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# MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

## Government of Madras

*Public Works* DEPARTMENT

|          |       |       |
|----------|-------|-------|
| G.O. No. | 1178  | Press |
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| Dated    | 24-4- | 1873  |

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
24th April 1873.*

No. 401. Read the following letter from S. BROCK, Esqr., Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R. E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 20th March 1873, No. 3,092 :—

IN compliance with the orders conveyed to me in paragraph 1 of Proceedings of the 28th January last, No. 284, I have the honor to report, for the information of Government, that I communicated on the 1st February following with the officers as per margin, who held charge of the Mount Range during the period entered against their respective names, on the subject of the Register of Works maintained in that range, specially for the Artillery Barracks under construction at the Mount. The following is an abstract of the replies which I have received :—

Five original letters.

Lieutenant Dorward, from January 1868 to end of March 1869, and from 28th September 1871 to 12th March 1872.

Captain Rogers, from April 1869 to end of April 1871.

Captain Mead, from 22nd May to 30th July 1871.

Major Vertue, from 31st July to 11th August 1871.

*Vide* paragraph 14 of G. O., No. 539, dated 28th February 1872.

LIEUTENANT DORWARD.—To the best of his recollection no regular Register of Works was kept for the barracks between January 1868 and March 1869, but the expenditure was divided between the sub-heads of estimate in the Station Book. Is strengthened in this belief by two circumstances, the first of which is that the

\* See also G. Os., No. 822, dated 18th March and No. 1,147, dated 15th April 1867.

† G. O., No. 421.

‡ Showing provision in the estimate under sub-head and expenditure against those sub-heads.

Work Registers, dispensed with in G. O., No. 718,\* dated 9th March 1867, were not re-introduced till the 5th February 1870,† and the second, that had a regular Register been in existence previously, the Ledgers‡ shown to the Accountant General, Public Works Department, in December 1871, would not have been compiled. In the autumn of 1871 the materials for a Register for the barracks were forthcoming, although he believes they were not entered in a book. After the Ledgers above mentioned had been compiled, quantities, by measurement, were ascertained, and a comparative statement, which is really a Register of Works, with fuller details than is generally afforded in that record, was prepared and submitted to Government, through the Superintending Engineer. Is not aware of what was done in May 1871, when the accounts were examined by the Controller, but thinks that the measurements of quantities which appeared in the comparative statement could hardly have been completed at the time. There was however then (May 1871), he believes, a proper Register for other works in progress, and it is possible that, in checking the accounts, one of these works was selected, and, finding that the Register for that work was complete and in proper form, the conclusion was drawn that such was the case with the barrack work also. Suggests this as a solution of the difficulty, as it may also be possible that the book shown to the Controller in May 1871 was not forthcoming to him (Lieutenant Dorward).

MAJOR ROGERS.—No Register of Works showing quantities of work done was kept from April 1869 to April 1871. Major Rogers, having been called upon to report the character of the Register which *was* maintained during the period

Saint-Denis. from January 1868 to end of March 1869.  
 and from 28<sup>th</sup> September 1871 to 12<sup>th</sup> March 1872.  
 Captain Rogers - from April 1869 to end of April 1871  
 Captain - M. G. ad. - from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> July 1871.  
 Major Vertue - from 31<sup>st</sup> July to 11<sup>th</sup> August 1871.  
 Vice Para 14 of G. O. N. 559, dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 1872.

5  
 Office of the Controller of  
 Public Works Accounts  
 Fort Saint George 29<sup>th</sup> March 1873  
 To the right of 30<sup>th</sup> for Joseph  
 From the Controller of Accounts  
 The Secretary to Government,  
 Public Works Department,  
 Fort Saint George,  
 Trinidad was perusal of  
 and in compliance with  
 the orders conveyed to me in  
 Para of Proceedings of the  
 28<sup>th</sup> January 1873  
 I have the honor to report  
 for the information of Govern-  
 ments that I communicated  
 on the 1<sup>st</sup> February following  
 with the Officers as per  
 margin, who held charge of

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,  
21th April 1873.*

in question, states, in reply, that he cannot, "after this lapse of time give any description of the Register," and that "it is just possible that a Register of requisitions," which was kept between April 1869 and April 1871, "may have been shown to Colonel Innes as a Register of Works." This book was kept for his (Major Rogers') own satisfaction only, and in his own hand. The information it contained was as follows:—

No. and date of requisition for a work.

