M.R.O. 1—10,006—28-2-50.

(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. / ~~B.P.—No.~~ 158-159.	1519	Press / ~~Mis.~~
Dated	10-6-1874	~~195~~ .

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department, 10th June 1874.

No. 158. 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 Madras, 15th May 1874, No. 1,370:—

I AM much concerned to find from the concluding portion of G. O., No. 1,221 of the 7th instant, that, in the opinion of Government, there is an inclination on my part to draw "sweeping censures" upon Range Officers in the matter of accounts, rather than to aid them and their Accountants, and I therefore have the honour to request that you will do me the favour to inform Government that I deliberately, but most respectfully, deny that there has been any such inclination on my part. In simple justice to myself, I beg reference to the letters, etc., which I have from time to time submitted, all of which give unmistakable proof of my sympathy with Range Officers in the insufficient aid they receive from their Accountants, as also proof of my efforts to make Accountants more useful. The latest example of this will be found in my letter printed with G. O., No. 1,207 of the 5th instant. Even in the particular case connected with the Mount Range, disposed of in Government Order quoted above, it will be observed that I made the following remark in respect to the Range Officer:—

"But it is hard that in a range with so much out-door work to attend to, the Range Officer should have to look closely to office details."

2. I have certainly condemned the Accountant at present attached to the Mount Range, and this I did deliberately, not only on the result of the recent inspection of the Range Office, but on the report of the District Engineer (Colonel F. J. Moberly, R.E.,) who during the short time that he held charge of the range, informed me, demi-officially, of the unfitness of the Accountant for his position.

3. I quite agree in the opinion that Range Officers would get much help from inspections by officers of the Accounts branch, and, indeed, I have already arranged that inspections shall be more frequent than they have been in past years, but I must not conceal from Government the fact that such inspections do not effect improvement to the extent they should, owing to the inability of our Accountants (for want of training, etc.,) to understand the principle or system of Accounts. This defect in the present arrangement has been very clearly brought out by Lieutenant Christie, R.E., Deputy Controller, whose reports of inspection I have recently submitted to Government. I may add that the defect was even admitted by Mr. Brock, who although an advocate* for the continuance of the present arrangement in respect to Accountants, wrote as follows in the report which is printed with G. O., No. 185 of the 18th April 1872:—

* *Vide* G. O., No. 1,615, dated the 20th June 1873.

"I feel certain that with the class of men (a few excepted) who are employed as Range Accountants, it is absolutely necessary that the Engineers and Executive Agents in charge should look closely to the working of their Offices."

4. I will conclude by assuring Government that I have honestly tried to improve account keeping without increasing work and without causing dissatisfaction.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
10th June 1874.

No. 159. ORDER THEREON, 10th June 1874, No. 1,519.

ACCOUNT, No. 17. ORDERED to be recorded with reference to G. O., No. 1,637 of 23rd June 1873, and No. 1,221 of 7th May 1874.

(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 P. W. Accounts
Madras 15 May 1874

No 1370

To
The Officiating Controller of P. W. Accounts

&c &c &c

The Secretary to Government
Public Works Department
Fort St George

Sir,

I am much concerned to find from the concluding portion of G. O. No 1221 of the 7th instant that in the opinion of Government there is an inclination on my part to draw sweeping censures upon Range Officers in the matter of accounts, rather than to aid them and their Accountants and I therefore have the honor to request that you will do me the favor to inform Government that I deliberately but most respectfully deny that there has been any such

System of accounts, & the method in the present arrangement have been very clearly brought out by Lieutenant Christie D.A.C.G. Asst. Controller, whose appointment as inspector, I have recommended & submitted to Government, & trust will add that the subject mentioned by him Brevet rank & although an advocate for the continuance of the present arrangement in respect to expenditure & contracts, I urge as strongly as I can the necessity of the report which is forwarded with G. O. No. 185 of the 18th ult. & which contains statements "of fact certain statements "the class of men (ex-Sepoys) "employed as Rangers (ex-mutineers) "it is absolutely necessary "that the strictest check "& Executive control in this branch "should be exercised by "the working of which Officer "& which enables the Government that of land revenue

* Vide G.O. No. 185 dated the 18th June 1872

I have &c &c &c

Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy Controller
Commissariat Department

Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy Controller
Commissariat Department

Forwarded to inspect account keeping & checking & to report generally on the working & efficiency of the Department

Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy Controller
Commissariat Department

Forwarded to Lieutenant Colonel
Deputy Controller
Commissariat Department

for his notice & D. F. Accounts.

Pub: Works 1874 Dept.
No: 2921.

From
The Offg Controller of
P. W. Accounts

To
The Secretary to Govt
P. W. Department

Dated 15
Recd 15 May 1874
Recd 18

No 1370
G. O. No: 1519. 10-6-74

Stating that there
was no intention to
draw sweeping censures
on Range Officers in
the matter of accounts,
with further observations.

Forwarded with reference to G. O. No. 1137 of 23rd June 1873

Submitted to the Controller
& Chief Engineer

And No. 1221 of 7th May 1874.

1519

158-159

cii 20 June 74 Rec'd 21/5/74
Secy to Govt 16 June 1874

2921/V

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

The Comptroller P.W.A

Dated

Rec'd. Encl.

G. O. 18th June 1874. No. 1519

Nos. 158-159.

Range Officers Accounts

Letter from the Comptroller of P.W. Accounts stating that there exists an intention on his part to charge upon Range Officers exercising Executive in the matter of Accounts, recorded—