M.R.O. 1—99,000—16-10-52

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Cons d) 29-10-1857

G.O. No.	1976-77	**Press Mis.**	
1-5			
Dated	21-10	1857	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read again letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, dated 7th August, No. 3981 and recorded in Diary to Consultation 8th September 1857.

Read also the following papers.

No. 1. From Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 14th September 1857, No. 3681.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to forward and to earnestly solicit, the indulgent consideration, and prompt support of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to a most forcible appeal from the Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle of P. W., against the recent unfavorable decision of the Governor General of India in Council, on the claims for Superintending Engineers at Madras, to receive the same Presidency, extra allowances, as their professional brethren in Calcutta.

2. It appears to me, I would respectfully state, that Major Lawford has perfectly succeeded, in shewing that he cannot fairly be placed on the same footing with Officers on the Military Staff to his disadvantage, when that very same parity of position, is distinctly denied, in the cases of privilege leave and of gratuitous medical attendance on families.

3. A much stronger actual ground for the advocacy of increased payment to Madras Superintending Engineers, namely, the otherwise growing, and probably inseparable difficulty of inducing District Officers of experience and ability to accept an Office, with a virtually less remuneration than the ostensibly lower grade of a District Engineer, is unfortunately an argument, which however true, valid, and undeniable, is but little likely to be attended to from the circumstance of this evil great as it is, being merely local, there being no District Engineers in Calcutta.

4. I cannot usefully add any thing to the already vigorous representations of the Superintending Engineer, and I will only further trespass on your time, to express a hope that the Government will not fail to recommend, that under whatever name or title each item of receipt be issued to its recipient, the Madras Superintending Engineers, may in future not be placed at a disadvantage relatively with their brother Officers in Calcutta, in point of aggregate of pecuniary remuneration.

Letter from Brevet Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 12th September 1857, No. 220.

SIR,

Referring to Extract Minutes of Consultation, No. 1684, dated 5th September 1857, communicating for the information of the Chief Engineer copy of a letter from the Government of India, refusing the application recently made by the Madras Government for the grant of Presidency House Rent to the Superintending Engineers in this Presidency in order to place them on an equal footing with those of Bengal, I have the honor to request you will be so good as to submit the following remarks for the consideration of Government.

2. The Government of India observe that the allowance in question is drawn by the Bengal Engineers as Staff Officers, and that therefore any application in our behalf must be made general for the whole body of the Presidency Staff. To this I would reply that the Depa ıent of Public Works is constitutionally Civil, and composed of Members some of whom are ɔt in the Army, but are equally eligible for the appointment of Superintending Engineer with Military

men, and all Officers of the Department are excluded from the privileges of the Staff in regard to leave of absence while they are rendered liable to some disadvantages, such as the payment of medical fees for their families from which the Military Staff are exempt.

3. In establishing the Department on the same principles in all the Presidencies, the Honorable the Court of Directors clearly intended that the salaries of the several grades should be uniform, and there is nothing in their orders to show that they did, or would sanction a higher scale at Calcutta than at Madras, under whatever distinctive charge the allowances at the former Presidency might appear. In reducing the salary granted by the Government of India from 1,000 to 800 Rupees per month, the Honorable Court could not have supposed that while at Calcutta the Superintending Engineers (as Field Officers) would still receive 900 Rupees, those at Madras would draw only the fixed salary, and I firmly believe that were the case plainly set before them the inequality would be rectified in our favor.

4. But it is understood that the Honorable Court when directing the reduction of salary also desired that Superintending Engineers should reside in their Circles, a change which has not been carried out by the Government of India, but which would certainly go far towards compensating us for the loss we have sustained. The Madras Government know perfectly well that the expense of living at this capital, always heavy compared to that in the Provinces, has been seriously enhanced within the last ten years, by the increased cost of all the necessaries of life. They are aware that house rent is Cœteris paribus about twice as much as in the Mofussil, and that the unavoidable charges for conveyance are such as to press very heavily on a moderate income. So much have I felt this, that I unhesitatingly state my conviction of being in a far worse financial position now than I was 20 years ago as Civil Engineer, and I consider the present District Engineers, to be much better off than the three Superintending Engineers. This fact indeed was proved by the refusal of some of our best Officers to accept promotion, and in my own case I can truly aver that the supposed distinction alone formed my inducement, irrespective of the hope, afterwards realized, of an increase of salary.

5. The Government of India seem to lay stress on the fact of only two Officers in Bengal drawing the superior House rent, but this does not invalidate our claim under the same conditions, and they have apparently overlooked how small an increase to the charges of the Department would be occasioned by the extension of the benefit to three Officers at Madras.

6. I am aware that the Madras Government originally proposed that Superintending Engineers as well as the Chief Engineer should receive consolidated salaries irrespective of Military Rank, a principle which appears quite as just in one grade as another, the salary being intended as payment for Civil, and not Military service. This system would have effectually remedied the disadvantages of slow Regimental promotion which has thrown us so far behind our brother Officers in Bengal and Bombay, and I venture to assert that it would have rendered the position I hold after 30 years service one of far greater desire to the Corps generally than it can possibly be on the present scale of emolument. The reasons of the Government of India for rejecting this fair and just principle are not on public record, but I would suggest its being again recommended for adoption.

