

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Judicial DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	1687	Press ~~Mis.~~
^{2182/7} Dated	24-11-	19 1864

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Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Judicial Department,
24th November 1864.

No. 218. Read the following Proceedings of Government in the Public Works Department, dated 16th November 1864, No. 3292.

Communicating Resolution of the Government of India, relative to the mode of accounting for charges for convict labor employed upon public works. (Vide Proceedings, Public Works Dept., dated 16th November 1864, Nos. 333 & 334.)

No. 219. ORDER THEREON, 24th November 1864, No. 1687.

Communicated to the Inspector General of Jails.

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

To the Inspector General of Jails.

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th November 1864.*

No. 333. Read the following Proceedings of the Governor General of India in Council,
Public Works Department, dated Simla, 20th September 1864, Circular No. 71:—
Exclusion of charges for value of Convict Labour from the Public Works Accounts.

Read the following:—

*Note by MAJOR G. CHESNEY, Accountant General, Public Works Department, on the mode of
accounting for charges for Convict Labour employed upon Public Works.*

1. Hitherto it has been the rule to charge for convict labour employed upon Public Works
at two-thirds the usual rate paid for free labour of a like description. See Public Works Code,
page 136.

2. There is of course no actual payment, but the works are debited, and the head "Convict
Labour" receives corresponding credit in the books. It is believed that the Civil Department
makes a corresponding charge against this Department in their accounts.

3. The Commission propose (in paragraph 148 of their Report) to abolish this adjustment.
Besides being troublesome and cumbrous, it clearly is a fictitious account, for it is quite an
arbitrary assumption that convict labour will be of exactly two-thirds the value of ordinary
labour. And such an account is opposed to the financial principles now in force, which aim at
reality and simplification. Under late orders of the Financial Department, even adjustment of
transfers of actual transactions in cash and stores between Departments are to be abolished; *a
fortiori* an account of this sort should be discontinued.

4. The proposal of the Accounts Commissioners is, that the value of the work to be done
by convicts should be taken as a reduction upon the estimate for the work.

By this I understand that the estimate would take account of only the probable actual
charges to be incurred for cash and stores expended, and that a simple Memorandum would be
added at foot of the probable value of the convict labour to be used in addition. The estimate
would be passed for the value of cash and stores estimated to be expended as above, and the audit
would be conducted upon those charges. A roster of the convict labour employed would be
kept and noted monthly, and in the final bill (or whatever document may hereafter take its place)
the value of such convict labour would be noted in the same way as it was upon the Estimate.
But no charges would anywhere be booked in the accounts.

5. These proposals, if approved, might be carried out at once with effect from the com-
mencement of the current official year. Any credits already posted in the books to credit of
convict labour should be written back, and all estimates now in force which include convict
labour, should have the needful correction of their value made. These charges occur in only
two or three Divisions of Public Works, so that the change should not be at all troublesome.

RESOLUTION.—His Excellency the Governor General in Council is pleased to approve the
above proposals, and to authorize their being carried into effect from the 1st May 1864.

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western
Provinces, and Punjab.
Governor, Straits Settlements.
Chief Commissioners, Oudh, British Burmah, and Central
Provinces.
Commissioner of Mysore.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Government General, Rajputana and Central India.

ORDER.—Ordered, that copy of the fore-
going Resolution be forwarded to the Local
Governments and Administrations marginally
noted, and to the Superintendent of Lighthouses,
for information and guidance.

Also, that a copy be forwarded to the Financial Department and to the Accountant General,
Public Works Department, for information.

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel R. E.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain R. E.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

To the Secretary to Government of Madras, Public Works Department.

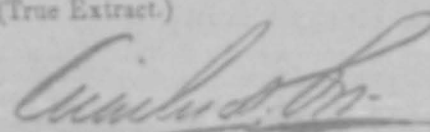
*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
16th November 1864.*

No. 334.

ORDER THEREON, 16th November 1864, No. 3,292.

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers, and to the Controller of Public Works Accounts for information and guidance.

(True Extract.)



Colonel. R. E.

Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.
" Controller of Public Works Accounts.
" Judicial Department.

Heaven's gift to
P. H. Hill 1852

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Committee of
Reduction of the Bill of
Laws, relative to the
mode of accounting for
charges for Council labor
employed upon Public
work.

218. 219.

12/29/68

Nov^r 1687 - 24th Remains in the
Communicated to the
Director General of Sails.

The Inspector Genl.
of India } Sept 25/77