M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages 12

(2) Date of repair 11-3-44

(3) Initials of the Referencer

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works **DEPARTMENT.**

G.O. No. 391 Press ~~Mis.~~

30-31

Dated 2 2 1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 30. Read the following circular from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department, dated Fort William, 20th December 1869, No. 102:—

THE Government of India having lately had under review the Accountant-General's report on the working of the departmental accounts during the past year, desire to draw the attention of the different Governments and Administrations and the Members of the Department to the subject, with especial reference to one point dwelt on in it, *viz.*, the rate of despatch maintained in the compilation of divisional accounts and rendering them for audit.

2. The Government of India observe with gratification that, in the matter of account, the department has for some time been working, on the whole, with a very satisfactory degree of punctuality. The average rate of progress attained to, taking one division with another, is quite equal to what is contemplated by the Code, while the exceptions to the Code rule requiring that divisional accounts should be despatched by the end of the month following that to which they relate are now of comparatively rare occurrence.

3. But the fact that such cases are now so rare seems to show that they need not ever occur at all, and the Governor-General in Council requests that all Governments and Administrations will give their attention to this important matter, in view to the prevention for the future of any cases of delay being allowed to occur, and to the maintenance throughout the department of complete punctuality. Where such delays happen they probably arise from defective arrangements of some kind, which should be at once inquired into and remedied effectually.

4. But further His Excellency in Council thinks that the times allowed for passing the accounts through their different stages may with propriety be shortened. At present one month is allowed for the compilation of divisional accounts, another month for auditing and booking them, while three months are allowed for rendering the provincial accounts by Controllers. But these dates were fixed when only a limited experience had been gained of the present system, and the rate of punctuality attained in many parts of India—especially in the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, which the Governor-General in Council gladly takes this opportunity of recognizing—would appear to indicate that so much time is not really needed. The accounts of some divisions, and those by no means exceptionally light ones, are now rendered within a week after the close of every month, and this without interfering with the requirements of work, but simply by the employment of proper method. On this point an extract from a note by the Accountant-General is attached. Judging from these facts there appears no question that the time fixed for rendering the accounts may be shortened, and for the future the divisional accounts might be despatched by the 20th of the succeeding month, and those of the Controller within two-and-a-half months at latest instead of three months as at present. A Standing Order will issue accordingly.

5. Punctuality in rendering the Public Works Accounts is not only desirable in itself; it is of extreme importance for the financial arrangements of the country generally that the expenditure in all departments of the State should be accounted

the requirements of work, but simply by the employment of proper method. On this point an extract from a note by the Accountant General is attached. Judging from these facts there appears no question that the time fixed for rendering the accounts may be shortened, and for the future the divisional accounts might be despatched by the 20th of the succeeding month, and those of the Controller within 2½ months at latest, instead of three months as at present. A Standing Order will issue accordingly.

5. Punctuality in rendering the Public Works Accounts is not only desirable in itself; it is of extreme importance for the financial arrangements of the country generally, that the expenditure in all Departments of the State should be accounted for with the utmost possible rapidity. The Governor General in Council relies confidently on the cordial aid of all the Officers of this Department being afforded towards this end.

A. Thackeray *Colonel, R. E.,*
Offg. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

To
The Secretary to the Government of Madras
P. W. Department

No 30
Genl 1870 p 17

P. W. D. 1870 Dept
Pro. Report for February

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.
General.

To

No. 43.

102

CIRCULAR No. ~~165~~ PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated December 20, 1869.

Received January 7th 1870

Cir. 1 r

No 391 - 2d Febry 1870 -

Remarks on the working of the Departmental accounts during the past year.

P. W. D. Press—20-12-69—530.

P. W. D.

No 391 3 91

Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
under date the 2d Feby 70.
Read the following:-

From the Govt. of India - (P.W. Cir. No 102 of 20 Dec 69)

Communicated to the Superintending Engineers and to the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

The importance of the early and punctual submission of the accounts of subordinate Officers has on more than one occasion been impressed by this Government upon the attention of Supdg

N.

Ag 1.

M.E

Engrs, and in Proceedings
of 17th March 1869, His
Excellency the Governor
in Council fixed the
same period as is
now ordered by the
Government of India
for the despatch of the
Monthly accounts to
the Controller, to ensure
the transmission of
the General Accounts
of this Presidency to
the Accountant General
of the Public Works Dept

112

by the 12th of the second
month succeeding that
to which they refer.
The Government exp-
ect that these orders
will be strictly adhered
to.

To
130 The S. Engrs ✓
4 Contr Mr ✓
4 Major R.B. Kennedy ✓
2 Officers in ch: of PW
Operations Cochin ✓

Desp 3/2/70.

S.C despatch book 5 pages 4/2/70.

Cuc 43

Govt. of {1870} Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr.

Dated

Recd. End. 1

G. O., 1st July 1870, No. 391

Nos. 31-31

Accounts Circular forwarding Rules & Forms regarding the working of the Departmental Accounts during 1868-69. Acct & Audit Offrs concerned to be furnished.