M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 247 Press ~~His.~~

110-141

Dated 22. 2. 1861 ~~19~~ .

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department, 22nd February 1861.

No. 140. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 15th February 1861, No. 309.

Communicating the Order passed on a letter from the Chief Engineer, requesting that Government would sanction Cash Peons to all Subordinates in charge of a Taluq and having a Cash Chest, &c. (Vide Proceedings Public Works Department, dated 15th February 1861, Nos. 190—192.)

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 22nd February 1861, No. 247.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Police.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Exd, T. O'Connor.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following papers :—

From Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 22nd December 1860, No. 8,416.

SIR,

4 Original letters.
No. 767, dated 26th November 1860.
" 197, dated 8th December 1860.
" 104, dated 12th "
" 817, dated 10th "
† 10th November 1860, No. 2,328.

1. I have the honor to forward herewith, for the orders of Government, letters received from the District Engineers of Cuddapah, Salem and South Arcot, the two former being replies to letters from this Office, written upon receipt of the Order of Government, marginally noted, and the last being in answer to Circular CXI, issued subsequently.

† 17th May 1859, No. 1,180.

2. In that Order (paragraph 5) Government say that they presume that under a previous Order, an absolute stop had been put to the employment of Peons from Estimates to guard Táluq cash chests. Such, however, had not been done, as it was considered that the sanction for their entertainment given in Extract Minutes Consultation 1st May 1858, No. 821, was not affected by the Order of May 1859, and until the receipt of the Proceedings of Government of 10th ultimo, all Cash Peons entertained in the Districts were passed in this Office, as they were considered to be absolutely necessary to enable Sub-Overseers, of whom a very great number are in charge of Táluqs, owing to the present numerically weak state of the Department, to perform their duties effectually. It is true, that in their Order of 1st May 1858, Government say that the sanction then given is not to be taken as authority for the entertainment of these Peons as a permanent arrangement, and that their services are to be dispensed with immediately the necessity for their employment shall cease, but certainly, that time has not yet come, as is most distinctly shown in a subsequent letter from District Engineer Cuddapah,* also herewith submitted.

No. 817, dated 10th December 1860.

3. As the subject is one of paramount importance affecting, as it does, the safety of a very considerable amount of Government money in every District of this Presidency, I deem it right to submit, without waiting for the replies from the other District Engineers, the letters which accompany this, in order that the matter may be definitively settled by Government with as little delay as possible, when they are made aware of the actual facts of the case.

4. In transmitting these letters I am in duty bound to state my own opinion upon the general question, and I have no hesitation in saying that Subordinates in charge of Táluqs must have some one to guard their cash chests. The works under their charge are scattered over a very large extent of country, and when they start from their head-quarter station to inspect and measure the works in progress or completed, they take with them a supply of money to enable them to pay for the work executed since last inspection, and it is therefore absolutely necessary that they should have some one whom they can hold responsible for the safety of their cash chests. It is utterly impossible that Subordinates when inspecting and measuring can always have their eye upon their money box, and although they will doubtless be supplied by the range Officers with a certain amount in cheques, still there will always be a sum in ready cash quite sufficient to tempt a thief to steal, and I do not see how any member of the Department can be held responsible for the safety of public money confided to a Subordinate who has no one but himself to take care of his cash chest. If Government should be pleased to adopt Captain Hemery's suggestion of detaching a Police Peon to guard each disbursing Subordinate's cash chest, the Peons paid from Estimates will no longer be needed.

5. In conclusion, I have the honor to request the early orders of Government upon this important subject, as I feel with Captain Hemery that unless some guard to cash chests is granted, work must be stopped in all Táluqs now under the charge of Lower Subordinates, unless Government be willing to run the risk of unguarded cash chests being moved about the Districts in the routine of duty. Government may probably consider that I should be able to provide the above custodians for cash chests from the new general Establishment to be allotted to the various Districts under their Order, dated 20th September 1860, No. 1,965, but after having given the subject due consideration, I am of opinion that that source cannot be looked to to supply the present want, as many, if not all, of the 86 Upper Subordinates, who will thus be deprived of their personal Establishment, will be in charge of Táluqs, and therefore require one of their Lascars to look after their cash chests, if the District Engineer should be able to spare him for that duty, which I very much doubt. The primary object of

86 Gumáshtás and 172 Lascars.

constituting this new general Establishment in each District was stated in my letter of 2nd July last, No. 2,331, to be that each District Engineer should have it in his power to appoint the Gumáshtás to particular works when they are required and to detail two or three Lascars for duty under an Officer engaged in surveying and levelling, and thus doubtless not only expedite work but save other extra Establishments. Further, it is plain that if the Lascars are engaged on these duties, they cannot act as custodians of Subordinates' cash chest.

