1. Number of pcs. 8
2. Date of receipt 17-7
3. Issued

M.R.O. 1—32,400—28-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

Cons. 4.8.57

G.O. No. 1501 Press Mis.

7627

Dated 13 — 8 — 18 57

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 76. Read the following letter from Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 10th July 1857, No. 3389.

SIR,

On a perusal of the Proceedings of the Government of Fort St. George, Nos. 617-618 dated 3rd April last, the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council has observed that the Garrison Engineer and Civil Architect at Madras appear to have been permitted to draw travelling allowances at the rate of five Rupees a day, in such a manner as to receive a permanent addition to their fixed salaries.

2. The Government of India directs me to point out to the Right Honorable the Governor of Madras in Council, that it was irregular to grant any such allowance as this, inasmuch as every permanent increase of salary, under whatever denomination, requires the previous sanction of the Right Honorable the Governor General of India in Council in the Financial Department.

3. The authority given to the Madras Government to grant travelling allowances in accordance with the scale laid down in the Notification in this Department No. 117, dated 17th June 1856, must of course be understood to have been strictly limited by the general terms on which those allowances were sanctioned by the Government of India. The essential thing was very distinctly laid down in that order, that to entitle an Officer to travelling allowance, he should travel to a distance of not less than five miles from his ordinary Head Quarters. There is nothing to indicate an intention on the part of the Government of India to permit the visiting of works within reach of an Officer's ordinary residence to be considered as travelling; on the contrary, the whole context of the 5th paragraph of the order in question, goes to show that bonâ fide travelling in tents or by dawk was contemplated.

4. That this interpretation of the intentions of the Government of India was indeed originally taken by the Government of Madras is apparent from their Proceedings No. 349, dated 21st February last in which, immediately after the promulgation of the orders by which the constitution of the Madras Public Works Establishments was fixed, on an enquiry being made whether the Garrison Engineer was to draw travelling allowance, the answer was distinctly in the negative.

5. But if the sanction of this travelling allowance is, for general reasons, objectionable, the special circumstances of the Officers to whom it has been passed, seem to take away all ground for any such pecuniary grant.

6. Lieutenant Colonel Atkinson, it is observed, was formerly termed Superintending Engineer at the Presidency. In this capacity he drew a Staff Salary of somewhat more than one thousand Rupees a month, and performed the whole or nearly the whole of the duties which now devolve upon two Officers, the Garrison Engineer and the Civil Architect. When the new arrangements were completed, Lieutenant Colonel Atkinson became Civil Architect alone, but was permitted to draw his old salary in full, notwithstanding the allowances of the Civil Architect on the new scale are only seven hundred Rupees a month. Thus, this Officer having been relieved of nearly half his duty, has been not only allowed to retain his former salary in full, but has now received one hundred and fifty Rupees a month in addition.

7. The salary of the Garrison Engineer at Madras was fixed by the Madras Government at five hundred Rupees a month, and doubtless on the understanding that he would not draw any travelling allowance for, as was before noticed, immediately after the issue of the order in which the salary was fixed, it was directly ordered that no travelling allowance was to be drawn.

8. The Right Honorable the Governor General in Council is consequently of opinion that the travelling allowance that has thus been granted to these two Officers cannot be allowed, and whatever sum has been drawn under this head, must be refunded by them.

9. In conclusion, I am directed to request that, with the permission of the Right Hon'ble the Governor of Madras, you will be good enough to report whether there are any other Officers in the Department of Public Works at Madras to whom any grant has been made under the name of travelling allowance, in a manner similar to that now under notice, by which they receive a

virtual increase of salary irrespective of the condition which was intended to have been imposed by the Government of India on the payment of such extra allowances.

No. 77. ORDER THEREON, No. 1501; dated 3rd August 1857.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter be communicated to the Chief Engineer, Accountant General and Civil Auditor for their information and guidance. The instructions of the Government of India for discontinuing the payment of travelling allowance to the Civil Architect and Garrison Engineer will at once be carried into effect and those Officers will be required to refund the amount they have respectively drawn on this account. The Civil Auditor will be pleased to furnish the information required by the Government of India in para. 9.

2. The Chief Engineer will be so good as to obtain and submit to Government immediately the Diaries which in the Extract from the Minutes of Consultation dated the 3rd of April 1857, No. 618, the Civil Architect, and the Garrison Engineer were ordered to keep.

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

No. 3389

From

Colonel H. C. Baker,
Secretary to the Government of India

To

H. Forbes Esqre
Acting Secretary to Government
Fort St. George

Dated the 10th July 1857.

Public Works Dept
Public

Sir,

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requires the previous sanction of the Right Honble the Governor General of India in Council in the Financial Department.—

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1000 Rs

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I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
W. H. Baker Colonel
Secretary to the Govt of India

For Fort William
The 10th July 1857.

Tucs.

Dr Cons. 7 April 57 No. 45047
- - 24 Feby - - - 53654
- - 15 July 1856 - 72173.

Public Works 1857 Dept.
Dr to Cons 1st August.

No. 1478.

From the Govt to the
Govt of India.

Dated 10 July 57.

Rec. 22 July 57.

Forwd the Civil Auditor's 7/10 a/c
Memorial &c &c dated 18th
Cons. 10 Sept.
Observing with
regard to the travelling
allowances granted to the
Garrison Engineer and
Civil architect at Madras
at the rate of 8Rs a day,
that they were drawn in
such a manner as to form
a permanent addition to
the fixed salaries of those
officers, and that it was
irregular, and consequently
directing the amounts drawn
by those Officers to be re-
funded. 3rd August
No 1501. With an order

No 1501

Ordered that a Copy of the abo
letter be communicated to the Chief E
-neer, Accountant-General and Civil
Auditor for their information & guidan
The instructions of the Government of
for discontinuing the payment of travel
allowance to the Civil Architect and
Garrison Engineer will at once be carr
into effect and those Officers will be requir
to refund the amount they have respe
-tively drawn on this account. The Au
Auditor will be pleased to furnish
the information required by the Governm
of India in para 9.

2 The C. Engr. will be re
-ve Ballain & submit to
Govt. the Diarie, Sick &c the
Ex. from the 1st Dec. 56 to
3: 2 April 57 Rs 5 5 9. Rs 608, the a
allowed, & the Garrison Engr
were ordered to keep

A

Copy to the Chief Engr
Accts Genl
Civil Auditor

Immediate
4/8

Dept 1st Genl
3rd Augt 1857

28 July Rec 3rd Augt