M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 6

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Financial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 477 Press / Mis.

Dated 17-12 18 66.

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Financial Department,
17th December 1866.

No. 33. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 30th November 1866, No. 3823A.

Communicating Resolution of Government of India, forwarding revised rules for the audit of Railway Accounts. } (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Department, dated 30th November 1866, Nos. 681—683.)

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, 17th December 1866, No. 477.

To be recorded.

(Signed) A. J. ARBUTHNOT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd. J. Tulloch.

Read the following papers:—

No. 681. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Railway Branch,) dated Simla, 30th October 1866, No. 1,054 A.

1. In forwarding to you a copy of Resolution No. 1,009 A of 24th instant, circulating the revised Rules for the audit of Railway Accounts, I am directed to say that, with the exception of that part which relates to the new mode of placing Railway Companies in funds, and which it has been found necessary to introduce from the 1st January next, the only change, which it is believed will be found in the new system, from what already obtains in the audit of the Railway Accounts in Madras, is in the form of monthly account current. It will be observed, however, by reference to the remarks on Form No. V., that this form is intended to be merely illustrative, and need not be rigidly adhered to, but may be varied to suit the accounts of any particular Railway. The only necessary condition of such an account is, that it shall embrace the whole cash receipts and disbursements of the Company in India, and open and close with the cash balances of the agency and its Officers.

2. With reference to Article XXII. of the Rules, I am to request that the Government of India may be informed of the period which the Consulting Engineer to the Government of Madras may fix on, within which the accounts of each month are to be rendered to him. I am to add, with reference to paragraph 7 of Resolution No. 642-9 A of the 23rd July last, that the Governor General in Council still hopes to be favored with the opinion of the Government of Madras on the Rules, and requests that should experience of their working render improvement apparent, suggestions for the needful revision may be made to the Government of India.

3. The Governor General in Council hopes also that the reply to my letter No. 358 A of the 23rd July may be furnished at an early date.

No. 682. From the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, (Railway Branch,) dated Simla, 2nd November 1866, No 1,074 A.

1. I am directed to inform you that the Accountant General, Public Works Department, has been instructed to proceed to Madras next month, in view to afford any personal explanation and assistance that may be necessary in applying the new Rules, issued with Resolution No. 1,009 A of the 24th October, to the Audit of Railway Accounts, and to carrying out the inspection contemplated in the 12th paragraph thereof.

2. With respect to the value of the supervision to be exercised on these occasions by the Accountant General, I am to forward an extract from a letter* lately addressed to the Government of Bombay on the sulject, and which it is hoped will explain clearly the kind of

* No. 1,053 A of 30th October 1866, paragraph 13.

relations which the Government of India desires to have established in this matter, between the Accountant General and the Local Officers of the Railway Department.

Extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Public Works Department, to the Secretary to the Government of Bombay, in the Railway Department, No. 1,053 A, dated 30th October 1866.

13. *Inspection of Accounts by Accountant General, Public Works Department.*

On this point, the views of the Government of Bombay will probably have been met by the Resolution* of the Government of India, indicating the functions of the Accountant General and his relations to the Consulting Engineer. I am desired to say that there is no intention whatever of placing the Consulting Engineer's Office in any position of subordination to the Accountant General or on the footing, with respect to the latter, of a Controller of Public Works Accounts. The Accountant General's functions, with regard to the Railway Accounts, will be those of an Inspecting Officer on behalf of the Government of India; and whilst it would of course be open to Officers on the spot and to the Local Government, to act on any suggestions made by the Accountant General verbally or otherwise, his reports will be made to the Government of India, by whom the Government of Bombay will in due course be addressed on any points calling for observation. There is, in fact, no more question of subordination involved in such relations, than there is in the case of the Examiners of the Audit Board, who conduct the Appropriation Audit of the Accounts of the Admiralty, War Office, and other Public Departments in England. All that is required on behalf of the Accountant General is the supply of certain returns, and free access to the books of the Consulting Engineer and Railway Companies.

* Resolution No. 1,010A of 24th October 1866, about revised rules for Railway Audit.

No. 683. ORDER THEREON, 30th November 1866, No. 3,823A.

ACCOUNT, No. 56.

1. The foregoing papers will be communicated to the Consulting Engineer for Railways for his information and guidance with reference to the Order of Government of the 7th instant, No. 3,550.

2. The Rules now forwarded by the Government of India for conducting the examination and audit of Railway Accounts, supersede the draft rules* previously communicated to the Consulting Engineer, and will at once be brought into force, with the exception of Clauses I. to V, relating to the provision of funds, which will be introduced from the 1st January 1867.

With G. O. 23rd August 1866, No. 2,674.

3. Adverting to paragraphs 3 and 4 of the above quoted Order No. 3,550, it will be observed that, among other modifications, the submission by the Railway authorities of the monthly schedules of works and establishments is not required by the rules as they now stand. The charges entered in the monthly Accounts Current will be checked by the Examiner, as provided in Clause XXIV of the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
30th November 1866.

Rules, by comparison with the detailed accounts maintained in the Railway Company's Office.

4. With reference to Clause XXII of the Rules, the Consulting Engineer will report, as soon as possible, the date which may be agreed upon for the submission of the monthly Account Current.

5. The special attention of the Consulting Engineer is requested to paragraphs 6, 7, 9 and 10 of the Resolution of the Government of India, No. 1,009A, of the 24th ultimo.

6. Lieutenant-Colonel Anderson will observe that the points mooted by him in paragraphs 9 and 10 of his letter, dated the 15th ultimo, No. 406, are, in great measure, disposed of in the enclosure to Colonel Dicken's letter, dated the 2nd instant, No. 1,074 A.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Consulting Engineer for Railways.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Accountant General.
,, Financial Department. with 11 Copies of the Rules & of the Resn No 1009 A

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Pro: 28 Augt 66/57-58

Financial 866 Dept

Recd Dec 67

Pros: Govt P.W. Dept
No 3823 A

2/30 Nov
R/5 Decr 1866

2 Encs & 105C of this & Enc

No 487

Comng Resolution of
Govt of India forwarding
revised rules for the
audit of Railway
Accounts.-
17 Dec 66 No 477