

Marine
Public Works (1899) Department.

G.O., No. 829 *marine*

DATED *5th* Sept 1899.

Q. 7
858 m/99

[Despatch Abstract.]

Audit of the Harbour Trust Board's accounts for
1897-98 - Letter from the Accountant -
Genl, Madras, forwarding copies of certain
correspondence on the — recorded -

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Order

Forwarding copy of letter no 44 D
to the members, Hobbs & Smith 121 5403 and
17th instanter the Audit of the Board
Accounts for 1897-98. and copies of
the Chairman's letter no 65/10 dated
2nd June 1899 & Mr Dawson's reply
no. 3607 dated 5th July.

Key A

Resolved that the Chairman address the Accountant General. (True Extract)

(True Extract)
(22/). C. P. Pincent-
Secretary
Harbour Trust- Board

(True copy)

Wheeler
Off: Col. Superintendent.

Letter from the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board
Madras, No. $\frac{65}{10}$ dated 2^d June 1899 to the Accountant
General, Madras.

I have the honour to hand you herewith copy
of resolution passed by the Trustees of the Harbour at
their last meeting held on the 26th May.

2. The Board is of opinion that your remarks in
paras 9, 27 and 30 of your audit report on the ac-
counts for the year 1897-98 extend to a criticism
of administration, and are out of place in an audit
of accounts.

3. The Trustees do not approve of your proposal that
its investments in Government Securities should be
deposited with you instead of being held for safe
custody by the Bank of Madras. The safe custody
receipts are open to your inspection for the purpose of
audit, and your certificate that the Securities are ac-
tually held by the Bank is all that the Trustees
require. With reference to your remark regarding the
Biden Home you appear to have lost sight of the
difference between the Trust as a corporate body, under the
Act II of 1886, and as Conservator of the Port.

4. In conclusion the Trustees would remark that
opinion it scarcely comes within the province of an audit
of accounts to call in question the powers of the Chairman
in an audit report. Should you at any time during
the course of an audit consider that the Chairman have
exceeded his authority of sanction, it should be brought
to his notice, for him to take such action as may
seem necessary. I would point out that the Harbour
Trust Board though subordinate to Government is not
a Deptt. of Government & that the Accountant General
is

vide pag 8

8 para 33
your audit
report

x para 4

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is not necessarily the Auditor of its accounts vide
Section 43 Act II of 1886.

(True copy)

M. Masaru

Chief Superintendent.

ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
FORT ST. GEORGE,
the st of November 1899.

Dear Sir,

I shall feel much
obliged if you will substitute
the accompanying extract from
this Office letter No. 3607 dated
5th July '99 for the enclosure which
was wrongly copied and forwarded
with letter No. 576^{OA} d/ 25th August '99.

The latter has no bearing on the
points at issue and it is very
unfortunate that the mistake was
made and that it was not detected
earlier.

Yours truly,

J. S. Soro
Chief Supt.

C. S. Simpson, Esq.

Office letter No. 3607 d/ 5th July '99
By. Offg. Accountant General to
J- 771 - 1
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if they refrain

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those referred to in the paras in question merely because their criticisms might amount to criticisms of administration. I am aware however that ~~diverse~~ opinions are current as to the scope of an auditor's duties and I request that if the Board desires that the auditors of its accounts should refrain from bringing such matters to notice in future it will obtain the orders of Govt. on the subject.

14-4- As regards the powers of the Chairman being called in question in the audit report, I would observe that it is an essential part of an auditor's duty to challenge expenditure incurred without due authority and it is not clear why cases of expenditure which have been sanctioned by the chairman but which require other authority should not be noted in ordinary course in the report like other irregularities.

I have &c.

(27) W. H. Dawson.

Offg. Accountant General.

(True Extract)

W. H. Dawson

Chief Superintendent,

Acctt. General's Office.

