1. Number of pages 14
2. Date of repair, 20.
3. Initials of Reference.

M.R.O. 1—32,400—28-11-50.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT. 8/3/57

G.O. No. 481 Press / Mis.

14-12

Dated 2-3- 18 57

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28-3-38

Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 8th March 1859.

No. 11. Read the following letter from Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 11th February 1859, No. 7795.

SIR,

I do myself the honor to forward herewith the explanation or I should perhaps rather call it the defence, which the Senior Uncovenanted Assistant, Mr. Grant, desires to submit for the favorable consideration of Government with reference to my own letter to your address, No. 6707 of the 31st December 1858.

2. That despatch was written under the feelings caused by a perusal of the orders of Government upon the first Report of the Commissioners on Public Establishments, and it then appeared to me, as it still does, that with common candour and straight-forwardness in Mr. Grant's communications to that body, it was an actual impossibility that the severe censures, and I take leave to respectfully add, the very unfavorable conclusions, which they have placed on record, should have been entered on the Proceedings of the Commission.

3. It will be observed that to so late a period of his acting incumbency as 15th December last, Lieutenant Colonel Lawford professes himself (para. 13 of 6323) entirely ignorant of the imposition of extra attendance and in short of any other vigilance or exertions on my own part to abate the growing evil of arrears for Bills of an expenditure incurred before the Central Office was in existence.

4. When it is considered that a few purely explanatory sentences from Mr. Grant would have altogether prevented several of the conclusions to which the Commission had arrived, it perhaps will be allowed that such reticence was only too well calculated to modify very materially the favorable opinion I had always *endeavoured* to maintain of the Senior Uncovenanted Assistant.

5. I am unwilling to occupy the time of Government with detailed examination of Mr. Grant's statement, and whilst observing that after having had the advantage of reading it, I will now only add that I have no wish to alter any part of my letter of the 31st December last.

Letter from Mr. W. GRANT, Senior Uncovenanted Assistant; to Colonel C. E. FABER, Chief Engineer, dated 10th February 1859.

SIR,

In accordance with the orders of Government dated 27th January 1859, No. 251, communicated to me by you on the 31st Ultimo, I beg leave respectfully to submit the following explanation for your information and that of Government, with reference to the strictures on my conduct contained in your letter dated 31st December 1858, No. 6707. In entering upon this task, it is most painful to me to reflect that whilst previous to your departure on sick leave, every circumstance in our intercourse tended to cherish in me the flattering notion that I stood high in your favour and estimation, I should find myself on your return, and before any further intercourse had taken place, suddenly charged with serious dereliction of duty, calculated to bring down upon me, the heavy displeasure of the Government I serve. I trust however, that the explanation I am about to afford, will have the effect of removing any unfavorable impression that may have been formed in your own mind, and also of securing for it your strong support with Government.

2. To enable my position in the Office to be understood by those who cannot be acquainted with its internal economy, it is necessary briefly to explain the circumstances under which I was first admitted into it. I must therefore refer to your letter to Government of the 24th July 1855, No. 600, in which the duties of your two Uncovenanted Assistants were thus prescribed.

"*First Uncovenanted Assistant.* To assist the Chief Engineer in his correspondence &c., tabulate Returns, and prepare Comparative Statements &c."

"*Second Uncovenanted Assistant.* To have the management of the entire Department and to be responsible for its interior economy, and available for the general controlling duties of the Department."

3. More particularly still, in your letter dated 11th May 1855, offering me the appointment of 1st Assistant, my duties were pointed out and defined; and its closing paragraphs ran thus. "In fact without going into more minute detail, the Uncovenanted 1st Assistant will "be placed for the most part in a peculiar and personal relation with the Head of the Office "who will often entrust him with duties which it may probably be more convenient to dis- "charge at home, so that his actual attendance at the Office may often depend more on the na- "ture of his immediate employment than on the fixed rule of the Department. But to carry "out this view the position must be considered quite distinct from the details and discipline of "the Office, for which the second Assistant will be solely responsible."

