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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 5-5-37

G.O. No. 839	Press Mis.
2-6-59 / — 5 —	
Dated	18 37

Not to be folded or roughly handled

29/6/37

No. 58. Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 31st March 1857, No. 11418.

Read the following Extract from the Minutes of Consultation.

States that the establishments sanctioned for the protection and management of P. W. can be continued, and directs that in the meantime, lists may be prepared of such establishments now kept up throughout the Presidency. Directs also that a list may be submitted, shewing separately the Districts in which the Executive duties have been transferred to the Engineer Department, those in which the transfer has been ordered but has not yet taken place, and those in regard to which no such proposition has yet been submitted to Government.

(Here enter No. 563, dated 27th March 1857.)

Resolved that in reply to para. 2 of the Extract Minutes Consultation No. 563 of 27th March, it be brought to the favorable consideration of Government, that the Chief Engineer has at no time been in a position to make such a proposition as it is assumed he has allowed to escape. It can scarcely be necessary to observe how very small a portion of the duty of organizing the new Department Public Works has fallen on the Head of Department whose instructions were founded upon the reports of the Commissioners, and which practically have been interpreted and carried into effect throughout by the Senior Commissioner to an extent that would not have warranted the Chief Engineer in the personal appropriation of either approbation or reproof for the merits or demerits of the scheme as recently finally authorized.

2. Resolved also to point out, that the real object of the permanent establishment of the Department Public Works in the Madras Presidency, would seem to have been partly overlooked in the orders now issued. So far as the Chief Engineer has hitherto understood, the purpose for which the members of the Department have been entertained is primarily essentially a professional one, comprising functions of construction of repair (which is a branch of construction) and of maintenance, (which is a branch of repair.) The substitution of skilled, for unskilled, and of free, for compulsory labor is the main reform held in view, together with such a system of check as shall make operations of repair, real and timely, instead of simulated and unwisely deferred, and shall render accounts facts, instead of shams or Cookeries, so ably and lucidly exposed by the Commissioners. But it is not within the Chief Engineers knowledge, that to these important desiderata, it was proposed or intended to make the whole of the subordinate village officials connected with every channel and tank throughout the Presidency, a stipendiary body, whose mere muster and punctual payment, with the checks and vouchers requisite to confer the requisite character of formality, would occupy a large portion of the time ostensibly devoted to executive duties, so little indeed would such seem to have been the case, that a proposal to place the class for whom a general tabular statement is now ordered to be prepared, on a very different footing by Major Lawford, had the good fortune to be received with the marked favour of Government* and that experienced officer with the hearty concurrence of the zealous Collector of Trichinopoly, recommended, not that the establishments in the large channels of Lalgoody should be paid directly by the state, but that a fund should be created by a fixed cess, calculated so as to maintain the numbers found to be required, and which administered by Government should ensure the control of an effective body for the performance of the works necessary for the supply of the channels.

* Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 19th February 1857, No. 286.

3. Resolved that in sending copy of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 563 of the 27th March 1857, to all Collectors and District Engineers, they be requested to forward to the Central office with the least practicable delay, a List of all servants and Establishments maintained throughout their Districts, for the care, conservancy and management of works of irrigation, tabulated in such a manner, as may clearly exhibit the nature and value of the works to which they are attached, their official designation, amount of remuneration, whether in money, land, or produce, and from what sources defrayed.

4. Resolved with reference to para. 3, that accompanying table shewing the Departmental position of each District, with dates of orders of Government, be forwarded for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council.

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

No. 59. ORDER THEREON, No. 839; dated 1st May 1857.

1. On the 4th of March last, the Chief Engineer submitted to Government a reference which had been made to him by the District Engineer of Tinnevelly, in respect to the manner in which the subordinate servants of all large hydraulic works were to be in future maintained, and in an order dated the 27th of the same month, No. 563, the Government directed that lists of such establishments now kept up throughout the Presidency should be prepared, shewing separately those which had been already sanctioned, from those for which sanction might be required; and they pointed out that provision should have been made for the payment of this class of servants, and for their transfer to the Public Works Department, when that establishment was formed.

