

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 1074	Press Mis.
213-74	
Dated 10/4	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

13

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1871.*

No. 213. Read the following letter from the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 1st April 1871, No. 10:—

I HAVE the honour to call the attention of the Government to the great grievance entailed upon the members of this department by the system which now obtains of the pre-audit of salaries.

2. Were this system in force for all the Government establishments of the district, it would be more easy to reconcile one's self to its supposed necessity. But when here, at Madura, I see the Judge on my right, the Collector on my left, the Doctor in front of me, the Superintendent of Police not far off, and the Conservator of Forests in the jungly distance, all drawing to-day the salaries for themselves and establishments for the past month, I submit that it appears very hard that this department alone is prohibited from the indulgence of so natural and healthy a practice.

3. It is possible that it may be said, and there are people who will say anything for the sake of argument, that there is in reality no hardship in the matter inasmuch as the abstracts being paid on about the same day every month the actual interval of payments in each case is the same, and that the grievance therefore is after all but a sentimental one, if not altogether illusory.

4. This of course begs the whole question as to the necessity of the pre-audit in the case of one branch only of the Government service in the Mofussil, when that audit is not demanded in the case of any single other Government establishment similarly situated. And not only this, but it ignores those adventitious circumstances which are confessedly liable to occur in even the best regulated establishments, and which occasion additional delays. Thus, in the present instance, I despatch the Pay Abstract of this establishment, according to Regulations, by this day's post to the Controller, and if he returns it to me with his usual promptitude, I shall receive it back here on the morning of the 7th or 8th. But as the Hoozur Treasury is shut for a week from the 6th instant, on account of the Easter holidays, it will not be until the end of those holidays that the passed abstract can be cashed here. And holidays, which are always gratefully accepted by the natives of the country, will prove in this instance but little of a boon to those in this department, to whom the means of enjoying themselves is denied by the withholding of their pay.

5. As it is difficult to conceive why this infliction of pre-audit should have ever been considered necessary for this department alone, and still more so why it should continue, I earnestly trust that the Government will be pleased to interest themselves in the matter, and take such steps as will remove the great grievance suffered in this respect by a considerable, though apparently friendless, body of their servants who, presumably, are no less deserving of their favourable consideration than those of other Governmental departments.

No. 214. ORDER THEREON, 17th April 1871, No. 1,074.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 19.

THE system of the pre-audit of salaries has been ordered by the Government of India for adoption in the Public Works Department, and is prescribed in paragraph 65 of Section II. of the

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
17th April 1871.*

Manual of Public Works Accounts. His Excellency the Governor in Council does not consider the grounds on which Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts bases his objections to it to be sufficient to warrant that Government being addressed regarding the necessity for a change of the existing practice.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

Exd S. T. Augustin.

No 10

Madura
1st April 1871

From
Lieut. Col R. A. Roberts R.E.
To
Actg Superintending Engineer 8th Div.
Colonel R. A. Roberts R.E.
Secretary to Government M.

I have the honor to call the attention of the Government to the great grievance entailed upon the members of this Department by the system which now obtains of the pro-
hibit of salaries.

2. Were this system in force for all the Government establishments of the District, it would be more easy to reconcile one's self to its supposed necessity. But when here at Madura I see the Judge on my right, the Collector on my left, the Doctor and Superintendent of Police not far off and the Conservator of Forests in the far off distance, all drawing today the salaries for themselves and establishments for the past month, I submit that it appears very hard that this Department alone is prohibited from the indulgence of so natural and healthy a practice.

3. It is possible that it may be said, and there are people who will say anything for the sake of argument,

that there is in reality no hardship in the matter in so much as the abstracts being paid on about the same day every month the actual interval of payments in each case is the same and that the grievance therefore is after all but a sentimental one if not altogether illusory.

This of course begs the whole question as to the necessity of the preaudit in the case of one branch only of the Government service in the Mofussil, when that audit is not demanded in the case of any single other Government establishment similarly situated. And not only this, but it ignores those ~~adventitious~~ circumstances which are confessedly liable to occur in even the best regulated establishments, and which occasion additional delays. Now, in the present instance, I despatch the Pay Abstract of this establishment, according to Regulations, by this days post to the Controller, and if he returns it to me with his usual promptitude, I shall receive it back here on the morning of the 7th or 8th. But as the Muzer Treasury is shut for a week from the 6th instant, on account of the Easter holidays, it will not be until the end of those holidays that the passed Abstract can be cashed here. And holidays which are always gratefully accepted by the natives of the country will

prove in this instance but little of a boon to those in this Department to whom the means of enjoying themselves is denied by the withholding of their pay.

As it is difficult to conceive why this infliction of preaudit should have ever been considered necessary for this Department alone, and still more so why it should continue, I earnestly trust that the Government will be pleased to interest themselves in the matter, and take such steps as will remove the great grievance suffered in this respect by a considerable though apparently friendless, body of their servants who, presumably, are no less deserving of their favorable consideration than those of other Governmental Departments.

I have the honor to be
Sir
your Most Obedient Servant
D^{ns} of Robert Vicat Col^l &
As Superint^g Engineer 8th Divⁿ

to Mr. Pitts 27.12.11

Page 118

28th May 1871

Subscribed for the
construction of
Government. The great
inconvenience attending
the present system of
the Government of the
P.W.D. is now being
discussed in the
P.W.D. Department.

Public Works
12th April 1871

Mr. A. S. D. Pitts
P.W.D.

Mr. A. S. D. Pitts
P.W.D.

I don't think - but I
am like - I am not
the present system is
intrusted in the
not clear.

1874 Public Works Department

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 17th April 1871

Read the following

From The Supr Engineer
8th Dec 1870 { H.E. No 10 of 1st April 1871

The system of the
preaudit of salaries has
been ordered by the Govt.
of India for adoption in
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and is prescribed in
Para 65 of Section II of
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Works Accounts. His
Excellency the Governor
in Council does not
consider the grounds on
which Lieut. Col. Roberts
bases his objections to it
to be sufficient to warrant
that

that Government being
addressed regarding the
necessity for a change of
the existing practice.

W.H.

To.
The Superintend. & Co. ✓
Des/18/4/71

6/6/71 118.12

On 19 August 1871

172.5.53
Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

¹²
The Acting Superintending
Eng^r & L^d Engineer

Order

and

17th April 1874

Nos 213 & 214

General Order
that the persons who are
employed in the
construction of the
roads of the
Government are
to be employed in the
construction of the
roads of the
Government
to be employed in the
construction of the
roads of the
Government