4. Thus situated, I joined the Central Office on the 1st August 1855, and for some time was employed on duties generally in accordance with the above terms. In the performance of one of these, I had to obtain some information from the Registers of the Current Department and called upon the Manager to furnish it. But for making this demand directly instead of through the second Uncovenanted Assistant, I had the misfortune to receive a rebuke from you which ended with the following words. "I have benefited so much by your suggestions and assistance

10th October 1855. "that I can hardly regret having deviated from the precise species of "employment I had first chalked out for you, namely of preparing drafts "on particular subjects given to you, either in the Fort or at home, and having no concern with "current routine and the internal economy of the Department. It may, however, be desirable "that this should, by degrees, be introduced as your staple employment," and as a beginning, I was ordered to take charge of the Southern Circle duties, the Superintending Engineer being then absent on a tour of inspection.

5. I have thought it necessary thus to explain my precise position at the commencement not only to guard against any inference that may be drawn as to my liberty or power of action but to demonstrate the principle which influenced my subsequent career, viz., that of non-interference with any section of the Office, unless I was invested with clear and explicit authority in it. I need scarcely say that this was the only course open to me to work in harmony with my fellow servants, and to prevent any complaints of encroachment being preferred against me, which might possibly have again brought me under your displeasure.

6. It was on the 16th October 1855, or only six days after the occurrence mentioned in para. 4, that I was instructed by you to take charge of the Audit and Estimate Departments. In pursuance of these orders, I immediately took my seat in the same room with the Head and Deputy Auditors, and superintended as far as I was able, the business done in the two departments confided to me, but owing to your order having been communicated in a private note, my authority was reluctantly obeyed, and I soon found that notwithstanding my express directions, the attendance book of the Audit Department was not brought to me until asked for, nor even then till it was near noon. On enquiring into the case of this delay, I ascertained that the book was shewn to the 2nd Uncovenanted Assistant before it was brought to me, and I thereupon told Mr. Home that the proceeding was irregular, and that I would bring the matter to your notice if it was repeated. I observed afterwards that the book was brought to me regularly.

7. The above matter is a trivial thing in itself, and would not have been mentioned, but

To Government No. 6707. for its bearing upon para. 8 of your letter of the 31st December last, wherein you state that you confirmed my authority on an appeal being preferred to you. You will hence perceive that it was not I who made the appeal; and I beg respectfully to add that I was not aware at the time, of *any* appeal having been made to you on the subject, nor of the decision which you might have passed thereon.

8. I continued to exercise control over the Audit Department until 1st April 1856, when I received orders from you to take my seat in Major Lawford's room and attend to the business

of the Southern Circle during his absence on a tour of inspection, from which he did not return until the middle of August of the same year.

9. Meanwhile, in June 1856, was passed that order for regulating the business of the Central Office which is still in force in its leading details; and which was lithographed and circulated for the information of all the Sectional Departments concerned. I beg to submit a copy of

* Enclosure No. 1. this order*, and to solicit your perusal of paras. 5 to 8; from which, you will find that not only are Mr. Home and myself recognized as *heads* of the Audit and Estimate Departments, but our respective duties are so minutely described in

Para 5. paras. 7 and 8 as to leave no room for doubt on the subject; and I confess that after receiving the above order, I considered myself exclusively the head of the Estimate Department, and entirely absolved from all responsibility in connection with the Audit Branch except so far as the periodical annual reports were concerned, which, from the weakness of the Estimate branch, continued to be compiled in the former Department. That Mr. Home also held the same view is evident from the fact that before I was liberated from the duties of the Southern Circle, he removed himself and his department from the room which I occupied to the adjoining one, locating the Bill branch in a more distant part of the office, completely hid from my sight, and sending the Estimate Department in its stead to occupy the vacant space in my room.