7. If the arguments I have adduced are insufficient to prove the fairness and justice of our claim to draw allowances equal to those of Officers of our grade and under similar circumstances in Bengal, I can only hope the subject may be referred to the Honorable Court by whose order our salaries have been reduced so largely as to compel an appeal, which we are only competent to make for ourselves, but I would not for a moment have it supposed that in representing my own case, I mean to prejudice that of the Presidency Staff, though I do not consider myself or my brother Officers as forming part of that body.

8. I beg that my application for this allowance may receive your support and the favorable consideration of Government.

No. 2. *Minute by the Right Honorable the President, dated 16th September 1857.*

Colonel Baker's letter to Mr. Forbes of 7th August, calls for an expression of the opinion of this Government on the subject of the residence of the Superintending Engineers of the Public

Works Department whether it should be fixed in the Provinces, or whether they should reside generally at Madras, making annual tours of inspection of such length as may appear requisite.

2. This subject has been, I may say, constantly under my consideration since I have been in this Presidency, and though I feel that strong arguments can be urged on the opposite side, further reflection has only served to bring me more decidedly to the conclusion, that the course originally adopted by this Government, viz. the latter of the two abovementioned, is the correct one.

3. I believe this to be the case, 1st, as to efficiency, 2nd, as to economy.

4. On the 1st point, I believe that any thing like constant supervision and inspection can only be fully carried out by the District Engineers who though termed Executives must to all intents and purposes be really Inspectors, with perhaps one or two works more immediately under their control when stationary.

5. The great advantage of the Superintending Engineers residing at the Presidency is that while watching the proceedings of a number of Districts at a distance, they can any moment move off to inspect any portion of them when they may deem their presence necessary while they at the same time give the Chief Engineer the advantage of their advice and council at once without the delay and intervention of a lengthened correspondence.

6. A Superintending Engineer will in a short time and after a few visits be able to discern when and where his presence is required and will regulate his tours of inspection accordingly.

7. Now if on the contrary the Superintending Engineers reside in their Circles, the whole advantage of their presence at the chief office is lost; whilst it is very doubtful to me whether the amount of supervision will be greater.

8. I do not hesitate to predict that it would not be increased, whilst at the same time it would entail a very great delay in the transaction of business and create a large increase of labour and correspondence in the official work of the Department.

9. It has been suggested, I believe, that though resident in their Circles these Officers should not have Offices of Record. I beg leave to say that I believe it would be simply impossible to carry on such a system of operation and as they could not carry on business without having copies of letters, of estimates, of plans &c. so that instead of the correspondence coming direct from the District Officer to the Central Office where it can be settled in a few days, it would have to go to the Superintending Engineer and then on to the Central Office.

10. And this brings me to the second point, viz. of expenditure and economy, both of time and of money, and in matters of such importance as the Public Works of this Presidency, time is money. I believe that if the Superintending Engineers become resident in their Circles, large and cumbrous Offices will in a short time be formed, in which the work now performed in the Central Office will merely be repeated or rather if they should be established, they will in a supererogatory manner execute a quantity of work which must of necessity be gone over again by the Chief Engineer and they will in a very short time require an Assistant and perhaps Assistant Inspectors as their whole time will be occupied by their offices.

11. I will illustrate the delay and inconvenience which will occur by two instances.

South Arcot is included in the Southern Circle.

The District Engineer resides at Cuddalore about one hundred miles from Madras. His correspondence at present is sent direct to the Central Office and is despatched either by the Superintending Engineer of the Circle or if he is on tour by the Superintending Engineer in charge during the other's absence.

But if the Superintending Engineer resides with in the Circle the correspondence must go to his Head Quarters not improbably on the Neilgherry Hills. And will thus at all events have to travel a distance of 500 miles before it reaches Madras; but if the Superintending Engineer

should be on tour it may have to follow him to Malabar or Tinnevelly, or must remain awaiting his return for one, two or three months.

12. Again in the Centre Circle the District Engineer of Chingleput resides within eight miles of Fort Saint George.

13. His correspondence can now reach the Central Office in an hour. But if the Superintending Engineer resides in the Circle it will have to go first probably to Palmanair by which it will make a circuit of 200 miles before reaching Madras; but the Superintending Engineer may be in Canara 400 miles off and this correspondence must either follow him, or await his return, similar cases will occur in the Northern Circle.

14. The Honorable Court express their desire that the Superintending Engineers should not become the Secretaries of the Chief Engineer. It has not been intended that they should act strictly in that position; but if they are detached to the Provinces, the Chief Engineer will undoubtedly require more assistance in his Office, and the result will be a considerable increase of expense.

15. I cannot but regret that the Honorable Court have deemed it advisable to reduce the salaries of the Superintending Engineers the result must be either that these Officers shall be located in the Provinces which I believe will be accompanied by great delay and increased expense or shall have to nominate inferior Officers to these important appointments as the Superior men of high standing will probably prefer remaining in the Districts.

16. It is clear that this question must be settled before any further allusion is made to house rent, I believe there are as good grounds on the score of expense for Officers having house rent at Madras as at Calcutta but this is not a time when I should wish to moot the question.

