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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue

DEPARTMENT

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Dated	28. 8. 1876	196

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2018
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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1876. No. 1,970.*

No. 49. Read the following endorsement from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation, dated Fort St. George, 8th April 1876, No. 35-W :—

From Colonel A. S. MOBERLY, R.E., District Engineer of Cuddapah, to Major-General G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddapah, 3rd April 1876, No. 23.

WITH reference to letter, No. 238, of 15th November 1875, from the Collector of Cuddapah, published with G.O., No. 15, of 4th January 1876, I request to be allowed to make some remarks on the incorrect and unjust statements made by Mr. Horsley in paragraphs 6 and 7, as they seem to me to cast a slur on the Public Works Department in this district. I beg to forward copies of two letters from the Cuddapah and Sidhout Range Officers: Mr. Seton, the present Cuddapah Range Officer, was in the Sidhout Range in 1874-75, and I can bear out the statements made by him in paragraphs 11 to 14.

2. As regards paragraph 7 of Mr. Horsley's letter, I can only say that what he states is incorrect, and that if he had spoken to me before writing what he has, I feel sure he would have had a different opinion. His statement that a contractor "has to provide for payments to Overseers and Maistries" is most unfair, and I request the protection of Government, and that Mr. Horsley be called upon to substantiate his statement.

Copy of a letter from the Officer in charge of Sidhout Range, to the District Engineer, Cuddapah, dated 3rd February 1876, No. 709.

WITH reference to your Circular, No. 41, dated 20th January 1876, I have the honor to report for your information as follows :—

1. While in the Madanapully Range in charge of the Rayachoty Sub-division, no works whatever were undertaken by villagers. I have always found labor in that Sub-division difficult to be obtained, not so much in the Rayachoty taluq, as in Kadry, and consequently would have been very glad indeed if any of the villagers would have undertaken the repairs of their irrigation works. In many cases while sections and surveys were being taken, the village authorities would promise fast enough to carry them out, but as soon as they found the work was sanctioned, would have nothing to do with it; one or two of the village Reddies have called the Woddahs of the village together, and have told them what was to be done, and then have left it; in not one single instance has the work been carried out by village labor, or by the village authorities. In every case the work was offered to them, sometimes verbally, at other times in writing.

2. Since joining the Sidhout Range, I have had very little irrigation works going on; what are being done are very small, except the Poly tank. This work is estimated to cost Rs. 7,700, and has been divided amongst three contractors; one of them is the Reddy of the village, the other two are residents of Rajampett. I have not seen this work since it was commenced, but shall not fail to compare the work of the three men on my first inspection.

The Pullempett tank sluice estimate, Rupees 17, was repaired by the village Reddy; this man was very anxious to get the work, until he was told the amount of the estimate. Some one had told him it was Rupees 470; when he found it was only Rupees 17, he would have nothing to do with it, but afterwards hearing that the supply channel was also to be cleared, he consented to repair the tank sluice; I cannot say the work was very well done. Several river channels have been cleared by the villagers. Every one of them is of ordinary interest, being simply the clearing out of sand which had been carried in to them by the floods of 1874, and which any one could have done without superintendence; so far as I have seen, the work has been satisfactory. The Penagaloor tank supply channel was given out on contract to the Reddy of the village. Some repairs were done, but on inspection by the Range Officer the whole of the work was rejected as being most inferior, and was ordered to be done again. Before it was inspected a second time the whole was washed away by a fresh in the river, which would lead one to suppose it was not very strong.

The repairs to the sluice of Muntapampully-Chelmareddy tank and constructing a new sluice in the Kootalammah tank were given on contract to the Reddy of the village, but he made so little progress on the work that it had to be taken from him and given to another contractor, who finished them in a satisfactory manner.

