1. Number of pages. 14
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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

## Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Copy 25-7-57

G.O. No. 1485 Press Mis.

81.882

Dated 27—7—1857

**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

No. 81. Circular from the Chief Engineer; to all District Engineers, Civil Architect Garrison Engineer, and Superintendent E. C. Canal, dated 11th July 1857, No. LXVI of 1857-58.

SIR,

Preparatory to more detailed instructions which will be issued at the earliest possible period, I do myself the honor, under orders, to intimate to all members of the D. P. W., the necessity of putting an immediate and absolute stop to all outlay whatever on works of internal improvement throughout the Presidency.

2. This interdict is not to be partial in its operation, but universal, the interpretation being relaxed only so far, as to admit of works being prosecuted to such a stage, as may ensure their comparative security.

3. Thus, whilst road improvements can be abandoned at once, it may be necessary in *bridges*, to complete arches already commenced, to uncentre them, and to place the structure, though still incomplete, beyond the risk of injury by exposure to the weather.

4. But with the spirit of the order, there nevertheless is to be no paltering, and references recommending exemption for exceptional reasons will be received with marked displeasure. In all cases however critical, there must always be a certain discretion confided to local Officers; but they, whose expenditure is the most rapidly reduced to a cypher, will at the present conjuncture, best exhibit their discretion.

5. Even repairs are to be in no wise liberally *prospective*; that which is indispensable to arrest decay, or to prevent danger, must be performed, and performed well; but this limit of bare safety is not to be overstepped.

6. For Military works, and buildings for the accommodation of Troops, there is however to be no falling off in energy of prosecution.

7. All estimates in the Military Department will therefore be worked out, and doubtless with all the greater rapidity, that the strength of the executive will in so large a measure be concentrated upon these works.

8. Finally, it is not meant that there should be an unwise parsimony in the execution of bonâ fide ordinary repairs on works of irrigation, on which the land Revenue is dependant; nor should materials collected already in large quantities, such as bricks and lime, be unnecessarily sacrificed. Whenever the value of these can be recovered by the addition of workmanship, thus converting the stores into an unfinished building indeed, but one unlikely to be injured by exposure, it may be the truest economy to use up materials of an unenduring character. Timber however, and granite, may be stored with safety, and the Officer who ventures to prolong executive operations under this specialty, will incur a most serious responsibility, and be liable to the substantial displeasure of Government.

9. Attention is drawn to the subjoined resolution of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, in the Financial Department, No. 2603 of the 27th June 1857, and to the following Extract from a letter from the Secretary to the Government of India in the D. P. W. under date the 3rd Instant, No. 3265.

*Resolution.*—" Having regard to the Financial position of the Government, the Right " Honorable the Governor General in Council considers it expedient, that all Public Works of " every description, except works in the Military Department, and inexpensive works of a very " urgent nature, should, forthwith, be stopped at all the Presidencies, and that the establishments " of the Public Works Department should without delay, be reduced to the lowest possible scale."

" Ordered, that a copy of the above Resolution be forwarded to the Department of Public " Works for the issue of the necessary orders."

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. H. LUSHINGTON,
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

(True Copy.)

(Signed) W. E. BAKER, Colonel,
*Secretary to the Government of India.*

*Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 28th July 1857.*

"In forwarding for the guidance of the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras in "Council, the accompanying Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the "Financial Department, No. 2603, dated 27th Ultimo, I am directed at the same time to trans- "mit copy of an Extract which has been made in this office from the Budget of the Current Offi- "cial year received with your letter, No. 462, dated 12th March, which will give an idea of the "description of works which alone appear to the Government of India necessary to be carried "on, it being considered that all others should be at once suspended. I am however to add, "that while this selection of works is not intended to be absolutely binding on the Government "of Madras on the one hand, on the other, it is not to be understood as giving any authority to "continue works, the necessity for which, is not absolute, and that the Right Honorable the "Governor General in Council depends upon the Government of Madras acting without any "reservation on the spirit of the Resolution in regard to the temporary limitation of expendi- "ture on the Public Works now ordered in the Financial Department.

2. "In regard to the sums set down opposite the works of improvement, amounting to "Rupees nine lacs and seventy-nine thousand, it is to be understood that this amount represents "the estimated probable expenditure up to the date on which the suspension of these works may "take place from the 1st May last and conveys no authority to expend that sum, if it has not al- "ready been laid out. The stoppage of all such works is for the present to be understood as "absolute, and to take place immediately."

