M.R.O. 1—27,004—8-5-51.

(1) Number of pages _____

(2) Date of repair _____

(3) Initials of the Repairer _____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No.	Press Mis.
Dated	18

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th May 1872.

Read the following letters :—

No. 222. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 1st Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Dowlaishweram, 16th February 1872, No. 3,538.

In reply to G. O. of the 6th instant, No. 363, I have the honour to observe that if the functions of this department are to be reduced to the mere purpose of keeping a set of accounts in prescribed forms, and according to certain rules, the more frequently the Controller visits the ranges, the more satisfaction will he be able to afford the Government on the system being carried out in its integrity. I believe the proposed arrangement to be next to impracticable, and am quite convinced it is useless, but it can be tried if approved of and sanctioned.

No. 223. From the Superintending Engineer, 2nd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Chebrole, 1st April 1872, No. 1.

In reply to G. O., No. 363, 6th February, I have the honour to observe that, in my opinion, the entire responsibility of the accounts should ultimately devolve upon the Controller; but I do not think that, with the system prevailing in the Madras Presidency, and I believe there only, this is practicable.

2. I would urge that for the accounts, as indeed for every departmental object, we should succeed better if the Collectorates were divided according to their importance into two or more executive ranges, and the system pursued in other countries more fully practised in this Presidency.

3. In the Executive Engineers' Offices should be concentrated the account, drawing, and estimating departments; the latter would work either under the Executive Engineer himself, his Assistant, or such upper subordinate as he from time to time might call in from field duty to carry out his detailed instructions; at present much time is lost by unskilled Range Officers designing and estimating for works wholly unsuitable for the purpose, and the Superintending Engineer being obliged to draw them up almost anew.

4. At the head of the Account Department should be placed a man with higher rank and pay than any we now possess in this Presidency, with a suitable staff of Assistants.

5. I have not gone into the details, but I believe I could submit to the Government a scheme of establishment that would not cost more than the existing one and be far more efficient.

6. The Overseers would, as now, carry out all ordinary duties, their writers are, in my opinion, underpaid, considering how much depends on the correctness of the papers which they keep. A Supervisor, or Sub-Engineer, would ordinarily be sent from the Executive Engineer's Office to check the Overseer's work, and would not require any Accountant, except when employed specially on some work of a higher order than could be trusted to an Overseer—construction of a bridge, or carrying out of minor project.

7. Similarly with an Assistant Engineer who would aid the Executive Engineer in frequent inspections of large works and in measurements of all completed works as laid down in G. O., No. 692 of 12th March 1872.

8. The Head Accountant should be held responsible for the correctness of all vouchers, etc. The Executive Engineer should initial all papers that he may examine himself, and it might perhaps be well to insist that he, or his Assistant, should each month go through all the vouchers of some one or more work taken at random *after* the Head Accountant had reported them complete—those he should sign.

9. Payments of petty sums would be made by Overseers; larger sums by the Supervisors after inspection of the vouchers, and as much as possible by cheques. They might be supplied with these for varying amounts like currency notes, or might indent for specific sums payable to certain persons, contractors, etc.

10. Under such a system the Head Accountants, immediately under the Executive Engineers, would be responsible to the Controller, who could, I conceive, inspect all, as required by the Accountant-General, twice a year or even oftener. Under the better supervision of a higher class of Accountant, who could appeal at once for support to the Executive Engineer, there would be greater facility for putting an end to the "slipslop deviations" complained of, which, I fear, are now only discovered accidentally in many cases.

No. 224. From the Superintending Engineer, 3rd Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Bellary, 13th February 1872, No. 2,109.

I HAVE the honour to inform you, with reference to G. O., No. 363, dated 6th instant, that I quite agree with the Accountant-General of the Public Works Department, that the entire responsibility connected with all the details of accounts, etc., of Executive Officers should rest entirely with the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

No. 225. From the Superintending Engineer, 4th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madras, 15th February 1872, No. 4,601.

WITH reference to G. O., 6th February 1872, No. 363, I have the honour to report that I quite agree with the Accountant-General of the Public Works Department, as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection and correctness of accounts in all Executive Offices; but I do not see with our present defective state of accounts, and the numerous offices now in direct communication with the Controller, how it is possible for a Controller, or his Deputy, to make such constant inspection as is required. I believe that our whole system of accounts, if it can be designated a system, is erroneous, and the sooner the system now in use in the provinces under the Supreme Government is adopted in Madras the better. At present, in large works that have been in progress for some years, it is quite impossible to make out or follow up the accounts, and yet they are kept in the proper way I am bound to believe, as the Controller or his Deputy makes no objection to them at their inspections.

