M.R.O. 1—22.4.60—25-11-59.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Political DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1272 Press Mis.

Dated 16 Sept 1960

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 106. Read the following letter from Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer; to the Secretary to Government, dated 26th August 1858, No. 3115.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1436, dated 24th July 1858, I have the honor to submit a letter No. 1701, dated 10th August 1858, from Lieutenant Mullins, declining to avail himself of the permission granted to sell to Government the Iron Cash Chests purchased by him, charging himself with the cost of carriage to the Districts as he considers such an arrangement disadvantageous.

1 Copy of letter from District Engineer Nellore No 1701, dated 10th August 1857.
1 Copy of Chief Engineer's Proceedings No. 12047, dated 24th April 1857.

2. The grounds now brought forward by Lieutenant Mullins for his exemption from pecuniary loss on account of these Cash Chests, are the supposed authority to purchase them conveyed in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 630 of 4th April 1857, and the Chief Engineer's Proceedings thereon copy of which I beg to annex.

No. 12047, dated 24th April 1857.

3. Lieutenant Mullins states that, he believed it was intended he should charge these Cash Chests " to estimates under execution in each Executive charge" and gives his reasons for pre ferring iron to wooden boxes.

4. I may here observe that, Lieutenant Mullins is not the only Officer who has provided Cash Chests under the order quoted above, with the idea that, they should be charged to estimates as the same was done by Captain Foord in South Arcot, though the boxes purchased by him were of wood.

5. Considering the frequent cases of robbery of public money that occurred some time ago, and the apparent authority Lieutenant Mullins with all other Officers received, to adopt measures of precaution, as well as the delay that occurred in this office in countermanding his arrangements reported on the 5th August 1857, I cannot but hope that Government will extend their indulgence, so far as to relieve that Officer from the cost of forwarding the Iron Cash Chests purchased by him to the Districts to which they have been severally allotted, and in offering this suggestion, I must so far take blame to myself for miscalculating the expense of carriage, as to suppose it would not have been of much importance to Lieutenant Mullins.

6. I would also remind Government that before authority was received in this office, to purchase Cash Chests, I took on myself to authorize their being immediately provided in the Cuddapah District, which Act was confirmed.

Letter from Lieutenant J. MULLINS, District Engineer Nellore; to Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, dated Survapully 10th August 1858, No. 1701.

SIR,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract from your Proceedings No. 2504 of the 4th August 1858, I have the honor to inform you that, while thanking you for obtaining the sanction of Government for the purchase of the 20 Iron Cash Chests procured by me for the use of the Department, I feel myself compelled to decline acceding to the arrangement therein approved of, because so far from its relieving me from pecuniary loss, it will in reality subject me to far greater loss than selling the Cash Chests in the Madras Market.

2. The cost of the Cash Chests at Madras, exclusive of Sundry* Charges, was Rupees 85, and at that price, I have no objection to sell them for the use of other Districts. Those which have been already brought up to Nellore have cost somewhat more,† but I am quite willing to bear the extra expense myself, and after issuing 4 Chests for use in this District to dispose of the remainder as you may direct. By this arrangement I should be a loser to the extent of about Rupees 75.

* Rupees	3	12	2	
† Rupees	85	0	0	Chest.
"	8	13	2	Sundries and Carriage.
	93	13	2	

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„	8	13	2	Sundries and Carriage.
	93	13	2	

The cost of the Carriage of the Chests to the several Districts of the Presidency, would far exceed the probable loss that I should sustain in selling them in the Madras Market, and therefore to that part of the arrangement I cannot accede.

3. As owing to my illness at the time of the correspondence‖ on the subject of these Chests, I have not had an opportunity of bringing the case clearly before you, I beg to take this opportunity of doing so, as I believe that the only fault in the matter, that can possibly be attributed to me, is an erroneous interpretation of an order, which at the time I certainly did consider authorized me to make such arrangements for the supply of Cash Chests as might be necessary, and left the details of the arrangement to myself, and which I confess I should still interpret in the same light again, were it not for the experience which I have recently gained.

