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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public and Ho DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2003	Press
520-311	Mis.
Dated 31 7	1871

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st July 1871.*

No. 523. Read the following letter from the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 8th July 1871, No. 993 :—

UNDER the rules,* completion certificates are due in this office within a month after works are finished, and every finished work, *i. e.*, every work reported to be completed in the Progress Reports of Range Officers, for which no completion certificate has been received in this office, is required to be brought forward in my monthly statements of objectionable items submitted to Government and to the Accountant-General of the Public Works Department.

Superintending Engineer's memorandum No. 759, dated 8th June 1871.
Do. do. No. 1,021, dated 27th June 1871.
Controller's memorandum No. 464, dated 17th June 1871.
Do. do. No. 2,287, dated 25th February 1870.
Do. Circular memorandum No. 2,552, dated 17th February 1871.

* Chapter XX., Section II., paragraph 29 of the Code of Regulations of the Public Works Department.

2. Based upon information furnished in the Progress Reports of Range Officers, a record of certificates due is kept in this office, and reminders are periodically sent in order to expedite the despatch of these important documents.

3. To guard against any omissions in the Progress Reports for March 1871, the last month of the official year, a Circular Memorandum† was issued on

† No. 2,552.
the 17th February by this office, requiring Range Officers to note distinctly every completed work in those returns. It was at the same time pointed out that during 1869-70 several works on which expenditure had ceased after the 31st March 1870, were not entered as "completed" in that month's Progress Reports; that certificates for these works were subsequently submitted, and that, owing to the omission adverted to, the Statement of Objectionable Items to Government for March 1870, had been rendered in an incomplete form.

4. A question has now arisen as to when a work is to be regarded as completed, *i. e.*, whether on final payments being made and the work reported as finished by the subordinate in immediate executive charge, or after the inspection of the Range Officer has been made. The correspondence which has taken place upon this subject between this office and the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division is enclosed. To my mind, it seems clear that works should be regarded as completed as soon as final payments are made and reported to Range Officers. If this be not the intention of the rules, and the inspection of Range Officers be considered an indispensable precursor to reports of the completion of works, the monthly statements submitted by this office cannot fail to be unreliable, and endless delays will, in some cases, occur before the required completion certificates are rendered.

5. Major Fischer alludes to the new form of completion certificate sanctioned in G. O., No. 104, dated 16th March 1871, as one reason for deferring the notes in Range Officer's Progress Reports of the completion of works. The form prescribed certainly requires the results of the Range Officer's measurements to be recorded, but I cannot see how such measurements or the actual inspections of works affect the notes required to be made in the monthly progress reports, or why the submission of completion certificates should delay the communication to this office of the fact of works having been finished.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
31st July 1871.*

6. Major Fischer also refers to cases in which "final payments" have not yet been made. The Government will observe, on reference to Clause IX. of paragraph 1 of my printed memorandum, No. 2,287, dated 25th February 1870, that Range Officers are distinctly informed that no work should be entered as completed in their Progress Reports "until final payments are made," but this does not imply that the entries should be deferred till after Range Officer's inspections.

No. 524.

ORDER THEREON, 31st July 1871, No. 2,003.

ACCOUNT, No. 46.

THE question submitted for orders in these papers, and on which there is a difference of opinion between the Controller and the Superintending Engineer of the 1st Division, is whether a work is to be regarded as completed and entered as such in the Range Progress Reports, as soon as the final payments have been made and reported to Range Officers, or after those officers have finally inspected and measured the work.

2. The Government observe that a work is presumed to be completed when the final payment for it has been made, and although its inspection and measurement by the Range Officer are necessary before a certificate of completion in the prescribed form can be granted, the intimation in the Progress Report of its completion need not on that account be deferred, but should be noted as soon as the Range Officer has paid for the work in full or received intimation of final payment by one of his subordinates.

3. The Government have perused with grave displeasure the very unbecoming and uncalled for remarks contained in the 2nd paragraph of Major Fischer's memorandum, dated 27th June 1871, and they direct that the document in question be returned to Major Fischer, and that he be informed that, as the unfavourable comments which the Government have repeatedly recorded regarding the style of his official communications with the Controller and with the Government in reference to the Controller have not led to any improvement, it will be necessary for the Government, if the present warning be disregarded, to take more serious notice of Major Fischer's conduct.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,

Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, with his memorandum, dated 27th June 1871.
.. Controller of Public Works Accounts, with four enclosures.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts
Madras, 8th July 1871.

No. 993

From,

The Controller of P. W. Accounts

To,

The Secretary to Government,

Public Works Department,

Fort Saint George.

Sir,

Under the rules, Completion Certificates are due in this office within a month after works are finished, and every finished work, i.e. every work reported to be completed in the Progress Reports of Range Officers, for which no Completion Certificate has been received in this office, is required to be brought forward in my monthly statements of objectionable

* Chapter XX Sec.
tion II, Para 29 of the
Code of Regulations
of the P. W. D. -

Objectionable items submitted to Government and to the Accountant General of the Public Works Department.

2. Based upon information furnished in the Progress Reports of Range Officers, a record of Certificates due is kept in this office, and reminders are periodically sent in order to expedite the despatch of these important documents.

