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(3) Initials of the Referencer.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 3574/4 Press
132-132 Mis.-

Dated 7 -11 - 18 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 7th November 1866.

No. 132. Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts :—

Reporting certain irregularities in the system of work pursued in the 3rd Range, Madras District. } (Here enter 31st October 1866, No. 2,500.)

No. 133. ORDER THEREON, 7th November 1866, No. 3,544.

ACCOUNT, No. 11.

1. The subject of paragraph 2 of this letter, regarding the entry in the accounts of the 3rd Range of the Madras District for April last of disbursements in excess of actual work done, has been already disposed of by Government.

2. The Superintending Engineer of the 4th Division, to whom copies of the Controller's letter and of its enclosure has been furnished, will take measures for correcting the irregularities which are brought to notice by Lieutenant Trail, and for placing the accounts of the Range on a satisfactory footing.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
,, Superintending Engineer, 4th Division.

Ex.d. S. T. Augustin.

Thi

Office of the Controller g. P.W. Accts.
Madras, 30th October 1866.

From,

Lt. D.H. Prael. R.C.
Dy Controller g P.W. Accounts.

3.

To,

Captain J.F. Frocker. R.C.
Controller g P.W. Accounts.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that in accordance with the instructions received from your Office I proceeded to Pennamallee on the 29th October and there went through Mr Altmans accounts. Over the whole I found the system pursued by him to be most unsatisfactory though I came across nothing which could justify me in saying that the results stated are not correct.

To begin with his principal record the Range Cash Book. There is nothing to show that it is regularly balanced every day, as there is no signature after each day's entries, as ought to be the case. The headings under which the cheques are drawn are not given in the last column from 3rd March to the 1st May 1866. 38 - The whole of the items of the bill for which payment is made (altho the Contractor is the actual disbursor of the separate items and the Range Officer only pays for the completed work) is entered instead of short clear references to the files of records. These records not being filed but kept in the Office rolled up in bundles it is perhaps as well that the full particulars though not actually paid by the Range Officer, have been entered. I append a copy of the remarks made by me on the Pennamallee Range Cash-Book for your approval.

Mr Altmans arrangements for checking the

the measurements of the works in the Range. Of course under the annual factory. The measurements which he shows as the originals sent in by the Overseer and Foreman have no date shewing in what periods they belong nor are there any notes given by which the various tabs and pits could be recognized by an Officer while taking check measurements and in fact there could be no check at all unless the whole works were re-measured, whereas by a previous system the Overseers measurements might be so taken that a complete check would be established by the Range Officer only measuring up completely all works between any well known given points. The establishment of such a system is absolutely necessary as it is impossible for any Range Officer to measure up all the works in his range, whereas it is quite possible to check parts of works if these parts are clearly indicated and it is a reasonable presumption that if these parts taken at hazard, are correct all the rest will be so also.

Mr Ottmann states that he only took over charge of his range on the 12th January 1866 and that owing to his having been in the Panmalle range only for a short time before the close of the official year he could not do all he wished. The measurements that 28 works only were kept unin spected by him all the others having been inspected and measured after completion but not before final payments. I asked Mr Ottmann to give me the instances in which he had inspected and measured the works before final payments and in his note book he shewed me the measurements as per margin.

Gauth measurements for			
No 90 dated 17 April	21	"	—
	100	"	16 —
	84		17 —
	85		18 —
	£92	13	" 16

he paid for on his own measurement

There were other measurements but not in any thing like the proper proportion to the works paid for.

On my asking why he had not stated on his contract certificates that he had checked the measurements

measurements of the Taking Overseer and Foreman and why he had not entered them in the cases where he took the whole of the measurements, he replied that he never entered his own measurements on any bills except on those in which there is no discrepancy between his own measurements and those of the Taking Overseer, this being the usage of the Range.

Full measurements were taken by Mr Ottmann on the 12th July of the works done up to 30th April on the Nanilla Road & to 20 and also on the 21st June of similar works on the Arumbawatte Road. No stone be stakes fell in the intervals.

The stakes & tabs are kept in the ranges except for Road repairs. Such being the manner of keeping the records and accounts, it was impossible to obtain satisfactory information of any kind and Mr Ottmann's own explanations had to be taken on any points that did not appear clear.

One trial error Mr Ottmann seems to have made under the impression that all moneys for which he issued cheques before the end of April 30 would be charged against the allotment of 1865/66 whether those cheques were cashed or not. Most of the undrawn cheques appear to have been issued on the 28th April & that unless cashed at once the money for them would have to come out of the allotment for 1866/67. Mr Ottmann was not aware of this fact & he did not give the contractors any instructions to draw the cash at once.

Shown to
Maj & A Q Vizagt & N C
by Contractors Foreman

Lieut & Lieutenant Engineers & C
Contractors Fy Corps

Remarks on the Poonamallee Range Cash Book
Balance Rs. 6. 5. 29th October 1866.

