M.R.O. I—82 406—27-11-40

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 225 Press Mis.

24-26

Dated 3 — 12 — 18 9/.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Read the following.

No. 24. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 20th November 1857, No. 5391.

Read the following letter from Captain H. W. RAWLINS, Garrison Engineer; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 17th November 1857, No. 474.

SIR,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your resolution No. 5167 of the 12th instant, forwarding Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2016, of the 27th ultimo, upon the subject of the orders of the Supreme Government, contemplating the further reduction of my Office establishment from Rupees 732 to that of a District Engineer of Rupees 393 per mensum, and the absorption of the Office Maistries and Conicopolies for general duty in the Public Works Department.

2. I am aware that you have already protested against this reduction, and it may be unnecessary for me to repeat the injurious effect of such a measure on the efficiency and well working of my Department. It is utterly impossible to assimulate the duties pertaining to the Garrison Engineer, with those of an Officer in charge of a District. The former in addition to the current duties of a large and important office, is the sole Executive Officer, responsible for 90 or 100 works under simultaneous execution; while the District Engineer has several European Executive Officers to assist him, complete with office Establishments, whose aggregate pay far exceeds the amount allotted to the Garrison Engineer.

3. The description of work is also widely different; while the expenditure, compared with many Districts, is about the same. In addition to the charge of several large buildings, a great portion of the Garrison Engineer's duties consists of an infinity of small works requiring considerable Superintending Agency. It is much simpler to expend 10,000 Rupees on one or two large works, than on 40 or 50 small ones, and requires less office Machinery and Supervision.

4. Excessive as the Supreme Government, is pleased to consider the present establishment; I assure you that my people work as hard as they can, and that even with all their exertion, it is difficult to keep pace with current work, and prevent arrears—you are yourself aware that I have often borrowed draughtsmen from your Department, and I have frequently had occasion to hire additional temporary Estimate-makers and Writers to expedite work and avoid delay.

5. If all my Writers, Maistries, and Conicopolies, above the strength of a District Engineers establishment; be transferred to the Public Works, with the understanding that they will be permanently attached to my office as heretofore, the inconvenience will not be so great, because the change will be merely nominal; but on the other hand if the orders are carried out in their integrity to reduce my establishment to the minimum contemplated, the result will be most detrimental; the business will retrogade into its former unsatisfactory incompleteness; and arrears, bad workmanship, and incessant complaints will inevitably follow.

6. I have no hesitation in saying, that the efficiency of the Establishment will be ruined by the change; and that instead of a saving, the reverse will be the case. After all; the contemplated reduction is a trifle in comparison to the annual expenditure in the Department, and I am sure that the wisest economy will be to retain these people upon their present footing where they are satisfied, and where their local experience is of the utmost importance.

7. Having no other Officer to assist in the executive duties of my appointment, the supervision of well qualified Maistries and Conicopolies is indispensible. The want of them was for years a subject of complaint; and it was only upon the repeated earnest solicitation of successive Superintending Engineers, that they were permanently entertained on the establishment. The present men have been long accustomed to the peculiar discription of the Garrison Engineer's work, and no others could do it so well and cheaply. Many of them are physically unfit to knock about up-country. They would be unwilling to leave Madras upon promotion, and they would be equally so to remain without it; while at the same time their local experience and valuable qualifications as Superintendents here, may be unnecessary and useless in the District.

8. With reference to the 3rd para. of the before quoted Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2016, having received no orders from you to the contrary the Maistries and Conicopolies are still retained upon my Office establishment. Information, however, has reached me that the Civil Auditor will object to pay their Abstract for the present month without special authority. I therefore respectfully request, that you will be pleased to move Government to continue their services as at present, until the subject of my office Establishment is finally determined; and that the Civil Auditor may be instructed to pass their Abstracts as usual until further orders.

Resolved in continuation of the Chief Engineer's letter No. 4870, dated 2nd November 1857, to forward to Government, copy of the foregoing communication from the Garrison Engineer, in the forcible representations of which, Colonel Faber fully concur; and to request that the orders for reducing that Officer's Establishment, and that of the Civil Architect, may be suspended.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 25. Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 30th November 1857, No. 5599.

