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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Con. 11.2.57

G.O. No. 1556 Press Mis.

82.89

Dated 10 — 8 — 18 87

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 11*th* **August** 1857.

No. 82. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 18th February 1857, No. 10352.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Tanjore District, 11th February 1857, No. 37 of 1857.

Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 226, dated 29th January 1857.

2. As the original designer of the Nundyaur Annicut. I should have been glad of an opportunity of showing that I did not under estimate the waterway required, nor fail in my duty of examining the river channel which I had known for many years, in every condition of flood and drought, but the additional estimate was sent up for sanction, during my absence from the Central office.

3. An examination of the Map will shew that the Nundyaur is one of the smallest affluents of the Cauvery and Coleroon, having much less drainage and about equal fall as the Coolayaur, Iyaur, Currapotanam and Corayaur, in the Trichinopoly District, and yet my dimensions for the Nundyaur Dam of 300 feet exceeded those of any work I can now remember on the other streams, and I think that if my calculation had been incorrect, it must have been noticed and amended by such Officers as Lieutenants O'Connell and Ryves who succeeded me.

4. The Dam moreover was adapted to the full breadth of the river, and neither my own experience, nor the information of the people led me to imagine the possibility of such a flood as that described by the District Engineer, in reporting the disaster, which was the more singular, as the fall of rain necessary to produce it did not appear general or even extensive. That a jungle stream like the Nundyaur should cover a breadth of more than a mile, is only explicable on the supposition, that the cloud over hanging its valley was discharged like a waterspout. But what has occurred may recur, and therefore while claiming the credit of proper calculation on all reasonable grounds, I do not question the propriety of extending the Annicut.

5. In requesting you will do me the favour to lay this explanation before Government. I cannot avoid the observation, that if the reports of the Local Officers were to pass through the Superintending Engineer, references would be avoided which the existing system entails, and the local and general knowledge of the latter would be far more available.

Resolved, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation, No. 226, dated 29th January 1857, to forward for the consideration, and orders of Government, copy of the foregoing letter No. 37, dated 11th Instant, from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, on Circuit.

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON, Captain,
Acting Superintending Engineer N. C.

Read again letter to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 13th and recorded in Diary to Consultation, 17th March 1857, No. 470.

No. 83. Read also the following letter from E. H. LUSHINGTON, Esq., in charge of the office of the Secretary to the Government of Bengal at the Presidency; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated Fort William, the 5th May 1857, No. 708.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 470, dated the 13th March last, and in reply to forward copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3501, dated the 30th Ultimo, containing the information required by the Government of Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the Central office of account of the Public Works Department.

Letter from Colonel H. GOODWYN, Esq., Chief Engineer Lower Provinces; to LD. LUSHINGTON, Esq., Secretary Government of Bengal, dated 30th April 1857, No. 3501.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Docket No. 497, dated the 21st March 1857, forwarding copy of letter No. 470 of the 13th Idem from the Acting Secretary to the Government Fort Saint George, requesting information as to the arrangements which obtain in Bengal, for conducting the duties of the Central office of account of the Public Works Department.

2nd. In reply I have to state that the following course of procedure is adopted in the Central office of account in Bengal.

The Executive Engineer draws monthly on letters of credit granted by the Chief Engineer the amount required in his Division expends a portion himself and distributes the remainder to his Subordinate disbursing Agents who render monthly accounts of their daily expenditure in the forms prescribed by the Chief Engineer.

The Executive Engineer checks, examines their accuracy and correctness, enters his remarks thereon, calls for explanation if any he required, and when complete and intelligible, transmits them in original with daily accounts of his own expenditure to the Central office under a cover addressed to the Superintending Engineer of his Circle.

The latter aided by an Assistant Accountant has charge of a section of the Central office, receives the above correspondence and communicates at once his instructions to the Executive on matters within his competence. All questions involing principles, changes of procedure &c., items of retrenchment, Audit and Adjustment, application for advances, orders for payment are laid with the Superintending Engineer's opinion by the Head Accountant before the Chief Engineer.

In the absence of the Superintending Engineer on tour of inspection or other cause the correspondence of the branch office is disposed of by the Head Accountant under the orders of the Chief Engineer.

