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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 1322	Press
582-83	~~Mis.~~
Dated 29 - 4	1868 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

26/4/18

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1868.*

No. 582. Read the following letter from the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, to the Secretary to Government, Department Public Works, dated Madras, 15th April 1868, No. 8:—

* No. 3,809, dated 7th December 1867.
" 3,923, dated 19th " "

† From Agent, dated 11th March 1868, No. 497.
Do. " " 17th " " " 502.
To " " 20th " " " 299.
From " " 26th " " " 518.
To " " 30th " " " 312.
From " " 7th April 1868, No. 12,
with two statements.

1. With reference to the Orders of Government as per margin,* I have the honor to submit for the orders of Government the correspondence as per margin,† which has taken place between the Agent and Manager, Madras Irrigation and Canal Company, and this Office, regarding the results of the examination of the stores, the stock-taking of which devolved upon Mr. Supervisor Lewis.

2. It appears that Mr. Lewis did not examine all the stores at these depots; and, on transmitting his lists to the Agent, the latter officer represented that the numerous omissions rendered them valueless. It is not clearly shown in the correspondence how it happened that so many items were not included in the account; and, in the absence of information to the contrary, I should think it hardly probable that Mr. Lewis would have excluded from the examination any stores which were brought forward for his inspection. Whatever may have been the case, I have informed the Agent that it appears to me to be the duty of the employés of the Company in charge of stores to present for examination and count all the stores on the ledgers of the several depots, and that the duty of the examining officer is simply to certify to the existence of all the stores which he may see and examine.

3. With his last letter the Agent has forwarded lists which show what stores at Nundial were examined, and the description and value of those not counted. In the latter list stores and general plant appear to be mixed up, instead of being kept distinct, as they should be; and, deducting bullocks and other items belonging to general plant, I find that the value of the stores left unexamined is not much in excess of 2,000 Rupees. Had the stores elsewhere been correctly counted, I should not have thought it worthwhile to recommend a further examination. I have not the particulars of the stores left unexamined at the Donapaud and Dhoor depots, but as there appears to have been a misconception at each as to the duties devolving upon those in charge of, and upon the officer examining, the stores, it will, I think, be advisable to cancel the examination made in January last, and to direct a fresh stock-taking to be held on the 1st July and following days, and I beg to recommend that Mr. Lewis, if his services be available, be detailed for this duty.

4. With regard to the future examinations of stores, the Agent has suggested that the present practice of stock-taking by Government officers be discontinued, on the grounds that the duty could be performed equally satisfactorily by the Company's officers, that the expense at present occasioned could be saved, and that the examination could be carried out everywhere on one and the same date. I am

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
29th April 1868.

not at present disposed to recommend the alteration of the arrangements hitherto in force, because, while not doubting that the Company's officers would perform the duty in a proper manner, there would be no certainty that the results of the examination would come under review immediately after the stock-taking, nor would the Government have the opportunity, as at present, of learning on independent authority whether the Company's store arrangements were in all respects satisfactory. The Presidency stores appear now to be in excellent order, and there is no reason to suppose that they will be allowed to deteriorate; but as yet the business of the Divisional stores generally has not been conducted in a satisfactory manner, and, as regards these at least, it is advisable that their condition should be ascertained yearly by Government officers until, at any rate, the arrangements connected with them shall have been perfected.

5. As has been stated to the Agent, it will be of some advantage to make the examination of all the stores at as nearly as possible the same time. The time occupied will, however, vary at different depots, according to the number and nature of the stores in stock, and it is comparatively of little importance whether the count agrees exactly or not with the ledger of a date slightly antecedent to that of the examination. All that is needful is that there should be proper vouchers for issues made between the close of the quarter and the date of examination, and that, in the same way, receipts for which a Storekeeper has become immediately responsible, should be taken into account. A complete list of the stores may or may not be furnished to the examining officer. If such a list be furnished, there would be no objection to his noting the number and date of a voucher accounting by an issue for a deficiency, but this is a matter of detail, and the object of the examination is equally attainable whether any notice be taken by him of the ledger list and of the difference between it and the count or not.

