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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1740	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
9495		
Dated	5. 7.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th July 1873.*

No. 94. Read the following letter from J. D. GRANT, Esq., Assistant Engineer in charge of District Engineer's Office, Tinnevely, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 7th June 1873, No. 39:—

I HAVE the honour to forward the correspondence marginally noted, regarding the present system of Public Works Officers being required to furnish Completion Certificates for petty works executed by the Revenue Authorities, and to request the orders of Government on the subject.

1 District Engineer's letter, No. 153, dated 31st May 1873.
1 President's reply, No. 222, dated 5th June 1873.
5 Bills,

2. The five bills enclosed and the letter of the Collector explain the necessity for some alteration in the existing rules.

3. The works to which these five bills refer are of such a nature that it is impossible to frame any but an approximate estimate of their cost, and after their execution it is extremely difficult to measure them.

4. An officer thus cannot certify to the work in the ordinary form, though he may feel satisfied that the amount charged has been really spent.

5. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to request that the change proposed in the two letters enclosed may be considered, and, if approved, sanctioned.

From J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, to R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., Collector of Tinnevely, dated Palamcottah, 31st May 1873, No. 158.

I HAVE the honour to enclose, for inspection, five bills which have been sent to Mr. Grant, Assistant Engineer, with a request that he will give Completion Certificates for the works to which they appertain.

1. Improving village site of Kalacad.
2. Do. do. of Mangunery.
3. Do. do. of Tirukarangudi.
4. Planting avenues on Ediengudi and Viziapathi roads.
5. Do. do. on road No. 19 and on road leading to Vallam.

2. I think some alteration of present rules is necessary to prevent our being called upon to grant Completion Certificates for such works.

3. In the first place there is no estimate, and, therefore, no standard for comparing what was done with what was proposed, and in only a few instances, such as the construction of culvert, is it possible to make any measurement.

4. I think, therefore, that the Government should be asked to grant authority to the Controller to pass similar expenditure on certificates from the Revenue Officer of the division in which the village is situated, and under the orders of whom the work will, as a general rule, have been carried out.

5. Similarly with regard to avenues, there is no possible means of checking the work, and, in my opinion, the Tahsildar or other officer, under whose immediate supervision the work was carried out, should certify, not as in the present instance, that the avenues have been fully executed and of the best materials and workmanship, but that the coolies were actually employed and their pay disbursed by him.

6. I was unwilling to address Government without being favoured with your opinion on this matter; should you coincide with me, please return the five enclosed bills, when I will address Government and request their orders on the subject.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th July 1873.*

From R. K. PUCKLE, Esq., President, Local Fund Boards, to J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, dated Tinnevely, 5th June 1873, No. 222.

In reply to your letter* No. 158, dated 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that I

* Enclosures returned.

quite agree with you as to the difficulty of granting Completion Certificates in the form prescribed for works which no one but a resident of the village can fully appreciate: widening streets, filling up holes, removing nuisances, levelling ruined walls, etc., etc., are works that make but little show afterwards, though they are of so much consequence to the village that the people frequently treat the 50 or 100 Rupees of Local Fund money as a grant-in-aid, and spend their private or common funds most liberally in effecting improvements. I enclose an extract on this subject from my annual report for last year on the Shermadevi Circle and shall be glad to see such a modification of the present rule as may secure a sufficient check on the money being fairly laid out. Local Fund Boards usually make grants of 50 Rupees only for the sanitation and improvement of villages for the express purpose of avoiding the difficulty that you represent.

Extract from a Report from the Collector and President of the Tinnevely Local Fund Board, Shermadevi Circle, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, Madras, dated 14th June 1873, No. 303.

The improvement of villages consists of widening and opening out streets, filling in holes, levelling decayed walls and mounds, building drains and small bridges, removing nuisances, repairing and fencing in wells, etc., etc., and in many of the larger towns, the improvements are already remarkable. The people take great interest in these improvements also, and come forward to help both with money and labour, so that for a grant of 50 or 100 Rupees from Local Funds work worth hundreds of rupees is sometimes executed. Here, however, the system of check again steps in to thwart our efforts, the rules require a Completion Certificate from a Department Public Works Officer for all work above 50 Rupees in value, and as there is often no estimate, or the provisions of the estimate have been departed from, the Department Public Works Officers, though acting with the best intentions, have scruples in granting certificates.