No. 226. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 5th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Cuddalore, 19th February 1872, No. 253.

WITH reference to G. O., No. 363 of 6th instant, I have the honour to state that I entirely concur with the Accountant-General that Superintending Engineers should be relieved of all responsibility as regards the examination of the accounts and books of Executive Engineer's Office, and that I think it would be well if he were to endeavour to reduce the account and paper work which occupies so much of the time of an Executive Engineer to the prejudice of the far more important duty of inspection of work.

No. 227. From the Officiating Superintending Engineer, 6th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Covilady, 15th February 1872, No. 887.

WITH reference to G. O, No. 363, dated 6th February 1872, I have the honour to report that, in my opinion, Superintending Engineers should be relieved of all responsibility connected with the accounts and books in the Range Offices. The examination of the accounts is properly the work of the Controller, and it is not desirable that there should be any divided responsibility in this more than in any other work; at the same time, as the number of ranges is so great that the Controller cannot examine the offices frequently, it is advisable that the Superintending Engineer should, when opportunity occurs, look at the books, and he should therefore be quite at liberty to examine any books in the Range Offices, and to note in them anything he deemed objectionable, which would thus be brought to the notice of the Controller.

No. 228. From the Acting Superintending Engineer, 7th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Ponany, 17th February 1872, No. 241.

IN reply to G. O., No. 363, dated 6th February 1872, I have the honour to report that I quite concur with the Accountant-General in the views expressed in his note printed with the G. O. under reply.

No. 229. From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 10th April 1872, No. 116.

IN obedience to the instructions contained in G. O., dated 6th February 1872, No. 363, calling upon me for an expression of my opinion as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection of Executive Engineer's Offices, I have the honour to report as follows.

2. I would premise by remarking that the G. O. in question refers merely to the offices of Executive Engineers; but a system adopted for Executive Engineers only would not be suitable for ranges, as is the case in this Presidency, in charge of Assistant Engineers, still less to those in charge of Supervisors

3. In the five investigations of alleged fraud on the part of Range Officers which I have conducted in this division during the year just past, it has been clear to me that the objectionable practices that have come to light have originated from the facility with which frauds can be perpetrated in consequence of the bills for work stated to have been executed being forwarded to the Controller direct *without the intervention or scrutiny of any professional superior.*

4. I feel satisfied that the tone and prestige of this department can never be regained as long as this objectionable practice is in force. No mere change from the system of Superintending Engineers to that of District Engineers, as is proposed, will effect a permanent remedy, *until this serious blot in the system is thoroughly erased.*

5. In Range Offices in charge of Executive Engineers, who are officers of experience in the department, the Government have sufficient guarantee that bills are properly checked before submission to the Controller. But as regards ranges otherwise situated, it appears to me *a sine qua non* that no bill should in future be submitted to the Controller unless countersigned by the Superintending Engineer.

6. It might be as well to make the rule absolute that all bills shall be scrutinized and countersigned by the Superintending Engineer before submission to the Controller, while a rider should add that exceptions to the rule will be allowed in certain particular cases, to be specially named, where ranges are in charge of Executive Officers of experience.

7. To enable, as suggested, the proposed inspection of the accounts twice in a year by a member of the Controller's Department, the number of the Controlling Deputies will have to be very considerably increased. The rule hitherto in this Presidency has been that Range Offices are inspected by the Controller once in three years, and even with this arrangement the Controller and his Deputy have to make frequent trips.

8. I am decidedly of opinion therefore that the Range Officers' books and the general method of working in his Office should be inspected by the Superintending Engineer, and, as a general rule, there would be, I presume, no difficulty in this inspection being made twice during the year.

9. The Controller, as Auditor, should, as at present, be expected to see that the Range Account books of all sorts are maintained in the prescribed form, and that they are accurately and neatly kept, and that no deviations from the defined limits are allowed to occur.

10. I cannot but think that the selection of the name of Controller for the head of the account branch of the Public Works Department is most unfortunate. Such a nomenclature leads, and must lead, to much confusion of ideas, and it is to my mind directly responsible for the many frauds which have recently been practised on the Government, in consequence of the false security in which the Government have been lulled by reposing on a (nominal) Control Department—a confidence and trust which they never could have thought of doing had that department been called by its real name, namely, a department of account and audit.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 6th May 1872.