‖ In June.

4. The first order is contained in the Chief Engineer's Resolution No. 12047, dated 24th April 1857, forwarding copy of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 630 under date 4th April 1857, and is thus worded.

Received 27th April.

" Resolved that a copy of Extract Minutes Consultation No. 630, dated 4th April 1857, be forwarded to all Collectors and District Engineers for their information and guidance with a request that, the latter Officers will adopt the necessary measures for carrying out the orders of Government."

I immediately adopted what I believed to be the best course for providing for the safety of the public money in charge of the several Executive Agents. I knew the form of Cash Chests usually supplied from the Arsenals for Regimental use, and I was aware that it is considered necessary to have these constantly under the care of a guard. I did not order Iron Chests without due consideration, but as no portable wooden Chests is secure, owing to its requiring only a very few minutes to open it, and abstract the contents, without noise, simply by putting it on a fire, and as the cost of a Regimental Chest, which is much smaller than that shown in the drawing, which accompanied your Circular No. LXXV of 1857-58, is more than 50 Rupees, I considered that it was well worth while to purchase iron ones, which may be left without fear under the charge of the Ordinary Servants of Executive Agents. I was under the impression that these Chests were to be paid for, out of the estimates under execution in each Executive charge requiring one, and therefore I did not believe it to be necessary to apply for any sanction or to do any thing but carry out to the best of my ability the orders I had received.

5. I heard nothing more on the subject of the Cash Chests until the 4th August on which date I received your Circular No. LXXV of 1857-58, dated 25th July 1857, to which I immediately replied,§ stating that I had arranged for the supply of Cash Chests, and reporting the particular arrangements I had made. The next communication was contained in your Circular No. CXXXVI of 1857-58, dated 28th October 1857, which limited the number of Chests for each District to 2 for each Executive Range. This Circular was received on the 2nd November and replied to on the 6th ‡ and instructions were solicited as to the disposal of the Chests which I had ordered. No reply was received to either of these letters, and no disapproval of the course I had adopted was expressed, and therefore on the arrival of the Chests I carried out the arrangement, which I had myself proposed in the 2nd para of the letter last quoted, and had 10 Chests sent to Nellore, having 10 at the Arsenal to be disposed of as you might order. More than 6 months after the despatch of my letter No. 2241 above mentioned, I received your Circular No. 11 of 1858-59, dated 4th May, in which I was naturally surprised to find that Government had, in Extract Minutes Consultation No. 770 under date the 24th April 1858, disapproved of my arrangements and declined to sanction the expenditure incurred.

§ Letter No. 1495, dated 5th August 1857.

‡ Letter No. 2241.

6. Had I been sooner made aware of the views and intentions of Government, I could have cancelled the order for the chests, or have arranged with Messrs Shaw & Co., for their sale at a moderate discount, but by the delay which occurred in the expression of disapproval of an Act reported so far back as August 1857, much additional expense has been incurred, and now an arrangement has been sanctioned which Government pronounce to be indulgent, but by which I

should certainly lose more than 20 per cent of the whole cost of the chests, whereas without any indulgence, the loss, had a decision been made at the time of my first report, would not have exceeded, at the outside, one half of this per centage.

7. In conclusion I would beg to be informed whether the 7 Chests for the Officers and Districts as per Margin* will still be required, as no carriage for these is necessary, and with regard to the remainder should it still be considered, that in interpreting the order as I have done, my conduct was culpable, I have only to request that I may be allowed some little time to refund the advances made out of Public Funds for their purchase.

* Civil Architect..... 1
Garrison Engineer 1
Chingleput 1
Nellore 1

Extract from the Proceedings of the Chief Engineer, dated 24th April 1857, No. 12047.

Read the following Extract Minutes of Consultation P. W. D.

Request that measures may be adopted to supply all Officers of the P. W. D with proper boxes in which to keep the Cash that may be entrusted to them. } (Here enter dated 4th April 1857 No. 630.)

