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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2788	Press
366-68	Mis
Dated 19 11	18 20.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th November 1870.*

Read the following letters:—

No. 366. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 13th October 1870, No. 146.

I HAVE the ~~honour~~ to submit, for the orders of Government, the accompanying letter, No. 616, dated 27th September 1870, from the Executive Engineer, Bangalore, on the subject of the entry that should be made by him on the Contract Certificate Form H., under the heading "Remarks by Range Officer."

2. At the time this form was prepared the Controller of the Public Works Accounts was a *bonâ fide* member of the Public Works Department, and it was a matter of importance that he should know what check measurements had been taken by the Range Officer, so that he might be in a position to judge whether, from his own personal experience, these were sufficient or otherwise.

3. But now that the office of Controller has been made merely one of account and audit, there appears to me no kind of necessity for continuing a practice that has now lost its significance, and I concur with Captain Wood, R.E., in considering that it may well be abandoned, especially as the information really required by the Controller, namely, the alterations, omissions, or additions, which may have become necessary during the progress of a work, is actually provided in the Completion Certificate of that work.

4. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request the favour of the instructions of Government on the point in question.

From the Executive Engineer, Bangalore, to the Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, dated Bangalore, 27th September 1870, No. 616.

THE Controller, Public Works Accounts, has addressed me on the subject of my omitting to make certain remarks on the Contract Certificate, Form H., informing me that I should enter in the space left for that purpose "the nature of the check measurements, or other examination of the work."

2. I have been in the habit of merely stating under the head "Remarks by Range Officer" that the work has been "frequently inspected," or has been "inspected," according to the importance of the work; this the Controller objects to, and conceives that I should report on the "quality of the materials used and workmanship and style of execution, and any other point which the Range Officer may consider it necessary to note as the result of his examination." These remarks are, I submit, entirely superfluous—

1st.—Because the Contract Certificate is passed for payment by the Range Officer, and his signature on the Certificate, if it means anything at all, can only mean that the bill is a correct one.

2ndly.—Because the points on which the Controller conceives I should remark are entirely out of the jurisdiction of an office of accounts. The remarks allude solely to the execution of the work for which the Range Officer is responsible to the Superintending Engineer of the Division.

3rdly.—Because the Controller receives from the Range Officer a Completion Certificate for each work, duly signed and certifying that such work has been executed according to the specification and estimate, and enumerating and detailing any alterations, omissions, or additions which may have become necessary during the progress of the work. To insist, therefore, on a Range Officer making on every Contract Certificate the remarks referred to by the Controller, is to call

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19th November 1870.*

for a series of information (of no use to an account office) which is actually provided in the Completion Certificate of each work.

I refer the question to you at the suggestion of the Controller, and because a recent G. O., No. 1,318, dated 18th May 1870, remarks on the necessity for a period being placed to the submission of useless and formal documents.

REFERRED to the Controller of Public Works Accounts for report.

FORT SAINT GEORGE,
21st October 1870.

(Signed)

CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

No. 367. From the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 25th October 1870, No. 1,512.

In returning the papers which accompanied your endorsement of the 21st October 1870, I have the honour to offer the following observations.

One original letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to Government, No. 146, dated 13th October 1870.

One copy of letter from Executive Engineer of Bangalore, to the Acting Superintending Engineer, No. 616, dated 27th September 1870, and one Contract Certificate, No. 32, appertaining to Bangalore Progress Report for May 1870, (to be returned.)

* Section I., paragraphs 17, 33, and 36.
Section II., paragraph 4.
† Form II.

2. The portions of the Manual* which relate to check measurements are noted in the margin, and it will be seen, on reference to the form† of Contract Certificate printed with the Manual, that space is specially provided there-in for the entry of the Range Officer's check measurements, and of a- remarks respecting the quality of the materials necessary to record.

and workmanship employed, which he may consider it necessary to record.

3. The particular case which has led to the present reference is that of a Contract Certificate‡ for Rupees 15,000, submitted by the Executive Engineer,

Bangalore, in support of outlay incurred in May last on the Ulsoor Water Supply Project. An examination of this voucher will show the Government the necessity for the details which the rules require, and this office called for. I cannot conceive any more lax system of audit than that which permits of large items of expenditure on Public Works being passed on vouchers such as that submitted by Captain Wood. Had that Officer recorded his check measurements in the Contract Certificate, as well as his opinion, in general terms, on the work performed, this office would have a guarantee that the disbursements recorded in the voucher represented the value of work actually performed and passed by the Executive Engineer. The mere signature of the Range Officer cannot, under the rules, be accepted even in support of trifling claims to salary and travelling allowance. In these cases, Certificates have been prescribed by the Government of India, and they are furnished by all Range Officers, and seeing that the additional information called for by me in respect to Contract Certificates cannot add sensibly to the work of the Range Officer, while it enables this office to exercise a legitimate and wholesome check on expenditure, such as that which is expected of all Controllers throughout India, I trust that Government will not authorize any relaxation of the rules in this respect.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th November 1870.*

4. I am at a loss to understand the observation in the first clause of paragraph 3 of the Acting Superintending Engineer's letter, as I am not aware of any change having been made in the duties or responsibilities of this office since the introduction of the new system of account, and looking to the fact that several of the chief appointments in the Public Works Account Department in India are held by non-professional men, and that the rules in respect to the entry of check measurements by Range Officers still continue in operation, I do not see the force of Captain Roberts' remarks.