The Circle office examines the calculations compiles and ledgers the expenditure of each Executive Engineer and prepares a monthly Abstract there from, which with the Superintending Engineer's remarks on progress and rates of work is presented by the Head Accountant with an Audit Statement to the Chief Engineer, thence it is submitted to Government with the Chief Engineer's recommendation of the amount to be passed to the credit of the Executive Engineer, and a copy of the Abstract and a Statement of the retrenchments (if any be made by the Chief Engineer) are at the same time, sent by the Head Accountant for the Executive Engineer's information.

No. 84. ORDER THEREON, No. 1556; dated 10th August 1857.

In writing to the Chief Engineer with reference to the doubt expressed by Government, as to whether due precaution had been taken against recent disaster at the Nundyaur annicut, the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle mooted, in para. 5 of his letter of the 11th February last, the important question of making the local and general experience of the Superintending Engineers more available than at present, by permitting the reports of the local Officers to pass through their hands to the Chief Engineer. The Government were induced by this suggestion as well as by the experience they have had of the system of conducting the business in the Chief Engineer's Office, to apply to the Government of Bengal for information, as to the arrangements obtaining in that Presidency for conducting the duties of the Central office of the Department of Public Works, in order to ascertain the position of Superintending Engineers in Bengal with respect to the head of the Department. The Government of Bengal, mistaking the full scope of the enquiry made by this Government, have with their letter of the 5th May, furnished information as to the mode of conducting the duties of the Central office in the Department of accounts only; but even in this respect, the Government observe that the position of the Superintending Engineer in Bengal is different from that of the corresponding Officer at Madras; for there, he would appear to exercise a direct control over his

Circle, receiving the accounts and correspondence of the local Officers under covers addressed to him as the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, and communicating his orders direct to the Executives on matters within his competence, taking the instructions of the Chief Engineer, only on matters requiring special consideration.

2. It was originally intended by Government that all correspondence between the Chief Engineer and his Subordinate Officers, should be conducted through his Deputies, the present Superintending Engineers. This intention was however subsequently altered, and in Extract Minutes Consultation 17th June 1856, No. 989, the present and contrary practice was ordered. A year has since passed, and the Government are fully satisfied that the plan now in vogue does not work well. It appears to them that three selected, highly paid, and able Officers, are in the Central office, without duties in any way commensurate with their position, and that the Government do not obtain, as they ought to obtain, the benefit of their advice and opinion.

3. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council therefore directs that from the date of this order reaching the Central office the original intention of Government shall be carried out; and that accordingly, all correspondence from District Officers shall be addressed to the Chief Engineer, superscribed with the name of the Circle in which the District may be; that the letters shall be opened by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, and be disposed of by him on his own judgment with the acquiescence of the Chief Engineer or on the Chief Engineer's order, as may seem proper to the Superintending Engineer; and that all orders, after previous submission for the Chief Engineer's approval, be despatched, bearing the signature of the Superintending Engineer. It is also resolved that the Superintending Engineers shall be allowed to record their opinions on any subject, when they may differ from those of the Chief Engineer; and on such questions coming before Government, these recorded opinions are to be submitted for their consideration.

4. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council relies on the judgment and discretion of the Superintending Engineers, and their desire for the good of the public service, in taking advantage of this privilege of recording their views; and directs that these Officers be careful not to retard public business, by detaining papers any longer than may be necessary for a full consideration of the subject on which they treat.

5. The Government are fully aware that the rules they have now laid down are not in accordance with the views of the Chief Engineer; but they must remind Colonel Faber that his own plan has now had a year's trial; and they have not seen any improvement in the mode in which business has been hitherto conducted in the Central office. The Government have had frequently to point out errors, to complain of delays, and to return for further consideration projects, which they have felt satisfied would have reached them in a more matured shape, had the opinion of the Superintending Engineers been deliberately taken upon them. They must now call on the Chief Engineer to allow to the rules now laid down, the same full and candid trial, which his own plan has received; and they rely on Colonel Faber to give to these rules the full scope, which it is the intention of Government that they shall have.

6. The following rule therefore will be substituted for Rule 7, Sec. I of the Code for the Department of Public Works, of which Sections I and II were communicated to the Chief Engineer with Extract Minutes Consultation 17th June 1856, No. 989.

