1. Number of pages 116
2. Date of repair 16-8-37
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82 400—22-12-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Comm. 24-3-57

G.O. No. 510 Press Mis.

32-33

Dated 2-3- 1857.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 24th March 1857.

No. 32. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle, in charge of the Central office of Public Works, dated 2nd March 1857, No. 10561.

Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Superintending Engineer, Southern Circle, to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated Camp Trichinopoly, 23rd February 1857, No. 58.

SIR,

I have already reported the necessity of postponing the transfer of the Executive charge of the Trivady Talook of Tanjore to the Engineer's Department and I have now the honor to submit copies of correspondence shewing the decision arrived at by the Collector and myself that the duties of the entire District should be made over to Major Birdwood on the 1st August next.

2. This propositon was made on my part from a conviction that since the establishments necessary for carrying out the new system of Public Works have been sanctioned, and the knowledge of an approaching change has become general there is and must be a degree of difficulty in the present executive arrangements which may prove detrimental, unless a definite term is fixed for their continuance.

3. Under this opinion, I have suggested that no change shall take place (with certain exceptions) until the termination of the present working season, in order that there may be no difficulty in closing the accounts of the great mass of ordinary works, and none of that description may be transferred in an unfinished state.

4. I have now concluded my inspections of the principal works under execution and provided for most of the important repairs of the season, but the references are so numerous, that I feel unwilling to relinquish the duty of answering them during the absence of any Officer whose position will allow of his doing so in a satisfactory manner, and I am anxiously looking for the arrival of either Major Birdwood or Lieutenant Vertue.

Resolved to forward to Government for information, and orders, copy of the foregoing letter No. 58, dated 23rd February 1857, with its accompanying enclosure reporting the arrangements proposed to be made for the permanent transfer of the executive duties of the Tanjore District to the Engineer Department on the 1st August 1857.

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON, Captain,
Acting Superintending Engineer Northern Circle.

No. 33. ORDER THEREON, No. 510; dated 20th March 1857.

The Officer in charge of the Central office of Public Works submits a letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, recommending the transfer of the Executive duties of Tanjore to the District Engineer from 1st August next. Captain Johnston also forwards the correspondence which has passed on the subject between Major Lawford and the Acting Collector.

2. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council sanctions the transfer of the executive duties of Tanjore to the District Engineer from 1st August next as recommended. The Chief Engineer will be good enough to submit as early as possible a detailed list of the proposed executive Circles.

3. The Government must however notice some of the points contained in Major Lawford's letter to the Acting Collector, dated 24th February 1857, which are inconsistent with their intentions, and must create confusion in the working of the new system. Major Lawford informs Mr. Phillips "that all works of a strictly emergent nature are intended to remain under" his "Executive control." The Government are not aware that any such reservation was made in regard to emergent works. Para. 3, Minutes of Consultation, dated 7th October 1856, No. 1826, provides only for sudden emergencies and accidents. It directs that in the cases of breaches

of a strictly emergent

of tanks and channels it will be the duty, as at present, of Tahsildars and other Revenue officers, as well as of heads of villages to take immediate steps to repair the damage, sending word without delay to the nearest member of the Engineer Department, but this must not be construed into requiring the Revenue Department to execute all works that may be sanctioned as emergent.

4. Again in a subsequent para. Major Lawford observes that he thinks "that some of the larger works recently sanctioned, may be transferred from the 1st August if the Civil Engineer is prepared to execute them." The Government imagine that there is a clerical error in the date thus given, for when the transfer is made it must be complete, and must include all works large or small, completed or in progress, and now that the Public Works Establishment has been nominated, there can be nothing to preclude the District Engineer from taking charge of all.

5. Major Lawford suggests that as a new account of the annual grant for roads commences on the 1st May it might be advisable to make over part of the executive from the above date, but the Government do not recognize the propriety of two dates for the transfer, particularly as the expenditure on the roads in Tanjore is made chiefly from March to July, so that the 1st of May would be, as nearly as possible, the middle of the working season. The transfer of the entire Department must take place on the 1st August, and there should be no difficulty in adjusting the accounts.

6. The Government cannot close these remarks without expressing their surprize at the manner in which papers are submitted to Government from the Central office. The letters which form the subject of this order do not appear to have received from Captain Johnston the notice which they deserve.

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

No. 45

From

Major E. L. Lawford
Superintending Engineer Southern Circle

To

H. D. Phillips Esquire
Acting Collector of Tanjore

Sir

The establishments of the Public works Department being now sanctioned and partly organized. there seems no reason for delaying the transfer of the Executive duties from the Revenue to the Engineer Officers, but as such change could not take place generally at this season without serious inconvenience I have the honor to propose that all your accounts of public works should be closed on the 31st July next, and that the duties of District Engineer should be assumed by Major Birdwood on the following day.

I think it therefore very desireable that no new works of Considerable amount not likely to be completed before the 15th July should be undertaken by your Department except so far as the preparation of materials, which may easily be made over on receipt should you Consider it necessary I would suggest the employment of extra Goomastahs during May and June for the purpose of measuring work before the Pershes

You are probably aware that all works of a strictly emergent nature are intended to

to remain under your Executive Control and that the Tahsildar and their Subordinates are to be held Responsible for using every possible means for the prevention of injury to the various Constructions of earth or masonry on which the safety of the Revenue so much depends and I am sure that I need not suggest the adoption of every precaution against Misconception on these points.