Read the following letter from Colonel W. H. ATKINSON, Civil Architect P. D; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 26th November 1857, No. 624.

SIR,

With reference to the Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 2016, dated 27th Ultimo, forwarded with your resolution No. 5167, dated 12th Instant, "ordering that the Maistries and "Conicopolies costing with this Department 202½ Rupees per mensum should be no longer borne "on the strength of it but that they are in lien to be put in the places of certain lower subordi-"nates of Districts, as the said Maistries and Conicopolies are not to be dismissed, or the Depart-"ments to which they belong will thereby lose the benifit of their local experience &c.," I have the honor to represent to you for the consideration of the higher authorities that if these trained men who have grown with the growth of this Department are thus removed to another District, the *deprecated* loss to this Department of their local experience will at once be realized, and how the duty is to be carried on with any advantage or even safety to the state, I cannot imagine or without these experienced and responsible men who select proper workmen from among hundreds of the ordinary bazar work people whom alone I have to depend upon for artificers, and to do the work in a proper imperishable manner like the Cathedral, and Scotch Church (former works by predecessors of mine) I leave you to judge, as well as of the economy and security there would be in letting loose a number of the work-people I have described to do their pleasure on Government work *i e* without a single competent subordinate to watch or instruct them. If only the cost of the various Presidency works executed during the last 52 years or in the existence of the lately termed Superintending Engineer's Department were totalled up and also the cost of these lower subordinates I am convinced the authorities would be almost incredulous of the very small fraction of a percentage their services in spite of their value have cost the state. As I repeat without the constant Superintendence of this class of men no works ever could have been successfully carried out but all would have been a chaos and confusion from which Government must have been heavy losers.

2. In fact I consider these men, (as I have said before in a letter to you) in the light of the petty or non Commissioned Officers of a ship or Regiment without whom there could be no order or discipline. Further, without these Maistries independent of the buildings part of the work which I have hitherto dwelt upon the office work in like manner would become paralized and at a stand still, as these are the men who when repairs are required to public buildings who are best qualified to being measurements or particulars of the repairs in detail to enable the solitary esti-

mate-maker now left with me to compute the cost of them. And that some of these measurings and estimatings are of no trifling nature I would beg to refer you to my 3 estimates of 19th March last for repairing and improving the Penitentiary of altogether 101 pages of condensed calculation. Ditto. the Sudder Court of 22 pages, dated 30th June 1853, the Government House, and an infinity of buildings of which the records are in your office, and to being intelligible and correct particulars of these works, requiring men of this stamp and who can work in the sun of Madras all day takes one or more of these men days and weeks together sometimes for one work or building only, and similarly on the completion of a work it is necessary to make a rigid, measurement of what has been done to determine the amount of excess above if any or falling short of the estimate in support of the Bill. Moreespecially too where a contractor has been employed for whom at any rate a regular detailed Survey report is necessary and which reports you are aware are sometimes very voluminous as to length and calculation.

3. And if other people in this Department were sent, supposing them equal to it, to do their work it would be only taking these other men away from their own proper duty and so causing greater delay or expence from the substitution of perhaps inferior hands that would be necessary* especially as since the recent division of the Office, in addition to the former moiety of the Department work other duties have been added to it viz. Superintending the roads in the various pubiic compounds measuring 24 lineal miles, all which require frequent inspections, reports and estimates besides the actual work of repairing them for which Superintendence must be provided, 2ndly 30 bridges and 200 drains scattered all within the presidency limits; which require constant attention. Also to keep in trim the hedges of the said public compounds, and when the Collector has to furnish certificates for private grounds to be purchased or made over to parties, this Department is now called upon to inspect and measure, so as to certify that there will be no encroachment on public property N. B. This is all extra work that has been transferred to me from the lately abolished Department of Superintendent of public roads but without any establishment allowed for it, not even a peon.

