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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No. / B.P. No:	6098	Press. / Mis.
Dated	13-10-1972.	197 .

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Archives 1—10,006—19-4-79.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

4th October 1877, No. 869 W.

Buildings and Roads.

Civil Works.

Read the following paper :—

No. 53. From Lieutenant-Colonel R. B. KENNEDY, District Engineer, Malabar, to the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads, dated Camp at Luckady, 6th September 1877, No. 83.

I HAVE the honor to forward a comparative statement* showing excess incurred in the building of the Deputy Collector's Cutcherry at Manantoddy, which would have been sooner submitted, but that I have been endeavouring to sift the circumstances which have led to an excess, to me as unexpected as it is unsatisfactory. I regret, however, that in spite of every endeavour, the confused and imperfect manner in which the accounts, chiefly of the expenditure of materials purchased and manufactured for the building, were kept by Overseer Thomas who had charge of the work from June 1875 to 15th November 1876 baffles my attempt to give any perfectly clear explanation.

* Rupees 2,400.

2. The first revised estimate was occasioned by an entire change of the original plan, and was submitted before commencement of the work ; the second one was necessitated by the great delay in carrying out the work after most of the materials had been collected, the destruction by fire of a large portion of the wood-work of the roof, and deterioration of the remainder of it, as well as of large quantities of other materials, during the years when the question of the head-quarters of the Deputy Collector of Wynaad was kept in abeyance and all progress stopped. These causes will account for the high rates for several of the sub-heads of the second revised estimate, which were necessarily and in accordance with rules calculated so as to include the losses that had been incurred ; but when the second estimate was framed, I must say that sufficient data were forthcoming to have at all events kept its execution within the permitted margin of 5 per cent. ; that it has not been so, from all I can learn is I believe chiefly attributable to materials that had been collected for this work having been used for others without the corresponding credit being given ; there is no other way to account for it, and Lieutenant Dobson, the present Range Officer, reports that his inquiries on the subject lead him to that conclusion.

3. The second revised estimate, which is the one on which the work has been for the most part carried out, was submitted shortly before my departure on furlough in July 1875, and sanctioned by G.O. No. 1,878 of 3rd July 1875 during my absence ; from 15th July 1875 up to the end of April 1876, Mr. Pringle was the Executive Officer in charge, and was relieved by Lieutenant Dobson at latter date, up to which the total expenditure shown in register of work is Rupees 16,004-14-4, increased by payments for arrears made by Lieutenant Dobson (during whose time little or nothing was done, it being the monsoon season) bringing the total up to Rupees 17,061-9-6. At the end of September 1876 Mr. Supervisor Lafrenais took charge of the range, and from that date to end of July of current year, expenditure amounting to Rupees 4,523-2-11 was incurred. Overseer Thomas had the immediate charge of the work from June 1875 to 15th November 1876, the date on which he was at short notice ordered to duty on Famine Relief Works in Bellary, [illegible] was in his time that the heaviest

excess in rates occurred. The only blame I can see to attribute to Mr. Lafrenais is, that he did not sooner report to me the excess likely to occur, but till a late period led me to believe that the 5 per cent. margin would not be exceeded, for on comparing the quantity of work done with its cost, I find that the rates are much lower than those named in the last sanctioned revised estimate, with one exception, viz., asphalting, and that is accounted for by the fact that in the estimate the concreting below the asphalte was left out, and the rates put much lower than these ruling in the district; moreover the quality of the asphalte has not proved good, it not admitting the addition of the usual proportion of sand, and therefore requiring a larger quantity of asphalte. In every other item, Mr. Lafrenais has worked below estimate. Besides the diversion of materials to other works without corresponding credit being given, a considerable loss was incurred by breakage of the machine-made tiles supplied from the Basel Mission Manufactory, the breakage occurring in transit from Mangalore to Manantoddy. Rupees 170 forming a portion of advances made to bricklayers and other workmen has been charged to the sub-heads of brick-in-chunam and wood-work, and I fear there is no hope of recovery, the men to whom it was advanced having absconded and no clue to their whereabouts being obtainable. In the case of some of the sub-heads, as shown in column of remarks, the proper distinction has manifestly not been preserved; so I have placed those in which such confusion exists together, and thereby decreased the apparent excess in one case and saving in the other. No provision was made, I find, in the revised estimate for painting the wood-work, an operation which I consider absolutely necessary, and have therefore supplied the omission.

4. The allotment in 1876-77 for the work was Rupees 4,000 against an expenditure up to end of March of Rupees 3,989, leaving Rupees 2,480 to be provided for current year.

5. I regret extremely I am not able to furnish a more distinct and particular explanation to account for the excess in certain sub-heads, but the manner in which the accounts of Taluq Overseer Thomas were kept, render it impossible to trace the facts; but in his defence I feel it but right to say that most of the blame is attributable to the Taluq Writer, whose services on Lieutenant Dobson's report I dispensed with in October last.

6. The Cutcherry is now quite complete, with the exception of painting and clearing up site, and I would request permission to proceed with those items in anticipation of a grant being made; and have only to add that immediately I discovered that the expenditure would exceed the 5 per cent. margin, I ordered work to be stopped and commenced inquiry into the causes of excess.

No. 54. ORDER THEREON, 4th October 1877, No. 869 W.

THE District Engineer of Malabar now submits for sanction a third revised estimate of Rupees 22,000 for constructing the Office for the Deputy Collector of Wynaad at Manantoddy in the Malabar District, or Rupees 2,400 in excess of that last sanctioned in G.O., No. 1,878, dated 3rd July 1875.

2. The excess is variously attributed to confusion of accounts not creditable to those concerned, breakage, wastage and deterioration of materials during the construction of the building; and the District Engineer attaches no blame to any one but the Taluq Overseer and his Writer, the last links in the supervising chain of the department.

3. His Grace the Governor in Council does not agree with the District Engineer, and considers that the District Engineers and Range Officers who have held charge of the district and range during the progress of the work are responsible for the unsatisfactory conditions that have been revealed and which have necessitated the submission of a third revised estimate. This points to imperfect inspection and neglect in checking and examining the accounts of work when it was visited, and reflects little

credit on the officers in question. With these remarks the estimate is sanctioned. It is observed that in G.O. No. 431 W of the 17th June 1877, Rupees 1,000 were provided for the works, the balance Rupees 1,400 are now appropriated to it, and the District Engineer will take care that it is completed and the accounts of it closed as early as possible.

4. This sanction has been registered as Provincial No. 164 B of 1877-78.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government, P.W.D.

12/10

To the District Engineer, Malabar.
" Examiner of Public Works Accounts
" Revenue Department.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.
10 Spare Copies

Revenue Department

No 4350.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.
CIVIL WORKS.

Govt. of {1877} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,
MALABAR.

&c., &c., &c.

Dated October 4th.

Issued

Read. 12 October Encl.

G. O., 4th October 1877, No. 869 W.

OCTOBER.

Nos. 53-54.

Office for the Deputy Collector of Wynaad at Manantoddy in the Malabar District — Sanctions with remarks the third revised estimate of Rupees 22,000 for constructing the —.

No 6098

Comm^d to the Board of Revenue

13 Oct 77

To 13 of Revenue 11 Oct