Resolved that a copy of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 630 dated 4th April 1857 be forwarded to all Collectors and District Engineers for their information and guidance, with a request that the latter Officers will adopt measures for carrying out the orders of Government.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) C. C. JOHNSTON Captain,
Acting Supg. Engr. Northern Circle.

No. 107. ORDER THEREON, No. 1892; dated 14th September 1858.

Under the circumstances represented and agreeably to the recommendation of the Officiating Chief Engineer, the Governor in Council relieves Lieutenant Mullins from bearing the cost of forwarding the Iron Cash Chests to the several Districts and authorizes the charge being debited to the State together with the value of the chests themselves as already ordered in Extract Minutes of Consultation dated 24th July 1858, No. 1436.

(Signed) T. PYCROFT,
Chief Secretary.

Central Office of Public Works
Fort Saint George 26th August 1858.

No. 3115

From

The Officiating Chief Engineer

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

"Public"

Sir,

In acknowledging the receipt of Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 1436 dated 24th July 1858, I have the honor to submit a letter No. 1701 dated 10th August 1858, from Lieutenant Mullins, declining to avail himself of the permission granted to sell to Government the iron Cash Chests purchased by him, charging himself with the cost of carriage to the Districts as he considers such an arrangement disadvantageous.

2. — The grounds now brought forward by Lieutenant Mullins for his exemption from pecuniary loss on account of these Cash Chests, are the supposed authority to purchase them conveyed in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 630 of 4th April 1857 and the Chief Engineer's

Proceedings

Proceedings thereon copy of which I beg to annex. No 12047 dated 24th April 1857

3. Lieutenant Mullins states that, he believed it was intended he should charge these Cash Chests "to estimates under execution in each Executive Charge" and gives his reasons for preferring iron to wooden boxes.

4 I may here observe that, Lieutenant Mullins is not the only Officer who has provided cash chests under the order quoted above, with the idea that they should be charged to estimates as the same was done by Captain Foord in South Arcot, though the boxes purchased by him were of wood.

5. Considering the frequent cases of robbery of public money that occurred some time ago, and the apparent authority Lieutenant Mullins with all other Officers received, to adopt measures of precaution, as well as the delay, that occurred in this Office in countermanding his arrangements, reported on the 5th August 1857, I cannot but hope that Government will extend their indulgence, so far as to relieve that Officer from the cost of forwarding the iron Cash Chests purchased by him to the Districts, to which they have been severally allotted, and in offering this suggestion, I must so far take blame to myself for miscalculating the expense of carriage, as to suppose it would not have been of much importance to Lieutenant Mullins.

6. I would also remind Government that before authority was received in this Office, to purchase Cash Chests, I took on myself to authorize their being immediately provided in the Cuddapah District, which act was confirmed

Central Office of P.W.
Fort Saint George
26th August 1858.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
Lawford Major
Officiating Chief Engineer

L.R.

Comp? 1000

Ch. Cons. 27 July, 1858 No. 38 Encl.

Pub. Works 1858 Depart.
Comm. Expt. Sch. Letter
No. 1952

From
The Offg. Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Departt.

Dated 26th August 1858.
Recd. 27th

No. 3115

Enclosure 2.

Recommends that Government may extend their indulgence so far as to relieve the District Engineer Nellore from the cost of forwarding the iron cash Chests purchased by him to the District, to which they have been severally allotted.

Memo. on order
Pub. 1892. 14th Sept. 1858

Pub. 1892

Under the circumstances represented and agreeably to the recommendations of the Officiating Chief Engineer the Governor in Council relieves Lieutenant Mullins from bearing the cost of forwarding the Iron Cash Chests to the several Districts and authorizes the Charges being debited to the Stock together with the value of the Chests themselves, as already ordered in Govt. Minutes of Consultation dated 21st July 1858 No. 1434.

Pub. 1892
14th Sept. 1858

10 Copies to the Offg. Chief Engr. Desd. 18th
1 — Account Genl.
1 — Cash Keeper

Encl. 1 to No. 3115 dated 27th August 1858.

No. 1364/107.

Encl. 3 to No. 813