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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Relations DEPARTMENT.

May 17/66/87

G.O. No. <u>1397</u>	Press Mis.
<u>140-41.</u>	
Dated <u>8-6-</u>	<u>18 5.3</u>

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
from 1st to 10th June 1859.*

No. 140. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. BELL, Chief Engineer; to J. D. BOURDILLON, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated 20th May 1859, No. 722.

I have the honor, with reference to the order of Government as per margin, to submit the
April 29th 1859, No. 997. accompanying letter* from Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford, Super-
* May 11th 1859. intending Engineer, Central Circle, with a "Memo. appealing
1 Letter and 1 Memo. from Superin- against the censure recorded by the Commissioners for investigat-
tending Engineer, Central Circle, and ing Public Establishments against him for neglect of duty."
1 Memo. from do. Northern Circle.

2. The Commissioners observe in para. 11 of their Proceedings of the 6th of April that "from the letters of Messrs. Hart and Johnson it is clear that the bill branch of the audit office was divided into three sections corresponding with the circles of the Superintending Engineers for the express convenience of those Officers, and that it was the duty of the auditor of each circle, designated by these gentlemen 'the responsible Auditor for each circle,' to receive any orders which the Superintending Engineer might give respecting the bills of his circle, and dispose of all bill work which might especially appertain to it." All this may be clear; but it is not so clear that the Superintending Engineers were, when this arrangement, admitted to be a novelty, was made, invested with the new duties alleged to result from it. There is nothing on record in the office to shew that they were so; and to shew that they were not there is the fact that at the time in question May 1857, and for three months later the Superintending Engineers had so little direct control over their circles that the

Government on the 10th of August 1857, issued an order attaching to those Officers new privileges and responsibilities for the purpose of investing them with such control. From that time the bills, like all the other documents of the circle, passed through the hands of the Superintending Engineer; but there was no connexion established or understood between the arrangement made by Government and the previous one of May; and the Superintending Engineers remained unconscious of their alleged responsibility for Superintending the audit business of their circles. For this we have the positive assurance of Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford and Captain Orr, Officers whom for
Memo. dated May 17th 1859. very many years I have known to be utterly incapable of neglecting their duty. Men must know their duty before they can neglect it, and I do not perceive that there is any proof that the Superintending Engineers knew it in this case, or could know it.

3. I do not wish to go further into the topics of Lieutenant-Colonel Lawford's appeal, and will only observe on para. 7 that he seems to misapprehend the intention of Government, when he supposes that it is expected of a Superintending Engineer absent from the office on duty to superintend the audit of his circle. Under such circumstances the business, like the rest of that of the circle, necessarily devolves on another Superintending Engineer.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 8th June 1859, No. 1397.

The Governor in Council accepts the assurance of the Chief Engineer that the Superintending Engineers were not placed by the late Chief Engineer in charge of the audit of their circles respectively, and therefore are not chargeable with neglect for not exercising due control over the audit.

(Signed) J. D. BOURDILLON,
Secretary to Government.

N^o 722

Central Office of Ad.
Fort Saint George

20th May 1859.

From

The Chief Engineer

To Li. J. J. J.

The Secretary to Government.

Sir.

April 29th 1859
N^o 997

May 11th 1859.

Encls: 3

1 Letter and

1 Memo from Supg

Eng. C. Circle &

1 Memo from A. N. C.

I have the honor, with reference to the order of Government as per margin, to submit the accompanying letter from Lieutenant Colonel Sanford, Superintending Engineer Centre Circle, with a Memo: appealing against the censure recorded by the Commissioners for investigating Public Establishments against him for neglect of duty—

2. The Commissioners observe in para 11 of their Proceedings of the 16th of April that "from the letters of Messrs Hart and Johnson it is clear that the Bill Branch of the Audit Office was

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control

N^o 1556

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control over their Circles that the Government on the 10th of August 1857 issued an order attaching to those Officers new privileges and responsibilities for the purpose of investing them with such control. From that time the Bills, like all the other documents of the Circle, passed through the hands of the Superintending Engineer; but there was no connection established or understood between the arrangement made by Government and the previous one of May; and the Superintending Engineers remained unconscious of their alleged responsibility for superintending the Audit business of their Circles -

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Under such circumstances the
business, like the rest of that of the
Circle, necessarily devolves on another
superintending Engineer.

(Circular Office) { I have the honor to be
Sir,
20th May 1859 } Your most Obedient
Servant

J. H. Bell, Esq. Colonel
Chief Engineer

1871 Dec. 29: 1894/1895

1136

W. M. 1839 (Departure)
1894/1895

From the (Departure)
1894/1895

John
The Chief Engineer
To the Chief of the M.V.

1894/1895
1894/1895

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1894/1895

the Engineer in Command

As regards the appearance of the
Chief Engineer that the paper
indicating the Engineer was not
issued by the late Chief
Engineer in charge of the
and out of their circles re-
spectively, and therefore are
not chargeable with
neglect for not appearing
and conduct was not
correct.

1894/1895

1894/1895

1894/1895