

M.O. 1-32400-24-11-30

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.

/27

Press

Mis.

S2-88

Dated

25

18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 26th January 1858.

No. 52. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 17th December 1857, No. 6080.

SIR,

With reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 7th December 1857, No. 2269, para 1, I beg to explain that the orders of the Government of India referred to therein, were not quoted, because they were orders of a *permanent* character; and it did not appear to me that orders of a fixed nature, or regulations, were on the same footing as those to which special reference is required to be made in forwarding replies. The directions of Government shall, however, be attended to for the future.

2. In my letter of the 29th September last, No. 4050, I explained the reason of the delay which had occurred in the submission of the Annual Progress Report, and from which it must have been seen that the delay or detention was not owing to any remissness on the part of the Central office. The last report from the District Engineers required for the compilation of the

statement was not received till the 13th October, and the statement itself was submitted by me on the 6th November 1857, with a complete synopsis of expenditure, and a review of the principal items contained in it. And it may here be noted that the limit of power possessed by a Central office, having in some sense no direct authority is easily attained, and the experience of the last two years would seem to shew that the Chief Engineer's requisitions for a punctual transmission of Periodical Returns can be disregarded with almost, if not complete, practical impunity. The very title of "Central office" implies a dependence on the several District branches, the withholding of any one of which vitiates the usefulness of all others that may have been collected; and it perhaps is possible that the Government may not hitherto have directed its attention to the virtual powerlessness of the Chief Engineer in enforcing a regularity which is unavoidably dependent upon others, who are able to urge the performance of duties yet more urgent than those left unperformed.

3. As the orders of the Government of India dated 9th February 1855, No. 929, and 17th May 1855 No. 1800 were not communicated to the late Board of Public Works, nor to the Central office, I was not aware of the restriction placed by that Government upon the items to be included in the statement of remunerative works, and I therefore solicited the orders of Government on the subject. The instructions now communicated will be obeyed in all future reports, and in that for 1856-57, which has been called for in the orders under reply. The views of Government in regard to the list of Officers who have distinguished themselves during each year shall also be duly conformed to in future.

4. With reference to the last para of the order under reply, wherein Government call for an explanation of the cause of the delay in the submission of the monthly journals to the Accountant General, I have the honor to report that the Journals for January and February last

were submitted to that Officer on the 8th Instant, and that the Journals for the two following months, viz, for March and April (which will complete the transactions of the past Official year) will be forwarded to him by the end of the current week, they being nearly ready.

5. The delay occurring in the preparation of the Journals is owing entirely to the irregularity with which the Accounts Current of the District Engineers are submitted to this office. In the margin are exhibited the dates on which the accounts of some Officers for April last, were received by me, and the Government will thus perceive that no remissness is attributable to the Central office. According to the rules for drawing funds and keeping accounts, the Account Current and Progress Report for the last month of each year (April) are required to be detained till the last bill for the year shall have been furnished. The evil resulting from this system was pointed out by me in the letter noted

Bellary December 3rd 1857.
Nellore October 26th "
South Arcot Sept. 21st "
Malabar September 21st "
Rule 27, page 399 of C. O. Book.

Notes

29th Octr. 1856, No. 7620.

Extrt. Mts. Cons. 9th January 1857, No. 50.

No. 81 of 1857-58.

in the margin, but Government were not pleased on that occasion to accede to my recommendation. In my anxiety to meet the requirements of the Central office, I, however, issued a Circular on the 4th August last requiring all Officers to submit their Accounts Current immediately, with, or without, the bills of the past year; but this requisition, I am sorry to report, has also been only very partially attended to.

6. A still further reason of the delay occurring in the preparation of the Journals is, that amended Accounts are being constantly received in lieu of Accounts already included in the Journals, thus necessitating the making of reversals and transfer entries, and greatly impeding the preparation of the monthly Accounts for the Accountant General.