5. The Completion Certificates to which that Officer alludes, as affording the needful information, are not received here in many cases till years after the commencement of works, so that if the rule requiring the submission of check measurements is annulled, all control, as far as this office is concerned, will be entirely lost. Taking the particular work (Ulsoor Water Supply Project) which has led to this correspondence, I observe that it was commenced so long ago as the year 1862-63, and as the revised estimate is not yet ready, it is difficult to say when the Completion Certificate may be expected. Meanwhile, in the ordinary course of events, changes of Officers in executive charge will take place, and it will in the end be almost impossible to fix responsibility for excesses or irregularities that may hereafter be discovered and reported.

No. 368. ORDER THEREON, 19th November 1870, No. 2,788.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 34.

THESE papers have reference to the question raised by the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 5th Division

as to whether, under existing circumstances, the entry on the Contract Certificate under the head "Remarks by the Range Officer" of check measurements is necessary. Seeing that the Manual of Public Works Accounts distinctly provides for such measurements being noted on the Certificate in the space specially assigned for the purpose, and that, in many cases, as in the instance of the Ulsoor Water Supply Project, which has led to this reference, Completion Certificates which contain the necessary information regarding the alterations, omissions or additions which a work may undergo during its progress, are not submitted till long after they can be of use to check entries on Contract Certificates, the Government concur with the Controller of Public Works Accounts as to the necessity for a close adherence to the rule in question.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) CHARLES A. ORR, Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division.

" Controller of Public Works Accounts.

To all Superintending Engineers.

" Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Augustin.

No 146.

Recd Bangalore

Supty Engrs Office, 5th Divⁿ,
Cuddalore, 13th Octr 1870.

From

J. J. Captain R. A. Roberts C.E.,
Acty Superintg Engineer,
5th Division.

Enclosure-one. To,
1 Copy of letter.

The Secretary to Government,
P.W. Department,
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to submit
for the orders of Government, the
accompanying letter No 616, dated
27th September 1870, from the
Executive Engineer, Bangalore,
on the subject of the entry that
should be made by him on the
Contract Certificate Form H, -
under the heading "Remarks
by Range Officer".

2. At the time this form was
prepared the Controller of the
Public Works Accounts was a
bonâ fide Member of the Public
Works

Works Department, and it was a matter of importance that he should know what check measurements had been taken by the Range Officer, so that he might be in a position to judge whether from his own personal experience these were sufficient or otherwise.

3. But now that the office of Controller has been made merely one of Account & Audit, there appears to me no kind of necessity for continuing a practice ~~now~~ that has ^{now} lost its significance, and I concur with Captain Wood, R.E., in considering that it may well be abandoned, especially as the information really required by the Controller, - viz. the alterations, omissions, or additions, which may have become necessary during the progress of a work - is actually provided in the
Completion

Completion Certificate of that work.
4. Under these circumstances, I have the honor to request the favor of the instructions of Government on the point in question -

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant

Richd Roberts Capt R.E.
Adj. Superintg Engr, 5th Div.

Office of the Controller of
 Public Works Accounts
 at the Madras 23 October 1870
 of every delivery of
 From 1542 to 1543
 The Controller of P. W. Accounts
 To the Secretary to Government
 Public Works Department
 Fort St. George
 Sir

In returning the papers
 which accompanied your en-
 dorsement of the 21st October 1870
 I have the honor to offer the
 following observations:
 The portions of the
 Manual which relate to check
 measurements are noted in the
 margin, and it will be seen
 on reference to the Form of
 Contract

Section I. Paras 17,
 33 & 36.
 Section II. -- 4

* Form H



34
 from the Madras
 the duty of
 54 Division

of the Secretary to Govt.
 P. W. Department

Forwarded to the
 Controller of Pub.
 Works Accounts
 for audit.
 Dated 13 October 1870
 No. 4259/70
 146/70

Contract Certificate
 Submitting for the orders of
 Govt. Letter from the Executive
 Engineer Bangalore to the effect
 that it is necessary as re-
 quired by the Contract
 in the space left for the fur-
 nish in the Contract Certificate
 Form H, the nature of the
 check measurement of
 works by the Range Officer

For the Controller of
 Public Works Accounts
 21st October 1870
 146/70

Contract Certificate printed with
the Manual, that space is
specially provided therein for
the entry of the Range Officer's
check measurements and of
any remarks respecting the
quality of the materials and
workmanship employed which
he may consider it necessary
to record.