* If obtainable at the moment required

4. Besides since the division of my late Department I am now called upon to examine and check annually the valuations of Public buildings with a view of ascertaining if the Assessment charged to Government by the Municipal authorites is correct and considering the number and magnitude of such buildings this I submit may alone be a very onerous duty particularly in case of there being any difference of opinion which must be expected now and then. And only very lately all the public works including tanks* hitherto under the Madras Collectorate have been placed under this Department, and all these extra executive duties have been added without a fraction of extra establishment to meet it although the former incumbents I have named had each their establishment for them.

* As per list attached.

5. Amongst the other duties which I have lately received orders to carry out is the reporting upon and valuing of 10 houses and properties attached, belonging to the estate of his late Highness the Nabob situated as per margin and considering that each requires a plan and estimates to be prepared of it. I would beg to put it to you how it is possible to do these things without proper people to measure ground, buildings &c. and assist in it? Then I am constantly called upon to send reports upon public buildings in case of damage from disrepair or weather occurring to them, or improvement or alteration be deemed necessary.

1 at Adyar.
2 at Poodopaukum.
2 at Red Hills.
1 at Mylapore.
1 at Triplicane.
1 at Ennore.
1 at Amenjeccary.
1 at Mount road.

6. In the office as may be supposed there is the office work proper viz. designing and drawing *original* and other plans preparing original estimates many of them very elaborate and voluminous for new works or repairs, keeping the work people's, and Department periodical accounts regularly, so as not to fall in arrears, Besides since the divison of office ordered in January last I have not only to prepare my own accounts but have to receive and audit the accounts of the Assessment Engineer, of the Mint Master for work executed by him and from the Collector of Madras; for all which extra duty I have had, as said above, no extra hands.

7. It was with a view rather to anticipate the wishes of Government to economize in these times of financial difficulty, that I wrote to you two months or more ago offering to place at

your disposal the services of my European Conductor for employment in another District and whose pay amounting to Rupees 230-14 considerably exceeds the 202½ now wished to be saved by dispensing with the pay and services of a most useful class of well trained and experienced men whose services by the way on their present small pay would be lost to the state if they were ordered up-country, as they say they would be obliged to resign, being men who have been all their lives in Madras where their sole experience lies, and therefore would be unfit indeed perhaps useless at the age of most of them to commence to do the work up-country.

8. Finally I would beg to say that unless the Department is to be reduced to a state of dormaney *i e* with no new orders to execute either in the shape of designs for new works or Plans and estimates or with any new work to carry on it would be as impossible for this Department as it would be contrary to the interests of Government in point of economy and safety to dispense with the services of these trained and proved men who are as indispensable in their capacity as are to himself an individuals private servants without whom he could do nothing, or at least have time for noting else.

9. Let me therefore implore you to intercede with Government that these peoples pay may not be stopped which would be a heavy blow and great discouragement to them in time to come, after their long and faithful service to the state to be thus virtually summarily dismissed and who if once lost might not be easily obtainable again.

10. It would appear to be lost sight of in the wish to cut down the expense of this Office that its counterpart the Civil Architect of Calcutta is provided with an office establishment of 1,470 Rupees exclusive of the pay which is not stated of 6 Assistant under writers vide last Bengal Almanac of this year. Being in an office to which this is supposed to be assimilated double the office allowance of 750 Rupees which it is now proposed to be reduced from ¼th to ⅓rd of its amount. And I may say that the duties at the Presidency as may be judged from the foregoing must be very distinct from those of a District than which they must be much more varied. To place this Department on a similar footing or as is now urged would I would submit be incompatible with the due performance of its duties to Government.

