M.R.O. 1—82,000—23-11-20.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 34. Read the following letter from Colonel W. E. BAKER, Secretary to the Government of India; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 7th August 1857, No. 3981.

SIR,

In your letter No. 1474 of the 30th Ultimo, the attention of the Government of India is drawn to the unfavorable contrast in which the allowances of the Superintending Engineers of Madras, stationed at the Presidency appear, when compared with those enjoyed by the same class of Officers at Calcutta in respect to the Item of House rent; and in consideration of the reduction of allowance recently ordered by the Honorable Court, of the high rents obtaining at Madras, and of the great expenditure on account of conveyance owing to the great distances between the public Offices and private residences, and also with the view of placing the Superintending Engineers of Madras on an equality in point of emolument with those of this Presidency; permission is sought to the disbursement of House rent to these Officers on the same scale as rules in Calcutta.

2. In reply, I am desired to observe that none of the arguments adduced by the Government of Madras constitute, in the opinion of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council, a sufficient ground for complying with the present application. The principle involved in the grant of a House rent allowance in compensation either for a reduction of Staff salary or a heavy expenditure on account of carriage hire is very questionable. The amount of salary attached to any Office, or an allowance to be made for travelling, are points that should be considered, each on its own merits. In the case of Superintending Engineers, the former has already been disposed of by the Honorable Court of Directors, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if thought worthy of such.

	Rs.
• Subaltern	90
Captain	135
Field Officer	180

3. In Calcutta, a uniform (distinguished as "Presidency") scale* of House rent prevails which is participated in equally by all Staff Officers, their Regimental tentage being deducted from them; its introduction was a consequence of the high rents demanded, one of the reasons adduced by the Government of Fort Saint George in support of the request now made but it will be observed that the two Superintending Engineers at Calcutta (out of a total of eleven under this Presidency) are not the only Officers in the Staff who are recipients of it. This argument therefore can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals, applying, as it does, with equal force in the cases of all the Staff Officers at Madras with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, a comparison should, in this respect, be drawn. Should it be desired then that the question be entertained on this count, a general reference on the subject should be made; and if an enhanced scale be sanctioned for Staff Officers generally, then the Superintending Engineers stationed at Madras will necessarily be included.

4. It will, however, be in the remembrance of the Government of Madras, that this formed one of the arguments that were urged by it, in favor of fixing the allowances of a Superintending Engineer at the higher rate of Rupees one thousand per mensem, the reduction of which by Rupees two hundred under the orders of the Honorable Court, formed the subject of the communication which has elicited your letter now under reply.

5. In communicating orders for this reduction, the Honorable Court of Directors, whilst expressing their disapproval of Superintending Engineers being considered in the light of Secretaries to the Chief Engineer, each for his own District respectively, have entered at some length into their views of the duties of this class of Officers and have recorded an opinion, "that "superintendence of public works in the Provinces in order to be effectual, must be maintained "by means of immediate personal inspection and is incompatible with habitual residence in a "Metropolis."

6. Under this aspect of the matter, it becomes a point for the consideration of the Government of Fort Saint George how far the residence at the Presidency of any Superintending Engineers is desirable or compatible with the efficient discharge of his duties, and its decision

on this question may possibly render unnecessary any further consideration of the present reference.

No. 35. ORDER THEREON, No. 1684; dated 5th September 1857.

Ordered that a copy of the above letter be communicated to the Military Department and of paras. 1 to 4 to the Chief Engineer.

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

No. 3981.

From

Colonel W. C. Baker,
Secretary to the Govt. of India,

To

H. Forbes Esqre
Acting Secretary to Govt. of Fort St. George

Dated the 7th August 1857.

Pub. Works Dept.
Public

Sir,

In your letter No. 1174, of the 30th ultimo, the attention of the Government of India is drawn to the unfavorable contrast in which the allowances of the Superintending Engineers of Madras stationed at the Presidency appear, when compared with those enjoyed by the same class of Officers at Calcutta in respect to the item of House Rent, and in consideration of the reduction of allowance recently ordered by the Honble Court, of the high rents obtaining at Madras, and of the great expenditure on account of conveyance owing to the great distances between the Public Offices and private residences, and also with the view of placing the Superintending Engineers of Madras on an

an equality in point of emolument with those of this Presidency; permission is sought to the disbursement of House Rent to these Officers on the same scale as rules in Calcutta.-

2. In reply, I am desired to observe that none of the arguments adduced by the Government of Madras constitute, in the opinion of the Right Honble the Governor General in Council, a sufficient ground for complying with the present application. The principle involved in the grant of a House Rent allowance in compensation either for a reduction of staff Salary, or a heavy expenditure on account of Carriage hire is very questionable. The amount of Salary attached to any Office, or an allowance to be made for travelling, are points that should be considered, each on its own merits. In the case of Superintending Engineers, the former has already been disposed of by the Honble Court of Directors, the latter can only be considered on a special reference, if thought worthy of such.-

3. In Calcutta, a uniform distinguished as "Presidency" Scale of House Rent prevails

* Subaltern - 90-
Captain - 135.
Field Officer 180.

prevails - which is participated in equally by all Staff Officers, their Regimental Pentage being deducted from them; its introduction was a consequence of the high rents demanded, one of the reasons adduced by the Government of Fort Saint George in support of the request now made - but it will be observed that the two Superintending Engineers at Calcutta (out of a total of eleven under this Presidency) are not the only Officers in the staff who are recipients of it.- This argument therefore can scarcely be brought forward on behalf of one or two individuals, applying, as it does, with equal force in the cases of all the staff Officers at Madras - with whom, and not with the Superintending Engineers of Bengal, a comparison should, in this respect, be drawn. Should it be desired then that the question be entertained, on this count, a general reference on the subject should be made, and if an enhanced scale be sanctioned for Staff Officers generally, then the Superintending Engineers stationed at Madras will necessarily be included in it.

It will, however, be in the remembrance

Public Works 185 7 Sept 5th
& Fin Cons 8th Sept
No 1719.

From the Secretary to
the Govt of India

Dated 7th } Augt 1857
Received 2[illegible] }

No 3987

From Chief Engr & Sec 14th Augt 57
& No 1824 in Cons 21st Augt

Declining the
grant of House rent, for
reasons stated, to the
Superintending Engineers
of the Madras Presidency.

No 34 & 35.

Lr with Cons
No 1684 6th Sept

231 Aug 23 Sp.

No 1684

Ordered that a Copy
of the above letter be commu-
nicated to the Military
Department and of Parcel
1 to 4 to the Chief Engineer.

Just Yr Govt
5th Sept 1857

2 Copies to the Orderly Dept (Engr)
with Copy of this letter
9 — Chief Engr
with P 1 to 4 of the letter 8th