(Signed) HARRIS.

No. 3. Minute by the Honorable W. ELLIOT, Esq., dated 18th September 1857.

I consider that the presence of the three Superintending Engineers at the Central Office for a certain portion of the year is highly desirable on this ground alone, that it affords the means and opportunity for consultation on projects of importance, and this brings the matured opinions of three of the ablest Engineers in the Department together with that of the Chief Engineer, to bear on all such undertakings.

The diversity in the nature of the various kinds of public works brought under the consideration of the Central Office renders such co-operation peculiarly desirable.

Thus, one Officer may have a special talent for the alignment of Ghauts, another may excel in hydraulic works on rivers, a third may have a large experience of questions connected with inland navigation, the formation of harbours, &c. Some projects involve the consideration of all these points and it needs no argument to show how usefully they may be modified by such joint deliberation.

But it is quite impossible to keep Officers of the standing of the present Superintending Engineers at the Presidency on the present inadequate allowances assigned to them.

Virtually the District Engineers are much better off in point of emolument when the greater expense of living at the Presidency is taken into account.

I believe that in general, Officers, especially those with families, would decline to exchange the inferior for the higher appointment.

But although I am strongly in favor of the present constitution of the Central Office as regards the presence of the Superintending Engineers with it and constituting it the sole place of Record of the Department, I think it is essential to the well working of the Office that the Superintending Engineers should have their position even more strictly defined than it has been by the recent orders on that subject. I feel convinced that their retention in any degree in the

position of Office Subordinates under the Chief Engineer will only be productive of dissatisfaction and differences.

I think each Superintending Engineer should correspond in his own name, both with the District Engineers and with the Chief Engineer; that they should dispose of all matters of detail without reference to the Chief Engineer that their correspondence with the Chief Engineer should all be matter of public Record, for which they should be individually responsible; and that all matters referred by them to him should be disposed of by him publicly by an official communication; in fact that the business of the three Circles should be kept distinct and complete in themselves on the responsibility of their several heads, subordinate only to the Central Office in the degree that an inferior is subject to a superior Office but in no way mixed up with it.

No. 4. ORDER THEREON, No. 1976; dated 21st October 1857.

The Government unanimously entertaining the views expressed in the Minutes above recorded, resolve, in conformity therewith, to address the following letter to the Government of India.

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

No. 5. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India, dated 21st October 1857, No. 1977.

SIR,

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 7th August 1857, No. 3981, communicating the views of the Government of India on the application made by this Government, that the Superintending Engineers of Madras might be placed on the footing of Officers of a similar Class in Calcutta as regards House Rent.

2. The Government of India, in negativing this application, observe that the principle involved in the grant of such an allowance, on the grounds urged by the Government, viz. in compensation; either for the reduction of Staff salary recently ordered by the Honorable Court of Directors, or in consideration of the heavy expenditure incurred on account of carriage hire, is very questionable. These are points, they say, which should be considered each on its own merits, and that, as the Honorable Court have decided the former question, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if such should be deemed necessary.

3. The Government of India explain at the same time that in Bengal, a scale of House Rent prevails which is participated in equally by all Staff Officers, and of which the two Superintending Engineers of Calcutta, out of eleven in that Presidency, are recipients; and they think that the argument can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals only, applying as it does with equal force in the cases of all the Staff Officers of Madras, with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, it is remarked, a comparison should be drawn. Referring however to the opinion recently expressed by the Honorable Court in respect to the duties of Superintending Engineers, the Government of India require this Government to consider, whether the residence at this Presidency of these Officers is desirable, or compatible with the efficient discharge of their duties, and observe that a decision on this question may probably render the consideration of the other unnecessary.

4. The question on which an expression of the opinion of this Government is in the first instance called for is, whether the residence of the Superintending Engineers of the Madras

Public Works Department should be fixed in the provinces, or whether these Officers should reside generally at Madras, making, as they now do, annual tours of inspection, of such length as may be requisite, through their respective circles. The Governor in Council has for some time past had this particular question under his very careful consideration, and although he is aware that strong arguments may be urged on the opposite side, yet, after mature reflection, he is convinced that the course originally adopted by this Government, of having the residence of the Superintending Engineers at the Presidency, is the correct one, and the one most conducive to the public interests, whether regarded in point of efficiency or of economy.

5. On the first of these points, the Governor in Council would observe that, if any thing like constant supervision and inspection is to be maintained, it can only be well and fully done by the District Engineers, who, though designated Executives, are to all intents and purposes Inspectors of all works within their Districts, with the exception perhaps of a few works more immediately under their own control.

6. On the second point of economy, it appears to this Government that both time and money would be saved by an adherence to the present plan, and in matters of such importance as the Public Works of this Presidency, it must be remembered that time is money. There can be no question but that if the Superintending Engineers become resident in their circles, large and cumbrous offices will in a short time be formed, in which the work now performed in the Central office will merely be repeated, or rather, if such offices should be established, they will, in a supererogatory manner, perform a quantity of work which must of necessity be gone over again by the Chief Engineer, and probably present a necessity for the appointment of office Assistants; and perhaps of Assistant Inspectors, as the whole time of the Superintending Engineers will be occupied by their office work. Further it must be remembered that, if the Superintending Engineers are detached to the Provinces, the Chief Engineer himself will necessarily require more assistance, which can only be supplied at a considerable increase of expense.

