M.R.O. 1—77,006—8-6-31.

(1) Number of pages_____

(2) Date of repair_____

(3) Initials of the Referencer_____

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

Government of Madras.

Public works DEPARTMENT.

G.O. No. 122, 123, 124	2874	Press / Mis.
Dated	6-12-	1892.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

Read the following papers :—

No. 122. Endorsement of the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Madura, 22nd October 1872, No. 3,286 :—

From the Executive Engineer in charge of Dindigul Range, to the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, dated Camp at Shemputty, 9th October 1872, No. 438.

I HAVE the honour to return herewith the Controller's letter No. 799 of 25th ultimo, forwarded with your endorsement No. 3,137 of 7th instant.

2. I think it is much to be regretted that the Controller did not refer the question at once to Government instead of referring it back to you, and so losing at least three weeks. It is very evident that it must go to Government, and it appears to me that the Controller has somewhat misapprehended the issue, when he remarks that his office "would be going beyond its province if it took upon itself to submit to Government proposals for modifications of authorized forms which have been in use for many years."

3. The question to be submitted to Government is not as to any "modifications of authorized forms;" that, so far as it arises at all, is settled by the fact that I distinctly refuse to sign the certificate without some modification, but whether the Overseers concerned shall have their travelling allowance or not.

4. I do not know that it is necessary for me to add anything to the reasons given in my previous letter for the course which I have adopted. I will, however, repeat them.

5. I am able to meet personally the Overseers in the different taluqs of this Range at certain considerable intervals, always exceeding a month (in July, the particular month in question, I never saw the Periacolum Overseer at all, nor the Pulny Overseer in August) and frequently much longer. When I do meet them I find that they have their travelling equipage in proper order. But during the intervals I have no information upon this point, except what is derived from the Overseer's own statements. I believe these statements to be perfectly true, and in my own mind I believe and am perfectly ready to certify that *I believe* that they have kept up their travelling equipage during each month. But to certify that I believe that a certain thing has been done, and to certify that it has been done are altogether different matters, and I have therefore introduced the modification to which the Controller objects into the tentage certificate.

6. I quite understand that the Controller is only acting up to the rules by which he is bound, and I shall not regret that this question has arisen if it draws the attention of Government to the evils of the Procrustean system now prevailing in the department of exacting certificates on every conceivable subject to be rigidly adhered to, without the smallest reference to the constantly varying conditions under which work has to be carried on.

7. I request that this letter may be forwarded to Government with such remarks of your own as may appear called for. In the meantime I must ask your consideration to the fact that the two Overseers concerned are restrained from receiving their travelling allowances on account of a question with which

they have nothing to do, while that of the third Overseer of this Range (Mr. Jackson), to whom the question does not in any way apply, is equally withheld.

FORWARDED for the favour of the early orders of Government.

1 Controller's letter, No. 799, dated 25th September 1872.

2 As the undersigned has already expressed his opinion on the disallowance statement, he has nothing to add thereto.

3. Pending the orders of Government, Lieutenant-Colonel Roberts has authorized Captain Pennycuick to advance the travelling allowances in question to the Overseers concerned.

(Signed) R. A. ROBERTS, Lieut.-Colonel, R.E.,
Superintending Engineer, 8th Division.

No. 123. From the Superintending Engineer, 8th Division, to the Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Madura, 7th November 1872, No. 3,694.

As requested in your memorandum No. 188, dated the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith the undermentioned documents bearing on the subject of modifying the certificate attached to Travelling Allowance Bills for Overseers, namely,—

1 Controller's Disallowance Statement, dated 4th September 1872.
2 Letters from the Dindigul Range Officer, Nos. 339 and 437, dated 9th September and 8th October 1872, respectively.
1 List of Controller's disallowances, dated 15th October 1872.
1 Copy of form of Tentage Certificate sent by the Controller.
1 Supplementary Travelling Allowance Bill for the Overseers in the Dindigul Range.

No. 124. ORDER THEREON, 6th December 1872, No. 2,874.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 3.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that in the has not had an opportunity of personally inspecting the tents and carriage months during which a Range Officer maintained by his subordinates there is no objection to the slight modification in the wording of the certificate made by Captain Pennycuick, and which is observed to have been accepted by the Controller, without demur, for several months.

(True Extract.)
(Signed) G. W. WALKER, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To all District Engineers.
,, Major R. B. Kennedy.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Office of the Controller of Public Works Accounts
Fort Saint George, 25th September 1872.

No. 799

From,
The Controller of P.W. Accounts
To,
The Superintending Engineer
8th Division.