11. Since this last Minutes of Consultation another one has been received No. 2008, dated 12th Instant wherein it is stated that some new Barracks were burnt down at Peshawur and Kussowlie from the want of proper looking after by the Executive Officer on which account the Supreme Government in the same Minutes of Consultation rule "that in future that for all works to which the Executive Engineer himself is unable to give his undivided attention. Assistants and Subordinates should be specially detailed &c.," and yet these are the very men in question whom it is now wished to discharge or as amounts to the same thing the Civil Auditor declares their pay has ceased from the 1st of this month so that from the implied variance of the orders of the Supreme Government I can but suppose it must have been under some misconception as to who the men were who come under the operation of the 1st order. At all events it seems difficult to imagine how an Officer giving large security as I have done, for his works lasting 3 years, can do so any longer or can help exceeding his estimates if his agents or means of check are taken from him further, nor do I suppose it is intended that the comparatively highly paid time of an Officer is to be expended in doing the duty of a mere Maistry supposing even he could be everywhere at once and so could do the work of a number of them combined.

12. Hitherto I have been speaking of the Maistries. Similarly as to the Conicopolies, in their absence who will there be to keep account of the materials received or the people employed on the work and further I would beg your attention to the reduction in the coolies hire and the amount saved or re-funded on different estimates of late years not an iota of which would have taken place but for the services of these would be discarded men. It must be borne in mind that this Department like other Executive ones has not simply to check the work of others or forward mere routine documents but has to deal with nearly all original work for which the information and particulars must be gleaned by itself from inspection and measurement of each of the different works which cannot be done quietly in an office but must be soon the spot for which time and qualified men must be necessary or before the office work proper in the shape of estimates or Plans which alone see the light can be begun or carried out.

List of Irrigation and other works in the Collectorate of Madras.

IRRIGATION WORKS.

Mylepoor tank.
Noongumbaukum tank.
Chaitput tank.
Porsavaukum tank.
Perambore tank.
Kilpauk tank.
Veyasurpaudy tank.
Egmore tank.
Wotairry Nullahs.
Abkarry Department.
Arrack Distillery.

Abkarry and Supreme Court Boundary pillars &c.

Salt Department.

Salt Cotaur and all the works connected with it.

Salt Pans, Vullor, Voyalore, Cuttivauk, Attiputt, Poorthewauk, Ennore &c.

Madras Cutcherry, 23rd Nov. 1857.

(Signed) A. P. KEMP,
Supervisor, P. D.

Resolved to forward the foregoing letter No. 624, dated 26th November 1857, from the Civil Architect, for the information of Government, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation No. 2016, dated 27th October last.

1 Original letter.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,
Chief Engineer.

No. 26. ORDER THEREON, No. 2250; dated 3rd December 1857.

The Government have, in a separate Resolution,* communicated their views on the Chief Engineer's representations respecting the reduction proposed by the Government of India in the establishments of the Civil Architect and Garrison Engineer, and they have no further observation to make on the communications now laid before them, than that those Officers, equally with the Chief Engineer, have not fully understood the orders of the Supreme Government. It was never intended that either Officer should be deprived of the services of his Superintending agency, so essential to the satisfactory execution of the works of the Presidency, and the order of the 27th October last, expressly directed that such agency should not be dispensed with. What the Government of India desired was, that the professional branch should not be extra to the Department, but incorporated with it, and the order just quoted, suggested the mode in which the arrangement might be carried into effect, by directing that a reduction should be made in the number of lower Subordinates in the Districts and that their places should be given to the servants of the Garrison Engineer and Civil Architect's establishments, who would however still remain at the Presidency.

* Dated 1st December 1857, No. 2227.

2. As some delay is likely to occur before the question is settled, and the Civil Architect and Garrison Engineer may be subject to retrenchment on that account, the Government resolve to instruct the Civil Auditor to pass, until further orders, the abstracts of those Officers for the salaries of their respective establishments according to their existing strength.

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

No 5391.

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer
in the Department of Public Works Fort St Saint George
Under date the 20th November 1857

No 5391 Read the following letter
Garrison Engineer's Office

From

Captain H. W. Rawlens,
Garrison Engineer,

To The Chief Engineer, &c &c &c
Department Public Works
Fort St Saint George.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your resolution No 5467 of the 12th instant, forwarding Extract Minutes of Consultation No 2016, of the 27th Ultimo, upon the subject of the orders of the Supreme Government, sanctioning the further reduction of my Office establishment from Rupees 732 to that of a Dist. Engineer of Rupees 393 per mensem, and the absorption of the Office Mauistries & Cancopolies for general duty in the Public Works Department.