No. 230. From the Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Vythery, 26th February 1872, No. 79.

Reference.—G. O., No. 363, dated 6th February 1872.

With reference to above I presume it may be taken for granted that it is not intended that two officers, entirely independent of each other, should be employed on the same duties; and that while the province of the Superintending Engineer is to see that the public receives good and full value for expenditure, *it is the duty of the Controller to see that such expenditure is properly recorded.*

2. Under the present system of accounts it is rather difficult to draw a line sufficiently distinct to keep each officer strictly on different sides of it; I take it, however, that all questions relating to measurements, quantities, and rates, are so intimately connected with executive work that there can be no doubt that the Superintending Engineer can only check the proceedings of his Executive Officers by means of them; whereas for any check beyond simple regularity of account-keeping such details can be of no earthly use in the hands of the Controller, who can only treat them as a matter of figures. I would therefore not require of the latter officer anything that does not appertain to the system of accounts, pure and simple, leaving records of the nature of registers of work, note books of measurements in the field, tables of rates, etc., (all information from which is repeated in progress reports) to the Superintending Engineer.

3. I cannot see that it tends to any great good to exact strict uniformity in minutiæ which, seeing that Superintending Engineers are always officers of considerable standing, might be safely left to them. What is fit and convenient in one district may be *inconvenient and troublesome, perhaps impracticable in another; to expect otherwise* would be much as if the uniform of a whole regiment were not only to be of one colour, but all of one size; so Chinese, like a fidelity to pattern, can seldom work well when the field is so extensive.

4. I do not know whether any expression of opinion is asked as to the frequency of Controller's inspections, but I should think that the punctuality and manner in which accounts are furnished from ranges would enable him pretty well generally to judge where a visit from him would be desirable.

No. 231. From the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th February 1872, No. 2,853.

Adverting to the Proceedings of Government, No. 363, under date the 6th February 1872, I have the honour to state that, looking to the area of this Presidency, *it will be physically impossible to arrange for Range Offices being inspected* "twice in the year," as proposed by the Accountant-General of the Public Works Department.

2. The territories under the Government of Madras are about a thousand miles in length, the greatest breadth being a little over 400 miles. Within this area there are no less than eighty-three Public Works Ranges, and if I or the Deputy Controller were constantly on the move, it would not be practicable, taking all things into consideration, to inspect Range Offices oftener than *once* a year. I cannot see

what substantial advantage is to be gained in this Presidency by an annual, or even a biennial, inspection, and the late Accountant-General,* after a discussion of the subject with Major-General Orr, and the then Controller of Public Works Accounts, recorded his opinion, in memorandum, dated 12th December 1866, that it would be sufficient "if the whole Presidency were visited by the Controller or his Deputy in the course of three years." The Government having expressed their approval of this arrangement in Proceedings No. 88, dated 10th January 1867, full effect has been given to it, Range Offices in particular cases being inspected oftener when necessary.

* Colonel Chesney.

See G. O., No. 88, dated 10th January 1867.

3. We have no Railway divisions in this Presidency, and but ten ranges in which irrigation works are being carried out from borrowed capital. Should the Government desire it, these latter ranges will be examined biennially. More than this is not, in my opinion, called for, particularly as the books maintained in Madras Range Offices are of a simple character, and the system of account is generally well understood.

4. With respect to the inspection of Range Officers' accounts by Superintending Engineers, I have reason to think that the practice which has heretofore been followed in Madras has been attended with good results, and while I do not recommend any change in this respect, I would not advocate any direct responsibility being imposed upon Superintending Engineers in connection with their examination of their executive officers' accounts. Such examinations would be confined to seeing that the more important account books are current, and that the balances appearing in the cash book agree in all cases with the money in the range cash chest.

No. 232. ORDER THEREON, 6th May 1872, No. 1,166.

ACCOUNT, No. 13.

ORDERED that the following letter be sent :—

(Here enter No. 1,167, dated 6th May 1872.)

(True Extract.)

(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,

Officiating Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT,
FORT ST. GEORGE, 6th *May* 1872.

No. 133. No. 1,167.

To

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT, No. 14.

SIR,—With reference to the Circular of the Government of India, dated 13th January 1872, No. 6, I am directed to forward the accompanying letters from the Superintending Engineers and the Controller of Public Works Accounts containing their views as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection of Range Offices.

