

(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.	1775	Press /
B.P. No.		Mis.
160-161		
Dated	9. 7.	1873.

Not to be folded or roughly handled

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th July 1873.*

No. 160. 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, 17th June 1873, No. 1,378:—

WITH reference to G. O., No. 943, dated 26th March 1873, I have the honour to submit, for the orders of Government, copy of correspondence which has taken place between the District Engineer, Bellary, and this office, relative to the countersignature of District Engineers to all Completion Certificates.

2. I should perhaps mention that no other District Engineer has objected to countersign Completion Certificates.

From Captain A. EDGCOME, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Bellary, to T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, dated Camp at Hospett, Bellary, 1st June 1873, No. 328.

In re-transmitting the Completion Certificates received (for countersignature*) with your letter No. 474, dated 19th May 1873, I have the honour to observe that, according to the orders of Government printed with your Circular No.

XXX., dated 8th October 1868, there is no necessity for the Completion Certificates to be countersigned by District Engineers, as in those orders it is distinctly said that the countersignature of these documents by Superintending Engineers is not required.

2. I would also point out that in G. O., No. 943, dated 26th March 1873, which ordered Completion Certificates to be hereafter transmitted through the District Engineer's Office, no mention is made about the certificates being countersigned by the District Engineer.

3. The certificates which accompany this letter are signed by the Sub-Divisional Officer, and countersigned by the Range Officer which, I consider, is sufficient for all purposes.

4. If you deem it necessary, the matter may be referred for the decision of Government.

From T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Captain A. EDGCOME, R.E., District Engineer, Bellary, dated Madras, 7th June 1873, No. 112.

WITH reference to your letter No. 328 of the 1st instant, regarding Completion Certificates, I have the honour to observe that your countersignature to such documents will, if not necessary for any other reason, serve to prove that the documents had been seen by you before final record in this Office. In my experience, very old Completion Reports have been referred to for the purpose of ascertaining who were the responsible officers, and you will no doubt agree that it would be a matter of regret if, in any special or important case, it could not be satisfactorily proved that the Superintending or District Engineer had at the time the opportunity of remarking in the Completion Report on the quality, etc., of the work done.

2. If after considering the above you are still of opinion that your countersignature is not required, I shall refer the matter to Government as desired in your 4th paragraph.

From Captain A. EDGCOME, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Bellary, to T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, dated Bellary, 10th June 1873, No. 382.

In reply to your letter No. 112, dated 7th instant, I have the honour to inform you that, in my opinion, the very fact of expecting all Completion Certificates to be countersigned by the District Engineer will deprive such countersignatures in special or important cases of any value that it may be supposed to possess. If the countersignature of the District Engineer is to have any value, or meaning, all works, the Completion Certificates for which are countersigned by him, must have been previously inspected by him, and if this is to be carried out I would suggest to you the great delay in the submission of Completion Certificates that must necessarily occur in a district of such vast area as that of Bellary.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
9th July 1873.

2. The question of countersignature should, I think, be left for the District Engineer's decision, who may, if he thinks the work worthy of it, remark on its quality and on any other particulars that he may deem necessary; but directly this question of countersignature is expected to be made applicable to all works, however unimportant some of them may be, the fact of such countersignature loses, as I have already observed, all its value. I still hold the opinion conveyed in my letter No. 328, of the 1st instant, and would again suggest that if you deem it necessary this matter may be referred for the decision of Government.

No. 161.

ORDER THEREON, 9th July 1873, No. 1,775.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 19.

His Excellency the Governor in Council is of opinion that to attain the object desired by the Controller it will be sufficient that District Engineers should initial and date all Completion Certificates that pass through their hands, adding remarks where they deem it necessary.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts,
To District Engineers.
.. Major R. B. Kennedy.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

District Engineer's Office,
Camp, Bellary,
1st June 1873.
No. 328.

From
The District Engineer,
Bellary,
To
The Controller of P.W. Accounts,
Madras.
Sir,

Note.
* Addition made
in this office to make
this matter clear to
Government.

In retransmitting the completion certificates received (for completion) with your letter No. 174 dated 19th May 1873, I have the honor to observe that according to the orders of Government printed with your Circular No. 222 dated 8th October 1868, there is no necessity for the completion certificates to be countersigned

countersigned by District Engineers, as in those orders, it is distinctly said that the countersignature of these documents by Superintending Engineers is not required.

