

(1) Number of pages 6
(2) Date of repair 4-3-44
(3) Initials of the Referencer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

16-12-5

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 930.	Press Mis.
21-22.	
Dated 2-4-	1870.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
2nd April 1870.*

No. 21. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) dated Fort William, 25th February 1870, No. 97-A.-G. :—

Reduction of the ordinary grant for Public Works.

Read again Public Works Department Circular No. 82 of 1869.

Read also the following from the Secretary of State for India, to the Government of India, dated 4th January 1870, No. 1.

I HAVE had under consideration in Council your Excellency's Despatch, No. 134, of 27th September last, wherein are detailed certain arrangements in the Public Works Department deemed advisable for bringing the revenues and expenditure of India into early and permanent equilibrium.

2. It may be almost superfluous in replying to this despatch to premise that the general views and sentiments expressed in it have my cordial concurrence. The paramount force of the financial necessity to which your Excellency appeals in justification of the course proposed to be pursued seems to me scarcely to admit of dispute, and your Government may rely on my earnest co-operation in enforcing whatever economy that necessity may enjoin.

3. I approve, too, with little more reserve, of the particular measures which your Government have in contemplation, in order to give effect to their views on this important subject, and, by means of which, what may be taken as the normal expenditure out of revenue on public works ordinary may in future be reduced from about five and three-quarter millions to about four-and-a-half millions sterling a year. It cannot indeed be otherwise than matter for regret that the prosecution of undertakings highly conducive in various ways to the well being of the country should be sensibly delayed, but progress of any kind must be dearly purchased at the cost of serious financial embarrassment, and I am, besides, very willing to believe with your Excellency, that with regard to one of the classes of work which the proposed reductions will affect the delay will be more apparent than real, and that, with regard both to it and to another class, some diminution in the recent rate of speed may be amply compensated by improvement in the mode of carrying on the works. If there be good grounds for the conviction entertained by your Government, that the system upon which barrack building has of late proceeded is susceptible of modifications which would allow of equal substantial advantages being afforded to the troops at greatly diminished cost, not only large pecuniary saving, but much earlier completion of the work may, as you say, be expected to result.

4. If, again, the impossibility of continuing the old rate of outlay upon roads from the national treasury should cause, as your Excellency appears to expect, the charge of road construction and road maintenance to be transferred from imperial to local funds, financial pressure will have hastened the adoption of another administrative reform which has long been recognized as very desirable.

5. In connection with barrack building, I observe with satisfaction that it is by omission of superfluous items of construction, and by changes in the geographical distribution of the army, that the chief saving in that respect is to be effected.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department
2nd April 1870.

The language uniformly used by your Excellency in discussing this part of the subject shows how strongly you feel that any diminution of the accommodation really required by the troops would be the reverse of true economy.

ORDER.—Ordered, that this despatch be communicated to the different Governments and Administrations, and to the Financial, Military, and Home Departments, for information.

Also, that it be printed in the Supplement to the *Gazette of India*.

(Signed) G. CHESNEY,
Depty. Secy. to the Govt. of India

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Public Works Department.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON, 2nd April 1870, No. 930.

ACCOUNT, No. 2.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

W. J. G. 1870

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Proceedings of the Madras Gov.
2nd.

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To the Secretary to the Government of

No. 22.

ORDER THERE

ACCOUNT, No. 2.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.
ACCOUNT.
General.
No 930

No. 97 A—G.

Dated February 23, 1870.

Received. *March 20*

1070. 22 Apr. 1870.

Reduction of the ordinary grant for
Public Works.

P. W. D. Press—25 270—112.

Ed. E. C. Shunker.

with an order

Proc. 930
Proceedings of the Madras Govt.
2nd

The language uniformly used by you subject shows how strongly you feel really required by the troops would be

ORDER.—Ordered, that this despatches and Administrations, and to be sent, for information.

Also, that it be printed in the Supplement.

To the Secretary to the Government of Madras.

No. 22.

ORDER THEREON.

ACCOUNT, No. 2.

(Tr)

Govt. of 1870 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

Dated

Recd.

7-3.

21 April 1870, No. 930

Nos. 21-22

Revenues Disbursement of India

Endorsement of the Govt of India
Communicating a despatch from
the Government relative to the arrange-
ments in the works which were
deemed advisable for bringing the
revenues disbursement of India
into early and permanent acqui-
tation. recorded

Ed. E. C. Shunker.