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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Com. 4.8.57

G.O. No. 1473	Press / Mis.
1849	
Dated 30—7—1857	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 4th August 1857.

No. 18. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 29th July 1857, No. 2506.

SIR,

Agreeably to the orders of Government communicated verbally by you that a further reduction in the D. P. W., beyond that effected by the Gazette Extraordinary of the 18th Instant, is considered necessary to thoroughly carry into effect the instructions of His Lordship the Governor General of India in Council under date 3rd July 1857, No. 3265, I have duly prepared a second or supplementary list shewing a further retrenchment (including Mr. George Taylor, Covenanted Civil Engineer) of Rupees.................................... 63,744* making with the former reduction...2,90,952 a total of Rupees 3,54,696

1.—3rd Class Executive Engineer	400	
Office establishment	150	550
2.—4th Class do.	600	
Office establishment	208	808
2 Assistant Executive Engineers............	400	
Office establishment	138	538
G. Taylor, Esq. and do.		669
15 Overseers at Rupees 85	1,275	
Do. office at „ 27	405	1,680
11 Asst do. at „ 70	770	
Do. office at „ 27	297	1,067
Per mensem		5,312
Per annum		63,744*

2. I now do myself the honor to transmit with this list the draft of a Notification for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but having thus endeavoured to meet the views of Government to the best of my power, I cannot conceal my apprehensions of the result of these serious reductions on the land Revenue dependent on works of irrigation, which forms so large a proportion of the resources of this Presidency.

3. The Notification of the 18th July involved the withdrawal of so large a number of experienced Officers and Subordinates that it is doubtful whether those still retained will be able to execute the necessary repairs of Tanks, Annicuts and Channels scattered over the country which are essential to their security and which now belong exclusively to this Department; but the removal of the persons included in this the second list must inevitably entail the greatest difficulties and lead to the comparative neglect of works, the failure of which would produce heavier losses than can be compensated by any reduction of establishment.

4. Under these explanations, I shall I am sure be held free from the responsibility belonging to my position, if in such circumstances as the occurrence of heavy monsoons and inundations, the Department under my control be found unequal to the duties that will then devolve on it, or if the consequences of such natural and by no means unusual events should prove destructive alike of the wealth of the people and of the State.

5. The Government of India will doubtless give their full consideration to the fundamental change so recently carried out in the Madras system of Public Works and will appreciate the disturbance and doubt that must ensue from the almost total annihilation of the recently formed establishment.

6. My earnest and respectful application therefore is that the reductions contemplated in the supplementary list now submitted may be permitted to remain in abeyance until the deplorable and disastrous consequences of further retrenchment, applying as it would do to the best, ablest and most experienced members of the Department, shall have received the deliberate consideration of the Government of India.

7. It is to be admitted however that the East Coast Canal Department and the Garrison Engineer's Department can be suppressed without the general Revenues of the Presidency being directly affected, however much such reductions are to be deprecated on other grounds.

No. 19. Ordered in consequence that the following letter be despatched.

From H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George; to Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India, dated 30th July 1857, No. 1473.

SIR,

On the 25th Instant, I had the honor to address you by desire of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in reply to your letter of the 3rd Instant, conveying the instruction of the Government of India for the stoppage of all Public Works excepting Military Works, and absolutely necessary repairs, and for the reduction of the Public Works Department. I informed you that orders had been issued at once in accordance with the wishes of the Governor General in Council, and that reductions to the annual amount of Rupees 2,90,952 had been already effected, and that whatever further reductions might be needed to bring the expense of the Department within the limit of three quarters of its sanctioned amount, would be adopted by this Government.

2. Instructions were given to the Chief Engineer in accordance with this resolution of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, and Colonel Faber has submitted a statement of the detailed measures he would recommend for adoption, if the orders of the Government of India, are to be applied in their integrity to the Presidency of Fort Saint George, but at the same time Colonel Faber makes a representation that the Department over which he presides will be wholly unable to carry on even the ordinary and absolutely necessary repairs, with an Establishment reduced as is proposed, and that the Revenues of the country must accordingly suffer in consequence.