7. "The ordinary correspondence of the Chief Engineer with all the Subordinate Officers shall be through the Superintending Engineers. Letters, Reports, and Returns shall be addressed to the Chief Engineer; but the covers shall be superscribed with the name of the Circle whether Northern, Centre, or Southern. They shall go to the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, who shall open them and dispose of them under the orders of the Chief Engineer, as a Secretary does in the case of a Board; either preparing cases for his orders, circulating the papers to him with drafts ready prepared, or taking them to him for previous instructions, according to the nature and importance of each subject. Letters and orders issued by the Chief Engineer to the Subordinates shall in like manner be signed by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, by order of the Chief Engineer."

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 10352

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Under date the 18th February 1857

No. 37 of 1857.

Read the following

From Major C. Lawford
Supg. Engr. 5th Circle

To Colonel C. C. Faber
Chief Engineer & P.W.

Sir,

I have had the honor of receiving
C. Circ. No. 226 dated 29th January 1857—

2 As the original designer of the Nundayaur Anicut, I should have been glad of an opportunity of showing that I did not under-estimate the waterway required, nor fail in my duty of examining the river channel which I had known for many years, in every condition of flood and drought, but the additional estimate was sent up for sanction, during my absence from the Cuttack office

3 An examination of the map will show that the Nundayaur is one of the smallest affluents of the Cauvery and Coleroon, having much less drainage and about equal fall as the Coolayaur, Iyaur, Kurraipotamaur and Corayaur, in the Pachimopoly District, and yet my dimensions for the Nundayaur Dam of 300 feet exceed

those of any worth I can now remember on the other streams, and I think that if any calculation had been incorrect, it must have been noticed and amended by such officers as Lieuts Reynell and Rigaud who succeeded me.-

4 The Dam moreover was adapted to the full breadth of the river, and within my experience, nor the information of the people led me to imagine the possibility of such an flood as that described by the District Engineer, in proposing the disaster, which was the more singular, as the fall of rain necessary to produce it did not appear general or even extensive. That a single stream like the Kundyaw should cause a breadth of five hundred, is only explicable on the supposition that the cloud overhanging its valley was discharged in one waterspout.- But what the concerned may assert, and therefore while claiming the credit of preferred evidence on all reasonable grounds, I do not question the propriety of submitting the Award.-

5 In requesting your attendance I beg to have the explanation before Capt. Samuel avoid the observation, that if the reports of the Local Officers were to pass through the Dist. Engineer, references would be avoided, which the increasing system entails, and the local and general knowledge of that latter would be of far more available

I am Sir
Your Obt Servt
Signed Stewart
Supdg Engr

Tangoo Dist 11th Feby

7

Resolved, with reference to Con: Sec: Govt: No. 226, dated 29th January 1857, to forward for the consideration, and order of Govt: copy of the foregoing letter No. 37, dated 11th Instant, from the Supdg Engineer Southern Circle, on receipt

/True Extract/
Wotherspoon Capt:
Asst Supdg Engineer
Head Office of P.W.

To the Acting Secretary
to Government
P.W.D.

Compd Shaw

No. 708

18th May 1837. Recd. from

E. N. Lushington Esqre.
In charge of the Office of the Secy
to the Govt. of Bengal to the Presidency

To

The Acting Secretary to the Government
of Fort St. George

Dated Fort William, the 5th May 1837.

Pub. Works
Public

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 470 dated the 13th March last, and in reply to forward a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3507 dated the 30th Ultimo containing the information required by the Government Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central office of account of the Public Works Department.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obed't Servant,

E. N. Lushington
In charge of the Office of the Secy
to the Govt. of Bengal at the Presidency

Compd. V.W.S.

1837 Letter to Fort St. George

No. 392.

Recd. the 18th May 1837.

Forwarding for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor in Council a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3507 dated the 30th Ultimo containing the information required by the Government Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central office of account of the Public Works Department.

Recd. the 18th May 1837.

Read the letter from the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George No. 470 dated the 13th March 1837 forwarding for the information of the Right Honble. the Governor in Council a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3507 dated the 30th Ultimo containing the information required by the Government Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central office of account of the Public Works Department.

Ordered that the Secretary do write to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George in reply to his letter No. 470 dated the 13th March 1837 and forward a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3507 dated the 30th Ultimo containing the information required by the Government Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central office of account of the Public Works Department.

Ordered that the Secretary do write to the Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George in reply to his letter No. 470 dated the 13th March 1837 and forward a copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer Lower Provinces No. 3507 dated the 30th Ultimo containing the information required by the Government Fort St. George in regard to the arrangement which obtains in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central office of account of the Public Works Department.