7. As regards the general question, it appears to this Government that the advantages to be derived by the residence of the Superintending Engineer at the Presidency when not engaged in a tour of inspection are that, while watching the proceedings of the several Districts comprized within their respective circles, they can at any moment move off to inspect any portion of their charge where they may deem their presence to be necessary; while on the other hand, their presence at the Central office affords means and opportunity for consultation on projects of importance, and brings the matured experience of the ablest Engineers in the Department to bear on all such undertakings, without the delay and the intervention of a lengthened correspondence which would be inevitable if they were resident in distant parts of the Presidency.

8. One other advantage, and that too of no small importance, which renders such co-operation especially desirable, is the diversity in the nature of the various kinds of Public Works brought under the consideration of the Central Office. Thus, one Officer may have a special talent for the alignment of Ghauts, another may excel in hydraulic works on rivers, a third may have a large experience of questions connected with inland navigation, the formation of habours, &c. Some projects involve the consideration of all these points, and it needs no argument to shew how usefully they may be modified by joint deliberation. But if the Superintending Engineers' residence is to be within their circles, the entire advantage of their presence at the chief office will be lost, without in all probability, the amount of actual supervision being greater than it is at present.

9. The Governor in Council would affirm with some degree of certainty that; while supervision will not be increased by the proposed measure it must necessarily entail great delay in the transaction of business, and create a large increase of labor and correspondence in the official work of the Department. A few examples will suffice to illustrate this position.

10. The District of South Arcot is included in the Southern Circle. The District Engineer resides at Cuddalore a station about a hundred miles from Madras. His correspondence at present is sent direct to the Central office, and is disposed of either by the Superintending Engineer of the circle, or, if he is on a tour, by the Officer in charge during his absence. But if the Superintending Engineer should reside within the circle, the correspondence must be sent to his head quarters, not improbably on the Neilgherry Hills, and will thus have to travel a distance of 500 miles before it reaches Madras; but if he should happen to be at the time on a tour, the correspondence may have to follow him to Malabar or Tinnevelly, or it must remain unnoticed, awaiting his return, for one, two or three months.

11. Again, in the Centre Circle. The District Engineer of Chingleput resides within eight miles of Fort Saint George. His correspondence can now reach the Central office in an hour; but if the Superintending Engineer should reside within the Circle, it would in all probability have to go in the first instance to his Head Quarters probably at Palmanair, thus making a circuit of 200 miles before reaching Madras. It may however so happen that the Superintending Engineer is in Canara, four hundred miles off, in which case, this correspondence must either follow him on circuit, or await his return.

12. From the arrangements made in this Presidency no separate establishment has been assigned to the Superintending Engineers, nor was it ever contemplated that they should have Offices of Record, and this Government have understood that it has been contemplated that they should on transfer to the Provinces, still be without a record, this is an arrangement which appears to this Government to be simply impossible; the Superintending Engineers could not conduct business without having copies of letters, of estimates, and plans. So that, instead of correspondence coming, as it at present does, direct from the District Officer to the Central office, where it can be replied to in a few days, it would have to go to the Superintending Engineer where copies would be necessary for any future reference, and whence at last it would be transmitted to the Central office.

13. In reference to the desire expressed by the Honorable Court that the Superintending Engineers should not become the Secretaries of the Chief Engineer, the Governor in Council would merely observe, that this was never intended, nor do the Superintending Engineers of this Presidency at present occupy that position, but are rather the advisers and professional assistants of the Chief Engineer.

14. For the reasons above given, the Governor in Council must deprecate any change in the location of the Superintending Engineers, and he feels assured that from what has now been stated, the Government of India will concur in the views of this Government, and be induced to support them to the Honorable Court.

15. The Governor in Council regrets exceedingly that the Honorable Court have deemed it necessary to reduce the salary of the Superintending Engineers; such a measure he feels apprehensive will lead to serious inconvenience. One of two results is certain, either that these Officers will have to be located in the provinces, which will necessarily be accompained by great delay in the transaction of business, and by increased expense; or Officers of insufficient experience must be nominated to these important appointments, as it is quite impossible to keep Officers of the standing of the present Superintending Engineers at the Presidency, on the allowances at present assigned to them. Virtually the District Engineers drawing staff salaries of 600 and 700 Rupees a month are in a far better position in point of emolument, than Superintending Engineers on 800 Rupees, when the greater expence of living at the Presidency is taken into account.

16. On this subject the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle has, in a letter to the address of the Chief Engineer, offered some very pertinent remarks. I am desired to forward a copy of this communication, and to commend it to the favorable consideration of the Government of India, accompanied by the expression of the opinion of this Government that, after the reduction in staff salary to which the three Superintending Engineers of this Presidency have been subjected, some allowance is needed to meet the increased expense of residence at the Presidency, and to induce Officers of standing and ability to accept the office.

No 3681.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
14 September 1857.

