M.R.O. 1—77,006—3-6-37.

(1) Number of pages— 10

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(3) Initials of the Referencer—

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PW & Works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 2526. Press / Mis.

Dated 16-10- 1937.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 246. Read the following letter from the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 15th September 1871, No. 1,121:—

I HAVE the honour to bring to the notice of Government the difficulty some Range Officers and Overseers in temporary charge of ranges experience in furnishing the Controller of Public Works Accounts with completion certificates for works executed by their predecessors.

2. My present representation refers more particularly to works completed in 1870-71.

3. Owing to circumstances over which it was not possible to exercise that control to ensure the submission of these documents, as the charge of ranges devolved upon others at an inconvenient time of the year, *i. e.*, either at the close of 1870-71, or the beginning of 1871-72, the duty of preparing the certificates falls to the lot of the newly appointed Range Officers or subordinates.

4. To do this they must necessarily inspect works themselves, and these, in most cases, are roads on which maintenance grants have been expended more or less ratably throughout each of the twelve months of the preceding official year.

It will thus be seen that they have to satisfy themselves that work executed has been commensurate with the expenditure incurred, unless they accept the periodical inspections of such work by previous Range Officers as justifying their granting the certificates.

5. There are at present two Overseers in temporary charge of ranges, and I find that they have to travel over the whole of the talooks in their respective ranges for the purpose of furnishing these certificates for works as finished. It must be obvious that during such absence the works in their own talooks have to be entrusted to less efficient supervision; I think Government will agree with me in considering that it is decidedly unfair to expect these men on the salary and travelling allowance of their grade to travel over some three or four talooks without the remotest prospect of receiving a pice of extra remuneration to pay their increased travelling allowances at least.

6. But for the issue of G. O., No. 1,770, dated 4th July 1871, I should have specially recommended the granting of some remuneration to each of the two Overseers in question; I, however, hope, should the Government of India accede to the proposal referred to in above G. O., that the claims these Overseers have for some consideration may have retrospective effect.

7. In conclusion, I beg to state that this division is very indifferently officered, and this must be known to Government from several recent applications for leave on account of ill-health, etc. In the absence of members of the executive establishment eligible for the charge of a range, I am obliged to allow the senior or most efficient of the Overseers in the range to hold temporary charge. Thus the Poddatoor Range has been under an Overseer for the past twelve months, and now the Ghooty Range is in temporary charge of Mr. Overseer Bowell, vice Lieutenant Gray, Assistant Engineer, proceeded on twelve months' sick leave. This is the best possible arrangement I could make; but when I think of the prospect of important ranges being thus placed in charge, I cannot, I think, too forcibly represent the inconvenience, and I further respectfully contend that an Overseer thus placed in

charge ought not to be required to furnish completion certificates, as to do so, apart from other reasons, he has to leave his own talook for days, and exercise supervision over the Range office besides his own, and this I consider it quite as much as an Overseer in temporary charge should be expected to do.

8. My object in representing these matters to Government is to ascertain their views as to the exact position an Overseer holds when in temporary charge of a range, as the Controller of Public Works Accounts, under the rules he is guided by, will not, of course, finally pass expenditure on works that have been completed, unless he is furnished with completion certificates, and which I hold ought only to be supplied by executive members of the department who are considered *eligible* for range charges.

No. 247.

ORDER THEREON, 14th October 1871, No. 2,626.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 22.

THE Government observe that Overseers are only appointed to the charge of ranges under exceptional circumstances when an officer or upper subordinate of a higher rank is not available. His Excellency the Governor in Council is quite sensible of the inconvenience attending such temporary appointments and is desirous that they should, as far as possible, be avoided, but when such appointments are unavoidable the inspection of works and grant of completion certificates must like other duty of a Range Officer devolve on the Overseer.

2. In reference to paragraph 4 the Superintending Engineer will be informed that, under the circumstances therein noticed, a member of the department of any rank who is required to grant completion certificates should modify the usual form to suit the particular case so as to fully express his own opinion in regard to the alleged expenditure in connection with the condition in which he finds the work on inspection; when, if the Controller considers the certificate insufficient to pass the expenditure, he will refer each case for the orders of Government.

3. The proposal for granting higher travelling allowances to Overseers in charge of ranges is still under reference to the Government of India. The Government are of opinion that, under the circumstances mentioned in his 7th paragraph, Colonel A. S. Moberly would have exercised a wiser discretion if he had not recommended Mr. Assistant Engineer Montserratt for three months' privilege leave.

(True Extract.)

Offg. Joint Secretary to Government.

Captain, R.E.,

To the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division.
To all other Superintending Engineers.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 1121

Superintending Engineer's Office.
3rd Division.
Bellary 15th September 1871.

From,

The Superintending Engineer
3rd Division,

To.

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort Saint George

Enclosures.

Sir,

I have the honor to bring to the notice of Government the difficulty there is in finding Officers and Overseers temporary charge of Ranges experienced in furnishing the Controller of Public Accounts with Completion Certificates for works executed by their predecessors.