24 July 1837 Read & Signed
24 July 1837 Sealed & Dispatched

Public Works 1857 Defence
Dated 11th August
No 1015
[illegible]
Received [illegible] 1857
No 1606 18th August
Forwarding copy of a letter from the Chief Engr [illegible] Fort St George [illegible] of the Central [illegible] Accounts of the [illegible]

No 53.

From [illegible] No 3501 [illegible]

To Ed. [illegible]

The Secretary Government of Bengal
Public Works Department

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your Docket No 497 dated the 21st March 1857 forwarding copy of letter No 470 of the 13th idem from the acting Secretary to the Government Fort Saint George requesting information as to the arrangements which obtain in Bengal for conducting the duties of the Central Office of Accounts of the Public Works Department.

2nd. In reply I have to state that the following course of procedure is adopted in the Central office of Account in Bengal.

The Executive Engineer draws monthly on letters of credit granted by the Chief Engineer the amount required in his Division expends a portion himself and distributes the remainder to his Subordinate disbursing Agents who render monthly accounts of their daily expenditure in the forms prescribed by the Chief Engineer.

The

The Executive Engineer, who is to check their accuracy and correctness, puts his remarks thereon, calls for explanation if any be required, and when complete and intelligible, transmits them in original with his account to office over expenditure to the Circle Superintending Engineer under a cover addressed to the Superintending Engineer of this Circle.

The latter assisted by an Assistant Accountant has charge of the Records of the Central office, receives the above correspondence and communicates all sanctions and instructions to the Executive Engineers on completeness — All questions and disputes, principles, changes of procedure, the issue of retrenchment, Audit & Adjustment of all claims for advances, orders for payments have said with the Superintending Engineer's opinion on the Head Accountant before the Chief Engineer.

In the absence on tour of inspection of the Superintending Engineer on tour of inspection or the receipt of the correspondence of the Accountant Office is disbursed of by the Head Accountant under the orders of the Chief Engineer.

The Circle office examines the calculations compiles and ledgers the expenditure of each Executive Engineer and prepares a monthly Abstract therefrom, which with the Superintending Engineer's remarks on progress and rates of work is presented by the Head Accountant with an Audit Statement to the Chief Engineer, thence it is submitted to Government with the Chief Engineer's recommendation of the amount to be passed to the credit of the Executive Engineer, and a copy of the Abstract and a Statement of the retrenchments (if any be made by the Chief Engineer) are at the same time, sent by the Head Accountant for the Executive Engineer's information.

Fort William
Chief Engineer's Office
of Accts Lower Provs
30th April 1857

I have &c
Lt Col W. Goodwyn Colonel
Chief Engineer Lower Provinces

(True Copy)

In charge of the Office of the Secy
to the Govt of Bengal at the Presidency

Govt Chundra Mookerjea

Compd. W.O.S.

For Orders.

Public Works' Department No 345.

Extract from the Pro. of the Chief Engr. 18th July 1857.

[illegible]

"Do not understand that this is the measure that may have been enjoined — I found

[illegible]

Chief Engineer who shall appoint one of them

Under

with the orders as this
need to be obtained
the Supt in Council with
the view of considering
& bringing this question
to attention — The late
conference in the Sub
Central district of the Sub
Department & indeed
many other Municipalities
who from the Chief
Engineer shows that
the Superintendence since

Heads of amendments proposed

more should have
more control over the
works within their limits
than they now exercise
26/2/57

ge to the Deputy Chief Engineer
of the Circle, who shall grant
them and dispose of them
under

with the orders as this
need to be obtained
from my Council with
the view of considering

Revision of amendments proposed
in the code of Rules for the Public Works Depart-
ments in pursuance of the Notes made in
Discussions.

Sec. 1. 4. 7. A suggestion to
limit the power of transfer
and posting

Note- These two paras proposed to be substituted for the present Para 7.

1. 7. The ordinary correspondence
of the Chief Engineer with all
the subordinate Officers shall
be through his Deputies. Letters,
Reports, and Returns shall be
addressed to the Chief Engi-
neer; but the Covers shall be
superscribed with the name of
the Circle whether Northern,
Centre, or Southern. They shall
go to the Deputy Chief Engineer
of the Circle, who shall open
them and dispose of them

Under

under the orders of the Chief Engineer now being as laid in the case of a Board, either preparing cases for their orders, circulating the papers to him with drafts ready prepared or taking them to him, if previous instructions, according to the nature and importance of each subject. Letters and orders signed by the Chief Engineer to the Divisional officers shall in like manner be signed by the Deputy of the Circle, by order of the Chief Engineer.