7. To show the Government how inaccurately Accounts are sometimes furnished to this office, and how closely they require to be scrutinized, I beg to submit copy of a letter addressed only recently to the District Engineer of Bellary from which, will be readily perceived the nature of the difficulties which the Central Office has to contend against in the preparation of its own returns. In addition to these difficulties, it may also be mentioned that the Audit and account branches of my office have had a great deal of additional work thrown upon them this year, not only from the numerous bills received into the office, but from the preparation of several financial statements called for by the Accountant General, together with an additional Budget* which taxed the utmost energies of those Departments for more than three weeks, and suspended the performance of other important work during the period when the attention of the financial strength of the whole office was concentrated even out of hours, in the completion of a document whose total was liable to daily variation according to the orders passed by Government on the numerous estimates previously referred for disposal.

8. Finally, I must respectfully solicit the favorable consideration of Government to the absence of fixed regular routine which still characterizes the D. P. W., in the Madras Presidency in this the third year of its ostensible organization, dating from 1st August 1855. A series of changes, in which one has succeeded another with but little intermission throughout the whole period, has been introduced, which cannot but have been highly adverse to the punctuality in the District Offices, in which so many have been found wanting. The repeated interruptions to the steady action of the new Budget system, come also under the same category of lets and hindrances to the habitual fulfilment of Departmental Regulations. Arrangements for the prosecution of works on the opening of each season which represent much time and thought, and personal responsibilities of no slight gravity, have unavoidably been rendered nugatory by the operation of unexpected restrictions both in the last and during the present seasons. If the local results of such interdicts have to be traced throughout their interference with the office routine of the several District Engineers, the displeasure caused by apparent irregularity or neglect would be sensibly diminished. So also as regards the sudden and extensive reduction of the general strength of the Department by almost one fourth of its cost, and one half of its numbers, and the dismissal of the office Establishments of the parties removed, fresh executive and professional arrangements thence became indispensable throughout every District in the Presidency to the inevitable interruption of the preparation of those papers, for whose delay I am now called on to account. Lastly, to all these causes operating against the regularity enjoined by Regulation, has to be added the element of frequent change in the personnel of the D. P. W. In the Central office, two experienced Officers have been removed out of the three Superintending Engineers allotted to the Presidency, and in the Mofussil, Major Boileau, Lieutenant Hemery, and Lieutenant Scott have vacated their offices as District Engineers of the 1st and 2nd Class, whilst six Engineer Officers* of the Probationary Grade whose services were much needed to re-inforce the Department in the

* 2nd Lieutenant H. Prendergast.
2nd Lieutenant H. Gordon.
2nd Lieutenant F. Howes.
2nd Lieutenant J. Lindsay.
2nd Lieutenant W. H. Burton.
2nd Lieutenant H. Wood.

Mofussil were imperatively required for field duties, a requirement which further weakened the Public Works by remanding to their Regiments highly qualified or very useful Officers like Lieutenant Farewell and Captain Colin Gib.

9. I trust that His Lordship the Right Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to not overlook these adverse influences to a systematic, and regular rendering of Periodical re-

turns in a Department that has not yet had the means of becoming matured in the discharge of its duties, when arriving at a decision as to the satisfactoriness or otherwise of the explanation I have now done myself the honor to submit.

Letter from Captain C. A. ORR, Acting Superintending Engineer, Northern Circle; to the District Engineer, Bellary, dated 15th December 1857, No. 5976.

SIR,

1. In reply to your two letters of the 24th and 30th Ultimo, Nos. 295 and 302. I have the honor by desire of the Chief Engineer to request your attention to the following observations:—

	Rs.	A.	P.
A. Chethumbara Moodely.....	2,241	10	9
Captain Babington.....	868	11	2
Lieutenant Campbell.....	2,883	3	0
Officer in charge of the Military Buildings.....	2,113	5	10
Rupees..	8,106	14	9

former amounting to Rupees 87,253-15-3 and above balance in their hands, with this statement

	Rs.	A.	P.
Expenditure.....	44,085	2	4
Receipts.....	42,531	15	1
Balance due to Officers, Rupees...	1,553	3	3