10. The interpretation that I put upon your orders received still further confirmation from other circumstances. In August 1856, weekly arrear lists were ordered to be submitted from the Estimate and Audit Departments those prepared in the former Department bore my signature while those submitted by Mr. Home did not, and were never shewn to me. Here was a peculiarity that came *weekly* under your notice, and had my interpretation been wrong, a word from you would have dispelled the misunderstanding on my part. I would also respectfully refer you to the margin of para. 7 of Messrs. Hart and Johnson's explanatory letter, for a further instance of your dealing with Mr. Home as the party responsible for the regulation of the internal economy of the Audit Department; and I would humbly submit that if on the occasion there referred to, Messrs. Home and Johnson were considered entitled to praise for "having audited all the Bills received up to 31st March 1857," I am at a loss to understand how when the contrary took place, the blame could rest upon a third party more distantly connected with that Department than either of them, if not disconnected with it altogether.

11. But whilst claiming this immunity for myself, I do not mean to assert that upon the promulgation of your orders of June 1856, I ceased entirely to take interest in the Audit De-

Enclosure No. 1. partment, my feeling of responsibility was certainly changed, except with regard to the periodical reports; but I still continued to afford Mr. Home, whatever assistance or advice he sought at my hands without interfering actively with the *business* of his Department, I need not add that in judging of my relations with Mr. Home, it is necessary to bear in mind that *he* was the Head Auditor and permanent Head of the Department; that I was liable to be withdrawn from it on other duty at any moment, as I was in April 1856, and that he was my senior both in age and length of service, and my junior in respect of salary by only 50 Rupees.

12. I have now arrived at an epoch in the history of the Department, on which I must dwell for a moment to call attention to the fact, that the arrears which have been the subject of so much correspondence, commenced on 1st May 1857, the number on that date being 458 Bills amounting to Rupees 13,41,400, all of them received within the previous 30 days.

13. In August 1857, or only 4 months after the arrears began to accumulate, Captain

* See para. 10 of Messrs. Hart and Johnson's explanatory letter.
† Do. para. 18. O'Connell was put in charge of the Audit Department,* and superintended the work performed in it† and in January 1858; he took his seat below stairs in the same room with Mr. Home separated from the Audit Department by a screen thrown across an archway thus both you and the Government will perceive how slight is my responsibility, if at all, for the arrears in question.

14. I shall now proceed to advert more particularly to the matters mentioned in paras. 9 10 and 11 of your letter to Government. With regard to the first of those paras, I beg to say that I remember your speaking to me on one or two occasions and writing two notes (which I

still have) on the subject of delays in the transmission of certain Periodical Reports to Government, but not only on these occasions was no reference made to the arrears of the Bills in question, but no personal remissness whatever on *any* account was ever charged against me, or in point of fact, have I been guilty of any; for a reference to the dates attached to your initials on the draft of the reports, or portions, that I have had to prepare, will shew that they had been ready many days before the reports themselves were fair copied, and consequently could not have occasioned any delay whatever. In the case of some of the Reports, the delays were moreover explained to Government, and in all, they were more or less owing to the non-receipt of the necessary papers from the Provincial Officers. With regard to the extra hours of attendance imposed on the Audit Department, and the suppression of leaves in it, I beg to state that these measures were in all cases recommended by Mr. Home, or myself (when my opinion was taken by him) and therefore I submit that the fact can in no way be condemnatory of either of us.

To Government 13th July 1858, No, 1924.

To do. 29th September 1857, No. 4050.