3. The particular case
which has led to the present
reference is that of a Contract
Certificate for Rupees 15,000 sub-
mitted by the Executive Engineer
Bangalore in support of
outlay incurred in May
last on the Ulsoor Water
Supply

Supply Project. An examination
of this voucher will show the
Government the necessity for
the details which the rules
require, and this office called
for. I cannot conceive any
more lax system of audit
than that which permits of
large items of expenditure on
Public Works being passed on
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Had that officer recorded
his check measurements in
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formed, this office would
have a guarantee that the
disbursements recorded in
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the voucher represented the value of work actually performed and passed by the Executive Engineer. The mere signature of the Range Officer cannot, under the rules, be accepted even in support of trifling claims to Salary and Travelling Allowances. In these cases, Certificates have been prescribed by the Government of India, and they are furnished by all Range Officers, and seeing that the additional information called for by me in respect to Contract Certificates cannot add sensibly to the work of the Range Officer while it enables this Office to

to exercise a legitimate and wholesome check on expenditure, such as that which is expected of all Controllers throughout India, I trust that Government will not authorize any relaxation of the rules in this respect.

4. I am at a loss to understand the observation in the first clause of para 3 of the Acting Superintending Engineers letter, as I am not aware of any change having been made in the duties or responsibilities of this Office since the introduction of the new system of Account, and looking to the fact that several of the chief appointments in

in the Public Works Account Department in India are held by non-professional men, and that the rules in respect to the entry of check measurements by Range Officers still continue in operation, I do not see the force of Captain Roberts' remarks.

The Completion Certificates to which that officer alludes, as affording the needful information, are not received here in many cases till years after the commencement of works, so that if the rule requiring the submission of check measurements is annulled, all control, as far as this office is concerned, will be

be entirely lost. Taking the particular work (Ulsoor Water Supply Project) which has led to this correspondence, I observe that it was commenced so long ago as the year 1862/63, and as the revised Estimate is not yet ready, it is difficult to say when the Completion Certificate may be expected. Meanwhile, in the ordinary course of events, changes of officers in Executive Charge will take place, and it will in the end be almost impossible to fix responsibility for excesses or irregularities that may hereafter be discovered and reported.

I have the honor to be,
Your most ^{Sir} obedient servant,
S. Hoell
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

E. M. S.

Works Department, and it was a matter of importance that he should know what check measurements had been taken by the Range Officer, so that he might be in a position to judge whether from his own personal experience these were sufficient or otherwise.

3. But now that the office of Controller has been made merely one of Account & Audit, there appears to me no kind of necessity for continuing a practice ~~now~~ that has ^{now} lost its significance, and I concur with Captain Wood, R.E., in considering that it may well be abandoned, especially as the information really required by the Controller, - viz. the alterations, omissions, or additions, which may have become necessary during the progress of a work, is actually provided in the
Completion

Completion Certificate of that work.
4. Under these circumstances, I have the honor to request the favor of the instructions of Government on the point in question.

I have the honor to be
Sir,

Your most Obedt Servant

Richd Roberts Capt R.E.
Adj. Superintg Engr, 5th Lth Bn.

Public Works Department
 No. 2788
 Proceedings of the Madras Government
 Under date the 19th Nov 1901
 Read the following

From the Super Engineer 5th Div. / H.E. No. 146 of 13th October / 1901
 From the Controller of P.W. Works / H.E. No. 1542 of 25th " " "

These papers have reference to the question raised by the Acting Superintending Engineer of the 5th Div. as to whether under existing circumstances, the entry on the Contract Certificate under the head Remarks by the Range Officer of check measurements

10

Public Works Department
 Office of the Secretary
 Madras
 14-2-59.

The Controller of P.W. Works
 The Secretary to Government
 Public Works Department

Dated 23rd October 1901
 Range Officer
 5th Division

Offering observations
 the Range Officer
 5th Division
 dated 13th October 1901

Contract Certificate
 14-2-59

At the meeting of the Committee of the Public Works Department held on the 14th day of February 1901, the following resolution was passed:—
 "Resolved that the Range Officer of the 5th Division be requested to submit a report on the question of check measurements under the head Remarks on the Contract Certificate, and to recommend whether or not such measurements should be made under the existing circumstances."

Approved
 14-2-59

is necessary. Seeing
that the Manual of
Public Works Accounts
distinctly provides for
such measurements
being noted on the
Certificate in the space
specially assigned
for the purpose, and
that, in many cases,
as in the instance
of the Union Water
Supply Project, which
has led to this reference,
Completion Certificates
which contain the
necessary information

10
Regarding the altera-
-tions, omissions or
additions which a
work may undergo
during its progress,
are not submitted till
long after they can
be of use to check
entries on Contract Cer-
-tificates, the Govt. con-
-cur with the Controller
of Public Works Accounts
as to the necessity for
a close adherence to
the rule in question.

To The Superintendent of the
+ the Chief Engineer
+ the Controller of P. W. Accounts
+ Mr. R. B. [unclear] Certificate
+ Dec 22/11/70

W. H.

+ Dec 22/11/70

1/14259 & 4102

Govt. of 1870 Ind. 13.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Ag. Superintending Engr.
5th Division

Dated

Recd.

G. O. 19th Decr. 27 88

No. 366 (368)

Contract Certificate. Can-
curring with the instructions of
Mr. West as to the necessity
for a close adherence to the
rule for the entry of certain
remarks in the Contract
Certificate.