Sir,

In reply to your endorsement No. 2738, of the 16th Instant, on Captain Pennycuick's letter of the 9th Idem, No. 339, relative to the Tentage Certificate furnished in support of the claims to Travelling Allowance made on behalf of certain Taluq Overseers in the Dindigul Range, I have the honor to state that it is the business of this office to see that all claims are supported by certificates in the exact forms prescribed by Government.—

2. In respect to the Certificate required in support of claims to Tentage, I have to observe that the Form in use in Madras is very similar

similar to that in use throughout India, and as no qualifying clauses, such as that inserted by Captain Pennycuick, are anywhere allowed, it appears to me that this Office would be going beyond its province if it took upon itself to submit to Government proposals for modifications of authorized forms which have been in use for many years.—

3. In the hope that you will view the matter in the same light, I beg to re-transmit the papers as per Margin, and to request that you will have the goodness to address Government direct on the subject, should you see fit to do so.—

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant
S. Hood
Controller of P.W. Accounts.

1 Bill
1 Disallowance Statement.
1 Letter from Captain Pennycuick

Dr. Hill.

No. 3237. Dindigul

No. 3311

Sirm,

The Controller of W. Accts.

To.

The Supt. Engineer
& Division

Dated 25th

Recd 28 } September 1872

No. 799

Stating that claims to Travelling allowance on behalf of Taluq Overseers should be supported by Certificates in the exact forms prescribed by Government.

Forwarded in original to the Executive Engineer Dindigul Range with reference to his letter No. 339 dated 9th Sept/72 for perusal & eventual return to this office, any representations, which Capt. Pennycuick R.E. may decide to make, on the subject, to Govt. will of course be duly forwarded on. But as it is necessary the Controllers duty is to act up to the letter of his instructions it is clearly useless for this Department to maintain a discussion with him on the subject.—

Madura
7th Oct/72

Rice H. Roberts
Lt. Col. R.E.
Supt. Engineer & &c.

To be returned.

Returned
9th October/72

Executive Engineer Dindigul Divn

Encl In a letter from the Supg Engineer 8th Div to the Secretary to Govt. PWD dated 22 October 1872 No 3376

P. W. 5177/72.

Controller's letter No 799 dated 25th September 1872

Exec. Engr. Dinajpur L.B. 122

Executive Engineer's Office

No. 437. Dinajpur 8th October 72

From

The Executive Engineer
in charge of Dinajpur Roads

To

The Superintg Engineer
8th Division

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 339 of 9th ultimo I have the honor to bring to your notice that two overseers on this charge have represented to me that they are suffering great inconvenience from the ... allowances for July ... nothing of those for August the bill for which has not yet been received in this Office.

2. Considering that an overseer's travelling allowance is more than 40 per cent of his total pay & allowances, it is unquestionably a great hardship that it should be withheld on account of a difference of opinion between the Range Officer & the Controller, for which he is in no way responsible.

3. As there is no question that these allowances will

Govt No 3286 of 22 Oct/72

From

The Executive Engineer
for charge of Bridges

&c.

The Superintg Engineer
8th Division

Dated 8th October 1872
Received 11th October 1872
Registered 12th Octr 1872
No 4371

Bringing to notice that
overseers in this Range have
represented that they are suffering
great inconvenience from the
withholding of their travelling
allowances & requesting to
sanction his advancing the amount
for the reasons assigned
therein.

Have the honor to be
Sir,
Your Most Obdt Servt
[illegible]
Executive Engineer in charge
Irrigation Range

overhaul by Register, I request
you will sanction my advancing
the amount, as a portion of it
is due overseers concerned.

be passed, I request
ction my advancing

Enclosure No 3. to a letter
from the Supt Engineer 8th Div.
No 2694 dated 4th Nov. 1872

To
The Secretary to Govt
P.W.D.

P.W. 5533/72
Rec'd 6 Dec 72 L Bk 1/23

Letter from the Executive
Engineer Dindigul Range
No 437 dated 8th Octr 1872.

Executive Engineer's Office
No. 339. Dindigul 9th Septr 72

Rec'd 2.

No. 2738

From
The Executive Engineer
in charge of Dindigul
Range.

To
The Superintg Engineer
8th Division

Sir,

Forwarded in original, for perusal & return, to the Controller with reference to his remarks on disallowance (cash statement) in the Dindigul Range of the Madura District for the month of July 1872.

Rice Foster
Lt Col. R.E.
Executive Engineer

Received 11 September 1872
Supt Engineer 8th Division

To be returned.

1. I have the honor to enclose a "disallowance cash statement" received from the Controller's Office.

2. You will see that the Controller refuses to pass the travelling allowances of the Salug overseers of this Range on account of my having inserted the words "to far as I am aware" after the word "have" in the first line of the Vantage Certificate.

3. The Controller states that it is "part of the duty of the Range Officer to satisfy himself as to the travelling equipage maintained by the subordinates for whom claims on account of

of Pentaga are submitted."
I know that whenever I have visited the Talugs of the two overseers whose names are included in the certificate I have found that they have tents & horses for use, and that they certify in their inspection reports that they have maintained carriage for their tents during the month. But I cannot say of my own knowledge that they have maintained any travelling equipage during the time that elapses between two inspections on my part.

4. For this reason I have inserted the words objected to by the Controller. I have every reason to believe that the overseers concerned keep up their travelling equipage properly, but I do not know it of my own knowledge, as a positive fact, and will not certify that I do.