2. My former representations refer more particularly to works completed since 1870-71.

3. Owing to circumstances over which it was not possible to exercise that control to ensure the submission of these documents, as the charge of Ranges devolved upon others at any convenient time of the year, i.e. either at the close of 1870 or the beginning of 1871-72, the duty of forwarding the Certificates falls to the lot of the newly appointed Range Officers or Subordinates.

4. To do this they must necessarily inspect works themselves and these are most cases are Roads on which Maintenance grants have been expended more or less reliably throughout each of the 12 months of the preceding

Official

Official year.

It will thus be seen, that they have to satisfy themselves that work executed has been Commensurate with the expenditure incurred unless they accept the periodical inspections of such work by previous Range Officers as justifying their granting the Certificates.

5. There are at present two Overseers in temporary charge of Ranges, and I find that they have to travel over the whole of the Talooks in their respective Range for the purpose of furnishing these Certificates for works as finished. It must be obvious that during such absence the works in their own Talooks have to be entrusted to less efficient supervision, I think Government will agree with me in considering that it is decidedly unfair to expect these men on the Salary and Travelling allowance of their grade to travel over some three or four Talooks without the remotest prospect of receiving a fair of extra remuneration to pay their increased travelling allowances at least.

6. But for the issue of G.C. No. 1770 dated 4 July 1871 I should have specially recommended the granting of some remuneration to each of the two Overseers in question; I however hope, should the Government of India accede to the proposal referred to in above G.C. that the claims these Overseers have for some consideration may have retrospective effect.

7. In conclusion, I beg to state that this Division is very indifferently officered and this must be known to Government from several recent applications for leave on account of ill health &c. In the absence of Members of the Executive establishment eligible for the charge of a Range, I am obliged to allow the senior or most efficient of the Overseers in the Range to hold temporary charge. Thus the Poddatoor Range has been under an Overseer for the past 12 months and now the Ghooty Range is in temporary charge of the Overseer Bowell vice Lieutenant Gray, Asstt. Engineer, proceeded on 12 months Sick leave. This is the best possible arrangement I could make but when I think of the prospect of important Ranges being thus placed in charge, I cannot, I think, too forcibly represent the inconvenience and, I further respectfully contend that an Overseer thus placed in charge ought not to be required to furnish Completion Certificates as to do so, apart from other reasons, he has to leave his own Talook for days and exercise supervision over the Range Office besides his own and thus, I consider it quite as much as an Overseer in temporary charge should be expected to do.

8. My object in representing these matters to Government is to ascertain their views as to the exact position an Overseer holds when in temporary charge of a Range as the Controller of P.W. Accounts, under the rules he is guided by, will not of course finally pass expenditure on works that have been completed unless he is furnished with Completion Certificates and which I hold ought only to be supplied by Executive Members of the Department who are considered eligible for Range charges.

I have the honorable
Sir
Your most Obedt Servt.

J. Moore
Supdg. Engineer 3rd Divn

P. W. 1871 - 72 Sept 4
Govt Gen 7th October
No 4415.

From,

The Superintending Engineer

3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Government.

Public Works Department.

Fort Saint George.

No. 1121

Dated 4 September 1871.

Received 18

Submits for consideration his views that Overseers in temporary Charge of Ranges should not be required to furnish Completion Certificates for works

No 2626 - 14 October 71

No 2446

6 Oct 19 Letter pr Cr 10 Cir

but when such appointments are ~~i~~ unavoidable the inspection of works and grant of completion Certificates must like other duty of a Large Officer devolve on the Overseer.

In reference to para 2 the Supt. will be informed that under the circumstances therein noticed a Member of the Dept. of any rank who is required to grant Completion Certificates should modify the usual form to suit the particular case so as fully to express his own opinion

in regard to the alleged expenditure in connection with the condition in which he finds the work on inspection; when, if the Controller considers the certificate insufficient to pass the expenditure he will refer each case for the orders of Govt:-

The proposal for granting higher travelling allowances to Overseers in charge of Ranges is still under reference to the Govt: of India. The Govt: are of opinion that under the circumstances mentioned in his 7th para Col: A. S. Rutherby would have exercised a wider discretion if he had

not Recommended
by A.P.I. Engineer Montserrat
for three months privilege
leave.

16-12
12

To Lieut Engr 3 days
" All other Lieut Engrs
" Contractor
" Major Kennedy

Depd 16/10/71

Q - No - 44152

Govt. of [1871] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Superintending Engineer
S. Division

Dated

Read.

Fwd.

G. O. 14th Oct. 1871, N. 2626.

Nos 2166 & 247

Overseers in temporary charge
of Rangers. Posting orders
on the letter from the Super-
intending Engr of the 3d Div.
submitting his views that
Overseers in temporary charge
of Rangers should not be
required to furnish Computation
of Estimates for works.