3. In the 3rd para. of your letter of the 3rd Instant, it is said to be the wish of the Government of India, that the expenditure on repairs should "be kept down to the lowest possible amount consistent with the security of the works, or buildings in charge of the Public Works Officers," and this Government will be prepared to carry out these orders, even literally, if such should be the intention of the Governor General in Council. But I am instructed to remind the Government of India how infinitely more numerous in this Presidency are the works upon which Revenue depends, than are public buildings or works of communication, and that the finances will inevitably suffer if such works be not kept in repair. No danger to the safety of an irrigating channel may result from its bed being left uncleared, but the land dependent on it for irrigation must necessarily be left uncultivated, if the head of the channel be so silted up, that water from the parent source shall not be able to enter. Many instances might be adduced to shew that, if in Madras, repairs to irrigation works, are strictly limited to such as will maintain their stability, heavy pecuniary loss must inevitably and immediately be felt.

4. The Government of Fort Saint George is very fully sensible of the position in which the Government of India is placed, and of the urgent necessity for economy, and is prepared to act fully in the spirit of all instructions for a restriction in expenditure, but the Governor in Council is of opinion that the literal fulfilment of the orders now under discussion, as far as they refer to repairs of irrigation works, will have the very effect of increasing that financial embarassment, which it is the desire of the Government of India to abate.

5. Independent of the argument which I have endeavored above to state, I am also to lay before the Governor General in Council the views entertained by this Government of the political effect of so sudden and absolute a cessation of Public Works, as is implied in the despatch to which I am now referring.

6. The Government of India will be well aware that the disaffection which has been lately exhibited in the Bengal Presidency has not extended to Madras, and will be prepared to believe that, with the mass of the people uneducated, and the means of obtaining information on public affairs extremely limited, the inhabitants of this Presidency are but very imperfectly acquainted with late occurrences in the North West of India. The rumors which they may however have heard, will receive distinct confirmation, if a total cessation of public expenditure should betray the necessities of the State, and the exaggeration which always attends on imperfect information, will magnify the real evil, and lead to a conviction that the British Government is in very serious peril.

7. Further the Government of Madras are impressed with a sense of the evil that will result from a very large mass of the laboring population being suddenly thrown out of employ, deprived of their accustomed means of support, there is too much reason to fear that they will supply by violence, the wants of themselves and their families, and that they will be ready instruments in the hands of any party who might desire to take advantage of the times, to introduce into these Provinces the anarchy which prevails elsewhere.

8. Under these views, I am to request that you will inform the Government of India, that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that unless a most absolute necessity prevents, the ordinary repairs of the irrigation works of this Presidency should be allowed to proceed as usual, and that the Department of Public Works should remain on the reduced scale reported in my letter of the 25th Instant, No. 1439.

9. Pending the receipt of a reply to this communication, the reduction proposed under the order of Government in the Chief Engineer's letter which is enclosed, will not be carried out.

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 29th July 1857

No. 2506

From
The Chief Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government PWD

Sir

[illegible]

Agreeably to the orders of Government communicated verbally by you that a further reduction in the DPW beyond that effected by the Gazette Extraordinary of the 13th instant is considered necessary to thoroughly carry into effect the instructions of His Lordship the Governor General of India in Council under date 3rd July 1857 No 3265, I have duly prepared

prepared a second or supplementary List shewing a further retrenchment (including Mr George Taylor Covenanted Civil Engineer) of Rupees 63744* making with the former reduction 290952, a total of Rupees 3,54,696

1. 3d Class Ex. Engr. —	400.	
* Office Estabt. —	150.	550.
2. 4th Class Do. —	600.	
Office Estabt.	208.	808.
2. Asst. Ex. Engrs.	400.	
Office Establisht.	138.	538
G. Taylor Esq & Do. —		669.
15 Overseers @ Rs 85	1275	
Do Office @ 27 —	405.	1680.
11 Asst. Do @ 70.	770.	
Do Office @ 27.	297	1067.
per mensem		5312
per annum		63744*

2. I now do myself the honor to transmit with this List the Draft of a Notification for submission to the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, but having thus endeavoured to meet the views of Government to the best of my power, I cannot conceal my apprehensions of the result of these serious reductions on the land Revenue dependent on works of irrigation, which forms so large a proportion of the resources of this Presidency

