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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

DEPARTMENT

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Fort Saint George, Public Works Consultation of 30th March 1858.

No. 31. Read the following Circular from Captain H. YULE, Officiating Secretary to the Government of India; to H. FORBES, Esq., Acting Secretary to the Government of Fort Saint George, dated Fort William, the 29th January 1858, No. 735.

Sir,

The following circumstances, illustrative of the importance of accurate Specifications, and of strict adherence to them when correct; of reporting departures from them when necessary, and of caution on the part of relieving Officers in accepting and working on those of their predecessors; are published to the Department generally, by order of the Right Honorable the Governor General in Council.

Rupees 62,684-0-0. Two Barracks were estimated to cost Rupees sixty-two thousand, six hundred and eighty-four.

They were designed to stand on a basement of groined arches.

The whole of the work, except the arching, was specified and estimated by one Officer, (A), to be executed in *rubble masonry*.

Another Officer, (B), who had to execute the piers of the groined arches, justly considering that common rubble work would be unsuitable in such a position, built them of a better description of masonry, in which the chisel was liberally used.

A third Officer, (C), succeeded to the charge of the work, young and inexperienced. He found but one kind of work specified, so he carried on the superstructure in the higher style of work that he found in hand, for which however the same necessity did not exist.

Those who followed this young Officer continued the same style of work, until at length it was brought to notice by the Officer in charge, that the estimate would be much exceeded. This was obviously the duty of each one of his predecessors; but that Officer, (B), is least excusable, who, judging rightly, in the first instance, of the inapplicability of the inferior work provided in the Specification, omitted to report the necessary departure from it and obtain sanction to the consequently greater outlay that would have to be incurred, and which must have been most apparent.

THIS CASE INVOLVES

1st.—A defective Specification by one Officer, (A).

2nd.—A failure on the part of the higher controlling Officer to check this defective Specification.

3rd.—Laxity on the part of another Officer, (B), in departing from the Specification without making a report.

4th.—Negligence on the part of several Officers in failing to report that the estimate was being exceeded, and to consult the Specification for each part of the building.

The result, as far as the Government is concerned, is this: the buildings have been constructed throughout in a much more expensive style than was either contemplated or needed; and now that they are nearly finished, the revised estimate amounts to Rupees one lakh, eleven thousand, eight hundred and thirty-three, or Rupees forty-nine thousand, one hundred and forty-nine, in excess of the sum authorised in the first instance; the greater part of this excess being due to the shortcomings noticed above.

Rupees, 1,11,833-0-0
Rupees, 49,149-0-0

No. 32. ORDER THEREON, No. 543; dated 25th March 1858.

Ordered to be communicated to the Chief Engineer for the information of the several District Engineers and Executive Officers.

(Signed) H. FORBES,
Acting Secretary to Government.

CIRCULAR.

FROM

CAPTAIN H. YULE,
Officiating Secretary to the Government of India,

TO

A. Forbes Esq.
Acting Secretary to the Govt of Port J. George

Dated the 29th January 1858.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
MILITARY.

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Rupees, 1,11,833-0-0.

Rupees 49,149-0-0.

I have the honor to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient Servant,



Officiating Secretary to the Government of India.

FORT WILLIAM, }
The 29th January 1858. }



communicated to the
Organizer for the improve-
ment of the General Public
Opinion and Conduct

1892

25th March 1858
 Thos. M. George
 R. B.

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