15. In the latter part of the para. under reply (para. 9) it is stated that on the occasions of your visiting the lower apartments of the Office, you did not find me in the obvious discharge of my strictly professional duties. The only interpretation that I am able to put upon this clause is that you did not find me at my table; for within the last two, or two and a half years, you came on two occasions only into the room occupied by the *Estimate* Department, that is the apartment in which I sat; once, when you went round with Mr. Murray, and the second time, when you went round with Lieutenant Faber. Your other and more frequent visits were restricted to the room occupied by Mr. Home and the Audit Department, into which whenever the peon announced your presence to me, I always advanced to meet you and receive any orders you might have for me. Lest, however, from the allusions in the context of your letter it be supposed that I was engaged upon any of the extra professional occupations referred to by you, permit me respectfully to state that the Publication as Actuary of Assurance Tables (which did not relate to the Widow's but to the Apothecaries' Fund) was completed by me on the 23rd November 1854, and that it was printed by the Trustees of that Institution some months before the Central Office was opened; that in respect of my Law studies, my notes were invariably written in the Lecture room, and were studied by me *at home* during the brief interval preceding each annual examination, and that even with respect to the Departmental Circular Order Book, the proof sheets of it were always examined at home: and I need not appeal to any other witness of this fact than yourself, as you will doubtless recollect that the final proofs were generally sent to your house by me in the morning, and were brought to the Office only when it was too late to send them to your Residence.

16. I beg permission to refer to previous correspondence on this subject. About 10 days before your departure on sick leave, I wrote to you regarding my position in the Office, and suggested that it was in your power to improve it by bringing me on the ranks of the Department as a 4th Class Executive Engineer, and putting me in special charge of the Audit Department. To this letter which was accompanied by the testimonials I had gained formerly, when I was employed on professional duties, you sent me a reply contaning the following passage "many thanks for the sight of your testimonials, "which had they not been so aged, I should have said were altogether unworthy of you. You may "feel perfectly confident that when the proper time arrives, whatever contribution I can make to "your valuable credentials by my own cordial testimony to your ability will be readily forth-"coming. Also, I shall be quite ready to intimate to the Governor, the high opinion I entertain "of your powers as an Auditor and Accountant. If there has been any faint shadow thrown over "our mutual relations, it has arisen from my fear and thought that you occasionally requir-"ed, or took so much more time, than could be necessary to a man of your attainments and "experience, as to shew that you must have extra professional engagements which prevented "that full and unconditional self surrender to your Central Office duties, which I suppose the "Government to be entitled to, I shall be delighted to assist in your rise and promotion" &c. Kind as this letter was, I felt that it was due to myself to endeavour to remove from your mind, the erroneous *impression* alluded to in your note. I accordingly wrote a long reply in vindication of myself, to which I had the gratification of receiving a rejoinder containing the following pas-

23rd June 1858.

sage, "I am very glad to have elicited so long and satisfactory an explanatory denial of my partial imputation of devoting Central Office time to other pursuits." It is therefore with the deepest concern, that I find the charge now repeated against me.

17. Having so far vindicated myself from the special matter alleged against me, I think it due to myself further to state that I have not allowed *any private work*, or *engagement whatever*, to interfere with the performance of my public duties; and that although I do not venture to deny that I have sometimes written a private note. or read a book, or occasionally done other things *when I had leisure*, I can conscientiously affirm that I am not aware of having wasted even half an hour of public time, which I might have saved, but for such interference on the contrary, I think I am justly entitled to some consideration for the facts that I have never availed myself of the refreshment half hour allowed to the whole Office, or of the permission accorded to me originally to work at home, and that whenever the business on my hands required it, I have cheerfully, as you are aware, taken it home, and surrendered to it all my private leisure.

See paras. 3 and 4.

18. With regard to para. 10, I beg to express my sincere regret that any thing should have led you to consider my conduct lukewarm and perfunctory, or as exhibiting a want of zeal after the explanations, however which I have now given as to the circumstances under which I did not feel myself at liberty to meddle with the internal economy of the Audit Department, I trust you will acquit me of such charge; and view the regularity with which the Estimate Department did its work, and the total absence of arrears in it from the time it was first placed under me in 1855, as an evidence of my earnest desire to do my duty satisfactorily, within the limits assigned to my power of action. That I have acted consistently throughout my career in this Office, will, I hope, be evident also from the fact that during the first two months of Colonel Lawford's administration, and although the Commissioners had long been daily expected in the Office, there was no change in my relations with the Audit Department; and it was only *after* Colonel Lawford put me in charge of it by the accompanying Memorandum dated 2nd August 1858, and told me explicitly that I might introduce whatever alterations I thought best suited for the efficient working of the Bill branch and the clearance of its arrears, that I took upon myself without reference to Mr. Home's wishes, to make such arrangements as I thought would conduce to the speedier disposal of business.

