1. Number of paper
2. Date of receipt
3. Initials of Reference

M.R.O. 1—82,400—23-11-30.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

Consd dated 13-6-1858

G.O. No.	661	Press Mis.
50-51		
Dated	13. 6.	1858

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 50. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to Government, dated 19th March 1858, No. 8269.

SIR,

In reply to the orders of Government contained in Extract Minutes of Consultation No. 444, dated 12th March 1858, para 2, I have the honor to state that the delay and inconvenience experienced by the adoption of an epistolary form of address in preference to that of Proceedings, may be briefly stated to arise from the following causes—First. A letter or report on a subject named by Government or otherwise, is submitted by a District Engineer; if this report does not require a distinct review, it has been the practice hitherto to submit it to Government at once by a brief endorsement on the report itself; but if the epistolary form were adopted, in such cases, it would be necessary to explain the nature of the reference, quote previous orders, and attend to other formalities incidental to that form of address; but which will not be required when an original letter is passed on by a simple endorsement. Indeed, the convenience and time gained by this mode of address are recognised in the orders of the Local Government, and of the Government of India quoted in the margin.

Order of Government of India 23rd November 1842, No. 1181. Page 70 of C. O. Book, and para. 34 of the same page.

2. Again, when orders, have been passed on a particular subject, and the same are required to be communicated to several authorities, it is obviously more convenient to do so by a simple endorsement addressed to each Officer; but if additional letter has to be written on such occasions, it would both be superfluous, and a waste of time and Stationery.

3. I trust it may be borne in mind, that my remarks do not refer to individual instances, nor to cases of importance where a letter is decidedly the better mode of communication; but when it is considered that the letters passing through the Central office are very numerous, it will, I trust, be perceived, that however trifling the advantage may be in individual instances; yet on the whole, it is not unworthy of being regarded.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, No. 661; dated 13th April 1858.

In the letter above recorded, the Chief Engineer attempts, with reference to Extract Minutes Consultation dated 12th March 1858, No. 444, to explain more fully the inconvenience and delay which, he apprehends, would result from the adoption of the change directed by Government in the mode of his addressing them.

2. Colonel Faber says that when a report or letter required by Government on a particular subject is submitted by a District Engineer, it has hitherto been the practice in the Central Office to forward it at once to Government, by a brief endorsement on the report itself, whereas if the epistolary form of address, now directed were adopted "it would be necessary to explain the "nature of the reference, quote previous orders, and attend to other formalities incidental to that form of address." The Government do not see why these particulars should be more necessary in the one case than in the other. If a report by a District Engineer, not requiring review, could be sent up by an Extract from Proceedings it can equally well be sent by a letter; and the latter need not be in more detail than the former. It is the report that is submitted that guides the length of the medium transmitting it and not the nature of that medium. The arguments now advanced by Colonel Faber against the introduction of the change are not based on sufficient grounds and the Government are unable to alter the decision already passed by them on the subject.

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

Central Office of Rd.
Fort Saint George
19 March 1858.

No 826

From

The Chief Engineer,

To

The Secretary

to Government Pub. Wks.

Sir

In reply to the orders of Govern-
ment contained in Extract Minutes of Con-
sultation No. 666, dated 12th March 1858. para
2, I have the honor to state that the delay and
inconvenience experienced by the adoption of
an epistolary form of address in preference
to that of Proceedings, may be briefly
stated to arise from the following causes.
First. A letter or report on a subject
named by Government or otherwise, is
submitted by a District Engineer; if
this report does not require a distinct
review, it has been the practice hitherto
to

to submit it to Government at once by a brief endorsement on the report itself: but if the epistolary form were adopted in such cases, it would be necessary to explain the nature of the reference, quote previous orders, and attend to other formalities incidental to that form of address; but which will not be required when an original letter is passed on by a simple endorsement.- Indeed, the convenience and time gained by this mode of address are recognized in the orders of the Local Government, and of the Government of India quoted in the margin -

Order of Government of India, 23 Nov. 1842 No. 11 page 70 of C. O. Book; and para 310 of the same book -

2. Again, when orders have been passed on a particular subject, and the same are required to be communicated to several authorities, it is obviously more convenient to do so by a simple endorsement addressed to each Officer; but if additional letter has to be written on such occasions, it would both be superfluous, and a waste of time and Stationery

3. I trust it may be borne in mind, that my remarks do not refer to individual instances, nor to cases of importance where a letter is decidedly the better mode of Communication; but when it is considered that the letters passing through the Central Office are very numerous, it will, I trust, be perceived, that however trifling the advantage may be in individual instances; yet on the whole, it is not unworthy of being regarded -

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most Obed Servt

Lt Col
Chief Engineer

Lt Gray

D. W. Depot.

No. 661.

Extract from the Minutes of Consultation

Under date the 13th March 1858

Read the following letter

from the Chief Engineer

Here enter 19th March/58 No. 82 by/

Stating the letter above

recorded the Chief Engineer

attempts, with reference to

Extract Minutes Consultation

dated 12th March 1858 No 644,

to explain more fully the

inconveniences and delay

which, he apprehends, would

result from the adoption

of the change directed

by Government in the

mode of this addressing

them.

Colonel

Colonel Faber says that when a report or letter required by Government on a particular subject is submitted by a District Engineer, it has hitherto been the practice in the Central Office to forward it at once to Government by a brief endorsement on the report itself, whereas if the epistolary form, now directed, were adopted, it "would be necessary to "explain the nature of the "reference, quote previous "orders, and attend to other "formalities incidental "to that form of address". The Government do not see why these particulars should

should be more necessary in the one case than in the other. If a report by a District Engineer, not requiring review, could be sent up by an Extract from the Proceedings it can equally well be sent by a letter; and the latter need not be in more detail than the former. It is the Report that is submitted that guides the length of the medium transmitting it, and not the nature of that medium. The arguments now advanced by Colonel Faber against the introduction of the change are not based on sufficient grounds

and

and ~~the~~ the Government are unable
to alter the decisions already
passed by them in the Sub-
~~jects~~ ject. But they have no objection
to the Chief Engineer ~~adopting~~ continuing
the old form of address when
communicating with the other
Officers. All that has been
prohibited is his addressing
Government by that means.

Copies to the Chief Engr
Circ 215

Engd Munich 21st April

Pr. Com. 12 Jan. 58
147-148-

Public Works 1858 Dept.
Coms: 15th April

No. 661
Extract letter of Coms:
Dated 15th April 58

Observing that the arguments now advanced by the Chief Engineer against the introduction of the changes directed by Govt. in the mode of his addressing them are not based on sufficient grounds & they are unable to alter the decision already passed by them on the subject.

No. 661