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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 21-7-57

G.O. No. 1370

Press
Mis.

Dated

17-7-18

57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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No. 19. Extract from the Minutes of Consultation, dated 17th July 1857, No. 1370.

Para. 1. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to pass orders on the letter in this Department from the Honorable the Court of Directors, dated 22nd April 1857, No. 3.

Paras. 10 to 21. Honorable Court admit the necessity of having the disbursements for the maintenance of roads already made, and for the construction of those still required regulated on a comprehensive system, and not decided on isolated representations from local Officers without reference to the exigencies of the country. Notice the several arrangements proposed by this Government for that object, consider the sum of 25 lacs of Rupees, (in addition to the proceeds from Tolls,) fixed by Government as the standard to be annually devoted to road repairs, to be moderate; but observe that this allotment must be entirely subordinate to the financial exigencies of the State, and to the demands of India generally for Public Works; and further that the amount allotted to this Presidency in the Budget, should not only not be exceeded, but within that amount the construction and repair of roads should also be provided.

Desire care to be taken that Tolls are established at places where the Toll Collectors can be watched; consider it desirable that the points connected with the subject and mooted by this Government, viz., "standard widths to be fixed for roads of all classes," "the survey and laying out of roads," and "the establishment for the custody of roads," should be determined on system. Finally, Honorable Court approve and sanction the whole of the proposals of this Government subject to the cautions prescribed by the Government of India. Desire that when the various reports which have been called for from the Chief Engineer are received, they should be submitted for the observations of the Government of India and communicated afterwards to the Honorable Court without delay.

23. Honorable Court remark, that although certain letters of this Government profess to transmit the Proceedings of the Central office of the Public Works Department for each month from its first organization to October 1856, none of these Proceedings have been received; observe that a series of letters should not have been written professing to forward them, when they were not really forwarded.

of the Central office of Public Works were despatched, and the vessels on which they were shipped, which will satisfy the Honorable Court, that as far as regards the non-receipt of these Proceedings, no blame attaches to the Government office. It appears however to the Government, that the Honorable Court labor under some misapprehension in the matter, as they observe that the Public Works Proceedings for the month of August 1855, were sent on the 14th February 1856, in the same case with the Collections to the General letters in the Revenue Department, dated 28th and 30th January 1856, Nos. 1 and 2; and that similarly, the Public Works Proceedings for September 1855, were sent on the 28th February 1856, with the Collections to the Revenue letters, dated 15th 18th, and 23rd February 1856, Nos. 3, 4 and 5, and that the Honorable Court have acknowledged the receipt of these Revenue Collections in their Revenue Dispatch No. 15 of 1856, dated 19th November 1856, when they must have necessarily received the Proceedings of the Public Works Department forwarded at the same time.

2. A copy of these paras, and of the correspondence with the Government of India to which allusion is therein made, will be furnished to the Chief Engineer for his information and guidance, with reference to the correspondence noted below.* The Chief Engineer's particular attention is directed to the observations of the Honorable Court in paras. 15, 17 and 19, more especially those relating to the annual outlay for the construction and repair of roads, and to the establishment of Tolls.

3. As regards the construction and maintenance of roads in Zemindaries, which is referred to at the close of para. 18, it will be explained to the Honorable Court, that in a Draft Act "to facilitate the construction and repair of Public Works in this Presidency" about to be forwarded to the Legislative Council, provision has been made for enforcing the construction and repair of such roads by land owners.

* Extract Minutes Consultation, 27th May 1856, No. 785.
From Chief Engineer 20th June 1856, No. 4223.
Extract Minutes Consultation, 14th January 1857, No. 6.
From the Officer in charge Central office 19th February 1857, No. 10384.
Extract Minutes Consultation 28th March 1857, No. 563.

4. With reference to the observations in this para. it will be explained to the Honorable Court that letters to the address of the Secretary at the India House, are prepared after the receipt in the Government office of the Proceedings which they are intended to cover, and that the communications noticed by the Honorable Court were so prepared. A list will be forwarded at the same time, shewing the dates on which the Proceedings

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 21st July 1857.

24. Advert to the authority granted to the Chief Engineer to keep his Proceedings on Current and unimportant subjects in abstract the correspondence on the more important matters being entered in full. Rely on the Chief Engineer adhering to the letter and spirit of the last injunction.

25. Trust the arrears of the Proceedings of the late Board of Public Works will be brought up by the extra establishment within the period for which it was sanctioned by the Government of India; and that under the present organization of the office of Public Works, no arrears will be allowed to accumulate.

5. A copy of these paras. will be furnished to the Chief Engineer, and he will be requested to report, with reference to the correspondence noted in the margin,* the progress that may have been made in bringing up the arrears of the office of the late Board of Public Works. His attention is directed to the hope expressed by the Honorable Court at the close of each of these paras. in regard to the correspondence of the Central office under the present organization of the Public Works Department.

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

No 1370

E.W.D.

3

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 17th July 1857

P.T. The Right Honorable the Governor in Council proceeds to pass orders on the letter in this Department from the Honorable the Court of Directors, Dated 25th April 1857, No. 3.

