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(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 759 Press Mis: L

269-270

Dated 13- 3. 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 3891.

Office of the Controller of P.W. Accounts.
Madras, 26th February 1867.

From,
The Controller of P.W. Accounts.

To,
The Secretary to Government. P.W.
Fort St. George.

Sir,

I have the honor to report for the information of Government, that on the 8th instant I proceeded by Steamer to Negapatam en route to examine the Executive Engineer's Offices at Trichinopoly and Wellington.

On the 9th, I landed at Negapatam, and met Mr. O'Donaghue, the Range Officer, and proceeded with him at once to Papercoil, to look at his book & and records. I found his Cash-book neatly kept up, and the balance in the Chest for the day Rs. 2.7.6 correct. most of the required forms are regularly kept, but the Register of works will have now to be maintained from the 1st January 1867, and in future the Contractor's Ledger should be sent in: station books and vouchers are kept in good order, and Mr. O'Donaghue, appears to check his works before making payments, but not by measurements. Under the head of "Stock purchases" there are in these accounts three items:-

Timber valued at Rs. 73.14.0 worth at most Rs. 15.
Bricks. —.—.— 20.0.0.—.—.—.— 0.
Gunny Bags —.—.— 40.12.0 —.—.—.— 0.

it would be as well to have these items correctly valued, and the balance written off to Profit and Loss.

In the Cash-chest of this range, there is a sum of Rs. 19.4.2, as per Memo: herewith sent, which has been lying there for some years, of this sum —

Rs.

Passed, 10th [illegible]

Rs. 8.4.8 belong to Captain McNeill R.E., and should be made over to that Officer, and the balance paid into the Treasury to the credit of Government, to relieve the Range Officer of the responsibility of this charge: it does not appear in any of his accounts, and is therefore kept at his own personal risk.

11th Sanjore- Here I met Mr Walton and Mr Seton: the Cash-book of the former was in good order, and the balance Rs. 306.0.2 correct. I compared the Treasury pass and cheque books, these were quite correct, as were the Contractors Certificates and Ledger: Mr Seton's Cash-book was in good order, and his balance Rs. 207.1.0 correct, the books and vouchers of both these Range Officers appear to be kept up with the greatest care and attention, and they were quite prepared to furnish every information regarding details when applied to.

12th Trichinopoly- With Colonel Greenaway, I went into all his books and accounts, the balance in hand Rs. 47.15.7 was correct, but the form of his Cash-book was not quite so; as the columns for Heads of charges, had not been kept up, and consequently this had given them great difficulty in preparing the abstracts of Receipts and Disbursements, however this has now been altered, and this difficulty removed- all the books and vouchers in this Office appear to be in perfect order.

In this Range, a sum of Rs. 100, appears to have been paid for materials, under the Head of Civil Buildings in April last, and charged for, in that months accounts, in the following May when the materials were used they were charged for again, but in another official year, there has thus been a double debit of the same item, but in two different years, this should now be treated as a recovery from the current years expenditure.

13th Coroor- Mr Wiffen was not at his Head quarters on my arrival, but I sent for and saw his writer and some of his books &c., these appear to be well and carefully kept, he had taken most of the others with him into his range, but so far as I was able to judge his Office duties seem to be performed very well indeed.

14th I drove into Errode and by rail to Coimbatore: nothing can be worse than the road between Coroor and Errode, it is dangerous for any vehicle of better construction than a Wanderer's cart to go over at all.

16th Coimbatore:- I went into Mr R. D. Roberts accounts, with the Accountant, as he was away on a few days casual leave. Cash-book in good order, and the balance Rs. 33.13.4 correct, all the other books and forms of accounts as well as vouchers appear now to be well and carefully kept up in this Office. I then proceeded into Metoopalliam.

16th Marched into Coonor.

