MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. Press

Dated 18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 102. Read the following letter from Major R. STRACHEY, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India; to W. H. BAYLEY, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort St. George, dated Fort William, the 19th July 1858, No. 3332.

SIR,

Your letter No. 1016, dated 29th May last, having been laid before the Honorable the President in Council, I am directed to inform you, that the Government of India is decidedly of opinion that periodical Surveys of Public Works and buildings ought to be made by professional Officers. Otherwise the Public Works Department would cease to be responsible for the condition of these Works and Buildings, and it would devolve upon unprofessional persons to decide on the stability and state of repair of structures on which, in many cases, their opinions could not be of any real value. Thus, one of the main objects of the Public Works Department, would no longer be attained.

2nd. It is not however necessary that the Survey should, in all cases, be made by the District or Executive Engineer. The examination by an Assistant Engineer or intelligent subordinate would frequently be sufficient, the superior Officers taking measures to ensure the duty being performed efficiently. As a general rule, the more important works should be examined by the higher Officers of the Public Works Department and those of less moment by properly qualified subordinates.

3rd. So also it is not essential that such Surveys should be annual. The Government would determine in each case, with reference to the nature of the buildings &c. and the climate, by whom and after what interval of time the regular periodical Survey should be made.

No. 103. ORDER THEREON, No. 1637; dated 16th August 1858.

After consulting the principal Officers of the Public Works Department in obedience to the wishes of the Government of India,* this Government, in their letter of the 29th May 1858, No. 1016, reported their opinion on the question of requiring the Officers of the Public Works Department periodically to inspect and report the condition of Public buildings, viz. that such inspections would be attended with expense, much inconvenience, and be productive of no practical benefit, especially considering that it was the interest as well as the duty of the occupying Department to bring to notice any evidence of dilapidation, while the present rules of the Department provided for the prompt repair of Public buildings. The Government of India, however, in their reply above recorded, intimate their decided opinion that periodical Surveys of Public Works and buildings ought to be made by professional Officers, as otherwise the Public Works Department would cease to be responsible for the condition of these Works and Buildings, and it would devolve upon unprofessional persons to decide on the stability and state of repair of structures on which, in many cases, their opinions could not be of any real value.

From Government of India, 5th December 1856, No. 5662.

2. Such being the decision of the Government of India, it only remains for the head of the Public Works Department here to issue Circular instructions to carry out their wishes. Major Lawford will accordingly draw up a set of instructions, which he will submit, previous to issuing them, for the information and approval of Government. He will remark that the Government of India point out that it will not be necessary in every case for a District or Executive Engineer to conduct the Survey or inspection here referred to; but that the examination might be more frequently held by an Assistant Engineer or intelligent subordinate, the superior Officers taking measures to ensure the efficient performance of the duty; or as a general rule, that the important constructions should be examined by the higher Officers, and those of less moment by qualified subordinates. It is also added that these surveys need not be annual. On this point, this Government would merely observe with reference to the remarks in the 3rd para of the letter recorded above, that the examinations should be held at such timely opportunities as to be least expensive to the State and productive of the least inconvenience to the Public Service.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Evidence of examination,

№ 3332.-

From,

Major R. Strachey,

Officiating Secretary to the Government of India

To

W. H. Bayley, Esquire.-

officiating Secretary to the Government of
Fort St. George.-

Dated the 19th July 1858.-

Public Works Dept.
Public

Sir,

Your letter № 1016 dated 29th May last, having been laid before the Honorable the President in Council, I am directed to inform you, that the Government of India is decidedly of opinion that periodical surveys of Public works and buildings ought to be made by professional Officers,- Otherwise the Public Works Department would cease to be responsible for the condition of these Works and Buildings, and it would devolve upon unprofessional persons to decide on the stability and state of repair of structures on which, in many cases, their opinions could not be of any real value.- Thus, one of the main objects of the Public Works Department, would no longer be attained.-

It is not however necessary that the Survey should, in all cases, be made by the District or Executive Engineer. The examination by

evidence of dilapidation,

by an Assistant Engineer or intelligent subordinate would frequently be sufficient, the superior Officers taking measures to ensure the duty being performed efficiently.—As a general rule, the more important works should be examined by the higher officers of the Public Works Department and those of less moment by properly qualified subordinates.—

3rd. So also it is not essential that such surveys should be annual.—The Government would determine in each case, with reference to the nature of the buildings &c. and the climate, by whom and after what interval of time the regular periodical survey should be made.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most Obedient Servant.—

W. Thackeray

Offg Secy to the Govt of India.

Fort William
The 19th July 1838

evidence of delapidation, ... the

Pol. 1637 1858 Oct.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation under date the 16th August 1858.

Read the following Letter from the Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

(Revenue Letter 19th July 1858. No. 3332)

After embodying the principal Opinions of the Public Works Officers* the Secretary to the Govt. of India, in reviewing the Minutes of Consultation of the 2nd May last, on the Letter of the 29th March 1858, No. 1818, submitted their Opinions on the question of appointing the Officers of the Public Works Department to employ and control the Public Buildings; the condition of the Public Buildings generally; the extent to which repairs are attended with expence, and the precautions to be observed in the execution of repairs; and the best mode of conducting the Annual Inspection of Buildings, with a view to ascertain the necessity for, and the extent of, the Annual Grant for Repairs.

* Vide Govt. of India, Public Dept. No. 3332.

Pol. Works 1858 Oct. 2nd to Govt. 17th August No. 1721.

From the Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India

Dated 19th July
Recd 2nd Augt. } 1858
No.
Govt. No. 1637 - 16 Augt.

Intimating that, this Government is of opinion that periodical Surveys of Public Works and Buildings should be made by professional Officers.

Copy to Mr. Secy Sapte 17 Augt 58.

No. 102.

Dy. Augt. No 10th

Copy to Mr. Secy Sapte 17 Augt 58.

present rules of the Dept pro-
vided for the prompt repair of
Public buildings. The Govt of
India, however, in their reply
above recorded, intimate their
decided opinion that periodical
Surveys of Public Works and build-
ings ought to be made by profession-
al officers, as otherwise the Public
Works dept would cease to be respon-
sible for the condition of these Works
and Buildings, and it would devolve
upon unprofessional persons to
decide on the stability and state
of repair of structures on which, in
many cases, their opinions could
not be of any real value.

Such being the decision
of the Govt of India, it only re-
mains for the head of the Public
Works Dept here to issue Circular
instructions to carry out their
wishes. Major Sanford will
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the information and approval
of Govt. He will remark that the
Govt of India point out that the
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should be examined by the higher
officers, & those of less moment
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need not be annual. On this point,
this Govt would merely observe with
reference to the remarks in the 3d
para of the letter recorded above,
that the examinations should be
held at such times, & at intervals
as to be least expensive to the State,
and productive of the least inconvenience
to the officers & subordinates employed in
Public Service

Sd

Sd Officiating Offg Chief Secy
Ootacamund
17th

37 to Govt 1st. June/58 R 6th July 65

Public Works 1858 Dept.
Dr to Govt: 17th August

No 1637.

Extract Mins of Govt:
Dy 16th August/58.
From the Offg. Chief Engr 23d Sept.
58 R. 224 Misc Corr 19 Oct.

The Government of India having decided that periodical surveys of Public Buildings should be made by Professional Officers Resolved to request the Chief Engineer to issue Circular instruction according to Major Sanford to submit the Draft rules for the approval of Government.

No 102 + 103.

Sec Corr Nos. 11