2. In the opinion of this Government the Controller's inspections should be confined to the accounts, and it should be his duty to see that the forms laid down for the guidance of the department are strictly conformed to. From the reports which are made from time to time, the Government have reason to believe that this duty is carefully performed. With regard to the Controller being required to inspect Range Offices at least twice a year, I am to invite attention to Mr. Brock's letter, in which he explains that the circumstances of this Presidency are such as to render the arrangement impracticable, and that the general satisfactory condition of the Public Works Accounts in this Presidency does not call for so frequent an inspection as even once a year. He points out that the late Accountant-General (Colonel Chesney) was of opinion that it would be sufficient if the whole Presidency were visited by the Controller or his Deputy in the course of three years, and, under these circumstances, the Government see no necessity for insisting on a more frequent inspection than is now made, except perhaps in the case of those ranges in which a large outlay is being incurred from Loan Funds on important irrigation projects.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Colonel, R.E.,

Officiating Secretary to Government.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

No. 2553 Office of the Controller of Public Works. Accounts.
Fort St George, 20 February 1872.

From
The Controller of Public Works Accts,
Madras.

To
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Madras.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith Proceedings of Government No. 303, dated the 6th February 1872, from the Board to Mr Westhof, relating to the arrears of Rain Pressing, which will be found highly impossible to arrange for large Presses being inspected "twice in the year," as proposed by the

Accountant General of the Public Works Department.

-ment.

2. The Territories under the Government of Madras contain about a thousand miles in length, the greatest breadth being a little over 400 miles. Within this area there are no less than 83 Public Works Ranges, and if for the Deputy Controllership contabulty on the map, it would not be practicable, taking all things into consideration, to inspect Range Offices oftener than once a year. Connected with the substantial advantage

Colonel Chesney.

is to be gained in this Presidency by an annual, or even a bi-annual, inspection, and the late Accountant General, after a discussion of the subject with Major General Cullen, and the then Controller of Public Works Accounts, recorded his opinion in March See G.O. dated 12th December 1866, dated 10th January 1867. that he had personally the sufficient knowledge of the Presidency to visit the Controller or his Deputy in the course of the three years. The Government having expressed their approval of this arrangement

preceding. Ps. 28, dated
15th January 1857, fully
effect has been given
both, Range Offices
in particular, owing
being inspected often
by the Surveyor
3. The Railway Companies
in their Prospectuses
and Parliamentary
Bills, and the Engineers
in their Reports
to Parliament,
have, in many
instances, called for
particularly as the
Bills, unavoidably

in Madras. Range
Offices are of a similar
character, and the
system of accounts
generally, well under-
stood.
4. With respect to
the inspection of
Range Offices, accounts
by Superintending
Engineers, I would
refer to what I have
the honour to have
before stated
more fully and
with detail, and
to add, that recom-
mendations, changes
in the instructions,
would not advocate
any direct responsibility

Deputy Inspecting Engineer
in connection with
their examination
of their Accounts. Such
Officers' Accounts shall
be confined to seeing
that the more
important records
of the case are carried out,
and that the balances
appearing in the book
of Account in all
cases with the money
in the Paymaster's
Chest.

Have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient
Servt
S. Woodd
Comdr & Inspecting Engr. Accounts.

Lieut

No 79

Special Executive Engineer's
Office Wynaad, Vythery
26th February 1872

From,

The Special Executive Engineer
Wynaad

To,

The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works
Madras.

Sir,

Reference G.O. No 363 dated
6th February 1872

With reference to above Spec-
-ture it may be taken for granted that
it is not intended that two Officers sev-
-erally independent of each other, should
be employed on the same duties, and
that while the province of the Superin-
-tending Engineer is to see that the Public
receives good and full value for expendi-
-ture, it is the duty of the Controller to see
that such expenditure is properly recorded.

