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ADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1535	Press
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Dated	11-6-	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
11th June 1873.*

No. 142.

Under date, 11th June 1873, No. 1,535.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 18.

As the changes which have been introduced into the department since the 1st December last render it necessary to modify portions of the Madras Public Works Code, His Excellency the Governor in Council resolves to circulate for information and guidance a chapter defining the duties of District Engineers, and superseding the section of Chapter IV. of the existing Code relating to the subject.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.

Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers.

„ Major R. B. Kennedy.

„ Inspecting Engineers.

To the Public, etc., Departments.

„ Revenue Department.

„ Military „

„ Controller of Public Works Accounts.

„ Consulting Architect.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

3
The District
Engineers shall be the
heads of the Public
Works Department
in the Collectorate,
or portions of Collectorate,
severally assigned to
them.

2
The District
Engineers shall be under
the immediate orders of
the

the Chief Engineer; and
their communications with
the Government will be
ordinarily addressed to
him; but all projects of
whatever kind, for which
the estimated outlay ex-
ceeds the limit within
which the District En-
gineer is competent to
sanction, and all appli-
cations for supplemental
sanction will be submitted
to the Inspecting Engi-
neers and by him for-
warded if necessary
to Government.

The District
Engineer will consider
himself

5
himself to be ex-officio,
the professional adviser
of all Departments of
the Administration
within his District.
He will habitually trans-
act business of this
nature with the Chief
Military and Civil
Authorities in his Dis-
trict; but it will be
incumbent on him to
see that no undue for-
malities interfere with
the performance of
those duties which are
essential or pressing.

A District
Engineer even though
ap

a Military man, shall
be considered to be purely
a Civil Officer, and
shall not be under the
orders of the Military
authorities, except in
so far as all Members
of the Department alike
are bound to observe
the usual forms of ete-
quette and respect to-
wards the higher Mi-
litary authorities in
the District. In his
dealings with all
functionaries, Civil
or Military, he will,
except in those cases
where

where a special autho-
-rity has been vested
in those Officers, ho-
-nestly exercise his
judgment of which
he deems conducive
to the public interest.
He will neither
hold Military work
to be primarily more
important than civil,
nor Civil than mili-
tary; but will be-
-stow his attention
on them, either accord-
-ing to the peculiar
circumstances of his
charge, or the insti-
-tutions which he
may receive from
Superior

Superior Authority.

1. The Special
permission of the Chief
Engineer shall be
necessary to enable
a District Engineer
to take upon him-
self the personal
charge of any ex-
ecutive duties, but
shall be himself
personally respon-
sible for all errors
in system of what-
ever kind that
may be committed
in the District un-
der his charge and
to

Responsibility for
system.

Relations with the
Collector.

9 4
to this end he is
empowered to call
for all such returns
and make such
arrangements as
may be necessary
to secure his timely
and complete ac-
quaintance with
all details of system
throughout his
charge.

2. The Dis-
trict Engineer
shall be in frequent
communications
with the Collector
on all Departmental
subjects, the cordial
cooperation.

co-operation, the Collector
and the District En-
gineer being essential
to the efficient prosecu-
tion of the duties
of the Public Works
Department.

It shall be
the special duty of
the District Engineer
to discourage, by every
means in his power,
all discussions which
may tend to produce
a bad feeling between
the Members of the
Revenue and the
Public Works Departments,
and, in conjunction with the
Collector, to put an
immediate

immediate stop to
any trivial quarrels
which may have
arisen between the
Subordinates of
the two Departments.
The Government look
to District Engineers
to encourage a free
interchange of views
between themselves
and the Revenue
Authorities, as being
essential to the good
management of the
District, and they
will.

will receive in a liberal spirit all such communications on the subject of Public Works as the Revenue Authorities may make to them in the exercise of the discretion vested in them - Comments upon the state of public Works in the district, if made to the local Officers themselves in

13 6
in a becoming spirit cannot but be of the greatest service to the Department and ought to receive at its hands the fullest consideration.

$\frac{A}{1}$ A District Engineer shall receive positive orders only from the Government of Madras, the Chief Inspecting Engineers. The duty of yielding implicit obedience to the positive orders of his superiors must be clearly

clearly understood; but
in the interpretation
of general instruc-
tions, an Engineer
shall be not only au-
thorized, but bound
to act upon his own
judgment when he
sees, what he may
consider, sufficient
ground for deferring
compliance with those
instructions, or even,
in cases of emergency,
for acting decidedly
in variance with them.
Such a course, however,
involves entire responsibility,
and

15
and should only be
followed when it is
not possible to await
the result of a further
reference.