Enclosure No. 2.

19. The explanations above given will I trust also absolve me from the apparent imputation contained in the latter part of para. 11 of your letter, in which I presume that the term "Chief Engineer's Assistant" refers to Captain O'Connell and not to me.

20. Before concluding, it may be necessary to make a few observations on para. 15 of your letter wherein you express your surprise at the quantity of work done in the Audit Department during the period from 1st August to 31st December 1858. I am free to confess that for two or three months after I undertook the regulation of the internal business of the Department, I was myself astonished at the progress made, and indeed feared that *quality* was being sacrificed to *quantity*, that I took the precaution to examine a few Bills *daily* in cases where the disposal report shewed too much, or too little work, and I invariably found that the progress in the former case was owing to large items being included in short Bills, and *vice versa*; so that in the end, I was quite satisfied that the work had been correctly and properly done; and this opinion has received abundant confirmation from the fact that all the Bills received in the Office since your resumption of duty, have been disposed of with equal rapidity. These circumstances will, I trust, shew that I have made no greater exertions during your late absence from Madras than those you witness at the present day, with no other supervision over me than my feeling of duty and responsibility to you.

21. In closing my letter, I cannot avoid alluding to the deep feeling of pain and mortification with which I reflect on the sad necessity that has arisen at this period of my service to put in a defence of myself, more especially when I consider that the charges to which I am called upon to reply, have been preferred against me by my kind superior, whom I have always looked upon, and still do look upon, with no ordinary feeling of respect and gratitude as my generous benefactor, who has ever been kind and considerate in his intercourse with me, who has ad-

vanced me to my present honorable position, and to whom I still look for yet higher preferment in that service, in which, up to this time, I have gained nothing but honor and credit. If in the course of this defence, I have stated any thing unbecoming a Subordinate, I beg that you will indulgently overlook it, for I have striven hard not to forget the position in which I stand, or how much I owe to him whom I have the honor of addressing; and though I feel deeply humiliated, I still entertain the confidence that after the full explanations I have submitted, I shall be freed from the shadow cast on my official character, and restored to my former repute, and if possible established on a higher footing than that which I had previously attained.

Extract Minutes Consultation 17th June 1856 No. 989 (Vide P. 314 C. O. Book) (W. G.)

Government having furnished the two first sections of the new approved Code relating to the duties of the Chief Engineer, and the three Deputy Chief Engineers, the following Subsidiary Rules are to be in force from the 1st July next, on which date, the Deputy Chief Engineers will take their seats in the Central Office.

Rule 1st. All covers received, including Orders from Government, will be opened in the Central Office, and be immediately registered in the General No. Book, and, the General No. being affixed thereon, they will be entered in the subject Registers, or Diaries, viz. Government orders in a separate Register kept for the purpose, and all Presidency and Provincial Letters Returns &c., in another Register.

After the Registry of letters received, all important orders and Letters of general interest will be separated. These will be put into a box for the Chief Engineer's previous inspection, and his own disposal, or for such orders as he may desire to note thereon. These papers of general interest if not retained by the Chief Engineer for his own disposal, will be marked off by him to be disposed of by any of the Deputy Chief Engineers, the Assistant Chief Engineer, or the Uncovenanted Assistants &c. &c. All other papers will be put, according to the Divisions into three Divisional Boxes, and be delivered to the respective Head Clerks of the three Deputy Chief Engineers, and their signatures obtained in a book, to be kept for the purpose, in which the General Nos. only will be shown, and the date of delivery. The Districts forming each of the three Divisions of the Presidency, or circles of superintendence, (agreeably to which the foregoing papers will have to be sorted in Boxes) are as follows:—

Southern Division.

