

7-8-37
M.R.O. 1-2240-22-11-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	111	Press
		Mis.
Dated	15	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th September 1857.

No. 34. Read the following letter from Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 7th August 1857, No. 3981.

SIR,

In your letter No. 1474 of the 30th Ultimo, the attention of the Government of India is drawn to the unfavorable contrast in which the allowances of the Superintending Engineers of Madras, stationed at the Presidency appear, when compared with those enjoyed by the same class of Officers at Calcutta in respect to the Item of House rent; and in consideration of the reduction of allowance recently ordered by the Honorable Court, of the high rents obtaining at Madras, and of the great expenditure on account of conveyance owing to the great distances between the public Offices and private residences, and also with the view of placing the Superintending Engineers of Madras on an equality in point of emolument with those of this Presidency; permission is sought to the disbursement of House rent to these Officers on the same scale as rules in Calcutta.

2. In reply, I am desired to observe that none of the arguments adduced by the Government of Madras constitute, in the opinion of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, a sufficient ground for complying with the present application. The principle involved in the grant of a House rent allowance in compensation either for a reduction of Staff salary or a heavy expenditure on account of carriage hire is very questionable. The amount of salary attached to any Office, or an allowance to be made for travelling, are points that should be considered, each on its own merits. In the case of Superintending Engineers, the former has already been disposed of by the Honorable Court of Directors, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if thought worthy of such.

3. In Calcutta, a uniform (distinguished as "Presidency") scale* of House rent prevails which is participated in equally by all Staff Officers, their Regimental tentage being deducted from them; its introduction was a consequence of the high rents demanded, one of the reasons adduced by the Government of Fort Saint George in support of the request now made but it will be observed that the two Superintending Engineers at Calcutta (out of a total of eleven under this Presidency) are not the only Officers in the Staff who are recipients of it. This argument therefore can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals, applying, as it does, with equal force in the cases of all the Staff Officers at Madras with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, a comparison should, in this respect, be drawn. Should it be desired then that the question be entertained on this count, a general reference on the subject should be made; and if an enhanced scale be sanctioned for Staff Officers generally, then the Superintending Engineers stationed at Madras will necessarily be included.

4. It will, however, be in the remembrance of the Government of Madras, that this formed one of the arguments that were urged by it, in favor of fixing the allowances of a Superintending Engineer at the higher rate of Rupees one thousand per mensem, the reduction of which by Rupees two hundred under the orders of the Honorable Court, formed the subject of the communication which has elicited your letter now under reply.

5. In communicating orders for this reduction, the Honorable Court of Directors, whilst expressing their disapproval of Superintending Engineers being considered in the light of Secretaries to the Chief Engineer, each for his own District respectively, have entered at some length into their views of the duties of this class of Officers and have recorded an opinion, "that superintendence of public works in the Provinces in order to be effectual, must be maintained by means of immediate personal inspection and is incompatible with habitual residence in a Metropolis."

6. Under this aspect of the matter, it becomes a point for the consideration of the Government of Fort Saint George how far the residence at the Presidency of any Superintending Engineers is desirable or compatible with the efficient discharge of his duties, and its decision

	Rs.
• Subaltern.....	90
Captain.....	125
Field Officer.....	180

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th September 1857.

on this question may possibly render unnecessary any further consideration of the present reference.

No. 35. ORDER THEREON, No. 1684; dated 5th September 1857.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter be communicated to the Military Department and of paras. 1 to 4 to the Chief Engineer.

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

N^o 3981.

From

*Colonel W. E. Baker,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,*

To

*H. Forbes Esq.
Acting Secretary to Govt. of Fort St. George
Dated the 7th August 1857.*

*Pub. Works Dept.
Public,*

Sir,

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2. In reply, I am desired to observe that none of the arguments adduced by the Government of Madras constitute, in the opinion of the Right Honble the Governor General in Council, a sufficient ground for complying with the present application. The principle involved in the grant of a House Rent allowance in compensation either for a reduction of staff salary, or a heavy expenditure on account of Carriage here is very questionable. The amount of salary attached to any Office, or an allowance to be made for travelling, are points that should be considered each on its own merits. In the case of Superintending Engineers, the former has already been disposed of by the Honble Court of Directors, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if thought worthy of such.

3. In Calcutta, a uniform (distinguished as "Presidency") Scale of House Rent prevails.

* Subaltern - 90-
Captains - 135.
Field Officers - 180.

prevails - which is participated in equally by all Staff Officers, their Regimental Tentage being deducted from them; its introduction was a consequence of the high rents demanded, one of the reasons adduced by the Government of Fort Saint George in support of the request now made. But it will be observed that the two Superintending Engineers at Calcutta (out of a total of eleven under this Presidency) are not the only Officers in the staff who are recipients of it. - This argument therefore can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals, applying, as it does, with equal force in the cases of all the Staff Officers at Madras - with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, a comparison should, in this respect, be drawn. Should it be desired then that the question be entertained on this point, a general reference on the subject should be made; and if an enhanced scale be sanctioned for Staff Officers generally, then the Superintending Engineers stationed at Madras will necessarily be included.

It will, however, be in the remembrance

London, 11th May 1837

My dear Sir

I have the pleasure to
acknowledge the receipt of
the first of your letters

Dated 7th
Received 29th Augt 1837

From Chief Eng^r of the
at the 1837, and from 21st 1837

On receiving the
ground of the road, and to
be used, and to the
superintendenting Engineer
of the road, and to the
superintendenting Engineer

No 34435

31 May 1837

London, 11th May 1837

10th 1837

Ordered that a copy
of the above letter be com-
municated to the Military
Department and of the
11th to the Chief Engineer

Just at 4th
5th 1837

I have the pleasure to
acknowledge the receipt of
the first of your letters
dated 7th 1837