Extract from the Accountant General's letter No O. A/3607 dated 5th of July 1899 to the Chairman, Harbour Trust Board, Madras.

vide letter to H.S. in May B

2. Para 2 - As there are separate files for the applications presented in each month and a place is reserved therein for each application according to its number there should be no difficulty in pasting the applications in their proper places even if some of them are detained by consignees for several months.

3. Para 3 - You state that the separation of bill counterfoils was carried out at the suggestion of this office but it was suggested at the same time ^{that} the separated counterfoils should be retained by the Traffic Manager in a special box and at the close of the day should be assorted according to their serial numbers and bound when complete. It is the neglect of this precaution that has caused the defects in the system noticed in the report.

4. Para 4. Under the present system the Cashier has the means of realizing sums due to the Board and keeping them out of the books until it suits his purpose to account for them. This matter and that referred to in the preceding para will it is understood receive further consideration by the Board.

(True Extract)

M. K. Masani

Offg. Chief Superintendent.

Outside Audit Department.

It is requested that, in future communications on the subject, the No and date of this letter, and the distinguishing letters above the number as given opposite, may be quoted.

No. C.A.D.
5403

FORT ST. GEORGE.

17th August 1899

From

T. HESKETH RIGGS ESQ.,

ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

The Chairman, Harbour Trust Board,
Madras.

SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No. 1657 A, dated the 24th of July 1899.

Para 4. In my opinion a list of properties should be complete and include those that are given free rent as well as those for which rent is due. For purposes of audit a list of those on which rent is leviable will suffice to check the rent due, but the auditors should also be able to trace authority for buildings for which no rent is levied under orders of the Board- It was not intended that huts erected by fishermen and others should be entered.

3. Para 5. The byelaw of 10th May 1894 ^Q No 3 is not clear on the subject and it supersedes all previous byelaws- a sanction given under an obsolete byelaw such as that referred in your letter No. 65/11, dated 26th June last can therefore be hardly held to be valid. I think it would be best to obtain orders of the Board on the subject.

4. Para 6. The Resolution you refer to applies only to Public Works charges. Government Officers are required to obtain sanction for unusual charges, and articles of English Manufacture, and it seems desirable some orders regarding the powers of the Chairman were also laid down.

5. Regarding ^{uniform} information- a scale has been laid down for

reference of audit report

note regarding? Page 6.

not received

vide para 19 of audit report

para 20

16/8/99

Outside Audit Department.

FORT ST. GEORGE.

25th August 1899

No. *O.A.*
5761

It is requested that, in future communications on the subject, the No and date of this letter, and the distinguishing letters above the number as given opposite, may be quoted.

From

T. HESKETH BIGGS ESQ.,

ACCOUNTANT-GENERAL TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS,

To

The Secretary to Government,

Marine Department.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward a copy of my last letter to the Chairman of the Harbour Trust Board regarding the audit of the Board accounts for 1897-98, No.O.A.D./5403, dated 17th instant, as well as copies of Chairman's letter No.65/10, dated 2nd June 1899, and Mr. Dawson's reply No.3607, dated 5th July for the information of Government.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

T. Hesketh Biggs
Accountant-General.

Enclosed

**(Paras 2, 3 & 4 only)*

Government employes in the interests of economy-it is not clear therefore ^{why} only in the case of the Trust employes it should lead to additional expense, it is a matter for the Board to decide.

6. I have the honour to point out that the auditors only bring forward points for consideration in the interests of the Board.

It is nothing to them whether the Board allows all its buildings to be occupied rent free or not, or whether the Chairman is

allowed to spend whatever he chooses without reference to the Board, but sanction of proper authority is necessary to allow the auditors to pass such items, and they would be neglecting

their duty to Government and the Board were they to omit to bring to notice defects and irregularities which the accounts disclose.

7. In conclusion I have the honour to refer you to G.O.No.311 Marine dated 6th April last and to suggest that the necessary report should now be made to Government.

I have &c.

(Signed) T. HESKETH BIGGS

Accountant-General.

(True copy)

W. H. S. S. S.
Offg: Chief Superintendent.

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