It seems somewhat strange that Revenue Officers, who can be trusted with the administration of a province with a revenue of 40 lacs of rupees, and who can raise or lower that revenue at will to the extent of some lacs, by granting or withholding remission, should not be trusted to spend 100 rupees on a popular work without the check of officers of another department, who are bound down by such forms and rules that they cannot officially recognize an improvement unless executed in a particular manner.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) R. K. PUCKLE,
President.

No. 95.

ORDER THEREON, 5th July 1873, No. 1,740.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 9.

Public Works G. O., No. 185, dated 25th June 1873.

It has already been provided in G. O., No. 567, of 4th June, that Completion Certificates need not be supplied by Public Works Officers for works performed by other agency to an amount of less than Rupees 500, and it is now further ordered that Completion Certificates for works of the nature alluded to in the above

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
5th July 1873.*

correspondence, viz., clearing village sites and planting avenues, may be furnished by the officer in Revenue charge of the sub-division of the Local Fund Circle concerned, without limit as to cost.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R. E.,

Secretary to Government.

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

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

pass similar expenditure on certificates from the Revenue Offices of the Division in which the village is situated, and under the orders of whom the work will, as a general rule, have been carried out.

5. Similarly with regard to Avenues there is no possible means of checking the work, and in my opinion the Tahsildar or other Officer under whose immediate supervision the work was carried out, should certify (not as in the present instance that the avenues have been fully executed and of the best materials and workmanship) but that the coolies were actually employed and their pay disbursed by hand.

6. I was unwilling to address Government without being favored with your opinion on this matter, should you coincide with me, please return the 5 enclosed bills when I will address Government and request their orders on the subject.

I have &c
Signed J. W. Randall
District Engineer
[Enc. 5]
D. G. Carr
Asst. Engr.
In ch. of Dist. Engrs. Office

Enclosure No. 1 in a
letter from the Officer
in charge of District
Engineers Office, Sinnerelly
dated 4th June 1873.
No. 39.

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

District Engineer's
letter to the collector
No. 158 of 31st May
1873.

P. W. 3389/73.

No. 222.

From,

R. H. Pache Esquire

President S. H. Board.

To,

J. W. Randall Esquire

District Engineer

Sinnerelly

Sir,

I in reply to your letter No. 158 dated
31st Ultimo, I have the honor to inform you
that I quite agree with you as to the diffi-
culty of granting Completion Certificates
in the form prescribed for works which no
one but a resident of the village can fully
appreciate widening streets, filling up
holes, removing nuisances levelling ruined
walls &c &c are works that make but
little show afterwards though they are
of so much consequence to the Village that
the people frequently treat the 50 or 100 Rs.
of Local Fund Money as a grant in aid
& spend their private or common funds most
liberally in effecting improvements. I en-
close an Extract on this subject from my
annual report for last year on the Sher
madani's circle & shall be glad to see
such a modification of the present rule
as

* Enclosures
returned

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as may secure a sufficient check on the
money being fairly laid out. Local Funds
Boards usually make grants of 50 Rupees
only for the sanitation & improvement of
villages for the express purpose of avoiding
the difficulty that you represent.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed^t servant
J. S. P. P. H. P. P. H.

President

/ True Copy /

J. D. Grant
Agent Engineer

In charge of D. P. U. Office.

Extract from a Report from the
Collector and President of the Annamally
Local Funds Board, Shermadeni Circle,
to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue
Madras dated 1st June 1873 No 303.