The cash book ought to be balanced and signed every day after all the payments have been made. The particular headings under which each cheque is drawn, ought to be stated at the time of entering the charges and not left to be filled in afterwards as appears to have been the case hither to. another point to be attended to is, that only bona fide cash transactions by the Range Officer himself require to be entered in the Range Cash book. Thus upon paying a Contractor, the full amount of the debit to him has to be entered, but the particulars of that debit need not always be given but only such definite references to the station Books and Contract certificates (copies of which ought to be properly filed) as will enable any one to turn up the claim either in those books or the Returns submitted to the Controller's Office.

(Sd) D. H. Drake Lt. R. E
Cy Controller of Pr Accts

Witness (Sd)
Wm. F. Wiseman Capt R. E
Controller of Pr. Accts

Office of the Controller of Public Accounts
Marcus, 31st October 1866.

No: 2500

From, The Controller of Public Accounts.

To, The Secretary to Government. D.C.M.
Norfolk Island.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith for the information of Government a Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Officers of the Melbourne District under my Control for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

The Return of Monies received and disbursed by the 3½ Gauge Engineers and Assistants under the Melbourne District under my Control for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Sandhurst District for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Ballarat District for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Geelong District for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Sandhurst Factory for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Ballarat Factory for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer and Assistants employed on the Sandhurst and Echuca Railway for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer in Charge of the Melbourne Workshops for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer and Assistants employed on the Sandhurst and Castlemaine Railway for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer and Assistants employed on the Sandhurst and Echuca Railway for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

And Return of Monies received and disbursed by the Engineer and Assistants employed on the Sandhurst and Castlemaine Railway for the Quarter ending 30th September 1866.

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

Enclosure in a letter from the Controller of P.W. Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, D.P.W. dated 31st October 1866 No: 2500.

P.W. 4430/65

Pros. 7th Nov. 1866 Ln No 132

did not shew that any check measurements were taken by the Range Officer of these Contract works. The several Contract Certificates amounting to Rupees 27,607.14.2 for payments made in April 1866 were also forwarded by me to the Superintending Engineer — to obtain from Mr. Ottman, Completion Certificates of the works shewn in them to have been paid for to the Contractors, but about which no information is given in the Certificates as to the dates of commencement and completion and date of last inspection.

2. The Superintending Engineer having referred me to the Range Officer himself for explanation of the above, I deputed the Deputy Controller to visit the Range Office with the Auditor of the Division, and beg to submit copy of his report on the state of the Accounts and Books and on the system pursued of giving any cheques for large sums of money on the 28th April 1866 to the Contractors employed so that the allotment for the year may be shewn as fully expended, while it is now found that all the works thus paid for were not completed and when completed were not inspected and measurements prior to the 30th April 1866, instances being on record of such inspection and measurement taking place 2 and 3 months after payment in full for the works.

3. According to the Accounts of the 3d Range for 1865/66 the payments in the twelve months amounts to Rupees 93,790 but of this sum Rupees 31,231 were paid away in April alone leaving the average payments in the previous 11 months at only Rupees 5,688 per month, while the payments in the current year amount to only Rs. 11,072 nfp to August 1866 or an average of Rs. 2,768 so that the Range Officer is apparently resting satisfied with the large outlay in April 1866 as making up for the shortness of the present years progress in expenditure.

May 1866.	1912.
June 1866.	3692.
July 1866.	2769.
August 1866	2699.
Total Rs.	11,072 or
Average Rs.	2768.
Expenditure for the year.	Rs. 59,139.

4. I consider the unsatisfactory manner in which the Range Books and Accounts are kept as particularly reprehensible with the facilities which the Range Officer has to obtain information to help him on by the proximity of his Head Quarters to the Presidency, and the Government will doubtless receive some explanation from the Superintending Engineer about the manner in which the Contractors were paid away and measurements not fully taken, as also about Contractors works being admitted in the certificate of a Martiny paid from the Petty Establishment grade, instead of upon a Subg. Overseers measurement Report. Have furnished the Superintending Engineer with a copy of the Deputy Controllers report and of this letter.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedt servt.
W. F. Sinclair Captain R.E.
Controller of Public Works Accounts

Compd. &c

13.

Public Works Department.

No 3574

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 7th Nov. 1866.

Read the following

From the Controller of P.W. Accounts (Here enter No. 2500 of 31st October 1866.)

The subject of para 2 of this letter, regarding the entry in the accounts of the 3rd Range of the Madras District for April last of disbursements in excess of actual work done, has been already disposed of by Government -

2. The Superintending Engineer of the 4th Div., to whom copies of the Controller's letter and of its enclosure has been furnished will take

Nov

To 'Cons.' 18th Nov. 1866 No 2084-2111.

From W. Wilkinson Esq. Offg. Controller of P.W. Accounts, Madras.

To C. Spratt Esq. Secretary to Govt. P.W. Department.

Dated 31st October 1866.

Rec'd 5th Nov. 1866.

No. 2500.

Reporting the circumstances in the withdrawal of the Statement of work in the 3rd Range, Madras District.

Ap 6872

Cons. 35714-7th Nov. 1866

take measures for cor-
recting the irregularities
which are brought to
notice by Joint Trail,
and for placing the
accounts of the Road
on a satisfactory
footing -

To
The Secretary
Superintendent

Ao 1832. 1833.