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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1485 Press / Mis.

115-16
Dated 7-8- 1861.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

16

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th August 1861.

No. 115. Read the following letter from Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. HORSLEY, Chief Engineer, to J. D. SIM, Esq., Secretary to Government, dated Chepauk, 22nd July 1861, No. 2,943:—

SIR,

1 Letter.
1 Abstract Estimate.
3 Plans.

1. With reference to the Proceedings of Government in the Military Department, No. 1,970, dated 7th June 1861, communicated in the Order of the Public Works Department, No. 1,113, dated 15th idem, I have the honor to state that the expression in paragraph 6 of my letter, No. 589, dated 17th May 1861, to the effect "that it was decided that the two verandahs should be extended" was in no way intended to convey the meaning that the work had already been done or even commenced, but merely that the necessity of such additions having been agreed upon by the Local Officers concerned, provision was accordingly made for them in the revised estimate. It will be seen by a reference to the accompanying plan that in fact they could not possibly have been built in *their full length* until the old buildings had been pulled down, and it was pointed out in my letter that these were not to be interfered with at present. Also by the accompanying letter, from the District Engineer of Madras, it will be observed that that *no portion whatever* of the verandah extension has been executed.

2. On the principle enunciated in paragraph 5 of the Proceedings of Government it is necessary that I should say a few words.

3. It is there stated "that the Government will hold the Chief Engineer individually "responsible for any extra expense arising in future from such neglect as noticed in the Proceed-"ings then under observation." This is in fact to make the Chief Engineer responsible for the correctness, not simply of the general design and adaptation of a work to the purpose for which it is intended, and of the estimate generally, as the nearest approximation to the probable cost thereof, but also for that of all details, any omission in which by subordinates may involve extra expense. It would be necessary therefore for the Chief Engineer to give up a large portion of his time to the close examination of every plan and estimate submitted to the Central Office, and even then it is quite possible, that in the mass of business devolving on that Officer, omissions might be overlooked and things taken for granted which subsequent experience during the progress of the work might bring to light. Judging by the experience of the last twelve months, during which I have held the office of Chief Engineer, I hesitate not to say, that it is quite impossible for that Officer to give up his time for the above duty without neglecting other and more important concerns connected with the general administration of the Department; and if such be the case, it would be scarcely fair to hold him individually responsible for neglect or omissions on the part of District Engineers and others, as is now, for the first time, I believe since the Department was formed, intimated, will be the case in future.

4. It may be well to state for the information of Government, what the system at present in force, with respect to plans and estimates, is:—

1st. All plans and estimates, except such as under the rules of the Department can be and are sanctioned by Local authorities without reference to this Office, are submitted by District Engineers direct to the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle.

2nd. It is the duty of the Deputy Chief Engineer to examine carefully the plan of the proposed work, and to see that the design is suitable in every respect, and that the estimate provides *generally for everything necessary* for its satisfactory and successful completion.

3rd. Should any fault be found with the design or estimate by the Deputy Chief Engineer, that Officer, on his own authority, or after consultation with the Chief Engineer, as he may consider necessary, returns them to the District Engineer for revision.

4th. If, on the contrary, the Deputy Chief Engineer sees nothing to object to, he certifies to that effect, and the plan and estimate are then made over to the Estimate Department of the Central Office, for examination in detail of measurements, rates, calculations, &c. Any omissions or mistakes which are discovered are then corrected, and an abstract estimate is prepared for submission to Government along with the covering letter, drafted usually by the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle, and sent by him to the Chief Engineer, for approval before it is fair copied, through whom it finally goes up to Government.

5. Thus all available means are used to ensure correctness of design and estimate, and yet it may, and no doubt will happen, with the very large number of plans and estimates received and examined in the Central Office during the year, that omissions and errors will be occasionally overlooked. Absolute accuracy in every particular is not to be attained in India any more than elsewhere.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th August 1861.