2. Under the present system of
accounts it is rather difficult to draw a
line sufficiently distinct to keep each Officer
strictly on different sides of it; I take it,
however, that all questions relating to mea-
-surements, quantities, and rates, are so
intimately connected with executive work,
that there can be no doubt that the Superin-
-tend

No 79
Special Executive Engineer's
Office Wynaad, Vythery
26th February 1872.
From,
The Special Executive Engineer
Wynaad
To,
The Secretary to Government
Department Public Works
Madras.
Sir,
Reference G.O. No 363 dated
6th February 1872
With reference to above Spec-
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it is not intended that two Officers sev-
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-tend

=ding Engineer can only check the pro=
=ceedings of his Executive Officers by means
of them: whereas for any check beyond simple
regularity of account-keeping such details
can be of no earthly use in the hands of the
Controller who can only read them as a
matter of figures. I am therefore not to en=
=quire of the latter Officer anything that does
not appertain to the system of accounts pure
and simple, leaving records of the nature of
Registers of work, Field Books of measure=
=ments in the field, Tables of Rates (& all
information from which is referred to in Pro=
=gress Reports) to the Superintending Engineer.

3. I cannot see that it leads to any
great good to expect stated uniformity in minutia
when, seeing that Superintending Engineers
are always Officers of considerable standing
must be safely left to them. What is fit,
and convenient in one district, may be
inconvenient, and troublesome, perhaps
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but all of one size. The Chinese like a fidelity
to pattern can seldom work well when the
field is so extensive.

4. I do not know whether any ex=
=pression of opinion is asked as to the frequency
of Controllers inspections, but I should think

that

That the punctuality and manner in
which accounts are furnished from Ranje
would enable him pretty well generally to
judge where a visit from him would be desirable.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
Richd Strachey Major
Special Executive Engineer
Hyderabad

No 116. Superintg Engineer's Office S Dn
Madura 10 April 1872

From
Lieut: Colonel R. A. Roberts RE
Superintg Engineer S Dn

To
Colonel J Carpendale RE
Secretary to Government D PW

Sir

In obedience to the instructions contained in G O dated 6 February 1872, No 363, calling upon me for an expression of my opinion as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection of Executive Engineers' Offices, I have the honor to report as follows.

2 I would premise by remarking that the G O in question refers merely to the offices of Executive Engineers; but a system adapted for Executive Engineers

only would not be suitable for Ranges, as is the case in this district, in charge of Assistant Engineers, while less to those in charge of Supervisors.

3. In the first investigation of alleged fraud on the part of Range Officers which I have conducted on this Division during the past year, it has been clear to me that the objectionable practices that have come to light have originated from the facility with which hands can be perpetrated in consequence of the bills for work stated to have been executed being forwarded to the Controller direct without the intervention or scrutiny of any professional superior.

4. I feel satisfied that the zeal and prestige of this Department can never be regained as long as this objectionable practice is in force.

No mere change from the system of Superintending Engineers to that of District Engineers, as is proposed, will effect a permanent remedy, until this serious blot on the system is thoroughly erased.

5. That Range Officers in charge of Executive Engineers who are Officers of experience in the Department, the Government have sufficient guarantee that bills are properly checked before submission to the Controller. That as regards Ranges otherwise situated, it appears to me a most good rule that no bills should in future be submitted to the Controller unless countersigned by the Superintending Engineer.

6. It might be as well to make the rule absolute that all bills shall be scrutinized and countersigned by the Superintending Engineer before submission to the Controller,

while a Ride should add that exceptions to the rule will be allowed in certain particular cases, to be specially named, when Rangers are in charge of Executive Officers of experience.

7. To enable, as suggested, the proposed inspection of the accounts twice in a year by a member of the Controllers Department, the number of the Controllers Deputies will have to be very considerably increased. Hitherto in this Presidency those Range Offices are inspected by the Controller once in 3 years, and even with this arrangement, the Controller and his Deputy have to make frequent trips.

8. I am decidedly of opinion therefore that the Range Officers books and the general method of working

on his Office should be inspected by the Superintending Engineer, and as a general rule there would be, I presume, no difficulty in this inspection being made twice during the year.

9. The Controller, as Auditor, should, as at present, be expected to see that the Range Account Books of all sorts are maintained in the prescribed form, and that they are accurately and neatly kept, and that no deviations from the defined limits are allowed to occur.

10. I cannot but think that the selection of the name of Controller for the Head of the account branch of the P.W. Department is most unfortunate. Such a nomenclature leads, and must lead, to much confusion of ideas,

and it is to my mind directly res-
ponsible for the many frauds
which have recently been practised
on the Government, in consequence
of the false security in which
the Government have been lulled
by reposing on a (nominal) control
Department, a confidence and
trust which they never could have
thought of doing had that Depart-
ment been called by its real
name, viz: a Department of
Account and Audit.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
your Most obt. Servant,

Lieut. Colonel Lieut. Col. &c
Inspecting Engineer &c &c

Fo 6 February 1872 No 112 14

No 224

Ref 1872 Dec 14

Sir

No 1826.

