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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.
Con 10/8/60

G.O. No. 469	Press / Mis.
50.61 Dated 3—3—	18 60

Not to be folded or roughly handled

23/11

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, for the month of March 1860.

No. 50. Read the following Proceedings from the Government of India.

Read the following Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, dated 19th January 1860, No. 680.

Read again the following papers:—

Extract from the Proceedings of this Government in the Public Works Department, No. 7319, dated the 22nd October 1859, transferring papers relative to the audit of the military allowance of officers employed in the Public Works Department, with a request that the subject may be reconsidered.

Resolution passed in this department, dated the 1st November 1859, directing that the Madras Government may be called upon to furnish the grounds upon which the modified rule, relating to the audit of the abovementioned class of officers, is deprecated.

Read an Extract from the Proceedings of this Government in the Public Works Department, No. 8882, dated the 31st ultimo, forwarding a letter from the Madras Government furnishing the information required.

Resolution.—The Honorable the President in Council observes that, on a representation from the Accountant at Agra, that officers employed in the Public Works Department were put to great inconvenience by having to draw their allowances, ultimately chargeable to the department in which they are employed, in two separate departments, and the delay necessarily attending their final adjustment, and, on his suggestion, that the provisions of the rule* under which this anomaly exists should be modified, it was on the 5th April last directed that the military allowance of officers and soldiers employed in the Public Works Department shall in future be audited by the Chief Engineers, leaving the military pay proper under the audit of the Military Auditor General.

* Rule 3 of the rules published in General Orders, Department Public Works, No. 117 of 17th June 1856.

2. To this modification of the rule the Government of Madras objects, stating that, under the existing system at that Presidency which differs from that of Bengal, no inconvenience resulted, and, moreover, that the Chief Engineer, the Military Auditor General, and the Civil Auditor, deprecate any change without a previous enquiry into the system existing in other Presidencies, and first ascertaining whether the changes proposed were likely to be beneficial or otherwise.

3. The Government of Madras having been called upon to furnish a full statement of the grounds upon which the officers named by them deprecate the change, that Government forwards for information copy of a letter from the Chief Engineer, with the correspondence enclosed in it, from the Civil Auditor, and the Military Auditor General, relating to the change proposed.

4. The Civil Auditor states that there has been no practical inconvenience in the present system; that the pre-audit of the military allowances, as well as of the staff salary which is already pre-audited by himself, would be of great inconvenience to the officers; that he has already recommended the transfer to the Chief Engineer of the audit of travelling and other contingent allowances; and that he cannot audit the military allowances without an increase of establishment. The Military Auditor General is also unaware of any practical inconvenience from the existing system, and considers it inexpedient that the audit of the military allowances should be transferred to the Chief Engineer who would thus become the auditor of his own accounts. The Chief Engineer observes:—"As both the offices of audit have reported "against the proposed alteration, I can only add my concurrence with the views expressed in "the letters now submitted. I especially think it undesirable that military allowances which, "though debited to the Department of Public Works, are drawn according to the military "regulations, should be audited in this office, where there is nobody that has any special "knowledge of such subjects. I fear that error and confusion would, with only too great pro- "bability, be the result. The case with regard to contingent allowances is quite different, for "on that subject there is in this office the special knowledge which is not in the office of "audit."

5. The Government of Madras remarks:—"In this Presidency the military pay and "allowances of such officers are audited by the Military Auditor General, and their staff "salaries by the Civil Auditor. The Chief Engineer now reports the concurrent opinion of "himself and of the heads of both the audit offices, that the substitution for this practice of "that above referred to, would be attended with inconveniences." Adding "The Governor in "Council agrees in this view, and he directs accordingly that the present practice shall con- "tinue unchanged."

6. Under the above explanation the Honorable the President in Council would let the Resolution of the Madras Government stand, more especially as it seems clear that the proposed change could not be insisted on without increase of expense.

Ordered that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the Public Works Department for information and for communication to the Government of Madras.

(A true Extract.)

(Signed) C. H. LUSHINGTON,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 737.

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Government of Fort Saint George for information, with reference to Mr. Bourdillon's letter No. 2871, dated the 10th December last.

By order of the Honorable the President in Council.

Fort William, Public Works Department, the 9th February 1860.

