M.R.O. 1—77,606—8-6-37.

(1) Number of pages

(2) Date of repair

(3) Initials of the Reference

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press / Mis.
Dated	18 .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 13. Read the following Proceedings of the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Buildings and Roads—Military,) dated Simla, 31st July 1871, No. 925-B. M.:—

Read the following despatch from the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, (Public Works) to His Excellency the Right Honourable the Governor-General of India in Council, dated India Office, London, 24th May 1871, No. 36.

I HAVE had before me in Council your Excellency's despatch No. 31, of 27th February last, and the copies therewith forwarded of proceedings in connection with the Lawrence Asylum buildings at Ootacamund.

2. According to the history of these proceedings as epitomized in a Resolution of your Government, dated 12th November last, the proposal for their construction was originally brought forward in the Madras Budget Estimate for 1863-64, wherein their probable cost was entered at considerably less than two lacs. But by February 1867, when detailed estimates were for the first time forwarded to your Government, the expected cost had more than quintupled, having risen to nearly 10 lacs, of which Rupees 1,30,173 had already been expended of course without proper authority. This "past expenditure" was, however, presently afterwards sanctioned, and sanction was about two years later given likewise to a revised estimate of Rupees 3,94,137 for the main building of the Male Asylum, apparently in the expectation that, by some subsequent additions to that edifice, the necessity for a separate Female Asylum might be done away with; but in March 1870, while the total amount sanctioned was thus still only Rupees 5,24,300, the Madras Government apprised you that expenditure had reached Rupees 8,33,774, following up this intimation by submitting shortly afterwards revised estimates amounting to Rupees 11,80,112. To the prospective expenditure involved in these estimates, which besides demanding more than a lac of Rupees in addition to the sum of nearly four lacs previously granted for an Asylum for boys, provides for a separate Asylum for girls at a cost of another four lacs, you have not accorded sanction, having on the contrary called for a revised project for the conversion of the Asylum Hospital into a Female Asylum, and having at the same time warned the Madras Government of the necessity for extreme care in the preparation of the new estimates, as any expenditure in excess of them would be absolutely refused.

3. This is a brief outline of proceedings which are so justly described by your Excellency in Council as having "been characterized from the beginning by a "disregard of the rules laid down with the view of ensuring financial regularity" that it is difficult to understand why the authoritative interposition of your Government in regard to them did not take place at a much earlier stage. That it should have been so long delayed is the more surprising, as my predecessor, Lord Cranborne, in August 1866, and again in January 1867, drew attention to the extravagant and unauthorized expenditure that was going on. When Lord Cranborne wrote, it would still have been possible to enforce some regard for economy on the Madras Government, but the time for that has passed, and there is now no alternative but to acquiesce in the misemployment of public money that has been so unaccountably permitted.

4. In the resolution above referred to your Excellency in Council, after expressing dissatisfaction with the whole of the transactions reviewed, proceeds to pass special censure on the Executive Engineer, Lieutenant-Colonel Farewell, and on the Superintending Engineer, Colonel Walker, the one for substituting on his own authority, in two or three items, work of a more expensive character than had been originally intended, and the other for failing to report these changes as soon as he discovered them; and you also desire to be informed what notice the Madras Government propose to take of the conduct of the Architect, Mr. Chisholm, in respect to the general fallaciousness of his estimates. Without desiring to screen these gentlemen from any censure which they may merit, I must, nevertheless, observe, that of the entire responsibility for the great irregularities under notice, it is comparatively only a very small portion that, in my opinion, justly attaches to them.

5. I should wish to be furnished with a report of the final cost of the building, and of its suitableness, when completed, for the purpose for which it has been planned.

ORDERED that a copy of the despatch be forwarded to the Government of Madras in the Public Works Department, with the remark that the Government of India must insist upon strict adherence in future to the rules prohibiting outlay unless on proper sanctions.

(Signed) C. W. HUTCHINSON, Colonel, R. E.,
Offg. Dy. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

No. 14. ORDER THEREON, 1st September 1871, No. 2,233.

MILITARY WORKS, No. 1.

COMMUNICATED to the Superintending Engineer of the 7th Division, to Lieutenant-Colonel Farewel, and to Mr. Chisholm.

(True Extract.)

Captain, R.E.,
Under-Secretary to Government.

To the Superintending Engineer, 7th Division.
To Lieutenant-Colonel W. Farewell.
To R. F. Chisholm, Esq.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

Communications to be addressed to Secretary.

No. 925 B—M.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

BUILDINGS AND ROADS.

Military.

Simla, 31st July 1871.

Read the following.

India office
London, 24th May 1871.

Public Works.
No. 36.

To His Excellency the Right Honble
The Governor-General of India
in Council.