18th At the Lawrence Asylum met Major Farewell and Captain Hawkes. In this Office every book and paper was forthcoming on demand and all well and most carefully kept in the fullest detail, check measurements are personally made by Major Farewell of every work and there is nothing to be desired here, except

to

Ootacamund, the Hills aggregating

to relieve him as much as possible of his very onerous Office work, this as far as I have been able to do, I have already attempted, but the peculiar position of his range where few Contractors can be obtained, makes it necessary for him to give all details himself, and as his expenditure is very large and distributed over many works it requires very hard work to keep all these details up and then the labor of fair copying all this work registering it in his Office transmitting it here to the Superintending Engineer and in part to the Collector of the District, as also to the Major General Commanding the Division, is as heavy as anything well can be, and as far as I can see, can only be reduced by employing additional hands.

19th I waited at Coonoor to meet Captain Law, on the 20th, I saw his books &c., these are strictly the same as those directed to be kept up by all taking Overseers, and were quite correct, the arrangement which prevails here for submitting accounts to this Office, I would beg to recommend should be adopted in the Wynaad, in the next official year that is for Captain Kennedy to send in one set of accounts for the Wynaad, and thus relieve his Officers of a good deal of Office work. I marched and saw Keeb on to Coimbatore.

21st I returned by rail to Madras.

2. In this tour Range Officers complained to me very much of the want of printed forms: as far as this Office has been able to supply these, they have been sent; but, it would appear, this has not been sufficient to meet their requirements, and on my enquiring, why they did not employ the District printing presses; the reply was, they had no funds to meet the charges for stationery and printing; but if these could be provided for, a great deal of time, labor, and expense, would be saved. the charge for printing might be treated as one for "Contingencies", but I was quite at a loss to know, how to provide for the other item; but I beg to bring it to notice, in the hope, Government will be pleased to direct the manner in which this should be met, for the present, as much time would be lost in obtaining this now from Madras.

3. I think the Office work in all ranges might be much reduced, by Range Officers being called upon to furnish to the local and Military Authorities, only copies of the abstract of their Progress reports, this furnishes all the information required regarding the amounts of the grants, both for Imperial and Local fund works, the progress of the expenditure both in the month and up to the month: and if it should appear this was unsatisfactory, the matter could be taken up and brought to notice with a demand for explanation, in full; I cannot see what more can now be obtained by the prevailing arrangements: as regards the Local funds, I have already undertaken to furnish these abstracts to the Revenue Board at the request of one of the Members, who was quite satisfied with the information they contained when I explained it.

The

Cattle Cadaver No 24. 3. 2. Correct
Secretary Khaki Coorg Campaigners &
agreed. C.K.

Forest, the Chiefs aggregating

4. The form of inspection report at present in use, is a very cumbersome document, and as far as the purposes of this Office are concerned columns 11 to 14 might be omitted, the remaining columns containing all the information required for the purposes of audit: the progress reports now show the dates of inspection of all works in them, and the details of expenditure on works of importance in each month. I therefore think Superintending Engineers can from these papers obtain a very good idea of the rate of progress in a range, but if this should be considered insufficient, Range Officers might be called upon to furnish them with diaries of their proceedings for the month, but to support their claims for Travelling Allowance, it is very needless sending into this Office the bulky documents we now receive, which is at least 3 or 4 times as heavy as need be for any use it is here.

5. In conclusion, I trust, it will not be considered I am going beyond the sphere of my duties if I venture to mention the great complaints made by the Officers of the Neilgherry range, of the heavy expenses they are put to in maintaining horses on the hills, whilst according to the rules in force, they are unable to make any claim for Travelling Allowance: for instance, an Officer may go for many miles amongst those hills any day in tracing a road or visiting a work, without being 6 miles from his head quarters, and so not entitled to any allowance, but in the meanwhile he must keep at least two horses, the nature of their duties requires this: and in other instances, Government have been pleased to relax the rules in force for special considerations I would beg to submit this matter again for further orders, and in doing so, I believe, I have the full concurrence of the Superintending Engineer:-

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obd't. Servant.

Wm. H. Lecchen Capt. R.E.
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

Compd: JCW

Fisher, the items aggregating

Deposit Account of Cash on Repay-
=ment Charge Pension District.