It shall be
the duty of a District
Engineer -

I. To suggest public
improvements within
his District; and to
project such new works
as, in his opinion,
will conduce either
to the welfare and
the convenience of
the inhabitants, or
to the security and
increase of the public
Revenue

Art. 11.

General instructions.

revenue.

II. To prepare, in
B.2. communications
with the local Heads
of Departments, sui-
table designs and
approximate estimates
for such projects, or
for any other work
which may be specially
called for by superior
authority.

Separation of designs.

III. To control all
B.3. public works in
progress within his
District, and to
superintend, through
his subordinates,
the details of their
construction

General control.

construction; to main-
tain a strict con-
trol over all the
cash operations of
his subordinates;
and to take care
that they are suffi-
ciently, but not
lavishly, provided
with funds.

To proceed at
any time to any
place in his District
where his attention
may be required to
report upon any
undertaking or
design, or the pro-
gress or completion

Inspections.

Feb

completion of any
large work or on
any serious accident
or threatened danger
to any works or
buildings or on any
calamity actual or
anticipated, the re-
-medy for which
may appear to be
within the range
of Engineering Skill.

To make frequent
tours of inspection. In
these tours he shall
not only minutely
survey and record in
his journal the state
of the various public
works.

19. 7
works whether completed
or in progress within
each range, but shall
carefully inquire into
the system of manage-
-ment prevailing
in respect to the
preparation and cost
of materials, to the
style of execution and
to the price of labor.
He shall ascertain
that the resources
of the District in
the various building
materials are brought
into use in the
most efficient and
economical manner,
and

and that materials
are collected in proper quantity
& quality for works in
progress or about to
be commenced. He
will ascertain that
proper arrangements
are made for the cus-
tody and supervision
of Public Stores and
that the returns are
verified by measure-
ments or sale of the
different articles in
stock, he will see
that useful stores are
disposed of under
the rules, and that
there is no accumulation
of

Condition of
Public Buildings.

Incumbent's Staff.

21
of stock in any Di-
vision beyond its
requirements.

B. To report annu-
ally on the condition
of all public monu-
ments, and all
buildings of historical
or architectural interest
within his District,
and he will suggest
measures for the pro-
tection of those which
appear likely to fall
into decay.

Bb To arrange for
the supervision of the
Executive ranges in
his District and
for

for the distribution of
the Officers and Subor-
dinates placed under
his orders.

To use his ut-
most endeavours to
ascertain the exact cost
of labor and of ma-
terials of all kinds
in different parts of
his District, ~~according~~
~~to the rules contained in Chapter~~

It is to the District
Engineer that the
Government will look
for ^{an} efficient check over
the data upon which
all estimates are
framed.

In

25
128. In submitting
to the Chief Engineer
or Inspecting Engineer
any report, designs,
estimate, or other do-
cument so requiring,
invariably to state
distinctly his own
opinion and recom-
mendations on the
subject, particularly
as to the suitability
of designs and rea-
sonableness of rates
on which matters
his local knowledge
will be indispensable.
If papers are sent
him by Range Officers
without

without proper information, it will be his duty to return them for amendment and to insist on such further explanation as the case may need.

He will check the calculations in detail of all estimates taking proper precaution to exercise a full and exact comparison of the estimates with the plans, as well as a revision of the arithmetical calculations and scrutiny of

the

Plans to sanction.

Modifications of sanctioned designs.

25 12

the rates.

DI The District Engineer shall have authority to sanction duly recording his reasons subject to the allotments actually placed at his disposal.

a. Necessary alterations in the construction details of work during their execution provided that no increase of charge to the amount of more than 5% above the estimate, shall be caused by such alterations.

This does not apply to

to Extraordinary works
for which the limit
will be $2\frac{1}{2}\%$.

All estimates
for repairs, under
head "Agricultural"
after approval of est-
imate by the Collector
and provided that not
more than the
average revenue of
the work is spent
in five consecutive
years.

Under Head
"Buildings" after
approval by the
Head of the Depart-
ment concerned,
provided the amount

Repairs-

(a) Agriculture

(b) Buildings

27 18
of the estimate does
not exceed one
fourth the value
of the building.

D3. Minor new
works, under
head "Agricultural",
after approval by
the Collector, with-
in 750 Rupees.

D4. Emergent
repairs of Irrigation
works for the preven-
tion or closing
of breaches to any
necessary amount.

D5. Emergent
repairs to Build-
ings (not military
on application
from

Minor New Works.

Emergent repairs
Irrigation-

Civil Buildings-

from the occupant or
his Official Superior
but only when delay
would be injurious,
within 200 Rupees.