Description of work required.

Amount of estimate submitted.

No. and date of letter despatching estimate for sanction.

Do. conveying sanction for execution do.

Amount of estimate sanctioned.

Date of commencement of work.

Do. of completion of do.

Do. of final inspection.

MAJOR VERTUE.—As he was for a very short time in charge of the range he cannot call to mind that the Register of Works ever came under his notice, and is unable therefore to give the required information.

CAPTAIN MEAD.—Cannot speak positively of the Register of Works. During the time he held charge of the range, he had occasion to "go into" the barrack accounts, and, just before leaving the Mount, submitted a report of expenditure, etc. Apart from the "Register kept in the form laid down," and in which, so far as he remembers, "quantities of work done were entered," there was a most useful book "which recorded the detailed expenditure on each heading of the estimate." By means of this latter book "the details of any expenditure in the Register could be at once found, and it is possible that this was the book shown to Colonel Innes as the only one deserving of "examination or notice," the Register being incorrect, specially as to quantities, and of little use owing to the timber purchased for the barracks having been charged to two or three heads only. Both these books should be forthcoming in the Mount Range Office.

From the above it will be seen that, while Lieutenant Dorward remembers the existence of only a "Ledger" in connection with the expenditure on the Mount Barracks, Captain Mead, to whose lot it fell to "go into" the accounts of the work, has a recollection of two books, one of which, confined to outlay, is evidently the "Ledger" referred to by Lieutenant Dorward, and the other "the Register in the form laid down." Apart from the "Ledger," which I have seen, there is now in the records of the Mount Range Office a book which shows the *monthly expenditure* only up to a certain date under sub-heads of estimate. This book is brought up to date, and will soon be quite complete as regards quantities also, so that it is really a Work Register. This book is of *foolscap* size, but my impression is that that placed before me in May 1871 was of medium size, and such also is the belief of Mr. Sub-Engineer Walsh, who was then in charge of the Mount Range, and of Mr. Mills, who assisted me in the examination. No such book, however, is forthcoming, and I am unable to obtain any more information on the subject than is herein afforded. The requisition book, to which allusion is made by Major Rogers,

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24th April 1873.*

is quite distinct from the Ledger, and from the book which has now been made a Register of Works.

3. I very much regret the uncertainty connected with the subject of my inquiries. Such uncertainty will be hereafter prevented by the adoption of the course proposed in my letter to Government No. 2,227, dated 20th December 1872, and I am now taking measures for ensuring the Register of Works maintained in the Mount Range, not only for the barracks in question, but for all other works requiring such a record, being made thoroughly complete in all necessary details.

No. 402. ORDER THEREON, 24th April 1873, No. 1,178.

ACCOUNT, No. 28.

THE comments of the Government of India on the incompleteness and inutility of a Register of Works such as

that maintained in the Mount Range at the time that the Accountant General of the Public Works Department visited Madras during the past year, and the report of the Controller that had the Register of Works which came under his personal examination in May 1871 been placed before Colonel Innes, that officer would perhaps have been disposed to form a different opinion, induced the Government to call upon Mr. Brock to inquire into the loss of the missing Register.

2. The letter above recorded contains the result of the investigation. The Controller appears to have placed himself in communication with the four officers who held charge of the Mount Range since the commencement of the Artillery Barracks at the Mount, to which Colonel Innes' remarks had special reference; but the reports of those officers throw no light on the disappearance of the particular Register to which Mr. Brock refers. It seems futile to pursue the inquiry further, but the Government will expect the Controller or other officer deputed to examine accounts to take particular care in future to initial all books examined for the purpose of identification.

3. It is noted that the Controller has taken steps to ensure the maintenance of a complete Register of Works for all works requiring such a record in the Mount Range.

4. His Excellency the Governor in Council considers it very necessary that there should be in every office a list of the books authorized and required to be kept and actually kept, with Memos of the dates on which each volume was opened and closed. The District Engineers will issue the necessary instructions for such a list being kept in future.

(True Extract.)

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

To the District Engineers.

„ Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad.  
„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

of the Mount Range during the period entered against their respective names, on the subject of the Register of Works maintained in that Range, specially for the Artillery Barracks under construction at the Mount.

The following is an abstract of the replies which I have received:-

To the best of his recollection, - *Sir J. D. Howard*  
no regular Register of works was kept for the Barracks between January 1868 and March 1869, but the expenditure was divided between the sub-heads of Estimate in the Station Book. Is strengthened

\* See also G.O. No. 822 dated 18<sup>th</sup> March and 11<sup>th</sup> April 1867.

G.O. No. 421

\* Showing provision in the Estimate under sub-head and expenditure against those sub-heads.

strengthened in this belief by two circumstances, the first of which is that the Work Registers, dispensed with in G.O. No. 718, dated 9<sup>th</sup> March 1867, were not re-introduced till the 5<sup>th</sup> February 1870, and the second, that had a regular Register been in existence previously, the Ledgers shown to the Accountant General Public Works Department in December 1871 would not have been compiled. In the autumn of 1871, the materials for a Register for the Barracks were forthcoming, although he believes they were not entered in a book

book. After the ledgers above  
mentioned had been compiled,  
quantities by some measurement,  
were ascertained, and a  
comparative statement,  
which is really a Register of  
Works, with fuller details than  
is generally afforded in that  
record, was prepared, and  
submitted to Government.  
Through the Superintending  
Engineer. Is not aware of  
what was done in May 1871,  
when the accounts were  
examined by the Controller,  
but thinks that the mea-  
surements of quantities which  
appeared in the Comparative  
Statement could hardly have  
been

9 c 3  
been completed at that time -  
There was, however, then  
(May 1871) he believes a proper  
Register for other works in  
progress, and it is possible  
that, in checking the ac-  
counts, one of these works  
was selected, and, finding  
that the Register for that  
work, was complete and in  
proper form, the conclusion  
was drawn that such was  
the case with the Baraak  
work also. Suggests this  
as a solution of the difficulty,  
as it may also be possible  
that the Book shown to the  
Controller in May 1871, was  
not forthcoming to him (Lieut.  
Doward).

No Register of Works shewing quantities of work done was kept from April 1869 to April 1871. Major Rogers, having been called upon to report the character of the Register which was maintained during the period in question, states, in reply, that he cannot, "after this lapse of time give any description of the Register," and that "it is just possible that a register of requisitions, which was kept between our April 1869 and April 1871, may have been shewn to Colonel Innes as a Register of Works." This book was kept for his (Major Rogers) own satisfaction only, and in his own hand.

hand. The information it contained was as follows:-

No and date of requisition for a work.  
Description of Work required  
Amount of Estimate submitted  
No and date of letter despatching Estimate for sanction.  
do do do conveying  
do do sanction for execution.  
Amount of Estimate sanctioned  
Date of commencement of Work.  
do do of completion of do.  
do do of final inspection.

Major Vertue.

As he was, for a very short time in charge of the Range, he cannot call to mind that the Register of Works ever came under his notice, and is unable therefore to give the required information.

Captain Mead.

Cannot speak positively of the Register of Works. During the time he held charge of the Range

Range, he had occasion to "go into" the Barack accounts, and, just before leaving the Mount, submitted a report of expenditure, vca - Apart from the "Register Kept in the form laid down", and in which, so far as he remembers, "quantities of work done were entered", there was a most useful book, "which recorded the detailed expenditure on each heading of the Estimate" - *entirely right!*  
By means of this latter book, "the details of any expenditure in the Register could be at once found, and it is possible that this was the book shown to Colonel Innes, as *most likely* the only one deserving of "examination or notice", the  
Register

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Register being incorrect, specially as to quantities, and of little use, owing to the timber purchased for the Baracks having been charged to two or three heads only. Both these books should be forthcoming in the Mount Range Office. -

2 From the above, it will be seen that while Lieutenant Forward remembers the existence of only a "Ledger" in connection with the expenditure on the Mount Baracks, Captain Mead, to whose lot it fell to "go into" the accounts of the work, has a recollection of two books, one of which, confined to outlays, is evidently the "Ledger" referred to by  
Lieutenant