December 1856, and if this sum be deducted from the balance of Rupees 8,106-14-9 there will be a net cash balance of Rupees 6,553-11-6. This net balance I would observe should have appeared in your Account Current with the Collector for the month of November 1856, if a general Account Current embracing the transactions recorded in the Account Current furnished to you by all your Executive Officers were furnished to the Collector monthly, but no mention is made by you of what sums appeared in that Account Current, although you were desired to do so; you simply state that Rupees 8,106-14-9 is the true balance remaining with your Executive Officers on the 1st December 1856. The Collector, however, gives the balance as Rupees 5,550-8-7 and apparently the accounts rendered to him by yourself and the two statements sent by you in explanation of this discrepancy shew a different result as stated above. The discrepancy is irreconcilable and it must be evident to you, that such disagreements in cash balances stated to have remained on a particular date should never be permitted to exist. I request you will furnish me without delay with full information on the subject, in order to a correction of the entries already made in the books of the Central Office, from the Account Current rendered by the Collector up to November 1856 and by yourself after that date. The Collector having transferred to you all the Accounts of the Public Works in his district on delivering over charge to you of the Executive, he is unable to furnish any further information, beyond that given in his letter of the 12th October last, No. 16 a copy of which has been communicated to you.

3. In the Supplemental Account Current forwarded by you for the month of December 1856 on account of works executed by the Subordinate Judge of Bellary, the sum of Rupees 211-10-10 is brought forward as the balance from the last month's Account Current, I request you will inform me whether this balance is a portion of that shewn in the Collector's Account Current for November 1856, viz. Rupees 25,175-2-4 and is irrespective of the balance of Rupees 8,106-14-9 said to have remained with your Officers. It is necessary also that this office should be aware whether the Subordinate Judge furnished an Account Current to the Collector of his transactions prior to 30th November 1856 if such were included in the Collector's Account Current with the Central office. No Supplemental Account Current for April 1857 has been furnished by you and I would wish to be informed whether the transactions of April 1857 have been fully included in the Account Current for that month already furnished to the Central office.

4. In your letter of the 30th Ultimo you remark that in the Collector's Account Current with the Central Office up to November 1856, several works were debited with larger sums than were actually expended thereon, and that other works were less debited, of which Memoranda have been forwarded by you with the view to reconcile the difference of Rupees 2,556-6-2 between the balances stated to have remained on the 1st December 1856, but I regret to state that this Memo. does not completely account for the difference and unless it is fully explained no adjustment of it can be made in the books of the Central office. I therefore request you will carefully examine into the details of the accounts from May to November 1856, which were furnished to the

	Rs.	A.	P.
Balance with Executive Officer's on 1st Decem-ber as per District Engineer's Account Current	8,106	14	9
Ditto as per Collector's statement.....	5,550	8	7
Difference Rupees.....	2,556	6	2

	Creditor. Rs. A. P.	Debtor. Rs. A. P.
Balance as per Collector's Account Current... Over debits in the Collector's Account Current to be credited.....	1,808 11 10	
Less debits in the Collector's Account Current to be now credited..... Recoveries not previously credited in Collector's Account Current.....	144 12 6	1,001 9 11
Add, Difference to be accounted for by the District Engineer.....	7,504 0 11	1,001 9 11
	51 4 6	
Balance which should have remained with District Engineer.....	7,555 5 5	
		6,553 11 6
		Rupees 7,555 5 5

