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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Finance DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 449 Press / Mis.

65-66

Dated 22-9- 1865.

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***Not to be folded or roughly handled***

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,*
*22nd September* 1865.

No. 65. Read the following letter from R. TAYLOR, Esq., Acting Deputy Accountant General, Madras, to the Honorable A. J. ARBUTHNOT, Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George; dated 12th September 1865, No. 90.

Post Audit Department.

An usage prevails here of asking the Quarter Master General of the Army to check all mileage bills of officers travelling within their Districts. He has recourse in the first instance to route books, but when the hamlets may not be named therein, the distance between the point of departure and the point of arrival is pricked off on the Atlas sheets. These frequent references, of course, give that officer much trouble, and I learn privately that he is discontented, though as yet he has made no formal complaint. But I submit that these references are unnecessary, and that the results must be delusive. They are unnecessary, as not made elsewhere,—delusive, because a District Officer's camp cannot always, or generally, be pitched at the encamping ground or a village site which must be the ends of the measuring clerk's imaginary line of march. And I with confidence recommend, as an arrangement more satisfactory in every way, that distances shown in such bills should generally be accepted on a certificate from the officer drawing them, that he has taken pains to ascertain the length of his marches, and has shown them accurately to the best of his knowledge and belief.

2. I think, however, that there is one class of officers in whose case further check is possible and desirable. Deputy Inspectors of Schools are Natives on moderate pay, probably little in the habit of estimating distances, and still less able to compute them by English miles. Their journeys, however, must as a rule be from school to school, that is between fixed well known points; and if they go to other places, their departmental superiors would probably wish to be informed of the divergence and its cause. A Polymetrical table of distances for all the schools in a Deputy Inspector's charge could, doubtless, be prepared without difficulty, whereby the officer countersigning the bill could check the distances shown. The Director may urge that the duty of checking such statements rather pertains to my office, but I submit that the countersigning officer must apply some check, that this is the only possible check, that I could know nothing of divergencies, or of the conditions which make one order of visiting more desirable than another, that, in short, my check would be more mechanical and applied with greater labor.

3. The sum of my recommendations then is, that the Quarter Master General be no longer troubled to check mileages, that Police and other officers be directed to append a certificate of honor to their bills, and that those of Deputy Inspectors of Schools be checked by the countersigning officer by formal Polymetrical tables, or by information specially called for.

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No. 66. ORDER THEREON, 22nd September 1865, No. 449.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs in the recommendations submitted in the foregoing letter, and resolves accordingly to relieve the Quarter Master General from the duty of checking the mileages shown in the bills of officers travelling within their Districts, and to direct that Police and other officers drawing such allowance be required to append to their bills a certificate of honor to the effect suggested at the end of the first paragraph, and that the bills of Deputy Inspectors of Schools be checked by the countersigning officers either by Polymetrical Tables or by information specially called for.

(True Extract).

*Acting Secretary to Government.*

To the Accountant General.
" Military Department.
" Director of Public Instruction.
" Revenue Deparment.
" Judicial do.
" Quarter Master General.

Exd. J. H. Burns.

1st Audit

AND ADJUSTMENT DEPARTMENT.

No. 90

Fort Saint George,
Depy. Audr. and Acct. Genl.'s Office,
12th September 1865

FROM

THE DEPUTY ~~[illegible]~~ ACCOUNTANT GENERAL,
MADRAS.

TO

THE Chief Secretary to Government
Madras

SIR,

An usage prevails here of asking the Quarter Master General of the Army to check all mileage bills of Officers travelling within their Districts. He has recourse in the first instance to route books, but where the hamlets may not be named therein, the distance between the point of departure and the point of arrival is proved off on the Atlas sheets. These frequent references of course give that Officer much trouble, and I learn privately that he is discontented though as yet he has made no formal Complaint. But I submit that these references are unnecessary and that the results must be delusive. They are unnecessary as not made elsewhere, delusive because a District Officer's Camp Cannot always, or generally, be pitched at the encamping ground or a Village site which must be the ends of the measuring clerk's imaginary line of marches. And I wish Government recommend, as an arrangement more satisfactory in every way, that distances shown in such bills should generally be accepted as a certificate from the Officer drawing them, that he has taken pains to ascertain the lengths of his marches and has shown them accurately to the best of his knowledge and belief.

2. I think however that there is one class of Officers in whose case further check is possible and

and desirable. Deputy Inspectors of Schools are patrons on moderate pay, probably little in the habit of estimating distances & still less able to compute them by English miles. Their journeys however, must as a rule be from School to school, that is between fixed well known points, and if they go to other places their departmental superiors would probably wish to be informed of the divergence and its cause - A polymetrical table of distances for all the Schools in a Deputy Inspector's charge, could doubtless be prepared without difficulty, whereby the Officer Countersigning the bill could check the distances shown. The Director may urge that the duty of checking Such Statements rather pertains to my Office, but I submit that the Countersigning Officer must apply some check, that this the only possible check, that I could know nothing of divergencies or of the Conditions which make one order of visiting more desirable than another, that in short my check would be more mechanical and applied with greater labor.

3. The sum of my recommendations then is. that the Quarter Master General, be no longer troubled to check mileages, that Police and other Officers be directed to append a certificate of honor to their bills, and that those of D.y: Inspectors of Schools be checked by the Countersigning Officer by formal polymetrical tables or by information specially called for.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your most obedient servant
Naylor
Ag. Dy Accountant General

Financial 1865 Dept

From

The Actg Accountt. Genl.
Madras

To

The Chief Secretary
to Government
Madras

Date of Despatch 13th Sept. 1865
do of Receipt 14 —

No 90.
No 443

States that distances travelled by Officers need not be checked upon information received from the Quarter Master General of the Army.

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Financial Department.

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read letter from the Sy. Dy. Asst. General
(Dated 12th Sepr '65 No 90)

Order — 22nd September 1865 No 449.

R. G. the Governor in Council concurs in the recommendations submitted in the foregoing letter & resolves accordingly to relieve the Quarter Master General from the duty of checking the mileages shown in the Bills of Officers travelling within their Districts; & to direct that Collrs & other Officers drawing such allowances be required to append to their Bills a Certificate of honor to the effect suggested at the end of the first para, & that the Bills of Deputy Inspectors of Schools be checked by the countersigning Officers either by Departmental Tables or by information specially called for.

To Accountant General
" ~~Sy. Dy. Asst. General~~
" Director of Pub. Instruction
" Revenue Department
" Judicial Department

Pros of September

Financial 1865. Department.

No. 449

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT.

Dated 22 September 65

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