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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

Government of Madras

Public works

DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	2004	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
548-49		
Dated	27-7-1844	105

Not to be folded or roughly handled

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th July 1874.*

No. 548. Read the following letter from J. W. RUNDALL, Esq., District Engineer, Tinnevely, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Palamcottah, 3rd June 1874, No. 33:—

I HAVE the honor, for the reasons stated below, to request a reconsideration of the latter part of G. O., No. 2,608, of the 24th October 1873.

2. The Government Order referred to chiefly regards the expediency of giving cheque books to Sub-division Officers; after disposing of this question it is added in paragraph 2, "His Excellency in Council, in authorizing the above arrangements, desires that Range Officers shall themselves make as many payments as they can, and all final payments for amounts exceeding Rupees 100 without exception."

3. I presume that, in giving this order, the only object is to cause payments to be made as far as possible by the Range Officer, since no check on the correctness of the final bill is enjoined. If Range Officers were ordered to inspect *all* works before making final payments, they would lose the principal assistance rendered by a Sub-division Officer, and it would be impossible for a Range Officer to check-measure all works in a large range. On the other hand, any bar towards prompt payment for work satisfactorily completed operates against us most seriously. Men hesitate to take up works when they know they will have to travel long distances for their money.

4. It seems to me that it would be a far more useful check if Range Officers were directed to make the final check measurement and payment for all works exceeding Rupees 2,500 in cost. This in most ranges they would probably be able to do. The final payment, as well as check measurement and grant of completion certificate, resting, as heretofore, with Sub-division Officers in the case of works costing less than that sum.

5. The difficulty in carrying out the Government Order has been brought to my notice by Mr. Hughes, in charge of the Shermadevi Range. The system of Sub-division Officers having cheque books was introduced into this district only from 1st April.

No. 549. ORDER THEREON, 24th July 1874, No. 2,004.

ACCOUNT, No. 28.

In their Order of the 24th October 1873, No. 2,608, the Government while sanctioning the issue of cheque books to Sub-divisional Officers for the purpose of drawing from the treasuries the funds placed at their disposal by Range Officers, reminded the latter that they were responsible for all disbursements of cash within their Ranges, and concluded by directing that all final payments to petty contractors for amounts exceeding Rupees 100 without exception should be made by the Range Officers themselves.

2. The District Engineer, Tinnevely, in his letter above recorded solicits a reconsideration of the final part of the above order. The object in view by the Government was to ensure, as far as practicable, inspection of the work and scrutiny of the account of the petty contractor by the Range Officer on his finally

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
24th July 1874.*

closing transactions with him; but it is pointed out by the District Engineer that as it is impossible for a Range Officer to check-measure all such works in a large Range, he cannot actually ensure the correctness of every bill; and that the failure in making as a rule prompt payment to contractors, which will result from the operation of the order in question, operates seriously against the department in deterring contractors from taking up work.

3. His Excellency the Governor in Council is willing to allow the District Engineers some degree of freedom of action in matters of this nature, while reminding them that they thereby incur increased responsibility, and that they must exercise discretion in delegating to their subordinates the power of dealing with the public money.

4. The Range Officers may, therefore, with the sanction of their District Engineer, authorize Sub-divisional Officers to make final payments for all works under Rupees 2,500 in value.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers.
To the Executive Engineer, Wynaad.
.. Officiating Controller of Public Wo
.. *Car Architect*

Exd. S. T. Austin.
Spare Copies



No 33 District Engineer's Office, Tanjore
Palaincottah, 3 June 1874

General.
J. W. Randall Esquire
District Engineer, Tanjore.
Colonel G. W. Walker R. E.
Chief Engineer & Secretary to
Government D. P. W.
Sir,

I have the honor for the reasons stated below to request a reconsideration of the latter part of G. O. No 2608 of the 24th October 1873.

2. The G. O. referred to, chiefly regards the expediency of giving Cheque Books to Sub Division Officers; after disposing of this question it is added in para 2, His Excellency in Council, in authorizing the above arrangements, desires that Range Officers shall themselves make as many payments as they can and all final payments for amounts exceeding Rupees 100 without exception.