The Secy Engrs
Genl Dept

I

The Secy to Govt
Pub. Wks Dept

Dated 10th April 1872
Rec'd 15th do

No 1166-1167 - 1 Encls

Enclosures have appeared to be
enclosed to the
Contractors should be
held responsible
for the misplacement of
Executive Engineers
Officers.

No 241

Office Engrs Office 7th Division
Camp Bonany 17th February 1872

Sir,

Lieut Colonel W. Farewell R.E.
Executive Engineer 7th Div.

To

The Secretary to Govt
Pub. Department
Madras

Sir,

In reply to G.O. No 363 dated 6th
February 1872, I have the honor to
report that I quite concur with the
Accountant General in the views
expressed in his note forwarded
with the G.O. under reply.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt Servant

W Farewell Lt Col R.E.
Executive Engineer 7th Div.

No 887.

Copy of Letter from Colonel Commanding Royal Engineers, Cape Town, dated 20th February 1872

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith a Report from Lieutenant Stanley, Royal Engineers, dated 17th February 1872, No 238, on the subject of the Defences of Table Bay.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
[illegible]
Colonel Commanding Royal Engineers

The Secretary to Government,
Cape Town.

Copy

Sir,

I have the honor to forward herewith a Report dated 17th February 1872 No 238 from Lieutenant Stanley, Royal Engineers, on the subject of the Defences of Table Bay.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
[illegible]
Colonel Commanding Royal Engineers

The Secretary to Government,
Cape Town.

No 228
Military R 23d

Report that the works executed in the Defences of Table Bay by the Colonial General in the year 1871 printed with G.O. 363 dated 6th February 1872

No 238

Royal Engineers Office
Cape Town 17th February 1872

Sir,

I have the honor to report that the works executed in the Defences of Table Bay by the Colonial General in the year 1871 printed with G.O. 363 dated 6th February 1872 have been inspected by me, and I have the honor to submit the accompanying Report and Sketch of the Defences of Table Bay.

The Secretary to Government,
Cape Town.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
[illegible]
Lieutenant Royal Engineers

Report on the Defences of Table Bay

Dated 17th February 1872

I have the honor to report that the Works executed in the Defences of Table Bay by the Colonial General in the year 1871 and mentioned in the Report of the Commanding Royal Engineer dated 6th February 1872 have been inspected by me, and I have the honor to submit the accompanying Sketch of the Defences of Table Bay.

The Secretary to Government,
Cape Town.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient humble Servant,
[illegible]
Lieutenant Royal Engineers

Rec'd 6th February/72 with 118 ins

P. W. 1872 Sheard.
Supt. Engr. Office, 5th Div.
Enniskillen 19th February 1872.

No. 838.

The Offg. Supt. Engineer,
6th Division.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary to Board of Public Works, a letter from Captain James Vertue R.E., Asst. Superintending Engineer, 5th Div. dated 15th inst. with its enclosure from Colonel J. Carpendale R.E., Asst. to Government D. P. W. dated 13th inst. on the subject of the responsibility of the Controller in connection with the Accounts and Books in Ranger offices.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.
James Vertue Captain R.E.
Actg. Supt. Engineer, 5th Div.

No. 227
Rec'd 17 Feby/72

No. 253.

Sir,

Captain James Vertue R.E.,
Asst. Superintending Engineer, 5th Div.

To,

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.,
Asst. to Government D. P. W.

Sir,

With reference to G. O. No. 363 of 6th inst. I have the honor to state that Executive Engineers should be relieved of all responsibility as regards the examination of the Accounts & Books of Executive Engineers Office, and that I think it would be well if he were to endeavour to reduce the Account & paper work which occupies so much of the time of an Executive Engineer to the prejudice of the far more important duty of inspection of works.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most Obedt. Servt.
James Vertue Captain R.E.
Actg. Supt. Engineer, 5th Div.

P.W. 1872 Accts
Progs for Feby
From No. 910
The Supg. Engr.
5th Divn.

To
The Secy. to Govt.
P.W.

Dated 15th }
Recd. 22nd } Feby 1872.

No. 253.

Inspection of Executive Engineers' Offices. —

Expressing his concurrence with the Accountant General that Supg. Engrs. should be relieved of all responsibility as regards the examination of accounts & Books of Executive Engineers' Offices.

