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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 241 Press ~~Mis.~~

498-499

Dated 20- 1. 1866.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

him to the Civil Officer who is to disburse it, and then requiring the accounts to be rendered (in a form different from those required of the Civil Officer for his own accounts) to the Controller of Public Works Accounts. In all this it appears that Civil Officers are harassed with unnecessary work, and Engineers employed on matters in which their special training is of no use,—all this, in order to carry to theoretical precision a definition of "Public Works" which might with great advantage be altered.

7. It only leads to extra expense to employ the Public Works Department to construct huts and small temporary buildings which require no skill, and which the Civil Officers themselves can get done more cheaply and quite well enough; and it seems to be still more objectionable, when the Civil Officers are to superintend *such* buildings, to complicate matters by making them obtain funds from, and render accounts to, the Public Works Department.

8. The Commission on Public Works Accounts laid down the principle that, when the Civil Officers undertake the supervision of Public Works, they should act as disbursers to the Executive Engineers, receiving funds from them, and rendering accounts to them. The arrangement was not carried out precisely as recommended, but the Executive Engineers supply the money, while the Controllers receive the accounts. This appears quite proper, and is, in fact, a necessity so long as the term "Public Works" means such works as require professional skill, and for which it would be well for the Engineers to assist the Civil Officers by occasional visits and by furnishing plans and specifications. It helps to fix some share of the responsibility on the Executive Engineer, who must know of proceedings for which he advances money.

9. In like manner, when the Government makes a grant-in-aid to a Church or such like buildings, it will be well to make the grant with certain conditions, such as approval of the design (as regards stability and cost), and making the works subject to inspection during its execution. To this end it would be well to treat such disbursements as Public Works charges, and to pay them through the Executive Engineer.

10. But for huts and simple temporary buildings, this process might be avoided by excluding them from the definition of Public Works.

11. It is however, not very easy to make a definition which will apply in every case; and the matter will be greatly simplified if the attempt at precision be given up, and it be at once admitted that there must be some latitude in practice.

12. The rule that it seems desirable to adopt is, that—

"The following classes of works shall not be considered as Public Works in the sense of requiring to be provided for in the Public Works Budget-Estimate and disbursed under the Public Works Department rules, unless they are to be executed by the agency of the Public Works Officers, but their construction or repair may be provided in the Civil Estimates under each Department as petty Construction and Repair.

Duly authorized shelter for Establishments; whether bungalows of a temporary character, or huts.

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Police Lines and buildings, except large Police Stations.

Educational buildings, with the exception of large permanent structures.

Any buildings, permanent or temporary, of which the cost is under Rupees 1,000 each; but alterations, additions, or repairs to buildings in charge of the Public Works Department, and borne on the Returns of that Department as recognized State buildings, will not come under this class of works.

But grants-in-aid to such works as, though constructed by private agency, would, if carried out at the expense of the State, be Public Works, will be Public Workscharges; as also grants-in-aid to Local Funds, with the object of assisting in such constructions, would fall into the Public Works Estimates."

13. If this be approved, the rules for land may stand as they are, and no further alterations will be necessary in the rules for Public Works Accounts.

14. It will be observed that these rules in some degree leave the provision for works in the Budgets dependent upon the agency by which they are to be executed, and with reference to paragraph 11 of this Resolution, this opening for discretional action seems desirable.

15. As regards the mode of exhibiting these items in the Civil Budget-Estimate, His Excellency the Governor General in Council is of opinion that arrangements would be made for readily ascertaining the total expenditure incurred in the Civil Department on the works now under consideration; so that, when for statistical purposes it is required to know the total expenditure on constructive works of all kinds, the sum may be found by adding the amount set forth in the Civil Estimates and Accounts to the Public Works Estimates and Accounts.

16. In this view, there might be a special head in the Civil Estimates, termed "Petty Construction and Repairs of Buildings."

ORDER.—Ordered, that the foregoing, together with the original Office Notes, be forwarded to the Financial Department for further consideration and orders.

No. 2,787, dated 31st October, 1865.

RESOLUTION,—By the Government of India, Financial Department.

In approving of the rule in paragraph 12 of the foregoing Resolution, the Governor General in Council directs that all charges for Public Works which, under that rule, are to be shown in the Civil Estimates, shall be distinctly exhibited there in the Budget Estimate of the Department concerned, separately from other items. Any expense of the kind which does not appertain to any Department, such as to the Medical Department, to the Police, Education, or Revenue Departments, or to Jails, &c., will be shown distinctly under Miscellaneous, or Grant 26.

ORDER.— Ordered, that copies of the above be sent to the several Departments and Local Governments and Administrations; to the Comptroller General of Accounts; to the several Accounts General; and to the Deputy Accounts General in independent charge.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
20th January 1866.

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

Ordered, that copies of the above be forwarded for information and guidance to the Local Governments and Administrations named in the margin, and to the Accountant General, Public Works Department; also to the Financial Department, for information.

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Lieut.-Colonel, R. A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

No. 499. ORDER THEREON, 20th January 1866, No. 241.

ACCOUNT, No. 49.

Recorded, with reference to G. O. No. 3,697, dated 6th December 1865.

(True Extract.)

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

Exd. S. T. Augustin

Accounts 5b

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Recorded, with reference to G O No 3697, 7 Dec 65.

Hurt St George 20th Jany 1866

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