3. "With reference to repairs, the sum set down in the Budget has been reduced, on the "consideration, that there will be some repairs which, though generally advisable, may, without "risk, be deferred for the present; and it will be understood, that a strict watch is to be main- "tained upon this branch of the Public Works expenditure, with a view to its being kept down "to the lowest possible amount which is consistent with the security of the works or buildings "in charge of the Public Works Officers. Where any repairs can be deferred, it must be put "off as long as possible, having due regard to the real security and stability of each separate "class of structure &c. &c."

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

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No. 82. ORDER THEREON, No. 1445; dated 27th July 1857.

In para. 8 of the Circular above recorded, the Chief Engineer has directed the Officers of the Public Works Department "to use up materials of an unenduring character," such as, "bricks and lime;" so as to convert "the stores into an unfinished building unlikely to be injured by exposure."

2. The Government conceive that misapprehension may arise from the wording of the Chief Engineer's Circular, and that Officers may from it, consider themselves authorized to make use of all the bricks and lime stone that may have been collected for any work, and they therefore wish that such explanatory orders may be issued as will prevent such proceedings.

3. Burnt bricks and unburnt lime will not be injured by exposure, and whatever may have been prepared should be carefully preserved, and made available when the present restriction on expenditure may be removed. Burnt lime, or chunam, alone, will spoil by keeping; but as it is generally prepared only for daily use, and no large quantity ever is, or ought to be, on hand, but trifling loss will result from abandoning what may be ready, even if it cannot be sold.

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

Govt Litho. Press of Central Office, D. P. W. Fort St. George, 14th July, 1857.

Circular. No. LXVI of 1857-58.

To

All Dist. Engrs, Civil Archt. Garrison Engrs, and Supt. E. C. Canal &c.

Sir,

Preparatory to more detailed instructions which will be issued at the earliest possible period, I do myself the honor, under orders, to intimate to all Members of the D. P. W. the necessity of putting an immediate and absolute stop to all outlay whatever on works of internal improvement throughout the Presy.—

2. This interdict is not to be partial in its operation, but universal, the interpretation being relaxed only so far, as to admit of works being prosecuted to such a stage, as may ensure their comparative security.—

3. Thus, whilst road improvements can be abandoned at once, it may be necessary in bridges, to complete arches already commenced, to uncentre them, and to place the structure, though still incomplete, beyond the risk of injury by exposure to the weather.

4. But with the spirit of the order, there nevertheless is to be no paltering, and references recommending exemption for exceptional reasons will be received with marked displeasure.— In all cases however critical, there must always be a certain discretion confided to local Officers, but they, whose expenditure is the most rapidly reduced to a cypher, will at the present conjuncture, best exhibit their discretion.—

5. Even repairs are to be in no wise liberally prospective. That which is indispensable to arrest decay, or to prevent danger, must be performed, and performed well, but this limit is

&c.

bare safety is not to be overstepped.—

6. For Military works, and buildings for the accomodation of Troops, there is however to be no falling off in energy of prosecution.—

7. All Estimates in the Military Department will therefore be worked out, and doubtless with all the greater rapidity, that the strength of the Executive will in so large a measure be concentrated upon these works.—

8. Finally, it is not meant that there should be an unwise parsimony in the execution of bonâ fide ordinary repairs on works of Irrigation, on which the land Revenue is dependant, nor should materials collected already in large quantities, such as bricks and lime, be unnecessarily sacrificed.— Whenever the value of these can be recovered by the addition of workmanship, thus converting the stores into an unfinished building indeed, but one unlikely to be injured by exposure, it may be the truest economy to use up materials of an unenduring character.— Timber however, and granite, may be stored with safety, and the Officer who ventures to prolong executive operations under this speciality, will incur a most serious responsibility, and be liable to the substantial displeasure of Government.—

9 Attention is drawn to the subjoined Resolution of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council, in the Financial Department, No. 2603 of the 27th June 1857, and to the following Extract from a letter from the Secy. to the Govt. of India in the P.W.D. under date the 3d Instant, No. 3265.—

Resolution

"Having regard to the Financial position of the Government, "the Right Honble the Governor General in Council considers "it expedient, that all Public Works of every description, except "Works in the Military Department, and unexpensive Works of

of a very urgent nature, should forthwith be stopped at "all the Presidencies, and that the establishments of the "Public Works Department should without delay, be "reduced to the lowest possible scale".