6. I think the officer charged with the duty of examining stores may also, with advantage, examine the articles belonging to general plant, which may be at the head-quarters of a Division, and state in what condition they may be. For all other articles of this description belonging to the Division there should be proper vouchers of issue, and the Agent would thus be able to see that all the plant belonging to the Division was duly accounted for; stores and general plant should, however, be kept entirely separate, and, in future, examining officers should show in their lists, opposite the several descriptions of stores, the dates of examination.

No. 583.

ORDER THEREON, 29th April 1868, No. 1,322.

IRRIGATION, No. 24.

to direct that the examination of the stores of the Madras Irrigation and Canal Company which was made in January last by Mr. Lewis, Supervisor of the Public Works Department, be cancelled, and that the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division be requested to make arrangements for detaching Mr. Lewis on the 1st July next and following days for the duty of taking stock in the Nundial, Dondapaud, and Dhoor Divisions.

1. Under the circumstances detailed in paragraphs 2 and 3 of this letter, the Governor in Council resolves that the Superintending Engineer of the 3rd Division be requested to make arrangements for detaching Mr. Lewis on the 1st July next and following days for the duty of taking stock in the Nundial, Dondapaud, and Dhoor Divisions.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
29th April 1868.

2. The Government have no objection to future examinations of stores at the Presidency being conducted by the Company's officers, but, adverting to the Consulting Engineer's remarks in paragraph 4, they are not prepared at present to make any change in the agency by which stock is taken in the Divisions.

3. The Government concur in the views expressed in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Consulting Engineer's letter.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Consulting Engineer for Irrigation and Canal Company, with eight Enclosures.
.. Manager for do. do.
.. Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

in valueless. This is not

Consulting Engineer's Office,
Irrigation & Canal Company,
Madras 15th April 1868.

N^o. 8

From,

Captain John. Mullins R.E.
Consulting Engineer for & Co.

To,

The Secretary to Government,
Department of Public Works.

Sir,

N^o. 3809 of 7th Dec/67.
3925 of 17th do.

From agent of 11th March/68.
N^o. 497.
7/17 N^o. 502.

To 7/20 299

From 7/26 518

To 7/30 312

From 7/7th April/68
N^o. 12 with 2 Staffs.

With reference to the orders
of Government as per margin, I have
the honor to submit for the orders of
Government, the correspondence, as
per margin, which has taken place
between the Agent and Manager, Madras
Irrigation and Canal Company, and
this Office, regarding the results of the
examination of the Stores, the Stock
taking of which devolved upon Mr.
Supervisor Lewis.

2. It appears that Mr. Lewis did
not examine all the Stores at these
depôts, and, on transmitting his lists
to the Agent, the latter officer represented
that the numerous omissions
rendered them valueless. It is not
clearly

clearly shown in the correspondence how
it happened that so many items
were not included in the accounts,
and, in the absence of information to
the contrary, I should think it hardly
probable that Mr. Lewis would have
excluded from the examination any
stores which were brought forward
for his inspection. Whatever may
have been the case, I have informed
the Agent that it appears to me
to be the duty of the employe of the
Company in charge of stores to present
for examination and count all the
stores on the ledgers of the several
depots, and that the duty of the
examining officer is simply to certify
to the existence of all the stores which
he may see and examine.

3 With his last letter the Agent
has forwarded lists which show
what stores at Mundial were examined,
and the description and value of
those not counted. In the latter list
stores and General Plant appear
to be mixed up, instead of being kept
distinct as they should be; and,
deducting bullocks and other items
belonging

belonging to General Plant, I find
that the value of the stores left un-
examined is not much in excess of
2000 Rupees. Had the stores elsewhere
been correctly counted I should not
have thought it worthwhile to recom-
mend a further examination. I
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left unexamined at the Donapad
and Whoor depots, but as there appears
to have been a misconception at
each as to the duties devolving upon
those in charge of and upon the Officer
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think be advisable to cancel the
examination made in January last,
and to direct a fresh stock-taking
to be held on the 1st July and following
days, and I beg to recommend
that Mr. Lewis, if his services
be available, be detailed for this duty.