2 I am aware that you have already forwarded against this reduction, and it may be

be unnecessary for me to repeat the injurious effect of such a measure on the efficiency and well-working of my Department. It is utterly impossible to assimilate the duties pertaining to the Garrison Engineer, with those of an Officer in Charge of a District. The former in addition to the current duties of a large and important Office, is the sole Executive Officer, responsible for 90 or 100 works under simultaneous execution; while the District Engineer has several European Executive Officers to assist him, complete with Office Establishments, whose aggregate pay far exceeds the amount allotted to the Garrison Engineer.

3 The description of work is also widely different, while the expenditure, compared with many Districts, is about the same. Then in addition to the charge of several large Buildings, a great portion of the Garrison Engineers duties consists of an infinity of small works requiring considerable Superintending Agency. It is much simpler to expend 10,000 Rupees on one or two large works, than on 10 or 50 small ones, and requires less Office Machinery and Supervision.

4 Except as the Supreme Government is pleased to consider the present establishment, I assure you that my people work as hard as they can, and that even with all their exertion, it is difficult to keep pace with current work, and prevent arrears. You are yourself aware that I have often borrowed draughtsmen from your Department, and I have frequently had occasion to hire additional temporary Estimate makers and Clerks to expedite work and prevent delay.

5 If all my Minors, Maistries, and Conservancies, above the strength of an District Engineer establishment, be transferred to the Public Works, on the understanding that they will be permanently attached to my Office as heretofore, the inconvenience will not be so great, because the change will be merely nominal; but on the other hand if the orders are carried out in their entirety & reduce my establishment to that minimum contemplated, the result will be most disastrous; the business will retrograde into its former unsatisfactory incomplete state, and arrears, bad work monopoly, and unpleasant complaints will unavoidably follow.

6 I have no hesitation in saying that the efficiency of the Establishment will be lessened by the change; and that instead of a saving, the reverse will be the case. After all, the contemplated reduction is a trifle in comparison to the annual expenditure in the

Department

Department and Sir, you will find that the utmost economy will be observed in reducing those people upon their present footing where they are required, and where their local experience is of the utmost importance.

Having no other Officer employed in the executive duties of my appointment, the supervision of well qualified Maistries and Conicopolies is indispensible. The mustering them was for years an object of considerable trouble, was only upon the repeated earnest solicitations of successive Superintending Engineers, that they were permanently entertained on the establishment. The present mean charges are accustomed to the peculiar disagreeable duties of Garrison Engineers work, and no others would be so well and cheaply. many of them are physically unfit to undertake upon promotion, and they would be equally so to remain without the subsistence the means some their local experience and valuable qualifications as Superintendents becomes unnecessary and useless in the Department.

With reference to the 3d para of the before quoted Circular Memorandum Consultation No 2016, bearing received the notion from you to the contrary the Maistries and Conicopolies are still retained upon my Office establishment. Information, however, has reached me that the Civil Auditor will object to pay their Abstracts for the present month without special authority. I therefore respectfully request that you will be pleased to move Government to continue their services as at present, until the subject of my Office Establishment so finally determined, and that the Civil Auditor may be instructed to pass their Abstracts as usual until further orders.

I have the honor to be &c
(Signed) H. W. Rawlins Capt &c
Garrison Engineer

Fort Saint George
17th November 1859

Recorded in continuation of the Chief Engineer's letter No 2870, dated 2d November 1859, to forward to Government, Copy of the foregoing communication from the Garrison Engineer, in the forcible representations of which, Colonel Faber fully concurs, and to request that the orders for reducing that Officer's Establishment, and that of the Civil Architect may be suspended.

(Copy) A True Extract

A. Faber Colonel
Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

No 3599

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer in the Department of Public Works Fort Saint George

Under date the 30th November 1857

Read the following Letter

From Mr Civil Architect 2d Div.

