

(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. 2406
B.P. No.

Press
-Mis.-

Dated

24 - 8 - 1951

6874

Not to be folded or roughly handled

No. 613. Read the following letter from Major H. SMALLEY, R.E., Officiating District Engineer, Ganjam, to Colonel G. W. WALKER, R.E., Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, dated Camp at Russelconda, 19th June 1874, No. 23 :—

I HAVE the honor to request information as to what is implied by a District Engineer's countersignature to bills for expenditure under Revenue Authorities in the Salt Department. I am obliged to refer to Government for this information as all I can gather locally is that the District Engineer's countersignature is required by Revenue Board's Standing Circular Orders Nos. 27 of 1868 and 7 of 1872. On reference to those orders I find G. O., (Revenue Department,) No. 2,263, of 26th September 1867, quoted as the authority on which they are framed. Referring to that order (which I have only lately been able to obtain) I find it laid down in paragraph 3 that "the accounts for salt works executed by the Revenue Department shall be transmitted to the Board of Revenue after examination by the District Superintending Engineer." Now, if it be intended that a District Engineer should simply check the arithmetical accuracy of the charges in such bills and assure himself that such charges are supported by proper vouchers, it is a very simple matter and can be promptly disposed of. With this view I have lately countersigned some bills for raising platforms, constructing Police huts, etc., etc., at different salt stations in this district; but as there appeared to be some doubt on the subject, I thought it only due to myself to record that my countersignature implied no more than the above, and that I did not certify, first, that the works charged for had been constructed; secondly, that they had been constructed according to the sanctioned plans and estimates (which had never passed through this department), and, thirdly, that they had been constructed with the best materials and workmanship procurable. To this the Acting Collector, Mr. Davidson, rejoins :—"I cannot accept your letter as relieving you from any responsibility you may have incurred had it not been written." I had previously submitted completion certificates for the said works in the usual Public Works forms, signed by the Range Officers and with their remarks, but these the *ad interim* Collector, Mr. Grahame, refused to accept, and requested me to countersign the bills in the usual way.

2. It is for the information of the Revenue Authorities therefore, as well as my own, that I now ask what is intended by Government in their order already quoted. It certainly is not clear, if mere check on the accuracy of figures and vouchers is all that is required from some responsible person, why that person should not be the Collector instead of the District Engineer, the Salt Deputy Collector standing to him in the light of a Range Officer and the Salt Superintendents and Deputy Superintendents in the light of Overseers. If, on the other hand, inspection of the works by the Public Works Department be required, surely the Range Officer's certificates might be taken, they being acquainted with the estimates previous to execution; and keeping an eye on the works whilst under execution, but surely this is not expected of the District Engineer.

Proceedings of the Madras Government, Public Works Department,
21th August 1874.

No. 614. ORDER THEREON, 24th August 1874, No. 2,406.

ACCOUNT, No. 43.

RECORDED with reference to the
orders in the Financial Department
of the 6th July 1874, No. 1,117, com-
municated with Public Works G. O., No. 242, dated 28th July 1874.

(True Extract.)

Colonel, R.E.,

Secretary to Government.

To the District Engineer, Ganjam.
.. Financial Department.

No. 23.

DISTRICT ENGINEER'S OFFICE, GANJAM,

1874.

From

THE DISTRICT ENGINEER,

GANJAM.

To

The Secretary to Government,
Public Works Department,
Madras.

SIR,

Received

I have the honor to
request information as to
what is implied by a District
Engineer's counter signature
to Bills for expenditure under
Revenue authorities in the
Said Department. I am
obliged to refer to Government
for this information, as all I
can gather locally is that
the District Engineer's counter
signature is required by
Revenue Board's standing circular
Orders.

orders No 27 of 1868 and - of 1872.
On reference to those orders
I find C. C. Revenue Depts
No 2263 of 20th September 1872 - order
as the authorities on which
they are framed. Referring
to that order (which I have
only lately been able to obtain)
I find it laid down in para 3
that "the accounts for works
executed by the Revenue De-
partment shall be transmitted
to the Board of Revenue after
examination by the District
Superintending Engineer". Now
if it be intended that a
District Engineer should
check the arithmetic accuracy
of the charges in such bills
and assure himself that such
charges are supported by
proper vouchers it is a very
simple matter and can be
frankly

promptly disposed of. With
this view I have lately counter-
signed some bills for raising
road fund, constructed ~~at~~
at different
stations in this District
but as there appeared to be
some doubt on the subject
I thought it only due to
myself to record that my
counter signature implied
no more than the above
and that I did not certify
1st that the works charged
for had been constructed,
2nd that the ~~had been~~
constructed according to the
sanctioned plans and esti-
mates (which had never
passed through this De-
partment) and 3rd that they
had been constructed with
the

the best materials and
workman ship procurable.
To this ^{the} Acting Collector
Mr. Davidson joins -

I cannot accept your letter
as relieving you from any
responsibility you may have
incurred had it not been
written". I had previously
submitted for completion certi-

ficates for the said work
in the usual Public Works
Form signed by the Range
officers and with their re-
marks but these the

ad interim Collector Mr. Graham
refused to accept and re-
quested me to counter sign
the Bills in the usual way.

It is for the information
of the Revenue authorities
here as well as my own that
I now ask what is intended
by Government in their order
already

4 B
already cited. It certainly
is not clear if mere checks
on the accuracy of figures and
numbers will that is
required from some person
other than that person
should not be the Collector
instead of the District Engineer
the said Deputy Collector standing
in the light of a Range
officer and the said Superintendent
and Deputy Superintendent.
In the other hand inspection
of the work by the D. M. S.
he required surely the Range
officer certificate might be
taken that being acquainted
with the estimates previous to
execution and keeping an eye
on the work while under
execution - but surely this is
not expected of the District Engineer.

I have the honor to be
Yours most obedt. servt.
H. M. S. Major
Offg District Engineer

From

GRAVITY

The Secretary to
Governments
S. P. M.

Dated 19th

Despatched 22nd

Received 29

Enclosures.

Remedy to information
as to what is included
by a District Engineer
in conducting the
field for expenditure
under Revenue and
ties up the hands of the
District Engineer.

2400 Recorder with reference to the
order in the financial report of the
6th July 1894 & 1117 communicated with

Mr. G. D. G. 242 (date) 28 July 1874.

Living

J. G. Thompson v. J. C. Thompson
 J. C. Thompson v. J. G. Thompson

44/3/87-28/3/74.

613-614.

10/1/75

10/10/10

Defto 101141

Govt. of 1874 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

West. Supr.

Deeds

V. Rangan

Reed.

Encl.

12. 026 Aug 1874, No 246

Nos 613-614.

Counter signature to Bills

Letter from the D^r Engr
Ranjam requesting informa-
tion as to what is implied
by a D^r Engr's counter signature
to Bills for exchequer
under Revenue Authorities
in the Suit-Book, re-
corded with reference to
certain orders