Lieutenant Forward, and the other "the Register in the form laid down" - Apart from the "Ledger," which I have seen, there is now in the records of the Mount Range office a Book which shews the monthly expenditure only up to a certain date under sub-heads of Estimate. This book is brought up to date, and will soon be quite complete as regards quantities also, so that it is really a Work Register. This book is of foolscap size, but my impression is that that placed before me in May 1871 was of medium size, and such also is the belief of Mr. Sub Engineer Walsh, who was then in charge of the Mount Range,

15c  
and of Mr. Mills, who assisted me in the examination. No such book, however, is forthcoming, and I am unable to obtain any more information on the subject than is herein afforded. The requisition book, to which allusion is made by Major Rogers, is quite distinct from the Ledger, and from the Book which has now been made a Register of Works.

3 I very much regret the uncertainty connected with the subject of my enquiries. Such uncertainty will be hereafter prevented by the adoption of the course proposed

proposed in my letter to Govern-  
ment N<sup>o</sup>. 2227, dated 20<sup>th</sup>

December 1872, and I am now  
taking measures for ensuring  
the Register of Works main-  
tained in the Mount Range,  
not only for the Barracks  
in question, but for all  
other works requiring such  
a record, being made  
thoroughly complete in all  
necessary details.—

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

*S. Hoell*

Controller of A.W. accounts.

A.A.

during

Public Works 1873 Department  
Pro: of 1873

From  
The Controller of  
P.W. Accounts.

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

Dated 20<sup>th</sup>  
Recd 20<sup>th</sup> March 1873

No. 3092  
Reporting further  
on the Register of  
Works maintained  
in the Mount Range  
specially for the  
Military Barracks.

No 401

64 APR 73 R. 9<sup>th</sup>

Controller of P.W. accounts.

No 1178 P. W. D.

Proceedings of the Madras Govt  
Read the following

From.

The Controller of  
P.W. Accounts

(H. E. Sec 3092 of 20<sup>th</sup> Mar/73)

The comments  
of the Government of  
India on the incom-  
pleteness and utility  
of a Register of Works  
such as that maintained  
in the Mount Range  
at the time that the  
Accountant General  
of the Public Works De-  
partment visited Madras  
during

W. E.

during the past year; and  
the report of the Controller  
that the Register of  
Works which came under  
his personal examination  
in May 1871 been placed  
before Colonel Innes, that  
Officers would perhaps  
have been disposed to form  
a different opinion, induced  
the Government to call  
upon Mr Brock to en-  
quire into the loss of the  
missing Register.

The letter above  
recorded contains the result  
of the investigation. The  
Controller appears to  
have placed himself in  
communication with  
the

the four Officers who  
held charge of the Mount  
Range since the com-  
mencement of the Ar-  
tillery Barracks at the  
Mount, to which  
Colonel Innes' remarks  
had special reference,  
but the reports of those  
Officers throw no light  
on the disappearance  
of the particular Register  
to which Mr Brock  
refers. It seems futile  
to pursue the enquiry  
further, but the Govern-  
ment will expect the  
Controller or other Officer  
deputed to examine  
Accounts to take  
particular

particular care in future  
to initial all books exa-  
-mined for the purpose  
of identification.

It is noted that  
the Controller has taken  
steps to ensure the main-  
-tenance of a complete  
Register of Works for all  
works requiring such a  
record in the Mount  
Range.

His Excellency  
the Governor in Council  
considers it very necessary  
that there should be in  
every Office a List of  
the Books authorized and  
required to be kept and  
actually kept with Memo  
of

of the dates on which  
each Volume was  
opened and closed.  
The District  
Engineers will issue  
the necessary instruc-  
-tions for such a ~~the~~  
<sup>List</sup>  
~~list~~ being kept in  
future.

g.m.w.

130 To the District Engineer  
Major Kennedy  
Controller of A.W.C. Works & Original Letters 105  
131  
Decd 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1878 25

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7-401-2.

6-11-17: R. G.

Cp 1847

Col. of 1873 ~~1873~~  
PUBLIC WORKS.

To The District Comdr.

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 24 April No. 1198

Hos. 4019402

Register of Works Paper  
Orders or Letters from the  
Comdr. of P. W. Accts.  
Reporting further on the  
Register of Works main-  
tained in the Mount  
Range specially for the  
Artillery Barracks.