

(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. 452	Press Mis.
304-55	
Dated 19 2 18 22	

Not to be folded or roughly handled

6/1

No. 304. Read the following docket from the Government of India, Public Works Department, (Account—General,) to the Governments of Madras, Bombay, Bengal, the North-Western Provinces and the Punjab; the Chief Commissioners of Oudh, the Central Provinces, British Burmah, and Mysore and Coorg; the Resident at Hyderabad; and the Agents of the Governor-General for Central India and Rajpootana, dated Fort William, 2nd February 1872, No. 134-A. G.:—

COPY of the following forwarded for expression of the opinion of the Local Government (or Administration), and of the Controller regarding the proposal therein made.

(By order,)

(Signed) C. H. DICKENS, Colonel, R.A.,
Secretary to the Government of India.

From the Controller of Public Works Accounts, to the Accountant-General, Public Works Department.

It has been brought to my notice—that the Code Rules on the subject of registering copies of contract certificates in an Executive Engineer's Office are defective.

2. By Code Chapter XIX, i, 69, two copies of a contract certificate are to be made out, one of which is to be kept by the officer granting the certificate, and the other naturally goes with the monthly accounts as a voucher. So that if the officer granting the certificate be a Sub-Divisional Officer, there is no direct obligation for a copy to be in the possession of the Executive Engineer.

3. Naturally most Executive Engineers would, for their own sake, retain a copy; but *I have found* this not to be the case, and on calling for the copies of contract certificates when inspecting the office, I have been told that they are all with the Sub-Divisional Officers.

4. Granting, however, that Executive Engineers would, in most cases, keep copies of certificates, there is no rule laid down for methodically registering them, and this might lead to an over-payment.

5. Several contractors are, say, employed on one work, and one or more of these contractors on several works. Some Executive Engineers file and number the contract certificates by works, some by contractors, or in some cases as regards filing they are merely put up with the office copies of the monthly accounts. The following result might then occur. On a certificate coming to the Accountant for check and completion at foot as regards value of work last shown, he might (supposing the contractor not to have been employed regularly in every month) take up the last but one instead of the last certificate, and thus the contractor would be paid over again the value of the work shown in the latter.

6. The error might (possibly, though not probably) even fail to be detected in the Central Office, owing to a want of system in numbering the certificates, but even if the error were detected, there would still be the liability of the contractor having been over-paid absconding.

7. The remedy which is proposed for this, and which I have seen work well both in the ——— and ——— Divisions, where it was introduced by Mr. ——— is, that it should be obligatory on Executive Engineers to keep copies in their office of all contract certificates in a book or file, every certificate being numbered consecutively throughout for the year, and that there should be an Index at the beginning showing each contractor's name. A similar Index to be kept up in the Controller's Office.

P.S.—A sample of the proposed Index is attached.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
19th February 1872.*

Index to Contract Certificates for 1871-72.

Works.	Numbers of Contract Certificates.					
L. F. No. MESSRS. COLLINS AND CO.						
Jail at Allygurh... ..	1	20	...	...	...	Work completed.
Repairs to R. C. Chapel	2	11	15	19	22	
Church at Agra	3	23	26	...	...	
L. F. No. RAM DASS..						
Annual repairs, N. I. Lines	4	10	21	24	27	
Cook-house in B. I. „	5	14	16	...	...	
L. F. No. MR. W. TAYLOR.						
Manufacture of bricks	6	9	12	17	..	
L. F. No. JOWALLA SINGH AND MERAI.						
Metalling Jail Road	7	13	25	...	...	
Repairs Cantonment Roads and Drains.	8	18	...	...	...	

No. 305.

ORDER THEREON, 19th February 1872, No. 462.

ACCOUNT, No. 43.

COMMUNICATED to the Controller of
Public Works Accounts for an expression
of opinion.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. CARPENDALE, Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. E. C. Shunker.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

ACCOUNT.

General.

To

THE GOVERNMENTS OF MADRAS, BOMBAY,
BENGAL, THE NORTH WESTERN PRO-
VINCES, AND THE PUNJAB; THE CHIEF
COMMISSIONERS OF OUDH, THE CENTRAL
PROVINCES, BRITISH BURMAH, AND
MYSORE AND COORG; THE RESIDENT AT
HYDERABAD; AND THE AGENTS OF
THE GOVERNOR GENERAL FOR CENTRAL
INDIA AND RAJPOOTANA.

No. 134A-G.

Dated February 2, 1872.

Received 15 February/72.

Forwards for opinion certain papers
regarding a proposal for indoring and
methodically keeping copies of contract
certificates.

P. W. D. Press—3-2-72—112.

No 462-19 Feb/72
With an order

an expression of opinion
communicated to the Controller of Public Works Accounts for
an expression of opinion
19 Feb/72
No 462

Mr 782

Govt. of 1872 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To the Comptroller of Public
Works Accounts

[Signature]

Dated

Recd.

Ind.

G. O 19th Feb 1872, No. 462

Nos. 324705

Contract Certificates. Docket
from the Survey India for
ready for opinion certain
papers regarding a proposal
for widening and metalling
cally keeping copies of con-
tract certificates, com^d to
the Controller of P.W. Accts.