M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3212. Press Mis.

642-643

Dated 25-10- 1865.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 25th October 1865.

No. 642. Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madras, 13th October 1865, No. 1,614:—

1. The Quarter Master General of the Army was requested to verify the distances between places noted in Inspection Reports received in this Office, which places were not in the Route book, and that Officer has furnished me with an original* copy of G. O. 22nd September 1865, No. 449, in the Financial Department, and enquires in his docket, dated 10th instant, No. 9,746, whether, under the circumstances represented in that G. O., it will be necessary for him to furnish the certificates of distances.

* Herewith forwarded (to be returned).

2. I have the honor, therefore, to request the orders of Government for dispensing with the mode of check above referred to, by leaving it to the Superintending Engineers of the Divisions, who, under paragraph 10 of G. O. 29th September 1865, No. 2,860, are constituted the primary Auditors of the bills of their Executive Officers and Subordinates. For the bills of the Superintending Engineers themselves, a certificate of the kind recommended by the Deputy Accountant General in the G. O. now forwarded, may be adopted, if thought necessary.

Memorandum from the Assistant Quarter Master General, to the Deputy Controller of Public Works Accounts, dated Fort Saint George, 10th October 1865, No. 9,746.

Returns distance certificates, received with Memorandum, dated 7th instant, and with reference to accompanying Order of Government, No. 449 of 22nd September 1865, requests to be informed if the distances are still required to be certified by this Department.

(By order.)

(Signed) A. HOWLETT, Lieut.-Colonel,
Asstt. Quarter Master General.

Proceedings of the Madras Government in the Financial Department, dated 22nd September 1865, No, 499.

Read the following letter f rom the Acting Deputy Accountant General, Madras, to the Chief Secretary to Government, Fort Saint George, dated 12th September 1865, No. 90.

Post Audit Department.

1. An usage prevails here of asking the Quarter Master General of the Army to check all mileage bills of officers travelling within their Districts. He has recourse, in the first instance, to route books, but when the hamlets may not be named therein, the distance between the point of departure and the point of arrival is pricked off on the Atlas sheets. These frequent references, of course, give that officer much trouble, and I learn privately that he is discontented, though as yet he has made no formal complaint. But I submit that these references are unnecessary, and that the results must be delusive. They are unnecessary, as not made elsewhere—delusive, because a District Officer's camp cannot always, or generally, be pitched at the encamping ground or a village site, which must be the ends of the measuring clerk's imaginary line of march. And I with confidence recommend, as an arrangement more satisfactory in every way, that distances shown in such bills should generally be accepted on a certificate from the officer drawing them, that he has taken pains to ascertain the length of his marches, and has shown them accurately to the best of his knowledge and belief.

2. I think, however, that there is one class of officers in whose case further check is possible and desirable. Deputy Inspectors of Schools are Natives on moderate pay, probably little in the habit of estimating distances, and still less able to compute them by English miles. Their journeys, however, must as a rule be from school to school, that is between fixed well known points; and if they go to other places, their departmental superiors would probably wish to be informed of the divergence and its cause. A Polymetrical table of distances for all the schools in a Deputy Inspector's charge could, doubtless, be prepared without difficulty, whereby the officer countersigning the bill could check the distances shown. The Director may urge that the duty of checking such statements rather pertains to my office; but I submit that the countersigning officer must apply some check, that this is the only possible check, that I could know nothing of divergencies, or of the conditions which make one order of visiting more desirable than another, that, in short, my check would be more mechanical and applied with greater labor.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
25th October 1865.

3. The sum of my recommendations then is, that the Quarter Master General be no longer troubled to check mileages; that Police and other officers be directed to append a certificate of honor to their bills; and that those of Deputy Inspectors of Schools be checked by the countersigning officer by formal Polymetrical tables, or by information specially called for.

His Excellency the Governor in Council concurs in the recommendations submitted in the foregoing letter, and resolves accordingly to relieve the Quarter Master General from the duty of checking the mileages shown in the bills of officers travelling within their Districts, and to direct that Police and other officers drawing such allowance be required to append to their bills a certificate of honor to the effect suggested at the end of the first paragraph, and that the bills of Deputy Inspectors of Schools be checked by the countersigning officers either by Polymetrical tables or by information specially called for.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) W. HUDLESTON,
Acting Secretary to Government.

No. 643. ORDER THEREON, 25th October 1865, No. 3,212.

ACCOUNT, No. 81.

The proposals contained in this letter are approved.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts, with two Enclosures.
,, Superintending Engineers.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Office of the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
Madras 13th October 1865.

3+

No. 1614.

From,
Captain J. F. Fischer. R. E.
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

To,
Colonel C. A. Orr. R. E.
Secretary to Government P.W.

Sir,

The Quarter Master General of the Army was requested to verify the distances between places noted in Inspection Reports received in this Office which places were not in the Route Book and that Officer has furnished me with an original copy of G.O. 22d September 1865 No. 449 in the Financial Department and enquires in his Docket dated 10th Instant No. 9746 whether under the circumstances represented in that G.O. it will be necessary for him to furnish the Certificates of Distances.

2. I have the honor therefore to request the orders of Government for dispensing with the mode of check above referred to, by leaving it to the Superintending Engineers of the Divisions who under para: 6 of G.O. 29th September 1865 No. 2860 are constituted

Resubmitted for sanction. to be returned.

constituted the primary Auditors of the Bills of their Executive Officers and Subordinates. For the Bills of the Superintending Engineers themselves a Certificate of the Kind recommended by the Deputy Accountant General in the G.O. now forwarded may be adopted if thought necessary.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

Captain R.E.

Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Accounts

No 3212

The proposals contained in this letter are approved.

Fort St George
25th Octr 65

To The Controller of P.W. Accounts
with 2 Encls
Superintending Engineers

140

Dept. 26th Octr 65

No 3212

Dated 13th October 1865.
Recd. 14 No. 1614.

Requesting the orders of Govt. as to the continuance of Certificates of Distances being furnished by the Quarter Master Genl. of the Army.

No 3212 - 25th Octr 65

Letter to the Controller of P.W. Accounts
& the Secretary to Govt. P.W.

Proc. of Govt. dated 20th October
From the Controller of P.W. Accounts.
& the Secretary to Govt. P.W.

No 842-64

Dept. 18th Octr 65 No. 20