New No. Sectt. I (i)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-68.

(1) Number of pages 4

(2) Date of repair 19-2-70

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. 1666. Press
B.P. No. Mis.

Dated 17-7-1876 196

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 470. Read the following letter from Colonel F. J. MOBERLY, R.E., Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Red Hills, 8th June 1876, No. 827 :—

I HAVE the honor respectfully to observe that in passing order No. 1,375, 2nd instant, the Government could not have seen all the correspondence which has passed between the Board of Revenue and myself.

2. I beg to point out in the first place that under G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870, paragraphs 4 and 5, I am forbidden to execute such work as the cutting of the Ennore bar for another department. I was far from sanguine as to the possibility of success, having precedent before me, and therefore I undertook it personally, but strictly on the responsibility of the Collector, and on the ground of its great emergency not allowing of more regular proceeding.

3. I did not act on G.O., No. 691, of 17th March, which reached me on the 31st for some days. I carefully read over the Chief Engineer's memorandum and the consequent order; not a word in it supported or condoned my disobedience of G.O., No. 13, of 4th January 1870. The Chief Engineer, as it appeared to me, clearly disapproved of the work; the Government omitted any mention of me in the 1st paragraph regarding the execution of the work. They distinctly in paragraph 2 called on me to prepare an estimate for a survey.

4. I respectfully submit that G.O., No. 691, of 17th March, limits the appropriation to Rupees 1,000, and this amount I had largely exceeded. I turned therefore to the Collector on whose responsibility I was working.

5. I stated the case to him so far as I knew it. The opening of the bar during upwards of two months had saturated the water required for salt manufacture, but the quantity had decreased very markedly during the period, and I had not a word of information from him or any of the Salt Department to show that there was any return from the large expenditure.

6. Mr. Melville had not limited expenditure, but the Government had, and I did not feel justified in laying out more money on Mr. Barlow's responsibility, until he again accepted it after receiving G.O., No. 691, of 17th March 1876.

7. I went to Ennore to see if I could find any grounds for going on with the work; but seeing nothing, I stopped it and sent to the Collector on the 5th April.

8. Mr. Barlow answered my letter on the 12th April, and I recommenced work; not, as the Government appear to think, on any opinion of my own, but entirely because the Collector desired it. It did not occur to me writing on the 5th April that the Collector would require a week to answer regarding a matter of so much importance to him; as I said before I knew nothing as to the effects of the work done.

9. I was under the impression that, if the Collector thought it expedient to continue, I should get a reply the same day; and when I left Ennore, warned the man who had collected the coolies to keep an eye on them, as they might possibly be re-employed against the spring tide of the 8th. When I got no answer within a day, I concluded that the Collector agreed with me.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

New No. Scott. 1 (1).1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-63.

10. The work was a very disagreeable one; Lieutenant Smither and I spent the greater part of each day on the bar, the tide served best at 1 P.M., and the night wind and surf were very troublesome. The Salt Deputy Collector, who should properly have done the work, came for a few minutes and found even looking on too warm to allow of his waiting till we completed the operation; our success was never acknowledged; nor did we get any information as to the commencement of salt manufacture or its prospects, and though on 17th April the Revenue Board ordered that a report should be sent to me weekly, I have not received a line.

11. As opposed to all this, Mr. Barlow complained to the Revenue Board that I had caused an excess of outlay from money advanced on his responsibility.

12. I would further point out that the period originally named, three months, had expired, and that I kept the bar open till the "next full moon," as urged by the Revenue Board in No. 1,117, of 27th April, which occurred on 8th May.

13. Revenue Board's Proceedings, No. 1,227, of 10th May, reached me on 15th, and I replied on the 16th, pointing out that I had carried out all definite instructions, that no plant was left after four months, and that if we began again it must be *de novo*.

14. I also stated that the water was quite sufficient for navigation, and was saturated with salt, a considerable supply of sea-water having been thrown in at Pulicat.

15. To this I have received no reply, and the Board meanwhile had desired the Salt Deputy Collector to take charge.

16. I beg to point out that we have no data for [illegible] an estimate.

17. A change of wind producing or lowering the surf, blowing sand in, or water from the sea, will make a difference of 6 or 8 Rupees *per hour*.

18. With a strong east wind and ebb-tide there is no scour if it blows with a flood making a larger quantity of water is driven in.

19. The contrary happens with a west wind; a south wind blows the sand from the 1,500 yards of beach south of the cutting in enormous quantities.

20. It was to avoid this that I was anxious to place the cutting at the right bank, where there is clay, brushwood, and trees.

21. I am professionally of opinion that there is abundance of water now in the canal, and therefore urge that further operations are not necessary.

22. If the bar is, however, to be re-opened, I trust I shall be favored with more explicit instructions.

23. I have not yet heard from the Acting Deputy Chief Engineer when he proposes to inspect the mouth of the river, but lose no time in submitting this.

No. 471. ORDER THEREON, 23rd June 1876, No. 1,573.

CIVIL WORKS, No. 57.

RECORDED, with reference to G.O., No. 1,572, of 23rd June 1876.

2. The order of 4th January 1870 alluded to by Colonel Moberly failed to apply after the issue of G.O., No. 691, of

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd June 1876. *No.* 1,573.

17th March 1876. No one but himself imagined the latter order to apply but to him, or that it limited action within Rupees 1,000, provided an estimate were submitted. Colonel Moberly should have shown more readiness in acting on the orders of Government and in carrying out the wishes of the Board of Revenue and Collector of Chingleput in a matter which was of great public interest.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput.
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
Spare Copies

New No. Sectt. I (1)-1—Old No. M.R.O. 1—10,006—10-6-63.

No 3681
Revenue 1876 Deptt

Govt. of {1876} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To,

THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CHINGLEPUT.
&c., &c., &c.

Dated June 23rd.

Issued

Recd. 15 July 1876 *Encl.*

G. O., 23rd June 1876, *No.* 1,573.

JUNE.

Nos. 470-471.

Emore Bar.—Passing orders on letter from the Superintending Engineer, Chingleput, offering observations on the orders passed in G.O., No. 1,376, of 2nd June 1876, anent the opening of the —.

do 1876
Communicated to the Collr & Offrs
17 July 1876