8. In special and extraordinary cases the Chief Engineer may act direct and address the local Officer direct: but in every such case the Officer receiving the letter or order shall immediately [illegible] to the Deputy of the Circle for his information [illegible] like manner if in any case a local Officer shall address the Chief Engineer direct, the letter shall be immediately communicated to the Deputy of the Circle

I 13. In addition.

I 1. Some additions

2. Some changes have been made in the Circles

Note. This para is proposed to be substituted for the present one.

10. Under the present altered constitution of the Department, it is no longer necessary that the District or other Engineers should keep diaries of the nature that have been customary hitherto; but every Officer and subordinate having a separate charge shall submit fortnightly a brief Diary or Journal such as were usual in the Road Department, stating in a few words where he has been, and what has been his employment on each day during the fortnight.

The

the Diaries of the District Engineer will go to the Chief Engineer; and those of all subordinate officers will come to the District Engineer only for his information; unless in special cases any may be called by the Chief Engineer.

Note. With reference to Lieut. Montgomery's remarks, it does not seem necessary that copies of these Diaries should go to the Collectors of Customs. If they think it undesirable that they should do so, they would tell him nothing really useful for him to know, and if there is no good reason apparent why the diaries of these officers should be sent to any officer to whom they are not similar.

subordinate officers. As regards the reports of work to be executed by the officers of the Corps under the Collectors of Customs for [illegible]

to know means of information on such matters will be the Subordinates.

Sec: III Para 6. It might be well considered to fix a certain period of service in the grade of Engineer, as generally necessary to qualify for promotion to that of Asst Engineers. See Para 54 of the Public Works Commissioners 1st Report.

Sec: IV The new rules respecting giving rewards for suggestions of the nomenclature will much increase the work, and make the assessments less necessary, but not neglect those rules also define the degree of assistance required.

Some made small mistakes however in

Paras 4 & 5.

Sec: VII Para 7. See explanatory suggestion

suggestion and remark

Note. In the Memo circulated — — — with the Body of Rules, I adverted particularly to two points, on which I requested orders, but they appear to have been overlooked. The first point was the change of the tense of the rules from the present to the future which seems to me the proper tense; and the 2nd was the change proposed in the mode of the District Engineers drawing funds. Orders on these points are now requested.

[illegible signature]

The rule has been amended to meet that suggestion of ~~[illegible]~~ the pattern indicated.

[illegible]

B.

I concur in the change proposed

[illegible signature]

Pub. Works Dept

No 1556.

Extract from the Proceedings of Consultation.

Thursday dated the 10 August 1857.

Read the following Ex. from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer (Bengal under date the 15th July 57 No 10352)

Read again letter to the Secy. to the Govt of Bengal dated 13 and recorded under date the 17th March 57 No 470

Read also the following letter from the Govt of Bengal -

(Mine under date 29 May 57 No 708)

In writing to the Chief Engr with reference to the doubt expressed by Govt, as to whether due precaution has been taken against the recent disorders at the Nundyaur Arsenal, the Supdg Engr of the Southern Circle mooted in para 5 of his letter of the 11th Feby last, the important question of making the local and general experience of the Supdg Engrs more available than at present, by permitting the reports of the local officers to pass thro' their hands to the Chief Engineer. The Govt were induced by this suggestion* to apply to the Govt of Bengal for information, as to the arrangements obtaining in that Presidency for conducting the duties of the

* as well as by the experience they have had of the system of conducting the business in the Chief Engineers Office;

Central Office of the Department of Public Works, in order to ascertain the position of Superintending Engineers in Bengal with respect to the Central Dept. The Govt of Bengal, mistaking the full scope of the enquiries made by this Govt, have, with their letter of the 5th May furnished information as to the mode of conducting the duties of the Central Office in the department of accounts only; but even in this respect, the Govt observe that the position of the Supt Engr in Bengal is different from that of the corresponding officer at Madras; for there, he would appear to exercise a direct control over his circle, receiving the accounts & correspondence of the local officers under covers addressed to him as the Supt Engr of the Circle, and communicating his orders direct to the executives on matters within his competence, taking the instructions of the Chief Engr only on matters requiring special consideration.