No. 226

No. 4601 Supg Engr's Office 4th Divn.
Madras 15th February 1872.

From,

Colonel J. T. Wilkinson R.E.
Supg Engineer 4th Division

To,

Colonel J. Carpendale R.E.
Secretary to Government.
P. W. Department

Sir,

With reference to G.O. 6 February 1872 No. 363, I have the honor to report that, I quite agree with the Accountant General Public Works Department as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection and correctness of Accounts in all Executive Offices, but I do not see with our present defective state of Accounts, and the numerous Offices now in direct communication with the Controller how it is

possible

possible for a Controller or his
Deputy to make such Contract
inspection as is required. Whether
that such public system of Accounts,
if it can be designated a system, is
erroneous, and how the System should
be made in the future under the
Supreme Government is a Question
Easier to be better. at present in
Europe that cannot be in progress
for some years to come impossible
to make out or follow up the
Accounts, and yet they are kept
in the proper Way. I am bound to
believe as the Controller or his Deputy
made no objection to them at their
inspection.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

Chr. Wm. Lockwood Jr.
Asst. Engineer

J.W.

No. 209

Superintending Engineer's Office.
3rd Division.
Bellary 13th February 1872.

From,
The Superintending Engineer
3rd Division.

To,
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort St George

Sir,

Enclosures.

I have the honor to request that the sum of Rs 3313 may be placed at my disposal to defray the charges of the Establishment employed in the Executive Offices of Collectors & Heads of Executive Offices should be debited to the Contractors

I have &c

Superintending Engineer
3rd Division

Rec'd 16th Feby/72 No 118-119

Ex. Dr. 1872 Mechanl.
Exp. of Establishment Engaged
No 799.
From
The Supdg Engineer
4 D.
To
The Secy. to Govt
P.W.D.
Dated 15th Feby 1872
Rec'd 16th Feby 1872
No 1501

Reporting as to the extent to which Contractors should be held responsible for the inspection and correctness of accounts in all Executive Offices

No 1166-1167-6 Engs/72

No 225
6/3/72

Rec'd 6 July 1872 No 118-119

No. 187 - Ire Block
Report for May
1793

From,

The Superintending Engineer

3rd Division.

To,

The Secretary to Govt
Public Works Dept
Bombay

No. 2109.

Dated 12th 1st February 1872.

Received 1

ENCLOSURES.

Nos 1165 - 1167 - Ex Dep 72

Referring with reference
to G.O. No 3639 of 2nd inst.
I have the honor to adopt
as the amount of the
P.W.D. that the entire responsi-
bility of all accounts of
Executive Officers should
rest entirely with the Controller
of Public Accounts

No 224
Dep Bldg 2nd 2-3d

the latter would work either under the Executive Engineer himself, his Assistant, or such Officer subordinate as he from time to time might call in from field duty to carry out the detailed instructions - at present made due to last by resident Officers designing and estimating for works wholly executed for the purposes and the Superintending Engineer being obliged to draw them up himself -

4. A statement of the amount expended each month should be furnished to the Executive Engineer from the Subordinate Office, & the Executive Engineer should not pass any accounts, except those for supplies, unless they are vouched for by the Assistant Engineer in charge of the work, and the Executive Engineer in charge of the whole, and in advance of the completed works as laid down by the 18th Sept. of 12th March 1879.

5. The Executive Engineer should occasionally visit the works, and himself examine the Measurement Books, and the vouchers, and should be prepared to make such alterations in the Estimates, as may be found necessary, after the first year's working of the new system -

6. The Executive Engineer should be responsible for the correctness of the Estimates, and for the economical execution of the works, and should not allow any expenditure to be incurred on any work, which is not sanctioned by the Estimate, except in case of absolute necessity, when he should report the circumstances to the Superintending Engineer, for the sanction of Government -

7. The Executive Engineer should not be allowed to sanction any Estimate for a work, the cost of which will exceed Rupees 5,000, without the sanction of Government, except in case of absolute necessity, when he may sanction it, provided that the Assistant Engineer in charge of the work, and the Executive Engineer in charge of the whole, and in advance of the completed works as laid down by the 18th Sept. of 12th March 1879.

8. The Executive Engineer should be responsible for the correctness of the vouchers, and should not allow any Assistant Engineer to pass any accounts, except those for supplies, unless he himself examines, and thoroughly satisfies himself, that they are correct, and should countersign through all the vouchers of some one or more months, taken at random, after the Assistant Engineer has passed them for payment, those for supplies excepted.

