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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public Works DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1989	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
141-142		
Dated	11. 8.	18 73

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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

No. 141. 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, 3rd July 1873, No. 1,825 :—

REFERRING to G. O., No. 1,637, of the 23rd June last, and in explanation of my statement therein referred to, that I was unable to comply with the application of a Range Officer for the services of a trained Accountant, I have the honour to annex, for the information of Government, a copy of the correspondence marginally noted. To make the matter perfectly clear to Government, I may mention that in other parts of India in which I have served there is a reserve

No. 52, of 12th May 1873, from the District Engineer, Neilgherries.

No. 496, of 20th idem, from the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, in reply.

of "passed" candidates, while the regular Accountants form a graded class for General Service, and are transferred from one charge to another, for the good of the service, without consulting their wishes. This arrangement not being in force in Madras, I could not do more towards meeting Captain Morant's application than to *invite volunteers* in my own office, and, failing in that, to ask if qualified outsiders were known to any of the members, a question which was answered in the negative.

2. The above explanation will, I think, enable Government to understand the difficulty that would present itself to me, if I found that a large and important range had an Accountant attached to it who, in being ignorant and slow, was unequal to the duties which, however, could be efficiently performed by an Accountant of my own office who, we will suppose, draws a salary 10 Rupees in excess of that drawn by the inefficient man attached to the Range Office. How could I, in such a case, make the change? For in addition to the difference in rate of pay, there would probably be the unwillingness, if not refusal, of the qualified Accountant to go to the range. In point of fact, such unwillingness was shown when Captain Morant's application was received. The Controller (I speak for myself) would have the desire, but not the power, to give help under the present system.

3. In the particular case (Mount Range) under reference, I beg to state that I inquired fully into the state of the Range Office, etc., before I wrote my letter No. 631 of the 23rd May last. I ascertained that the result of the last inspection by the late Controller was, on the whole, favourable; that the Accountant had never been found fault with; that the accounts submitted to this office were, on the whole, well prepared, and, in fact, that there was nothing more than greater delay in getting out the accounts for March. I say *greater* delay because I found that for some months previous the accounts had reached this Office *after* the prescribed date. Such being the facts considered by me at the time, and in the absence of any report of unforeseen difficulty, sickness, etc., it never occurred to me to make a personal inspection of the office, or to depute the Deputy Controller for the purpose. Probably I should have come to know the particulars had the Range Office been within the limits of my daily drives, for then I should have met the Executive Engineer, and the matter would have been one for conversation; but, as stated above, it never occurred to me to undertake a drive of some 16 miles

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
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to make certain of a fact which seemed on the surface, viz., that the slowness of the Accountant had been aggravated by change of officers, and by the greater detail required in the Progress Report of the last month of the year.

4. The above having been my opinion formed on the facts mentioned, I was not a little surprised at the report made by the Range Officer in the letter to Government, copy of which is attached to the Government Order under reference. In that letter Mr. Harrington completely condemns the Accountant who,

* Consequent on the arrangements sanctioned in G. O., No. 905, dated 28th March 1873.

strange to say, was recommended for an increase of salary (from Rupees 60 to Rupees 70* per mensem) on the 9th May last, or more than a month after Mr. Harrington assumed charge of the range.

5. In conclusion, I beg to state that if, with reference to the Government Order under notice, the District Engineer should report to Government that it is necessary the office of the Mount Range should be overhauled by an officer of the Accounts branch, I will arrange at once to inspect the office or depute the Deputy Controller to do so, as may be most convenient.

From Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Neilgherries, to T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, dated Ootacamund, 12th May 1873, No. 52.

I HAVE been advised by the Chief Engineer to apply to you for a man to fill the post of Head Accountant in this office on a salary of Rupees 70 per mensem, I have therefore the honour to request you will be so good as to let me know if you can send me a suitable man to fill the post. He should be a thoroughly trained Accountant, as the payments made are heavy and the accounts rather complicated, and Rupees 70 here is equivalent to Rupees 60 at Coimbatore.

