Spare Copies

Leak to Revenue Officer

2390
Revenue 1875 Dep't
G.O. of 1876
PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
GANJAM,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated June 1st.

Issued

Recd.

15 June 1876

Encl.

G. O., 1st June 1876, No. 1,350.

JUNE.

Nos. 5-6.

Dis 1876

Failure of buildings constructed by Public
Works Officers in the Ganjam District —
Passing orders on the — noted in Collector's
Report for 1874-75, and transferring Lieut.
Lever to the Jeypore Ghaut Range, Vizaga-
patam District.

No. 1397

Communicated to the

G. O. 1876

11.6.76

16 June 1876