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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.**Government of Madras.***Public Works* **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No.

1882Press
Mis.

Dated

14-7-1863.**Not to be folded or roughly handled**

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
14th July 1863.*

No. 317. Read the following letter from Captain E. A. FOORD, R. E., Superintending Engineer 6th Division, to Colonel W. I. BIRDWOOD, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Tanjore, 25th June 1863, No. 128 :—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to bring to your notice that the present system of obtaining money for Public Works is likely to lead to much correspondence, and to cause the delay or stoppage of important works.

2. The abstract of funds has now to be sent to the Accountant General, instead of to the Collector. The Range Officers' Estimates of funds have therefore to be prepared so long before the money is required, that they cannot pretend to be accurate. Formerly inaccuracy in these Estimates was not of much importance. If too much money was applied for, the excess was left undrawn in the Treasury; if too little, it was easy to get a supplemental letter of credit. Now, the undrawn balance of one month is not available for any succeeding month. It is also impossible to obtain a supplemental credit.

3. The Accountant General considers that, with care on the part of the Executive Officers, correct monthly Estimates can be prepared, but they have to be prepared so long beforehand, that there is little chance of their being correct. The Executive Officers cannot tell a month beforehand what the weather will be, and, on that, depends to a great extent their expenditure. Besides after making out their Estimates they may hear of the sanction of certain works. These work might be commenced at once if funds could be obtained for them, but, under the present system, they must be deferred to the following month.

4. If the applications for funds were sent, as before, to the Collector, there would be no delay. The Collector is informed at the beginning of the year of the sum allotted to the District, and he is responsible that the expenditure on Public Works does not exceed that sum. The Superintending Engineer is held responsible that the expenditure does not fall short of that sum; no further check seems necessary.

5. The Committee lately appointed to report on the re-organization of the Department Public Works have recommended that the Code be revised, and that the system of accounts and returns now in force be simplified as far as possible. There is ample room for improvement. I believe it will be found that nearly all the changes made from 1857 have been for the worse, and have had the effect of making what was before simple—tedious and complicated.

No. 318.

ORDER THEREON, 14th July 1863, No. 1,882.

1. The Government do not anticipate the difficulties referred to by the Superintending Engineer 6th Division in carrying out the present system of drawing funds for Public Works. If the monthly Estimates are submitted in time by the local Officers there would be no difficulty in carrying on the works. Although the Estimates are required to be prepared as correctly as possible, yet in the event of their being less than actual requirements a supplemental Estimate may be submitted, and if in excess, the undrawn portion may be availed of towards the end of the year.

2. The Code alluded to in paragraph 5 is now engaging the attention of the Deputy Secretary in this Department.

(Signed) W. I. BIRDWOOD, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

12/1882.

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this Department.

15th July 1882
Chepauk 14th July 1882
25/3

1882 July
No. 2220

The Supg. Engineer
for Division of
The Secy to Govt.
R.W.C.

Dated 25th June 1883.
Recd 29

N^o 120.

Brings to notice
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No 317-318-

1882-14 July

With an order

2, July 1883 A. 7th