3. I may as well give the opinion of the late Range Officer with reference to work carried out by village labor :—

“Several works of ordinary interest have been commenced by the village Reddies or influential ryots, but the result has not been successful; unless there is something to take, it is found that such men dawdle over their work and do not attend to it except at such times as they can spare from cultivation. But in clearing channels silted up by the flooding of the Choyair, this class of contractors have done good work and they have done the work well. It is in repairing tank bunds that they have failed to give satisfaction, by not completing according to their agreements.”

4. In paragraph 7 of Mr. Horsley's letter to Government, he states that contractors take no interest in their work. I have, as a rule, found this quite the reverse. Certainly the contractor takes more interest in his work than the village Reddy; the contractor knows that if his work is not satisfactory, he will get no more work. The Reddy knows that if he only gets paid for what he does, there is no other work for him to do, and we have no hold over him, no check to keep him up to the work. Again, Mr. Horsley says: “The contractor spends as little as he can and pockets the rest,” while the villagers would put all the money on the work; I have never found this yet to be the case. If anything, it is the other way; such is my experience of these men. In the matter of rates, I cannot understand how Mr. Horsley makes out that work is done cheaper by these men. Several estimates were forwarded to you for sanction, the rates being entered as usual. These, after they were sanctioned, were again returned, as it was found that the rates paid by the Tahsildar were higher than those entered in the estimate and which were usually paid by this department.

(Signed) A. S. MOBERLY, Colonel, R.E.,
District Engineer.

Copy of a letter from the Officer in charge of Cuddapah Range, to the District Engineer of Cuddapah, dated 19th March 1876, No. 863.

In reply to your Circular, No. 41, dated the 15th of January 1876, I have the honor to report that, as a general rule, that only work successfully executed by village agency is entirely confined to the clearing of channels. I have had twelve years experience as a Range Officer in this and other districts, and I have always experienced great difficulty in bringing works to a satisfactory close when performed by this agency, unless it is of the very simplest description; and, so far as this district is concerned, I am of opinion that few men desire to take work on contract unless they have had some experience of the working of the department. The influential villagers appear to be distrustful and afraid that they will lose money by undertaking works they do not understand; in fact, they do not like to run any risk, and this is not to be wondered at, when it is considered that few of them can read and write and cannot keep accounts.

2. The foregoing remarks are not to imply that the officers of the department have not gained the confidence and respect of the ryots; on the contrary, there are few districts where common labor can be obtained in greater abundance when required, and I have generally found that influential ryots are willing to assist with labor.

3. It is not an uncommon objection by the Reddy of a village when asked to take up a work on contract, for him to reply “that he will not do so, but if a contractor is sent to execute the work, then he will find him with as many coolies as he can employ.”

4. My experience extends to every taluq in the district with the exception of the Maddanapully and Kadry taluqs, and from my first entry in the department in 1860, when it was impossible to obtain any contractor, and it was the policy of Government to introduce that system of working into the department.

5. I now beg to mention the only work in this range which has been satisfactorily completed since I assumed charge in July last by this agency, viz., the clearing of the Pallavole

channel, estimated at Rupees 2,380, which was successfully completed by the principal land-holder under the channel, and he is an educated man.

6. From the information obtained from the subordinates now serving in this range, I learn the under-mentioned works were entrusted for execution to the village authorities in late years, and generally the result has been unfavorable :—

(1.) The Soonnarallapuley tank in Jamalamadoogoo taluq. The work was slow, the Reddy sublet the work and was seldom to be found near it, and always excused himself on a plea of employment in revenue business.

(2.) The clearing of the Vasanthapooram channel, estimated at Rupees 310, was fairly completed.

(3.) The clearing of the Chinnachappaly channel, estimated at Rupees 590, was fairly completed.

(4.) The repairs to Chinnachappaly aqueduct, amounting to Rupees 46, was completed with some trouble.

(5.) The reconstruction of Camalapoor head sluice, estimated at Rupees 735, was undertaken by one Asiny Reddy, who executed works 3 and 4; he kept the work on hand for months, never collected any material, and it is now being completed by a professional contractor.