From

The Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Public

Sir,

I do myself the honor to forward and to earnestly solicit the indulgent consideration, and prompt support of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to a most forcible appeal from the Superintending Engineer, S. Circle of P.W. against the recent unfavorable decision of the Governor General of India in Council, on the claims for Superintending Engineers at Madras, to receive the same Presidency extra allowances as their professional brethren in Calcutta.

2 It appears to me, I would respectfully state, that Major Lawford has perfectly succeeded in showing that he cannot fairly be placed on the same footing with officers on the Military Staff to his disadvantage, when that very same parity of position, is distinctly denied in the case

of privilege leave, and of gratuitous — (medical attendance on families.—

3 A much stronger actual ground for the advocacy of increased payment to Madras Superintending Engineers, namely, the otherwise growing, and probably inseparable difficulty of inducing District officers of experience and ability, to accept an office, with a virtually less remuneration than the ostensibly lower grade of a District Engineer, is unfortunately an argument, which however true, valid, and undeniable, is but little likely to be attended to, from the circumstance of the ⅔ great as it is, being merely local, there being no District Engineers in Calcutta.

4 I cannot usefully add any thing to the already vigorous representations of the Superintending Engineer, and I will only further trespass on your time, to express a hope that the Government will not fail to recommend that under whatever name or title each item of receipt be issued to its recipient, the Madras Superintending Engineers may in future not be placed at a disadvantage relatively with their brother officers in Calcutta, in point of aggregate of pecuniary remuneration.

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George
4th September 1837

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt
W. Caldecott Colonel
Chief Engineer

Cons: 8th Septr 57 No 34 435.

Public Works 1857 Dept
Do to Cons: 29th October
No 1824

From
The Chief Engineer
To The Secy to Govt PWD.

Dated 14th
Recd 15th September 1857.
S.E.R. 1976 21st Oct.
Encls Recd 19/11/57 3687.

Forwards a letter from the Supg Engr J.C. of PW. and strongly supports its appeal in favor of an equalization of pecuniary receipts between the Supg Engrs in Calcutta and Madras.—

No.

C16 Sep. 22 C5

Encl: 8 to despatch No 154.

(15)

Resident at Hiddalone about
one hundred miles from
Madras — his correspondence
at present is sent
direct to the Central office
& is despatched either
by the Sepoy Post of the Circle
or if he is on tour by
the Sepoy Post in charge
of the other
Circle during his absence —

But in case of
the Sepoy Post Runner
hitting the wrong
correspondence must
go Whigan Head Quarters
but most unprobably on
the bridle path. Still
I will have it all
Europ. have to travel
a distance of 500 miles

before it reaches headquarters the Supt Surgeon is in town - it may have happened since he left also or Immediately on his Journey to Madras - he will return for the 2nd or 3rd month

Agent in the Carnatic Circle - Other districts

(17)

Supt of Vaccination Madras letters eight Visits of Fort St George

Visi Correspondence Can reach the Centre Office in an hour

But if the Supt Surgeon resides in the Circle - it will have

Lyo fruit - probably to invert his lectures.
Lyo Brahmans - by which [illegible] Limitors became title
to which made a [illegible] decree in his
If Lyo writes before [illegible] brothers title.
Sindhia - last [illegible]
Left way to [illegible]
Lyo writes ff - 2 [illegible]
Lyo explains [illegible]
Letter follow [illegible]

14

Lt Baker's letter to Mr Parke
Mr Parke to Mr Chauncey
& J Supt. calls for an expression
of the opinion of this Court on the subject
of the residence of the Supt. Engr. of the
Public Works Dept. whether it should
be held by the possessor of such
State Engr. should reside generally
at Albany - hitherto such residence
time of inspection & such length
as may appear requisite -

This subject - which has been, I may say constantly under my consideration since I have been in this Presidency - & tho' I feel that strong arguments can be urged on the opposite side - further reflection has only served to bring me more decidedly to the conclusion - that the course originally adopted by the Govt - viz - the latter of the two above mentioned - is the correct one.

I believe this to be the case 1st as to efficiency 2nd as to economy -

On the 1st point I believe that anything like constant supervision & inspection can only be fully carried out by the District Supts who - tho' loaded with Executive duties must while intending perhaps to make ~~an~~ inspections with perhaps one or two works more immediately under their control ~~his own eye~~. when ~~he is~~ stationary ~~at~~ there the great advantage residing at the Presidency of the Superintendent Supts is that while watching the proceedings of -

number of districts at a distance - they can
at any moment order off a detachment any
portion of their number when they may claim their
presence imperiously while they at the same
time put the duty upon the advantage of
their active personnel at once without
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A Chief Inspector will in short time
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thing connected with his position and
with his duties of inspection and

how if are the customary knowledge
& responsibility in their minds the whole
advantage of their presence at the
Chief Office is lost - whilst in any
Graduated Force - whether the amount
of supervision is made by [redacted]
under -

I do not hesitate to predict that
it would not be minded -
twelve with the force - times it would
entail a very great delay
in the transaction of business.

to take a large number of taken
to examine in the Public Works
Dept.