~~In rule 7 of section~~
Govt originally intended by

~~I of that portion of the proposed~~
~~Code issued with Ex. Minn Cons.~~
~~29th Feb 56, this~~ Govt prescribed
that all correspondence between the Chief Engr and his subordinate officers, should be conducted thro' the deputies, the present Superintending Engrs. This intention was however subsequently altered, and in Ex. Minn. Cons. 17th June 56, No 683, the present and contrary procedure was ordered. A year has since elapsed, and the Govt are fully satisfied that the plan now in force does not work well. It appears to them that three selected, highly paid, and able officers, are in the Central Office, without duties in any way commensurate with their position, and that the Govt do not obtain, as they ought to obtain, the benefit of their advice and opinion.

The Right Honble the Govr in Council therefore directs that from the date of this order preceding the Central Office the ~~1st of July next the Course~~ the original intentions of Govt shall be ~~remembered in place of Section of the~~ carried out.

~~Code, which accompanied Ex. Minn.~~
~~Cons. 29th Feb 56, should be cancelled~~

~~adhered to~~, and that accordingly all correspondence from District Officers shall be addressed to the Chief Engr, superscribed with the name of the Circle in which the District may be, that the letters shall be opened by the Supt.g Engr of the Circle and be disposed of by him, on his own judgement, or on the Chief Engr's order, as may seem proper to the Supt.g Engr; and that all orders, after previous submission for the Chief Engr's approval, be dispatched, bearing the signature of the Superintending Engr. It is also resolved that the Superintending Engrs shall be allowed to record their opinions on any subject, when they may differ from those of the Chief Engr, and on any such questions coming before Govt, their recorded opinions are to be submitted for their consideration.

The Right Honble the Govr in Council relies on the judgments and discretion of the Supt.g Engrs, and their desire for the good of the public service, in taking advantage of the privilege of recording their views; and directs that these officers be careful not to retard public business, by detaining papers any longer than may be necessary for a full consideration of the subject on which they treat.

The Govt are fully aware that the rules they have now laid down are not in accordance with the views of the Chief Engr, but they think Lt Col Fraser that his own plan has now had a years trial, and they have not seen any improvement in the mode in which business has been hitherto conducted in the Central Office. The Govt have had frequently to point out errors, to complain of delays, and to return for further consideration projects, which they have felt satisfied would have reached them in a more matured shape, had the opinion of the Superintending Engr been deliberately taken upon them. They must now call on the Chief Engr to allow the rules now laid down, the same full and candid trial, which his own plan has

received; and they rely on Col Faber to give to these rules the full scope, which it is the intention of Govt that they shall have.

The following rule therefore will ~~from the 1st of July next~~ be substituted for rule 7, Sec I of the Code for the Department of Public Works, of which Secs I & II were communicated to the Chief Engr with Ex. Mins. Comm: 17th June/53, No 989.

"The ordinary correspondence of the Chief Engineer with all the Subordinate Officers shall be through the Superintending Engineers. Letters, Reports, and Returns shall be addressed to the Chief Engineer; but the covers shall be superscribed with the name of the Circle whether Northern, Central, or Southern. They shall go to the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, who shall open them and dispose of them under the orders of the Chief Engineer, as a Secretary does in the case of a Board; either preparing cases for his orders, circulating the papers to him with drafts ready prepared, or taking them to him for previous instructions according to the nature and importance of each subject. Letters and orders issued by the Chief Engineer to the Subordinates shall in like manner be signed by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle, by order of the Chief Engineer."

J. B.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr

Public Works 1857 Dep.tt
Dr. to Com. 11th Aug.t

No 1556.

6

Extract Minutes of Coun.

Dat. 10th August 57.

Ex. B.C. 19 Sept. 57 - No 1770.

Ch. Engr. 19th Nov.r 57/a

No 2305 m b

Directing that from the date of this order, reaching the Central Office, all correspondence from District Officers shall be addressed to the Chief Engr. & superscribed with the name of the Circle in which the District may be; that the Letters shall be opened by the Supt.g Engr. of the Circle, & be disposed of, or him on his own judgment with the concurrence of the Chief Engr. or on the Chief Engr.s Order, as may seem proper to the Supt.g Engr.; & that all Orders, after previous submission for the Chief Engr.s approval, be despatched, bearing the signature of the Supt.g Engineer.

No 82 at 84.

1st Ludy 83