M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages 4 (0)

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 882 — Press — Mis.

334-95

Dated 18 3 1867.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

53

No. 394. Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 12th March 1867, No. 4,126:—

1. With reference to paragraph 2 of G. O. of the 9th instant, No. 718, I beg to explain, it was not my intention to keep up in this Office Registers of works executed by *contract only*, but Registers of *all* works estimated to cost above Rupees 2,500, whether given out on contract or executed by departmental agency, and by making frequent comparisons with the sanctioned rates and those prevailing in the districts, according to the Superintending Engineers' Returns, this Office would have been in a position to send timely information to those officers of any estimate being much exceeded.

2. Registers of works estimated to cost more than Rupees 2,500, as far as I could ascertain, had not been maintained in Range Offices with that regularity which, if any importance is to be attached to these documents, is absolutely necessary. I gathered also that the duty, when performed, was done merely as a form, and not with a view to its being a matter of first importance in the carrying out of a large project, and I therefore deemed it advisable to relieve the Range Officers at once of this responsibility, and have the whole of the work done here by one Office, which has no out-of-door or other professional duty to attend to.

3. The cost of the Establishment for this purpose asked for by me is, I regret to find, objected to by the Government; but under the explanation now submitted, I trust this matter will be re-considered. If Progress Reports are registered in the manner proposed by me, no doubt the information required to prepare a register in the form laid down in the Manual will be forthcoming when called for, but then this is only likely to be the case *after* an estimate has failed altogether to answer the purpose for which it was sanctioned; whereas by the arrangements I had submitted for consideration, it was intended to give timely notice both to the Government and the Superintending Engineers of any work in progress likely to exceed its sanctioned cost. With the Establishment I have at present, I cannot undertake the duty of checking the rates, and it is therefore to little or no use that officers send in here half-yearly returns of the prices of labor and materials in their districts, or even abstracts of estimates above Rupees 2,500; but if this Office be placed in a position to assist the executive branch in this matter, I feel confident the outlay now proposed to effect this would be very soon recovered by the better supervision it could maintain over the expenditure in progress.

No. 395. ORDER THEREON, 18th March 1867, No. 822.

ACCOUNT, No. 58.

1. The Government see no reason to modify their Order of the 9th instant, No. 718.

2. The duty of keeping up Registers of works, in accordance with the Manual, is entrusted throughout India to the Executive officers of the Public Works Department, and the Establishments attached to the Ranges of this Presidency having been fixed with due regard to the work devolving upon them under the new system of accounts, the Superintending Engineers should impress upon Range Officers the

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
18th March 1867.

necessity for their Registers of works being kept up with care, accuracy, and punctuality, and for timely intimation being given of all probable excesses over sanctioned estimates. Range officers enjoy peculiar facilities for the due performance of this portion of their duties, and it is to them that the Government and the Superintending Engineers must look for complete information on all matters connected with the works in progress in their respective charges.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineers.
,, Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

3

Office of the Controller of Public Works
Madras 12th March 1867

No 4126.

From
The Controller of Public Works Accounts

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

Sir,

With reference to para 2 of G.O. of the 9th instant No 918, I beg to explain, it was not my intention to treat this, in this office, Registers of works executed by contract only, but Registers of all works estimated to cost above Rupees 2500, whether given out on Contract or executed by Departmental agency, and by making frequent comparisons with the Sanctioned Rates and those prevailing in the Districts according to the Superintending Engineers returns; this office would have been in a position to send timely information to those officers of any estimate being much exceeded.

2. Registers of works estimated to cost more than Rupees 2500, as far as I could ascertain, had not been maintained in range offices with that regularity which if any importance is to be attached to these documents, is absolutely necessary. I gathered also

Public Works Department.

No 822

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT.

Under date the 15th March 1867

Read the following

From the Controller of P.W. Accounts, Here enter No. 4126 dated 12th March 1867

The Government see no reason to modify their order of the 9th Inst. No. 718.

The duty of keeping up Registers of works in accordance with the Manual is entrusted throughout India to the Executive Officers of the Public Works Department, and the Establishments attached to the Ranges of this Presidency having been fixed with due regard to the work

Read P.W. Code & Proceedings

From
The Controller of P.W. Accounts

To The Secretary to Government
Public Works Dept.

Dated 12th March 1867
Rec'd 15th } March 1867
No 4126

Enquiring as regards deducting from the Contractor's account a certain sum for retaining Range Officers of Artificers from the Returns

No 822 - 15th March 67

Ex 39 of 12 March 67

devolving upon them
under the new system
of Accounts, the Supt
Engineers showed impress
upon Range Officers
the necessity for their
Registers of works
being kept up with
care, accuracy and
punctuality, and for
timely intimation being
given of all probable
excesses over sanctioned
Estimates. Range Offi
cers enjoying peculiar
facilities for the due
performance of this
portion of their duties,
and it is to them that
the Government and the
Superintending Engineers
must look for complete
information on all matters
connected with the works
in progress in their re-
spective charges.

To
The Supt Engineer
Coimbatore.

Desp. 18/3/67

Pub: Works 1867 Departures

Pro: of Govt for March

No. 822

Pro: of the Madras Govt.
Dy 18th March 1867

Passing orders on
a letter from the Controller
P. W. A, requesting a re-
consideration of the Orders
declining to transfer the
keeping up of Registers
of Works to this Office.

No. 394-395

e. 15th March/67.