3. I presume that in giving this order the only object is to cause payments to be made as far as possible by the Range Officer, since no check on the correctness of the final Bill is enjoined. If Range Officers were ordered to inspect all works before making final payments, they

they would lose the principal assistance rendered by a Sub Division Officer, and it would be impossible for a Range Officer to check measure all works in a large Range.

On the other hand any bar towards prompt payment for work satisfactorily completed operates against us most seriously. Men hesitate to take up works when they know they will have to travel long distances for their money.

4. It seems to me, that it would be a far more useful check if Range Officers were directed to make the final check measurement and payment for all works exceeding Rspees 2500 in cost. This in most Ranges they would probably be able to do. The final payment as well as check measurement and grant of completion certificate resting as heretofore with Sub. Division Officers in the case of works costing less than that sum.

5. The difficulty in carrying out the Government Order has been brought to my notice by Mr. Hughes in charge of the Shersa Sadari Range. The system of Sub Division Officers having Cheque Books was introduced into this District only from 1st April.

P. N. 1874 Dept.
No. 7 of 1874
From. No. 3424

The District Engineer
To. The Chief Engineer
Secy: to Govt. D.P.W.

Dated 3rd June 1874.
Received 8th

G.O. No: 2004.24-7-76
Requests a reconsideration of the latter part of G.O. No. 2608 of the 21st October 1873 directing that all final payments should be made by Range Officers themselves.

Ch. 5248
Desp. to Chief Eng. 1874

they would lose the principal assistance

Public Works Department
Proceedings of the Madras Government
1904 Read the following
From
The Deputy Commissioner (P. & C. to 33 dated 3 June
1894)

In their Order of the 24th
October 1893. No 2600 the
Government while sanctioning
the issue of cheque books to
Sub divisional Officers for the
purpose of drawing from
the treasuries the funds placed
at their disposal by Range
Officers - reminded them
that they were responsible
for all disbursements of cash
within their Ranges & concluded
by directing that all final
payments to Petty Contractors
for amounts exceeding Rs. 100
without exception shd be made
by the Range Officers themselves
2. The District Engineer

Unnecessarily in his letter
above recd. solicits a
reconsideration of the final
part of the ^{above} Order of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~the~~

The object in view by the Govt.
was to ensure as far as
practicable inspection of the works
+ scrutiny of the accounts of
the petty Contractors ^{by the P.O.} ~~on~~ his final
closing transactions with him;
but it is pointed out by the
District Engineer that as it is
impossible for a Range Officer to
check measure all such works
in a large Range, he cannot
actually ensure the correctness
of every bill; & that the failure
in making as a rule prompt
payment to Contractors which will
result from the operation of
the order in question, operates

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seriously against the Department
in deterring Contractors from
taking up work.

His Excellency the Governor in
Council is willing to allow
the District Engineers some degree
of freedom of action in matters
of this nature while reminding
them that they thereby incur
increased responsibility, & that
they must exercise discretion in
delegating to their Subordinates
the power of dealing with the
public money.

The Range Officers may therefore
with the sanction of their District
Engineer, Authorise Subdivisional
Officers to make final payments
for all works under Rs. 2500
in value.

Adh. S.
3.7.74.

MM.

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to District Engineer ✓
to Engineer in Charge ✓
to Civil Engineer ✓
to Survey Architect ✓
S. Copies despatched 3/8/74.

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely Arabic or Persian, covering the left side of the page. The text is arranged in approximately 15 horizontal lines. The script is dense and somewhat difficult to decipher due to the cursive style and the quality of the scan.

548-549.

Ex 6/11, Pto 7/1/24

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely Arabic or Persian, located at the bottom of the page. It appears to be a signature or a date, written in a more fluid and less formal style than the main body of text.

3424

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To Dist. Engineers

Dated

Recd.

Encl.

G. O. 26 July 1874, No 24

Nos. 548-549.

Payments by Sub Divisional
Officers

(Directing that Range
Officers may with the
sanction of District Engrs
authorize Sub divisional
Officers to make final
payments for all works
under Rs. 2500 in value.