Submits explanation on the subject of the Hereinafter No 624 dated 26th Nov 1857

Gaolships and Conicopolies ordered to be dismissed

Resolved to forward the foregoing

Enclosure. Letter No 624, dated 26th November 1857, from the

Original Letter. Civil Architect, for the information of Government,

with reference to Exon Minute Consn No 2016, dated

27th October last.

True Extract

C.D. Mr Fisher Acting

Chief Engineer

To,

The Secretary to Government &c &c &c.

Encl

Dated Public Works Department
Fort St George 30th Nov 1857

Extract from the Proceedings of the
Chief Engineer
To the Secretary to Government
&c &c &c.

Madras 20th November 1857.

Sir

Enclosed I have the honor to forward
Communications for information of the
Chief Engineer in continuation of the
correspondence from the Garrison Engineer
with reference to the proposed plan for
submitting Gaolships to the Conicopolic System
Situation of his Office establishment & Staff
a Reception of his Guardians & Guards
with the Public Works Department
and request that the orders may be
that Officers establishment & Staff of the
Civil Architect may be suspended.

No 624

Public Works Office

No 2237

Extract from the Minutes of the Executive Council

Under date the 3rd December 1857.

Read the following

Report from the Hon: the Chief Engineer

Ottawa 2nd Nov: 1857

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

The undersigned has the honor to submit for the consideration of your Excellency in Council the accompanying Report and Estimate of the Chief Engineer of Public Works, for the construction of a Road from the Ottawa to the Gatineau, and to recommend that the same be approved of.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Certified
per Order
No 2237.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

No 30

Public Works Department
Ottawa 8th Dec. 1857.
No 1237.

Extract from the Proceedings

Civil Engineer.

To the Secretary of Government
&c &c &c.

Sir

Ottawa 1st Dec. 1857

No 5599.

I have the honor to submit for the consideration of your Excellency in Council the accompanying Report and Estimate of the Chief Engineer of Public Works, for the construction of a Road from the Ottawa to the Gatineau, and to recommend that the same be approved of.

All which is respectfully submitted.

No 2250 3rd December

Certified Extract

[illegible]

22-1-6

No 30

Submitted an original letter from the Hon. Provincial Secretary transmitting with the accompanying Report and Estimate of the Chief Engineer of Public Works for the construction of a Road from the Ottawa to the Gatineau, and recommending that the same be approved of by the Executive Council.

Provincial

Establishments of the Civil Architect and Garrison Engineer, and they have no further observation to make on the communications now laid before them, than that those Officers, equally with the Chief Engineer, have not fully understood the orders of the Supreme Government. It was never intended that either Officer should be deprived of the services of the superintending agency, so essential to the satisfactory execution of the works of the Presidency

Presidency, and the Order of the 27th October last expressly directed that such agency should not be dispensed with. That the Government of India desired only that the professional branch should not be extra to the Department, but incorporated with it, and the order just quoted, suggested the mode in which the arrangements might be carried into effect, by directing that a reduction should be made in

in the number of Lower
subordinates in the
Districts and But.
Should given
their places to the
Servants of the Garrison
Engineer and Civil
Architect's Establish-
-ments, who would
however
still remain at the
Presidency.

As some
delay is likely to occur
before the question is
settled, and the Civil
Architect and Garrison
Engineer may be
subject to retrenchment
on that account, the
Government resolve
to instruct the Civil
Auditor to pass until
further

further orders, the
abstracts of those Officers
for the salaries of
their respective Es-
-tablishments accord-
-ing to their existing
strengths.—

To Copies to the Chief Engr. Orissa
1 — Civil Auditor "
1 — Accts. Genl. "

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Do. to Govt. 8th Dec.

No. 2250.

Extract Minis of Govt:
Dy 3d Dec. 57.
From the Chief Engr. 8th Dec/57
& No 242 Dis/one - 23d Feby

Instructing the Civil Auditor for the reasons stated to pass until further orders the pay Abstracts of the Civil Architect & Garrison Engineer's establishments according to their existing strength -

Copy & Ord. 1 Encl.
19 Feb/58.
No 24 at 26 & 28.