D6. Alterations
and improvements
to buildings, in
communication
with the Com-
-mander-in-Chief
or other heads of
Department - and
within 100 Rupees.

At the Presidency
the District Engineer
may sanction such
alterations

Military Buildings.

*** D7. Estimates for the
purchase of tools & plant
to the extent of Rs. 500 for
each Estimate.

Tools & Plant.

This power does not
extend to Live stock which though
included under the general head
Tools & Plant can be purchased
only on the authority of Government.

Responsibility for
professional detail.

25 14
alterations and im-
provements up to

200 Rupees.

Although the

preparation of detailed
designs and estimates
for works will con-

monly be entrusted
to the Executive En-

-gineer, the whole
of the arrangements

and general plans
of the works should

be concerted with
the District Engineer

who will be held
strictly responsible

for the Engineering
character of every
project

project that he passes
on with his approval.

The District Engineer
if he see fit may
himself prepare the
design for any work
to be undertaken in
his district.

" Although the
Controller is the head
of the Accounts De-
partment and is re-
quired to make inspec-
tion of the Accounts
Office of Disbursing
Officers this will not
relieve the District
Engineer of the res-
ponsibility for the
maintenance

maintenance of the
authorized system of
account throughout
his District.

" The Controller
and District Engi-
neer should mutually
aid one another
and combine to
render the accounts
management of the
Public Works Depart-
ment as perfect as
possible - and whenever
it would appear to
either Officer that a
modification of
system is advisable
a free interchange
A

of ideas should be encouraged.

E¹. District Engineers should make their scrutiny of all private accounts such as to satisfy themselves that no glaring irregularities have been recorded - and with this object their scrutiny should vary in nature and extent with the character of the Agents, the work and the circumstances generally.

scrutiny of private accounts

E¹. The District Engineers will be required to

to submit to the Comptroller an inspection report in support of his travelling allowance bill and he will record in his office a daily journal, for the inspection of Superior Officers when desired. This journal should form a concise but complete record of the District Engineer's execution of his duty - and should record in great detail the results of all inspection of whatever

whatever kind-referring
to instructions or reports
already recorded when
practicable.

F. District Engi-
neers will avail them-
selves as fully as
possible of the facilities
afforded by the District
Gazettes for the commu-
nication of orders and
information to their
Subordinates.

F. It shall be the
duty of the District
Engineer to scrutinize
most strictly all con-
tingent charges incurred
in his District before
he

35 17
he forwards the bills
for sanction.

F. The District
Engineer is empowered
to take summary
measures for the correc-
tion of any faults
of system or practice,
whether in the execution
of work or in the
preparation of accounts,
which may come to
his knowledge, and
he will watch with
greater care those dis-
bursing Agents and
visit at shorter inter-
vals those parts of
his District where
such

Such errors may have
existed or may be
more likely to exist.

E 9. District Engi-
neers shall have au-
thority to exercise im-
mediate action on
all subjects properly
disposable by the Chief
Engineer, when delay
would be injurious to
the public service; but
they shall report, with-
out delay, every case
in which they shall
exercise this discretionary
power.

E 10 District Engineers
shall not interfere -
directly

indirect responsibility
for work under the
professional Officers.

Secur.

directly with works
not under their charge,
but they shall offer
their advice to any
unprofessional Officers
carrying out public
works, and they shall
report to such Officers
any bad work or im-
portant defects which
may come under
their cognizance in
such cases - taking
care however that
such representations
are made in the
manner least likely
to give offence.

E 11. District En-
gineers are empowered
to

to give leave within the rules to any lower Subordinate or Upper Subordinate not actually in charge of a range.

E12. District Engineers are empowered to transfer and post within their districts, any member of the Public Works Department under their orders. All such postings and transfers being reported to the Chief Engineer.

E13. District Engineers may discharge any Member of the Department within his district whose appointment

Transfers.

Discharges.

Quarterly rolls.

Is not this somewhat opposed to the opinion we have given to the Govt of India on this subject - & is the submission of these quarterly rolls practically useful? M

District office registers.

29 19
appointment has been made by a District Engineer or any lower authority.

E14. District Engineers will submit to the Chief Engineer - Quarterly rolls of the Members of the Engineer and Subordinate Establishments giving his opinion of their qualifications and conduct.

E15. District Engineers will maintain in their Office a Register in which shall be entered the names of the

service of every upper
or lower subordinate
member of the Depart-
ment of Public Works
in his District. In
this register shall be
recorded all fines re-
primands and in-
stances of grave de-
rictions of duty; a
copy of the register
shall invariably be
forwarded with any
subordinate transferred
to the district to which

for

(contract)

11
u) 20
he may be posted, for
entry in the register
of that District.

