

(1) Number of pages 14(2) Date of repair 4-12-48

(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2202

Press

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Dated 2-8-

1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd August 1865.*

No. 30. Read the following letter from Captain J. F. FISCHER, R. E., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel C. A. ORR, R. E., Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madras, 24th July 1865, No. 789:—

SIR,

1. I have the honor to forward, for the orders of Government, the accompanying Circular which has been sent to this Office by the Accountant General, Public Works Department: my object is to ascertain if this Government consider it advisable to adopt the Resolution of the Governor General contained in it, and make this applicable to this Presidency.

Financial Resolution, 16th March 1865,
No. 1,321, paragraph 4.

2. At present there is no check whatever exercised on the demands of the Range Officers for funds: the practice with them is to keep two or three months' expenditure in the Treasury as a balance to their credit, and as this goes on throughout the year the result is a large cash balance against the Presidency; whereas by a little more care and management the whole of the funds sanctioned by the Government of India could be spent.

3. I am of opinion half a month's probable expenditure is as much as any Range Officer requires to his credit to get on with till the letters of credit for the month reach him, he should not be allowed to hold more money in his hands than just sufficient to meet his requirements, the balance available at any time in the Division will then be clearly known to the Superintending Engineer, and he can make timely transfers from one District to another, without having to write to Government complaining there are no funds in one of his Districts at the very time large balances are existing in another quite unknown to him.

No. 31. ORDER THEREON, 2nd August 1865, No. 2,202.

ACCOUNT, No. 9.

1. The Government do not consider it advisable that the Controller should interfere with requisitions for funds by the local Officers beyond seeing that their demands are within the sums placed at their disposal under specific allotments in the Budget, or by transfers from time to time.

2. The Superintending Engineers receive monthly accounts of the outlay on Public Works in their respective Divisions, and they have all necessary means for ascertaining the unexpended balance in each Range.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3A

Circular No. 15 of 1865.

FROM

MAJOR G. CHESNEY,

TO

ACCOUNTANT GENERAL, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,

SIMLA, 22nd June, 1865.

Forwards the following copy of correspondence for information. A copy of the Resolution of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, No. 1321 of 16th March 1865, referred to in the correspondence is also attached.

G. CHESNEY,

Accountant General.

*Copy of a letter from the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, Central Provinces,—
No. 90, dated 11th May, 1865.*

The Accountant General of these Provinces has furnished me with a copy of Extract No. 1321, dated 16th March 1865, from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, containing instructions, relative to the procedure to be observed in the issue of future Letters of Credit or Credit Orders as they are now termed.

The procedure enjoined differs from that prescribed in Standing Orders of 1864, No. 56, Section 7, in the following particulars :—

By the Financial Resolution referred to, the Controller is to submit direct to the Accountant General a monthly statement of cash requirements for the whole Province, whereon that officer will issue to each Treasury Officer the Letter of Authority or Credit Order, the Credit Order, it is said, "will not be sent to the Executive Engineer," the Standing Order alluded to, lays down quite an opposite course, viz., that the Controller is to submit the monthly statement to the Chief Engineer by whom the Accountant General is put in possession of the document after such alterations as the Chief Engineer may be pleased to make, the Accountant General is then "to send the Letters of Credit to the different Executive Engineers, to be forwarded by them to the treasuries on which they are drawn."

Standing Order No. 56 has not yet been rescinded, and the Financial Resolution is of a more recent date, I have therefore the honour to solicit instructions on the point at issue.

*Copy of a letter from the Accountant General, Public Works Department, to the Controller of
Public Works Accounts, Central Provinces,—No. 530, dated 22nd May, 1865.*

In reply to your letter No. 90, dated 11th May 1865, soliciting instructions as to the procedure to be observed in the issue of credits to Executive Engineers, I have the honour to state that the orders passed in the

Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department, No. 1321, dated 16th March 1865, are the latest in date, and should be acted on.

2. It was not thought worth while to revise Standing Order No. 56 of 1864, as the revised edition of the Public Works Code was nearly ready, so the changes have been simply incorporated into the text of the revised Code.

3. Those changes are obvious improvements introduced at the recommendation of the Public Works Department. There was clearly no use any longer in sending Letters of Credit to the Executive Engineer. All that was required was to place the amount at his credit in his account with the Treasury, and as some Deputy Auditors General misunderstood the spirit of the rules, and required Executive Engineers to give receipts for the sums placed to their credit, it was thought desirable to abolish Letters of Credit altogether.

4. It should be understood that although the credits are to be applied for direct by the Controller, the application should first be submitted for the approval of the Chief Engineer.

*Extract from the Proceedings of the Government of India, in the Financial Department,—
No. 1321, dated 16th March, 1865.*

Read again Financial Resolution No. 1327, dated the 19th July 1864, prescribing Rules for regulating payments by Civil Treasuries on account of the Public Works Department.

Read also the following papers relating to certain enquiries, with reference to the foregoing Rules:—

Letter from Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, Punjab, No. 3374, dated 3rd September 1864.

Office Memorandum to Public Works Department, No. 2538, dated 21st September 1864.

Ditto to the Auditor General of India, No. 2539, dated ditto ditto

Letter from Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, Bombay, No. 1128, dated 9th September 1864.