3. To guard against any omissions in the Progress Reports for March 1871, the last month of the official year, a Circular Memo. was issued on the 17th February by this office, requiring Range officers to note distinctly every completed work in those Returns.

It was, at the same time, pointed

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out that during 1869-70 several works on which Expenditure had ceased after the 31st March 1870 were not entered as "Completed" in that month's Progress Reports; that Certificates for these works were subsequently submitted, and that, owing to the omission adverted to, the Statement of Objectionable Items to Government for March 1870 had been rendered in an incomplete form.

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Superintending Engineer of the 1st
Division is enclosed. To my mind,
it seems clear that works should be
regarded as completed as soon as
final payments are made and
reported to Range officers. If this
be not the intention of the rules,
and the inspection of Range officers
be considered an indispensable
precursor to reports of the comple-
tion of works, the monthly State-
ments submitted by this office
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and endless delays will, in some
cases, occur before the required
Completion Certificates are rendered.

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to the new form of Completion Cer-
tificate sanctioned in G. O. No. 101,
dated

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for deferring the notes in Range
Officers' Progress Reports of the
completion of works. The form pre-
scribed certainly requires the results
of the Range Officers' measure-
ments to be recorded, but I cannot
see how such measurements or the
actual inspections of works affect
the notes required to be made in
the monthly Progress Reports, or
why the submission of Completion
Certificates should delay the com-
munication to this office of the
fact of works having been finished.

6. Major Fischer also refers
to cases in which "final payments"
have not yet been made. The
Government will observe, on
reference to Clause IX of para 1
of my printed Memo. No. 2287,
dated

Super. Engineer's Office 1st Div.
Soulishtwarum 27th June 1871.

Memorandum
No. 1021.

Referring to his memo of the
17th Instant No. 464, the Controller of
Public Works Accounts is referred to the
form of Completion certificates now in use
which necessitates each work being inspected
and measured up before this can be signed.

2. The undersigned has the honor
further to observe the management and
administration of the Division rests
with him, and not entirely in furnishing
certain forms in haste, and he cannot
allow Range Officers to enter works
as complete when the final inspections
and payments are yet due so the Accounts
must wait.

Signed J. S. Fincher, Major
R. E.
Super. Eng^r 1st Division

Recd. 1871 1st Div.
17th July 1871
No. 3282.

From,
The Controller of Accounts,
To,
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Soulishtwarum

Dated 8th
Decr. 10th July 1871.

No. 993

Requesting to be fur-
nished with certain in-
formation regarding Com-
pletion Certificates.

Dec 1873

117th Dec 17th Dec 19th

No. 2003-31 July 11

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J.W. Dept
No. 2003.

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 31st July 1871.
Read the following

From the Controller of
P.W. Accounts. (A.O. 11497) 8th July 1871

Major Fitch's Memo^{re} is
sent - I doubt whether merely
recording an opinion of it will
produce any amendment. I
think he ought to be
directed to apologise to the
Controller and withdraw
his Memo.

N^o 20

A.A.

I have been Mr. Aschmann
know. But how comes
an order to issue order
Direct to Range Officer?

Lot

The question submitted
for orders in these papers,
and on which there is a
difference of opinion between
the Controller and the
Superintending Engineer
of the 1st Division, is whether
a work is to be regarded
as completed and entered
as such in the Range
Progress Reports, as soon
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been made and reported
to Range Officers, or after
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those officers have finally
inspected and measured
the work.

The Government
observe that a work is
presumed to be completed
when the final payment
for it has been made and
although its inspection
and measurement by the
Range Officer are neces-
sary before a Certificate
of completion in the pres-
cribed form can be granted,
the intimation in the Progress
Report of its completion
need not on that account
be deferred, but should
be noted as soon as
the

the Range Officer has
paid for the work in full
or received intimation of
final payment by one of
his subordinates.

The Government are
constrained to add that
they consider Major Fischer's
remarks in para 2 of his
Memorandum dated 27th
June 1877 to the Controller
very unbecoming and
incalled for.

I would add
Major Fischer will therefore
be directed to address
letters to the Controller (or govt?)
expressing his regret for
the tone in which the
Memo was conceived
and requesting leave
to withdraw it.

I must not call for
an apology - an apology
made under duress is
at the best an insubstantial
part of things. I must

which, but the
immorities in
returned to his
Did not in business

which, but the
planning for the
last para. of this
chap.

the for, has
present with some
displeasure. The
in coming a useful
for his interest

in the 2nd para. of
may or rather some
reasons stated 27th
para 431 and they
think that the

document is pointing
to returned to his
Did not, this is very
banned off again
adoption of his own

the in his communication
with the Controller.
A/A

and that he be informed
that as the unfavorable comments
which the Govt. have repeatedly
recorded regarding the style of
his official communications
with the Controller, and with
the Govt. in reference to the Controller
have not led to any improvement
it will be necessary for the Govt. if
the present warning be disregarded
to take more serious notice of his

To the Chief Engineer 10th with his personal
27th June 1871
as Controller with your order. 1871-
Recd 18/71-

C. No. 3282

Govt of 1871 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Chief Supt. & Insp. Engrs.
1st Division

Date:

Recd.

File

G. O. 31 July 1871. No. 2003.

Nos. 5231 & 4

Campbell's Certificate

Passing orders on the
Controllers letters requesting
certain instructions regarding
the Campbell's Certificate.