2. I would also point out that in G.O. No 943, dated 26th March 1873, which ordered completion certificates to be hereafter transmitted through the District Engineer's Office, no mention is made about the certificates being countersigned by the District Engineer.

3. The certificates which accompany this letter are signed by the Sub-Divisional Officers and countersigned by the Range Officer which I consider is sufficient for

for all purposes. If you deem it necessary, the matter may be referred for the decision of Government.

I have, &c.
Signed/ Arthur Edgcombe Esq. R.E.
Offg. District Engineer.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts.
Madras 7th June 1873.
No 112.

From
The Offg. Controller of P.W. Accounts.
Madras,

To
The District Engineer,
Bellary.

Sr,
With reference to your letter No 328,
of

of the 1st Instant regarding comple-
tion certificates, I have the honor
to observe that your countersignature
to such documents will, if not
necessary for any other reason, serve
to prove that the documents had
been seen by you before final re-
cord in this Office. In my Ex-
perience, very old Completion Reports
have been referred to for the purpose
of ascertaining who were the respon-
sible Officers and you will no
doubt agree that it would be a
matter of regret if in any special
or important case, it could not
be satisfactorily proved that the
Superintending or District Engineer
had, at the time, the opportunity
of remarking in the Completion
Report on the quality &c of
the

the Work done.

2. If, after considering the
above, you are still of opinion that
your countersignature is not requir-
ed, I shall refer the matter to
Government as desired in your
4th para.

I have seen
/ Signed / I do so.
Offs Controller of P.W. Accounts

District Engineer's Office
Bellary 10th June 1873.

N^o 382

From
The District Engineer,
Bellary

To The Controller of P.W. Accounts,
Madras.

Sir,

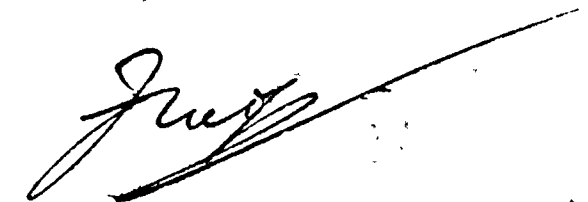
In reply to your letter N^o 112
dated

dated 4th Instant, I have the honor
to inform you that, in my opinion, the
very fact of expecting all Completion
Certificates to be countersigned by the
District Engineer will deprive such
countersignatures in special or important
cases, if any value that it may be
supposed to possess. If the counter-
signature of the District Engineer is
to have any value, or meaning, all works
the completion certificates for which
are countersigned by him, must have
been previously inspected by him -
and if this idea is to be carried out,
I would suggest to you the great
delay in the submission of comple-
tion certificates that must necessari-
ly occur in a District of such vast
area as that of Bellary.

The question of countersignature
should, I think, be left for the
District Engineer's decision, who may,
if he thinks the work worthy of
it,

it, remark on its quality, and on any
other particulars that he may deem
necessary - but directly this question
of countersignature is expected to be
made applicable to all works, however
unimportant some of them may be,
the fact of such countersignature,
loses, as I have already observed, all
its value. I still hold the opinion
conveyed in my letter No 328, of the
1st Instant and would again suggest
that, if you deem it necessary, this
matter may be referred for the
decision of Government.

I have &c.
/Signed/ Arthur Edgcome Capt. R.E.
Offs. District Engineer Bellary
/True Copies/


Offs. Controller of W. Accounts.

G.E.P.

Enclosure in a letter from
the Controller of P.W. Accounts
to the Secy. to Government,
P.W. Department, dated 17
June 1873 No 1378.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts,
Fort Saint George, 17 June 1873.

No 1378

From
The Offg. Controller of P.W. Accounts,
To,
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George.

Sir,

With reference to
G. O. No 943, dated 26 March
1873, I have the honor to submit
for the orders of Government
copy of correspondence which
has taken place between
the District Engineer, Bellary,
and this office, relative to the

enclosure /
referred to /
above

2
the countersignature of District
Engineers to all Completion
Certificates.

2. I should perhaps
mention that no other Dis-
trict Engineer has objected to
Countersign Completion Certificates.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

[Signature]

Offg. Controller of A.W. Accounts.

[Signature]