Adverting to your favor of the 10th January 1857 I beg to express my opinion that the Repairs roads and all other works should devolve on the Engineers, and as a new account of the annual Grant Commences on the 1st of May it would perhaps be advisable to make that run from the above date.

Also I think that some of the larger works recently sanctioned, may be transferred from the 1st August if the Civil Engineer is prepared to execute them.

During the present season the acting Varamut Superintendents and Mundries will continue to perform the same duties as heretofore but when framing estimates which however can be but seldom they had better submit them through the Officer in whose Circle they maybe employed.

Should you concur in my proposal I shall report accordingly to the Chief Engineer

Poodoochutterim
24th February 1857

Engineer for the information of Government

I have the honor &c &c

(Signed)
C. Lawford
Superintending Engr S. Circle

(True Copy)
Superintg Engr S. C.

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No 38

Tanjore 18th February 1857.

From

H. D. Phillips Esqre
Acting Collector of Tanjore

To

Major E Lawford
Superintending Engr Southern Circle

Sir

I have the honor to State that I concur in the views expressed in your letter of date the 14th instant regarding the transfer to your department, of the Executive Maramut works of the District, and as the arrangement has been decided on by the Government, that I should be prepared to make them over to Major Birdwood on the 31st July next in the manner suggested.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant &
(Signed)
H. D. Phillips
Actg Collector

(True copy)

Superintending Engr S. C

P.W. 4105/57

Sir Lewis Pelly, Com.
Revenue, Judicial &c &c
Presidency Fort William
Presidency Genl. Dept.
Dated 23d Aug. 57
Recd 27 Aug. 57

Secretary in the Public
Works Department
to the Chief Engineer

Dated 23d August 1857.

Sir,

I am directed by the Right Honorable the Governor in Council to transmit to you the accompanying Extract from the Proceedings of the Public Works Department under date the 20th March 1857 No. 570 and to request that you will be pleased to submit to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council a Report on the subject of the Letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, dated 2d March 1857 No. 10561.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Signature illegible)
Secretary

P.W.D.

No. 570

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 20th March 1857.

Read the following Extract
from the Proceedings of the ~~Bombay~~
~~Engineer~~ Acg Supg. Engr. N. C.
in charge of the central Office
of P.W.

(Here enter 2d March 1857 No. 10561.)

The ~~Chief Engineer~~ officer in charge of the Central Office of Public Works
Submits a letter from the Superintending Engineer Southern Circle, recommending the Transfer of the Executive duties of Tanjore to the District Engineer from 1st August next.

~~Capt. Goldsmith~~ also forwards the correspondence which has passed on the subject between Major Lowford and the Acting Collector.

2 The Right Honorable the

the Governor in Council sanctions the transfer of the executive duties of Conjores to the District Engineer from 1st August next as recommended.

2. The Chief Engineer will be good enough to submit as early as possible a detailed list of the proposed executive Circles.

3. The Government must however notice some of the points contained in Major Lowford's letter to the Acting Collector of 24th February 1857 which are inconsistent with their intentions, and must create confusion in the working of the new system. Major Lowford informed Mr Phillips "that all works of a strictly emergent nature are intended to remain under "his "Executive Control". The Government are not aware that any such reservation was made in regard to emergent works.

Para

117

Para 3 Minutes of Consultation dated 7th October 1856 No 1826 provides only for sudden emergencies and accidents. It directs that in the cases of breaches of tanks and channels it will be the duty, as at present, of Tahsildars and other Revenue Officers, as well as of heads of Villages to take immediate steps to repair the damage, sending word with out delay to the nearest Member of the Engineer Department &c but this must not be construed into requiring the Revenue Department to execute all works that may be sanctioned as emergent.

4 Again in a subsequent para Major Lowford observes that he thinks "that some of the larger works recently sanctioned, may be transferred from the 1st of August if

if the Civil Engineer is unprepared to execute them.

The Government imagine that there is a clerical error in the date thus given, for when the transfer is made it must be complete, and must include all works large or small, completed or in progress, and now that the Public Works establishment have been nominated there can be nothing to preclude the District Engineer from taking charge of all.

5 Major Lawford suggests that as a new account of the annual grant for roads commences on the 1st May it might be advisable to make over part of the executive from the above date, but the Government do not recognize the propriety of

of two dates for the transfer, particularly as the expenditure on the roads in Tanjore is usually made chiefly from March to July, so that the 1st of May would be, as nearly as possible, the middle of the working season. The transfer of the entire Department must take place on the 1st August, and there should be no difficulty in adjusting the accounts.

7 The Government cannot close these remarks without expressing their surprize at the manner in which papers are submitted to Govt from the Central Office. The letters which form the subject of this order do not appear to have received from Captain Johnston ~~the Chief Engineer~~ the notice which they deserve.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr.
Civil & Mil. Audt.
1 — Bd of Revenue
1 — Accountant General
1 — Civil Auditor

Cons 23d Dec 56 Nos 1984199
" 14th Oct " " — 4.45.

Pub: Works 1857 Departt
Nos to Cons: 24th March.

No 510

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 20th March 57.

From the Chief Engineer 2d Divn C
15 Cir: 90 Dist 6 21st
Drow do 4th May 57.
C No 915 in L: 26
E. M. C. 21st July 57 - P. 1396.

Sanctioning the transfer of the executive duties of Tunjore to the District Engineer from 1st August next, and requesting the Chief Engineer to submit a detailed list of the proposed executive Circles.

Nos 32 & 33.

C10 Encl. R13 &