South Arcot, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Salem, Coimbatore, Malabar, Madura, Tinnevelly, and Military Buildings, in Mysore and Travancore.

Northern Division.

Ganjam, Vizagapatam, Rajahmundry, Masulipatam, Guntoor, Bellary, Canara, Kurnool and Military Buildings Secunderabad and Jaulnah.

Centre Division.

Nellore, Cuddapah, North Arcot, Chingleput, and the Presidency Division.

3rd. The papers received as above by each of the three Head Clerks shall be immediately registered in a Book to be kept by each of them, in the form of the General No. Register of the Central Office, in which shall be registered, the General No. the date, and the date of receipt of each paper, its subject, and the abstract of the disposal thereon. The subject of each paper and the abstract of its disposal, shall be given as concisely as possible, but so clear as to enable the Chief Engineer to understand the same by a single perusal. These Registers will be sent every Monday, by each of the three Head Clerks, for the Chief Engineer's inspection. The Deputy Chief Engineers will inspect these Registers two or three times a week or oftener, to see that they have been properly kept up. From this Book the Chief Engineer will be able to know how papers, not previously seen by him, have been disposed of.

4th. Immediately after Registry, the Head Clerks will take all the Letters, Returns, &c. to the Deputy Chief Engineers, by whom they will be sorted into three classes. The first and largest class will comprise all those of an ordinary description requiring no previous orders of the Chief Engineer; these will be retained by the Deputy Chief Engineers for their own

disposal and dispatch through the General Department, at once. The second class will consist of such papers &c. for which Drafts will be prepared, but which are required to be first sent to the Chief Engineer, (complete with all references,) for his approval. The third class of papers are such as require the previous orders of the Chief Engineer before drafting thereon, which must be sent to him complete with all their previous correspondence, accompanied by a Memorandum from the Deputy Chief Engineer, expressing his opinion thereon. It will of course be left to the discretion of the Deputy Chief Engineer, as it is with a Secretary, to decide which papers they are to refer primarily for orders, and which to dispose of at once or send with Drafts for approval.

5th. All papers appertaining to the Estimate and Audit Departments should be sent direct by the Deputy Chief Engineers to those Departments, for examination or disposal. The papers will be marked off to the Heads of those Department viz., Mr. Grant and Mr. Home.

6th. The description of papers appertaining to the Estimate and Audit Departments are as follows:

7th. To Mr. Grant will be marked all papers relating to the Estimate Department, such as Estimate for new works, improvements, and for repairs, application for execution of works, either sanctioned, or proposed for sanction. These papers will be immediately registered in a Diary and the Estimates will be at once taken in hand, and after examination, those for new works or improvements, duly assigned by one of the Estimate makers, in token of examination, will be returned to the Head Clerk of the Deputies Divisions to which it refers with all the papers received with them. All Estimates for repairs &c., which come within the powers of the Chief Engineer to sanction, will be passed in Proceedings by Mr. Grant, or under his orders, or be otherwise disposed of according to directions of the Deputy Chief Engineer. To Mr. Grant will be also marked off, the Periodical Annual Reports, on the operation of the Department required by the Government of India, and the Local Government by whom one General Report will be prepared after due examination of the returns received from the Local Officers. To Mr. Grant will be also sent all such papers which the Chief Engineer may specially direct to be marked off to him for disposal, principally such as are of a general character. To. Mr. Grant will also be sent, to be included in the monthly List of Estimates for submission to Government, the Reports prepared by Deputy Chief Engineers, on Estimate recommended, and their accompaniments which will be first examined by him, as to their conformity with the Rules prescribed by Government.