Official Memorandum from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 28th January 1861, No. 9,325:—

1. In reply to the Official Memorandum by the Secretary to Government, dated 17th instant, No. 14, the Chief Engineer has the honor to state that at present there are apparently about 90 Lower Subordinates in charge of Táluqs, the exact number cannot be given just now, but the District Engineers have been called upon to say who is in charge of each Táluq in their Districts, and when answers are received a definite reply will be sent to the Secretary to Government.

2. The Chief Engineer in his letter dated 22nd December 1860, No. 8,416, referred to Lower Subordinates only, as at that time Upper Subordinates had a Gumáshta and Lascars, but when these are taken from them for general District purposes as specified in letter dated 23rd instant, No. 9,150, the Upper Subordinates will be dependent upon the District Engineer for a Lascar to guard their cash chests, and as he may not always be able to give them one, they will then be similarly circumstanced with Lower Subordinates at present.

3. Under these circumstances, it would be well if Government would sanction Cash Peons to all Subordinates in charge of a Táluq and having a cash chest, when no Lascars of the general Establishment are available for that purpose.

ORDER THEREON, 15th February 1861, No. 309.

1. There are about 90 Sub-Overseers in charge of Táluqs, and having to make payments they have necessarily the custody of some public money; and they require some one to keep and guard their cash chests, as they could not be constantly looking after them themselves.

2. Hitherto it has been usual, though without the knowledge of Government, and notwithstanding an Order of May 1859 prohibiting the payment out of Estimate sanctions of persons unconnected with the works, to employ a cash chest Peon for each Sub-Overseer having a cash chest, paying him out of the Estimates for the works on which the Sub-Overseer is employed.

3. An Order of 10th November 1860 having expressed the opinion of the Government against that practice, the Chief Engineer now brings the matter forward. He states, and it is no doubt true, that these Sub-Overseers must have some one to guard their cash chests; and he suggests, following Captain Hemery, that a Police Peon should be attached to each Sub-Overseer in charge of a Táluq. This plan, however, cannot be adopted without augmenting by the same number the strength of the Police force which the Government are not prepared to do; and as Colonel Horsley reports that he is unable to provide Lascars for the duty from the general Establishment of Districts, His Honor in Council sees no other course than to permit the past practice to continue for the present, as a known and admitted arrangement, and under the supervision of the Central Office. The persons employed will however be called Lascars, not Peons.

4. The Chief Engineer refers also to the case of Upper Subordinates in charge of Táluqs; from whom, under the Order of September 20th, No. 1,965, their Establishments are to be taken away. As these persons also will thus be left without assistance, he considers that they too ought to have Police Peons. The Governor in Council sees no necessity however for now providing for this class. It has been ordered, indeed, that the Establishments of Upper Subordinates not in charge of Ranges should be made general; but before doing that, their real wants must be supplied. This may be done apparently by leaving each one a single Lascar.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Chief Engineer.

Judicial Dept. V

Exd. T. S. Augustin.

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Prov: 5 Feby
Judicial 1861 Dep: C

Proc: of Govt in the
P. W: D: 309.

J. 15 to 18
Ej. 19 to 33 Feby 61.

2 spare copies -

No 265.

Conq the order passed
on a letter from the Chief
Engineer requesting that
Govt would sanction Cash
Rems to all Subordinates
in Charge of a Taling
and having a Cash Chest &c

1402 1412

Certified Order

No: 247 - 22nd February 1861 -

Communicated to the Inspector
General of Police -

Inspector General
of Police

JP

To the Inspr Genl of Police Dept: 22-2-61.