The improvement of villages con-
sists of widening and opening out streets,
filling in holes, levelling decayed walls
and mounds, building drains and small
bridges, removing nuisances, repairing
and fencing in wells &c &c and in
many of the larger towns, the improve-
ments are already remarkable. The peo-
ple take great interest in these improve-
ments also and come forward to help
both with money and labour, so that
for a grant of 50 or 100 Rs from Local
Funds, work worth hundreds of Rupees
is sometimes executed. Here however
the system of check, against which
thwart our efforts, the rules require a
completion certificate from a D. P. U.
Officer for all work above 50 Rs in value
and as there is often no estimate or the
provisions of the estimate have been
departed from, the D. P. U. Officers,
though

as though acting with the best intentions, have
no scruples in granting certificates.

It seems somewhat strange that
Revenue officers who can be trusted
with the administration of a province
with a revenue of 100 lacs of Rupees
and who can raise or lower that re-
venue at will to the extent of some
lacs by granting or withholding re-
mission should not be trusted to
spend 100 Rs on a popular work without
the check of Officers of another depart-
ment who are hampered down by such
arms and rules that they can not offi-
cially recognize an improvement un-
less executed in a particular manner.

(True Extract)

(Signed) B. F. Buckle
President

(True copy)

J. D. Hunt Esq. Esq.
In ch. District Eng's Office

Enclosure. No 2 in a
letter from the Officer
in charge District Eng's
Office Sinnerelly dated
7th June 1873 No 39.

To,
The Secretary to Govt
P. W. D.

President's reply letter
No. 222 of 5th June 1873.

P. W. 3389/73.

No 39

Sinnerelly District Eng's Office
Palamcottah 7th June 1873

From,

J. D. Grant Esquire
Actg Eng in charge of Dist Eng's Office
Sinnerelly

To,
Colonel G. W. Walker P. E.
Secretary to Government
P. W. D.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward the enclosed copy
of a letter marginally noted, regarding the
present system of P. W. Officers being required
to furnish Completion Certificates, for petty
works executed by the Revenue Authorities, &c.
and to request the orders of Government on the
subject.

2. The 5 Bills enclosed and the letter of the
Collector explain the necessity for some
alteration in the existing rules.

3. The works, to which these 5 Bills refer
are of such a nature that it is impossible to
frame any but an approximate Estimate
of their cost, and after their execution it is
extremely difficult to measure them.

4. The Officer thus cannot certify to
the work in the ordinary form, though he may
feel

Enclos. 7

The Eng's letter
No 39 dated 31st
1873.

President's reply
No 222 dated 5th
1873.

Bills.

as feel satisfied that the amount charged
has been really spent.

To 5. Under these circumstances I have the
honor to request that the change proposed
in the 2 letters enclosed, may be considered &
if approved sanctioned.

I have the honor to be

Sir,

Your most obed^t Serv^t

L. D. Wyatt *Asst. Engineer*

In charge of District Engin^g Office
Sinnacully.

P.W. 1873 Depart.
P.W. 1873 Depart.
From the Dept. of Public Works
In ch. Dist. Engr. Office
Tinnevely

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

Dated 7th
Recd. 11th } June 1873.

Encls. 7

Requests a modification of the present rules in regard to furnishing Completion Certificates for Petty Works executed by Revenue Department.
No 1740 - 5th July 73.

No 94
Recd. 11th June 73

1740 P.W.D. 8-10-73
From the Madras Govt
Read the following:-

From the Asst. Engr. in charge
of the District Office
Tinnevely } H.R. No. 3977 June 73/

Publ. Works R.O. No.
dated

11/6
1/6

It has already been provided in G.O. No. 567 of 4th June that Completion Certificates need not be supplied by Public Works officers for works performed by other Agency to an amount of less than Rs. 500. and it is now further ordered that Completion

Journal of

To Dist Engineer
En. Engin W. Maund
Inspecting Engineer
Controller
Fuel Dept. - 58.6
Rev " " - "
11-94-95.

Sept 12/7/73
5 Eves & 6th of August
Tennent

To. *Quarto Uruguay*

Date

Recd.

Enc. 2

G. O. 5th July 1740.

Nos. 94 & 95

Completion Certificates.

Received orders on letter from
the Asst. Surg. in charge of
the Linnenelly & Linnenelly
Office requesting a modifica-
tion of the rules in regard
to the grant of certificates.