5. In order to exhibit the correct balance now in your hands, and to make such correction in your Accounts Current already furnished to this Office, it is necessary that a clear statement should be furnished shewing the particular items including the balances in each month's Account Current which requires alterations, and all the corrections which should be made in the abstract statements appended to these Accounts Current. I would observe that a sum of Rupees 1,553-3-3 the excess expenditure over receipts alluded to above, is added to the sum shewn to have been over debited in the Collectors Account Current, in the explanatory Memo furnished by you, but why a sum really spent in excess of Receipts is to be added to an erroneous debit is not stated. Is it because the Collector's Account Current did not include the excess expenditure over receipts, if so your explanation is needed as to whether this excess expenditure had been shewn in your Account Current with the Collector. I further request you will explain why the sum of Rupees 1,553-3-3 shewn to have been spent in excess in the Minor drains, &c. up to 1st December 1856, does not correspond with the balance shewn in Lieutenant Hunter's Account Current for December 1856, as due to him from the previous months Account Current for those works. This Account Current (a copy of which is forwarded by you) shews a balance of Rupees 1,866-3-9 as having been due to Lieutenant Hunter on the 1st December, and a balance of Rupees 1,278-5-4 as having been due to him on the 1st January 1857, on certain works connected with the same estimate irrespective of Rupees 123-15-10 shewn to have been due by him on the same date leaving the net sum of Rupees 1,154-5-6 due to Lieutenant Hunter. I request your explanation as to the circumstances under which these balances became due to Lieutenant Hunter and from what funds he spent sums in excess of receipts by him from the Talook Treasuries of the District, also why you brought forward in your Account Current for January 1857 Rupees 123-15-10 as with Lieutenant Hunter in that month, while there was so much as Rupees 1,154-5-6 due to him, the re-payment of which does not appear from your subsequent Account Current.

6. I further request information as to whether the sum of Rupees 880-2-4 paid by Captain Barrow for Military works in May 1856, referred to in your letter of the 28th Ultimo, No. 300 was charged on the Collector's Account Current for that month to the proper head as also the sum of Rupees 95-12-6 drawn from the Paymaster Bellary. This latter sum does not appear in the Debtor Side of the Account Current for June in which month it is stated to have been received.

7. Your observations in the 3rd para. of the above letter relative to Lieutenant Drevers having intended to spend money he drew for sanctioned works, on Emergent works ordered by the Officer Commanding are not at all clear. Under the new system which commenced in May 1856, no funds are specially drawn for particular sanctioned works, but funds are drawn monthly with reference to the requirements of the executive Department to meet all authorized Public Works including such as may be ordered by the Officer Commanding the Division for emergent execution under the powers vested in Military Officers. It is not necessary therefore that funds required to meet expenditure on works authorized by Officer Commanding should be drawn from the Paymaster's Treasury as proposed by you.

8. I request the favor of an early reply to the foregoing observations and that you will lose no time in preparing and furnishing the revised accounts now called for in order to the adjustment of the differences noted above. The information called for is urgently needed for correcting the inaccuracies in the Account Current already furnished to the Central office, by reversals in the closing entries of the Books of the Public Works Department for 1856-57, which the Accountant General will require at an early date, and any delay in the transmission of the information now called for must necessarily impede the closing of the Books of the Central office.

No. 53. ORDER THEREON, No. 127; dated 25th January 1858.

The Right Honorable the Governor in Council considers the explanation furnished by the Chief Engineer, regarding the delay in the submission of the Annual Progress Report to be quite satisfactory; and he acknowledges that the Department of Public Works, since its re-organization, has had serious difficulties of various kinds to contend with.

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

No 5976.

From
The Acting Superintending Engineer
Northern Circle.

To
The District Engineer
Bellary.

Sir.

1. In reply to your two letters of the 24th & 30th ultimo Nos 295 & 302. I have the honor to desire of the Chief Engineer to request your attention to the following observations -

2. In the first of your two letters you state that the balance which actually remained with your Executive Officers on the 1st December 1856, was Rupees 8106-14-9 and you forward a statement shewing the receipts and Expenditure by them up to that date, the former amounting to Rupees 87,253-15-3 and the latter to Rupees 79,147--6 leaving the above balance in their hands. With this statement is forwarded another shewing the receipts and Expenditure by the Executive Officers in charge of minor bridges and Drain works &c up to the same date, which exhibits, as shown in the Margin, a balance of Rupees 1,553-3-3, as due to the Executive Officers on the 1st December 1856; and if this sum be deducted from the balance of Rupees 8106-14-9 there will be a net

Works

N. Chokkumbari Esq. 2241-10-9-
Capt. in Bellary 868-11-2-
Lieut. Campbell 2883-3--
Officer in charge of the 3 Military Buildings 2113-5-10
Rupees 8106-14-9