From T. MOSS, Esq., Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts, to Captain J. L. L. MORANT, R.E., District Engineer, Neilgherries, dated Fort St. George, 20th May 1873, No. 496.

In reply to your letter No. 52 of the 12th instant, I regret to state that I am unable to recommend a man to fill the post of Head Accountant in your office. No qualified man is known to any member of my establishment, and I find that the system followed in other parts of India is not in force here, viz., a graded Establishment of qualified Accountants at the disposal of the Controller of Public Works Accounts.

No. 142. ORDER THEREON, 11th August 1873, No. 1,989.

ESTABLISHMENT, No. 9.

ORDERED to be recorded.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the Officiating Controller of Public Works Accounts.

Exd. S. T. Austin.

Spare Copies.

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts,

Fort Saint George, 3rd July 1873.

N^o. 1825
From
The Offg. Controller of P.W. Accounts,
To
The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Fort Saint George.
Sir,

Referring to G.O. No. 1637
of the 23rd June last, and in
explanation of my statement
therein referred to that I
was unable to comply with
the application of a Range
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trained Accountant, I have
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marginally noted. To make
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This arrangement not being
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cation than to invite
Volunteers in my own
office

x No 52 of 12th
May 1873
from the District
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gheries.
No 496 of 20th
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Salary

salary ten Rupees in excess
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the change? for in addition
to the difference in rate of
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the unwillingness if not re-
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In point of fact, such
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application was received.
The Controller (I speak for
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[#] Consequent on the arrangements sanctioned in G.O. No. 965, dated 28th March 1873.

5. In conclusion I beg to state that if, with reference to the G.O. under notice, the District Engineer should report

47
report to Government that it is necessary the Office of the Mount Range should be overhauled by an Officer of the Accounts Branch, I will arrange at once to inspect the Office or depute the Deputy Controller to do so, as may be most convenient.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

[Signature]

Offg. Controller of Accounts
Cotacamund
No. 52. Dist. Engr's office
12th May 1873.
From The District Engineer
Neilgheries
To The Controller Public Works Accounts
Madras

Sir,

I have been advised by the Chief Engineer to apply to you for a man to fill the post of Head Accountant in this Office on a salary of Rs 70 per mensem, I have therefore the honor to request you will be so good as to let me know if you can send me a suitable man to fill the post. He should be a thoroughly trained accountant as the payments made are heavy and the accounts rather complicated and Rs 70 here is equivalent to Rs 60 at Coimbatore. -

I have, ^{yes}
Signed Jas. Morant Capt. R.E.
Dist. Engineer

Office of the Controller of
Public Works Accounts,
Fort Saint George, 20th May 1873.

N^o 496

From

The Offy Controller of P.W. Accounts,
To

The District Engineer
Nilgheeris.

Sir,

In reply to your letter
N^o 52 of the 12th Instant,
I regret to state that I am
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in other parts of India is
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a graded Establishment of
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the disposal of the Con-
troller of Public Works Accounts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. Moss.

Offg. Controller of P.W. Accounts.

P.W. 1873 Sep.
No. 3787

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

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

Dated 3rd } July 1873
Recd 4 - }
No. 1825

Offers explanation on
his inability to provide
an Accountant to fill
an appointment in
the District Engineer's
Office at the Madras

With an add

To
the
Honble
the
Secretary
to
Government
Public
Works
Department
Fort
Saint
George
J. C. Clerk 18/8/73

Decided to be recorded

18-1989

18-1989

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Recd to be recorded 18/8/73

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Govt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To *The Offg. Controller of
Mr. Nesmille*

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 11th Aug. 1873. *1989*

Nos. *1414/42*

Accounts - Establishment.

Letter from the Offg.
Controller of P. W. Accts.
offering explanation re
lative to his inability to
recommen of an Accountant
to fill an appointment in
the S. S. Engrs Office at the
S. S. Engrs Office at the