My Lord,

Para. 1. I have had before me in Council your Excellency's despatch No. 31 of 27th February last and the copies therewith forwarded of proceedings in connection with the Lawrence Asylum Buildings at Ootacamund.

2. According to the history of these proceedings as epitomized in a resolution of your Government, dated 12th November last, the proposal

proposal for their construction was originally brought forward in the Madras Budget Estimate for 1863-64, wherein their probable cost was entered at considerably less than two lacs. But by February 1867, when detailed estimates were for the first time forwarded to your Government, the expected cost had more than quintupled, having risen to nearly 10 lacs, of which Rupees 1,30,173 had already been expended, of course without proper authority. This "past-expenditure" was, however, presently afterwards sanctioned, and sanction was, about two years later, given likewise to a revised estimate of Rupees 3,94,137 for the main building of the Male Asylum, apparently in the expectation that, by some subsequent additions to that edifice, the necessity for a separate Female Asylum might be done away with. But in March 1870, while the total amount sanctioned was thus still only Rupees 5,24,300 the Madras Government apprised you that expenditure had reached Rupees 8,33,774; following up this intimation by submitting shortly afterwards revised estimates amounting to Rupees 11,80,112. So the prospective expenditure involved in these estimates, which besides demanding more than a lac of rupees in addition to the sum of nearly four lacs previously granted for an Asylum

Asylum for Boys, provides for a separate Asylum for Girls at a cost of another four lacs, you have not accorded sanction, having on the contrary called for a revised project for the conversion of the Asylum Hospital into a Female Asylum, and having at the same time warned the Madras Government of the necessity for extreme care in the preparation of the new estimates, as any expenditure in excess of them would be absolutely refused —

3. This is a brief outline of proceedings which are so justly described by your Excellency in Council as having been characterized from the beginning by a disregard of the rules laid down with the view of ensuring financial regularity that it is difficult to understand why the authoritative interposition of your Government in regard to them did not take place at a much earlier stage. That it should have been so long delayed is the more surprising as my predecessor Lord Cranborne, in August 1866 and again in January 1867, drew attention to the extravagant and unauthorized expenditure that was going on. When Lord Cranborne wrote, it would still have been possible to enforce some regard for economy on the Madras Government

Government but the time for that has passed, and there is now no alternative but to acquiesce in the misemployment of public money that has been so unaccountably permitted.

4. In the Resolution above referred to, your Excellency in Council after expressing dissatisfaction with the whole of the transactions reviewed, proceeds to pass special censure on the Executive Engineer, Lieutenant Colonel Farewell, and on the Superintending Engineer, Colonel Walker, the one for substituting on his own authority, in two or three items, work of a more expensive character than had been originally intended, and the latter for failing to report these changes as soon as he discovered them; and you also desire to be informed what notice the Madras Government propose to take of the conduct of the Architect, Mr. Chisholm, in respect to the general fallaciousness of his estimates. Without desiring to screen these gentlemen from any censure which they may merit, I must, nevertheless, observe, that of the entire responsibility for the great irregularities under notice, it is comparatively only a very small portion that, in my opinion, justly attaches to them.

I should wish to be furnished with a report of the final cost of the building, and of its suitableness, when completed, for the purpose for which it has been planned.

I have the honor to be &c.
(signed) Argyll.

Ordered that a copy of the despatch in the P.W.D. be forwarded to the Government of Madras with the remark that the Government of India must insist upon strict adherence in future to the rule prohibiting outlay unless on proper sanctions.

(Sd) [illegible] Colonel R.E.
Offg Deputy Secretary to the Govt of India

12.12-A.11

P. W. 1871 Dept

No 3787.

From:

The Government of India

Read 31° July 71.
Read 10° Aug 1871.

No 928 B. In.

Forwarding Copy of a Despatch from the Secretary of State, calling for a report of the final Cost etc of the Lawrence Asylums Buildings at Calcutta and observing that they will insist upon strict adherence in future to the rules prohibiting outlay unless on proper sanction.

No 2288 Statement

No 2233.

Communicated to the Right Hon'ble Lawrence Asylum Committee.

E. C. Bayley Esq
A. F. Chapman Esq

Aug 12 1871

Copy to Audit Dept No. 2233

C - No - 3787 -

Cost of [1871] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engr
1st Circle

Dated.

Rcd. Read.

G. O. 1 Sept. 1871, No. 2233.

Nos. 13 & 14

Lawrence Asylum works

Ret Paid the Supd. Engr
Forwarding Copy & Despatch
from the Secretary of State
calling for a report of his Opin-
ion & observing that this
will involve upon Govt.
a Revenue in future of Rs.
for building an Hospl