

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1055	Press Mis.
176-77	
Dated 15 / 4	18 / 1 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1871.*

No. 176. Read the following Docket from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Military,) dated Fort William, 13th March 1871, Nos. 253-64-B. M. :—

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North-Western Provinces, and Punjab.
Chief Commissioners of Oudh, Central Provinces, British Barmah, and Mysore and Coorg.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor-General, Central India and Rajpootana.

COPY forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and guidance.

By order,

(Signed) R. B. PEMBERTON, Captain, R.E.,
Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

Office Memorandum from the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Public Works Department, dated 4th March 1871, No. 177.

With reference to Military Department memorandum, No. 1,096, dated 26th November 1870, and previous correspondence, on the subject of the system to be followed in remunerating European working-parties employed under the Public Works Department, the undersigned has the honour to forward copy of a communication from the Quarter Master General, No. 474-C, dated 11th February 1871, conveying the views of the Right Honourable the Commander-in-Chief on this point.

2. The Government in the Military Department concurs entirely with His Excellency in thinking it most desirable that as much labour as possible may be secured for the troops, and recognizes fully, through the experience already gained, the advantage to the physique and training of the soldier which such employment affords. To secure, however, the system already inaugurated from being checked, the Government in this department is satisfied that there must be no attempt either to under-rate or to over-rate the value of the soldier's labour, except, on the very rare occasions, when the system of daily wages may, on special grounds, be desirable, the payment for soldiers' labour should be made on the contract system; the contracts being invariably issued at the market rates. If this principle be departed from, the system must fall through, while, on the other hand, by its maintenance, there is little room to doubt that the Military Department, the soldiers themselves, and the Government in the Public Works Department, will be materially benefited.

(Signed) H. K. BURNE, Colonel,
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

From the Deputy Assistant Quarter Master General, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Military Department, dated 11th February 1871, No. 474-C.

With reference to the letters as per margin, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief to state that His Excellency sees no objections to remunerate European working-parties employed under the Public Works Department at contract rates instead of, as at present, by a fixed daily allowance, provided no attempt be made to secure from the soldiers' labour below the local market value.

2. His Excellency trusts that, if Government determine to issue instructions, giving effect to the proposition under consideration, that it will impress upon the officers of the Public Works Department the necessity of refraining from all attempts to undervalue the labour of the soldier.

3. It is most desirable that as much labour as possible may be secured for the troops, and His Excellency would be sorry to see the system of Military labour, which has been inaugurated in this country, brought to a close by any misjudged attempt to secure from the soldiers' labour at a

I.—Military Department, No. 156, dated 8th Aug. 1870.
II.—Do., " 817, " 20th Dec. "
* Enclosures returned.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
15th April 1871.*

cheaper rate than that procurable in the market, and which should include the extra cost of supervision over ordinary labour as set forth in the concluding paragraphs of Captain D. Ward, Royal Engineer's letter No. 538 of 12th April last, to the address of the Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, forwarded for His Excellency's information, with your letter No. 817 of 20th December last.

No. 177. ORDER THEREON, 15th April 1871, No. 1,055.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 5.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineers.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To Superintending Engineers.

„ Major R. B. Kennedy.

To the Military Department.

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Nos. 253-64 B-M.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

BUILDINGS & ROADS.

Military.

FORT WILLIAM, MARCH 13, 1871.

Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, North Western Provinces and Punjab.
Chief Commissioners of Oudh, Central Provinces, British Burmah and Mysore and Coorg.
Resident at Hyderabad.
Agents, Governor General, Central India and Rajpootana.

Copy forwarded to the Local Governments and Administrations marginally noted for information and guidance.

(By order)

Captain, R. E.,

Asst. Secretary to the Govt. of India.

No. 177, dated 4th March, 1871.

Office Memo. from—COLONEL H. K. BURNS, Secy. to the Govt. of India, Milty. Dept.,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, P. W. Dept.

With reference to Military Department Memorandum No. 1096, dated 26th November 1870, and previous correspondence, on the subject of the system to be followed in remunerating European working-parties employed under the Public Works Department, the undersigned has the honour to forward copy of a communication from the Quarter Master General, No. 474 C, dated 11th February 1871, conveying the views of the Right Hon'ble the Commander-in-Chief on this point.

2. The Government in the Military Department concurs entirely with His Excellency in thinking it most desirable that as much labour as possible may be secured for the troops, and recognizes fully, through the experience already gained, the advantage to the physique and training of the soldier which such employment affords. To secure, however, the system already inaugurated from being checked, the Government in this Department is satisfied that there must be no attempt either to under-rate or over-rate the value of the soldier's labour, except, on the very rare occasions, when the system of daily wages may, on special grounds, be desirable, the payment for soldiers' labour should be made on the contract system, the contracts being invariably issued at the market rates. If this principle be departed from, the system must fall through, while on the other hand, by its maintenance, there is little room to doubt that the Military Department, the soldiers themselves, and the Government in the Public Works Department, will be materially benefited.

No. 474 C, dated 11th February, 1871.

From—CAPTAIN M. HEATHCOTE, Deputy Asst. Quarter Master General,
To—Secretary to the Government of India, Milty. Dept.

With reference to the letters as per margin, I am directed by the Commander-in-Chief

1.—Military Department No. 166, dated 8th August 1870.*
2.—Military Department No. 817 of 20th December 1870.
* Enclosures returned.

to state that His Excellency sees no objections to remunerate European working-parties employed under the Public Works Department at contract rates instead of, as at present, by a fixed daily allowance, provided no attempt be made to secure from the soldier labour below the local market value.

2. His Excellency trusts that if Government determine to issue instructions, giving effect to the proposition under consideration, that it will impress upon the Officers of the Public Works Department the necessity of refraining from all attempts to undervalue the labor of the soldier.

3. It is most desirable that as much labour as possible may be secured for the troops, and His Excellency would be sorry to see the system of Military labour, which has been inaugurated in this country, brought to a close by any misjudged attempt to secure from the soldiers labour at a cheaper rate than that procurable in the market, and which should include the extra cost of supervision over ordinary labour as set forth in the concluding paras. of Captain D. Ward, Royal Engineer's letter No. 538 of 12th April last, to the address of the Superintending Engineer, 1st Circle, forwarded for His Excellency's information, with your letter No. 817 of 20th December last.

A 253 B. H.
To the Secy to Govt of Madras
in the P. W. Dept.

With an order

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Govt of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To
The Superintending Engineer

Copy of
Report

18th April 1855

No. 176 of 1855

European Working parties. Order
from the Govt of Madras in the sub-
ject of remunerating European
Working parties em-
ployed under the P.W. Dept.,
and to the Superintending Engineer.