M.R.O. 1—77,000—3-6-37.

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 2141	Press / ~~Mis.~~
26-27	
Dated 1-7-	1869.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 26. Read the following letter from the Officiating Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—Irrigation,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Simla, 9th June 1869, No. 109 A. I:—

In forwarding, for the information of the Secretary to Government, Madras, the accompanying Resolution of this date by the Government of India, I am directed to request that the Governor-General in Council may be informed what works are now in progress with funds supplied from the extraordinary grant for which proper estimates have not yet been sanctioned, and when the several estimates for them will be supplied to this Office.

2. I am to ask that this information may be furnished with the utmost possible expedition.

Proceedings of the Government of India in the Public Works Department, (Account—Irrigation,) dated Simla, 9th June 1869, No. 108 A.—I.

Expenditure on Extraordinary Irrigation Works.

Resolution of the Governor-General of India in Council.

The conditions under which various Extraordinary Irrigation Works are now in course of construction in different parts of the country, in anticipation of sanction to the estimates, have lately been under consideration by the Government of India, and the Governor-General in Council is of opinion that the time has arrived when some specific action becomes necessary, in order to bring this important branch of the public expenditure under proper control and supervision.

2. The circumstances under which a relaxation of the rules for conducting public works were permitted in this case are well known to the different Local Governments. The increased importance attaching to irrigation consequent on the famines of late years, has led to the great expansion of the operations of the Irrigation Department; the calamitous drought of the present season, and the necessity for finding public employment for large numbers of people, were a sufficient reason for a temporary deviation from rule; and the transfer of the works of the East Indian Irrigation Company to the Government, operated in like manner; and numerous works have been commenced without definite sanction having been first given to the detailed projects. It was hoped too that the forward state of the estimates for some of these works would admit of their being submitted simultaneously with the commencement of active progress. But the result has afforded another proof of the kind so often furnished before, that a certain result of permitting any degree of laxity in such matters is an increased and continued deviation from rules. Everywhere the undertaking of work appears to have caused the preparation of estimates to cease. Those for the Sirhind Canal, for example, which were reported to be almost complete for submission nearly a year ago, have not yet been received, and the same sort of delay has occurred in regard to several other large projects, which were allowed to be begun in anticipation of estimates.

3. The Governor-General in Council is deeply sensible of the importance of carrying out these important works to completion as quickly as possible, and of the grave inconvenience which would attend even a partial suspension of under-

takings so needful to the welfare and safety of the country; but the case presents a choice of evils, and His Excellency in Council considers that even a temporary check to the great scheme of supplying India with irrigation would be preferable to permitting a great expenditure, such as is now taking place, to continue for an indefinite time without the financial control required by those rules of the public service which long continued experience has proved to be essential to secure due regularity.

4. His Excellency in Council accordingly desires that the immediate and particular attention of all Local Governments and Administrations concerned be now drawn to the subject, with an intimation that, in the opinion of the Government of India, it is necessary early measures should be adopted to stop such irregular expenditure, and to bring all irrigation schemes now in course of progress within their jurisdiction under the rules laid down on the subject. A report should at once be called for of the exact date at which the different estimates now due will be furnished. If the date thus named does not involve more than a reasonable delay, having regard to the circumstances in each case under which the work was undertaken, and its comparative emergency, the progress of construction will be allowed to continue. But in any case where there is likely to be excessive delay in the submission of proper estimates, or where, the estimates having been promised by a fixed date, they are not punctually supplied, the Governor-General in Council will be prepared to order such work to be stopped. His Lordship in Council trusts, however, that such a course may not prove in any instance to be necessary, and that by timely exertions on the part of the local authorities and their Engineers to carry out the instructions now published, the important object in view may be attained without any check of the great measures now in progress for the extension of Irrigation Works throughout the country.

By order of the Governor-General of India in Council,

(Signed) R. STRACHEY, Colonel, R. E.,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 27. ORDER THEREON, 1st July 1869, No. 2,141.

IRRIGATION, No. 1. ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

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

To the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

Public Works Department
No 2141

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 1st July 1869
Read the following

From The Govt of India — M.E. No 109 A.I. 3/9 14 June 1869

Ordered to be recorded — Communicated to the Chief Engineer for Irrigation who will, in communication with the Superintendent, furnish the information required by the Government of India as early as possible.

4 To the Chief Engr for Irrigation

Desp 2/7/69.

Cue 2596

Govt. of {1869} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Chief Engineer for Irrigation

Dated

Recd. — Encl. 1

G. O. 1st July 1869, No. 2141

Nos. 26 - 27

Extraordinary Grant Letter from the Govt of India requesting to be informed what works are now in progress with funds supplied from the Extraordinary Grants for which proper Estimates have not yet been sanctioned, and when they will be furnished with the several Estimates ~~from the Offg. Chief Engr. Irrigation~~ required