3. The notification of the 18th July involved the withdrawal of so large a number of Experienced Officers

and

and Subordinates that it is doubtful whether those still retained will be able to execute the necessary repairs of Tanks Annicuts and Channels scattered over the country which are essential to their security & which now belong exclusively to this Deptt; but the removal of the persons included in this the second List must inevitably entail the greatest difficulties & lead to the comparative neglect of works, the failure of which would produce heavier losses than can be compensated by any reduction of Establishment

4 Under these explanations, I shall I am sure be held free from the responsibility belonging to my position, if in such circumstances as the occurrence of heavy Monsoons and inundations, the Department

under

under my control be found unequal to the duties that will then devolve on it, or if the consequences of such natural and by no means unusual events should prove destructive alike of the wealth of the people and of the State.

5. The Govt of India will doubtless give their full consideration to the fundamental changes so recently carried out in the Madras system of Public works and will appreciate the disturbance & doubt that must ensue from the almost total annihilation of the recently formed Establishment

6. My earnest & respectful application therefore is that the reductions contemplated in the Supplementary List now submitted may be permitted to

remain

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remain in abeyance until the deplorable & disastrous consequences of further retrenchment, applying as it would do to the best, ablest and most experienced Members of the Dept, shall have received the deliberate consideration of the Govt of India

7. It is to be admitted however that the East Coast Canal Dept and the Garrison Engineers Dept can be suppressed without the general Revenues of the Presidency being directly affected, however much such reductions are to be deprecated on other grounds.

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Colonel
Chief Engineer

Central Office of P.W.
Fort St George 29 July 1857

To The Secretary to Government
P.W. Dept.

Pub. Works 1857 Dept.
Progs Cons 14th August.
No. 1526

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secy to Govt P.W.D.

Dated 29th July 1857
Recd 30th July
No. 1473 – 30 July
Enclo: 1. No. 2506

Forwarding for sanction of Govt Draft of a Notification containing a list of Officers &c to be removed, in addition to those remanded on the 18 inst, to their Regts, shewing a further retrenchment of Rs 63,924 & now amounting in the aggregate to Rs 3,54,876 & under circumstances stated recommends that the same may remain in abeyance until the explanations submitted shall have received the deliberate consideration of the Govt of India.

Copy to the Govt of India – 30th July 57.

No. 18.

(Draft of proposed G. O. G. in Government Gazette of 31st July 1857)

In Continuation of G. O. G. Extraordinary of the 18th Instant & agreeably to the orders of the Government of India, the Right Honorable the Governor in Council further resolves to direct the following Officers, Non Commissioned Officers & Soldiers now employed in the D. P. W. to rejoin their several Corps & His Lordship in Council places their Services from the 15th of August 1857 at the disposal of the Provincial Commander in Chief.

2. The several Office Establishments hitherto attached to the Members of the Dept whose services have thus been dispensed with, will also be discharged from the 15th of August after receiving salary up to that date.

1	3d Class Executive Engineer	Lieut. L. Payton 43d Regt. N. I.
1	4th Do Do	Lieut. T. Bragnay 35th N. I.
2	4th Do Do	Captn. H. R. Morgan 13th N. I.
1	Assistant Executive Engineer	Major G. A. Marshall 18th Regt. N. I.
2	Do Do	Lieut. G. R. Playfair 34th Regt. N. I.

15 Overseers

1 Bake J. Corporal Horse Artillery

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2. Booth (D. Serjt Artillery
3. Britt, J: Corporal Sappers & Miners
4. Cairns J: Corporal D°
5. Campbell A. Corporal D°
6. Carter J: Corporal D°
7. Harris J. D. Corporal D°
8. Hasler R. Corporal D°
9. Hudson T. Corporal D°
10. Kennedy D: Corporal D°
11 Lewis J: Serjt 2d E. L. I.
12. McNamara L. Corporal Sappers & Miners
13. Mutton W: Corporal D°
14. O'Shaughnessy J. Corporal D°
15. Plummer S. E. Corporal D°

11. Assistant Overseers.

1. Barringer J: S. Corporal Sappers & Miners
2. Davidson R. Corporal D°
3. Galvin J: Corporal D°
4. Howard C: 2d Corporal D°
5. Jack W: Corporal D°
6. O'Lanaghue M. Corporal D°
7. Rose J: 2d Corporal Sappers & Miners
8. Stephenson L: Corporal D°
9. Pormy T. Corporal D°
10. Wiffen G: E. Corporal D°
11. Wright W. 2d Corporal D°