4 With regard to the future
examinations of stores, the Agent
has suggested that the present
practice of stocktaking by Govern-
ment Officers be discontinued,
on the grounds that the duty could
be performed equally satisfactorily
by the Company's Officers, that the
expense

expense at present occasioned could
be saved, and that the examination
could be carried out every where on one
and the same date. I am not at
present disposed to recommence
the alteration of the arrangements
hitherto in force, because, while not
doubting that the Company's
Officers would perform the duty in
a proper manner, there would
be no certainty that the results of
the examination would come under
review immediately after the stocks
taking, nor would the Government
have the opportunity as at present
of bearing on independent authority
whether the Company's store arrange-
ments were in all respects satis-
factory. The Presidency stores appear
now to be in excellent order, and there
is no reason to suppose that they
will be allowed to deteriorate, but
as yet the business of the Divisional
Stores generally has not been con-
ducted in a satisfactory manner,
and, as regards these at least, it is
advisable that their condition
should be ascertained yearly by
Government.

Government Officers until at any rate the
arrangements connected with them shall have
been perfected.

5 As has been stated to the agent, it
will be of some advantage to make the
examination of all the Stores at as nearly as
possible the same time. The time occupied
will however vary at different depots, according
to the number and nature of the Stores in
stock, and it is comparatively of little
importance whether the Count agrees exactly
or not with the Ledger of a date slightly
antecedent to that of the examination: all
that is needed is that there should be proper
vouchers for issues made between the close of
the Quarter and the date of examination, and
that, in the same way, receipts for which a
Storekeeper has become intermediately responsible
should be taken into account. A complete
list of the Stores may or may not be
furnished to the examining Officer. If
such a list be furnished, there would be no
objection to his noting the number and date
of a voucher accounting by an issue for a
deficiency, but this is a matter of detail and
the object of the examination is equally

attainable

attainable whether any notice be taken by him of the ledger list, of the difference between it and the Count or not.

6 I think the Officer charged with the duty of examining Stores may also with advantage examine the articles belonging to General Plant which may be at the head quarters of a Division, and state in what condition they may be. For all other articles of this description belonging to the Division there should be proper vouchers of issue, and the Agent would thus be able to see that all the Plant belonging to the Division was duly accounted for, Stores and General Plant should however be kept entirely separate, and, in future, examining officers should show in their lists, opposite the several descriptions of Stores, the dates of examination.

I have the honor to be,
Sir

Your most obedient servant

Wm Lindley Captain R.E.

Consulting Engineer I.V.C.C.

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From 11 11 11 11 11 11
The 11 11 11 11 11 11
To 11 11 11 11 11 11
The Secretary to Court
J. W. C.

Dated 15 April 1868
Rev. 16.

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Submits for the orders of
Court the correspondence mentioned
which has taken place between the
manager, the 11 11 11 11 11 11
regarding the results of the
examination of the 11 11 11 11 11 11
stock taking of which depends
upon the 11 11 11 11 11 11

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20 April 1868 R. 215

Public Works Department

no. 1322

PROCEEDINGS of the MADRAS GOVERNMENT

Under date the 29th April 1868

Read the following

From the Chief Engineer
Sri Lanka Canal Co.

(Here enter No. 8 dated 15th April 1868)

Under the circum-

stances detailed in para-
2 and 3 of this letter the
Governor in Council re-
solves to direct that
the examination of the
stores of the Madras Irriga-
tion and Canal Com-
pany which was made
in January last by Mr.
Lewis, Supervisor of the
Public Works Department,
be cancelled, and that
the Superintending Engr.
of the 3rd Div. be requested
to make arrangements
for detaching Mr. Lewis
on the 1st July next and
following

you.
A

following days for
the duty of taking
stock in the Turpentine,
Sonapaul, and Dhooor
Divisions -

The Government
have no objection to
future examinations
of stores at the Presidency
being conducted by the
Company's Officers, but
adverting to the Con-
sulting Engineer's remarks
in para 4, they are not
prepared at present to
make any change in
the Agency by which
stock is taken in the
Divisions -

The Govt. concur
in the views expressed
in

in paras 5 and 6 of the
Consulting Engineer's
letter -

W.B.

The Secy. & Co. with right enclosures.
Sd/-
Sd/-
Sd/-

Recd 20/6/88

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582-583

16

(2)

P. W. 1868. Department.
Proc. of Govt. for April
No. 1322

PROCEEDINGS OF GOVERNMENT *of Madras*

Dated 29th April 1868

Passing orders on a
letter from the Comd. Engrs.
relative to the stock-taking
of the Irrigation and Canal
Company's stores by Mr. Lewis,
Superintendent, P. W. Department
in January last &c.

582-583

20 April 1868 Or. 2412