6. In the case of the Depôt buildings at the Mount, the supplemental estimate for which, amounting to Rupees 6,000, on an original estimate of Rupees 22,200, called for the severe remarks of Government, everything appears to have been done by the Chief Engineer, Colonel Bell, that was practicable, to satisfy the requirements of Government and ensure accuracy. In the first place, the old Depôt buildings were inspected and reported on in February 1859, by Lieutenant-Colonel Birdwood, then Officiating Superintending Engineer Central Circle, who recommended that the District Engineer should be called upon to prepare, in communication with the Director of Artillery Depôt, a plan and estimate for a more commodious set of buildings, which was accordingly done, and pursuant thereto Captain Moberly submitted a plan (approved by the Brigadier of Artillery) and estimate of Rupees 22,200, which was submitted to Government with letter No. 1,508, dated 11th June 1859. Subsequently, Colonel Lawford, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle, inspected the buildings; and his report also was forwarded to Government with Colonel Bell's letter of the 7th July 1859, No. 2,497, on which the estimate as above was approved for entry in the Budget of 1860-61.

7. On referring to the original abstract estimate submitted to Government with Chief Engineer's letter of 11th June 1859, No. 1,508, I find that it was duly examined in the Estimate Department of the Central Office, and that several corrections were made therein. As respects the doors and windows, it is distinctly stated in the estimate that, "old doors and windows can "be used again with the exception of Percussion Cap Manufactory room and the building con-"nected with the new range." It was naturally concluded therefore, that Captain Moberly, by whom the estimate was signed, had satisfied himself on this point, and that the Director of Artillery Depôt, in communication with whom he had been directed to prepare the plan and estimate, was satisfied with the arrangement, I respectfully submit therefore, that the Central Office cannot be held to blame in this matter, and much less the late Chief Engineer individually.

8. As respects future similar occasions of omissions in estimates, I beg, with due deference, to submit for re-consideration, whether the Head of the Office can fairly be held personally responsible for neglect or omissions on the part of his subordinates, provided it can be shown that all practicable care has been taken in the Central Office to provide against them.

No. 116. ORDER THEREON, 7th August 1861, No. 1,485.

G. O. 15th June 1861, No. 1,113.

1. The Governor in Council considers that the expression to the Head of the Department of Public Works of the dissatisfaction of Government with the mode in which this matter had been conducted was quite warranted by the circumstances of the case.

2. In his letter of the 17th May, No. 589, Colonel Horsley declared that certain omissions in the original estimates had been overlooked in the District Engineer's Office, and added that he was far from satisfied with all the reasons adduced by Captain Moberly for the submission of a revised estimate. For these omissions Captain Moberly is answerable, but the notice taken of his neglect by the Chief Engineer scarcely amounts to censure. The Government must look to the Head of the Department as the Officer whose duty it is both to fix responsibility and to make that responsibility something more than a name.

3. As regards the personal responsibility of the Chief Engineer for errors and omissions in estimates, the Governor in Council observes that the Chief Engineer is not expected personally to look into every detail of an estimate, but he can and ought to see that this is properly done by his subordinates and that they are punished if they do not perform their duty.

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

Copied 30

Central Office of Public Works
Chepauk 22d July 1861.

№ 2943

From,

Lieutenant Colonel W. H. Horsley
Chief Engineer D. P. W.

To,

J. D. Sim Esquire
Secretary to Government P. W. D.
Fort Saint George.

Military.

Sir,

Enclosures
1 Letter.
1 Abstract Estimate
3 Plans.

With reference to the Proceedings of Government in the Military Department № 1970 dated 7th June 1861 communicated in the order of the Public Works Department № 1113 dated 15th idem I have the honor to state that the expression in Para 6 of my letter № 589 dated 17th May 1861 to the effect "that it was decided that the two Verandahs should be extended" was in no way intended to convey the meaning that the work had already been done or even commenced, but merely that the necessity of such additions having been agreed upon by the local Officers concerned, provision was accordingly made for them in the Revised Estimate. It will be seen by a reference to the accompanying plan that in fact

fact they could not possibly have been built in their full length until the old buildings had been pulled down, and it was pointed out in my letter that these were not to be interfered with at present. Also by the accompanying letter, from the District Engineer of Madras, it will be observed that no portion whatever of the Veranadah extension has been executed.