Para 10 & 21 Honorable Court admit the necessity of having the disbursements for the maintenance of roads already made, and for the construction of those still required, regulated on a comprehensive system, and not decided on isolated representations from local officers without reference to the exigencies of the country. Notice the several arrangements proposed by the Government for that object; consider the sum of 25 lacs of rupees, in addition to the proceeds from tolls, fixed by Government, as the standard to be annually devoted to road repairs, to be moderate, but observe that this allotment must be

2. A copy of these paras, and of the correspondence with the Government of India to which allusion is therein made, will be furnished to the Chief Engineer for his information and guidance, with reference to the correspondence noted below

below. The Chief Engineer's part-
icular attention is directed to the
observations of the Honorable Court
in paras 15, 17 and 19, more especially
those relating to the annual outlay
for the construction & repair of roads
and to the establishment of Tolls.

3. As regards the construc-
tion and maintenance of roads
in zamindari, which is referred
to at the close of para 18, it will be
explained to the Honorable Court
that in a draft act to facilitate the
"Construction and repair of Public
Works in this Presidency" ^{about} ~~presently~~
forwarded to the Legislative Council,
provision has been made for
enforcing the construction & repair
of such roads by land owners.

Ex. No. 6: 27th May 1856 No. 785.
From Chief Eng^r 20th June 1856 4223.
Ex. No. 6: 14th January 1857 6.
From the Officer in Charge Com: Office 19th Feb 1857
Ex. No. 6: 28th March 1857 No. 568.

be entirely subordinate to the
financial exigencies of the State,
and to the demands of India in
generally for public works, and further
that the amount allotted to this ^{only, not} ~~Presi-~~
dency in the Budget, should not be
exceeded, but within that amount
the construction and repair of roads
should also be provided.

Desire care to be taken that
Tolls are established at places where
the Toll collectors can be watched,
consider it desirable that the points
connected with the subject and
suggested by this Government, viz.
"Standards widths to be fixed for
roads of all classes, the survey and
laying out of roads, and the estab-
lishment for the custody of
roads," should be determined on
system. Finally, Honorable Court
approve and sanction the whole
of the proposals of this Government
subject to the sanctions prescribed
by the Government of India. Desire
that when the various reports which
have been called for from the
Chief Engineer are received, they should
be submitted for the observations of
the Government of India and
communicated afterwards
to the Honorable Court without delay.

Honorable

Honorable Court remark,
that in certain letters of this
Government profess to transmit
the Proceedings of the Central Office
of the Public Works Department for
each month from its first organi-
zation to October 1856, none of these
Proceedings have been received, and
desire that a series of letters should
not have been written professing to
forward them, when they were not
really forwarded.

4. With reference to the
observations in this paper,
it will be explained to the
Honorable Court that letters
to the address of the Secretary
at the India House are pre-
pared after the receipt in
the Government Office of the
Proceedings which they are
intended to cover, and that
the communications noticed
by the Honorable Court were
so prepared; a list will be
forwarded at the same time,
showing the dates on which
the Proceedings of the Central
Office of Public Works were
despatched, and the vessels
on which they were shipped,
which will satisfy the
Honorable

Honorable Court, that, as
far as regards the non-
receipt of these Proceedings,
no blame attaches to the
Government Office. It
appears however to the
Government, that the Hon-
orable Court labor under some
misapprehension in the matter,
as they observe that the
Public Works Proceedings for
the month of August, 1855,
sent on the 14th February 1856
in the same case with the
collections to the General Station
in the Revenue department
dated 28th and 30th January 1856
Nos 1 and 2; and that similarly
the Public Works Proceedings
for September 1855, were
sent on the 23rd February 1856
with the collections to the
Revenue letters dated 15th, 18th,
and 23rd February 1856 Nos 3, 4 & 5.

and that the Honorable Court
have acknowledged the
receipt of these Revenue Collec-
tions in their Revenue Dispatch
No 15 of 1856 dated 19th November
1856, when they must have
necessarily received the
Proceedings of the Public Works
Department forwarded at the
same time.

24. As to the authorities
granted to the Chief Engineer to keep
his Proceedings on record, and
unimportant subjects in abstract,
the correspondence on the more
important matters being entered
in full. Also on the Chief Engineer
adhering to the letter and spirit of
the last injunction.

25. As to the arrears of the
Proceedings of the Sale Board of
Public Works will be brought up
by the Extra Establishment within
the period for which it was con-
stituted by the Government of India,
and that under the present
organization of the office of
Public Works, no arrears will be
allowed to accumulate.

26. A copy of these
proceedings will be furnished
to the Chief Engineer, and
he will be requested to
report, with reference to the
correspondence noted in
the

the margin, the progress from the Eng. 28th January 1856 No. 572.
 that may have been made from Port of India 31st March — 1289.
 from the Eng. 15th May — 3234.

in bringing up the current
 of the Office of the Lords Council
 of Public Works. His attention
 is directed to the hope ex-
 pressed by the Honorable
 Court at the close of each
 of these papers, in regard
 to the correspondence of the
 central office under the
 present organization of the
 Public Works Department.

M. J.

Office of
 P. 1-2-3 of the Rev. with
 P. 10 of 21-24 & 25 of the
 Off. of Correspondence
 P. 2 of the Rev. to
 the Chief Engr. P. 18

Replied to Aug. 1857 No 11.

Public Works 1857 Separat^{te}
to Cons 21st July.

No 1370.

Contract Minis. of Cons.
of 17th July/57.

Passing orders on
the proposals for the establishment
of a systematic provision for the construction and maintenance of roads. -

No 19.

22 July 1857