1. Number of pages 6
2. Date of repair 17.8.37
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82 400—23-11-30

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons 22957

G.O. No. 1772 Press Mis.

30.37

Dated 1 — 9 — 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 22nd September 1857.

No. 30. Read the following Circular 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. 3851.

SIR,

I am instructed to convey to you the following directions as to the grant of sums of public money for the construction of works of general utility or improvement, funds for which have been partly provided by means of private subscriptions.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council has observed with much satisfaction, that many public-spirited persons in various parts of the country have subscribed sums of money for the promotion of public works of general utility. It is most desirable that every encouragement should be given to so laudable a practice; but in aiding such efforts with grants of public money, some care is necessary or an effect is likely to be produced, which will, in the end, be far from beneficial.

3. A system of grants like this would, in the first place, tend to generate carelessness both in the preparation of designs, in the execution of the work, and in the outlay of the money. The Government would be less critical in respect to the design, considering that the Public would obtain the whole advantage of the work at a greatly diminished cost. The Officers concerned in its execution would be conscious that, in case of failure, no pressing calls for explanation would be made. The people who contributed the funds, would look to the Government as responsible for the result; and having paid the money, would take no more concern in the matter.

4. There would be a constant risk, too, of grants being made for objects which were not really public works, and there can be no doubt that it is only for such works that grants should be made from the public revenues.

5. The importance of the principle of drawing a clear line of demarcation between works carried out by public money, and those provided for by the local funds, has been recognized by the Government of India, and there would, in like manner, appear to be every reason for avoiding, as far as possible, any joint operations carried on partly at the risk of Government, partly at that of private persons.

6. The offer of a contribution by an individual or a section of a community towards the execution of a work of public utility would, no doubt, often affect, in an important degree, the question of its being undertaken. But if public money be given, the sanction to the work and its execution should proceed in the regular course, just as though the entire cost were borne by the Government. The contributions should be set down as a portion of Public Works Income, and the entire expenditure should appear in the Public Accounts as the cost of the work.

7. In short, where a work is to be executed, partly from public and partly from private funds, it must always be, in its nature, wholly a public work, the private contribution being regarded as an aid to the public work, not the public grant-in-aid to the private undertaking.

8. It will rest with the local Administrations to guard against any infringement of this principle, bearing in mind that, while, it is not easy to define very precisely how the term "Public Work" should be limited, it is doubtful whether a grant of Government money should be made for any work which the State is not prepared to maintain at the public expense.

9. The restrictions on the grant of local funds to assist in carrying out local objects could be fairly made less stringent, and it is indeed rather from these funds than from the public revenues that assistance should be given to local efforts. Where local funds exist, the grant of assistance in carrying out local works of improvement should be made to fall entirely on them, and grants from the public revenues should, as a general rule, be systematically refused and prohibited.

10. The demands on the public revenues for works of really imperial interest are so heavy, and the means of meeting those demands so limited, that the wants of the smaller sections of the community should, as far as possible, be provided for from local sources.

11. Where local funds do not exist, from which grants such as these could be obtained, it is desirable that the provisions under which grants from the public revenues are made, should be fixed and distinctly understood. It is worthy of consideration also, whether, in the presence of so many other claims, such grants should not be restricted to some fixed annual allowance.

12. I am directed to request the attention of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to the general views here expressed, and to beg that you will report how far the existing practice in the Madras Presidency is in conformity with them.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, No. 1772; dated 17th September 1857.

Ordered that the above Circular be referred to the Chief Engineer for report.

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

CIRCULAR.

No. 3857

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COLONEL W. E. BAKER,
Secretary to the Government of India,

O

H. Forbes Esquire,
Acting Secretary to the Govt
of Fort Saint George

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I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,

H. Beadon Colonel

Secretary to the Government of India.

FORT WILLIAM,
The 7th August 1857.

Public Works 1857 Dep.t
Dº to Comm: 22d Sept.r

No 1756

Circular
From the Secretary to the
Government of India
Public Department
dated 3d September 1857

Received
From the Dep.t of Agr.e & Com.ce 11th May
Conveying directions
as to the grant of sums of
public money for the con=
struction of works of gen.l uti=
lity or improvement, simi=
lar to which have been part=
ly provided by means of pri=
vate subscriptions, & call=
ing for a report, as soon
hereafter as the existing fina=
ncial year in the Madras Pre=
sidency will admit of conformi=
ty with them.

No 1772 & 1773 Letters of
Transmitting Reports

From the Civil & Sess.s Judge
of Salem 8th July 58 Cons.n 1515
in Bdle: 29 Jul.y

From Asst.t Collr & C.
5th Oct.r 60 Cons.n 2408.

No 30 & 31

5 Encls: each

No 1772.

Orders of the above
Circular to be applied to the Irrigation
Works for repairs.

Fort St George
17th Sept.r 1857.

To the Chief Engr Public Works 18th