1. Number of paper
2. Date of receipt 12-6-57
3. Initials of reference.

M.R.O. 1—82,400—22-11-50

4

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Pub (Elec Works) DEPARTMENT.

dtd. 17-2-57

G.O. No. 490	Press Mis.
382	
Dated 13—3—	1957

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 17th March 1857.

No. 32. Ordered that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, to the Secretary to the Government of Bengal, dated 13th March 1857, No. 470.

SIR,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to request that you will supply this Government, with information as to the arrangements which obtain in Bengal for conducting the duties of the Central Office of the Public Works Department.

2. His Lordship in Council desires to ascertain the position in which the Superintending Engineers stand with respect to the Head of the Department, through whom and in what shape, Reports from the District Engineers reach the latter officer, and with whose opinion such Reports are finally laid before the Government.

Memorandum

The manner in which the duties of the central Office are conducted has lately been discussed, & I think that, to make the Office of the Practical that can be rendered as perfect as circumstances will permit, some new rules must shortly be laid down by Govt.

At present every thing is given out to Surveyors — the most important questions are sent out to Govt with either a very general opinion or leaving no consideration of practical rules or details, or not unfrequently, with

with no Division at all — the most heavy Riffles are sent up for orders, and it is really hardly too much to say that the Central Office, filled by four selected Officers of Engineers, as at present conducted, is more a hindrance than a help to Govt.

It is known from private sources that members are differently ordered in Calcutta, and a date come to express that information may be obtained from ~~Calcutta~~ the Govt of Bengal, on which, when received, the Govt may

may take Recorders for the conduct of business here.

The Superintending Engineers here are non executive, and all their valuable local experience is totally lost to Govt. Colonel A. Cotton has laid me but on his late tour to the North to enquire into Irrigation and report on various projects, which, when he reached Gunjam, he found had been disposed of long ago by orders from the Central Office, of which, although a member of the Office, he had

had never even heard, much less had he been consulted on.

The Govt cannot be surprised to find if merely professional questions, and I feel sure that they are not unnecessarily in danger of coming to erroneous conclusions on matters locally under the Chief Engineer, which would have appeared in a different shape had the Superintending Engineer been consulted.

Lord Iveagh on a Division that Govt would

would defeat the Engineer & adjoining District occasionally met, consulted together, compared notes, & mutually communicated that on in professional matters relative charges, and there can I think be little doubt that great good would result from the Superintending Engineers meeting together on all important projects within their respective circles — the experience gained in one district which would be brought to bear on

on all, and every great Project connected with Public Borough sifting Sick alone can bring out the truth — they can form an informed Board for mutual assistance, without any Official control. -stituted a Board.

At present there is no consultation & no reason for any — - refusal comes down with orders for decision endorsed by the Chief Engineer — the papers bearing on the question at issue are called for from the record, and before they can be collected, so great is the terror of delay (or more probably speaking, of deliberation) that a draft is prepared by the Head Clerk, approved and signed by the Chief Engineer, & the all considered proper; Sick is subsequently prepared by the Superintending Engineer, is destroyed & prevented, and it is only by accident that he may afterwards learn, that his labour has been in vain, and that the matter on which he had been labouring has

Hopeless

Hospl Ship 14:
Str Steamer.

B.W.C.

A.No 470

Lr: to Govt. of Bengal

Sir

I have directed the I.R.M. to give effect to your request that you will supply Govt. with information as to the arrangements which obtain in Bengal for conducting the duties of the central Office of the P.W.D.

I & Sir Your obdt Servt in Council desires to record in the Proceedings in which the letter is sending Engineers

Hospl Ship 14:
Str Steamer.

Home Dept. has already been disposed of — Should it first before the Chief Engineer is appointed, and hence it is that so many orders forth and suggestions are received from the central Office —

I have taken pains to learn her business & understand it — I believe it to be very simple, and I now lay my Minutes before Govt with a draft of a letter to Bengal —

E.G.

Cll Mund Dr. 12th/10

Stand with Clerk
of the Head of the
Department,
through whom it is
that claims refer
from the District
Engineers reach
the Ladies Office, &
with them Returns
Such refunds are
finally laid before
the Court

E.E.

Fort St. George
15th March 1854

Public Works 1857 Deptt.
Dg to Cons 17th March.
No 470.

To the Secretary to the Govt.
of Bengal.
Dg 13th March 57.

From Do 15th May 57 No 115
in Cons 11 Augt

Requesting information as
to the arrangements which obtain
in Bengal for Conducting the
duties of the Central Offices of the
Public Works Department.

No 32.

2 Branch