(6.) Clearing the Camalapoor river channel, estimated to cost Rupees 388, was done fairly.

(7.) Clearing Wolloor Chinthala channel, estimated to cost Rupees 450, was fairly completed.

(8.) Repairing the Paupugny right embankment, estimated at Rupees 1,540, was commenced by a village contractor at the expiration of four months when his agreement expired; he had only done work to the amount of Rupees 280, and it had to be completed by a professional contractor.

(9.) Kookalagoondum anicut, estimated at Rupees 930, was commenced by a village contractor, and it had to be completed by a professional contractor.

7. In my late range, I recollect that in the case of the Korlagoontah tank, the repairs of which were entrusted to one of the villagers, it was with the greatest difficulty I could get him to finish off the work, and it was incomplete when I left.

8. The execution of the repairs to the Moothoocoor tank in Sidhout was another instance of the failure of the Reddy of Condoor to complete work without great trouble and delay.

9. In the case of the Settygoontah tank in Pullumpett taluq, neither the Reddy nor any one of the villagers would execute the necessary repairs. The commencement of this work was delayed for months owing to the refusal of the Reddy to obey the Collector's orders to remove the bushes, and ultimately he was dismissed for this cause.

10. I respectfully beg to add a few remarks on the statements contained in Collector's report on Public Works for the year 1874-75, enclosed in your circular under reply.

11. It has also been stated in several of the Madras Newspapers that the Tahsildar of Pullumpett is to be specially rewarded for “his highly praiseworthy exertions in repairing damages to irrigation works caused by the floods of October 1874.” As considerable misapprehension appears to exist regarding the execution of the repairs alluded to, it is necessary for me to state how the work in question was really executed.

12. With the exception of a few trivial channels which were situated in out-of-the-way localities, no work of any description was commenced without its inspection by a member of this department, and estimate being framed for work to be done.

13. In the case of river and spring channels when the estimate had been prepared in my office, a vernacular copy was sent with a specification to the Tahsildar for guidance. He arranged with the head of the village for the execution of the work, and reported to this office the name of the person to whom money was to be paid. To the best of my knowledge this was the extent of his responsibility and exertions. I never met him or any of his subordinates on any work during the time of their execution; all work was marked out by either the Overseer or Maistries of the department, the measurements were taken and bills submitted to this office for payment in the usual manner, and accounts were closed after final inspection by myself, with the exception of a few channels which had not been completed on my handing over charge in the month of May.

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2nd August 1876. No. 1,970.*

tion works in Pullumpett taluq after the flood of October 1874, with the dates on which the measurements were taken by the members of the department.

2. I beg respectfully to observe that the delay in submitting this record which is intended to justify myself and subordinates from the severe charges preferred in the Collector's letter, No. 227, dated the 2nd of November 1875, is due to the fact that the letter above quoted was not communicated to the department until it was published in the District Gazette of April 1st of the current year.

3. As stated in my No. 863, dated the 19th of March last, the Tahsildar's assistance was confined to the "making of arrangements with the head of the village for the clearing of river and spring channels" after receiving a copy of the estimate and specification from my office.

4. The works were marked out and superintended in every case by the members of this department, and the measurements made and bills submitted for payment without any reference to the Tahsildar.

5. It is true when the Collector visited the works in January or February (I am not exactly certain now), he received petitions from one or two villagers that their channels had not been attended to; these are duly exhibited at the end of the record.

6. With regard to these it will be observed that most of the works were of a trivial nature and had not been reported to the department in most cases. The Tahsildar, by the Collector's orders, commenced the requisite work and took rough measurements of what was required, and even in these cases payments were made by me, after revising and checking the rough measurements taken.

7. On the morning of the 5th November 1874, when you intimated to me in the presence of the Acting Head Assistant Collector that arrangements had been made with the Tahsildar to assist in clearing the channels, I had no idea that an impression prevailed of the inability of this department to perform its legitimate duties, and I was not aware that such an opinion had been entertained until it was published in the Madras Newspapers at the end of December last.