15th. District En-
gineers will be
responsible for the
terms and conditions
of every formal con-
tract entered into,
within the limits
of their districts,
and no contract
will be valid that
does not bear their
countersignatures
of the District En-
gineers.

C.M.W.

Note.

45

It was my intention
when endeavoring to
meet the very pressing
want of some definition
of the power and
responsibilities vested
in the District Engineer
under the new organization
to have issued the
accompanying set of
rules in print with
a view to their ultimate
embodiment in a
new Code of which
they would have formed
one Chapter.
I find however that
however carefully the
probable arrangements
of such a Code may
be studied it is very
difficult to prepare
finally a single Chapter
arrangement at all.
Certainly be found
necessary hereafter the

Send to Mr.
Sim. J.M.

Wm. J. C.
18/5/73

all the require rules
have been drawn up.
and recorded.

I cannot say therefore
that this group of
rules, as at present
compiled, contains
all that ought rightly
to come under the
Chapter entitled

"General Rules of District
Magistrates" nor can I
say that some of the
rules here subjoined
would not form a
properly a part of
some other chapter.

They are generally based
on the "old Madras
Code" & the "Bengal Code"
with modifications and
additions where thought
advisable.

I would suggest that
if approved, they be
printed off and

Yes, on this understanding
that the instructions are
provisional, they will supply
a want much felt in
the very organization of
the dept. RM

order for the guidance
of District Magistrates.

All rules referring to
accounts were either
drafted by or approved
by the Controller to
whom the whole group
was submitted for
his views -

The "account rules"
known as "the Manual"
are understood now
under revision, and
when issued will form
a complete and separate
chapter of "New Code".

Only those chapters
found in the volume
of the "old Madras Code"
herewith submitted were
I believe published, and
many of the rules now
under revision. No other
set of rules that I
know of can be said
to be in any way
authoritative, and this
Manual itself hardly is

The set of rules I am
submit might be
issued to District Superintendents
"in" Supervision of
existing rules in so far
as they relate to the
same subjects.

With these remarks I
beg to append the
following notes
& explanatory of the
rules serialised -

^{Chapter IV}
A₁ = { Madras Code }
Rule I. } slightly
modified -

A₂ = Rule II. with the
addition commencing
"but all projects -"

A₃ = Rule VI

A₄ = Rule VIII

A₅ = Rule X with the
addition commencing "but
he will be himself -"

A₆ = Rule XII + Rule XIII

NB. The word commented upon
is "dissensions" not "discussions",
with the addition commencing
"The Government be
....."

A₇ = Rule VII slightly
modified as to designation
of officers and with the
addition of the words
"and immediate & planation"

B₁ = Rule III. 1. slightly
modified

B₂ = Rule III. 2

B₃ = Rule III. 3

B_{3a} = New. Grafted by the
Controller -

B₄ = Bengal Code

Ch. III Sec II rule 14 modified
" " rule 22 "

B₅ = Rule V

B₆ = Rule IX

B₇ = Rule XI with the
addition commencing "It is
to the District Superintendents."

B₈ = Bengal Code

Ch. III. sec II - Rule 7 -

D₁ = Chapter XXIV Madras
Code - rules.

a = Rule VIII with the
addition commencing "This
' does not -"

D₂ a = Rule I. sec 1

b = Rule III. sec 1

D₃ = sec 2. Rule I. - modified
as to money limit -

D₄ = sec 3, Rule II.

D₅ = Sect 3 - Rule III.

D₆ = Sect 1 - Rule VII.

Modified --

D₇ = New. Drafted by
the Controller

E₁ = Bengal Code -

Ch. III Sect II Rule 6.
slightly modified

E₂ = Bengal Code.

Ch. III Sect II Rule 21

Modified --

E₃ = the same with
the addition commencing
"and whenever:-----"

E₄ = a new rule --

E₅ = " " "

E₆ = Rule XVII of Ch. IV
Madras Code with addition
of last sentence --

E₇ = Rule XVIII.

E₈ = Bengal Code.
Ch. III Sect II Rule 15.

E₉ = Rule XXIII of Ch. IV

E₁₀ = Rule XXV " "

with the addition commencing
"taking care:-----"

E₁₁ = New rule --

E₁₂ = " "

E₁₃ = " "

E₁₄ = " "

E₁₅ = a new rule

E₁₆ = " " 5.

=
CJ.

Can't find the
draft of the
new rules. I
think it is in the
draft of the new
rules.

There is no heading
to the Rules.

23
a draft of Rules. which
I presume are to be issued
for the guidance of Dist. Sup.
men under the new organization.
has reached me with a book
which appears to be a part
of the Public Worker Manual.
It begins at Chapter III.
but it is somewhat antiquated
& I do not feel sure if it
contains the rules still in
force - for such officers as
remain, under the temporary
given.

I should like the new
Rules sent back to me

with a Memorandum
indicating - those Rules
which are entirely new
those that have additions
or alterations, & those
that are a repeat repetition
of existing Rules. —

I should also wish to
know whether these
Rules contain all that
is required for District
Engineers or what portions
of the Manual they
are intended to supersede
& what remains for their
observance.

53
In the merging ^{of the Rules} should
be entered, the old Rules
superseded, or altered or
added to, with a reference
to the Manual in which
they are to be found.

I should wish to know
if the Rules have
reference to the Act
duties have been im-
-mitted to the Controller
for suggestions.

I should also like to
have their official

Mammals, other than
the Vol sent with the
New Rules, which
are considered authoritative
by the Dept of Public
Works.

W

49
In resubmitting the
proposed Rules for the
guidance of District
Engineers, with notes
by Captain Smith, Col:
and Walther has the
honor to submit the
necessity for passing
orders adding to the
Public Works Estab-
lishment as at present
reorganized, the office
of Under Secretary.

The work of the Sec-
retariat is heavy and
necessitate, and the
late reorganization
to be well carried out
involves great atten-
tion to details. Some
of these have been
ed up a fresh, like the
Rules now submitted,
and questions about
Gravelly River regulation
Office, the new officers -
The promise made to the

Govt of India to be kept
The subject of Intercourse
labour has to be kept -
The Railway work will
increase considerably, &
immediately; while that
of the Madras Irrigation
Company will, it is hoped,
soon require some impor-
tance. All these are matters
in which the assistance of
a professional Under Sec-
retary is required -

That he was not provided
for in the Reorganization
scheme, is thus accounted
for - viz. that for want of
intimate acquaintance
with the details of the Es-
tablishment as originally
set up to the Govt of
India, Colonel Walker
overlooked the fact that
the Dy. Ch. Engineer men-
tioned in letter from the
Govt. of India of 8th March
1872 was also to have
been Under Secretary. And
as two Inspecting Engineers
were recommended to be ap-

pointed, a Dy. Ch. Engineer
it was thought might be dis-
pensable with for one of
them - And indeed if
there is to be an Under Sec-
retary he should rather
be an Officer of the stand-
ing of Executive Engineer
1st or 2^d Grade than of
any higher class -

G.M.

20.1.73

I am quite satisfied that an Under
Secretary in the Public Works Department
is essentially necessary. There is a large
amount of detail work, which it is very
important should be performed by a
responsible officer under the Secretary to
Govt. P.W. and which cannot be
left to the uninitiated officers.
The Inspecting Engineers will have their
hands full & cannot without detriment
to their duties be charged with this work.
and the Secretary's time is fully P.W.
occupied with more important
duties. - I am truly & anxiously to the

No 1535

absolute necessity
 of an Under Secy
 in the D.M. The
 office is really
 a most important
 for the time being
 put as far as the Secy.
 The Secy's committee
 particularly I also
 the work of his Dept
 it is a physical
 impossibility - much
 more it has to do
 an Act - and
 to have that committee
 is an ^{combination} of
 professional attain-
 ments in the other
 grade positions, besides
 in a Secy. the number
 of full grade degrees of
 confidence, which the
 work they would do, without

the position of
 his title to them,
 are reliable. If
 the Board does not
 continue provision
 for the change, the
 defect should be
 substituted at once.
 I.D.S.

As the changes which
 have been introduced into
 the Dept since the 1st
 Dec last render it necessary
 to modify portions of the
 Madras Public Works
 Code, ~~in~~ ^{for} the
 Governor in Council resolves
 to circulate for informa-
 -tion & guidance a
 Chapter defining the duties
 of District Engineers,
 & superseding the section
 of Chapter IV of the
 existing Code relating
 to the subject.

District Eng^{rs} ✓
 Major R. S. S. ✓
 Inspecting Engineer ✓
 Public Works Dept ✓
 Revenue Dept ✓
 Public Works Dept ✓
 Consulting Architect ✓
 Draft with the Code

L. of 1873 *Madras*
PUBLIC WORKS.

District Engineer

1011

11 June 1873

Nos. *112*

Public Works Code

*Circulating for
information and
guidance a Chapter
defining the duties
of Engineers &c.*