Sir has been delighted. I believe that
the Contract in turn ends. There appears
to have appeared a doubt. I say here
I say that if I believe it would be simply
impossible. Drawing on such a system
of operation. & Sir I say would not carry
on business without having Copies of letters
& Return of Removals &c that united

of the correspondence coming direct
before Contract appears. Where Contract
appears. & where it can be selected in
a few days it would have to
be the duplicate Copy selected in the
Central Office.

I think we before 2nd June of Estimate
time & economy both of time &
money & the matters of such
importance as the Public Works of
this Province time & money

the Standard Gauge express train during that day Capt Boyd's duties became limited to those of Capt Boyd's Staff, and it was understood that they should cease until that position is taken by Capt Boyd with sufficient leave of absence in this office to enable him to undertake the duties of that position.

I cannot help but think that the Standard

Court have deemed it advisable to have
the Sentence of this High Court the result
must be either that these Appeals shall
be treated in the Province which I
think ought to be accompanied by that
delay & increased Expense or else shall
be summarily disposed of in this
Judgment applying to the decision
of the Court below with probably fresh Accusing
in the Records -

It is clear that this Court Cannot

must be settled before any further
attempt is made to change the Court.
I think there are no good grounds
in the case of Appeals for Appeals
having been sent at Madras as
at Calcutta - but this is not a time
when I should wish to move the
Question -

Stanniforth
Sept 16/57 - I quite concur
J. P. Grant

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dy to Cons. 29th Octr.

No. 2108.

Minute by the Right Hon.
the President.
Dy 16th Sept. 57.

No 2.

Observing, as to whether the residence of the Superintending Engineers should be fixed in the Provinces, or whether they should reside generally at Madras that, the subject has been constantly under the Presidents consideration, and that further reflection has only served to bring His Lordship to the conclusion, that, the course originally adopted by this Government, viz. the latter of the two abovementioned, is the correct one: illustrating the delay and inconvenience which will occur by the adoption of the former course.

35

Consider that the services of the Superintending Engineers of the Central Div. for certain portion of the year is highly desireable on this ground alone that of the means & opportunity for consultation on projects of importance. This brings the matured opinions of three of the ablest Engineers in the Dept to bear on the whole of the Ch. Engr. to bear on all such undertakings

The diversity in the nature of the duties of Public Works brought under the consideration of the Central Govt in matters such as these

to peculiarly recommend

3rd Those officers may have a special
talent for the arrangement of charts
another excels in by drawing works
or rivers a third may have a large
experience of Pilotage combined
with navigation in the formation
of harbours the former proposals
under the consideration shall
take formality & Forms to enforce
& must be shown how they
may be modified & the Lords
determination

But it is quite impossible
to keep Officers of the Standing of
the present Hydrographers & Assistants
on the present inadequate allowances
assigned to them

Virtually the Admiralty Hydrographer is
the Head of an important Department
when the Station of Hydrographer living at
the Residence is taken into account
& I believe that in general Officers
especially take with families to Admiralty
Exchange the superior for the higher
appointment

But at this I am strongly in
favor of the present constitution
of the Central Office as regards the
Hydrographer & the Chief Engineer with the
Constructors being at the Admiralty
& Board of the Dept. I think it is
essential to the well working of the
Office that the Superintendent Engineer
should have more position than most
Yards afford & that he should be
of the Constructors or Chief Engineer

...ful Command that there shall be
...in any degree in the selection of
...Officers subordinates, under
~~Command~~ the Ch. Engr. both only
...the production of definite functions
...and differences
...That each Asst. Engr. shall
...correspond in his own name both
...with the Dept. Engrs. and the Chief
...Engr. that they shall make full matters
...of official concern, referring to the Ch. Engr.
...that Com. or with the Chief Engr. that
...all be matters of public record, that
~~both of the Engineer Corps~~
~~Command~~ for ch. they shall severally
...responsible & that all matters referred to
...them shall be disposed of by them
...publicly by an official communication
...that the business of the three orders shall
...be kept distinct & complete in themselves
...on the responsibility of their several heads,
...subordinate only to the Central officer in the degree
...that an inferior is subject to a superior officer but is

...Miller Engr
...copies sent 18/9/57

Public Works 1857 Deputs
Dº to Cons: 29th October.

Nº 2107

Minute by the Honorable
Mr W. Elliot.
Dy 18th Septr/57.

No 3.

Offering certain
reasons for the presence
of the Superintending
Engineers at the Presi=
dency, and remarking
that they cannot do
so, with their present
inadequate allowan=
=ces.

41

For Orders.

Public Works Department Nº 1824.

From the Chief Engineer 14th September 1857.

I communicated a minute
touching on this subject
yesterday - Some letters
had been forwarded
together herewith to the
Supreme Govt

Upon that anticipation
Dear of Major Lawford's
letter of 9th inst. a minute sent

The Government
unanimously

Public Works 1857 Deputs
Dº to Cons: 29th October.

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yesterday - Some letters
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Supreme Govt

Upon that anticipation
Dear of Major Lawford's
letter of 9th inst. a minute sent

The Government
unanimously

yesterday, that Senate disavows
this particular opinion
not having been laid before
them by the President.

I fully concur in his declaration
respectfully

The Government
unanimously

Public Works Dept.

