M.R.O. 1—17,000—5-4-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. [illegible]	Press / Mis.
Dated [illegible]	18[illegible].

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th June 1864.

No. 158. Read the following Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Military Department :—

Stating that the question of the removal of Acting Conductor Shannon from the appointment of Overseer in the Department Public Works, will be considered in that Department; and that pending the decision of the Home Government regarding the power of Local Government to reduce Warrant Officers to a lower grade or to cancel their Warrants, and unless he is previously disposed of in any other manner, the Acting Conductor must be retained in the Warrant grades of the Public Works Department.	(Here enter 31st May 1864, No. 1,854.)

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 7th June 1864, No. 1,664.

1. Communicated to the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.

2. Under the foregoing orders, Colonel Walker is authorized to remove Acting Conductor Shannon from the Public Works Department and to direct him to report himself at the nearest Military station.

3. Pending the receipt of a reply from the Home Government to the reference about to be made by the Military Department, Acting Conductor Shannon will be retained in the Warrant grades of the Public Works Department, and his Military pay will form a charge against the current year's allotment for Establishments.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
" Controller and Auditor of Public Works Accounts,
" Military Department.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Read the following letter :—

From the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, Coonoor, 2nd April 1864, *No.* 369 ; *to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, Madras.*

Sub-Conductor and Acting Conductor Shannon, who was reinstated in the position of an Overseer of this Department, by Government Order, No. 3798 of 22nd December, having applied under date the 26th February for payment of Civil salary in arrears from the 28th June 1863, to the 6th January 1864, I requested Major Farewell to report to me on his character and conduct previously to disposing of the case; which, under ordinary circumstances, I should have done without reference to Government. I should have told Mr. Shannon that the certified state of his health alone would have precluded him from claiming more than half his Civil salary had he not been under suspension; and that rather than grant the other half under the circumstances I would carry out the wishes of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, and put him on his trial on charges affecting him as a Military man.

2. But Major Farewell's report is of such a nature that I cannot allow the matter to rest there. He states "that though since Mr. Shannon has been under my orders I am unable to state "positively that he has been intemperate, yet from the general unsatisfactory manner in which "his duties are performed, he appears to me to be mentally and physically unfit for the position "he holds in the Department; he cannot survey, knows nothing whatever regarding levelling, and "is unable to speak any Native language; in addition to this not being able to trust him out of sight "of an European Officer, he is perfectly useless to me." That so incompetent a subordinate (to say nothing of character), should have been allowed so long to burthen the Department is not creditable to the Range Officers under whom he has served; not one of whom seems to have done his duty to Government in sifting to the bottom the charges which from time to time have risen up against him, so as to enable decisive measures to be taken by superior authority. One of my greatest difficulties is to get Range Officers (with some exceptions) to exercise sufficient supervision over their subordinates, whether in the field or in the Office, without my constant interference; and it would be well if Government intimated to Range Officers their desire that this portion of their duty should be conscientiously carried out. It is no real kindness to an Overseer, especially if a young hand, to let him go on unchecked till his short-comings attract the notice of higher authority and lead to the ruin of all his prospects in the Government service.

3. In Mr. Shannon's case, I conceive that the Department has borne long enough with him and that I have no alternative but to recommend his removal from it, on the grounds of utter incompetency. I do not exercise my own powers in the case, but request the intervention of Government, as a more respectful course of procedure with reference to its antecedents.

Forwarded (with previous correspondence) to His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, in accordance with his desire, and for after circulation to His Excellency the Governor and the Honorable Members of Council.

(Signed) C. A. ORR, Colonel,
Secy. to Govt. D. P. W.

Forwarded to Colonel Marshall.

(Signed) J. H. GRANT.

Order, No. 1854, 31*st May* 1864.

The question of the removal of Acting Conductor Shannon from the appointment of *Overseer* in the Department of Public Works, will be considered in that Department. Reference will be made to the Secretary of State regarding the power of the local Government to reduce Warrant Officers to a lower grade or to cancel their Warrants; pending receipt of the decision of the Home Government, unless he is previously disposed of in any other manner, Acting Conductor Shannon must be retained in the Warrant grades of the Public Works Department.

Public Works Pro. 16*th Sept.* 1863, *No.* 2684.
,, ,, 11*th Jany.* 1863, *No.* 90.

2. It is observed that the above individual, while under suspension by the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, for continual neglect of calls made upon him to account for tools missing from his charge, was recommended by the Commanding Royal Engineer for promotion, as bearing a good character, and actually promoted* to the rank of Acting Conductor on 28th August 1863. To prevent such discrepant proceedings in future, the recommendation Rolls for promotion in the Warrant grades of the Public Works Department, will be hereafter prepared by the Commanding Royal Engineer, in communication with that Department.

(True Extract.)

Secretary to Government.

To the Public Works Department. With 10 spare Copies.
,, Commanding Royal Engineer.
,, Adjutant General,................ } for information.
,, Controller of Military Accounts, }

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*G. O. G., No. 302 of 1863.

Exd. T. Stubbs.

No. 1664

Communicated to the Superintending Engineer 7th Division

2 Under the foregoing orders, Colonel Walker is authorized to remove Acting Conductor Shannan from the Public Works Department and to direct him to report himself at the nearest Military Station.

3 Pending the receipt of a reply from

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Public Works Pro. 16*th Sept.* 1863, *No.* 2684.
„ „ 11*th Jany.* 1863, *No.* 90.

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Exd. T. Stubbs.

No. 155-157

from the Home Govt. to the reference about to be made by the Military Department, Acting Conductor Shannon will be retained in the Warrant Grades of the Public Works Department and his military pay will form a charge against the current years' allotment for Establishments. — Sd. R. 7th June

Chapman
7th June/64

To The Secy Engg
„ Contr. Genl. Accountt
„ Mily Deptt.

No 87

P.W. 1864 Deptt
Pro. of Govt. for June.
No. 2468.

Pro: of Govt. in the
Mily. Deptt
Dated 31 May 64
Received 8 June
~~No 1854~~
No 1664 - 7th June 1864
With an Order.

Stating that the question of the removal of Actg Conductor Shannon from the appointment of Overseer in the D.P.W. will be considered in that Deptt and that pending the decision of the Home Govt. regarding the power of Local Govt. to reduce Warrant Offrs to a lower grade or to cancel their Warrants, and unless he is previously disposed of in any other manner, the Actg Conductor must be retained in the Warrant grades of the P.W.D.

With an Order