Endorsement to the Auditor General of India, No. 2575, dated 23rd September 1864.

Office Memorandum from the Public Works Department, No. 652 A—5150, dated 11th October 1864.

Letter from the Auditor General of India, No. 560, dated 31st October 1864.

Letter from the Auditor General of India, No. 793, dated 17th January 1865.

RESOLUTION.—The Governor General in Council is pleased to pass the following orders in reference to the enquiries made in the above-mentioned papers.

2. The form of letter proposed by the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, Punjab, is a Letter of Authority from the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General to the Civil Treasury, to write off so much to the account of the Executive Engineer, who is in no way to be a party to the document. The form is approved, and should be adopted; but this description of the character of the document indicates the necessity for distinguishing it from other Letters of Credit, and the Governor General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that the document which, in the Financial Resolution of 19th July 1864, is termed a Letter of Credit, shall henceforth be designated a Credit Order.

3. Under this arrangement, the procedure in regard to Credit Orders will be as follows:—The Executive Engineer will make his monthly demand for a Credit Order to the Public Works Controller, who will prepare a consolidated return for the Province, showing the treasuries on which the orders are wanted, and the names of the Executive Engineers in whose behalf they are to be issued. The Controller will submit this Return to the Deputy Auditor General, who, thereon, will issue to each Treasury Officer the Letter of Authority or Credit Order of the form now sanctioned.

4. The Credit Order will not be sent to the Executive Engineer, but in cases when his original demand has been curtailed by the Controller, the latter should inform him of the reduced credit that has been granted.

5. The requisition of the Public Works Controller for Credit Orders to the Public Works Department, should be furnished in time to admit of the Deputy Auditor General's Letter of Authority reaching the different treasuries by the first of each month, and should not be kept back on account of delay by any Executive Engineers in submitting their applications for Credit Orders. Such applications should be embodied in a supplementary requisition.

6. The mode of providing funds to the Public Works Officers for works to be executed by them for Local Funds, and the manner of accounting for the funds thus supplied, being now under consideration in the Public Works Department, orders on this subject are deferred.

7. The accounts of the Forest Department in the Punjab should be re-transferred to the Deputy Auditor and Accountant General, from 1st May 1865, the Public Works Controller continuing to audit the charges, if so desired by the Local Government.

8. The mode of accounting for collections of water-rent from canals and other irrigation works, and for other Public Works receipts will form the subject of a separate Resolution.

ORDER—Ordered, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to the Public Works Department.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts.
Madras 24th July 1865.

N^o 789.

From
Captain J. F. Frischer. P.E.
Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To
Colonel G. H. Cur. P.E.
Secretary to Government. D.P.W.

Sir,

Have the honor to forward for the orders
of Government the accompanying Circular
which has been sent to this Office by the
Accountant General Public Works Depart-
ment: my object is to ascertain if this
Government considers it advisable to adopt
the resolution of the Governor General
contained in it and make this applicable
to this Presidency.

Financial
Resolution 16th
March 1865 N^o
21, para: 4.

2. At present there is no check what-
ever exercised on the demands of the Range
Officers for funds. The practice with them
is to keep 2 or 3 months expenditure
in the Treasury as a balance to their
credit, and as this goes on through-
out the year the result is a large
cash balance against the Presidency,
whereas by a little more care and
management the whole of the
funds.

27/7/65

27/7/65

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funds sanctioned by the Government of
India could be spent.

3. Some of opinion half a month's
possible expenditure is as much as any
Range Officer requires to his credit to
get on with till the letters of credit
for the month reach him: he should
not be allowed to hold more money
in his hands than just sufficient to
meet his requirements, the balance
available at any time in the Division
will then be clearly known to the
Superintending Engineer and he can
make timely transfers from one Dis-
trict to another without having to
write to Government complaining there
are no funds in one of his Districts
at the very time large balances are
existing in another quite unknown
to him.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

W. H. K. Captain P. E.

Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Camp. J. P. H. C.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 2nd Nov 1865
Read the following

From the Controller of
Pub Works Accounts

Proposing arrange- (Here enter 24 July 1865 No 789)
ments for restricting the
distribution of balances
at credit of Range Officers.

The Government
do not consider it ad-
visable that the Controller
should interfere with the
requisitions for funds
by the Local Officers
beyond seeing that their
demands are within the
sums placed at their
disposal under specific allo-
cations in the Budget, or by
transfers from time to
time.

[Signature]
[Signature]

27/11/65
To the Secretary to
the Government of
Madras
Public Works Dept.

Dated 24th 3
Decr 25th July 1865.

B11 N^o 789.

Proposing to arrange
for restricting
the distribution of bal-
ances at credit of
Range Officers.

C. 287 July 1865 No 2145

C. 2202. 24 July 1865

114

2. The Superintending
Engineers receive monthly
Accounts of the outlay
on Public Work in the
respective Divisions, and
they have all necessary
means for ascertaining
the unexpended balance

in each range.
The Engineer in
charge of the work
done in the range
will be required to
submit a statement
of the work done
and the amount
expended thereon
at the end of each
month.

To
The Controller
J. W. Acob

Done 3rd August