2. Date of repair. 11-9-37
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—39,000—16-10-29.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 1-12-57

G.O. No. 2/1962191 Press Mis.

3334

Dated 27—11— 19/85/

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 33. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 29th October 1857, No. 4791.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 1958, dated 19th Instant, I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government, that the Chief Engineer has no power to sanction any repairs of irrigation works, the amount of which exceeds that of one year's Revenue; and that when the general estimate is beyond that, it is most convenient as well as usual, to include in it, the whole of the works proposed.

15 Abstract estimates.
15 Reports.
7 Plans.

2. If the Chief Engineer were to sanction the estimate for repairs only, leaving the cost of sluices or Calingulahs for the authorization of Government, on a separate estimate, great additional labor would be occasioned, and it might happen, that the latter works were either not sanctioned at all, or so long postponed as to make the repairs useless.

3. I am not therefore prepared to issue the Circular order suggested by Government with reference to works of irrigation, but think that the power vested in the Chief Engineer, of sanctioning ordinary estimates might, with great advantage be extended to the limit of two year's revenue, which was the extent of authority vested originally in the Board of Revenue, though curtailed in later times.

4. Regarding the estimates returned by Government, I can only say, that they appear to me of the class which cannot be postponed, without prejudice to the Reveuue, and as their rejection will preclude the execution of the works till the spring of 1860, I would still venture to urge their entry in the Budget of 1858-59. The amount of the 15 estimates now forwarded, is Rupees (14,830) fourteen thousand eight hundred and thirty.

5. It is only by constant attention to the preservation and improvement of the numerous works, that the reasources of this presidency as derived from wet land can be sustained; and feeling as I do, the imperative necessity of economy at this junction, I yet cannot consider it is truly observed by withholding from the ryots the means of cultivating in security. In only one of these estimates viz that of Naidavoor does the estimate fall under one year's revenue, but it seemed scarcely necessary to make the exception.

No. 34. ORDER THEREON, No. 2191; dated 27th November 1857.

On the 3rd October last, the Chief Engineer forwarded twenty estimates amounting in the aggregate to Rupees 18,111 for the repair and improvement of works of Irrigation in the Chingleput District. Of these estimates, sanction was granted in Extract Minutes Consultation of the 19th Idem No. 1958, to only five for new works and improvements, and as fourteen of the remaining estimates provided for repairs, besides new works, and one entirely for repairs; the Chief Engineer was desired to dispose of the items which referred to repairs, and submit for the sanction of Government fresh estimates providing only for new works or improvements.

2. The Chief Engineer now states with reference to these orders, that he possesses no authority to sanction estimates for repairs to Irrigation works, when the intended outlay is in excess of the amount of one year's revenue of the work. He does not however quote the Rules which thus restrict his sanctioning powers, and the Government are not aware of any. It is observed from para. 36* of the Rules recently published under orders of Government, that the Chief Engineer is empowered to sanction estimates for repairs to works of Irrigation when the amount "shall exceed the highest year's revenue from the work during the preceding five years;" and as no limit has been prescribed to such excess, the Government cannot understand what difficulty that Officer can have, in dealing with the estimates in question.

* Page 586 of C. and S. O. of D. P. W., para. 36.

3. The Chief Engineer further states that he is not prepared to issue a Circular, as suggested in para. 5 of the orders of the 19th October last, already adverted to, prohibiting the