No. 1976.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 21st October 1857

Read again
letter from the Secretary
to the Government of India
dated 7th August No. 3981
and recorded in Diary
of Consultation 8th September
1857.

Read also the
following papers.

From the Chief Engineer
/Here enter 14th Septr 1857 No 3687/

Minute by the Hon'ble
the Governor
/Here enter 16th Septr 1857/

" do by the Hon'ble Mr Watts
Elliot. /Here ——"——18"——"——"/

The Government
unanimously

unanimously entertain-
-ing the views expressed
in the Minutes above
recorded, resolve, in
conformity therewith,
to address the following
letter to the Government
of India

To
Colonel H. C. Barker
Secretary to the Government
of India.

Fort William 3rd Oct. 1777

Public Works Dept

6 Copies
Disp 29th
by Steamer

No. 1977

To

Colonel H. C. E. Baker

Secretary to the Government of

India

Sir,

1. I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated 7th August 1857 No. 3981, communicating the views of the Government of India on the application made by the Government, Roads & Superintending Engineers

Public Works Dept
Dated 29th October 1857

To 7th Nov 1857.

Transmitting Copy of Letter from Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 21st October 1857, No. 2902-903.

Ordering the despatch of a letter to the Court of Directors in connection with the above mentioned minute recorded in the Public Department.

Honorable Mr. Grant
Honorable Mr. Colvin
Honorable Mr. Muir
Honorable Mr. Elliot
Honorable Mr. Halliday
Honorable Mr. Beadon
Honorable Mr. Dorin
Honorable Mr. Inverarity
Honorable Mr. Peacock
Honorable Mr. Currie
Honorable Mr. Ritchie
Honorable Mr. Laing
Honorable Mr. Wilson
Honorable Mr. Maddock
Honorable Mr. Bird.

Public Letter to the Govt. of India
No. 1977 dated 29th October 1857.

Received Acknowledgment of same
dated 7th November 1857.

Public Works Dept
Dated 29th October 1857

To 7th Nov 1857.

Transmitting to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, Copy of Letter from the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, No. 1977, dated 29th October 1857, and requesting that the Court of Directors may be addressed on the subject.

Public Letter to the Govt. of India
No. 2902-903 dated 21st October 1857.

Received Acknowledgment of same
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Honorable Mr. Peacock
Honorable Mr. Currie
Honorable Mr. Ritchie
Honorable Mr. Laing
Honorable Mr. Wilson
Honorable Mr. Maddock
Honorable Mr. Bird.

Public Letter to the Govt. of India
No. 1977 dated 29th October 1857.

5 Encl

Engineers of Madras might be placed on the footing of Officers of a similar Class in Bengal as regards House rent

2. The Government of India, in negativing this application, observe that the principle involved in the grant of such an allowance, on the grounds urged by the Government, viz, in compensation, either for the reduction of Staff Salary recently ordered by the Honble Court of Directors, or in consideration of the heavy expenditure incurred on account of

of Carriage hire, is very questionable. There are points, they say, which should be considered each on its own merits, and that, as the Honorable Court have decided the former question, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if such should be deemed necessary.

3. The Government of India explain that the rate fixed in Bengal, a scale of House rent prevails which is participated in equally by all Staff

Staff Officers, and of which the two Superintending Engineers of Calcutta, out of eleven in that Presidency, are recipients; and they think that the argument can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals only, applying as it does with equal force in the cases of all the Staff Officers of Madras, with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, it is remarked, a comparison should be drawn. Referring however to the opinion recently expressed by the Honorable Court in respect to the duties of Superintending Engineers, the Government of India require this Government to consider, whether the residence at their Presidency of these Officers is desirable, or compatible with the efficient discharge of their duties, and observe that a decision on this question may probably render the consideration of the other unnecessary.

4. The question

on which an expression
of the opinion of the
Government is in
the first instance called
for is, whether the
residence of the Super-
intending Engineers
of the Madras Public
Works Department
should be fixed in the
Provinces, or whether
these Officers should
reside generally at
Madras, making, as
they now do, annual
tours of inspection, of
such length as may
be requisite, through
their respective circles.
The Governor in Council
has for some time past
had

had this particular
question under his
very careful consider-
-ation, and although
he is aware that
strong arguments may
be urged on the oppo-
-site side, yet, after
mature reflection,
he is convinced that
the course originally
adopted by the Govern-
-ment, of having
the residence of the
Superintending Engineers
at the Presidency,
is the correct one,
and the one most
conducive to the public
interests, whether re-
-garded in point of
efficiency

efficiency or of economy.

5. On the first of these points the Governor in Council would observe that, if any thing like constant supervision and inspection is to be maintained, it can only be well and fully done by the District Engineers, who, though designated Executive, are to all intents and purposes Inspectors of all works within their Districts, with the exception perhaps of a few works more immediately under their own control.