2. On the principle enunciated in Para 5 of the Proceedings of Government it is necessary that I should say a few words.

3. It is there stated "that the Government will hold the Chief Engineer individually responsible for any extra expense arising in future from such neglect as noticed in the Proceedings then under observation". This is in fact to make the Chief Engineer responsible for the correctness, not simply of the general design and adaptation of a work to the purpose for which it is intended, and of the Estimate generally, as the nearest approximation to the probable cost thereof, but also for that of all details, any omission in which by Subordinates may involve extra expense. It would be necessary therefore, for the Chief Engineer to give up a large portion

The Chief Engineer should have leisure to visit the Works during execution, to check the Estimates, and to see that the Chief Engineer's orders are duly carried out. This is done at present.

B 58

portion of his time, to the close examination of every plan and estimate submitted to the Central Office, and even then it is quite possible, that in the mass of business devolving on that Officer omissions might be overlooked and things taken for granted which subsequent experience during the progress of the work might bring to light. Judging by the experience of the last twelve months, during which I have held the Office of Chief Engineer, I hesitate not to say, that it is quite impossible for that Officer to give up his time for the above duty without neglecting other and more important concerns connected with the general administration of the Department; and if such be the case, it would be scarcely fair to hold him individually responsible for neglect or omissions on the part of District Engineers and others, as is now, for the first time I believe since the Department was formed, intimated, will be the case in future.

4. It may be well to state for the information of Government, what the system at present in force, with respect to Plans and Estimates, is

1st All Plans and Estimates, except such as under the rules of the Department can be and are sanctioned by Local Authorities without reference

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to this Office, are submitted by District Engineers direct to the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle.

2nd It is the duty of the Deputy Chief Engineer to examine carefully the plan of the proposed work, and to see that the design is suitable in every respect, and that the Estimate provides generally for every thing necessary for its satisfactory and successful completion.

3rd Should any fault be found with the design or Estimate by the Deputy Chief Engineer, that Officer, on his own authority or after consultation with the Chief Engineer as he may consider necessary, returns them to the District Engineer for revision.

4th If, on the contrary, the Deputy Chief Engineer sees nothing to object to, he certifies to that effect, and the Plan and Estimate are then made over to the Estimate Department of the Central Office, for examination in detail of measurements, rates, calculations &c. Any omissions or mistakes which are discovered are then corrected, and an Abstract Estimate is prepared for submission

to

to Government along with the covering letter, drafted usually by the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Circle, and sent by him to the Chief Engineer, for approval before it is fair copied, through whom it finally goes up to Government.

5. Thus all available means are used to ensure correctness of design and Estimate, and yet it may, and no doubt will, happen, with the very large number of Plans and Estimates received and examined in the Central Office during the year, that omissions and errors will be occasionally overlooked. Absolute accuracy in every particular is not to be attained in India any more than elsewhere.

6. In the case of the Depôt buildings at the Mount, the Supplemental Estimate for which, amounting to Rupees 6,000, on an original Estimate of Rupees 22,200, called for the severe remarks of Government, every thing appears to have been done by the Chief Engineer, Colonel Bell, that was practicable, to satisfy the requirements of Government and ensure accuracy. In the first place the old Depôt Buildings were

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inspected and reported on in February 1859 by Lieutenant Colonel Birdwood, then Officiating Superintending Engineer Central Circle, who recommended that the District Engineer should be called upon to prepare, in communication with the Director of Artillery Depôt, a Plan and Estimate for a more commodious set of Buildings, which was accordingly done, and pursuant thereto, Captain Moberly submitted a Plan (approved by the Brigadier of Artillery) and Estimate of Rupees 22,200, which was submitted to Government with letter N° 1508 dated 11th June 1859. Subsequently, Colonel Lawford, the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Central Circle, inspected the Buildings; and his report also was forwarded to Government with Colonel Bell's letter of the 7th July 1859, N° 2497, on which the Estimate as above was approved for entry in the Budget of 1860/61.

7. On referring to the original Abstract Estimate submitted to Government with Chief Engineer's letter of 11th June 1859 N° 1508, I find that it was duly examined in the Estimate Department of the Central Office, and that several corrections were made

12 9/8

made therein. As respects the Doors and Windows it is distinctly stated in the Estimate that, "Old Doors and Windows "can be used again with the exception of "Percussion Cap Manufactory room and "the Building connected with the new "range." It was naturally concluded therefore, that Captain Moberly, by whom the Estimate was signed, had satisfied himself on this point, and that the Director of Artillery Depôt, in communication with whom he had been directed to prepare the Plan and Estimate, was satisfied with the arrangement, I respectfully submit therefore, that the Central Office cannot be held to blame in this matter, and much less the late Chief Engineer individually.

