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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. <u>2121</u>	Press <u> </u>
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Dated <u>23-7-1864</u>	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
23rd July 1864.*

No. 427. Read the following Circular from the Under Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 27th June 1864, No. 06:—

Copy of the following Despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State No. 16, dated 16th April 1864, and of Public Works Department letter No. 329, dated 21st January 1864,

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, N. W. Provinces, and Punjab.
Governor, Straits Settlements.
Chief Commissioners, Oudh, British Burmah, and Central Provinces.
Commissioner of Mysore.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor General, Rajpootana and Central India.

forwarded, for information, to
Local Governments and Adminis-
trations marginally noted, in con-
tinuation of Public Works Depart-
ment Circular No. 52, G. G., dated
29th September 1863.

(Signed) E. C. S. WILLIAMS, Captain, R. E.,
Under Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 16 (Public Works), dated 16th April 1864.
From—Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India,
To—The Government of India.

1. The despatch from your Government, dated January 27th, (No. 6) 1864, forwarding the rules which have been framed with regard to the employment of Public Works Establishments on local works, has been under my consideration in Council.

2. The administration of Local Funds, and the execution of local works by Local Authorities, will tend to develop a spirit of self reliance which it is, on all accounts, most desirable to encourage. I therefore, fully concur with Your Excellency in the opinion that it would be unadvisable to merge the establishments for local works in that for Imperial works. The rules which you have sanctioned for the employment of Public Works Establishments on Local Fund works, on certain conditions, seem to meet the requirements of the case.

No. 329, dated 21st January 1864.
From—Lieutenant-Colonel J. P. BEADLE, R. E., Officiating Secretary to Government of India, Public Works Department,
To—Chief Commissioner of British Burmah.

1. In continuation of the correspondence noted in the margin, I have now to communicate to you the decision of the Government of India on your proposal, referring primarily to the case of the Arracan Division, that, when the Imperial Public Works Establishments are employed to supervise work of which the cost is defrayed from Local Funds, no charge should be made to the Local Funds, but that the use of the establishment should form a grant-in-aid from the Imperial to the Local resources.

2. This subject had been under the consideration of the Government of India shortly before the receipt of your letter, and the decision arrived at was communicated to all the Local Administrations in a Circular No. 52 G. G., dated 29th September 1863. After receiving your communications, with others of a similar tendency, the subject was again considered, and the result is that the Government of India sees no reason to modify the conclusions previously arrived at.

3. That which has most influenced the Government of India in maintaining its previous decision is, the varying arrangements under which Local Funds are spent in different parts of the empire. In some cases the local works are carried on entirely by a local separate agency, as in the North-Western Provinces; while in others, as in the Bombay Presidency, they are entirely in the hands of the Public Works Officers of the Imperial Establishment. If, then, the Government of India were to declare that the local works may be carried on by the Imperial Establishment without charge, it would follow almost as a matter of course that in time the Imperial

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department;
23rd July 1864.*

Establishment would be increased to the full extent required for the whole of the public works of every sort throughout the empire.

4. This would be objected to for many reasons. It would certainly tend to increase charges of this class, because it would make it impossible to exercise any central check on the growth of establishments which, under such a system, would be involved with expenditure with which the central authority does not concern itself. Or, if the central authority did attempt to check the growth of such charges, it would be introducing a claim for interference that is to be deprecated. The establishments for local works would then incidentally come under the Central Government control, and the administration of the Local Funds would then be, to some degree, centralized.

5. The use of the Imperial establishments would, it is true, give a certain help to the Local Funds, but this would be indeterminate in its extent, and would be great just in proportion as it was not required. The larger the funds the less the real claim for central help, for by giving the use of establishments, the Imperial Government would, in fact, give that help in proportion to the amount to be expended.

6. And, further, it seems to the Government of India very essential to stimulate the growth of a really local administration of small works; and this is one of the great improvements the Government of India desires at this time to see developed. Any measure that gives the Local Funds a closer practical executive alliance with the Imperial Public Works Establishments would, in this view, be a backward step. The free use of the Imperial Establishments, though at first sight it may appear to be a useful help, would really check the growth of that spontaneous and self-dependent action in the administration of the Local Funds which the Government of India desires to foster.

7. Where aid is really required, the Government of India would not wish to give it in this way, but would rather afford it by making over items of local revenue, and, if necessary, by direct money grants for specific objects,—as for road maintenance—and enforcing a proper system of audit of the local accounts. All this would work without the smallest central interference, and would leave the Local Governments the most perfect power of adapting the means at their disposal for those objects to the end in view according to their ideas of which is best.

8. These principles, however, should be applied in a liberal spirit, and not so as to embarrass the Local Administrations. It is not contemplated to refuse the use of the Imperial Establishments when convenient; nor to insist on petty claims to be reimbursed for the use of establishments when the Local Funds expenditure in the hands of the Public Works Establishment is small in proportion to the Imperial expenditure.

9. In conclusion, I am to add that the Government of India will be glad to receive any proposals you may have to make in regard to the execution of Local Fund works in Arracan, and also in British Burmah, based on the principles explained in this letter.

No. 428.

ORDER THEREON, 23rd July 1864, No. 2,121.
Communicated to the Revenue Department.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. M. SHAW STEWART, Major, R. E.,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

To the Revenue Department, with Nos. 3,327 and 3,328 of 1863.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

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2121

Communicated to
the Revenue Department.

W. Chepauk
23rd July 1864

To the Rev. Department
with Nos. 3327 & 3328
1863

25 July

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W 1864 Dipa
(2 B. of Govt. for July)
7-3137

Civil Works.

CIRCULAR No. 06.

To

FROM

UNDER SECY. TO GOVT. OF INDIA,
IN THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT.

Dated 27th June, 1864.

Received 15 July.

19/7/64
D. J. J.

no 2121-23rd July 1864

Forwarding, for information, Despatch from Secretary of State, No. 16, dated 16th April, and Public Works Department letter No. 329, dated 21st January 1864, regarding the employment of Public Works Establishments on local works.

With a note.

N: 427. 428

18th July 1864 R. 195