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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Finance **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 422 Press ~~Mis.~~

67-68.

Dated 29-6- 1863.

67-68 4/5

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
29th June 1863.

No. 67. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department dated 20th June 1863, No. 1,619.

Sanctioning certain arrangements proposed by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General for the payment of Salary Bills in connection with the Public Works Department. (Vide Proceedings Public Works Department, dated 20th June 1863, Nos. 482 & 483.)

No. 68. ORDER THEREON, 29th June 1863, No. 422.

To be recorded.

(Signed) J. D. SIM,
Secretary to Government.

Exd. T. O'Conner.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter from R. W. LODWICK, Esq., Acting Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort Saint George, 5th June 1863, No. 56:—

SIR,

1. With reference to Mr. Mangles' letter of the 13th March last, No. 432, paragraph 4, I have the honor to inform you, that the Officiating Auditor General of India and the Inspector General of Public Works Accounts consider that the payment of salary Bills of any Public Works Establishments at the Civil Treasuries should cease, and that they should, after being audited by the Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts, be made payable by him at the Office of some Executive Engineer or other Officer of corresponding rank. Provision on account of salaries will consequently have to be made in your advices sent to me for the issue of Letters of Credit, and the necessary funds to meet the bills for salaries will be taken up by means of Cheques.

2. Major Chesney is of opinion that if District Engineers in this Presidency compile their accounts in their own Offices, which they do, they should exhibit the deductions of Income Tax in their accounts, while in Bengal, these deductions appear only in the accounts of the Controller; and the Officiating Auditor General has desired that the latter mode of adjustment may be introduced, if practicable, in the Public Works Accounts of this Presidency. There is a more simple plan for bringing to account these deductions, which I also consider preferable, as the Officers of the Department in this Presidency are acquainted therewith, viz., that Cheques should be drawn for the full amount of the Salary Bills, and forwarded to the Treasury Officers with a Memorandum on the reverse of deductions of Income Tax. The full amount of the Cheques thus issued will be debited in the Treasury accounts, and while the deductions will be taken credit for therein, the net amounts will only require to be disbursed. Under this arrangement, which Captain Wilkieson, upon a reference made to him by me, has approved of, and which I recommend, the necessity of exhibiting the receipts of Income Tax in the District Engineer's accounts and subsequently in those of the Controller and Auditor will be obviated.

3. The deductions for Service Funds of Engineer and General Service Officers are made by Paymasters from their net Military pay, but in the case of Staff Corps Officers, who draw the whole of their Military pay in the Public Works Department, the deductions should be shown on the Salary Bills by the Controller and Auditor. This amount, in the opinion of the Officiating Auditor General, should be remitted to the Secretaries of the funds, by disbursing Officers, but in that of Major Chesney by the parties concerned. In this last arrangement Captain Wilkieson concurs, and suggests that the deductions on this account should be added to the Memorandum on the reverse of the Cheque, for which a "Public Service Remittance Receipt" payable to the Secretary of the funds, should be issued by the Treasury Officer.

4. It now remains with the Government to fix the date from which the payment of Salary Bills by Treasury Officers should cease, and the new arrangement should be brought into operation; and to pass their orders as to the manner in which the deductions of Income Tax and Service Funds should be made.

5. I enclose herein the Officiating Auditor General's letter* of 11th May 1863, No. 51, with enclosures.

* To be returned.

ORDER THEREON, 20th June 1863, No. 1,619.

1. The Government sanction the arrangement proposed by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General for the payment of Salary Bills, &c., by Cheques from the Offices of Executive Engineers, instead of from the Civil Treasuries as heretofore. It is observed that this arrangement has met with the approval of the Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.

2. With regard to deduction for Income Tax and subscriptions to Service Funds, the Government approve of the plan of drawing the Cheques for the full amount of the Salary Bills

a Memorandum of the deductions being entered on the reverse. In the case of deductions on account of Service Funds, the parties concerned should remit their subscriptions themselves by "Public Service Remittance Receipts" to be granted by Treasury Officers.

3. An alteration in the form of Cheque now used seems necessary. At present a foot note is inserted to the effect that unless the Cheque is produced within the month, it will not be cashed. As much inconvenience will be felt by the continuance of this prohibition in the case of Salary Bills, the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General is requested to suggest an arrangement whereby the difficulty may be obviated.

4. The arrangement sanctioned above will not be carried out until the question of the re-organization of the Department, now under consideration, has been finally settled, and the salaries and allowances of the Officers and Subordinates decided upon.

5. On the final settlement of the subject the Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts will issue the necessary instructions (by Circular) to the Officers of the Department.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General.
„ Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts.
„ Revenue Department, } for information.
„ Financial Department, }
„ Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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Fin.ce 1863 Dep.tt

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Proc.s of Govt. in the
P.W. Dep.tt - 1619

d/ 20th }
r/ 23d } June/63

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No 434

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Sanctioning certain arrangements proposed by the Dep.y Auditor and Accountant General for the payment of Salary Bills in connection with the P.W. Dep.tt -

29th June 1863 No. 422 -

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