Expenditure Rupees 44,985-2-14
Receipts 42,531-16-1
Balance due to Officers Rupees 3,1553-3-3

net cash balance of Rupees 6,553-11-6. This net balance
I would observe should have appeared in your account
current with the collector for the month of November
1856, if a general Account Current embracing the
transactions recorded in the Accounts Current fur-
nished to you by all your Executive Officers were
furnished to the collector monthly, but no mention
is made by you of what sums appeared in that
Account Current, although you were desired to
do so; you simply state that Rupees 8,106-14-9 is
the true balance remaining with your Executive
Officers on the 1st December 1856. The collector,
however, gives the balance as Rupees 5,550-8-7.
and apparently the accounts rendered to him
by yourself and the two statements sent by
you in explanation of this discrepancy show
a different result as stated above. The discrepancy is
irreconcilable & it must be evident to you, that such
disagreements in cash balances stated to have
remained on a particular date should never be
permitted to exist. I request you will furnish
me without delay with full information on
the subject, in order to a correction of the entries
already made in the Books of the Central Office,
from the Account Current rendered by the
collector up to November 1856 and by yourself
after that date. The collector having transferred
to you all the Accounts of the Public Works in
his district on delivering over charge to you of the
Executive, he is unable to furnish any further in-
formation, beyond that given in his letter of
the

the 12th October last No. 16 a copy of which has been
communicated to you.

3 In the Supplemental Account Cur-
rent forwarded by you for the month of December
1856 an account of works executed by the subordinate
judge of Bellary, the sum of Rupees 211-10-10 is
brought forward as the balance from the last
month's Account Current. I request you will in-
form me whether this balance is a portion of
that shown in the collector's Account Current
for November 1856 vizt Rupees 25,175-2-4 and is
irrespective of the balance of Rupees 8,106-14-9
said to have remained with your Officers. It is
necessary also that this Office should be aware
whether the subordinate judge furnished an
Account Current to the collector of his transac-
tions prior to 30th November 1856 if such were
included in the collector's Account Current
with the Central Office. No Supplemental Ac-
count Current for April 1857 has been furnished
by you & I would wish to be informed whether
the transactions of April 1857 have been fully
included in the Account Current for that month
already furnished to the Central Office.

In your letter of the 30th ultimo
you remark that in the collector's Account
Current with the Central Office up to November
1856, several works were debited with larger
sums than were actually expended thereon,
and that other works were left debited, of which
Memoranda have been forwarded by you with
the

The main discrepancy. The difference of Rupees 2556-6-2. between the balances stated to have remained on the 1st December 1856, but I regret to state that this Memo does not completely account for the difference and unless it is fully explained no adjustment of it can be made in the Books of the Central Office.

I therefore request you will carefully examine into the details of the accounts from May to November 1856 which were furnished to the Central Office by the Collector and ascertain the reasons why so many works in your two Memos were over and left debited therein. If the two sums of total, over and left debit given by you be correct the difference which will still require to be accounted for is Rupees 57-4-6. as will be seen from the original note. I request you will endeavour to trace the cause of this difference and report the same to this Office.

Balance as per Collector's Account Current	552-8-7
Over debits in the Collector's Account Current to be credited	1808-11-10
Left debits in the Collector's Account Current to be credited	455-7-11
Recoveries not previously credited in Collector's Account Current	144-12-6
Total	7524-4-11
Balance which should have remained with District Engineer	6553-11-6
Difference to be accounted for by the Dist. Engr.	57-4-6
Total	7555-5-5

5. In order to exhibit the correct balance now in your hands, and to make such correction in your Account Current already furnished to this Office, it is necessary that a clear statement should be furnished shewing the particular items including the balances in each month's Account Current which requires alteration, and all the corrections