8th. To Mr. Home will be marked off all papers exclusively of a financial character, viz. Bills of expenditure, with letters relating thereto, or to delays or other impediments, &c. in their transmission. Monthly Accounts current, with the Abstracts appended to each, for the preparation of the Monthly Journals. Monthly Progress Reports to be Tabulated in a General Register and returned back. Monthly Traffic Returns for Mr. Johnson to Tabulate. Monthly Reports of trifling repairs. Monthly list of Ordinary Estimates sanctioned by the Collectors.t Annual Report of Progress and expenditure on sanctioned Public Works in the yearly Budge for preparation into a General Statement for the Government of India. Estimates of probable expenditure, which may be required by the Accountant General. All Annual Budget Lists sent by Officers to be included in the Annual Budget of the Central Office, and all orders of Government, sanctioning Estimates for the Budget, or for immediate execution, and all other Statements of expenditure of financial character, as also all correspondence connected with the foregoing returns.

9th. By the foregoing arrangements the Deputy Chief Engineers of each Division will receive every Document sent to the Office, having reference to their respective Divisions, and they will, after marking off to the Departments in the Office adverted to, and to' which appertain the disposal of papers particularized in the two preceding Rules, retain for their own disposal all other papers, whether of a professional character, or otherwise.

10th. By the above Rules being carried out, the Central Office will be exempted from disposing of papers which it had heitherto done, excepting of course such papers as the Chief Engineer may retain for his own disposal. The Central Office will now have more leisure to

attend to its legitimate duties, viz. to watch that every paper sent out of the Office to the Deputy Chief Engineers, have been, or are, in speedy course of disposal. That every Government order requiring reply or explanation is at once disposed of. That all Circulars sent are replied to, and the objects for which such Circulars were sent, are at once attended to on the receipt of replies. That proper Registers are kept of all Periodical returns received into the Central Office, within due dates so that at a glance all replies *not received* may be known, and reminders sent, and that no complaints be allowed to emanate from the Government, or any other Official.

11th. All Drafts &c. connected with the Estimate and Audit Departments, will be forwarded to the Deputy Chief Engineers to be passed by them, (under initials), and returned. An hour will be fixed by them to receive the disposals of these two Departments. On the return of these papers they will be forwarded to the Chief Engineer to be passed under his initials.

12th. All fair copies of disposal, such as Proceedings or letters,(except those to Government) will be signed by the respective Deputy Chief Engineers of the Division, who will likewise sign all Bills passed, and estimates sanctioned, with the fair Proceedings which are to accompany them to the Officers concerned. The Chief Engineer will signify on any particular Draft, which he may desire to have signed by himself, his orders thereon, which will be attended to and this will likewise be observed by the Head Clerks of the Deputy Chief Engineers.

13th. It will be the duty of the Manager of the General Department to see that each days proceeding, with the Minute paper, complete, are circulated to the Deputy Chief Engineers with as little delay as possible, in order that each letter received and all Drafts issued from the Central Office may be seen in succession by each Deputy Chief Engineer, and the Assistant. The Minute Paper with the letters and disposals, constituting each day's proceeding will be sent in the first instance to the Head Clerk of the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Southern Division, after the several papers have received the initials of that Officer, they should be transferred to the Head Clerk of the Deputy Chief Engineer Northern Division, and by him again transferred to the Head Clerk of the Deputy Chief Engineer for the Centre Division, it will consequently become the duty of the latter Head Clerk to return the Minute paper and all the letters and disposals it comprehends to the Manager of the General Department of the Central Office, to be by him submitted to the Assistant.

In order to obviate delay in the fair copying of each day's Proceedings, the Deputy Chief Engineer and Assistant to the Chief Engineer, are requested to peruse and affix their signatures to each day's Proceedings, with the utmost practicable despatch, any delay must necessarily retard the submission of the Proceedings to Government, and will entail censure.

It must be understood as a general rule that receipts should be taken for all papers, Returns, Documents &c., delivered from one Department to another, or to the Deputy Chief Engineer's Department, in a Memorandum Book, which need show only the general numbers of the Documents, and the date of delivery ; this will enable one to trace out a paper when required from one Department to another.

June 1856.

(Signed) C. E. FABER, Colonel,

Chief Engineer, D. P. W.