8. As respects future similar occasions of omissions in Estimates, I beg, with due deference, to submit for reconsideration, whether the head of the Office can fairly be held personally responsible, for neglect or omissions on the part of his Subordinates,

provided

Corrected

provided it can be shewn, that all practicable care has been taken in the Central Office to provide against them.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obedient Servant
D.T. Prendergast Lieut Colonel
Chief Engineer D. P. W

Central Office of P.W.
Chepauk
22d July 1861.

To.

J. D. Sim Esquire
Secretary to Government P.W.D.
Fort Saint George.

conducted

Public Works Dept.

136

No. 1485. 85

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Under date the 7th August 1861.

Read the following

Letter from the Chief Engineer.

Offering explanation with reference to the Proceedings of Government No 1970 dated 7th June 1861, relative to the extension of the Verandahs connected with the buildings of the Artillery Depôt at Saint Thomas Mount.

Rec'd 22nd July 1861 No 2943

The Governor in Council considers that the expression to the Head of the Department of Public Works of the dissatisfaction of Government with the mode in which this matter had been conducted

G.O. 15th June 61 No. 1113.

Rec'd August 5th 1853 No 1885

Dr. Public Works

Rec'd of South Division Engineer

Rupees 1088.

Item

Cash Rupees

Dr. Public Works

Secretary to Government

Dated 22nd July 1861

Rec'd 23rd " "

No 2943

No 1885 Dated 5th Aug 61

Offering explanation with reference to the Proceedings of Government No 1970 dated 7th June 1861, relative to the extension of the Verandahs connected with the buildings of the Artillery Depôt at Saint Thomas Mount.

Copy

Letter from Lt Col Horsley dated 17th July 61

Stating that "the omission above noticed occurred in the Assistant Engineer's office"

Col Horsley also states that he does not concur in the observation by Capt Barkley that the accompanying estimate should be viewed as an amended Estimate, the Government having already sanctioned the Estimate and the work having been commenced in anticipation of its sanction

Lt Col Horsley concludes - remarking that the case stands for the most part as stated by Capt Barkley

Rupees 1088 - 0 - 0

Superintending Engineer's office

Madras 5th August 1861

Sir

I have the honor to forward herewith a letter from Lt Col Horsley dated 17th ultimo, explaining the circumstances which led to the omission of the Verandah Estimate from the Estimate for the Buildings at the Artillery Depôt at St Thomas Mount, and to state that I am fully responsible for the omission

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) J. Goldingham
Superintending Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

Rec'd August 5th 1853 No 1885

Dr. Public Works

Rec'd of South Division Engineer

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Item

Cash Rupees

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(Signed) J. Goldingham
Superintending Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

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Your most obedient Servant
(Signed) J. Goldingham
Superintending Engineer

To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department

24 Pages

conducted was quite warranted by the circumstances of the case.

2 In his letter of the 17th May No 589 Colonel Horsley declared that certain omissions in the original Estimates had been overlooked in the District Engineers' Office and exclaimed that he was far from satisfied with all the reasons adduced by Captain Moberly for the submission of a revised estimate. For these omissions Captain Moberly is answerable but the notice taken of his neglect by the Chief Engineer scarcely amounts to censure. The Government must look to the Head of the Dept. as the Officer whose duty it is both to fix responsibility and to make that responsibility something more than a name.

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J. D. S

13 Copies
To the Chief Engineer Circ.
with 5 Plans

Public Works 1861 Dept No
Pro: of 500 ts for August

No 1485.

Pro: of the Madras
Government

D/ 7th August 1861

Recd the Chief Engr's Secy
Augt 16 1861
in Fort
Septr 16 78

Chief Engineers
letter submitting for
reconsideration whether
the Head of the Deptt
of Public Works can
fairly be held personally
responsible for neglect or
omissions on the part of
his subordinates.

2

Estimate of Moorumdocks
Filling Dyke at Mad.
Mount.—

No 115 & 116.