practice of including repairs and new works in one estimate, and requiring the submission of separate estimates for these two Classes of work. His reasons against this course being followed, in respect to works of Irrigation are, that it would entail much additional labor and the requisite sluices or Calingulahs, when left for the sanction of Government on a separate estimate, might "either not be sanctioned at all, or so long postponed, as to make the repairs useless." The Government cannot perceive on what grounds the first assertion is made, and in respect to the second, they cannot admit that new sluices, &c. required for improving the capabilities of a tank are so dependent on the repairs, as to render the simultaneous execution of the two classes of works indispensable. The Government observe that the repair of an Irrigation work has been defined to be "the restoration of its decayed parts of earth, stone or masonry, with such additions to their strength, or alterations of their form, as may be indispensably necessary," and that estimates for such works can be sanctioned by Collectors in ordinary cases, and by the Chief Engineer, as already remarked, when the amount exceeds the highest year's revenue from the work during the preceding five years. It would be a departure from the established system of the Public Works Department, were the Government to undertake to exercise a power which has been delegated to their Subordinate Officers, and their sanction can only be given to new works or improvements, for which separate estimates must be prepared and submitted.

4. The Government therefore direct that the Chief Engineer will carry out the instructions issued in para. 5 of the orders of the 19th October last, and they also resolve to return to that Officer the fifteen estimates re-submitted with the present letter, in view to their being disposed of, in the manner pointed out in para. 3 of the same orders.

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

Central Office of P. Works,

No. 4791

Fort Saint George,
29th October 1857.

From,
The Chief Engineer.

"Revenue"
"Irrigation"

To,
The Secretary to Government P. W. D.

Sir.

Original
received 31

With reference to C. Inc. C. No. 1958 dated 19th Instant, I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government, that the Chief Engineer has no power to sanction any Repairs of irrigation works, the amount of which exceeds that of one year's Revenue; and that when the general Estimate is beyond that, it is most convenient as well as usual, to include in it, the whole of the works proposed.

2 If the Chief Engineer were to sanction the estimate for Repairs only, leaving the cost of Sluices or Calingulahs for the authorization of Government, on a Separate Estimate, great additional labor would be occasioned, and it might happen, that the latter works were either not sanctioned at all, or so long postponed as to make the Repairs useless.

3 I am not therefore prepared to issue the Circular order suggested by Government with

with reference to works of irrigation, but think that the power vested in the Chief Engineer, of sanctioning ordinary estimates might, with great advantage be extended to the limit of two years' revenue, which was the extent of authority vested originally in the Board of Revenue, though curtailed in later times

4 Regarding the estimates returned by Government, I can only say, that they appear to me of the class which cannot be postponed, without prejudice to the Revenue, and as their rejection will preclude the execution of the works till the Spring of 1860, I would still venture to urge their entry in the Budget of 1858/59. The amount of the 15 Estimates now forwarded, is Rupees (1,42,830) One lakh forty two thousand eight hundred and thirty.——

5 It is only by constant attention to the preservation and improvement of the numerous works, that the resources of this Presidency as derived from wet land can be sustained; and feeling as I do, the imperative necessity of economy at this junction, I yet cannot consider it is truly observed by withholding from the Ryots the means of cultivating in security. In only one of these estimates viz: that of Naidanoor does the estimate fall under one year's revenue, but it seemed

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seemed scarcely necessary to make the exception.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obt Servant

Wd Fisher Colonel

Chief Engineer.

Central Office of P. W.

Fort Saint George,

29th October 1857.

To,

The Secretary to Government

P. W. D.

Wm. Brooks

Lt.

P.W.D.

No. 2191.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 27th November 1857.

Read the following Letter
from the Chief Engineer
No. 1 dated 29th October 1857
(Rec'd 31st October 1857 No. 4791)

On the Estimates
Ordered that the Chief Engineer
be informed that the Estimates
therein contained are sanctioned
as regards the Estimates for the Repairs
Repairs and Improvements
of Works of Irrigation in
the Chingleput District
Ordered further that Consultation
dated 20th October 1857 No. 4615
be cancelled and that
the Chief Engineer be informed
that the power vested in the Chief
Engineer of sanctioning Ordinary Estimates
for new works or Repairs
to Irrigation Works, such
Estimates not to exceed
fourteen thousand Rupees
be extended to
Estimates not exceeding
Twenty thousand Rupees
and the Collector
of Chingleput be informed
accordingly for his guidance

Sd/ H. D.