Difference with previous
 Statement 2556-6-2.
 Difference 8106-14-9
 Difference 5530-8-7

corrections which should be made in the Abstract Statements appended to these Accounts Current. I would observe that a sum of Rupees 1553-3-3 the excess expenditure over Receipts alluded to above, is added to the sum shown to have been over debited in the Collector's Account Current, in the Explanatory Memo furnished by you, but why a sum really spent in excess of Receipts is to be added to an erroneous debit is not stated. Is it because the Collector's Account Current did not include the excess expenditure over Receipts, if so your explanation is needed as to whether this excess expenditure had been shown in your Account Current with the Collector. I further request you will explain why the sum of Rupees 1553-3-3 shown to have been spent in excess in the Minor drains &c up to December 1856, does not correspond with the balance shown in Lieut. Hunter's Account Current for December 1856, as due to him from the previous month's

Account Current for those works. This Account Current (a copy of which is forwarded by you) shows a balance of Rupees 1866-3-9 as having been due to Lieut. Hunter on the 1st December, and a balance of Rupees 1278-5-4 as having been due to him on the 1st January 1857, on certain works connected with the same Estimate irrespective of Rupees 123-15-10 shown to have been due by him on the same date, leaving the net sum of Rupees 1154-5-6 due to Lieut. Hunter. I request your explanation as to the circumstances under which these balances

balances became due to Lieut. Hunter and from what funds he spent sums in excess of Receipts by him from the Talook Treasuries of the District, also why you brought forward in your Account Current for January 1857 Rupees 123-15-10. as with Lieut. Hunter in that month, while there was so much as Rupees 1154-5-6 due to him, the repayment of which does not appear from your subsequent Account Current.

6. I further request information as to whether the sum of Rupees 880-2-4 paid by Capt. Barron for Military works in May 1856 referred to in your letter of the 28th ultimo Rs 300 was charged on the Collectors Account Current for that month to the proper head as also the sum of Rupees 95-12-6 drawn from the Paymaster Bellary. This latter sum does not appear in the Dr. Side of the Account Current for June in which month it is stated to have been received.

7. Your observations in the 3rd para of the above letter relative to Lieut. Dreviers having intended to spend money he drew for sanctioned works, on Emergent works ordered by the Officer Commanding are not at all clear. Under the new system which commenced in May 1856 no funds are specially drawn for particular sanctioned works, but funds are drawn monthly with reference to the requirements of the Executive Department to meet all authorized Public Works including such as may be ordered by the Officer Commanding

13
Commanding the Division for emergent cases. - Draw under the powers vested in Military Officers. It is not necessary therefore that funds required to meet expenditure on works authorized by Officer Commanding should be drawn from the Paymaster's Treasury as proposed by you.

8. I request the favor of an early reply to the foregoing observations and that you will lose no time in preparing and furnishing the revised accounts now called for in order to the adjustment of the differences noted above. The information called for is urgently needed for correcting the inaccuracies in the Account Current already furnished to the Central Office, by reversal in the closing Entries of the Books of the Public Works Department for 1856/57, which the Accountant General will require at an early date, and any delay in the transmission of the information now called for must necessarily impede the closing of the Books of the Central Office.

Central Office of P.M.
Fort St. George
15th December 1857.

I have the honor to be
(Signed) C. A. Orr. Captain
Adj. Sup. Engr. N. Circle

(True Copy)

M. J. L. Colonel
Chief Engineer.

Central Office of Public Works.
Fort St George 17 December 1857.

N^o 6080.

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government of
Public Works Department.

Sir,
With reference to Extract Minutes of
Consultation dated 7th December 1857, N^o 2269,
para 1. I beg to explain that the orders of the
Government of India referred to therein, were not
quoted, because they were orders of a permanent
character; and it did not appear to me that
orders of a fixed nature, or regulations, were on the
same footing as those to which special reference
is required to be made in forwarding replies. The
directions of Government shall, however, be at-
tached to the future.