8. I very respectfully submit that as no failure occurred in closing up the numerous breached tanks (some of very large dimensions), also closing breaches in roads and reconstructing masonry works which required professional knowledge, it is not likely a failure would have occurred in clearing channels which is very simple work comparatively even if the Tahsildar had not handed a copy of our estimates to the head of the village.

9. As for myself, I may be permitted to say that in consequence of exposure and unremitted exertions, I was prostrated with a sunstroke on the morning of the 9th of November and carried into camp on a charpoy by the villagers. I also suffered severe loss from the injury to myself and horse by getting into a quicksand on the 29th December in the Cheyair, owing to the animal being rendered perfectly useless from injuries received in the back; and in March 1875, I travelled upwards of 370 miles, measuring up and paying for work executed principally in Pullumpett taluq. Previous to the 9th November, the members of my office establishment travelling with me were quite knocked up and had to take sick leave.

10. Serjeant Supervisor Ward states that "the exposure and extra exertion involved threw me into a fever for which I had to seek medical aid on the 29th of the same month (November), and which did not leave me till after a long time;" this will I think be proved from the records.

11. Serjeant Murray, also, the Taluq Overseer, had to take sick leave in December 1874.

12. I mention these facts to show that the members of this department employed at that time in Pullumpett taluq did their best for Government, that they suffered severely in health, and it is manifestly unjust that the Tahsildar should be rewarded at their expense.

13. I very respectfully request you will be good enough to submit these remarks with this enclosure for the gracious consideration of Government, and hope you will be good enough to report favorably on our behalf, and I also hope that it will not be forgotten that the damaged works in both the Sidhout and Budwail taluqs required attention.

(Signed) A. S. MOBERLY, Colonel, R.E.,
District Engineer.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1876. No. 1,970.*

Statement showing the Manner in which Emergent Work in Pullumpett Taluq was executed after the Flood of October 1874.

No.	Name of Work.	Date on which measurements were taken for preparation of Estimate.	Rank and Name of person that made Estimate.	Amount of Estimate.			Expenditure.	Remarks.
				Rs.	Rs.	A. P.		
1	Closing breaches and repairing Madras road between Nundalore and Rajampett.	29th Oct.	Mr. C. Seton, Sub-Engineer.	5,150	5,153	9 0		
				5,150				
2	Closing breaches and repairing escapes of Manoor Katchamah tank.	30th do.	Do. ...	320	281	13 5		
3	Closing breaches, &c., to Manoor Casbah tank and supply channel.	30th do.	Do. ...	390	378	1 11		
4	New escape and repairing damages to Ootkoor tank.	31st do.	Do. ...	1,475	1,497	8 5		
5	Repairs to Reddepalli tank...	31st do.	Do. ...	240	236	6 6		
6	Waltalloor tank ...	2nd Nov.	Do. ...	470	363	15 0		
7	Davasamoodrum tank ...	2nd do.	Do. ...	168	167	0 0		
8	Anantasamoodrum small tank.	3rd do.	Do. ...	375	383	9 9		
9	Chinna Orampad tank ...	4th do.	Do. ...	1,167	1,237	0 5		
10	Nundaloor river channel ...	5th do.	Do. ...	270	237	7 0		Tahsildar arranged with Reddy for execution of work.
11	Nagireddypully Kym channel.	5th do.	Do. ...	1,200	1,165	8 0		Do. do.
12	Do. Nadame channel.	5th do.	Do. ...	2,115	2,056	11 3		Do. do.
13	Patoor Yegoova channel ...	6th do.	Do. ...	305	290	0 0		Do. do.
14	Patoor Degoova channel ...	6th do.	Do. ...	915	874	8 6		Do. do.
15	Nagareddypully Yegoova channel.	6th do.	Do. ...	1,520	1,489	8 2		Do. do.
16	Nundaloor tank supply channel.	6th do.	Do. ...	270	254	4 0		Do. do.
17	Talapauk tank and supply channel.	7th do.	Do. ...	283	282	15 9		Do. do. for channel breaches closed by departmental agency.
18	Talapauk Apparajoo river channel.	9th do.	Do. ...	513	511	15 9		Tahsildar arranged with Reddy for execution of work.
19	Talapauk Nanaganappah spring channel.		Do. ...	501	461	13 0		Do. do.
				12,497				
20	Rajampulki tank ...	3rd do.	Mr. Ward, Supervisor.	730	716	14 0		
21	Adipool river channel ...	15th do.	Do. ...	33	33	0 0		Do. do.
22	Yellamrajipully river channel.	17th do.	Do. ...	204	203	11 0		Do. do.
23	Nalapareddipett spring channel.	17th do.	Do. ...	188	130	0 0		Do. do.
24	Narram Nellore river channel.	18th do.	Do. ...	230	180	0 0		Do. do.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1876. No. 1,970.