Sd/ to Govt 20th October 1857 No. 4615

P.W. Works 1st Department
Dd to Govt 1st Dec.r
No. 2731.

From,
The Chief Engineer.

To,
The Secretary to Government
P.W.D.

Dated 29th October 1857.
Received 30th

S.E. No. 2191. 29th Nov.r
15 Enclosures 3f.

Returned
Recommends for entry in the Budget
of 1858/59. 15 Estimates for the Repairs
and improvement of works of Irrigation
in the Chingleput Dt. amounting in the
aggregate to Rs. 16830 and states that as
the amount of each estimate with but one
exception exceeds that of one years revenue
the Chief Engr. had no power to sanction them.
Observes further that the power vested in the
Chief Engineer of sanctioning ordinary estimates
might with great advantage be extended to
that of 2 years revenue.

No. 33

18 Nov.r R 23d

the Chief Engineer was desired to dispose of the items which referred to repairs, and submit for the sanction of Govt. fresh Estimates providing only for new works or improvements.

The Chief Engr now states with reference to these orders, that he possesses no authority to sanction Estimates for repairs to Irrigation Works, when the amount of [the work] is in excess of the annual revenue of the [work]; does not however quote the Rule in which thus restricts his sanctioning powers, and he [Govt] are not aware of any. It is observed from para 36 of the Rules recently [published] under orders of Govt, that the Chief Engr is empowered to sanction Estimates for repairs to Works of Irrigation when the amount "shall exceed

"the highest year's Revenue "from the work during the "preceding five years;" and as no limit has been prescribed to such expenditure Govt cannot understand what difficulty that Officer can have in dealing with the Estimates in question.

The Chief Engr further states that he is not prepared to issue a Circular, as suggested in para 3 of the Orders of the 19 October last already adverted to, prohibiting the practice of including repairs and new works in one Estimate, and requiring the submission of separate Estimates for these two classes of work. His reasons against their consideration followed, in respect to Works of Irrigation are that it would entail much additional labour and

× Page 586 of C.P.S.C. of D.O.M. para 36

and that the requisite Sluices or Calingulahs, when left for the sanction of Govt on a separate Estimate, might "either not "be sanctioned at all, or "so long postponed, as to "make the Repairs useless." The Govt cannot perceive on what grounds the first assertion is made, and in respect to the second, they cannot admit that new Sluices &c required for improving the capabilities of a tank are so dependent on the repairs, as to render the simultaneous execution of the two works indispensable. The Govt observe that the repair of an Irrigation Work has been defined to be "the restoration of its "decayed parts of earth, "stone or masonry, with "such additions & their "strength, or alterations

"of

"of them form, as may be "indispensably necessary" and that Estimates for such works can be sanctioned by Collectors in ordinary cases and by the Chief Engineer, (when the amount already regarded, exceeds the highest years revenue from the work during the preceding five years. It would be a departure from the established system of the Public Works Dept, were the Govt to undertake to exercise a power which has been delegated to their subordinate Officers, and their discretion can only be given to new works or improvements, for which separate Estimates must be prepared and submitted.

The Govt therefore direct that the Chief

Engineer

Engineer will carry out the instructions issued in para 5 of the orders of the 19th Inst. Each, and they also resolve to return to that Office the fifteen Estimates resubmitted with the present letter in view to their being disposed of, in the manner pointed out in para 3 of the same Orders.—

J R

9 Copies to the Chief Engr
with 15 Encls
Diff 26

6 29th Octr 57 Nos 64-65

Public Works 1857 Dept
Do to Govt 1st Decr

No 2196

Extract Minute of Govt

Dated 27th Novr 57

From Chief Engr 4th Decr 57
& No 2944 in 6 23

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Returning to the Chief Engineer the 15 Estimates for repairs to irrigation works in Chinglepat in view to their being disposed of as pointed in the order of the 19th October last.

Nos 33 & 34.