In my letter of the 29th September last
N^o 4059, I explained the reason of the delay in
which had occurred in the submission of the
annual progress report, and from which it must
have been seen that the delay or detention was
not

Wester

Copy in a letter to Engineer
2/11/57 Aug 1858-1859

Enclosed is a letter
from
The Chief Engineer
to
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Dated 17th December 1857
Recd 2
MM 26/1/59 N^o 6080

Copy of a letter from the
acting Chief Eng^r & Western Circle
to the District Engineer of Bellary
reviewing the explanation fur-
nished by him regarding the
cash balance as listed on the
1st December 1856, and requesting
to be no time in forwarding
revised accounts in
conformity with the instructions
given.

not owing to any remissness on the part of the Central Office. The last report from the District Engineers required for the compilation of the statement was not received till the 13th October, and the Statement itself was submitted by me on the 6th November 1854, with a complete synopsis of expenditure, and a review of the principal items contained in it. And it may here be noted that the limit of power possessed by a Central Office, having in some sense no direct authority is easily attained, and the experience of the last two years would seem to shew that the Chief Engineer's requisitions for a punctual transmission of periodical Returns can be disregarded with almost, if not complete, practical impunity. The very title of 'Central Office' implies a dependence on the several District branches, the withholding of any one of which vitiates the usefulness of all others that may have been collected; and it perhaps is possible that the Government may not hitherto have directed its attention to the virtual powerlessness of the Chief Engineer in enforcing a regularity which is unavoidably dependent upon others, who are able to urge the performance of duties yet more urgent than those left unperformed.

3 As the orders of the Government of India dated 9th February 1855, N^o 929, and 17th

May

N^o 2188.

17
May 1855 N^o 1800 were not communicated to the late Board of Public Works, nor to the Central Office, I was not aware of the restriction placed by that Government upon the items to be included in the statement of remunerative works, and I therefore solicited the orders of Government on the subject. The instructions now communicated will be obeyed in all future reports, and in that for 1856/57, which has been called for in the orders under reply. The views of Government in regard to the list of Officers who have distinguished themselves during each year shall also be duly conforming to in future.

4. With reference to the last para of the order under reply, wherein Government call for an explanation of the cause of the delay in the submission of the monthly journals to the Accountant General, I have the honor to report that the Journals for January and February last were submitted to that Officer on the 8th Instant, and that the journals for the two following months viz for March and April (which will complete the transactions of the past official year) will be forwarded to him by the end of the current week, they being nearly ready.

5. The delay occurring in the preparation of

Works

of the Journals is owing entirely to the irregularity with which the Accounts Current of the District Engineers are submitted to this Office. In the margin are exhibited the dates on which the accounts of some Officers for April last, were received by me, and the Government will thus perceive that no remissness is attributable to the Central Office. According to the rules for drawing funds and keeping accounts, the Account Current and Progress report for the last month of each year (April) are required to be detained till the last bill for the year shall have been furnished. The evil resulting from this system was pointed out by me in the letter noted in the margin, but Government were not pleased on that occasion to accede to my recommendation. In my anxiety to meet the requirements of the Central Office, I, however, issued a Circular on the 4th August last requiring all Officers to submit their Accounts Current immediately, with, or without, the bills of the past year; but this requisition, I am sorry to report, has also been only very partially attended to.

B. A still further reason of the delay occurring in the preparation of the Journals is, that amended accounts are being constantly received in lieu of accounts already included

in

Bellary—Decr 3rd 1857

Mellore—Octr 26th—

South Arcot—Sept 21st—

Malabar—Sept 21st—

Rule 27, page 399.
of C. O. Book.

29th Octr 1856, No 7620.

G. M. C. 9th Jan^y 1857, No 50.

1st 81 of 1857/58.

No 5976 dated 15th
December 1857.

for 1858/59.

in the Journals, thus necessitating the making of reversals and transfer entries, and greatly impeding the preparation of the Monthly Accounts for the Accountant General.

To show the Government how inaccurately accounts are sometimes furnished to the Office, and how closely they require to be scrutinized, I beg to submit copy of a letter addressed only recently to the District Engineer of Bellary from which, will be readily perceived the nature of the difficulties which the Central Office has to contend against in the preparation of its own returns. In addition to these difficulties, it may also be mentioned that the audit and account branches of my office have had a great deal of additional work thrown upon them this year, not only from the numerous bills received into the Office, but from the preparation of several financial statements called for by the Accountant General, together with an additional Budget* which taxed the utmost energies of those departments for more than three weeks, and suspended the performance of other important work during the period when the attention of the financial strength of the whole office was concentrated even out of hours, in the completion of a document whose

Worthington

whose total was liable to daily variation according to the orders passed by Government on the numerous Estimates previously referred for disposal.