2. The Chief Engineer now represents that the Department was mainly organized, not by himself as its ostensible head, but by the senior Member of the late Public Works Commission, and that he has never therefore been in a position to make the arrangement which the Government expressed their opinion that he should have made, when his Department was formed. The Government are hardly prepared to admit that Colonel Faber had so little voice in the organization of the Department as he affirms, and in looking back at the Chief Engineer's correspondence during the past twelve months, they do not find that he has abstained from suggestions and recommendations bearing on Departmental organization.

Para. 2.

3. The Chief Engineer is of opinion, that in the order to which he now replies, the Government have partly overlooked the real objects of the permanent establishment of the Public Works Department, and these objects he supposes to have been, primarily a professional executive, secondarily the substitution of skilled and free, in place of rude and compulsory labor, and thirdly, the submission of true, for untrue accounts of expenditure, and he represents that the Government order to prepare lists of the Subordinate village servants in charge of hydraulic works preparatory to their being transferred to the executive Department, is not in accordance with their order of the 9th of February No. 286, sanctioning certain arrangements proposed by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, for the maintenance of the Lalgoody channels in Trichinopoly.

4. The Chief Engineer has correctly given the main objects of the late changes in the Public Works Department, but the Government are not able to admit that, in their order regarding the village servants, those objects have been even partly overlooked. In establishing a professional executive, the Government have been of opinion that the transfer from the revenue Officers, to be effectual, must necessarily be complete, and they cannot consider that the District and Executive Engineers would be placed in a proper, or fair position, if they were held responsible for the safety and efficiency of the Public Works, while the subordinate servants in immediate charge of the works, were not placed under their authority. One case, as illustrating the meaning of the Government, may explain their opinion more fully to the Chief Engineer The grand annicut at the eastern end of Seringham has powerful under sluices for scouring the Cauvery, and keeping down the level of its bed, and similar works occur at intervals between the annicut and Triviar, to open and shut these sluices, according to the height of the fresh, permanent establishments are kept, and it is the opinion of Government that the Engineer of Tanjore could not be held responsible for the state of the Cauvery bed, or the safety of the river embankments, if these establishments were not placed under his sole command. This illustration the Chief Engineer may apply to the Superintendent, (or Neeranikem) of a tank, who has charge of its sluice and calingulah, and to every servant employed exclusively on hydraulic works.

5. The inconsistencies which the Chief Engineer assumes to have been shewn by Government in the order to which his present Proceedings refer, they are quite unable to admit. The order of the 9th of February No. 286, from the spirit of which the Government are supposed to have departed, did not refer, as Colonel Faber would appear to suppose, to an establishment kept up to manage any hydraulic work, but to the means to be adopted to perform the repairs annually required to certain irrigating channels. Instead of these repairs being executed, as had been customary by the unpaid labor of the Ryots, it was arranged by the Superintending Engineer and ordered by Government, that a small cess should be charged on the land, by which paid

labor might be obtained, and it was particularly directed that this labor should be applied "under the superintendence of the Engineer," so that even in this case, the principle of the entire, executive being transferred to professional hands, remained intact.

6. The Government have no present intention of making any change in the mode in which the village servants are paid, some will probably be found to enjoy rent free lands in remuneration for their services, while some are paid in money, with this matter it is not now intended to interfere, but as it is necessary that the Engineers should know on whose services they are to depend in the management of hydraulic works, the lists called for by Government appear to them to be requisite.

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

57

Public Works Dept.

No. 839

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 1st ~~April~~ May 1857.

Recd the following

Extract from the Proceedings

of the Chief Engineer.

Here enter 31st March 1857
No 11418/

On the 4th of
March last, the Chief
Engineer submitted to
Government a reference
which had been made
to him by the District
Engineer of Tinnevelly,
in respect to the man-
-ner in which the
Subordinate

subordinate servants of all large hydraulic works were to be in future maintained, and in an order dated the 27th of the same month, the Government directed that lists of such establishments now kept up throughout the Presidency should be prepared, shewing separately those which had been already sanctioned, from those for which sanction might be required. and they pointed out that provision should have been made for the payment of this class of servants, and for their transfer

transfer to the Public Works Department, when that establishment was formed.