5. I believe certificates of this

this kind are often looked upon as matters of form, or as to be read with a certain reservation as to their meaning, but I cannot consent to take such a view. I consider a statement or certificate to mean what it professes to mean, neither more nor less, & I entirely decline to sign without qualification statements which like those in the completion certificates for the great majority of works, I know to be untrue, or which like the one under consideration may possibly be so.

15

6. I must say I think it is exceedingly unjust that these overseers should be kept out of their travelling allowances for perhaps six weeks or more, because the Controller expects a Range Officer to sign without reserve a statement as to what is going on at a distance of forty miles or more from

from him

7. The above remarks refer to two of the overseers in the Range. With regard to the third the case is rather different. Mr. Jackson who has only lately been appointed had not got a tent and distinctly noticed the fact in his inspection report on which Coles remarked that it was not clear whether he could draw travelling allowance for the days which he spent at head quarters. I see that in the original travelling allowance bill eleven days have been struck out, presumably on this ground, reducing the number of days from twenty six to fifteen, after which a second correction has struck out three fifteen days. That is to say that eleven days (when Mr. Jackson did not travel) having been struck out because he had not kept up travelling equipage, the other fifteen (when he did travel) have been struck out because I would not certify that he had!

8. The Controller states that he is unable to accept the alteration made by me "without the special sanction of Government." This is somewhat inconsistent with the fact that he has passed the bills for the three previous months without demur.

I have the honorable
Sir
Your most Obed.t Servant
Richard Griffin Capt.n R.E.
Executive Engineer in chief
Dirigual Range

No. 339.

From
The Executive Engineer
In charge of Dindigul Range.

To
The Superintending Engineer
8th Division

Dated 9th September 72
Received 11th September 72

Encls-2.

Enclosing a "disallowance statement" received from the Controller's Office & giving certain explanations on the same.

Within.

3311/72

No 5388

From
The Supt: Engineer
8th Circle

No 2738

Dated 16 Sept 72
Read 24 Sept 72

Encls 2
Corr: letter
from Off: in ch:
Dindigul Range
Remarks upon
Statement of Disal-
lowances No 147.
dt 4th Sept 72

Correction this advancing the amou

Enclosure N:2. to a letter from the Supt Engineer S.D. N:3694 dated 7th Novr 1872.

To,

The Secretary to Govt
C.P.W.D.

P. W. 5533/72.

Letter from the Executive Engineer Dindigul Range N:339 dated 9th Sept: 1872.

Rec.d 1st Dec.r 72 in B.N. 123.

4

Superints Engineer's Office S.D.
Madura 7th November 72

N:3694

From,

Lieut.Colonel R.L.H. Roberts R.E.
Superints Engineer, S.D.

To,

Colonel G.H. Walker R.E.
Secretary to Government P.W.D.

Sir,

As requested in your Memo Enclosure 6. N:188, dated the 30th Ultimo, I have the honor to forward herewith the undermentioned documents, bearing on the subject of modifying the certificate attached to travelling allowance Bills for Overseers. Viz

1. Controller's disallowance statement dated 2nd September 1872.-
2. Letters from the Dindigul Range Officer N:339 and 437, dated 9th September and 8th October 1873, respectively.

1. List of Controller's disallowances dated 15th October 1872.-

1 Copy

1. Copy of form of heritage Certificate sent by the Controller.

1. Supplementary Travelling Allowance Bill for the Overseers in the Dindigul Range.

(Above) The honor to be,

Sir,

Your Most Obedt Servt

Lieut Colo R.E.

Superint Engineer S.I.R.Dr

Encls

BB

P.W. Dept.

No 2874 - 25

Proceedings of the Madras Government
Under date the 1st November 87
Read the following
From the Superintending Engr. 8th Dn. No 3676 dt 17th Octr 87

916

His Excellency
the Governor in Council
is of opinion that in the event
during which a Range
Officer has not had an
opportunity of personally
inspecting the Tents and
Carriage maintained
by the Subordinates
is no objection to the
slight modification of
the wording of the Certifi-
ate

P.W. Dept. 18 Nov 87 No 3533
Encl. No 1 Sig Engrs

8. 8. 87

To the Secretary to Govt
P.W. Dept

Madras 12th November 87
Encl. No 1 Sig Engrs
2 Encl. No 2 Sig Engrs

Sir

I have the honor to
request that the
Government may be
pleased to authorize
the payment of mon-
thly allowance to
Sergeant Major
Pearson. —

I am Sir
Your most obedient
humble Servant
C. Bell Lt
Offg Range Officer

No 2874 - 6 Nov 87

C. Bell Lt
Offg Range Officer

made by Captain Kennicott; and which is deemed to have been accepted by the Contractor, without demur, for several months.

Gratis

Nos 55 33 & 5177

Govt. of [1872] Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To All District Engineers

Dated

Read. Encl.3

G. O. No. 2874.

Nos. 122 & 124

Tenant certificate.

Withdrawing certain modification to the Tenant certificate when a Range Officer has not had an opportunity of personally inspecting the tents, &c. maintained by his subordinates.