9. Payments of petty sums should be made by Imprest by Overseers. Larger sums by the Executive after inspection of the works, and as much as possible by cheques. Pay vouchers should be signed with the full

No 6th February 72 P.W. 115-19
" 12th June 66-72

P.W. 1872 Oct.
P.W. Govt Sec. Mem.
No. 1727.

From

The Supdg Engineer
1st Division

To

The Secretary to Govt
P.W. Madras

Dated 1st April 1872

Rec'd 5th

Submits his observations
to the extent to which the
Controller should be held
responsible for the
inspections of Executive
Engineers' Offices

Ft. 1166-1167-5-Leaf

No 213
Printed A. 2nd

Superintending Engineer's Office, 1st Division.
Dowlaishwaram, 16th February 1872

No. 3538

From

Lieut Colonel J Strachey R.E.
Superintending Engineer
1st Division

To

Colonel J Cropper R.E.
Secretary to Government D. P. W.
MADRAS

Sir,

In reply to G.O. of the 6th instant
I do, I have the honor to observe that, if the gene-
ral duties of the Department are to be reduced to the
mere purpose of keeping a set of accounts in pre-
scribed forms and records of customs rates
the most frequently the Controller with the largest
the most satisfactory results could be afforded to
the Government on the system being carried
out in its integrity. I believe the proposed arr-
angement to be most impracticable and
can only be carried on in name, but it can
be tried if approved of and sanctioned

I have the honor to be
Sir
Your most obedient servant
Lieut Colonel [illegible]
Superintending Engineer 1st Div

Proceedings of the Madras Government

Read the following

From Lieut. Col. Engineers Dep. (M. E. Let. 3838 of 16th July 1872.)
" " " 2nd Do. (" " 1 " 1st April ")
" " " 3rd Do. (" " 2107 " 13th July ")
" " " 4th Do. (" " 4601 " 15th " ")
" " " 5th Do. (" " 268 " 19 " ")
" " " 6th Do. (" " 885 " 15 " ")
" " " 7th Do. (" " 241 " 17 " ")
" " " 8th Do. (" " 116 " 10 " April ")
From Special Com. Engr. Mysore (" " 77 " 26th July ")
" Controller of Rl. Accounts (" " 3853 " 30th " ")

Ordered that the following letter be sent

No. 1163 of 1872

To The Secretary to the Govt. of India P.W.D.

Sir,

With reference to the Circular of the Govt. of India dated 13th January 1872, No. 15, I am directed to forward the accompanying letters from the Dist. Engrs. and the Controller of Rl. Accounts containing their views

as to the extent to which Controllers should be held responsible for the inspection of Range Offices -

On the opinion of this Board the Controllers' inspections should be confined to the Accounts, and it should be their duty to see that the forms laid down for the Guidance of the Depts are strictly conformed to - From the reports which are made from time to time, the Board have reason to believe that this duty is carefully performed - With regard to the Controllers being required to inspect Range Offices at least twice a year, I am to invite attention to Mr Brooks letter, in which he explains that the circumstances of this Precidency are such as to render the arrangement impracticable, and that the general satisfactory conclusion of the Public Works Accounts in this Precidency does not call for so frequent an inspection as elsewhere

a year - He should out
that the late Accountant
General (Colle Chesney)
was of opinion that
it would be sufficient
if the whole Presidency
were visited by the
Controller or his Deputy
in the course of three
years, and under these
circumstances the Govt
see no necessity for
meeting in a more
frequent inspection
than we now make
except perhaps in the
case of those Ranges
in which a large out-
lo beingtinguished from

Some friends in the
Punjaub irrigation —
Roorkee —

15th April

Depd 7/5/72 with 30 Encls
of Govt 1166 of 1872

* Lastly Book post

Cons. 919, 727, 793, 799, 910, 838, 949, 1826, 1026 & 922

Govt. of India.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To The Secretary to the Govt of India

Date

Read

Ans.

No. 1166-R
1167.

Nos. 122 & 132 & 133

Inspection of Range Offices.

Papers relative to Correspondence relative to the extent to which Contractors should be held responsible for the inspection of Range Offices.

Forwarded with remarks, Correspondence relative to the extent to which Contractors should be held responsible for the inspection of Range Offices.

Cons. 919, 727, 793, 799, 910, 838, 949, 1826, 1026 & 922