The Chief Engineer now represents that the Department was mainly organized, not by himself or its ostensible head, but by the senior member of the late Public Works Commission, and that he has never therefore been in a position to make the arrangements which the Government expressed their opinion that he should have made, when his Department

Department was formed. The Government are hardly prepared to admit that Colonel Faber had so little voice in the organization of the Department as he affirms, and in looking back at the Chief Engineers' correspondence during the past twelve months, they do not find that he have abstained from suggestions and recommendations bearing on Departmental organization.

3 The Chief Engineer is of opinion that in the order to which

para 2.

which he now replies, the Government have partly overlooked the real objects of the permanent Establishment of the Public Works Department, and these objects be supposed to have been, primarily a professional executive; secondarily the substitution of skilled and free, in place of rude and compulsory labor; and thirdly the submission of true, for untrue accounts of expenditure; and he represents that the Govt. order to prepare

lists

lists of the subordinate Village Servants in charge of Hydraulic works preparatory to their being transferred to the Executive Department, is not in accordance with their order of the 19th of February No. 286, sanctioning certain arrangements proposed by the Superintending Engineer of the Southern Circle, for the maintenance of the Palgoody Channels in Trichinopoly.

11 In submitting that the Chief Engineer has correctly given the main objects of the late changes in the Public Works Department, the Government are not able to admit that, in their order regarding the Village Servants, those objects have been even partly overlooked. In establishing a professional executive, the Govt have been of opinion that the transfer from the Revenue Officers, to be effectual, must necessarily be complete, and they cannot consider that the District and Executive Engineers would be placed in a proper,

or

or fair position, if they were held responsible for the safety and efficiency of the public works, while the subordinate servants in immediate charge of the works, were not placed under their authority. One case, as illustrating the meaning of the Government, may explain their opinion more fully to the Chief Engineer. The grand Anicut at the Eastern end of Seringham has powerful undershutters for scouring the Cavery and keeping down the level of its bed, and similar works occur at intervals between the Anicut and Trivaiy to open and shut these sluices, according to the height of the fresh, permanent establishments are kept, and it is the opinion of Government that the Engineer of Tanjore could not be held responsible for the state of the Cavery bed, or the safety of the river embankments, if these establishments were not placed under his sole

sole Command. This illustration the Chief Engineer may apply to the Neeranee Kerry of a tank, who has charge of its sluice and Ceiling sluice, and to every servant employed exclusively on Hydraulic works.

5. The inconveniences which the Chief Engineer assumes to have been shewn by Government in the order to which his present proceedings refer, they are quite unable to admit. The order of the 9th of February No. 286, from the spirit of which the

the Govt are supposed to have departed, did not refer, as Colonel Faber would appear to suppose, to an establishment kept up to manage any Hydraulic work, but to the means to be adopted to perform the repairs annually required to certain irrigating Channels. Instead of these repairs being executed, as had been customary by the unpaid labor of the Ryots, it was arranged by the Supt Engineer and ordered by Govt, that

that a small Cess should be charged on the Candy by which paid labor might be obtained, and it was particularly directed that this labor should be applied "under the "superintendence of "the Engineer"; so that even in that case, the principle of the entire executive being transferred to professional hands, remained intact.

6 The Government have no present intention of making any change in the mode in which the Village

Village Servants are paid - some will probably be found to enjoy rent free lands in remuneration for their services, while some are paid in money. With this matter it is not now intended to interfere, but as it is necessary that the Engineers should know on whose services they are to depend in the management of Hydraulic Works, the list called for by Govt appear to them to be requisite.

G.F.H.

1 Copies to the Chief Engr. Dist.

Cons 10th Feby/57 № 7-8.
" 31st March/57 " 43-44

17/8/80 II

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28.5.30 II

(21)

Public Works 1857 Deptt.
Dr to Cons 5th May.

№ 839.

Extract Mins: of Cons:
Dated 1st May/57.
Extract from Bd 23d July/56 & 11/1637
in Cons. 12th Sept.

Passing orders on an explanation submitted by the Chief Engr in regard to the amt of Estimate to include in the remodelled Establishts for Dpt. H, & the existing establishment for the protection and management of the Channels.

№ 5859.

7.

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