R. DE BOURBEL, Captain,
Offg. Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 51. ORDER THEREON, 3rd March 1860, No. 469.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, Military Auditor General and Civil Auditor.

(Signed) C. G. MASTER,
Dy. Secretary to Government.

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No. 680

EXTRACT from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, d. 19th January 1860.

READ again the following papers:—

Extract from the Proceedings of this Government in the Public Works Department, No. 7319, dated the 22nd October 1859, transferring papers relative to the audit of the Military allowance of officers employed in the Public Works Department, with a request that the subject may be reconsidered.

Resolution passed in this Department, dated the 1st November 1859, directing that the Madras Government may be called upon to furnish the grounds upon which the modified Rule relating to the audit of the abovementioned class of officers, is deprecated.

Read an Extract from the Proceedings of this Government in the Public Works Department, No. 8882, dated the 31st ultimo, forwarding a letter from the Madras Government furnishing the information required.

RESOLUTION.—The Hon'ble the President in Council observes that, on a representation from the Accountant at Agra that officers employed in the Public Works Department were put to great inconvenience by having to draw their allowances, ultimately chargeable to the Department in which they are employed, in two separate Departments, and the delay necessarily attending their final adjustment, and, on his suggestion, that the provisions of the Rule* under which this anomaly exists should be modified, it was on the 5th April last directed that the Military allowance of officers and soldiers employed in the Public Works Department shall in future be audited by the Chief Engineers, leaving the Military pay proper under the audit of the Military Auditor General.

*Rule 8 of the Rules published in General Orders, Department Public Works, No. 117 of 17th June 1856.

2. To this modification of the Rule the Government of Madras objects, stating that, under the existing system at that Presidency which differs from that of Bengal, no inconvenience resulted, and, moreover, that the Chief Engineer, the Military Auditor General, and the Civil Auditor, deprecate any change without a previous enquiry into the system existing in other Presidencies, and first ascertaining whether the changes proposed were likely to be beneficial or otherwise.

3. The Government of Madras having been called upon to furnish a full statement of the grounds upon which the officers named by them deprecate the change, that Government forwards for information copy of a letter from

the Chief Engineer, with the correspondence enclosed in it, from the Civil Auditor, and the Military Auditor General, relating to the change proposed.

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" ation, I can only add my concurrence with the views expressed in the letters
" now submitted. I especially think it undesirable that Military allowances which,
" though debited to the Department of Public Works, are drawn according to
" the Military Regulations, should be audited in this Office, where there is nobody
" that has any special knowledge of such subjects. I fear that error and confusion
" would, with only too great probability, be the result. The case with regard to
" contingent allowances is quite different, for on that subject there is in this Office
" the special knowledge which is not in the Office of Audit."

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"and their staff salaries by the Civil Auditor. The Chief Engineer now reports
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"that the substitution for this practice of that above referred to, would be attend-
"ed with inconveniences." Adding "The Governor in Council agrees in this view,
"and he directs accordingly that the present practice shall continue unchanged."

6. Under the above explanation the Hon'ble the President in Council would let the Resolution of the Madras Government stand, more especially as it seems clear that the proposed change could not be insisted on without increase of expense.

ORDERED that a copy of the foregoing Resolution be sent to the Public Works Department for information and for communication to the Government of Madras.

(A true Extract)

Signed C. H. Lushington

Secretary to the Government of India.

[Exd. R. N. Dhur.]

No 737

Copy of the foregoing forwarded to the Government of Fort St. George for information, with reference to Mr. Bourdillon's letter No 2871 dated the 10th December last.

By order of the Hon'ble the President in Council.

Fort William
Pub. Works Deptt.
The 9th February 1860

R. A. Hamilton Capt
Offg. Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

P.W. 10th December/59. Nos 143-146

P.W. 1860 Vol. par. Rec.d of Govt 10th March
No. 466.

No. 469.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer, Military Auditor General & Civil Auditor

From the Offg. Under Sec.y to the Govt. of India

Dated 9th } 1867/60
Rec.d 21st }
No. 737.

W. Muir
For Sec.y to Govt.
3d March/60.

Allowing the Resolution of the Madras Govt relative to the Audit of the Mil.y Allowance of Officers employed in the Public Works Dep.t to stand-

10 Copies to the Chief Engr
1 " Mily Audr Genl
3 " Civil Auditor

Nos 50 & 51.

No. 469. 3d March
Written Order

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