31st	March	63.	Amount handed over by Br. Mait. in exchange of his Balance on Rec. 17th March 1863.	Rs. 4-15-11
3d	April	63.	Found in Cash Chest a balance unaccounted for	" 1-0-6.
18th	May	63.	Found among pay of dif-=ference Overseers and Office pay, unaccounted for	" 1-0-0
16th	Sept.	63.	Recovered from Overseer Kumaraswamy Rajoo the price of a Spare Axle-tree pen-=cil by him	" 2-12-0
14th	Dito		Amount found among Local Funds unaccounted for	" 1-3-4
21st	Dito		Pay for 17 days for Minor Establishment Coolies	* 3-4-8
31st	Dec.	63.	Contingent Charges due to Lieut. J. Braithwaite for July Augst. and Sept. 1863	" 5-0-0
			Total Rupees	19-4-2

* This Amount was paid from private funds of Lieut. J. Braithwaite. — True Copy. Rem. records in 4th Range Office

A. Maclaren
Superintendent

Dated at Ootacamund 1st January 1864.

Rec'd 3rd January 1864. Rec'd No. 3891.

Quarterly Returns for Quarter ending 31st December 1863 from Superintendent Pulney Hills, and Forest Ranger Coppice.—

No 2 Reg

Ootacamund 1st Jan. 1864

Encl. 754 - 135 Inclt. 1867

Public Works Department.

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PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 13th March 1867

Read the following

From the Controller of P.W. Accts:— (Here enter No. 3891 dated 26 Feb/67)

The Government are glad to learn from this report that the result of the Controller's examination of the Accounts of the several Ranges which he recently visited in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore Districts has, on the whole, been satisfactory.

The Superintending Engineer of the D^n will instruct Mr O'Donnell to adjust, in the manner suggested by Capt Fisher, the items aggregating

Ch. to Special 167 dt 8th ans 759 - 13th March 167

Rs 134-10-- which stand under the head of "Stock purchases" in the Negapatam Range Accounts, and the sum of Rs 19-4-2 reported to be in deposit in the Cash Chest of that Range. Capt Oakes' attention will also be drawn to the error pointed out in the Trichinopoly Range Accounts, and he will take steps for rectifying it.

Capt Kennedy will report on the suggestion with regard to his submitting one set of Accounts for the expenditure incurred in order to relieve the Range Officers of their office work.

The Government have no objection to the cost of printing forms

being charged to "Contingencies" and the Stationery required should be indented for specially by the Supg Engineer.

It is very desirable that the office work of Ranges should be reduced as much as possible, and, as the Abstract of Range Progress Reports will be quite sufficient to answer every useful purpose, the Government approve of their being substituted for the Copies of the Reports which are now furnished to the Civil and Military authorities.

The Supg Engineer will report on the proposal in Para 6, and state the manner in which they consider the present form of Inspection Report might be modified with the view

of reducing its bulk without practically diminishing its value. If Range officers, however, are recalled upon for Diaries of their proceedings, it is not clear what labor will be saved or what object gained by the change of form which the Controller advocates.

The Govt do not consider the reasons adduced in Para 5 to be sufficient to warrant any special concession in favor of the Officers of the Neilgherry Range as regards Travelling allowance. They have advantages of climate, which Officers serving on the plains would cheerfully sacrifice much to enjoy.

Desp 4/3/67

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To
119/21 The A Engineers
" Revs Dept.s
" Judly Dept.s
" Controller
" Accot Genl
Capn Kennedy
Inspector Genl of Ordnance Madras

C. Dte March 1867 R.M.

16

3/12/17

Pub: Works 1867 Department

Pro: of Govt for March

No 759

Pro: of the Madras Govt

Dy 13th March 1867

C.R 1529/67

Passing orders on a letter from the Controller P.W.D. reporting the result of his examination of Range Office Accounts in the Tanjore, Trichinopoly, and Coimbatore Districts.

No 269-270