3. Until further orders, the strength of the (Department) of Public Works in the Madras Presidency will be as follows:

1. Chief Engineer
3. Superintending Engineers.
1. Civil Architect,
1. Supt. Eastern Coast Canal.
1 Garrison Engineer
1. Assistant to Chief Engineer
10. (District Engineers 1st class.
10. D° 2d class.
12. Executive Engineers 3d class
15. D° 4th class

area 3,

19.	Assistant Executive Engineers
11.	Supernumerary Do
3.	Sub Engineers 1st class
5.	Do 2d class.
8.	Do 3d class.
12.	Supervisors.
20.	Assistant Supervisors
25.	Overseers
39.	Assistant Do
83.	Sub Overseers 1st class.
252	Do 2d class.

Central Office P.W.
Fort Saint George
29. July 1857.

W. E. Sater Coll.
Chief Engineer

Draft of proposed
G.O.G.

P.B. 1526/57

Enclosure in a letter
from the Chief Engr
to the Secy to Govt. [illegible]
dated 29 July /57
No. 2506.

R.S. Copy Recd. 30 by Steamer
& Printed do — " — 1st Augt.

P.W.D.

No. 1473.

To,
Colonel W. E. Baker
Secretary to the Government of India

Sir,

On the 25th instant I had the honor to address you by desire of the Right Honorable the Governor in Council, in reply to your letter of the 3rd instant conveying the instruction of the Government of India for the stoppage of all Public Works excepting Military works, and absolutely necessary repairs, & for the reduction of the Public Works Department. I informed you that orders had been issued at once in accordance with the wishes of the Governor General in Council, & that reductions to the annual amount of Rupees 2,90,952 had been

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lowest possible amount consistent with the security of the works or Buildings in charge of the Pub: Works Officers," and this Government will be prepared to carry out these orders, even literally, if such should be the intention of the Governor General in Council. But I am instructed to remind the Government of India how infinitely

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4. "The Government of Fort St. George is very fully sensible of the position in which the Government of India is placed, and of the urgent necessity for economy, and is prepared to act fully in the spirit of all instructions for a restriction in expenditure,

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and will be prepared to believe that, with the mass of the people uneducated, and the means of obtaining information on public affairs extremely limited, the inhabitants of this Residency are but very imperfectly acquainted with late occurrences in the North West of India. The rumors which they may however have heard, will receive distinct confirmation, ~~and~~ if a total cessation of public expenditure should betray the necessities of the state, and the exaggeration which always attends on imperfect information will magnify the real evil, and lead to a conviction that the British Government is in very serious peril.

Further

7. Further the Government of Madras, are impressed with a sense of the evil that will result from a very large mass of the laboring population being suddenly thrown out of employ - deprived of their accustomed means of support, - there is too much reason to fear that they will supply by violence, the wants of themselves and their families; and that they will be ready instruments in the hands of any party who might desire to take advantage of the times, to introduce into these Provinces the anarchy which prevails elsewhere.

8. Under these views I am to request that you will inform the Government of India that the Right Honorable the Governor in Council is of opinion that unless a most absolute necessity prevents, the ordinary repairs of the irrigation works of this Presidency should be allowed to proceed as usual, and that the Department of Public Works should remain on the reduced scale reported in my letter of the 25th Instant No. 1439.

9. Pending the receipt of a reply to this communication the reduction proposed under the order of Government in the Chief Engineer's letter which is enclosed, will not be carried out.

Fort St. Geo.
30 July 57.

9 Copies to the Chief Engr. Despd. 1st Aug.

Public Works 1857 Departt.
Dr. to Cons 4th August

No. 1473.

To the Secretary to the
Govt. of India P.W.

Dd 30th July 1857.
[illegible] 7 Augt 57 [illegible] 1725 in 6 [illegible]

From the Offg Chief Engr & Secy Dept
No. 2103 [illegible]

No. 18417.

Requesting that unless a most absolute necessity prevents, the ordinary repairs of the irrigation Works of this Presidency should be allowed to proceed as usual, and that the Department Public Works should remain on the reduced scale reported in the letter from this Govt of the 28 Instant.