6 On the second point

point of economy, it appears to this Government that both time and money would be saved by an adherence to the present plans, and in matters of such importance as the public works of this Presidency it must be remembered that time is money. There can be no question but that if the superintending Engineers become residents in their circles, large and cumbrous offices will in a short time be formed, in which

which the work now performed in the Central Office will merely be repeated, or rather, if such Officer should be established, they will, in a supervisatory manner, perform a quantity of work which must of necessity be gone over again by the Chief Engineer, and probably present a necessity for the appointment of Office assistants, and perhaps of Assistant Inspectors, as the whole time of the Superintending Engineers will be occupied by their Office work. Further it must be remembered that, if the Superintending Engineers are detached to the Provinces, the Chief Engineer himself will necessarily require more assistance, which can only be supplied at a considerable increase of expense.

7. As regards the general question, it appears to this Government that the advantages to be derived by the residence of the Superintending Engineers

at the Presidency, when not engaged in a tour of inspection are that, while watching the proceedings of the several Districts comprized within their respective circles, they can at any moment move off to inspect any portion of their charge where they may deem their presence to be necessary; while on the other hand, their presence at the Central Office affords means and opportunity for consultation on projects of importance,

and

and brings the matured experience of the ablest Engineers in the department to bear on all such undertakings, without the delay and the intervention of a lengthened correspondence which would be inevitable if they were resident in distant parts of the Presidency.

8. One other advantage, and that two of no small importance, which renders such co operation especially desirable, is the diversity in the nature of the various

various kinds of public
works brought under
the consideration of
the Central Office. Thus,
one Officer may have
a special talent for
the alignment of
Roads, another may
excel in Hydraulic
Works on rivers, a
third may have a
large experience of
questions connected
with inland navi-
-gation, the formation
of harbours &c. Some
projects involve the
consideration of all
these points, and it
needs no argument
to shew how carefully
they
may be modi-
-fied by joint deli-
-beration. ~~in case of~~
~~case of~~ Each of the
Superintending Engineers
residence is to be
within their circles,
the entire advantage
of their presence at
the chief Office will
be lost, without in
all probability, the
amount of actual
supervision being
greater than it is at
present.

9. The Governor
in Council would
affirm with some
degree of certainty
that while supervision
will not be increased
the

the proposed measurement must necessarily entail great delay in the transaction of business, and create a large increase of labor and correspondence in the Official work of the department. A few examples will suffice to illustrate this position.

10 The District of South Arcot is included in the Southern Circle. The District Engineer resides at Cuddalore a station about a hundred miles from Madras. His correspondence at present is sent direct to the Central Office, and is disposed of either by the Superintending Engineer of the circle, or, if he is on a tour, by the Officer in charge during his absence. But if the Superintending Engineer should reside within the circle, the correspondence must be sent to his head quarters, not improbably on the Neilgherry Hills, and will thus have to travel a distance of 500 miles before it reaches Madras, but if he should happen to be at the time on a tour, the correspondence may have to follow him to Malabar or Tinnevelly, or it must remain unnoticed, awaiting his return, for one, two or three months.

again,

11. Again, in the Centre circle: The District Engineer of Chingleput resides within eight miles of Fort St. George. His correspondence can now reach the Central Office in an hour; but if the Superintending Engineer should reside within the circle, it would in all probability have to go in the first instance to his head quarters — probably at to Tiruvannamalai, thence probably at to Palmanair, thus making a circuit of 200 miles before reaching Madras. It may however so happen that the Superintending Engineer is in Canara, four hundred miles off, in which case, this correspondence must either follow him on circuit, or await his return.

12. From the arrangements made in this Presidency no separate

separate establishment has been assigned to the Superintending Engineer; nor was it ever contemplated that they should have offices of Record, and this Government have understood that it has been contemplated that they should on transfer to the Provinces, still be without a record. This is an arrangement which appears to this Government to be simply impossible, the Superintending Engineer could not conduct business without having Copies of letters, of estimates, and plans. So that, instead of Correspondence coming, as it at present does, direct from the District Officer to the Central Office, where it can be replied to in a few days, it would have to go to the Superintending Engineer

by great delay in the transaction of business, and by increased expense; or, Officers of insufficient experience must be nominated to these important appointments, as it is quite impossible to keep Officers of the standing of the present Superintending Engineers at the Presidency on the allowances at present assigned to them. Virtually the two District Engineers drawing Staff Salaries of 600 and 700 Rs a month are in a far better position in point of emolument, than Superintending Engineers on 800 Rupees, when the greater expenses of living at the Presidency is taken into account.

account.

6. On this subject the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle has, in a letter to the address of the Chief Engineer, offered some very pertinent remarks. I am desired to forward a copy of this communication, and to commend it to the favorable consideration of the Government of India, accompanied by the expression of the opinion of this Government that, after the reduction in staff salary to which the three Superintending Engineers of this Presidency have been subjected, some allowance is needed to meet the increased expense of residence at the Presidency, and to induce Officers of standing

standing and ability to a
except the office.

Jot. St. George
21st Oct. 57

Public Works 1857 Septr.
Dito Cons.: 29th October.

No. 1977.

To
The Secretary to the
Govt. of India. D. P. W.
Dy 21st October/57.

From do 11th Jany/58 in 62d Feby
No. 92-9

Recommending that the
Superintending Engineers of this
Presidency be allowed House
Rent as in Calcutta, and
offering several reasons for
their location at this Presidency

No. 5.

5 Oct.