8. Finally, I must respectfully solicit the favorable consideration of Government to the absence of fixed regular routine which still characterizes the D.P.W. in the Madras Presidency in this the third year of its ostensible organization, dating as from 1st August 1855. A series of changes, in which one has succeeded another with but little intermission throughout the whole period, has been introduced, which cannot but have been highly adverse to the punctuality in the District Offices, in which so many have been found wanting. The repeated interruptions to the steady action of the new Budget system, come also under the same category of lets and hindrances to the habitual fulfilment of Departmental Regulations. Arrangements for the prosecution of works on the opening of each season which represent much time and thought, and personal responsibilities of no slight gravity, have unavoidably been rendered nugatory by the operation of unexpected restrictions both in the last and during the present seasons. If the local results of such interdicts have to be traced throughout their interference with the office routine of the several District Engineers, the displeasure

* 2nd Lieut. H. Prodergast.
2nd Lieut. H. Gordon.
2nd Lieut. J. Thomas.
2nd Lieut. J. Lindsay.
2nd Lieut. W. H. Burton.
2nd Lieut. H. Wood.

displeasure caused by apparent irregularity or neglect would be sensibly diminished. It also as regards the sudden and extensive reduction of the general strength of the Department by almost one fourth of its cost, and one half of its numbers, and the dismissal of the office establishments of the parties removed, as fresh executive and professional arrangements thence became indispensable throughout every District in the Presidency to the inevitable interruption of the preparation of those papers, for whose delay I am now called on to account. Lastly, to all these causes operating against the regularity enjoined by Regulation, has to be added the element of frequent change in the personnel of the D.P.W. In the Central Office, two experienced Officers have been removed out of the three Superin. tending Engineers allotted to the Presidency, and in the Mofussil, Major Boileau, Lieutenant Hemery, and Lieutenant Scott have vacated their offices as District Engineers of the 1st and 2nd Clafs, whilst six Engineer Officers of the Probationary Grade whose services were much needed to reinforce the Department in the mofussil were imperatively required for Field duties, a requirement which further weakened the Public Works by remanding to their Regiments highly qualified or very useful Officers like Lieutenant Farewell and Captain Colin Gib.

9. I trust that His Lordship the Right Honorable.

Works

Honorable the Governor in Council will be pleased to
not overlook these adverse influences to a syste-
matic, and regular rendering of Periodical Returns
in a Department that has not yet had the means
of becoming matured in the discharge of its duties,
when arriving at a decision as to the satisfactoriness
or otherwise of the explanation I have now done
myself the honor to submit.

Central Office of P. H.
Fort Saint George
17 December 1857

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your Most Obedient Servant

Wm. Lister Colonel
Chief Engineer.

N^o 127

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation
Under date the 25th Jan^y 1858.

Read the following
letter from the Chief
Engineer

(Handwritten by Dec^r 5th Jan^y 1858)

The Right Honor.
able the Governor in
Council considers
the explanation fur-
nished by the Chief
Engineer, regarding
the delay in the
submission of the
annual Progress
report to be quite
satisfactory; and he
acknowledges that the
Department of Public

Works

A

W
W

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25
1858 Jan 25

1858

1858 Jan 25

Works, since its reorgan-
ization, has had serious
difficulties of various
kinds to contend with.

SL

I. Copies to the Chief Eng.
Dir. 26.

Copy in a letter to Congress
of 1792 Chap. 100: 10: 10:

Public: 1792: 1833: 1844:
Re to Com: 26th January.

1792

Extract of the Com:
dated 25th Jan/58.

Concerning the Bill
introduced by the Church
regarding the delay in the
submission of the annual
Congress Report.

1792: 1833: 1844: