

(1) Number of pages _____

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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1673	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
412-413		
Dated	27-6	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 412. Read the following letter from T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Fort St. George, 30th May 1873, No. 813:—

IN forwarding herewith the Statement of Unadjusted Miscellaneous Advances for the quarter ending the 31st December 1872, I have the honour to recommend that the preparation and submission of this document be discontinued for the following reasons:—

I.—That Range Officers are obliged to give information to District Engineers, which has already been furnished to the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

II.—That District Engineers have to prepare Statements which would be unnecessary by proper action on the part of the Controller's Office.

III.—That the Controller's Office is made a compiling and transmitting office, instead of being active in originating inquiries as to the cause of deferred adjustment of Miscellaneous Advances.

2. Each month and from each Range the Controller's Office receives a Statement showing the Miscellaneous Advances made, (1) in previous months, and (2) in the month to which the Statement relates. The same Statement shows the items adjusted up to date and those still outstanding. These Statements should be examined *at the time* and just as the Range Officers are required to explain doubtful points in their Accounts, so also should they be asked to explain why long outstanding advances have not been recovered. Such questions could be asked monthly in the Clearances and "Audit Notes," and District Engineers would thus become aware of irregularities at an early date, and be in a position to take remedial steps. By the same arrangement the Controller of Public Works Accounts would become aware of reasons for what appeared to him to be irregular, and if not satisfied with the explanation given by the Range Officer, or with the action of the District Engineer, it would be his duty to report matters to Government.

3. From the above, I trust I have shown that, without increasing the work on Range Officers, and without requiring District Engineers to compile Statements, the Controller's Office can utilize the information it receives to check irregularities by bringing them to the notice of District Engineers, and (if necessary) eventually to the notice of Government at an early date.

4. I do not claim to myself any originality of thought or arrangement in the above. I simply make use of my experience to try and remedy defects and reduce work, and I therefore trust that the Government will believe in my honesty of purpose, and not suppose that I seek opportunities to reflect on my predecessor, who cannot be blamed for want of experience.

5. I should add that the introduction of the Statement in question was ordered by Government in No. 3,905, of the 15th December 1868, and that that order was based on the Controller's Report of *half-yearly* examination of Miscellaneous Advance Accounts. I have stated above that the examination should be *monthly*.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
27th June 1873.*

No. 413.

ORDER THEREON, 27th June 1873, No. 1,673.

ACCOUNT, No. 31.

WHILE appreciating the Officiating Controller's efforts to afford as much relief as possible to Range and District Officers in the compilation of Returns and Statements, His Excellency the Governor in Council considers that, with regard to the particular Statement in question, it is of great importance that the Government should be kept fully informed at regular intervals of the nature and extent of outstanding advances, and he is of opinion that the best method of supplying this information is by the quarterly "Statement of Unadjusted Miscellaneous Advances;" but it does not appear to be necessary that these Returns should be compiled by District Engineers. It will be sufficient for all purposes if the Statement is prepared in the Controller's Office, either from the Accounts, or separate Statements furnished directly by Range Officers; and this course will accordingly be adopted in future.

2. It is however to be understood that it was never intended that the Controller should be merely the channel of communication between Executive Officers and the Government in regard to these advances, but that he should, before the submission of the general Statement, elicit all available information and indicate to Range Officers where adjustments are practicable; unadjusted items only being submitted for the orders of Government. The course described in paragraph 2 of the Officiating Controller's letter seems calculated to effect this in the most convenient manner.

3. It may be observed in conclusion that, since the system of quarterly Reports has been in operation, the amount of outstanding advances has been very considerably reduced; for while in September 1868 the total stood at Rupees 49,025,* it does not now exceed Rupees 14,384, and the reduction in the number of items making up this sum is still more noticeable.

4. Separate orders are passed on the Statement submitted by the Controller.
(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.
To District Engineers.
To the Special Executive Engineer, Wynaad.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts
A 813 Fort St George, 20 May 1873.

From
The Off Controller of
Public Works Accounts
To
The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort St George.

Sir,
In forwarding herewith
the Statement of Unadjusted
Miscellaneous Advances for
the quarter ending the 31st
December 1872, I have the
honor to recommend that
the preparation and sub-
mission of this document
be discontinued for the
following reasons.

I That Range Officers
are obliged to give in-
formation to District

Engineers which has already
been furnished to the
Controller of Public Works
Accounts.

II That District
Engineers have to prepare
Statements which would
be unnecessary to further
action on the part of
the Controller's Office.

III That the Controller's
Office is made a receiving
and transmitting
Office instead of being
active in originating
examinations as to the
cause of deferred and
judgments of Discretionary
Advances.

2. Each month and
from each Range the Controller's
Office receives a
Statement showing the Miscellaneous
Advances made
(1) in previous months and
(2) in the month to which
the

the Statement relates. The
same Statement shows the
items adjusted up to date
and those still outstanding.
These Statements should be
examined at the time and
just as the Range Officers
are required to explain
doubtful points in their
Accounts so also should they
be asked to explain why
long outstanding advances
have not been recovered.
Such questions could be
asked monthly in the
Clearances and "Audit Notes"
and District Engineers would
thus become aware of
irregularities at an early
date and be in a position
to take remedial steps.
By the same arrangement

the

the Controller of Public Works Accounts would become aware of reasons for what appeared to him to be irregular and if not satisfied with the explanation given by the Range Officer or with the action of the District Engineer, it would be his duty to report matters to Government.

3. From the above I trust I have shown that without increasing the work on Range Officers and without requiring District Engineers to compile Statements, the Controller's Office can utilize the information it receives to check irregularities by bringing them to the notice of District Engineers and (if necessary) eventually to the notice

of

of Government, at an early date.

4. I do not claim to myself any originality of thought or arrangement in the above - I simply make use of my experience to try and remedy defects and reduce work, and I therefore trust that the Government will believe in my honesty of purpose, and not suppose that I seek opportunities to reflect on my predecessor who cannot be blamed for want of experience.

5. I should add that the introduction of the Statement in question, was ordered by Government in No. 3909, of the 15th December 1868, and that that order was

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P. W. 1873 Department.

Off. of Govt. Secy. and
from No. 3212.

The Off. Controller of
P. W. Accounts
Madras

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

Dated 30th May 1873
Recd 2nd June 73

No. 873

Forwards with
Remark Statement of
Madras Dist. Miscella.
re: Advances for
the quarter ending
the 31st December
1872.

24/12

x vide L. 620/1674 of 27th June 73

~~Madras~~ P. W. D.
No. of the Madras Govt.

1673 Was the following

From the Off. Controller of P. W. No. 813 of 30 May 73
P. W. Accts.

While appreciating the
Officiating Controller's efforts
to afford as much relief
as possible to Range and
District Officers in the
compilation of returns and
Statements, His Excellency
the Governor in Council
considers that with regard
to the particular statement
in question it is of great
importance that the Govt.
should be kept fully
informed at regular
intervals of the nature
and extent of outstand-
ing advances, and he
is of opinion that

the best method of
supplying this information
is by the Quarterly
"Statement of Unadjusted
Miscellaneous Advances";
but it does not appear
to be necessary that
these returns should be
compiled by District
Engineers. It will be
sufficient for all purposes
if the Statement is prepared
in the Controller's Office
either from the Accounts
or separate Statements
furnished directly by
Range Officers; and this
course will accordingly
be adopted in future.

It is however to be
understood that it was

never intended that the
Controller should be merely
the channel of communi-
cation between Executive
Officers and the Govt.
in regard to these advances,
but that he should, before
the submission of the
general Statement, elicit
all available information
and indicate to Range
Officers where adjustments
are practicable; unad-
justed items only being
submitted for the orders
of Government. The
course described in para 2
of the Offg. Controller's
letter seems calculated
to effect this in the most
convenient manner.

To The Offg. Controller
of Eng.
Ex Eng. Wynaad.

It may be
observed in conclusion
that since the system

of Quarterly Report
has been in operation
the amount of outstand-
ing advances has been
very considerably reduced,
for while in September 1868
the total stood at \$49025
it does not now exceed
\$14,384, and the
reduction in the numb-
er of items making up
this sum is still more
noticeable.

PK

9th June 1873 -

Wm

Separate orders are
passed on the Statements
submitted by the Controller.

p 7412.13.

To the Controller
District Engineer
H. E. Rogers Esq
Dated 3/7/73

Order to Order 3 June 1873

No. 3212

OF THE

DEPT. OF THE

Secy. Controller of
Accounts

27th June 1873

412 & 413

Printed Miscellaneous

vances Paper orders

in letter from the Secy.

order exhibiting state-

ment of Unadjusted Mis-

vances for the quarter

ending 31st Dec/72 and

suggesting the discon-

tinuance of ~~future~~ the

preparation & submission of

statements.