MEMORANDUM

From Major E. LAWFORD, Officiating Chief Engineer, to the 1st Uncovenanted Assistant to the Chief Engineer.

In order to facilitate the business of the Audit and Estimate Departments the Officiating Chief Engineer resolves to place the latter branch wholly and exclusively under the Personal Assistant who will supervise it exactly as has been hitherto done by the Senior Uncovenanted Assistant, but in the absence of the former Officer, the latter, will exercise the same authority as before.

2. The Audit and Account Departments will be considered as immediately under the orders and control of the Senior Uncovenanted Assistant, and he will be held strictly responsible for the efficient working of the same.

3. A weekly report of the Audit of Bills should be submitted by him to the Chief Engineer, together with a Statement of the Progress made in the Despatch of buisness of a general nature, and all drafts in the Audit Department should pass through and bear the initials of the Senior Uncovenanted Assistant.

Central Office of P. W.,
Fort Saint George,
2nd August 1858.

(Signed) E. LAWFORD, Major,

Officiating Chief Engineer.

No. 12. ORDER THEREON No. 481; dated 2nd March 1859.

Ordered that this letter and its enclosures be referred to the Commissioners for investigating the efficiency of Public Offices, with reference to Extract Minutes of Consultation 27th January 1859, No. 251 for brief report on the points at issue.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,

Secretary to Government.

Central Office of Pks.
Fort St George
11th February 1859.

No 1795
From

The Chief Engineer

Public

To

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Sir,

I do myself the honor to forward herewith the explanations or Estimate from the Senior Assistant, Mr Grant, shewing the amount for the favorable Consideration of Government with reference to my own letter to your address, No 6707 of the 31st December 1858.

2. That despatch was written under the feelings caused by a perusal of the orders of Government upon the first Report of the Commissioners on Public Establishments, & it then appeared to me, as it still does, that with Common

Candour

Encls 3
1 Original letter with
2 Enclos.

Candour & straightforwardness in Mr Grant's Communications to that Body, it was an actual impossibility that the severe Censures, & I take leave to respectfully add, the very unfavorable Conclusions, which they have placed on Record, should have been entered on the Proceedings of the Commission.

3. It will be observed that in so far as a period of his acting incumbency as 15th December last, Lt. Col. Lawford professes himself, (Paras 18 & 19 of 6328) entirely ignorant of the impressions of either Attendance & in short of any other regulations or operations on my own part, to attach the growing evil of arrears for Bills of an extraordinary nature incurred before the Central Office was in existence. Where it is considered that a few purely explanatory sentences from Mr Grant would have altogether prevented several of the Conclusions to which the Commissioners had arrived, it will perhaps will be allowed that such omission was only too well calculated to modify very materially the favorable opinion I had always endeavoured to maintain of the Service.

Encl.

Encl. to Paragraph.

5 I am unwilling to occupy the time of Government with detailed examinations of Mr Grant's statement, & whilst observing that after having had the advantage of reading it, I will now only add that I have no wish to alter any part of my letter of the 31st December last.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt Servant,

(Central Office of W
Fort St George
11th February 1839.)

Chief Engineer

P. Works 25th Dec 1858
Do to Cons 8th March
No 327

From
The Chief Engineer
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept

Dated 11th February 1859
Rec'd 12 February 1859

From the Dy Sec'y Nilgiris
No 795 March 1858.

Encls: 3 Returned
4-5

Forwards the observations of Mr Grant on the Chief Engineer's letter No 6704 of the 31st December 1858 as called for by Ex: Mins: Cons: No 251 of the 27th January 1859.

No 1142.

With an Order
No 481. 2nd March 1858

181 IV-No 481

Ordered that this letter and its enclosures be referred to the Commissioners for investigating the efficiency of Public offices, with reference to Extract Mins: of Cons: 27th January 1859 No 251 for brief report on the points at issue.-

Fort St George
2d March 1859

Copy to the Cons for investigating the efficiency of Public Offices