"Ordered, that a copy of the above Resolution "be forwarded to the Department of Public Works for the "issue of the necessary orders".—

(A true extract)
(Sgd.) C. H. Lushington
Secretary to the Govt. of India

(True copy)
(Sgd.) W. E. Baker Colt.
Secretary to Govt. of India"

Public Works Dept.
Public

"In forwarding for the guidance of the Right "Honorable the Governor of Madras in Council, the accompany- "ing Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India "in the Financial Department, No. 2603, dated 27th Ultimo, "I am directed at the same time to transmit copy of an "Extract which has been made in this Office from the "Budget of the Current Official year received with your "letter, No. 462, dated 12th March, which will give an idea "of the description of works which alone appear to the Govern- "ment of India necessary to be carried on, it being consi- "dered that all others should be at once suspended. I am "however to add, that while this selection of works is not "intended to be absolutely binding on the Government of "Madras on the one hand, on the other, it is not to be un- "derstood as giving any authority to continue works, the "necessity for which, is not absolute, and that the Right "Honorable the Governor General in Council depends upon "the Government of Madras acting without any reserva- "tion on the spirit of the Resolution in regard to the tem- "porary limitation of expenditure on the Public Works "now ordered in the Financial Department.

2 "In regard to the sums set down opposite "the

"The Works of Improvement, amounting to Rupees, nine
"lacs and seventy nine thousand, it is to be understood
"that this amount represents the estimated probable ex-
"penditure up to the date on which the suspension of these
"works may take place from the 1st. May last and conveys
"no authority to expend that sum, if it has not already
"been laid out. The stoppage of all such works is for
"the present to be understood as absolute, and to take
"place immediately."—

3 "With reference to repairs, the sum set down
"in the Budget has been reduced, on the consideration that
"there will be some repairs which, though generally ad-
"visable, may, without risk, be deferred for the present,
"and it will be understood, that a strict watch is to
"be maintained upon this branch of the Public Works
"expenditure, with a view to its being kept down to
"the lowest possible amount which is consistent with
"the security of the works or buildings in charge of the
"Public Works Officers. Where any repairs can be de-
"ferred, it must be put off as long as possible, having
"due regard to the real security and stability of each
"separate daly of structure &c. &c."—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedt. servant.

H. L. Tucker Colonel,
Chief Engineer.—

Public Works Dept.

No. 11465.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 27th July 1857.

Read the following

Circular from the Chief

Engineer.

(Here enter 17 "July 1857)

In para 8 of the

Circular above recorded,

the Chief Engineer has

directed the Officers of

the Public Works Dept.

"to use up materials

of an unendurring —

character", such as, —

"bricks and lime"; so

as to convert the stores

into

Public Works Dept
Dated 28th July 1857.

No. 11451

Circular

From the Chief Engineer

Dated 17th July 1857.

Rec'd 18th "

Submitting for the

information of the Executive

Public Works the accompanying

Circular addressed to all

Local & Public Works Officers

calling attention to an

order of the late Govt.

with reference to

unnecessary & useless

Expenditure.

Recorded

Sd/- H. Ellis

Secy. Public Works Dept.

C18 July/57 23

into any unfinished
building unlikely to
be injured by exposure."

The Board
ment conceive that
any difficulties may
arise from the word-
ing of the Chief En-
gineers Circular
and that Officers
may from it, consider
themselves authorized
to make use of all
the bricks and lime
stone that may have
been collected for
any works, and they
therefore wish that
such explanatory
orders may be issued
as will prevent
such



such proceedings

Burnt bricks
and burnt lime
will not be injured
by exposure, and
whatever may have
been prepared should
be carefully preserved,
and made available
when the pre-
sent
on expenditure
may be removed.
Burnt lime, or
Cement, alone will
spoil by keeping
but as it is gene-
rally prepared
only for daily use,
and no large quan-
tity ever is, or
ought

ought to be upon Record,
but trifling loss
will result from
a Countermining which
may be speedily, even
if it cannot be
stopt. —

J. J. Copied to the Chief Engr.
Dec.r 28.

C 18 July R 23d

Public Works 1857 Deptt.
Do to Coins 28th July.

No 3/1445.

Extract Minute of Govt.
Dated 27th July 1857.

Reviewing the Circular from the Chief Engr
dated 17th July pointing
out certain ambiguous
wording used therein.

No 81 & 82.