Statement showing the Manner in which Emergent Work in Pullampett Taluq was executed after the Flood of October 1874.—(Concluded.)

No.	Name of Work.	Date on which measurements were taken for preparation of Estimate.	Rank and Name of person that made Estimate.	Amount of Estimate.	Expenditure.	Remarks.
				Rs.	Rs. A. P.	
25	Pondaloor river channel ...	18th Nov.	Mr. Ward Supervisor.	359	160 0 0	Tahsildar arranged with Reddy for execution of work.
26	Penagaloor supply channel.	20th do.	Do. ...	242	230 6 8	Do. do.
27	Siddevaram spring channel.	20th do.	Do. ...	2,556	2,480 2 4	Do. do.
28	Singareddipalli spring channel.	20th do.	Do. ...	1,277	1,263 9 0	Do. do.
				5,819		
29	Penagaloor tank ...	Unknown.	Mr. Murray, Taluq Overseer.	2,365	2,022 1 5	
30	Theroomalraipett spring channel.	Do. ...	Do. ...	2,225	1,477 9 3	Do. do.
31	Pothapi spring channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	691	691 0 0	Do. do.
32	Do. tank ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	2,050	1,980 15 2	Do. do.
33	Do. river channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	37	36 15 1	Do. do.
				7,368		
34	Labaka river channel ...	Do. ...	Tahsildar.	494	493 11 7	Rough measurements made by Tahsildar and work started by him.
35	Tungooragpully river channel.	Do. ...	Do. ...	198	175 10 0	Do. do.
36	Polipathoor Nadamoorthy channel.	Do. ...	Do. ...	57	56 5 10	Do. do.
37	Ananthaganpully channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	63	62 15 0	Do. do.
38	Roolamadugu Jilladi channel.	Do. ...	Do. ...	324	314 12 0	Do. do.
39	Pullampett taluq supply channel.	Do. ...	Do. ...	26	21 11 8	Do. do.
40	Rangrapalli channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	28	13 0 4	Do. do.
41	Mandapalli river channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	171	170 9 2	Do. do.
42	Polipathoor river channel ...	Do. ...	Do. ...	102	101 10 8	Do. do.
				1,463		

CUDDAPAH,
4th June 1876.

(Signed) C. SETON,
Sub-Engineer in charge of Cuddapah Range.
(Signed) A. S. MOBERLY, Colonel, R.E.,
District Engineer, Cuddapah.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1876. No. 1,970.

No. 118-W.

Note by Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

CERTAIN papers on the subject of the manner in which the repairs of irrigation works in the Cuddapah District have been carried out by the members of the Public Works Department in that district were submitted to Government with this office No. 35-W., of the 8th April last. In those papers it was shown that the allegations of the Collector contained in his report on Public Works for the year 1874-75 were incorrect, and in submitting them it was noticed that certain of those allegations ought not, in the opinion of the undersigned, to have been made.

Proceedings of Madras Government, 4th January 1876, No. 15.

2. The papers now submitted relate to the action of the Public Works Department in providing for the repair of damage sustained by irrigation works of the Cuddapah Range from the floods of October 1874, and it has to be remarked that while on the one hand the Tahsildar of the Pullampett taluq has been, at the instance of the Collector and Board of Revenue, rewarded for his exertions in assisting in the repair of damage, it has been represented by the Collector that the work done by the Tahsildar "was not only well and quickly done, but most economically done, costing far less than it would have cost, had it been performed by the Public Works Department." It is added "owing to the personal exertions of the Tahsildar, revenue has been saved and unnecessary expenditure on damaged works has been avoided." Government ordered the publication of the correspondence in all District Gazettes, and through the Cuddapah District Gazette the Collector's statements have come to the notice of the members of the Public Works Department concerned.

3. The statement submitted by the Range Officer shows that the Collector's report has given an extremely erroneous impression as to the way in which the work was done. For the work undertaken, estimates amounting to Rupees 30,834* were prepared by the members of the Public Works Department in the Range, while the estimates prepared under the Tahsildar amounted to Rupees 1,463 only.

5,150
12,497
5,819
7,368
30,834
5,150
4,605
730
2,365
2,050
14,900

regard to rates the work arranged for by the Tahsildar was executed, with the small exception noted, on estimates and rates prepared and fixed by the members of the Public Works Department, and it would appear therefore that if the work was economically done, this was due not to the personal exertions of the Tahsildar, but to the propriety of the rates prevailing under the Range Officer's management, and that

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the unnecessary expenditure avoided by the Tahsildar's exertions may be appropriately represented by a cipher.

4. The undersigned has no desire to detract in any way from the value of the Tahsildar's assistance, given readily and willingly at a time when there was a great deal of work to be carried out with the least possible delay, and no doubt his influence with the villagers was of great value by enabling much more to be done and done more quickly than could have been achieved by the Range Officer and his assistants unaided. The latter appear, however, to be at least as deserving of praise as the Tahsildar, but instead of their services being recognized, they have been maligned, and the unjust allegations made against them have been published by order of Government in all District Gazettes. They have appealed to Government for redress, and they would have been wanting in self-respect had they allowed the injurious remarks on them, remarks too entirely unsupported by the facts, to remain unchallenged.

Ootacamund,
19th June 1876.

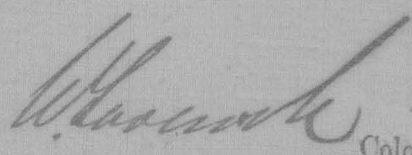
(Signed) J. MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel R.E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 50. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1876, No. 1,970.

IRRIGATION, No. 7.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council has learnt with much satisfaction that great exertions were made by the officers and subordinates of the Public Works Department, in the Cuddapah District, to repair the damages caused by the floods of October 1874. The members of the Department in the Sidhout Range co-operated vigorously with the Tahsildar of Pullampett, and all the means available were made use of, and with good results, in remedying the damage which the remarkable floods of that period occasioned. The District Engineer, Cuddapah, will convey to the members of the Public Works Department concerned the acknowledgements of Government for their exertions under circumstances which involved much exposure and hard work.

(True Extract.)


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

To the District Engineer of Cuddapah.
" Revenue Department.
" Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. W. H. French.

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PUBLIC WORKS.

To

✓
THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
CUDDAPAH,
&c. &c. &c.

Dated August 2nd.

Issued

Recd.

230

Encl.

G. O., 2nd August 1876, No. 1,970.

AUGUST.

Nos. 49-50.

Irrigation Works, Cuddapah District.—
Passing orders on papers relating to the
action of the Public Works Department in
providing for the repairs of damages sus-
tained by — from the floods of October
1874.

No 2018

Communicated to
Hut-

23 August 1876

DEPARTMENT

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

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